**Supplementary Table 1:** Search strategy for the identification of publications relevant to the methodology of assessing medical devices by included institutions *(only element 2 ‘Type of technology’ presented in detail; the full strategy is available on request: sabine.fuchs@tu-berlin.de)*

**1) Database: Medline (PubMed)**

Date of search: 2013-09-20

Items found: **1.988**

***Element 1 Relevant institutions***

Items found: **27.294**;*Details on request*

***Element 2 Type of technology***

Items found: [**2.05**](http://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pubmed/?cmd=HistorySearch&querykey=3)**0.215**

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| Search | Query | Items found |
| [#13](http://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pubmed) | **Search #1 OR #2 OR #4 OR #5 OR #6 OR #7 OR #8 OR #9 OR #10 OR #11 OR #12** | [**2050215**](http://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pubmed/?cmd=HistorySearch&querykey=13) |
| [#12](http://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pubmed) | Search intervention\*[tiab] AND therapeutic[TIAB] | [53486](http://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pubmed/?cmd=HistorySearch&querykey=12) |
| [#11](http://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pubmed) | Search aid\*[tiab] AND rehabilit\*[TIAB] | [3045](http://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pubmed/?cmd=HistorySearch&querykey=11) |
| [#10](http://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pubmed) | Search (tool\*[tiab] OR imaging[tiab]) AND diagnostic[TIAB] | [88776](http://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pubmed/?cmd=HistorySearch&querykey=10) |
| [#9](http://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pubmed) | Search (product\*[tiab] OR instrument\*[tiab]) AND (medical[TIAB] OR health[TIAB]) | [105081](http://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pubmed/?cmd=HistorySearch&querykey=9) |
| [#8](http://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pubmed) | Search procedure\*[TIAB] AND (therapeutic[TIAB] OR surgical[TIAB] OR diagnostic[TIAB]) | [211536](http://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pubmed/?cmd=HistorySearch&querykey=8) |
| [#7](http://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pubmed) | Search test\*[TIAB] AND (diagnostic[TIAB] OR predective[TIAB] OR prognostic[TIAB]) | [87861](http://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pubmed/?cmd=HistorySearch&querykey=7) |
| [#6](http://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pubmed) | Search treatment\*[TIAB] AND (non-drug[TIAB] OR non drug[TIAB] OR non-pharmaceutical[TIAB] OR non pharamceutical[TIAB]) | [995](http://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pubmed/?cmd=HistorySearch&querykey=6) |
| [#5](http://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pubmed) | Search (device\*[TIAB]) AND (medical[TIAB] OR assistive[TIAB] OR rehabilitat\*[TIAB]) | [24856](http://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pubmed/?cmd=HistorySearch&querykey=5) |
| [#4](http://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pubmed) | Search (technolog\*[TIAB]) AND (medical[TIAB] OR non-drug[TIAB] OR non drug[TIAB] OR non-pharmaceutical[TIAB] OR non pharamceutical[TIAB] OR assistive[TIAB] OR rehabilitat\*[TIAB] OR health[TIAB] OR high[TIAB]) | [96861](http://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pubmed/?cmd=HistorySearch&querykey=4) |
| [#2](http://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pubmed) | Search equipment[TIAB] OR device\*[TIAB] OR diagnostic\*[TIAB] | [740624](http://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pubmed/?cmd=HistorySearch&querykey=2) |
| [#1](http://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pubmed) | Search "Equipment and Supplies"[Mesh] | [1073119](http://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pubmed/?cmd=HistorySearch&querykey=1) |

***Element 3 Type/content of publication***

Items found: **4.452.886**; *Details on request*

***Combination Element 1, 2, 3***

Items found: **3.840**;Publication date from 2008-01-01-2013-09-20: **1.988**; *Details on request*

**2) Database: EMBASE (Ovid)**

Date of search: 2013-09-20

Items found: 1.548

***Element 1 Relevant institutions***

Items found: **36.085**;*Details on request*

***Element 2 Type of technology***

Items found: **1.353.265**

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| Search | Query | Items found |
| #11 | **1 OR 9 OR 5 OR 6 OR 7 OR 8** | **1353265** |
| #9 | 3 and 4 | 659372 |
| #8 | ((medical\* OR diagnostic\*) and imaging).ti,ab,kw. | 112334 |
| #7 | ((technolog\* OR technique) and (non pharmaceutical\* OR nonpharmaceutical\* OR non drug\* OR nondrug OR rehabilitation\* OR rehabilitative\* OR medical\* OR assistive\* OR high)).ti,ab,kw. | 272345 |
| #6 | (treatment\* and (non pharmaceutical OR nonpharmaceutical\* OR non drug\* OR nondrug\*)).ti,ab,kw. | 2127 |
| #5 | ((test\* OR tool\*) and (prognostic\* OR predictive\* OR diagnostic\*)).ti,ab,kw. | 316148 |
| #4 | (medical\* OR health\*).ti,ab,kw. | 2870646 |
| #3 | (device\* OR product\* OR equipment\* OR instrument\* OR apparature OR application\* OR test\*).ti,ab,kw. | 4342200 |
| #1 | medical instrumentation/ OR "apparatus, equipment and supplies"/ OR medical device/ OR device/ OR equipment/ | 154902 |

