

Appendix 1: Search strategy

Search	Query	Items found
#14	Search (#9 NOT (#10 OR #12))	189
#13	Search ((#9 AND #12) NOT #10)	136
#12	Search ("Clinical Trial"[pt] OR (clinical[tiab] AND trial[tiab]) OR random*[tw] OR "Therapeutic use"[sh])	4115475
#11	Search (#7 AND #10)	168
#10	Search (Medline[tw] OR systematic review[tiab] OR Meta-analysis[pt])	113000
#9	Search (#7 AND #8)	349
#8	Search ("Injections, Intraarticular"[mh] OR corticosteroid*[tiab] OR glucocorticoid*[tw] OR hyaluron*[tw] OR viscosupplement* OR "platelet-rich plasma" OR "Fibroblast Growth Factors"[mh] OR fibroblast*[tw] OR "growth factor" OR "Stem cells"[mh] OR "stem cells" OR mesenchymal OR prolotherap*[tiab] OR "Hypertonic Solutions"[mh])	782643
#7	Search (#4 AND #5 NOT #6)	3188
#6	Search ((animal[mh] NOT human[mh]) OR cadaver[mh] OR cadaver*[titl] OR comment[pt] OR editorial[pt] OR letter[pt] OR "historical article"[pt] OR addresses[pt] OR news[pt] OR "newspaper article"[pt] OR "in vitro"[pt] OR "case report"[title])	5881461
#5	Search ("1966"[dp]:"2014"[dp] AND English[lang] AND "2011/4/22"[edat]:"2014"[edat])	2498692
#4	Search ((#1 OR (#2 AND #3)) NOT arthroplasty[majr])	19061
#3	Search (Osteoarthritis[mh:noexp] OR Arthritis[mh:noexp] OR osteoarthrit*[tiab])	71639
#2	Search ("Knee Joint"[mh] OR "Knee"[mh] OR knee*[tiab])	106867
#1	Search ("Osteoarthritis, Knee"[mh] OR gonitis[tiab] OR gonarthrit[tiab] OR gonarthros*[tiab])	10723