

## Additional File 2: MEDLINE Search Strategy

### MEDLINE Search

Database: Ovid MEDLINE(R) In-Process & Other Non-Indexed Citations and Ovid MEDLINE(R) <1946 to Present>, Embase<1980 to 2014 Week 50> Search Strategy:

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- 1 alzheimer\$.mp.
  - 2 "benign senescent forgetfulness".mp.
  - 3 (cognit\$ adj2 (impair\$ or declin\$ or deficit\$ or degenerat\$ or deteriorat\$ or los\$ or disorder\$ or complain\$ or disturb\$)).mp.
  - 4 (cerebr\$ adj2 (impair\$ or declin\$ or deficit\$ or degenerat\$ or deteriorat\$ or los\$ or disorder\$ or complain\$ or disturb\$)).mp.
  - 5 (mental adj2 (impair\$ or declin\$ or deficit\$ or degenerat\$ or deteriorat\$ or los\$ or disorder\$ or complain\$ or disturb\$)).mp.
  - 6 (ne?rocognit\$ adj2 (impair\$ or declin\$ or deficit\$ or degenerat\$ or deteriorat\$ or los\$ or disorder\$ or complain\$ or disturb\$)).mp.)
  - 7 (ne?ro-cognit\$ adj2 (impair\$ or declin\$ or deficit\$ or degenerat\$ or deteriorat\$ or los\$ or disorder\$ or complain\$ or disturb\$)).mp.
  - 8 ((cognit\$ or memory or cerebral or brain) adj2 (improv\$ or enhanc\$ or perform\$ or process\$ or function\$ or rehabilitation or aid\$ or stimulat\$)).mp.
  - 9 cognition.tw.
  - 10 (confusion\$ or confused).tw.
  - 11 dement\$.mp.
  - 12 ("normal pressure hydrocephalus" and shunt\$).mp.
  - 13 "organic brain disease\$.mp.
  - 14 "organic brain syndrome".mp.
  - 15 (presenil\$ or pre-senil\$ or senil\$).tw.
  - 16 Alzheimer Disease/
  - 17 Cognition/de
  - 18 Confusion/
  - 19 Dementia/
  - 20 or/1-19
  - 21 abixa.tw.
  - 22 aricept.tw.
  - 23 (acetylcholinesteraseadj inhibitor\$).tw.
  - 24 axura.tw.
  - 25 akatinol.tw.
  - 26 (anticholinesterase? or anti-cholinesterase?).tw.
  - 27 (cognitive adjenhanc\$).mp.
  - 28 (cholinesterase adj inhibitor\$).mp.
  - 29 ChEI.tw.
  - 30 donepezil.mp.
  - 31 ebixa.tw.
  - 32 eranz.tw.
  - 33 exelon.tw.
  - 34 galant?amin\$.tw.
  - 35 lycoremine.tw.

36 memantin\$.tw.  
37 memox.tw.  
38 namenda.tw.  
39 nimvastid.tw.  
40 nivalin\$.tw.  
41 "N-Methyl-D-aspartic acid receptor antagonist\$.tw.  
42 prometax.tw.  
43 razadyne.tw.  
44 reminyl.tw.  
45 rivastigmine.mp.  
46 exp Cholinesterase Inhibitors/  
47 Galantamine/  
48 Memantine/  
49 Galantamin.rn.  
50 Memantine.rn.  
51 Donepezil.rn.  
52 Donepezil Hydrochloride.rn.  
53 Rivastigmine.rn.  
54 or/21-53  
55 20 and 54  
56 exp Animals/ not (exp Animals/ and Humans/)  
57 55 and 56  
58 (comment or editorial or interview or news).pt.  
59 (letter not (letter and randomized controlled trial)).pt.  
60 57 not (58 or 59)  
61 (201111\* or 201112\* or 2012\* or 2013\* or 2014\*).ed.  
62 60 and 61  
63 alzheimer\$.mp.  
64 "benign senescent forgetfulness".mp.  
65 (cognit\$ adj2 (impair\$ or declin\$ or deficit\$ or degenerat\$ or deteriorat\$ or los\$ or disorder\$ or complain\$ or disturb\$)).mp.  
66 (cerebr\$ adj2 (impair\$ or declin\$ or deficit\$ or degenerat\$ or deteriorat\$ or los\$ or disorder\$ or complain\$ or disturb\$)).mp.  
67 (mental adj2 (impair\$ or declin\$ or deficit\$ or degenerat\$ or deteriorat\$ or los\$ or disorder\$ or complain\$ or disturb\$)).mp.  
68 (ne?ro-cognit\$ adj2 (impair\$ or declin\$ or deficit\$ or degenerat\$ or deteriorat\$ or los\$ or disorder\$ or complain\$ or disturb\$)).mp.  
69 (ne?ro-cognit\$ adj2 (impair\$ or declin\$ or deficit\$ or degenerat\$ or deteriorat\$ or los\$ or disorder\$ or complain\$ or disturb\$)).mp.  
70 ((cognit\$ or memory or cerebral or brain) adj2 (improv\$ or enhanc\$ or perform\$ or process\$ or function\$ or rehabilitation or aid\$ or stimulat\$)).mp.  
71 cognition.ti.  
72 (confusion\$ or confused).tw.  
73 dement\$.mp.  
74 ("normal pressure hydrocephalus" and shunt\$).mp.  
75 "organic brain disease\$.mp.  
76 "organic brain syndrome".mp.

