**Appendix file 1: Search 23.11.2020**

Pubmed Search

((("Spinal Cord Compression"[Mesh]) OR (Spinal Cord Compression\*[tiab] OR Compressive Myelopath\*[tiab] OR cervical degenerative myelopath\*[tiab] OR cervical myelopath\*[tiab] OR degenerative myelopath\*[tiab] OR spondylotic myelopath\*[tiab] OR spondylotic cervical myelopath\*[tiab]) OR ("Cervical Vertebrae"[Mesh]) OR (cervical vertebrae[tiab]) OR ("Spondylosis"[Mesh]) OR (Cervical Spondylosis[tiab])) AND (("anterior cervical discectomy and fusion"[tiab]) OR ("Spinal Fusion"[Mesh]) OR (Spinal Fusion\*[tiab]) OR ("Diskectomy"[Mesh]) OR (ACDF[tiab] OR Anterior cervical discectomy and fusion\*[tiab] OR Anterior cervical diskectomy and fusion\*[tiab] OR ACD[tiab] OR Anterior cervical discectom\*[tiab] OR Anterior cervical diskectom\*[tiab] OR ACDA[tiab] OR Anterior cervical discectomy and arthroplast\*[tiab] OR Anterior cervical diskectomy and arthroplast\*[tiab] OR cervical arthroplast\*[tiab] OR discus prothes\*[tiab] OR Corporectom\*[tiab] OR cervical implant\*[tiab] OR interbody fusion\*[tiab]) OR (anterior surgical decompression\*[tiab]))) AND ((randomized controlled trial[pt] OR controlled clinical trial[pt] OR randomized[tiab] OR randomly[tiab] OR trial[tiab] OR groups[tiab]) OR ("cohort studies"[mesh] OR "case-control studies"[mesh] OR "comparative study"[pt] OR "cohort"[tw] OR "compared"[tw] OR "groups"[tw] OR "case control"[tw]) OR ("Prospective Studies"[Mesh]) OR (prospecti\*[tiab]))

Cochrane

(Spinal cord compression\*) OR (compressive myelopath\*) OR (cervical myelopath\*) OR (cervical degenerative myelopath\*) OR (degenerative myelopath\*) OR (spondylotic myelopath\*) OR (spondylotic cervical myelopath\*) OR (cervical vertebra\*) OR (spondylosis) OR (cervical spondylosis) OR (Cervical spine) OR (Compressio medulla\*) OR (medullary compression\*) in Title Abstract Keyword AND (spinal fusion) OR (spine fusion) OR (diskectom\*) OR (discectom\*) OR (diskektom\*) OR (anterior cervical spine surger\*)OR (cervical disc replacement) OR (anterior vertebra\* fusion) OR (anterior interbody fusion) OR (anterior spinal fusion) OR (ACDF) OR (Anterior cervical discectom\* and fusion) OR (Anterior cervical diskectom\* and fusion) OR (Anterior cervical diskektom\* and fusion) OR (anterior cervical discectom\*) OR (anterior cervical diskectom\*) OR (anterior cervical diskektom\*) OR (ACDA) OR (anterior cervical discectom\* and arthroplast\*) OR (anterior cervical diskectom\* and arthroplast\*) OR (anterior cervical diskektom\* and arthroplast\*) OR (cervical arthroplast\*) OR (cervical disc arthroplast\*) OR (disc prothesis) OR (corporectom\*) OR (cervical implant) OR (interbody fusion) OR (anterior surgical decompression\*) OR (Anterior cervical decompression and fusion) OR (anterior cervical corpectom\* and fusion) in Title Abstract Keyword AND (Randomized controlled trial) OR (Randomised controlled trial) OR (controlled clinical trial) OR (controlled trial) OR (randomised) OR (randomized) OR (groups) OR (cohort stud\*) OR (case-control) OR (case control) OR (case series) OR (comparative stud\*) OR (cohort) OR (compared) OR (prospective stud\*) OR (prospecti\*) OR (RCT) OR (randomised controlled stud\*) OR (randomized controlled stud\*) OR (cohort analysis) in Title Abstract Keyword - (Word variations have been searched)

