

**Appendix Table 1: Search strategy**

#	Terms
1.	exp cohort studies/ or exp prospective studies/ or exp retrospective studies/ or exp epidemiologic studies/ or exp case-control studies/
2.	(cohort or retrospective or prospective or longitudinal or observational or follow-up or followup or registry).af.
3.	case-control.af. or (case adj10 control).tw.
4.	ep.fs.
5.	randomized controlled trial.pt.
6.	controlled clinical trial.pt.
7.	randomized controlled trials/
8.	Random Allocation/
9.	Double-blind Method/
10.	Single-Blind Method/
11.	clinical trial.pt.
12.	Clinical Trials.mp. or exp Clinical Trials/
13.	(clinic\$ adj25 trial\$).tw.
14.	((singl\$ or doubl\$ or trebl\$ or tripl\$) adj (mask\$ or blind\$)).tw.
15.	Placebos/
16.	placebo\$.tw.
17.	random\$.tw.
18.	trial\$.tw.
19.	(randomized control trial or clinical control trial).sd.
20.	(latin adj square).tw.
21.	Comparative Study.tw. or Comparative Study.pt.
22.	exp Evaluation studies/
23.	Follow-Up Studies/
24.	Prospective Studies/
25.	(control\$ or prospectiv\$ or volunteer\$).tw.
26.	Cross-Over Studies/
27.	or/5-26
28.	carotid artery diseases/ or carotid artery thrombosis/ or carotid stenosis.mp. [mp=ti, ot, ab, nm, hw, ui, sh, kw]
29.	carotid arteries/ or carotid artery, common/ or carotid artery, external/ or carotid artery, internal/
30.	constriction, pathologic/
31.	29 and 30
32.	(carotid adj5 (stenosis or thrombo\$ or disease\$ or narrow\$ or plaque\$ or arterioscler\$ or atheroscler\$ or narrowing\$ or bruit or asymptomatic or silent or lesion\$)).tw.
33.	28 or 31 or 32
34.	angioplasty/ or angioplasty, balloon/ or angioplasty, balloon, laser-assisted/
35.	Balloon Dilatation/
36.	Stents/
37.	(angioplasty or stent\$ or endovascular).tw.
38.	(balloon adj5 (dilat\$ or catheter\$)).tw.
39.	((endoluminal or transluminal or percutaneous) adj5 (repair\$ or intervention)).tw.
40.	34 or 35 or 36 or 37 or 38 or 39
41.	endarterectomy/
42.	endarterectomy, carotid/
43.	(carotid adj5 endarterectomy).tw.
44.	1 or 2 or 3 or 4
45.	33 and 44
46.	limit 45 to yr="2008 -Current"

47.	remove duplicates from 46
48.	41 or 42 or 43
49.	40 or 48
50.	33 and 49
51.	27 and 50
52.	remove duplicates from 51
53.	47 or 52

\* Citations published before 2008 for medical therapy alone were identified by contacting author of the following study: Abbott, A.L., Medical (nonsurgical) intervention alone is now best for prevention of stroke associated with asymptomatic severe carotid stenosis: results of a systematic review and analysis. Stroke. 2009;40:e573-e583.