

Appendix 1 – Search strategy

MEDLINE: [(((heal* or healing) and (wound* or incision*)).mp.) or (exp Wound Healing/)] AND [(((surgical or surg*) adj5 (incision* or wound*)).mp.) or (exp Surgical Procedures, Operative/ or exp Orthopedic Procedures/)] AND [(acute.mp.) or (primary intention.mp.)] AND [(tool* or indices or scale* or outcome* or assessment* or criteria).mp.]

CINAHL: [(((heal* or healing) and (wound* or incision*)).mp.) or (exp Wound Healing/)] AND [(((surgical or surg*) n5 (incision* or wound*)).mp.) or (exp Surgical Procedures, Operative/ or exp Orthopedic Procedures/)] AND [(acute.mp.) or (primary intention.mp.)] AND [(tool* or indices or scale* or outcome* or assessment* or criteria).mp.]

EMBASE: [(((heal* or healing) and (wound* or incision*)).mp.) or (exp wound healing/)] AND [(((surgical or surg*) adj5 (incision* or wound*)).mp.) or (exp surgical technique/ or (surgical procedure.mp.))] AND [(acute.mp.) or (primary intention.mp.)] AND [(tool* or indices or scale* or outcome* or assessment* or criteria).mp.]

COCHRANE RCTs:[(((heal* or healing) and (wound* or incision*)).mp.) or (exp Wound Healing/)] AND [(((surgical or surg*) adj5 (incision* or wound*)).mp.) or (surgical procedures.mp.)] AND [(acute.mp.) or (primary intention.mp.)] AND [(tool* or indices or scale* or outcome* or assessment* or criteria).mp.]

COCHRANE REVIEWS:[(((heal* or healing) and (wound* or incision*)).mp.) or (wound healing)] AND [(((surgical or surg*) adj5 (incision* or wound*)).mp.) or (surgical procedures)] AND [(acute) or (primary intention)] AND [(tool* or indices or scale* or outcome* or assessment* or criteria).mp.]