**Randomized Controlled Trials / Controlled Clinical Trials: A Cut and Paste Cochrane Highly Sensitive Search Strategy for PubMED**

Last edited: December 09, 2020

**Copy and paste into the Advanced Search box in PubMED:**

("randomized controlled trial"[Publication Type] OR "controlled clinical trial"[Publication Type] OR "randomized"[Title/Abstract] OR "placebo"[Title/Abstract] OR "drug therapy"[MeSH Subheading] OR "randomly"[Title/Abstract] OR ("trial"[Title/Abstract] OR "groups"[Title/Abstract])) NOT ("animals"[MeSH Terms] NOT "humans"[MeSH Terms])

**Direct link to Cochrane Strategy:**

Box 3.a Cochrane Highly Sensitive Search Strategy for identifying randomized trials in MEDLINE: sensitivity-maximizing version (2008 revision); PubMed format

<https://training.cochrane.org/handbook/current/chapter-04-technical-supplement-searching-and-selecting-studies#_Ref19195060>

**Cite as:**

Lefebvre C, Glanville J, Briscoe S, Littlewood A, Marshall C, Metzendorf M-I, Noel-Storr A, Rader T, Shokraneh F, Thomas J, Wieland LS. Technical Supplement to [Chapter 4](https://training.cochrane.org/handbook/current/chapter-04): Searching for and selecting studies. In: Higgins JPT, Thomas J, Chandler J, Cumpston MS, Li T, Page MJ, Welch VA (eds). Cochrane Handbook for Systematic Reviews of Interventions Version 6.1 (updated September 2020). Cochrane, 2020. Available from: [www.training.cochrane.org/handbook](http://www.training.cochrane.org/handbook).

**For questions or comments:**

Lisa Tjosvold  
John W. Scott Health Sciences Library  
University of Alberta  
Edmonton, AB  
lisa.tjosvold@ualberta.ca