

Cochrane Pregnancy and Childbirth Group

Detailed search methods used to maintain and update the Specialised Register

Note:

The Search Methods section of every protocol and review contains our standard search paragraph. This describes very briefly the Group's broad searching activities. This document describes in detail the sources searched for the Specialised Register, how the search results are dealt with and how review authors receive the search results relevant to their reviews.

Search strategies for the identification of studies

Electronic searches

(1) THE COCHRANE CENTRAL REGISTER OF CONTROLLED TRIALS (CENTRAL)

The Cochrane Central Register of Controlled Trials (CENTRAL) in *The Cochrane Library* is searched using MeSH terms relevant to pregnancy and childbirth, together with free text terms. CENTRAL is made up of details of published articles taken from bibliographic databases (notably MEDLINE and EMBASE among others) and other published and unpublished sources; the Specialised Registers submitted by each Cochrane Group; results of the Cochrane Collaboration's worldwide handsearching efforts.

This search is run monthly at present.

- #1 MeSH descriptor Pregnancy explode all trees
- #2 MeSH descriptor Pregnancy Complications explode all trees
- #3 MeSH descriptor Fetal Therapies explode all trees
- #4 MeSH descriptor Labor Pain explode all trees
- #5 MeSH descriptor Infant, Newborn explode all trees
- #6 MeSH descriptor Fetus explode all trees
- #7 MeSH descriptor Fetal Development explode all trees
- #8 MeSH descriptor Extraembryonic Membranes explode all trees
- #9 MeSH descriptor Heart Rate, Fetal explode all trees
- #10 MeSH descriptor Placenta explode all trees
- #11 MeSH descriptor Placental Function Tests explode all trees
- #12 MeSH descriptor Umbilical Cord explode all trees
- #13 MeSH descriptor Prenatal Diagnosis explode all trees
- #14 MeSH descriptor Uterine Monitoring explode all trees
- #15 MeSH descriptor Pelvimetry explode all trees
- #16 MeSH descriptor Fetal Monitoring explode all trees
- #17 MeSH descriptor Obstetrical Nursing explode all trees
- #18 MeSH descriptor Oxytocics explode all trees
- #19 MeSH descriptor Tocolytic Agents explode all trees
- #20 MeSH descriptor Tocolysis explode all trees
- #21 MeSH descriptor Anesthesia, Obstetrical explode all trees
- #22 MeSH descriptor Obstetric Surgical Procedures explode all trees
- #23 MeSH descriptor Maternal Health Services explode all trees
- #24 MeSH descriptor Maternal-Child Nursing explode all trees
- #25 MeSH descriptor Analgesia, Obstetrical explode all trees
- #26 MeSH descriptor Midwifery explode all trees
- #27 MeSH descriptor Perinatal Care explode all trees

[Type text]

#28 MeSH descriptor Parity explode all trees
#29 MeSH descriptor Apgar Score explode all trees
#30 MeSH descriptor Postpartum Period explode all trees
#31 MeSH descriptor Breast Feeding explode all trees
#32 MeSH descriptor Milk, Human explode all trees
#33 pregnan* in All Fields in all products
#34 fetus in All Fields in all products
#35 foetus in All Fields in all products
#36 fetal in All Fields in all products
#37 foetal in All Fields in all products
#38 newborn in All Fields in all products
#39 "new born"
#40 birth or childbirth in All Fields in all products
#41 labor or laboring in All Fields in all products
#42 labour* in All Fields in all products
#43 antepart* in All Fields in all products
#44 prenatal* in All Fields in all products
#45 antenatal* in All Fields in all products
#46 perinatal* in All Fields in all products
#47 postnatal* in All Fields in all products
#48 postpart* in All Fields in all products
#49 caesar* in All Fields in all products
#50 cesar* in All Fields in all products
#51 obstetric* in All Fields in all products
#52 oxytoci* in All Fields in all products
#53 tocoly* in All Fields in all products
#54 placenta* in All Fields in all products
#55 prostaglandin in All Fields in all products
#56 parturi* in All Fields in all products
#57 preeclamp* in All Fields in all products
#58 pre next eclamp* in All Fields in all products
#59 eclamp* in All Fields in all products
#60 intrapart* in All Fields in all products
#61 puerper* in All Fields in all products
#62 episiotom* in All Fields in all products
#63 amnio* in All Fields in all products
#64 matern* in All Fields in all products
#65 gestation* in All Fields in all products
#66 lactati* in All Fields in all products
#67 breastfe* in All Fields in all products
#68 breast next fe* in All Fields in all products
#69 (#1 OR #2 OR #3 OR #4 OR #5 OR #6 OR #7 OR #8 OR #9 OR #10 OR #11 OR #12 OR
#13 OR #14 OR #15 OR #16 OR #17 OR #18 OR #19 OR #20 OR #21 OR #22 OR #23 OR
#24 OR #25 OR #26 OR #27 OR #28 OR #29 OR #30 OR #31 OR #32 OR #33 OR #34 OR
#35 OR #36 OR #37 OR #38 OR #39 OR #40 OR #41 OR #42 OR #43 OR #44 OR #45 OR
#46 OR #47 OR #48 OR #49 OR #50 OR #51 OR #52 OR #53 OR #54 OR #55 OR #56 OR
#57 OR #58 OR #59 OR #60 OR #61 OR #62 OR #63 OR #64 OR #65 OR #66 OR #67 OR
#68)

