Appendix 1: Search strategy

1 CENTRAL, the Cochrane Library search strategy

#1 MeSH descriptor: [Analgesia, Epidural] explode all trees
#2 MeSH descriptor: [Anesthetics, Local] explode all trees
#3 ((epidural or local) near (analg* or an?esth*)):ti,ab
#4 MeSH descriptor: [Analgesics, Opioid] explode all trees
#5 ((systemic or epidural) near opioid*):ti,ab
#6 (#1 or #2 or #3) and (#4 or #5)
#7 MeSH descriptor: [Postoperative Period] explode all trees
#8 MeSH descriptor: [Pain, Postoperative] explode all trees
#9 MeSH descriptor: [Postoperative Care] explode all trees
#10 MeSH descriptor: [Postoperative Nausea and Vomiting] explode all trees
#11 ((gastrointestinal near (transit or paralysis)) or (post?operative near (abdominal surgery or nausea or vomiting or pain)))
#12 #7 or #8 or #9 or #10 or #11
#13 #6 and #12

2 MEDLINE (Ovid SP) search strategy

1. (Analgesia, Epidural/ or Anesthetics, Local/ or ((epidural or local) adj4 (analg* or an?esth*)).ti,ab.) and (Analgesics, Opioid/ or ((systemic or epidural) adj4 opioid*).ti,ab.)
2. Postoperative Period/ or Pain, Postoperative/ or Postoperative Care/ or "Postoperative Nausea and Vomiting"/ or (gastrointestinal adj3 (transit or paralysis)).ti,ab. or (post?operative adj3 (abdominal surgery or nausea or vomiting or pain)).ti,ab.
3. ((randomized controlled trial or controlled clinical trial).pt. or randomized.ab. or placebo.ab. or clinical trials as topic.sh. or randomly.ab. or trial.ti.) not (animals not (humans and animals)).sh.
4. 1 and 2 and 3

3 EMBASE search strategy

1. (epidural anesthesia/ or local anesthetic agent/ or ((epidural or local) adj4 (analg* or an?esth*)).ti,ab.) and (narcotic analgesic agent/ or ((systemic or epidural) adj4 opioid*).ti,ab.)
2. postoperative period/ or postoperative pain/ or postoperative care/ or postoperative nausea/ or postoperative vomiting/ or (gastrointestinal adj3 (transit or paralysis)).ti,ab. or (post?operative adj3 (abdominal surgery or nausea or vomiting or pain)).ti,ab.
3. (randomized-controlled-trial/ or randomization/ or controlled-study/ or multicenter-study/ or phase-3-clinical-trial/ or phase-4-clinical-trial/ or double-blind-procedure/ or single-blind-
procedure/ or (random* or cross?over* or multicenter* or factorial* or placebo* or volunteer*).mp. or ((singl* or doubl* or trebl* or tripl*) adj3 (blind* or mask*)).ti,ab. or (latin adj square).mp.) not (animals not (humans and animals)).sh.
4. 1 and 2 and 3