

Appendix: Search strategy

Databases: **Ovid MEDLINE(R)** <1948 to February Week 5 2013>
 Embase <1980 to 2013 Week 06>
 AMED <1985 to February 2013>
 PsycINFO <1987 to February Week 1 2013>

Search Strategy via **Ovid SP** Interface:

1	surgical skill\$.ti,ab,sh.	3419
2	surgical performance.ti,ab,sh.	947
3	surgical training.ti,ab,sh.	12533
4	surgical education.ti,ab,sh.	1627
5	surgical competenc\$.ti,ab,sh.	362
6	surgical proficiency.ti,ab,sh.	106
7	surgical ability.ti,ab,sh.	52
8	surgical expertise.ti,ab,sh.	795
9	(surgeon\$ adj4 performance).ti,ab.	864
10	(surgeon\$ adj4 experience\$).ti,ab.	16159
11	(surgeon\$ adj4 assess\$).ti,ab.	3064
12	(surgeon\$ adj4 skill\$).ti,ab.	2773
13	(surgeon\$ adj4 individual).ti,ab.	1704
14	(surgeon\$ adj4 learning).ti,ab.	1094
15	exp Specialties, surgical/mt, st	21043
16	exp Surgical procedures, operative/st	26882
17	or/1-16	85503
18	Feedback.ti,ab.	130446
19	Knowledge of results.ti,ab.	2075
20	Self-assessment.ti,ab.	11951
21	exp Employee Performance Appraisal/mt, st, sn	1290
22	exp Process Assessment/mt	369
23	or/18-22	145256
24	17 and 23	1514
25	limit 24 to english language	1451

Database: **Cochrane Database of Systematic Reviews** <2000 to 2012>

Search Strategy via **PubMed** Interface:

1 Cochrane Database Syst Rev[Journal] AND (Surgery OR Surgeon OR Surgical) AND (Training OR Performance OR Skill OR Skills OR Competence OR Competency OR Proficiency OR Ability OR Expertise OR Learning Curve) AND (Feedback OR Knowledge of Results (Psychology) OR Self-Assessment OR Education, Medical, Continuing/methods)