WEB OF SCIENCE

TS=(Spinal cord compression\*) OR TS=(compressive myelopath\*) OR TS=(cervical myelopath\*) OR TS=(cervical degenerative myelopath\*) OR TS=(degenerative myelopath\*) OR TS=(spondylotic myelopath\*) OR TS=(spondylotic cervical myelopath\*) OR TS=(cervical vertebra\*) OR TS=(spondylosis) OR TS=(cervical spondylosis) OR TS=(Cervical spine) OR TS=(Compressio medulla\*) OR TS=(medullary compression\*) AND TS=(spinal fusion) OR TS=(spine fusion) OR TS=(diskectom\*) OR TS=(discectom\*) OR TS=(diskektom\*) OR TS=(ACDF) OR TS=(Anterior cervical discectom\* and fusion) OR TS=(Anterior cervical diskectom\* and fusion) OR TS=(Anterior cervical diskektom\* and fusion) OR TS=(anterior cervical discectom\*) OR TS=(anterior cervical diskectom\*) OR TS=(anterior cervical diskektom\*) OR TS=(ACDA) OR TS=(anterior cervical discectom\* and arthroplast\*) OR TS=(anterior cervical diskectom\* and arthroplast\*) OR TS=(anterior cervical diskektom\* and arthroplast\*) OR TS=(cervical arthroplast\*) OR TS=(cervical disc arthroplast\*) OR TS=(disc prothesis) OR TS=(corporectom\*) OR TS=(cervical implant) OR TS=(interbody fusion) OR TS=(anterior surgical decompression\*) OR TS=(Anterior cervical decompression and fusion) OR TS=(anterior cervical corpectom\* and fusion) OR TS=(anterior cervical spine surger\*) OR TS=(cervical disc replacement) OR TS=(anterior vertebra\* fusion) OR TS=(anterior interbody fusion) OR TS=(anterior spinal fusion) OR TS=(ACD) AND TS=(Randomized controlled trial) OR TS=(Randomised controlled trial) OR TS=(controlled clinical trial) OR TS=(ccontrolled trial) OR TS=(randomised) OR TS=(randomized) OR TS=(groups) OR TS=(cohort stud\*) OR TS=(case-control) OR TS=(case control) OR TS=(case series) OR TS=(comparative stud\*) OR TS=(cohort) OR TS=(compared) OR TS=(prospective stud\*) OR TS=(prospecti\*) OR TS=(RCT) OR TS=(randomised controlled stud\*) OR TS=(randomized controlled stud\*) OR TS=(cohort analysis)

EMBASE

Spinal cord compression\* or compressive myelopath\* or cervical myelopath\* or cervical degenerative myelopath\* or degenerative myelopath\* or spondylotic myelopath\* or spondylotic cervical myelopath\* or cervical vertebra\* or spondylosis or cervical spondylosis or Cervical spine or Compressio medulla\* or medullary compression\*).ab. AND (spinal fusion or spine fusion or diskectom\* or discectom\* or diskektom\* or ACDF or (Anterior cervical discectom\* and fusion) or (Anterior cervical diskectom\* and fusion) or (Anterior cervical diskektom\* and fusion) or anterior cervical discectom\* or anterior cervical diskectom\* or anterior cervical diskektom\* or ACDA or (anterior cervical discectom\* and arthroplast\*) or cervical arthroplast\* or disc prothesis or cervical implant or anterior surgical decompression\* or (anterior cervical corpectom\* and fusion) or cervical disc replacement or anterior interbody fusion or anterior spinal fusion or (Anterior cervical decompression and fusion) or ACD or (anterior cervical diskectom\* and arthroplast\*) or (anterior cervical diskektom\* and arthroplast\*) or interbody fusion or cervical disc arthroplast\* or anterior cervical spine surger\* or anterior vertebra\* fusion or corporectom\*).ab. AND (Randomized controlled trial or Randomised controlled trial or controlled clinical trial or controlled trial or randomised or randomized or groups or cohort stud\* or case-control or case control or case series or comparative stud\* or cohort or compared or prospective stud\* or prospecti\* or RCT or randomised controlled stud\* or randomized controlled stud\* or cohort analysis).ab.