**Supplement 1: Search strategy**

Evaluation of sensitive skin: ‘Methods’, ‘Sensitive skin’ and ‘Perceptions’

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| *Search**Topic* | *Search terms June -13th, 2012**MEDLINE*  | *Search terms June -13th, 2012**EMBASE*  | *Search terms June -13th, 2012**BIOSIS, Kosmet, PASCAL, LIFESCI, HCAplus, Inspec, Compendex* |
| Search A: Measurements and methods | *In title or abstract:* #1 transepidermal water loss#2 histopathology#3 pathobiology#4 **histology**#5 **physiology**#6 **spectrophotometry**#7 **laser Doppler flowmetry**#8 laser Doppler velocimetry#9 laser Doppler anemometry#10 corneometry#11 corneometer#12 **thermography**#13 evaporimetry#14 evaporimeter#15 impedance#16 **confocal microscopy**#17 **dermoscopy**#18 **optical coherence tomography**#19 **photoplethysmography**#20 **Patch Test**#21 perfusion OR reflectance OR speckle OR speckled#22 (#1 OR #2 … OR #20 OR #21) AND **skin**)*In free text***:**  #23 SLS #24 sodium lauryl sulphate OR sodium lauryl sulfate #25 patch test\* #26 capsaicin #27 stinging test #28 washing test #29 lactic acid #30 (#22 OR #23 OR #24 OR #25 OR #26 OR #27 OR #28 OR #29)#31 (#30 AND **skin**)**Bold terms**: searched in title or abstract (or free text) and as *Mesh term**Citations:* **931.089** | *In title or abstract:* #1 transepidermal water loss#2 histopathology #3 pathobiology #4 **histology**#5 **physiology**#6 **spectrophotometry**#7 **laser Doppler flowmetry** #8 laser Doppler velocimetry #9 laser Doppler anemometry#10 corneometry #11 corneometer#12 **thermography**#13 evaporimetry#14 evaporimeter#15 impedance#16 **confocal microscopy**#17 **dermoscopy**#18 **optical coherence tomography**#19 **photoplethysmography**#20 **Patch Test**#21 perfusion OR reflectance OR speckle OR speckled#22 (#1 OR #2 … OR #20 OR #21) AND **skin**)*In free text***:**  #23 SLS #24 sodium lauryl sulphate OR sodium lauryl sulfate #25 patch test\* #26 capsaicin #27 stinging test #28 washing test #29 lactic acid #30 **epiluminescence microscopy** #31 **photoelectric plethysmography**#32 (#22 OR #23 OR #24 OR #25 OR #26 OR #27 OR #28 OR #29 OR #30 OR #31)#33 (#32 AND **skin**)**Bold terms**: searched in title or abstract (or free text) and as *Explore term**Citations:* **100.073** | If applicable in database, All in title or abstract (exc. skin)#1 transepidermal water loss OR transepidermal waterloss#2 histopathology #3 pathobiology #4 histology#5 physiology#6 spectrophotometry#7 laser Doppler flowmetry #8 laser Doppler velocimetry #9 laser Doppler anemometry#10 corneomet?#11thermography #12 impedance#13 evaporimet?#14 confocal microscopy#15 dermoscopy#16 optical coherence tomography OR OCT#17 photoelectric plethysmography ORepiluminescence microscopy#18 (perfusion OR reflectance OR speckle?) AND skin *In free text***:**  #19 SLS #20 sodium lauryl sulphate OR sodium lauryl sulfate #21 patch test\* #22 capsaicin #23 stinging test #24 washing test #25 lactic acid #26 (#1 OR #2 … OR #24 OR #25) AND **skin**)#27 (#26 + *English, human studies, > 01-01-2000)* |
| Search B: Sensitive skin | *All title or abstract:* #1 intoleran\*#2 irritated #3 irritation#4 sensibilit\*#5 susceptibility#6 sensitivit\*#7 hyper reactive#8 hyperreactive#9 hyper sensitive#10 hypersensitive#11 sensitive#12 (#1 OR #2 OR #3 OR #4 OR #5 OR #6 OR #7 OR #8 OR #9 OR #10 OR #11)#13 (#12 AND **skin**)#14 (#13 OR cutaneous sensitivit\*)**Bold terms**: searched in title or abstract (or free text) and as *Mesh term**Citations:* **30.607** | *All title or abstract:* #1 intoleran\*#2 irritated #3 irritation#4 sensibilit\*#5 susceptibility#6 sensitivit\*#7 hyper reactive#8 hyperreactive#9 hyper sensitive#10 hypersensitive#11 sensitive#12 (#1 OR #2 OR #3 OR #4 OR #5 OR #6 OR #7 OR #8 OR #9 OR #10 OR #11)#13 (#12 AND **skin**)#14 (#13 OR cutaneous sensitivit\*)**Bold terms**: searched in title or abstract (or free text) and as *Explore term**Citations:* **38.784** | If applicable in database, All in title or abstract (exc. skin)#1 intoleran?#2 irritat?#3 sensibility#4 susceptibility#5 sensitiv?#6 hyperreactiv?#7 hypersensitiv? OR hypersensitive? #8 cutaneous sensitivity? OR cutaneoussensitivit?#9 (#1 OR #2 OR #3 OR #4 OR #5 OR #6 OR #7 OR #8) AND skin#10 (#9 + *English, human studies, > 01-01-2000)* |
| Search C: Perception | *All in title or abstract:* #1 subjective#2 perception\*#3 burning OR burn#4 itching OR itch#5 stinging OR sting#6 experience OR experiencing#7 redness OR erythema#8 scaling OR desquamation#9 tenderness OR pain #10 dryness OR dry#11 wheals OR wheal OR swelling#12 papules OR papule#13 tightness OR smarting#14 (#1 OR #2 OR #3 OR #4 OR #5 OR #6 OR #7 OR #8 OR #9 OR #10 OR #11 OR #12 OR #13) *Citations*: **1.110.013** | *All in title or abstract:* #1 subjective#2 perception\*#3 burning OR burn#4 itching OR itch#5 stinging OR sting#6 experience OR experiencing#7 redness OR erythema#8 scaling OR desquamation#9 tenderness OR pain #10 dryness OR dry#11 wheals OR wheal OR swelling#12 papules OR papule#13 tightness OR smarting#14 (#1 OR #2 OR #3 OR #4 OR #5 OR #6 OR #7 OR #8 OR #9 OR #10 OR #11 OR #12 OR #13) *Citations*: **1.351.196** | If applicable in database, All in title or abstract (exc. skin)#1 subjective#2 perception?#3 burning OR burn#4 itching OR itch#5 stinging OR sting#6 experience OR experiencing#7 redness OR erythema#8 scaling OR desquamation#9 tenderness OR pain #10 dryness OR dry#11 wheals OR wheal OR swelling#12 papules OR papule#13 tightness OR smarting#14 (#1 OR #2 OR #3 OR #4 OR #5 OR #6 OR #7 OR #8 OR #9 OR #10 OR #11 OR #12 OR #13) AND skin#15 (#14 + *English, human studies, > 01-01-2000)* |
| Crossed searches: | Search A AND Search B AND Search C AND skin (free term) *Limits: English, human studies, > 01-01-2000**Citations*: **494** | Search A AND Search B AND Search C AND skin (free term) *Limits: English, human studies, > 01-01-2000**Citations*: **659**  | Search A AND Search B AND Search C (duplicates Pubmed/Embase removed)*Citations*: **958**  |