(2) MEDLINE

[Type text]

This current search strategy is run weekly via OVID MEDLINE and uses the Highly Sensitive Search Strategy for identifying randomized trials in MEDLINE: sensitivity-maximizing version (2008 revision) published in Chapter 6, Section 6.4.11 of the *Cochrane Handbook for Systematic Reviews of Interventions Version 5.0.2*

1. randomized controlled trial.pt.
2. controlled clinical trial.pt.
3. randomized.ab.
4. placebo.ab.
5. drug therapy.fs.
6. randomly.ab.
7. trial.ab.
8. groups.ab.
9. or/1-8
10. exp Pregnancy/
11. exp Pregnancy Complications/
12. exp Maternal Health Services/
13. exp Fetus/
14. exp Fetal Therapies/
15. exp Fetal Monitoring/
16. exp Prenatal Diagnosis/
17. Perinatal Care/
18. Labor pain/
19. Analgesia, Obstetric/
20. exp Obstetric Surgical Procedures/
21. Infant, Newborn/
22. exp Postpartum Period/
23. Breastfeeding/
24. or/10-23
25. 9 and 24
26. exp animals/ not humans.sh.
27. 25 not 26

(3) EMBASE

The following search strategy is run weekly via NICE Healthcare Databases (provided by OVID).

1. CROSSOVER PROCEDURE/
2. DOUBLE BLIND PROCEDURE/
3. SINGLE BLIND PROCEDURE/
4. RANDOMIZED CONTROLLED TRIAL/
5. crossover\$.ti,ab
6. (cross ADJ over\$).ti,ab
7. placebo\$.ti,ab
8. (doubl\$ ADJ blind\$).ti,ab
9. allocat\$.ti,ab
10. random\$.ti,ab
11. trial\$.ti
12. 1 OR 2 OR 3 OR 4 OR 5 OR 6 OR 7 OR 8 OR 9 OR 10 OR 11
13. exp PREGNANCY/
14. exp PREGNANCY DISORDER/
15. exp OBSTETRIC PROCEDURE/
16. exp BREAST FEEDING/ OR exp BREAST FEEDING EDUCATION/

[Type text]

17. exp CHILDBIRTH/ OR exp CHILDBIRTH EDUCATION/
18. exp LABOR PAIN/
19. (antenatal* OR prenatal* OR puerper* OR postnatal* OR post-natal* OR post ADJ natal* OR postpartum OR post-partum OR post ADJ partum).ti,ab
20. (prepregnancy OR pre-pregnancy OR pre ADJ pregnancy OR preconcept* OR pre-concept* OR pre ADJ concept* OR periconcept* OR peri-concept* OR peri ADJ concept*).ti,ab
21. ((preterm OR premature) AND (labour OR labor)).ti,ab
22. (eclamp* OR preeclamp* OR pre ADJ eclamp*).ti,ab
23. amniocentes*.ti,ab
24. (chorion* ADJ vill*).ti,ab
25. (breastfe* OR breast-fe* OR breast ADJ fe* OR lactation).ti,ab
26. (caesarean OR cesarean OR caesarian OR cesarian OR cesarien OR caesarien).ti,ab
27. (newborn OR new ADJ born).ti,ab
28. (pregnancy OR pregnant OR pregnancies).ti
29. episiotom*.ti,ab
30. 13 OR 14 OR 15 OR 16 OR 17 OR 18 OR 19 OR 20 OR 21 OR 22 OR 23 OR 24 OR 25 OR 26 OR 27 OR 28 OR 29
31. 12 AND 30

(4) CINAHL NICE Healthcare Databases (provided by EBSCO).

