**Additional file 2. The detailed search strategy**

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| **Electronic databases** | **Search** | **Search strategy** | **Results** | **Links** |
| **Pubmed** | #1 | Search ((((acute lung injury[MeSH Terms]) OR acute lung injury[Title/Abstract])) OR ((((critically ill patients[MeSH Terms]) OR critically ill patients[Title/Abstract])) OR ((Acute respiratory distress syndrome[Title/Abstract]) OR Acute respiratory distress syndrome[MeSH Terms])))) | 57781 | <https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pubmed/?cmd=HistorySearch&querykey=4>  |
| #2 | Search ((((((Aspirin[Title/Abstract]) OR Aspirin[MeSH Terms]) OR acetylsalicylic acid[Title/Abstract]) OR acetylsalicylic acid[MeSH Terms])) OR antiplatelet[Title/Abstract]) OR antiplatelet[MeSH Terms])))) | [84135](https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pubmed/?cmd=HistorySearch&querykey=6) | <https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pubmed/?cmd=HistorySearch&querykey=5>  |
| #3 | Search((((((((Aspirin[Title/Abstract]) OR Aspirin[MeSH Terms]) OR acetylsalicylic acid[Title/Abstract]) OR acetylsalicylic acid[MeSH Terms])) OR antiplatelet[Title/Abstract]) OR antiplatelet[MeSH Terms])) AND (((((acute lung injury[MeSH Terms]) OR acute lung injury[Title/Abstract])) OR ((((critically ill patients[MeSH Terms]) OR critically ill patients[Title/Abstract])) OR ((Acute respiratory distress syndrome[Title/Abstract]) OR Acute respiratory distress syndrome[MeSH Terms])))) | [**192**](https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pubmed/?cmd=HistorySearch&querykey=11) | <https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pubmed/?cmd=HistorySearch&querykey=6> |
| **EMBASE** | #1 | 'adult respiratory distress syndrome'/de OR 'adult respiratory distress syndrome':ab,ti OR 'acute lung injury':ab,ti OR 'acute lung injury'/de OR 'critically ill patient':ab,ti OR 'critically ill patient'/de | 90,874 | <https://login.dcu.idm.oclc.org/login?qurl=https://www.embase.com%2f#advancedSearch/resultspage/history.1/page.1/25.items/orderby.date/source>  |
| #2 | 'acetylsalicylic acid':ab,ti OR 'acetylsalicylic acid'/de OR aspirin:ab,ti OR 'aspirin'/de OR antiplatelet:ab,ti OR antiplatelet | 237,447 | <https://www-embase-com.dcu.idm.oclc.org/#advancedSearch/resultspage/history.2/page.1/25.items/orderby.date/source>. |
| #3 | #1 AND #2  | **746** | https://www-embase-com.dcu.idm.oclc.org/#advancedSearch/resultspage/history.3/page.1/25.items/orby.date/source |
| **Cochrane Library** | #1 | MeSH descriptor: [Respiratory Distress Syndrome, Adult] this term only | 1051 | <https://www-cochranelibrary-com.dcu.idm.oclc.org/advanced-search/search-manager>  |
| #2 | MeSH descriptor:[Acute Lung Injury] this term only | 311 | <https://www-cochranelibrary-com.dcu.idm.oclc.org/advanced-search/search-manager>  |
| #3 | MeSH descriptor:[Critical Illness] this term only | 1893 | <https://www-cochranelibrary-com.dcu.idm.oclc.org/advanced-search/search-manager>  |
| #4 | MeSH descriptor: [Aspirin] this term only | 5431 | <https://www-cochranelibrary-com.dcu.idm.oclc.org/advanced-search/search-manager>  |
|  | #5 | MeSH descriptor:[Platelet Aggregation Inhibitors] this term only | 3653 | <https://www-cochranelibrary-com.dcu.idm.oclc.org/advanced-search/search-manager>  |
| #6 | (antiplatelet therapy):ti,ab,kw | 4618 | <https://www-cochranelibrary-com.dcu.idm.oclc.org/advanced-search/search-manager>  |
| #7#8#9#10#11#12#13 | ("aspiring"):ti,ab,kw("critically ill"):ti,ab,kw("acute lung injury"):ti,ab,kw("acute respiratory distress syndrome"):ti,ab,kw#1 or #2 or #3 or #8 or #9or #10#4 or #5 or #6 or #7 #11 and #12  | 266100100413218674 10784**31** | <https://www-cochranelibrary-com.dcu.idm.oclc.org/advanced-search/search-manager><https://www-cochranelibrary-com.dcu.idm.oclc.org/advanced-search/search-manager><https://www-cochranelibrary-com.dcu.idm.oclc.org/advanced-search/search-manager> <https://login.dcu.idm.oclc.org/login?qurl=https://www.cochranelibrary.com%2fadvanced-search%2fsearch-manager> <https://www.cochranelibrary.com/advanced-search/search-manager><https://www.cochranelibrary.com/advanced-search/search-manager><https://www.cochranelibrary.com/advanced-search/search-manager>  |
| **Web of Science** | #1 | TS= (antiplatelet\* OR aspirin\* OR acetylsalicylic acid) AND TS=( Acute respiratory distress syndrome\* OR Acute lung injury\* OR critically ill patients) | **521** | http://apps.webofknowledge.com/summary.do?product=UA&doc=1&qid=1&SID=7CaibGahLzBFwJamqan&search\_mode=AdvancedSearch&update\_back2search\_link\_param=yes |