**Appendix 1. Medline Search strategy**

1. Randomized controlled trials OR controlled clinical triasl OR randomized OR placebo OR drug therapy OR randomly OR trials OR groups
2. Humans NOT animals
3. Head injuries OR head injury OR brain injuries OR brain injury OR brain trauma OR head trauma OR traumatic brain injury OR traumatic brain injury OR cerebral trauma OR cerebral injuries OR cerebral injury OR craniocerebral trauma
4. Craniocerebral injury OR craniocerebral injuries OR tbi OR nervous system trauma
5. Hyperosmolar OR hyperosmolar solutions OR hypertonic solutions OR hypertonic solution OR hyperosmolar solution OR mannitol OR hypertonic saline solution OR hypertonic saline solutions OR hypertonicity OR sodium chloride OR sodium solutions OR osmol$ therapy
6. Osmol$ treatment OR osmol$ solution OR hyperosmolar treatment OR hyperosmolar therapy (1 102)
7. (1 AND 2) AND (3 OR 4) AND (5 OR 6)