

### ***Additional file 1: search strategy for searching MEDLINE via Ovid***

1. cerebrovascular disorders/ or exp basal ganglia cerebrovascular disease/ or exp brain ischemia/ or exp carotid artery diseases/ or exp intracranial arterial diseases/ or exp "intracranial embolism and thrombosis"/ or exp intracranial hemorrhages/ or stroke/ or exp brain infarction/ or vertebral artery dissection/
2. (stroke or poststroke or post-stroke or cerebrovasc\$ or brain vasc\$ or cerebral vasc\$ or cva\$ or apoplex\$ or SAH).tw.
3. ((brain\$ or cerebr\$ or cerebell\$ or intracran\$ or intracerebral) adj5 (isch?emi\$ or infarct\$ or thrombo\$ or emboli\$ or occlus\$)).tw.
4. ((brain\$ or cerebr\$ or cerebell\$ or intracerebral or intracranial or subarachnoid) adj5 (haemorrhage\$ or hemorrhage\$ or haematoma\$ or hematoma\$ or bleed\$)).tw.
5. hemiplegia/ or exp paresis/
6. (hemipleg\$ or hemipar\$ or paresis or paretic or hemineglect or hemi-neglect or ((unilateral or spatial or hemi?spatial or visual) adj5 neglect)).tw.
7. or/1-6
8. Electric Stimulation Therapy/
9. Electric Stimulation/
10. Electrodes/
11. (transcranial adj5 direct current adj5 stimulation).tw.
12. (transcranial adj5 DC adj5 stimulation).tw.
13. (transcranial adj5 electric\$ adj5 stimulation).tw.
14. (tDCS or A-tDCS or C-tDCS or S-tDCS or electrode\$ or anode or anodes or anodal or cathode or cathodes or cathodal).tw.
15. or/8-14
16. Randomized Controlled Trials as Topic/
17. random allocation/
18. Controlled Clinical Trials as Topic/
19. control groups/
20. clinical trials as topic/ or clinical trials, phase i as topic/ or clinical trials, phase ii as topic/ or clinical trials, phase iii as topic/ or clinical trials, phase iv as topic/
21. double-blind method/
22. single-blind method/
23. Placebos/
24. placebo effect/
25. cross-over studies/
26. randomized controlled trial.pt.
27. controlled clinical trial.pt.
28. (clinical trial or clinical trial phase i or clinical trial phase ii or clinical trial phase iii or clinical trial phase iv).pt.
29. (random\$ or RCT or RCTs).tw.
30. (controlled adj5 (trial\$ or stud\$)).tw.
31. (clinical\$ adj5 trial\$).tw.
32. ((control or treatment or experiment\$ or intervention) adj5 (group\$ or subject\$ or patient\$)).tw.
33. (quasi-random\$ or quasi random\$ or pseudo-random\$ or pseudo random\$).tw.
34. ((control or experiment\$ or conservative) adj5 (treatment or therapy or procedure or manage\$)).tw.
35. ((singl\$ or doubl\$ or tripl\$ or trebl\$) adj5 (blind\$ or mask\$)).tw.
36. (cross-over or cross over or crossover).tw.
37. (placebo\$ or sham).tw.
38. trial.ti.
39. (assign\$ or allocat\$).tw.
40. controls.tw.
41. or/16-40
42. 7 and 15 and 41

43. exp animals/ not humans.sh.

44. 42 not 43