**Table S1.** Search strategies with key words and MeSH terms

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| **Database** | **Search strategy** | **Results** |
| PubMed | “caries” OR “dental caries” [MeSH] OR “dental caries” [tiab] OR “dental decay” [MeSH] OR “dental decay” [tiab] OR “carious lesion” [MeSH] OR “carious lesion” [tiab]  “tooth decay” OR “teeth decay” OR “carious dentin\*” [MeSH] OR “carious dentin\*” [tiab] OR “dental white spot” [MeSH] OR “dental white spot” [tiab] OR “white spot dental” [MeSH] OR “white spot dental” [tiab] OR “tooth demineralization” OR “teeth demineralization” OR “dental demineralization” OR “dental enamel solubility” OR “tooth enamel solubility” OR “teeth enamel solubility” OR “carious” OR “cariogenic” OR “cariogenesis” OR “cariology” OR “tooth cavity” OR “teeth cavity” OR “tooth cavities” OR “teeth cavities” OR “dental cavity” OR “dental cavities”  **AND**  “salivary proteins” OR “salivary peptides” OR “salivary proteins and peptides” OR “salivary peptides and proteins” OR “antimicrobial peptides” OR “antibacterial peptides” OR “cathelicidin” OR “defensins” [MeSH] OR “defensins” [tiab] OR “histatins” [MeSH] OR “histatins” [tiab] OR “SLPI protein” [MeSH] OR “SLPI protein” [tiab] OR “statherin” OR “mucins” [MeSH] OR “mucins” [tiab] OR “lactoferrin” [MeSh] OR “lactoferrin” [tiab] OR “salivary cystatins” [MeSH] OR “salivary cystatins” [tiab] OR “lysozyme” [MeSh] OR “lysozyme” [tiab] OR “proline-rich proteins” OR “proline-rich salivary proteins” OR “proline-rich” OR “proline-rich acidic protein” [MeSH] OR “proline-rich acidic protein” [tiab] OR “acidic proline-rich proteins” OR “acidic PRPs” [MeSH] OR “acidic PRPs” [tiab] OR “PRPs” OR “immunoglobulins” [MeSH] OR “immunoglobulins” [tiab] OR “IgA” OR “IgM” OR “IgG” OR “agglutinin” OR “C-C Motif Chemokine 28” OR “azurocidin” OR “carbonic anhydrase [MeSH]” “carbonic anhydrase [tiab]” OR “CA6” OR “CAVI” OR “lactotransferrin” [MeSh] OR “lactotransferrin” [tiab] OR “calprotectin” [tiab] OR “lactoperoxidase” [MeSh] OR “lactoperoxidase” [tiab] OR “chromogranin A” [MeSH] OR “chromogranin A” [tiab] OR “amylase” [MeSH] OR “amylase” [tiab] OR “lipase” [MeSH] OR “lipase” [tiab] OR “proteases” [MeSH] OR “proteases” [tiab] OR “deoxyribonucleases” [MeSH] OR “deoxyribonucleases” [tiab] OR “ribonucleases” [MeSH] OR “ribonucleases” [tiab] | 291 |
| EMBASE | “caries” OR “dental caries” OR “dental decay” OR “carious lesion”  “tooth decay” OR “teeth decay” OR “carious dentin\*” OR “dental white spot” OR “white spot dental” OR “tooth demineralization” OR “teeth demineralization” OR “dental demineralization” OR “dental enamel solubility” OR “tooth enamel solubility” OR “teeth enamel solubility” OR “carious” OR “cariogenic” OR “cariogenesis” OR “cariology” OR “tooth cavity” OR “teeth cavity” OR “tooth cavities” OR “teeth cavities” OR “dental cavity” OR “dental cavities”  **AND**  “salivary proteins” OR “salivary peptides” OR “salivary proteins and peptides” OR “salivary peptides and proteins” OR “antimicrobial peptides” OR “antibacterial peptides” OR “cathelicidin” OR “defensins” OR “histatins” OR “SLPI protein” OR “statherin” OR “mucins” OR “lactoferrin” OR “salivary cystatins” OR “lysozyme” OR “proline-rich proteins” OR “proline-rich salivary proteins” OR “proline-rich” OR “proline-rich acidic protein” OR “acidic proline-rich proteins” OR “acidic PRPs” OR “PRPs” OR “immunoglobulins” OR “IgA” OR “IgM” OR “IgG” OR “agglutinin” OR “C-C Motif Chemokine 28” OR “azurocidin” OR “carbonic anhydrase” OR “CA6” OR “CAVI” OR “lactotransferrin” OR “calprotectin” OR “lactoperoxidase” OR “chromogranin A” OR “amylase” OR “lipase” OR “proteases” | 112 |
