

## Appendix III – Search strategy

Database: Embase Classic+Embase <1947 to 2020 March 05>, Ovid MEDLINE(R) ALL <1946 to March 05, 2020>, EBM Reviews - Cochrane Central Register of Controlled Trials <January 2020>  
Search Strategy:

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- 1 Frail Elderly/ (21613)
  - 2 Frailty/ (11653)
  - 3 frail\*.tw,kw. (57182)
  - 4 1 or 2 or 3 (65667)
  - 5 Emergencies/ or emergency treatment/ (114987)
  - 6 Emergency Service, Hospital/ (72282)
  - 7 emergenc\*.tw,kw. (908260)
  - 8 or/5-7 (959742)
  - 9 exp Cholecystectomy/ (83048)
  - 10 Laparotomy/ (103812)
  - 11 exp Intestinal Obstruction/su (30149)
  - 12 exp Peptic Ulcer/su (27498)
  - 13 Tissue Adhesions/su (2251)
  - 14 exp hernia/su (73921)
  - 15 General Surgery/ (55360)
  - 16 Colectomy/ (49075)
  - 17 (general surg\* or unplanned surg\* or unschedul\* surg\*).tw,kw. (43872)
  - 18 Appendectomy/ or appendicitis/su (37763)
  - 19 or/9-18 (458952)
  - 20 8 and 19 (30159)
  - 21 ((emergenc\* or urgent or expedit\*) and (appendectom\* or hernia\* or colectom\* or cholecystectom\* or Laparotom\* or bowel\* or intestin\* or ulcer\* or surg\* or obstruction\* or rupture\* or drainage\*)).tw. (226027)
  - 22 ((emergenc\* or urgent or expedit\*) and (appendectom\* or hernia\* or colectom\* or cholecystectom\* or Laparotom\* or bowel\* or intestin\* or ulcer\* or surg\* or obstruction\* or rupture\* or drainage\*)).kf. (1514)
  - 23 20 or 21 or 22 (229948)
  - 24 4 and 23 (852)
  - 25 **24 use medall (278) Medline**
  - 26 **24 use cctr (31) Cochrane**
  - 27 frail elderly/ (21613)
  - 28 frailty/ (11653)
  - 29 frail\*.tw. (54785)
  - 30 27 or 28 or 29 (63739)
  - 31 emergency treatment/ (28203)
  - 32 emergency ward/ (208978)
  - 33 emergency medicine/ or emergency care/ or emergency/ (232746)
  - 34 emergenc\*.tw. (896464)
  - 35 or/31-34 (1030428)
  - 36 exp cholecystectomy/ (83048)
  - 37 laparotomy/ (103812)
  - 38 exp gastrointestinal obstruction/su [Surgery] (16567)
  - 39 exp peptic ulcer/su [Surgery] (27498)
  - 40 tissue adhesion/su [Surgery] (2417)
  - 41 exp hernia/su [Surgery] (73921)
  - 42 general surgery/ (55360)
  - 43 exp colon resection/ (44952)
  - 44 (general surg\* or unplanned surg\* or unschedul\* surg\*).tw. (42243)
  - 45 appendectomy/ (33404)
  - 46 exp appendicitis/su [Surgery] (16468)
  - 47 or/36-46 (441789)
  - 48 35 and 47 (30428)

- 49 emergency surgery/ (25839)
- 50 ((emergenc\* or urgent or expedit\*) and (appendectom\* or hernia\* or colectom\* or cholecystectom\* or Laparotom\* or bowel\* or intestin\* or ulcer\* or surg\* or obstruction\* or rupture\* or drainage\*).tw. (226027)
- 51 48 or 49 or 50 (241057)
- 52 30 and 51 (872)
- 53 **52 use emczd (570) Embase**
- 54 25 or 26 or 53 (879)
- 55 **54 use medall (278)**
- 56 **54 use emczd (570) Embase**
- 57 **54 use cctr (31)**

**Scopus – 2020-03-06**

**( TITLE-ABS-KEY ( surg\* ) OR TITLE-ABS-KEY ( appendectom\* ) OR TITLE-ABS-KEY ( hernia\* ) OR TITLE-ABS-KEY ( colectom\* ) OR TITLE-ABS-KEY ( cholecystectom\* ) OR TITLE-ABS-KEY ( laparotom\* ) OR TITLE-ABS-KEY ( obstruction\* ) OR TITLE-ABS-KEY ( peptic AND ulcer\* ) ) AND ( ( TITLE-ABS-KEY ( emergenc\* ) OR TITLE-ABS-KEY ( urgent ) OR TITLE-ABS-KEY ( expedited ) ) ) AND ( TITLE-ABS-KEY ( frail\* ) )**

**Web of Science – 2020-03-06**

#	<a href="#">336</a>	#4 AND #3	<a href="#">E</a> <input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
5		<i>Indexes=SCI-EXPANDED, SSCI, A&amp;HCI, CPCI-S, CPCI-SSH, ESCI Timespan=All years</i>	<a href="#">di</a>	
			<a href="#">t</a>	
#	<a href="#">2,238</a>	<b>TOPIC: (surg*) OR TOPIC: (Cholecystectomy) OR TOPIC: (appendectom*) OR TOPIC: (hernia*) OR TOPIC: (obstruction*) OR TOPIC: (peptic ulcer*) OR TOPIC: (colectom*) OR TOPIC: (laparotom*) OR TOPIC: (drainage*) OR TOPIC: (rupture*)</b>	<a href="#">E</a> <input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
4	<a href="#">433</a>	<i>Indexes=SCI-EXPANDED, SSCI, A&amp;HCI, CPCI-S, CPCI-SSH, ESCI Timespan=All years</i>	<a href="#">di</a>	
			<a href="#">t</a>	
#	<a href="#">1,359</a>	#2 AND #1	<a href="#">E</a> <input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
3		<i>Indexes=SCI-EXPANDED, SSCI, A&amp;HCI, CPCI-S, CPCI-SSH, ESCI Timespan=All years</i>	<a href="#">di</a>	
			<a href="#">t</a>	
#	<a href="#">29,25</a>	<b>TOPIC: (frail*)</b>	<a href="#">E</a> <input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
2	<a href="#">1</a>	<i>Indexes=SCI-EXPANDED, SSCI, A&amp;HCI, CPCI-S, CPCI-SSH, ESCI Timespan=All years</i>	<a href="#">di</a>	
			<a href="#">t</a>	
#	<a href="#">647,9</a>	<b>TOPIC: (emergenc*) OR TOPIC: (urgent) OR TOPIC: (expedited)</b>		
1	<a href="#">56</a>	<i>Indexes=SCI-EXPANDED, SSCI, A&amp;HCI, CPCI-S, CPCI-SSH, ESCI Timespan=All years</i>		