Online supplementary material

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1. SEARCH STRATEGY

The search strategy was developed using the pre-defined vocabulary or thesauri language for each database: Medical Subject Headings (MeSH) for MEDLINE and Cochrane Library, and Emtree terms for EMBASE. Free-text words were also used and searched for within keyword, title and abstract as outlined below.

1.1 Search strategy for SLR focusing on diagnosis/monitoring

**Medline**


"Recurrence"[MeSH Terms] OR "Treatment Outcome"[MeSH Terms] OR "Treatment Outcome"[Title/Abstract])
NOT
(Case Reports [Publication Type])

EMBASE

'giant cell arteritis'/exp OR 'aortic arch syndrome'/exp OR 'aortitis'/exp OR 'large vessel vasculitis':ab,ti OR 'giant cell arteritis':ab,ti OR 'temporal arteritis':ab,ti OR 'takayasu arteritis':ab,ti OR 'aortitis':ab,ti OR 'periaortitis':ab,ti OR 'periaortitis'/exp OR 'immunoglobulin g4 related disease'/exp OR 'igg4':ab,ti OR 'horton*s disease':ab,ti OR 'horton*s arteritis':ab,ti AND
'biological marker'/exp OR 'biomarkers':ab,ti OR 'fast-track':ab,ti OR 'patient referral':ab,ti OR 'patient referral'/exp OR 'rehabilitation'/exp OR 'rehabilitation':ab,ti OR 'physiotherapy':exp OR 'physiotherapy'/exp OR 'diagnostic imaging'/exp OR 'diagnostic procedure'/exp OR 'classification'/exp OR 'classification':ab,ti OR 'pathology'/exp OR 'histology'/exp OR 'diagnosis'/exp OR 'diagnosis':ab,ti OR 'symptom assessment'/exp OR 'interdisciplinary communication'/exp OR 'physical examination'/exp OR 'patient-reported outcome'/exp OR 'single photon emission computed tomography'/exp OR 'pet-ct':ab,ti OR 'positron emission tomography'/exp OR 'p'ositron emission tomography':ab,ti OR 'f18 positron emission tomography':ab,ti OR 'pet':ab,ti OR 'computed tomography scanner'/exp OR 'computed tomography':ab,ti OR 'ct':ab,ti OR 'echography'/exp OR 'ultrasonography':ab,ti OR 'duplex doppler ultrasonography':ab,ti OR 'duplex doppler ultrasonography'/exp OR 'color duplex sonography':ab,ti OR 'color duplex ultrasonography':ab,ti OR 'magnetic resonance angiography'/exp OR 'magnetic resonance angiography':ab,ti OR 'angiography'/exp OR 'magnetic resonance imaging':ab,ti OR 'mri':ab,ti OR 'temporal artery biopsy'/exp OR 'temporal artery biopsy':ab,ti OR 'cranial arteritis':ab,ti OR 'extracranial arteritis':ab,ti OR 'angiography':ab,ti AND
'remission'/exp OR 'remission':ab,ti OR 'relapse'/exp OR 'recurrence risk'/exp OR 'complication'/exp OR 'complication':ab,ti OR 'refractory':ab,ti OR 'comorbidity'/exp OR 'comorbidities':ab,ti OR 'mortality'/exp OR 'mortality':ab,ti OR 'health status'/exp OR 'health status':ab,ti OR 'functional status':ab,ti OR 'symptom flare up'/exp OR 'flare':ab,ti OR 'prognosis'/exp OR 'treatment outcome'/exp OR 'treatment outcome':ab,ti
NOT 'case report'/exp

Cochrane

Cochrane search uses the same Mesh terms as Medline, example - MeSH descriptor: [Giant Cell Arteritis] explode all trees - as well as the same search terms for title/abstract, example - “Horton’s disease”:ti,ab,kw

