

# Cochrane Breast Cancer Group's Specialised Register

## Inclusion criteria

Only randomised evidence is included on the Specialised Register:

- The definition of "randomised" and "quasi-randomised" are as defined in the Cochrane Handbook for Systematic Reviews of Interventions.
- If the randomisation status is unclear the reference is included and marked as a controlled clinical trial (CCT).
- If evidence, identified as a result of a search strategy, is not, in fact, randomised evidence it is coded "not an RCT".
- If randomisation status is unclear it is always verified using the full article, if obtainable.
- The trial must address an issue directly concerning individuals affected by breast cancer.
- References incorrectly identified as breast cancer are coded "not breast cancer".
- Trials in benign breast disease identified as a result of handsearching are included and coded accordingly. No attempt is made to systematically identify trials in benign disease when performing electronic searches.

## What sources are searched and how are they searched?

*Database: MEDLINE (OVID)*

The search strategy for "breast neoplasms" outlined below has been applied to the entire MEDLINE database (from 1966) and results imported into Reference Manager bibliographic software. This search is conducted fortnightly. The strategy was developed at length due to uncertainty regarding the comprehensiveness of the MeSH term "breast neoplasms". Minor changes have been made to the strategy as MeSH terms are modified. In 2014, some search lines were culminated, MeSH terminology were updated and syntax changed to conform with current search practice in MEDLINE. Currently, MEDLINE is the only database searched on a regular basis by the CBCG (fortnightly).

1. exp Breast Neoplasms/
2. exp "Neoplasms, Ductal, Lobular, and Medullary"/
3. Fibrocystic Breast Disease/
4. or/1-3
5. exp Breast/
6. breast.tw.
7. or/5-6
8. breast milk.tw,sh.
9. (breast adj tender\$.tw,sh.
10. or/8-9
11. 7 not 10
12. exp Neoplasms/
13. and/11-12
14. exp Lymphedema/
15. and/11,14
16. exp Mastectomy/
17. ((breast or mammary) adj25 neoplasm\$.tw.
18. ((breast or mammary) adj25 cancer\$.tw.
19. ((breast or mammary) adj25 tumo?r\$.tw.
20. ((breast or mammary) adj25 carcinoma\$.tw.
21. ((breast or mammary) adj25 adenocarcinoma\$.tw.
22. ((breast or mammary) adj25 sarcoma\$.tw.
23. ((breast or mammary) adj25 dcis).tw.
24. ((breast or mammary) adj25 ductal).tw.
25. ((breast or mammary) adj25 infiltrat\$.tw.
26. ((breast or mammary) adj25 intraductal).tw.
27. ((breast or mammary) adj25 lobular).tw.
28. ((breast or mammary) adj25 medullary).tw.
29. or/17-28
30. or/4,13,15-16,29

31. Breast Self-Examination/
32. (breast adj self).tw.
33. (breast adj screen\$).tw.
34. exp Mammography/
35. mammograph\$.tw.
36. or/31-35
37. or/30,36
38. randomized controlled trial.pt.
39. controlled clinical trial.pt.
40. randomized.ab.
41. placebo.ab.
42. Clinical Trials as Topic/
43. randomly.ab.
44. trial.ti.
45. (crossover or cross-over).tw.
46. Pragmatic Clinical Trials as Topic/
47. pragmatic clinical trial.pt.
48. or/38-47
49. exp animals/ not humans/
50. 48 not 49
51. and/37,50

*Database: The Cochrane Central Register of Controlled Trials (CENTRAL)*

*Host: The Cochrane Library*

The first version of CENTRAL searched globally by the group was Issue 2, 1998 and the most recent search was conducted in 2010. The CENTRAL database is not searched on a regular basis. The search strategy currently used to search CENTRAL is as follows:

- #1 MeSH descriptor Breast Neoplasms explode all trees
- #2 breast near cancer\*
- #3 breast near neoplasm\*
- #4 breast near carcinom\*
- #5 breast near tumour\*
- #6 breast near tumor\*
- #7 breast near malignan\*
- #8 #1 or #2 or #3 or #4 or #5 or #6 or #7

*Database: EMBASE (Embase.com)*

The search strategy for EMBASE was run globally in 2001 using the strategy similar to that of the aforementioned MEDLINE search strategy. The EMBASE database was last searched in 2008. We are no longer routinely screening records from EMBASE as the EMBASE project, through Cochrane Crowd, is currently screening RCTs and quasi-RCTs from EMBASE for entry into CENTRAL.

*Journals and Conference Proceedings*

The Specialised Register also includes records obtained through handsearching activities of journals and conference proceedings related to breast cancer. Handsearching activities are no longer regularly conducted due to a large portion of these records being indexed in EMBASE.