Supplementary Appendix A: PRISMA-P checklist

Section and topic	Item No	Checklist item	Page #
ADMINISTRATIVE INFORMATION			
Title:			
Identification	1a	Identify the report as a protocol of a systematic review	1
Update	1b	If the protocol is for an update of a previous systematic review, identify as such	NA
Registration	2	If registered, provide the name of the registry (such as PROSPERO) and registration number	2
Authors:			
Contact	3a	Provide name, institutional affiliation, e-mail address of all protocol authors; provide physical mailing address of corresponding author	1
Contributions	3b	Describe contributions of protocol authors and identify the guarantor of the review	11
Amendments	4	If the protocol represents an amendment of a previously completed or published protocol, identify as such and list changes; otherwise, state plan for documenting important protocol amendments	6
Support:			
Sources	5a	Indicate sources of financial or other support for the review	11
Sponsor	5b	Provide name for the review funder and/or sponsor	NA
Role of sponsor or funder	5c	Describe roles of funder(s), sponsor(s), and/or institution(s), if any, in developing the protocol	NA
INTRODUCTION			
Rationale	6	Describe the rationale for the review in the context of what is already known	4
Objectives	7	Provide an explicit statement of the question(s) the review will address with reference to participants, interventions, comparators, and outcomes (PICO)	5
METHODS			
Eligibility criteria	8	Specify the study characteristics (such as PICO, study design, setting, time frame) and report characteristics (such as years considered, language, publication status) to be used as criteria for eligibility for the review	6

Information sources	9	Describe all intended information sources (such as electronic databases, contact with study authors, trial registers or other grey literature sources) with planned dates of coverage	7
Search strategy	10	Present draft of search strategy to be used for at least one electronic database, including planned limits, such that it could be repeated	6,7
Study records:			
Data management	11a	Describe the mechanism(s) that will be used to manage records and data throughout the review	7
Selection process	11b	State the process that will be used for selecting studies (such as two independent reviewers) through each phase of the review (that is, screening, eligibility and inclusion in meta-analysis)	7
Data collection process	11c	Describe planned method of extracting data from reports (such as piloting forms, done independently, in duplicate), any processes for obtaining and confirming data from investigators	7
Data items	12	List and define all variables for which data will be sought (such as PICO items, funding sources), any pre-planned data assumptions and simplifications	7
Outcomes and prioritization	13	List and define all outcomes for which data will be sought, including prioritization of main and additional outcomes, with rationale	8
Risk of bias in individual studies	14	Describe anticipated methods for assessing risk of bias of individual studies, including whether this will be done at the outcome or study level, or both; state how this information will be used in data synthesis	NA
Data synthesis	15a	Describe criteria under which study data will be quantitatively synthesised	9
	15b	If data are appropriate for quantitative synthesis, describe planned summary measures, methods of handling data and methods of combining data from studies, including any planned exploration of consistency (such as I^2, Kendall's τ)	9
	15c	Describe any proposed additional analyses (such as sensitivity or subgroup analyses, meta-regression)	9
	15d	If quantitative synthesis is not appropriate, describe the type of summary planned	NA
Meta-bias(es)	16	Specify any planned assessment of meta-bias(es) (such as publication bias across studies, selective reporting within studies)	NA
Confidence in cumulative evidence	17	Describe how the strength of the body of evidence will be assessed (such as GRADE)	NA

NA, not applicable.

Supplementary Appendix B: Search strategy

MEDLINE(R) Epub Ahead of Print, In-Process & Other Non-Indexed Citations, MEDLINE(R) Daily and Ovid MEDLINE(R) 1946 to Present [Ovid]
Embase 1996 to 2020 March 13

#	Searches
1	(Systematic Review or Systematic Reviews as Topic or Meta-Analysis or Meta-Analysis as Topic).sh.
2	(meta-analy* or metaanaly* or metanaly* or (systematic adj (review* or overview*))).ti,ab.
3	or/1-2
4	(Observational Study or Observational Study as Topic or Cohort Studies or Longitudinal Studies or Follow-Up Studies or Case-Control Studies or Epidemiologic Studies).sh.
5	((observational or prospective or retrospective or cohort* or longitudinal or follow-up or case-cohort or "case-control" or "case control" or epidemiolog*) adj3 (stud* or research* or data* or cohort*)).ti,ab.
6	or/4-5
7	(Comment or Letter or Editorial).sh.
8	Animal/
9	Human/
10	8 not (8 and 9)
11	Or/7,10
12	3 and 6
13	12 not 11
14	limit 13 to yr = "2019"
15	Limit 14 to English language
16	Limit 15 to conference abstract status
17	15 not 16

Epistemonikos

#	Searches
1	title:(observational) OR title:(prospective) OR title:(retrospective) OR title:(cohort*) OR title:(longitudinal) OR title:("follow-up stud*") OR title:("follow-up data*") OR title:(case-cohort) OR title:(case-control) OR title:("case control") OR title:("epidemiological stud*") OR title:("epidemiological data*") OR abstract:(observational) OR abstract:(prospective) OR abstract:(retrospective) OR abstract:(cohort*) OR abstract:(longitudinal) OR abstract:("follow-up stud*") OR abstract:("follow-up data*") OR abstract:(case-cohort) OR abstract:(case-control) OR abstract:("case control") OR abstract:("epidemiological stud*") OR abstract:("epidemiological data*") [Filter] Publication year: 2019, Publication type: systematic review