#1 MeSH descriptor: [Giant Cell Arteritis] explode all trees
#2 MeSH descriptor: [Takayasu Arteritis] explode all trees
#3 MeSH descriptor: [Aortitis] explode all trees
#4 MeSH descriptor: [Biomarkers] explode all trees
#5 MeSH descriptor: [Referral and Consultation] explode all trees
#6 MeSH descriptor: [Rehabilitation] explode all trees
#7 MeSH descriptor: [Diagnostic Imaging] explode all trees
#8 MeSH descriptor: [Classification] explode all trees
#9 MeSH descriptor: [Pathology] explode all trees
#10 MeSH descriptor: [Histology] explode all trees
#11 MeSH descriptor: [Diagnosis] explode all trees
#12 MeSH descriptor: [Symptom Assessment] explode all trees
#13 MeSH descriptor: [Interdisciplinary Communication] explode all trees
#14 MeSH descriptor: [Physical Examination] explode all trees
#15 MeSH descriptor: [Patient Education as Topic] explode all trees
#16 MeSH descriptor: [Patient Reported Outcome Measures] explode all trees
#17 MeSH descriptor: [Single Photon Emission Computed Tomography Computed Tomography] explode all trees
#18 MeSH descriptor: [Positron-Emission Tomography] explode all trees
#19 MeSH descriptor: [Tomography, X-Ray Computed] explode all trees
#20 MeSH descriptor: [Ultrasonography] explode all trees
#21 MeSH descriptor: [Ultrasonography, Doppler, Duplex] explode all trees
#22 MeSH descriptor: [Magnetic Resonance Angiography] explode all trees
#23 MeSH descriptor: [Angiography] explode all trees
#24 MeSH descriptor: [Magnetic Resonance Imaging] explode all trees
#25 MeSH descriptor: [Comorbidity] explode all trees
#26 MeSH descriptor: [Mortality] explode all trees
#27 MeSH descriptor: [Health Status] explode all trees
#28 MeSH descriptor: [Symptom Flare Up] explode all trees
#29 MeSH descriptor: [Recurrence] explode all trees
#30 MeSH descriptor: [Treatment Outcome] explode all trees
#31 ("large vessel vasculitis":ti,ab,kw OR "giant cell arteritis":ti,ab,kw OR "temporal arteritis" OR "Horton's disease":ti,ab,kw OR "Horton's arteritis":ti,ab,kw OR "Takayasu arteritis":ti,ab,kw OR "Takayasu's arteritis":ti,ab,kw OR "aortitis":ti,ab,kw OR "periaortitis":ti,ab,kw OR "IgG4" :ti,ab,kw)
#32 ("biomarkers":ti,ab,kw OR “fast-track”:ti,ab,kw OR “patient referral”:ti,ab,kw OR "Rehabilitation":ti,ab,kw OR "Physical therapy":ti,ab,kw OR "Diagnostic Imaging":ti,ab,kw OR "Classification":ti,ab,kw OR "Diagnosis":ti,ab,kw OR "PET-CT":ti,ab,kw OR "Positron-Emission Tomography":ti,ab,kw OR "F-FDG Positron-Emission Tomography":ti,ab,kw OR "PET":ti,ab,kw OR "Computed Tomography":ti,ab,kw OR "CT":ti,ab,kw OR "Ultrasonography":ti,ab,kw OR "Color duplex sonography":ti,ab,kw OR "Color duplex ultrasonography":ti,ab,kw OR "Magnetic Resonance Angiography"[Title/Abstract] OR "Magnetic Resonance Imaging":ti,ab,kw OR "MRI":ti,ab,kw OR "temporal artery biopsy":ti,ab,kw OR "temporal artery biopsies":ti,ab,kw OR "cranial arteritis":ti,ab,kw OR "extra-cranial arteritis":ti,ab,kw)
#33 ("Remission":ti,ab,kw OR "Relapse":ti,ab,kw OR "complication":ti,ab,kw OR "complications":ti,ab,kw OR "disease activity":ti,ab,kw OR "damage":ti,ab,kw OR "Recurrent":ti,ab,kw OR "refractory":ti,ab,kw OR "Comorbidities":ti,ab,kw OR "Mortality":ti,ab,kw OR "Health Status":ti,ab,kw OR "Functional Status":ti,ab,kw OR "flare"[Title/Abstract] OR "Treatment Outcome":ti,ab,kw)
#34: #1 or #2 or #3 or #31
#35: #4 to #24 combined with or, or #32
#36: #25 or #26 or #27 or #28 or #29 or #30 or #33
#37: #34 and #35 and #36
1.2 Search strategy for SLR focusing on treatment

**Medline**


**EMBASE**

'cerebrovascular disease'/exp OR cerebrovascular:ti,ab OR 'blindness'/exp OR blindness:ti,ab OR visual:ti,ab OR 'infection*:ti,ab OR 'aneurysm'/exp OR aneurysm*:ti,ab OR stenosis:ti,ab OR ischemic:ti,ab OR ischaemic:ti,ab) AND ([article]/lim OR [article in press]/lim OR [review]/lim) NOT 'case report'/exp

