**Supplementary material** 1: Search syntax for systematic literature review of existing instruments for quality of observational studies

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| --- | --- |
| Search Database | Pubmed/Medline |
| Search date | July 1st 2015 | July 8th 2015 |
| Search syntax | Search (((((((Tool[Title/Abstract]) OR Score[Title/Abstract]) OR Scale[Title/Abstract]) OR Instrument[Title/Abstract]) OR Checklist[Title/Abstract]) OR Item[Title/Abstract])) AND (((Evidence-Based Medicine/methods[MeSH Terms]) OR "Methodological quality"[Title/Abstract]) OR "Critical appraisal"[Title/Abstract]) Schema: nomesh Filters: Publication date from 2000/01/01 to 2015/12/31; English | Search (((((((Tool[Title/Abstract]) OR Score[Title/Abstract]) OR Scale[Title/Abstract]) OR Instrument[Title/Abstract]) OR Checklist[Title/Abstract]) OR Item[Title/Abstract])) AND ((((("quality score"[Title/Abstract]) OR quality assessment tool\*[Title/Abstract]) OR "Critical appraisal"[Title/Abstract]) OR "Methodological quality"[Title/Abstract]) OR Evidence-Based Medicine/methods[MeSH Terms]) Sort by: Author Filters: Publication date from 1990/01/01 to 2015/12/31; English |