**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 OR  epiluminescence 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** |