

Appendix 1. Full Literature Search strategy

Africa-Wide Information [EBSCO] (March 2, 2017)

#	Query	Results
S15	S12 NOT S13 Limiters - Year Published: 1992-2016	258
S14	S12 NOT S13	263
S13	TI ((animals or animal or canine* or cat or cats or dog or dogs or feline or hamster* or mice or monkey or monkeys or mouse or murine or pig or pigs or piglet* or porcine or primate* or rabbit* or rats or rat or rodent* or sheep*) not (human* or patient*))	71,720
S12	S9 OR S11	263
S11	S1 AND S8	1
S10	TI accordion OR AB accordion OR KW accordion	16
S9	S5 AND S8	263
S8	S6 OR S7	673,380
S7	TI ((((quality or health*) N1 indicator*) or ((clinical or medical) N1 audit))) OR AB ((((quality or health*) N1 indicator*) or ((clinical or medical) N1 audit))) OR KW ((((quality or health*) N1 indicator*) or ((clinical or medical) N1 audit)))	1,682
S6	TI ((evaluat* or validat* or assess* or measure* or standard* or analys* or analyz* or benchmark* or quality improvement*)) OR AB ((evaluat* or validat* or assess* or measure* or standard* or analys* or analyz* or benchmark* or quality improvement*)) OR KW ((evaluat* or validat* or assess* or measure* or standard* or analys* or analyz* or benchmark* or quality improvement*))	672,831
S5	S1 AND S4	355
S4	S2 OR S3	223,379
S3	TI ((clavi?n or dindo)) OR AB ((clavi?n or dindo)) OR KW ((clavi?n or dindo))	40
S2	TI ((classification* or grading or scale* or index* or tool or tools or survey*)) OR AB ((classification* or grading or scale* or index* or tool or tools or survey*)) OR KW ((classification* or grading or scale* or index* or tool or tools or survey*))	223,361
S1	TI (((postop* or postsurg* or (post N2 (op* or surg*))) N5 (complicat* or failure* or sequelae or severit* or morbidit* or (adrs or (adverse N2 (effect or effects or reaction or reactions or event or events or outcome or outcomes))))) OR AB (((postop* or postsurg* or (post N2 (op* or surg*))) N5 (complicat* or failure* or sequelae or severit* or morbidit* or (adrs or (adverse N2 (effect or effects or reaction or reactions or event or events or outcome or outcomes))))) OR KW (((postop* or postsurg* or (post N2 (op* or surg*))) N5 (complicat* or failure* or sequelae or severit* or morbidit* or (adrs or (adverse N2 (effect or effects or reaction or reactions or event or events or outcome or outcomes)))))	3,577

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Biosis [Ovid] (March 2, 2017)

BIOSIS Previews 1969 to 2017 Week 14, **BIOSIS Previews Archive** 1926 to 1968

1	((postop* or postsurg* or (post adj2 (op* or surg*))) adj5 (complicat* or failure* or sequelae or severit* or morbidit* or (adrs or (adverse adj2 (effect or effects or reaction or reactions or event or events or outcome or outcomes))))).ti,ab,mi.	37100
2	(classification* or grading or scale* or index* or tool or tools or survey*).ti,mi.	592284
3	(classification* or grading or scale* or index* or tool or tools or survey*).ab. /freq=5	58417
4	(clavi?n or dindo).ti,ab,mi.	1147
5	2 or 3 or 4	620170
6	1 and 5	1643
7	(evaluat* or validat* or assess* or measure* or standard* or analys* or analyz* or benchmark* or quality improvement*).ti,mi.	2105058
8	(evaluat* or validat* or assess* or measure* or standard* or analys* or analyz* or benchmark* or quality improvement*).ab. /freq=5	473472
9	((quality or health*) adj1 indicator*) or ((clinical or medical) adj1 audit)).ti,mi.	2555
10	((quality or health*) adj1 indicator*) or ((clinical or medical) adj1 audit).ab. /freq=4	151
11	7 or 8 or 9 or 10	2379403
12	6 and 11	467
13	accordion.ti,ab,mi.	270
14	12 or 13	736
15	(animal* not (animal* and hominidae)).st,tn.	8663472
16	((animals or animal or canine* or cat or cats or dog or dogs or feline or hamster* or mice or monkey or monkeys or mouse or murine or pig or pigs or piglet* or porcine or primate* or rabbit* or rats or rat or rodent* or sheep*) not (human* or patient*)).ti.	2603904
17	14 not (15 or 16)	660
18	limit 17 to yr="1992 -Current"	587
19	remove duplicates from 18	544
20	limit 19 to (biography or book or book chapter or letter or note)	6
21	19 not 20	538
22	limit 19 to (meeting or meeting abstract or meeting paper)	65
23	limit 22 to yr="2012 -Current"	37
24	19 not 22	479
25	23 or 24	516