| Web of Science | TS = “caries” OR “dental caries” OR “dental decay” OR “carious lesion”  “tooth decay” OR “teeth decay” OR “carious dentin\*” OR “dental white spot” OR “white spot dental” OR “tooth demineralization” OR “teeth demineralization” OR “dental demineralization” OR “dental enamel solubility” OR “tooth enamel solubility” OR “teeth enamel solubility” OR “carious” OR “cariogenic” OR “cariogenesis” OR “cariology” OR “tooth cavity” OR “teeth cavity” OR “tooth cavities” OR “teeth cavities” OR “dental cavity” OR “dental cavities”  **AND**  TS = “salivary proteins” OR “salivary peptides” OR “salivary proteins and peptides” OR “salivary peptides and proteins” OR “antimicrobial peptides” OR “antibacterial peptides” OR “cathelicidin” OR “defensins” OR “histatins” OR “SLPI protein” OR “statherin” OR “mucins” OR “lactoferrin” OR “salivary cystatins” OR “lysozyme” OR “proline-rich proteins” OR “proline-rich salivary proteins” OR “proline-rich” OR “proline-rich acidic protein” OR “acidic proline-rich proteins” OR “acidic PRPs” OR “PRPs” OR “immunoglobulins” OR “IgA” OR “IgM” OR “IgG” OR “agglutinin” OR “C-C Motif Chemokine 28” OR “azurocidin” OR “carbonic anhydrase” OR “CA6” OR “CAVI” OR “lactotransferrin” OR “calprotectin” OR “lactoperoxidase” OR “chromogranin A” OR “amylase” OR “lipase” OR “proteases” | 133 |
| Scopus | TITLE-ABS-KEY = “caries” OR “dental caries” OR “dental decay” OR “carious lesion”  “tooth decay” OR “teeth decay” OR “carious dentin\*” OR “dental white spot” OR “white spot dental” OR “tooth demineralization” OR “teeth demineralization” OR “dental demineralization” OR “dental enamel solubility” OR “tooth enamel solubility” OR “teeth enamel solubility” OR “carious” OR “cariogenic” OR “cariogenesis” OR “cariology” OR “tooth cavity” OR “teeth cavity” OR “tooth cavities” OR “teeth cavities” OR “dental cavity” OR “dental cavities”  **AND**  TITLE-ABS-KEY = “salivary proteins” OR “salivary peptides” OR “salivary proteins and peptides” OR “salivary peptides and proteins” OR “antimicrobial peptides” OR “antibacterial peptides” OR “cathelicidin” OR “defensins” OR “histatins” OR “SLPI protein” OR “statherin” OR “mucins” OR “lactoferrin” OR “salivary cystatins” OR “lysozyme” OR “proline-rich proteins” OR “proline-rich salivary proteins” OR “proline-rich” OR “proline-rich acidic protein” OR “acidic proline-rich proteins” OR “acidic PRPs” OR “PRPs” OR “immunoglobulins” OR “IgA” OR “IgM” OR “IgG” OR “agglutinin” OR “C-C Motif Chemokine 28” OR “azurocidin” OR “carbonic anhydrase” OR “CA6” OR “CAVI” OR “lactotransferrin” OR “calprotectin” OR “lactoperoxidase” OR “chromogranin A” OR “amylase” OR “lipase” OR “proteases” | 166 |
| Google Scholar | “Salivary proteins” AND “dental caries” | 287 |