**Appendix**

The search strategy in PubMed is present in file.1. This search strategy was also applied to

the remaining electronic databases.

|  |
| --- |
| Number Search items |
|  |
| 1 randomized controlled trial. pt  2 controlled clinical trials. pt  3 randomized. ti/ab  4 randomly. ti/ab  5 groups. ti/ab  6 trial. ti/ab  7 OR 1-6  8 acupuncture. ti/ab  9 acupuncture therapy. ti/ab  10 acupuncture point. ti/ab  11 body acupuncture. ti/ab  12 electroacupuncture. ti/ab  13 electro-acupuncture. ti/ab  14 auricular acupuncture. ti/ab  15 scalp acupuncture. ti/ab  16 dry needling. ti/ab  17 acupoint injection. ti/ab  18 OR 8-17  17 aphasia after stroke. ti/ab  19 post-stroke aphasia. ti/ab  20 language disorders. ti/ab  21 speech disorders. ti/ab  22 anomia. ti/ab  23 OR 18-22  24 7 AND 18 AND 24 |

pt: publication type; ti/ab: title/abstract.

This search strategy was modified as required for the remaining electronic databases.

File.1 Search strategy applied in PubMed database