Cochrane [Wiley] (March 2, 2017)

#1	(postop* or postsurg*) N5 (complicat* or failure* or sequelae or severit* or morbidit* or (adrs or (adverse N2 (effect or effects or reaction or reactions or event or events or outcome or outcomes)))):ti,ab,kw	51
#2	(post N2 (op* or surg*)) N5 (complicat* or failure* or sequelae or severit* or morbidit* or (adrs or (adverse N2 (effect or effects or reaction or reactions or event or events or outcome or outcomes)))):ti,ab,kw	37
#3	#1 or #2	80
#4	(classification* or grading or scale* or index* or tool or tools or survey*).ti,ab,kw	213687
#5	(clavi?n or dindo):ti,ab,kw	254
#6	accordion:ti,ab,kw	20
#7	#4 or #5 or #6	213790
#8	(evaluat* or validat* or assess* or measure* or standard* or analys* or analyz* or benchmark* or quality improvement*):ti,ab,kw	690532
#9	((quality or health*) N1 indicator*) or ((clinical or medical) N1 audit):ti,ab,kw	8
#10	#8 or #9	690532
#11	#3 and #7 and #10	49
#12	#11 Publication Year from 1992 to 2017	49

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Embase [Ovid] (March 2, 2017)

Embase Classic+Embase 1947 to 2017 March 2

1	exp postoperative complication/	604429
2	((postop* or postsurg* or (post adj2 (op* or surg*))) adj5 (complicat* or failure* or sequelae or severit* or morbidit* or (adrs or (adverse adj2 (effect or effects or reaction or reactions or event or events or outcome or outcomes))))).tw,kw.	145690
3	1 or 2	660229
4	"severity of illness index"/	8940
5	exp questionnaire/	599213
6	health survey/	178810
7	health care survey/	11998
8	(classification* or grading or scale* or index* or tool or tools or survey*).ti,kw.	541942
9	(classification* or grading or scale* or index* or tool or tools or survey*).ab. /freq=5	106106
10	exp *disease classification/	41992
11	(clavi?n or dindo).tw,kw,hw.	6108
12	4 or 5 or 6 or 7 or 8 or 9 or 10 or 11	1285774
13	3 and 12	26269
14	exp quality control/	382473
15	health care quality/	224847
16	statistics/	337536
17	scoring system/	218583
18	(evaluat* or validat* or assess* or measure* or standard* or analys* or analyz* or benchmark* or quality improvement*).ti,kw.	2527258
19	(evaluat* or validat* or assess* or measure* or standard* or analys* or analyz* or benchmark* or quality improvement*).ab. /freq=5	1076826
20	((quality or health*) adj1 indicator*) or ((clinical or medical) adj1 audit).ti,kw.	6994
21	((quality or health*) adj1 indicator*) or ((clinical or medical) adj1 audit).ab. /freq=4	702
22	14 or 15 or 16 or 17 or 18 or 19 or 20 or 21	3970463
23	13 and 22	9258
24	accordion.tw,kw.	484
25	3 and 24	116
26	23 or 25	9350
27	limit 26 to (conference abstract or conference paper or conference proceeding or "conference review")	2116
28	((animals or animal or canine* or cat or cats or dog or dogs or feline or hamster* or mice or monkey or monkeys or mouse or murine or pig or pigs or piglet* or porcine or primate* or rabbit* or rats or rat or rodent* or sheep*) not (human* or patient*)).ti.	2304289
29	27 not 28	2115
30	limit 29 to yr="2012 -Current"	1501
31	26 not 29	7235
32	(exp animal/ or exp juvenile animal/ or adult animal/ or animal cell/ or animal experiment/ or animal model/ or animal tissue/ or nonhuman/) not human/	6483141
33	((animals or animal or canine* or cat or cats or dog or dogs or feline or hamster* or mice or monkey or monkeys or mouse or murine or pig or pigs or piglet* or porcine or primate* or rabbit* or rats or rat or rodent* or sheep*) not (human* or patient*)).ti.	2304289
34	31 not (32 or 33)	7171
35	limit 34 to yr="1992 -Current"	7045