***Element 3 Type/content of publication***

Items found: **6.159.203**; *Details on request*

***Combination Element 1, 2 and 3***

Items found: **3.035**; Items found (limit to yr="2008 -Current"): **1.548**;*Details on request*

**3) Database: Cochrane Library all databases (Wiley)**

Date of search: 2013-09-19

Items found: 857

***Element 1 Relevant institutions***

Items found: **43035**;*Details on request*

***Element 2 Type of technology***

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| Search | Query | Items found |
| #124 | **#94 OR #95 OR #96 OR #97 OR #98 OR #99 OR #100 OR #101 OR #102 OR #103 OR #104 OR #105 OR #106 OR #107 OR #108 OR #109 OR #110 OR #111 OR #112 OR #113 OR #114 OR #115 OR #116 OR #117 OR #118 OR #119 OR #120 OR #121 OR #122 OR #123** | **97630** |
| #123 | assistive device:ti,ab,kw (Word variations have been searched) | 85 |
| #122 | medical product:ti,ab,kw (Word variations have been searched) | 644 |
| #121 | medical instrument:ti,ab,kw (Word variations have been searched) | 718 |
| #120 | health instrument:ti,ab,kw (Word variations have been searched) | 1705 |
| #119 | (high-technology) OR (high technology):ti,ab,kw (Word variations have been searched) | 1308 |
| #118 | rehabilitative device:ti,ab,kw (Word variations have been searched) | 16 |
| #117 | rehabilitative technology:ti,ab,kw (Word variations have been searched) | 8 |
| #116 | rehabilitation technology:ti,ab,kw (Word variations have been searched) | 91 |
| #115 | rehabilitation device:ti,ab,kw (Word variations have been searched) | 373 |
| #114 | rehabilitation aid:ti,ab,kw (Word variations have been searched) | 229 |
| #113 | surgical procedure:ti,ab,kw (Word variations have been searched) | 17108 |
| #112 | therapeutic intervention:ti,ab,kw (Word variations have been searched) | 3398 |
| #111 | therapeutic procedure:ti,ab,kw (Word variations have been searched) | 3021 |
| #110 | prognostic test:ti,ab,kw (Word variations have been searched) | 1459 |
| #109 | predictive test:ti,ab,kw (Word variations have been searched) | 7008 |
| #108 | diagnostic imaging:ti,ab,kw (Word variations have been searched) | 2025 |
| #107 | diagnostic tool:ti,ab,kw (Word variations have been searched) | 744 |
| #106 | diagnostic:ti,ab,kw (Word variations have been searched) | 13293 |
| #105 | diagnostic test:ti,ab,kw (Word variations have been searched) | 5428 |
| #104 | diagnostic procedure:ti,ab,kw (Word variations have been searched) | 2125 |
| #103 | medical equipment:ti,ab,kw (Word variations have been searched) | 663 |
| #102 | (non-pharmaceutical treatment) OR (non pharmaceutical treatment):ti,ab,kw (Word variations have been searched) | 415 |
| #101 | (non-pharmaceutical technology) OR (non pharmaceutical technology):ti,ab,kw (Word variations have been searched) | 10 |
| #100 | (non-drug treatment) OR (non drug treatment):ti,ab,kw (Word variations have been searched) | 14058 |
| #99 | (non-drug technology) OR (non drug technology):ti,ab,kw (Word variations have been searched) | 98 |
| #98 | equipment:ti,ab,kw (Word variations have been searched) | 7183 |
| #97 | medical technology:ti,ab,kw (Word variations have been searched) | 768 |
| #96 | device:ti,ab,kw (Word variations have been searched) | 13182 |
| #95 | medical device:ti,ab,kw (Word variations have been searched) | 1257 |
| #94 | MeSH descriptor: [Equipment and Supplies] explode all trees | 34068 |

***Element 3 Type/content of publication***

Items found: **339733**;*Details on request*

***Combination Element 1, 2 and 3***

Items found: **1569**; from 2008 to 2013: **857**;*Details on request*

***Langugage Limitations***

None