

Appendix 1 (as supplied by the authors): Example of search strategy –
MEDLINE via OVID

1. Clavicle/
2. clavic*.mp.
3. collarbone*.mp.
4. or/1-3
5. exp Fractures, Bone/
6. exp Fracture Healing/
7. exp Fracture Fixation/
8. fracture*.mp.
9. Surgical Procedures, Operative/
10. exp Orthopedic Procedures/
11. Surgery.fs.
12. Orthopedic Fixation Devices/
13. surgical.mp.
14. surger*.mp.
15. operative.mp.
16. intramedullary.mp.
17. open reduction.mp.
18. internal fixation.mp.
19. plate*.mp.
20. nonoperative.mp.
21. non-operative.mp.
22. conservative.mp.
23. sling*.mp.
24. or/5-23
25. 4 and 24
26. randomized controlled trial.pt.
27. randomized.mp.
28. placebo.mp.
29. or/26-28
30. 25 and 29
31. limit 30 to animals
32. limit 31 to humans
33. 31 not 32
34. 30 not 33