1. exp CLINICAL TRIALS/
2. (clinic* ADJ trial*).ti,ab
3. (trebl* ADJ mask*).ti,ab
4. (tripl* ADJ blind*).ti,ab
5. (tripl* ADJ mask*).ti,ab
6. (doubl* ADJ blind*).ti,ab
7. (doubl* ADJ mask*).ti,ab
8. (singl* ADJ blind*).ti,ab
9. (singl* ADJ mask*).ti,ab
10. (randomi* ADJ control* ADJ trial*).ti,ab
11. RANDOM ASSIGNMENT/
12. (random* ADJ allocat*).ti,ab
13. placebo*.ti,ab
14. PLACEBOS/
15. QUANTITATIVE STUDIES/
16. (allocat* ADJ random*).ti,ab
17. breastfeeding.ti,ab
18. breastfed.ti,ab
19. exp BREAST FEEDING/
20. breast-fe*.ti,ab
21. exp PREGNANCY/
22. exp PREGNANCY COMPLICATIONS/
23. (prenatal OR antenatal OR antepartum OR postpartum OR postnatal).ti,ab
24. (pregnant OR pregnancy).ti
25. ((preterm OR premature) AND (labor OR labour)).ti,ab
26. (midwife OR midwifery).ti,ab
27. CHILDBIRTH EDUCATION/
28. exp PREGNANCY, MULTIPLE/ OR exp PREGNANCY TRIMESTERS/
29. exp MATERNAL-CHILD CARE/
30. (prenatal* OR pre-natal* OR perinatal* OR peripartum OR antenatal* OR postnatal* OR post-natal* OR postpart* OR post-part* OR puerper* OR prepregnancy OR pre-pregnancy OR preconcept* OR pre-concept* OR periconcept* OR peri-concept*).ti,ab
31. OBSTETRIC EMERGENCIES/
32. OBSTETRIC NURSING/
33. exp SURGERY, OBSTETRICAL/
34. exp DIAGNOSIS, OBSTETRIC/
35. 1 OR 2 OR 3 OR 4 OR 5 OR 6 OR 7 OR 8 OR 9 OR 10 OR 11 OR 12 OR 13 OR 14 OR 15 OR 16
36. 17 OR 18 OR 19 OR 20 OR 21 OR 22 OR 23 OR 24 OR 25 OR 26 OR 27 OR 28 OR 29 OR 30 OR 31 OR 32 OR 33 OR 34

Journal and conference proceedings screening (handsearching)

(1) Journals (each issue is scanned from start to end – mainly the electronic version)