**COCHRANE CENTRAL**

#1 MeSH descriptor: [Giant Cell Arteritis] explode all trees
#2 MeSH descriptor: [Takayasu Arteritis] explode all trees
#3 MeSH descriptor: [Aortitis] explode all trees
#4 MeSH descriptor: [Drug Therapy] explode all trees
#5 MeSH descriptor: [Vascular Surgical Procedures] explode all trees
#6 MeSH descriptor: [Patient Safety] explode all trees
#7 MeSH descriptor: [Treatment Outcome] explode all trees
#8 MeSH descriptor: [Recurrence] explode all trees
#9 MeSH descriptor: [Remission Induction] explode all trees
#10 MeSH descriptor: [Cerebrovascular Disorders] explode all trees
#11 MeSH descriptor: [Blindness] explode all trees
#12 MeSH descriptor: [Aneurysm] explode all trees
#13 (“large vessel vasculitis”:ti,ab,kw or “giant cell arteritis”: ti,ab,kw or “temporal arteritis”: ti,ab,kw or “Horton’s disease”:ti,ab,kw or “Horton’s arteritis”:ti,ab,kw or “Takayasu arteritis”:ti,ab,kw or “Takayasu’s arteritis”:ti,ab,kw or periaortitis:ti,ab,kw or IgG4:ti,ab,kw)
#14 (therapy:ti,ab,kw or treatment*:ti,ab,kw or glucocorticoid*:ti,ab,kw or corticosteroid*:ti,ab,kw or prednisone:ti,ab,kw or methylprednisolone:ti,ab,kw or prednisolone:ti,ab,kw or deflazacort:ti,ab,kw or methotrexate:ti,ab,kw or immunosuppressive:ti,ab,kw or azathioprine:ti,ab,kw or cyclophosphamide:ti,ab,kw or leflunomide:ti,ab,kw or cyclosporine:ti,ab,kw or mycophenolate:ti,ab,kw or dapsone:ti,ab,kw or "biological therapy":ti,ab,kw or "biological agents":ti,ab,kw or "tumor necrosis factor":ti,ab,kw or etanercept:ti,ab,kw or infliximab:ti,ab,kw or adalimumab:ti,ab,kw or tocilizumab:ti,ab,kw or “interleukin 6”:ti,ab,kw or abatacept:ti,ab,kw or ustekinumab:ti,ab,kw or rituximab:ti,ab,kw or angioplasty:ti,ab,kw or endovascular:ti,ab,kw or revascularization:ti,ab,kw or revascularisation:ti,ab,kw or management:ti,ab,kw or aspirin:ti,ab,kw or antiplatelet:ti,ab,kw or anticoagulant:ti,ab,kw)
#15 (efficacy:ti,ab,kw or effectiveness:ti,ab,kw or safety:ti,ab,kw or complication*:ti,ab,kw or "adverse effect*:ti,ab,kw or "adverse event*:ti,ab,kw or recurrence:ti,ab,kw or remission:ti,ab,kw or relapse:ti,ab,kw or refractory:ti,ab,kw or flare*:ti,ab,kw or stroke:ti,ab,kw or cerebrovascular:ti,ab,kw or blindness:ti,ab,kw or visual:ti,ab,kw or infection*:ti,ab,kw or aneurysm*:ti,ab,kw or stenosis:ti,ab,kw or ischemic:ti,ab,kw or ischaemic:ti,ab,kw)

#16 #1 or #2 or #3 or #13
#17 #4 or #5 or #14
#18 #6 or #7 or #8 or #9 or #10 or #11 or #12 or #15
#19 #16 and #17 and #18
2. Review flow chart

2.1 Review flow chart SLR on diagnosis/monitoring

PRISMA 2009 Flow Diagram

Identification

Medline (n = 2816)

Embase (n = 2988)

Cochrane (n = 222)

Total (n = 6026)

Screening

Duplicates (n = 1637)

Records screened (n = 4389)

Eligibility

Records excluded by title/abstract (n = 4205)

Additional Records through other sources (n = 3)

Full-text articles assessed for eligibility (n = 184)

Full-text articles excluded, with reasons: Not compliant with PICO strategy defined or wrong study type (n = 19) Imaging (n = 46)

Included

Studies included (n = 122)
2.2 Review flow chart SLR on treatment

PRISMA 2009 Flow Diagram

Identification

Medline  
(n = 3489)

Embase  
(n = 3565)

Cochrane  
(n = 562)

Total  
(n = 7616)

Duplicates  
(n = 1390)

Records screened  
(n = 6226)

Records excluded by  
title/abstract  
(n = 5972)

Full-text articles assessed for eligibility  
(n = 254)

Additional Records through other sources  
(n = 1)

Full-text articles excluded, with reasons  
Wrong population (n=8)  
Wrong interventions (n=4)  
Wrong outcome (n=12)  
Wrong study type (n=53)  
Previous recommendations (n=13)

Studies included  
(n = 165)