

Table 5. Ephedra/ ephedrine search methodology

SEARCH NUMBER	#1A
Database searched and time period covered	MEDLINE Via PubMed 1965-2001
Search strategy	Ephedra AND (clinical trial OR clinical trials OR randomized controlled trials OR meta analysis OR meta-analysis OR review* OR Publication Type=Meta-Analysis OR Publication Type=Clinical Trial OR Publication Type=Review OR Publication Type=Randomized Controlled Trial)
Number of items retrieved	8
SEARCH NUMBER	#1B
Database searched and time period covered	EMBASE 1974-2001
Search strategy	Ephedra AND (clinical trial* OR randomi* OR review* OR metaanalys* OR meta analys* OR Document Type=Review)
Number of items retrieved	20
SEARCH NUMBER	#1C
Database searched and time period covered	BIOSIS 1969-2001
Search strategy	Ephedra AND (metaanal* OR meta anal* OR trial* OR review* in title or subject heading field OR Document Type=Review OR Document Type=Literature Review)
Number of items retrieved	15
SEARCH NUMBER	#1D
Database searched and time period covered	Allied & Complementary Medicine 1984-2001 MANTIS 1880-2000/Apr Cochrane Library – Controlled Clinical Trials Register Database (CCTR)
Search strategy	ephedra
Number of items retrieved	12
SEARCH NUMBER	#2A (performed 4/5/01)
Database searched and time period covered	MEDLINE via PubMed 1965-2001
Search strategy	ephedrine NOT ephedra AND (review OR meta analysis OR randomized controlled trials OR clinical trials OR Publication Type=Review OR Publication Type=Clinical Trial OR Publication Type=Randomized Controlled Trial OR Publication Type=Meta-Analysis)
Number of Items Retrieved	704
SEARCH NUMBER	#2B (performed 4/6/01)
Database searched and time period covered	EMBASE 1974-2001
Search strategy	ephedrine NOT ephedra AND (review* OR meta analys* OR metaanalys* OR random* OR trial*)
Number of items retrieved	1450

Note: *denotes truncated search term.