

Supplementary file 1: Search strategy

The search in the various databases was conducted as follows:

For MEDLINE, the index was consulted and terms concerning cough evaluation were combined, no methodological filter was used, the search ended on 26 January 2009.

"cough devices"[All Fields] OR "cough monitoring"[All Fields] OR "cough monitor"[All Fields] OR "cough frequency"[All Fields] OR "cough frequency/severity scoring"[All Fields] OR "cough frequency data"[All Fields] OR "cough frequency score"[All Fields] OR "cough frequency score method"[All Fields] OR "cough frequency scores"[All Fields] OR "cough frequency severity scoring"[All Fields] OR "cough questionnaire"[All Fields] OR "coughing frequency"[All Fields] OR "cough score"[All Fields] OR "cough scores"[All Fields] OR "cough symptom score"[All Fields] OR "cough visual analogue score"[All Fields] OR "cough visual analogue"[All Fields] OR "cough severity"[All Fields] OR "cough severity score"[All Fields] OR "cough severity score method"[All Fields] OR "cough sound frequency"[All Fields] OR "cough sound generation"[All Fields] OR "cough sound registration"[All Fields] OR "cough sounds recorded"[All Fields] OR "cough sound analysis"[All Fields] OR "cough specific quality of life questionnaire"[All Fields] OR "cough meter"[All Fields] OR "cough number"[All Fields] OR "cough numbers"[All Fields] OR "cough events"[All Fields] OR "cough intensity"[All Fields] OR "cough intensities"[All Fields] OR "cough measurements"[All Fields] OR "cough register"[All Fields] OR "cough assessment"[All Fields]

The MEDLINE terms were adapted to EMBASE and the following ones were selected:
'coughing'/exp AND ([controlled clinical trial]/lim OR [randomized controlled trial]/lim) AND ([english]/lim OR [french]/lim) AND ([humans]/lim AND [embase]/lim) OR (('coughing'/exp AND [humans]/lim AND [embase]/lim) AND (('visual analogue scale'/exp) OR ('monitoring'/exp) OR ('device'/exp AND [humans]/lim AND [embase]/lim) OR

('evaluation and follow up'/exp AND [humans]/lim AND [embase]/lim) OR ('quality of life'/exp AND [humans]/lim AND [embase]/lim))) OR ('cough'/exp AND 'monitor'/exp AND [1987-2007]/py) OR ('cough'/exp AND frequency AND [humans]/lim AND [embase]/lim AND [1987-2007]/py) OR ('cough'/exp AND scoring AND [humans]/lim AND [embase]/lim) OR ('cough'/exp AND severity AND [humans]/lim AND [embase]/lim) OR ('cough'/exp AND 'questionnaire'/exp AND [humans]/lim AND [embase]/lim) OR ('cough'/exp AND sounds AND recorded AND [humans]/lim AND [embase]/lim) OR ('cough'/exp AND meter AND [humans]/lim AND [embase]/lim) OR ('cough'/exp AND number AND [humans]/lim AND [embase]/lim) OR ('cough'/exp AND 'register'/exp AND [humans]/lim AND [embase]/lim)) AND ('coughing'/exp/mj AND a AND [humans]/lim AND [embase]/lim AND [humans]/lim AND [embase]/lim). The search was conducted until January 2009.

In the Cochrane Central Register of Controlled Trials, the following keywords were used: "Cough"[MeSH] not #1 Limits: English, French, Clinical Trial, Randomized Controlled Trial, Humans, the search was completed in January 2009.