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36	limit 35 to (book or book series or chapter or editorial or letter)	105
37	35 not 36	6940
38	30 or 37	8441
39	from 38 keep 1-5000	5000
40	remove duplicates from 39	4581
41	from 38 keep 5001-8441	3441
42	remove duplicates from 41	3427
43	40 or 42	8008

Global Health [Ovid] (March 2, 2017)

Global Health 1973 to 2017 Week 07, Global Health Archive 1910 to 1972

1	((postop* or postsurg* or (post adj2 (op* or surg*))) adj5 (complicat* or failure* or sequelae or severit* or morbidit* or (adrs or (adverse adj2 (effect or effects or reaction or reactions or event or events or outcome or outcomes))))).ti,ab,id.	4087
2	(classification* or grading or scale* or index* or tool or tools or survey*).ti,id.	72544
3	(classification* or grading or scale* or index* or tool or tools or survey*).ab. /freq=5	11665
4	(clavi?n or dindo).ti,ab,id.	59
5	2 or 3 or 4	79366
6	1 and 5	159
7	(evaluat* or validat* or assess* or measure* or standard* or analys* or analyz* or benchmark* or quality improvement*).ti,id.	283389
8	(evaluat* or validat* or assess* or measure* or standard* or analys* or analyz* or benchmark* or quality improvement*).ab. /freq=5	100489
9	((quality or health*) adj1 indicator*) or ((clinical or medical) adj1 audit)).ti,id.	610
10	((quality or health*) adj1 indicator*) or ((clinical or medical) adj1 audit).ab. /freq=4	89
11	7 or 8 or 9 or 10	344853
12	6 and 11	45
13	accordion.ti,ab,id.	16
14	12 or 13	61
15	Animals/ not (Animals/ and Humans/)	831361
16	((animals or animal or canine* or cat or cats or dog or dogs or feline or hamster* or mice or monkey or monkeys or mouse or murine or pig or pigs or piglet* or porcine or primate* or rabbit* or rats or rat or rodent* or sheep*) not (human* or patient*)).ti.	319238
17	14 not (15 or 16)	57
18	limit 17 to yr="1992 -Current"	51

LILACS [Latin-American and Caribbean Center on Health Sciences Information] (March 2, 2017)

