Appendix 1: Example of Full Journal hand-search Strategy

Inclusion Criteria:

- Region of Study: no limit on country of study
- Time period of study: published from 1st January 2016 to 1st September 2019
- Language exclusions: English language only
- Study type: full text randomized-controlled trials
- Journals: the top six Scimago Journal and Country Rank for ‘Anesthesiology and Pain Medicine’ and the top three for ‘Medicine’ and ‘Surgery’ for all countries in 2018 by impact factor (excluded journals from this list include those specifically related to leukaemia, pain, neuromodulation, palliative and perioperative medicine); see Table 1 of protocol
- Intervention studied: all modes of anaesthesia and anaesthesia techniques where used as an interventions within any invasive procedure in humans
- Invasive procedures defined as ‘purposeful/deliberate access to the body is gained via an incision, percutaneous puncture, where instrumentation is used in addition to the puncture needle, or instrumentation via a natural orifice. It begins when entry to the body is gained and ends when the instrument is removed, and/or the skin is closed. Invasive procedures are performed by trained healthcare professionals using instruments, which include, but are not limited to, endoscopes, catheters, scalpels, scissors, devices and tubes.’
- Studies comparing different modes of anaesthesia (for example, general, local, regional anaesthesia or sedation), as well as studies comparing different types/techniques of the same mode of anaesthesia (volatile versus intravenous general anaesthesia).

Exclusion criteria:

- RCTs comparing anaesthesia in cadavers, laboratory and animal studies
- Case reports, non-randomised studies, retrospective and other non-comparative studies
- Abstracts and conference proceedings