<i>Acta Anaesthesiologica Scandinavica (and supplements)</i>	1950 and continuing
<i>Acta Obstetricia et Gynecologica Scandinavica (and supplements)</i>	1950 and continuing
<i>Acta Paediatrica Scandinavica</i>	1 st issue to 1993
<i>American Journal of Clinical Nutrition</i>	1 st issue and continuing
<i>American Journal of Diseases of the Child</i>	1950 to 1993
<i>American Journal of Obstetrics and Gynecology</i>	1950 and continuing
<i>Anaesthesia and Intensive Care</i>	1 st issue and continuing
<i>Anaesthesia</i>	1950 and continuing
<i>Anesthesia and Analgesia</i>	1 st issue and continuing
<i>Anesthesiology</i>	1950 and continuing
<i>Archives of Diseases of the Child</i>	1950 to 1993
<i>Australian and New Zealand Journal of Obstetrics and Gynaecology</i>	1 st issue and continuing
<i>Birth</i>	1st issue and continuing
<i>British Medical Journal</i>	1950 to 1996
<i>British Journal of Anaesthesia</i>	1950 and continuing
<i>British Journal of Obstetrics and Gynaecology</i>	1 st issue and continuing
<i>Canadian Journal of Anaesthesia</i>	1 st issue and continuing
<i>Canadian Medical Association Journal</i>	1950 to 1996
<i>Clinical Pharmacology and Therapeutics</i>	1st issue to 1998
<i>Current Medical Research and Opinion</i>	1 st issue to 1993
<i>Developmental Medicine and Child Neurology</i>	1 st issue to 1993
<i>Early Human Development</i>	1 st issue to 1993
<i>European Journal of Obstetrics & Gynaecology and Reproductive Biology</i>	1 st issue and continuing
<i>Geburtshilfe und Frauenheilkunde</i>	1950 and continuing
<i>Gynecologic and Obstetric Investigation</i>	1 st issue to 1996, 2005 and continuing
<i>Hypertension in Pregnancy</i>	2006 and continuing
<i>Indian Journal of Anaesthesia</i>	2002 issue 3 to 2005 issue 5
<i>Infectious Diseases in Obstetrics and Gynecology</i>	1 st issue and continuing
<i>International Journal of Gynecology & Obstetrics</i>	1 st issue and continuing
<i>International Journal of Obstetric Anaesthesia</i>	Oct 94 to Oct 95, Jan 2003 and continuing
<i>Journal of the American Medical Association</i>	1st issue to 1996
<i>Journal of the American College of Surgeons</i>	1950 to 2003
<i>Journal de Gynecologie, Obstetrique et Biologie de la Reproduction</i>	1st issue to 1998
<i>Journal of Human Lactation</i>	2001 and continuing
<i>Journal of International Medical Research</i>	1 st issue to 1993
<i>Journal of Midwifery and Womens Health</i>	1 st issue and continuing
<i>Journal of Obstetrics and Gynaecology</i>	1 st issue and continuing
<i>Journal of Obstetrics and Gynaecology Research</i>	2003 and continuing
<i>Journal of Obstetric Gynecologic and Neonatal Nursing</i>	1 st issue to 1993, 2001 to 2006
<i>Journal of Pediatrics</i>	1950 to 1993
<i>Journal of Pediatric Gastroenterology and</i>	1 st issue to 1993

<i>Nutrition</i>	
<i>Journal of Perinatal Medicine</i>	1 st issue to 1998
<i>Journal of Reproductive Medicine</i>	1 st issue to 2003
<i>Lancet</i>	1950 to 1996
<i>Medical Journal of Australia</i>	1950 to 1996
<i>Midwifery</i>	1 st issue and continuing
<i>New England Journal of Medicine</i>	1950 to 1996
<i>Nurse Research</i>	1 st issue to 1993
<i>New Zealand Medical Journal</i>	1950 to 1996
<i>Obstetrics & Gynecology</i>	1 st issue and continuing
<i>Pediatric Research</i>	1 st issue to 1993
<i>Pediatrics</i>	1950 to 1993
<i>Practitioner</i>	1950 to 1996
<i>Prostaglandins</i>	1 st issue to 1993
<i>Regional Anesthesia and Pain Medicine</i>	1 st issue and continuing
<i>Revista Brasileira de Anestesiologia</i>	2003 to 2006
<i>Revista Brasileira de Ginecologia e Obstetricia</i>	2001 to 2005
<i>South African Journal of Obstetrics and Gynaecology</i>	1 st issue to 1993
<i>South African Medical Journal</i>	1950 - 1993
<i>Surgery Gynecology and Obstetrics</i>	1950 to 1993
<i>Ugeskrift for Laeger</i>	1950 to 1993
<i>Ultrasound in Obstetrics and Gynecology</i>	2002 and continuing
<i>Zeitschrift fur Geburtshilfe und Perinatologie</i>	1 st issue to 1997
<i>Zentrablatt fur Gynakologie</i>	1 st issue to 1997

(2) Conference proceedings (from conference abstract books, journal supplements and online sources)

