**Supplement appendix 1: search strategy**

**For PubMed, the search strategy was**

1. (autologous [All Fields] AND ("serum"[MeSH Terms] OR "serum"[All Fields])) AND ("random allocation"[MeSH Terms] OR ("random"[All Fields] AND "allocation"[All Fields]) OR "random allocation"[All Fields] OR "randomized"[All Fields])

2. (autologous[All Fields] AND ("serum"[MeSH Terms] OR "serum"[All Fields])) AND (artificial[All Fields] AND ("tears"[MeSH Terms] OR "tears"[All Fields] OR "tear"[All Fields] OR "lacerations"[MeSH Terms] OR "lacerations"[All Fields]))

3. (autologous [All Fields] AND ("serum"[MeSH Terms] OR "serum"[All Fields])) AND ("dry eye syndromes"[MeSH Terms] OR ("dry"[All Fields] AND "eye"[All Fields] AND "syndromes"[All Fields]) OR "dry eye syndromes"[All Fields] OR ("dry"[All Fields] AND "eye"[All Fields]) OR "dry eye"[All Fields])

4. (autologous [All Fields] AND ("serum"[MeSH Terms] OR "serum"[All Fields])) AND ("placebos"[MeSH Terms] OR "placebos"[All Fields] OR "placebo"[All Fields] OR "control"[All Fields]) AND comparison

**For other databases, the search strategy was**

1. (autologous serum) and (randomized)
2. (autologous serum) and (artificial tear) and (trial or comparison)
3. (autologous serum) and (dry eye)
4. (autologous serum) and (placebo or placebos or control) and comparison