

## Appendix A

#	Database	Search term	Results
1	Medline	exp "PILONIDAL SINUS"/	1752
2	Medline	(pilonidal).ti,ab	1807
3	Medline	("pilonidal sinus").ti,ab	1114
4	Medline	exp "CONSERVATIVE TREATMENT"/	843
5	Medline	exp THERAPEUTICS/	5426665
6	Medline	exp "SURGICAL PROCEDURES, OPERATIVE"/	2873594
7	Medline	exp "GENERAL SURGERY"/	37203
8	Medline	(treat* OR surg*).ti,ab	5752808
9	Medline	(outcome OR heal* OR recur* OR quality of life).ti,ab	3534179
10	Medline	(1 OR 2 OR 3)	2080
11	Medline	(4 OR 5 OR 6 OR 7 OR 8)	10046335
<b>12</b>	<b>Medline</b>	<b>(10 AND 11)</b>	<b>1434</b>
13	Medline	(9 AND 12)	752
14	EMBASE	exp "PILONIDAL SINUS"/	2285
15	EMBASE	(pilonidal).ti,ab	1982
16	EMBASE	("pilonidal sinus").ti,ab	1272
17	EMBASE	exp "CONSERVATIVE TREATMENT"/	515750
18	EMBASE	exp THERAPEUTICS/	7542973

19	EMBASE	exp "SURGICAL PROCEDURES, OPERATIVE"/	4345962
20	EMBASE	exp "GENERAL SURGERY"/	13819
21	EMBASE	(treat* OR surg*).ti,ab	7786596
22	EMBASE	(outcome OR heal* OR recur* OR quality of life).ti,ab	4935842
23	EMBASE	(14 OR 15 OR 16)	2426
24	EMBASE	(17 OR 18 OR 19 OR 20 OR 21)	13082924
<b>25</b>	<b>EMBASE</b>	<b>(23 AND 24)</b>	<b>1972</b>
26	EMBASE	(22 AND 25)	1078
27	PubMed	(pilonidal).ti,ab	2084
28	PubMed	("pilonidal sinus").ti,ab	1963
29	PubMed	(treat* OR surg*).ti,ab	7321707
30	PubMed	(outcome OR heal* OR recur* OR quality of life).ti,ab	6030737
31	PubMed	(27 OR 28)	2084
<b>32</b>	<b>PubMed</b>	<b>(29 AND 31)</b>	<b>1722</b>
33	PubMed	(29 AND 30 AND 31)	985
34	Medline	(9 AND 10)	804
35	EMBASE	(22 AND 23)	1110
36	PubMed	(30 AND 31)	1019