6	(tw:((postop* OR postsurg* OR post-op* OR post-surger*))) AND (tw:((complicat* OR failure* OR sequelae OR severit* OR morbidit* OR adrs OR adverse effect*))) AND (tw:(classification* OR grading OR scale* OR index* OR tool OR tools OR survey OR clavien OR dindo OR accordion)) AND (tw:((evaluat* OR validat* OR assess* OR measure* OR standard* OR analys* OR analyz* OR benchmark* OR quality improvement))) AND (instance:"regional") AND (db:("LILACS" OR "IBECs" OR "BBO" OR "CUMED" OR "BDENF"))	148
5	(tw:((postop* OR postsurg* OR post-op* OR post-surger*))) AND (tw:((complicat* OR failure* OR sequelae OR severit* OR morbidit* OR adrs OR adverse effect*))) AND (tw:(classification* OR grading OR scale* OR index* OR tool OR tools OR survey OR clavien OR dindo OR accordion)) AND (tw:((evaluat* or validat* or assess* or measure* or standard* or analys* or analyz* or benchmark* or quality improvement)))	10.421

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4	(tw:((postop* OR postsurg* OR post-op* OR post-surger*))) AND (tw:((complicat* OR failure* OR sequelae OR severit* OR morbidit* OR adrs OR adverse effect*))) AND (tw:(classification* OR grading OR scale* OR index* OR tool OR tools OR survey OR clavien OR dindo OR accordion)) AND (instance:"regional")	80.627
3	(tw:((evaluat* or validat* or assess* or measure* or standard* or analys* or analyz* or benchmark* or quality improvement)))	492.785
2	(tw:(classification* or grading or scale* or index* or tool or tools or survey or clavien or dindo or accordion))	3.447.358
1	(tw:((postop* or postsurg* or post-op* or post-surger*))) AND (tw:((complicat* or failure* or sequelae or severit* or morbidit* or adrs or adverse effect*)))	387.436

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Medline [Ovid] (March 2, 2017)

Ovid MEDLINE(R) and Epub Ahead of Print, In-Process & Other Non-Indexed Citations, Ovid MEDLINE(R) Daily 1946 to Present

1	exp Postoperative Complications/	470762
2	((postop* or postsurg* or (post adj2 (op* or surg*))) adj5 (complicat* or failure* or sequelae or severit* or morbidit* or (adrs or (adverse adj2 (effect or effects or reaction or reactions or event or events or outcome or outcomes))))).tw,kf.	101421
3	1 or 2	526017
4	"Severity of Illness Index"/	202512
5	"Surveys and Questionnaires"/	368131
6	"Health Care Surveys"/	28259
7	"Health Surveys"/	54226
8	(classification* or grading or scale* or index* or tool or tools or survey*).ti,kf.	409655
9	(classification* or grading or scale* or index* or tool or tools or survey*).ab. /freq=5	73241
10	(clavi?n or dindo).tw,kf.	2475
11	4 or 5 or 6 or 7 or 8 or 9 or 10	987530
12	3 and 11	20090
13	exp Postoperative Complications/cl	2037
14	12 or 13	21590
15	quality assurance, health care/	52984
16	benchmarking/	11498
17	clinical audit/	1198
18	total quality management/	12209
19	quality improvement/	13247
20	exp quality indicators, health care/	16692
21	exp Statistics as Topic/	2310050
22	(evaluat* or validat* or assess* or measure* or standard* or analys* or analyz* or benchmark* or quality improvement*).ti,kf.	1915179
23	(evaluat* or validat* or assess* or measure* or standard* or analys* or analyz* or benchmark* or quality improvement*).ab. /freq=5	706448
24	((quality or health*) adj1 indicator*) or ((clinical or medical) adj1 audit).ti,kf.	4159
25	((quality or health*) adj1 indicator*) or ((clinical or medical) adj1 audit).ab. /freq=4	473
26	15 or 16 or 17 or 18 or 19 or 20 or 21 or 22 or 23 or 24 or 25	4241520
27	14 and 26	10445
28	accordion.tw,kf.	350
29	3 and 28	69
30	27 or 29	10500
31	Animals/ not (Animals/ and Humans/)	4293271
32	((animals or animal or canine* or cat or cats or dog or dogs or feline or hamster* or mice or monkey or monkeys or mouse or murine or pig or pigs or piglet* or porcine or primate* or rabbit* or rats or rat or rodent* or sheep*) not (human* or patient*)).ti.	1905775
33	30 not (31 or 32)	10365
34	limit 33 to yr="1992-Current"	10097
35	limit 34 to (case reports or clinical conference or comment or editorial or letter or news)	484
36	34 not 35	9613
37	from 36 keep 1-5000	5000
38	remove duplicates from 37	4825