All India Congress of Obstetrics and Gynaecology	49 th , 54 th
American College of Obstetricians and Gynecologists' Annual Meeting	36 th , 37 th , 39 th , 40 th , 41 st , 55 th , 58 th
American Society of Anaesthesiologists Annual Meeting	2008, 2009
American Society of Regional Anesthesia and Pain Medicine Annual Spring Meeting	26 th to 28 th
American Society of Regional Anesthesia and Pain Medicine Annual Fall Meeting	2002, 2003, 2007
Argentinean Congress of Perinatology	3 ^d
Australian Perinatal Society	14 th
Australian Society of Anaesthetists National Scientific Congress	58 th , 61 st
Australian and New Zealand College of Anaesthetists Annual Meeting	2013
Birth Conference	1 st to 9 th
British Congress of Obstetrics and Gynaecology	23 rd , 25 th , 26 th , 27 th , 28 th
British Maternal and Fetal Medicine Society	6 th , 10 th
British Paediatric Association Annual Meeting	14 th , 15 th , 27 th , 60 th , 61 st , 62 nd , 63 rd , 65 th
Congress of Nordic Federation of Societies of Obstetrics and Gynecology	34 th
European Congress of Allied Specialists in Maternal and Neonatal Care	4 th
European Congress of Obstetrical Anaesthesia and Analgesia	1 st

European Congress of Obstetrics and Gynaecology	18 th
European Congress of Perinatal Medicine	5 th , 6 th , 8 th , 10 th , 11 th , 12 th , 14 th , 15 th , 16 th , 21 st , 24 th
European Congress on Prostaglandins in Reproduction	1 st , 2 nd
European Congress on Ultrasound in Medicine and Biology	6 th
European Society of Regional Anesthesia and Pain Medicine	26 th , 29 th , 32 nd , 33 rd , 34 th
Federation of the Asia-Oceania Perinatal Societies' Congress	6 th , 9 th
FIGO African Regional Conference of Gynecology and Obstetrics	1 st
International Anesthesia Research Society Clinical and Scientific Congress	76 th , 78 th , 80 th
International Confederation of Midwives Triennial Congress	24 th , 30 th
International Conference of Maternity Care Researchers	10 th
International Congress on Psychosomatic Medicine in Obstetrics and Gynaecology	3 rd , 5 th
International Scientific Meeting of the Royal College of Obstetricians and Gynaecologists	4 th
International Society for the Study of Hypertension in Pregnancy (ISSHP) European Branch	1 st
International Society for the Study of Hypertension in Pregnancy (ISSHP) World Branch	1 st , 2 nd , 4 th to 16 th , 18 th
Japanese Society of Obstetrics and Gynecology	54 th , 56 th
Maternity Care Researchers International Conference	10 th
Nordic Federation of Societies of Obstetrics and Gynecology Congress	34 th , 35 th , 38 th
Obstetric Anaesthetists Association	2005, 2009
Pediatric Academic Society Annual Meeting	2004 to 2013
Pediatric Academic Societies and Asian Society for Pediatric Research Joint Meeting	2014
Perinatal Society of Australia and New Zealand Annual Congress	2 nd , 4 th , 7 th , 8 th , 10 th , 11 th , 15 th , 17 th , 18 th
Perinatal Society of New Zealand Annual Scientific Meeting	34 th
Priorities in Perinatal Care in South Africa	2 nd , 4 th , 7 th , 9 th , 10 th , 11 th , 12 th , 14 th , 15 th , 16 th , 17 th
Royal College of Obstetricians and Gynaecologists International Meeting	7 th , 10 th
Society of Obstetricians and Gynaecologists of Canada Annual Meeting	49 th , 54 th , 63 rd
Society of Perinatal Obstetricians' (USA) Annual Meeting	3 rd 6 th to 10 th , 14 th , 17 th , 18 th
Society for Gynecologic Investigation (USA) Annual Program	31 st , 34 th , 37 th , 39 th , 40 th
Society for Maternal-Fetal Medicine	19 th to 22 nd , 25 th to 34 th
Society for Obstetric Anesthesia and Perinatology Annual Meeting	30 th , 31 st , 33 rd , 34 th , 37 th
Swiss Society of Gynecology and Obstetrics	19 th to 22 nd
World Congress of Perinatal Medicine	1 st , 2 nd , 5 th , 10 th , 11 th

World Congress of Gynecology and Obstetrics	11 th , to 16 th , 19 th
World Congress on Controversies in Obstetrics, Gynecology & Infertility	4 th
World Congress on Twin Pregnancy	1 st
World Congress on Ultrasound in Obstetrics and Gynecology	13 th , 15 th , 16 th , 17 th , 18 th , 19 th , 20 th , 21 st , 22 nd , 23 rd , 24 th

Other strategies

(1) Current Awareness

a) ZETOC, The British Library's Electronic Table of Contents service sends the contents tables via e-mail of the journals listed below. The contents are reviewed by the Trials Search Co-ordinator. Full copies of all possible reports of RCTs/CCTs relevant to the scope of the group are obtained, reviewed and added to the register by the Trials Search Co-ordinator if they meet the inclusion criteria.