77 (presenil\$ or pre-senil\$ or senil\$.tw  
78 Alzheimer disease/  
79 cognitive defect/  
80 confusion/  
81 dementia/  
82 organic brain syndrome/  
83 or/63-82  
84 abixa.tw.  
85 aricept.tw.  
86 (acetylcholinesteraseadj inhibitor\$.tw.  
87 axura.tw.  
88 akatinol.tw.  
89 (anticholinesterase? or anti-cholinesterase?).tw.  
90 (cognitive adjenhanc\$.mp.  
91 (cholinesterase adj inhibitor\$.mp.  
92 ChEI.tw.  
93 donepezil.mp.  
94 ebixa.tw.  
95 eranz.tw.  
96 exelon.tw.  
97 galant?amin\$.tw.  
98 lycoremine.tw.  
99 memantin\$.tw.  
100 memox.tw.  
101 namenda.tw.  
102 nimvastid.tw.  
103 nivalin\$.tw.  
104 "N-Methyl-D-aspartic acid receptor antagonist\$.tw.  
105 prometax.tw.  
106 razadyne.tw.  
107 reminyl.tw.  
108 rivastigmine.mp.  
109 exp cholinesterase inhibitor/  
110 donepezil/ or donepezil plus memantine/  
111 galantamine/  
112 memantine/  
113 rivastigmine/  
114 357-70-0.rn.  
115 19982-08-2.rn.  
116 120011-70-3.rn.  
117 120014-06-4.rn.  
118 rivastigmine.rn.  
119 or/84-118  
120 83 and 119  
121 randomized controlled trial/ or controlled clinical trial/  
122 exp "clinical trial (topic)"/  
123 (randomi#ed or randomly or RCT\$1 or placebo\*).tw.

124 ((singl\* or doubl\* or trebl\* or tripl\*) adj (mask\* or blind\* or dumm\*)).tw.  
125 trial.ti.  
126 or/121-125  
127 120 and 126  
128 exp controlled clinical trial/  
129 exp "controlled clinical trial (topic)"/  
130 (control\* adj2 trial\*).tw.  
131 (nonrandom\* or non-random\* or quasi-random\* or quasi-experiment\*).tw.  
132 (nRCT or nRCTs or non-RCT\$1).tw.  
133 (control\* adj3 ("before and after" or "before after")).tw.  
134 time series analysis/  
135 (time series adj3 interrupt\*).tw.  
136 pretest posttest control group design/  
137 (pre- adj3 post-).tw.  
138 (pretest adj3 posttest).tw.  
139 controlled study/  
140 (control\* adj2 stud\$3).tw.  
141 control group/  
142 (control\$ adj2 group\$1).tw.  
143 or/128-142  
144 120 and 143  
145 cohort analysis/  
146 cohort.tw.  
147 retrospective study/  
148 longitudinal study/  
149 prospective study/  
150 (longitudinal or prospective or retrospective).tw.  
151 follow up/  
152 ((followup or follow-up) adj (study or studies)).tw.  
153 observational study/  
154 (observation\$2 adj (study or studies)).tw.  
155 population research/  
156 ((population or population-based) adj (study or studies or analys#s)).tw.  
157 ((multidimensional or multi-dimensional) adj (study or studies)).tw.  
158 exp comparative study/  
159 ((comparative or comparison) adj (study or studies)).tw.  
160 exp case control study/  
161 ((case-control\* or case-based or case-comparison) adj (study or studies)).tw.  
162 or/145-161  
163 120 and 162  
164 127 or 144 or 163  
165 exp animal experimentation/ or exp models animal/ or exp animal experiment/ or nonhuman/ or exp vertebrate/  
166 exp humans/ or exp human experimentation/ or exp human experiment/  
167 165 not 166  
168 164 not 167  
169 editorial.pt.

170 letter.pt.not (letter.pt. and randomized controlled trial/)  
171 168 not (169 or 170)  
172 (2011112\* or 2011113\* or 201112\* or 2012\* or 2013\* or 2014\*).dd.  
173 171 and 172  
174 62 use prmz  
175 173 use emez  
176 174 or 175  
177 remove duplicates from 176  
178 177 use prmz [MEDLINE UNIQUE HITS]  
179 177 use emez [EMBASE UNIQUE HITS]  
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