Online Appendix: Search Strategy

Ovid MEDLINE(R) 1946 to May Week 3 2012 # Searches Results Search Type

1 *pulmonary embolism/di 3432  Advanced

2 venous thrombosis/ or venous thromboembolism/ 18329  Advanced

3 2 and ("pe" or (pulmonary adj emboli*)).mp. [mp=title, abstract, original title, name of substance word, subject heading word, protocol supplementary concept, rare disease supplementary concept, unique identifier] 4704  Advanced

4 1 or 3 7817  Advanced

5 4 and (perc or (rul* adj "out")).mp. [mp=title, abstract, original title, name of substance word, subject heading word, protocol supplementary concept, rare disease supplementary concept, unique identifier] 206  Advanced

6 4 and (exp emergency medical services/ or triag*.mp. or emergencies.mp. or emergency medicine/) [mp=title, abstract, original title, name of substance word, subject heading word, protocol supplementary concept, rare disease supplementary concept, unique identifier] 251 Advanced

7 4 and (decision support systems, clinical/ or diagnosis, differential/ or decision support techniques/ or diagnosis, computer assisted/ or algorithms/) 1216  Advanced

8 7 and (risk factors/ or risk assessment/) 182  Advanced

9 5 or 6 or 8 571  Advanced

10 7 and ("sensitivity and specificity"/ or validat*.mp. or probability/ or likelihood*.mp. or low.mp.) [mp=title, abstract, original title, name of substance word, subject heading word, protocol supplementary concept, rare disease supplementary concept, unique identifier] 367 Advanced

11 9 or 10 784  Advanced

12 limit 11 to (clinical trial, all or clinical trial, phase i or clinical trial, phase ii or clinical trial, phase iii or clinical trial, phase iv or clinical trial or comparative study or controlled clinical trial or evaluation studies or meta analysis or multicenter study or practice guideline or randomized controlled trial or "review" or validation studies) 408  Advanced

13 exp cohort studies/ 1173673  Advanced

14 case series.mp. 25278  Advanced
15 11 and (13 or 14) 242  Advanced
16 6 or 10 or 12 or 15 719  Advanced

Embase 1988 to 2012 Week 21 # Searches Results Search Type

1 *pulmonary embolism/di 6978  Advanced
2 venous thrombosis/ or venous thromboembolism/ 33324  Advanced
3 2 and ("pe" or (pulmonary adj emboli*)).mp. [mp=title, abstract, subject headings, heading word, drug trade name, original title, device manufacturer, drug manufacturer, device trade name, keyword] 4594  Advanced
4 1 or 3 11018  Advanced
5 4 and (perc or (rul* adj "out")).mp. [mp=title, abstract, subject headings, heading word, drug trade name, original title, device manufacturer, drug manufacturer, device trade name, keyword] 320  Advanced
6 4 and (exp emergency medical services/ or triag*.mp. or emergencies.mp. or emergency medicine/) [mp=title, abstract, subject headings, heading word, drug trade name, original title, device manufacturer, drug manufacturer, device trade name, keyword] 143  Advanced
7 4 and (decision support systems, clinical/ or diagnosis, differential/ or decision support techniques/ or diagnosis, computer assisted/ or algorithms/) 973  Advanced
8 7 and (risk factors/ or risk assessment/) 177  Advanced
9 5 or 6 or 8 603  Advanced
10 7 and ("sensitivity and specificity"/ or validat*.mp. or probability/ or likelihood*.mp. or low.mp.) [mp=title, abstract, subject headings, heading word, drug trade name, original title, device manufacturer, drug manufacturer, device trade name, keyword] 353  Advanced
11 9 or 10 816  Advanced
12 exp case control study/ or exp case study/ or exp clinical trial/ or exp intervention study/ or exp longitudinal study/ or exp major clinical study/ or exp prospective study/ or exp retrospective study/ 2422658  Advanced
13 follow up/ 571234  Advanced
14 comparative study/ or systematic review/ or meta-analysis/ or cohort*.mp. 875054  Advanced
WoS/Scopus

# 1 966  TS=("pulmonary embolism*" AND (PERC OR "rule out" OR "clinical rule" OR "clinical predict* rule" OR "clinical probability" OR "low risk" OR "low probability" OR "no risk"))

# 2 217,228  TS=(ed OR emergenc* OR triage*)

# 3 281  #2 AND #1

SCOPUS

(TITLE-ABS-KEY(ed OR emergenc* OR triage*) AND TITLE-ABS-KEY("pulmonary embolism*" AND (perc OR "rule out" OR "clinical rule" OR "clinical predict* rule" OR "clinical probability" OR "low risk" OR "low probability" OR "no risk"))) = 243