- African Journal of Reproductive Health
- American Journal of Perinatology
- Archives of Disease in Childhood
- Archives of Disease in Childhood Fetal and Neonatal Edition
- Archives of Gynecology and Obstetrics
- Archives of Pediatrics and Adolescent Medicine
- Archives of Women's Mental Health
- British Journal of Midwifery
- Chinese Journal of Obstetrics and Gynecology
- Clinica e Investigacion en Ginecologia y Obstetricia
- Clinical and Experimental Obstetrics and Gynecology
- Clinical Obstetrics and Gynecology
- Contemporary Ob/GYN
- Evidence Based Midwifery
- Fetal Diagnosis and Therapy
- Ginecologia y Obstetricia de Mexico
- Giornale Italiano di Ostetricia e Ginecologia
- Human Reproduction
- Hypertension in Pregnancy
- Italian Journal of Gynaecology and Obstetrics
- JAMA Pediatrics
- JOGC: Journal of Obstetrics and Gynecology Canada
- Journal – Association of Chartered Physiotherapists in Womens Health
- Journal de Gynecologie, Obstetrique et Biologie de la Reproduction (Paris)
- Journal of Maternal Fetal and Neonatal Medicine
- Journal of Obstetrics and Gynecology of India
- Journal of Paediatrics Obstetrics and Gynaecology
- Journal of Perinatal and Neonatal Nursing
- Journal of Perinatology
- Journal of Prenatal and Perinatal Psychology and Health
- Journal of Psychosomatic Obstetrics and Gynaecology
- Journal of Reproductive Medicine
- Journal-New Zealand College of Midwives

- MCN, The American Journal of Maternal Child Nursing
- MIDIRS Midwifery Digest
- Midwifery Matters
- Midwifery Today
- Obstetrical and Gynecological Survey
- Obstetrics, Gynaecology and Reproductive Medicine
- Prenatal Diagnosis
- Revue de Medecine Perinatale
- Taiwanese Journal of Obstetrics and Gynecology
- Women and Birth
- Zeitschrift fur Geburtshilfe und Neonatologie

b) Biomed Central (<http://www.biomedcentral.com/home/>) sends an email alert every 30 days for the anything new published in the following:

- BMC: Pregnancy and Childbirth Journal
- International Breastfeeding Journal
- Anything related to the subject areas of Pregnancy and Childbirth, Pediatrics or Women's Health

Specialised Register inclusion criteria

TOPIC SCOPE: Controlled trials comparing alternative forms of care used either during pregnancy (but not to terminate early pregnancy), or within 28 days of delivery.

STUDY DESIGN: A controlled trial has been defined as a trial involving humans in which allocation to the intervention has either been at random, or by some quasi-random method, such as by alternation, or on the basis of the case record number or date of birth.

These criteria have been applied fairly liberally to avoid excluding potentially useful studies involving concurrent comparisons of alternative policies. In other words, the register includes reports which, if necessary, can subsequently be rejected as methodologically inadequate by a member of the Group preparing a systematic review.

Screening of search results is carried out by two people. Full text copies of all potentially relevant trial reports identified through the searching activities described are obtained and reviewed by the Trials Search Co-ordinator to see if they meet the eligibility criteria. Reports are then added to the Specialised Register. On the basis of the health topic(s) and/or form(s) of care covered, every record in the register is assigned by the editorial team to one or more reviews. This is done by assigning a number (or numbers) to a field in Register

The Trials Search Co-ordinator searches the Specialised Register for each review individually using the assigned number and adds the results to the Studies Awaiting Classification section of the review. Authors receive a specific set of results and are expected to account for all reports in either the Included, Excluded, Awaiting Classification, or Ongoing sections of the review (i.e they are not usually permitted to further screen out any reports).

No language or date restrictions are applied (note: due to the way CENTRAL is populated, trial reports may be added (and therefore retrieved) many years after publication date).