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39	from 36 keep 5001-9613	4613
40	remove duplicates from 39	4613
41	38 or 40	9438

PubMed [NLM] (March 2, 2017)

#10	#7 AND #8 Filters: Publication date from 1992/01/01 to 2017/12/31	834
#9	#7 AND #8	835
#8	((inprocess[sb]0 OR (publisher[sb] NOT pmcbook)))	501531
#7	#1 AND #5 AND #6	66615
#6	((evaluat*[Text Word] OR validat*[Text Word] OR assess*[Text Word] OR measure*[Text Word] OR standard*[Text Word] OR analys*[Text Word] OR analyz*[Text Word] OR benchmark*[Text Word] OR quality improvement*[Text Word])) OR (quality indicator*[Text Word] OR health* indicator*[Text Word])) OR (clinical audit[Text Word] OR medical audit[Text Word])	11114336
#5	#2 OR #3 OR #4	3133284
#4	accordion[Text Word]	347
#3	(clavi?n[Text Word] OR dindo[Text Word])	1299
#2	(classification*[Text Word] OR grading[Text Word] OR scale*[Text Word] OR index*[Text Word] OR tool[Text Word] OR tools[Text Word] OR survey*[Text Word])	3132654
#1	((postop*[Text Word] OR postsurg*[Text Word] OR post op*[Text Word] OR post surg*[Text Word])) AND (complicat*[Text Word] OR failure*[Text Word] OR sequelae[Text Word] OR severit*[Text Word] OR morbidit*[Text Word] OR adrs[Text Word] OR adverse effect*[Text Word])	542923

Web of Science [Thomson Reuters] (March 2, 2017)

Indexes=SCI-EXPANDED, SSCI, A&HCI, CPCI-S, CPCI-SSH Timespan=All years

# 16	822	#13 NOT #14 Timespan=1992-2017
# 15	826	#13 NOT #14
# 14	16,793,842	PMID=(1* or 2* or 3* or 4* or 5* or 6* or 7* or 8* or 9*)
# 13	7,839	#11 NOT #12
# 12	2,525,382	TI=((animals or animal or canine* or cat or cats or dog or dogs or feline or hamster* or mice or monkey or monkeys or mouse or murine or pig or pigs or piglet* or porcine or primate* or rabbit* or rats or rat or rodent* or sheep*) NOT (human* or patient*))
# 11	7,922	#10 AND #6
# 10	6,517,000	#9 OR #8 OR #7
# 9	22,239	TS=(((quality or health*) NEAR/1 indicator*) or ((clinical or medical) NEAR/1 audit))
# 8	2,706,391	TS=((health* or medical or clinical) AND (evaluat* or validat* or assess* or measure* or standard* or analys* or analyz* or benchmark* or quality improvement*))
# 7	4,336,172	TI=(evaluat* or validat* or assess* or measure* or standard* or analys* or analyz* or benchmark* or quality improvement*)
# 6	16,732	#5 AND #1
# 5	5,196,787	#4 OR #3 OR #2
# 4	819	TS=accordion
# 3	2,176	TS=(clavi?n or dindo)
# 2	5,195,752	TS=(classification* or grading or scale* or index* or tool or tools or survey*)
# 1	75,060	TS=((postop* or postsurg* or (post NEAR/2 (oper* or surg*)) NEAR/5 (complicat* or failure* or sequelae or severit* or morbidit* or (adrs or (adverse NEAR/2 (effect or effects or reaction or reactions or event or events or outcome or outcomes))))))