

Additional file 2.

Search strategy:

(((((dead[tiab] or death[tiab] or die[tiab] or died[tiab] or mortality[tiab] or fatalit*[tiab] or exitus[tiab] or surviv*[tiab]) AND ("anesthesia"[tiab] OR "cardiac arrest"[tiab] or "critical care"[tiab] or sepsis[tiab] or "critical illness"[tiab] or "critically ill" [tiab] or "ARDS"[TIAB] or "acute respiratory distress syndrome"[tiab] OR "ecmo"[tiab] OR "intensive care"[tiab] or emergen*[tiab]) AND ("randomized controlled trial"[tiab] OR "controlled clinical trial"[tiab] OR "randomized controlled trials"[tiab] OR blind*[tiab] OR "clinical trial"[tiab] OR "clinical trials"[tiab] OR placebo*[tiab] OR random*[tiab]) NOT (animal[mh] NOT human[mh]) NOT (comment[pt] OR editorial[pt] OR meta-analysis[pt] OR practice-guideline[pt] OR review[pt] OR pediatrics[mh]))) OR ((dead[tiab] or death[tiab] or die[tiab] or died[tiab] or mortality[tiab] or fatalit*[tiab] or exitus[tiab] or surviv*[tiab]) AND ("anesthesia"[tiab] OR "cardiac arrest"[tiab] or "critical care"[tiab] or sepsis[tiab] or "critical illness"[tiab] or "critically ill" [tiab] or "ARDS"[TIAB] or "acute respiratory distress syndrome"[tiab] OR "ecmo"[tiab] OR "intensive care"[tiab] or emergen[tiab]) AND ((randomized controlled trial[pt] OR controlled clinical trial[pt] OR randomized controlled trials[mh] OR random allocation[mh] OR double- blind method[mh] OR single-blind method[mh] OR clinical trial[pt] OR clinical trials[mh] OR (clinical trial[tw] OR ((singl*[tw] OR doubl*[tw] OR trebl*[tw] OR tripl*[tw]) AND (mask*[tw] OR blind[tw]))) OR (latin square[tw]) OR placebos[mh] OR placebo*[tw] OR random*[tw] OR research design[mh:noexp] OR comparative study[tw] OR follow-up studies[mh] OR prospective studies[mh] OR cross-over studies[mh] OR control*[tw] OR prospectiv*[tw] OR volunteer*[tw]) NOT (animal[mh] NOT human[mh])))) OR ((surgery[tiab] OR surgic*[tiab] OR operation*[tiab]) AND ((death* OR survival OR mortality)) AND (prevent* OR reducti* OR reduci*) AND (significat* OR significan*) AND (randomised controlled trial[pt] OR controlled clinical trial[pt] OR randomised controlled trials[mh] OR random allocation[mh] OR double- blind method[mh] OR single-blind method[mh] OR clinical trial[pt] OR clinical trials[mh] OR (clinical trial[tw] OR ((singl*[tw] OR doubl*[tw] OR trebl*[tw] OR tripl*[tw]) AND (mask*[tw] OR blind[tw]))) OR (latin square[tw]) OR placebos[mh] OR placebo*[tw] OR random*[tw] OR research design[mh:noexp] OR comparative study[tw] OR follow-up studies[mh] OR prospective studies[mh] OR cross-over studies[mh] OR control*[tw] OR prospectiv*[tw] OR volunteer*[tw]) NOT (animal[mh] NOT human[mh]) NOT (comment[pt] OR editorial[pt] OR meta-analysis[pt] OR practice-guideline[pt] OR review[pt])))