

### **Supplementary Table S3**

SSM-D-08-01352-R1

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<http://dx.doi.org/10.1016/j.socscimed.2009.06.012>

**Supplementary Table S3.** Databases searched and the search strategy that was applied in systematic reviews of the clinical effectiveness and safety of inhaled corticosteroids for treatment of asthma in adults and children.

Database searched	Search strategy
<p><b>Ovid MEDLINE</b></p> <p><u>Date limit:</u> From 1966</p> <p><u>Date of initial search:</u> 15 February 2006</p> <p><u>Date of updated search:</u> 26 September 2006</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1 exp asthma/</li> <li>2 asthma.ti,ab.</li> <li>3 1 or 2</li> <li>4 exp randomized controlled trials/</li> <li>5 exp random allocation/</li> <li>6 controlled clinical trials/</li> <li>7 randomized controlled trial.pt.</li> <li>8 controlled clinical trial.pt.</li> <li>9 exp double blind method/</li> <li>10 exp single blind method/</li> <li>11 (randomiz\$ or randomis\$).</li> <li>12 placebo.ti,ab.</li> <li>13 (singl\$ or doubl\$ or tripl\$ or trebl\$ or blind\$).ti,ab.</li> <li>14 (trial\$ or study or studies or method\$).ti,ab.</li> <li>15 13 or 14</li> <li>16 meta analysis/</li> <li>17 (meta analys?s or metaanalys?s).ab,pt,ti.</li> <li>18 (systematic\$ adj2 (review\$ or overview\$)).ti,ab.</li> <li>19 or/16-18 28348</li> <li>20 or/4-12,15,19</li> <li>21 (letter or editorial or comment).pt.</li> <li>22 20 not 21</li> <li>23 3 and 22</li> <li>24 beclomethasone/</li> <li>25 bdp.ti,ab.</li> <li>26 budesonide/</li> <li>27 (beclomet?asone or budesonide or ciclesonide or fluticasone or mometasone).mp.</li> <li>28 (asmabec or belclazone or cyclocaps or becodisks or becotide or filair or qvar or pulvinal or pulmicort or flixotide or aerobec or becloforte or novoliser or viatris or alvesco or asmanex or novolizer or easyhaler or symbicort or seretide or serevent or atimos or foradil).mp.</li> <li>29 exp glucocorticoids/</li> <li>30 (corticosteroid\$ or glucocorticoid\$ or steroid\$).ti,ab.</li> <li>31 or/24-30</li> <li>32 31 not 21</li> <li>33 23 and 32</li> <li>34 limit 33 to (humans and English language)</li> </ol>

	<p>35 or/24-28</p> <p>36 35 not 21</p> <p>37 23 and 36</p> <p>38 limit 37 to (humans and English language)</p>
<p><b>Ovid MEDLINE IN PROCESS</b></p> <p><u>Date limit:</u> None</p> <p><u>Date of initial search:</u> 24 January 2006</p> <p><u>Date of updated search:</u> 26 September 2006</p>	<p>1 asthma\$.ti,ab.</p> <p>2 (corticosteroid\$ or glucocorticoid\$ or beclomethasone or beclometasone or bdp or budesonide or ciclesonide or fluticasone or mometasone or pulmicort or flixotide or asmanex or noveliser or becotide).ti,ab.</p> <p>3 recurrent asthma.ti,ab.</p> <p>4 persistent asthma.ti,ab.</p> <p>5 1 and (3 or 4)</p> <p>6 2 and 5</p> <p>7 (nebuliz\$ or vaporiz\$ or nebulis\$ or vaporis\$ or inhal\$).ti,ab.</p> <p>8 metered dose.ti,ab.</p> <p>9 dry powder.ti,ab.</p> <p>10 6 and (7 or 8 or 9)</p> <p>11 (random\$ or placebo\$ or blind\$ or controlled).ti,ab.</p> <p>12 10 and 11</p> <p>13 limit 12 to english language</p>
<p><b>Ovid EMBASE</b></p> <p><u>Date limit:</u> From 1980</p> <p><u>Date of initial search:</u> 15 February 2006</p> <p><u>Date of updated search:</u> 26 September 2006</p>	<p>1 exp asthma/</p> <p>2 asthma.ti,ab.</p> <p>3 1 or 2</p> <p>4 randomized controlled trial/</p> <p>5 exp controlled study/</p> <p>6 randomization/</p> <p>7 double blind procedure/</p> <p>8 single blind procedure/</p> <p>9 (randomiz\$ or randomis\$).ti,ab.</p> <p>10 placebo.ti,ab.</p> <p>11 (singl\$ or doubl\$ or tripl\$ or trebl\$ or blind\$).ti,ab. 12 (trial\$ or study or studies or method\$).ti,ab.</p> <p>13 11 and 12</p> <p>14 meta analysis/</p> <p>15 (meta analys?s or metaanalys?s).ab,pt,ti.</p> <p>16 (systematic\$ adj2 (review\$ or overview\$)).ti,ab.</p> <p>17 or/14-16</p> <p>18 or/4-10,13,17</p> <p>19 (letter or editorial or comment).pt.</p> <p>20 18 not 19</p> <p>21 3 and 20</p> <p>22 beclometasone/</p> <p>23 beclometasone dipropionate/</p> <p>24 budesonide/</p> <p>25 ciclesonide/</p>

	<p>26 fluticasone/  27 fluticasone propionate/  28 mometasone/  29 mometasone furoate/  30 (beclomet?asone or budesonide or ciclesonide or fluticasone or mometasone).mp.  31 (asmabec or belclazone or cyclocaps or becodisks or becotide or filair or qvar or pulvinal or pulmicort or flixotide or aerobec or becloforte or novoliser or viatris or alvesco or asmanex).mp.  32 corticosteroid/ or corticosteroid therapy/ or glucocorticoid/  33 or/22-32  34 21 and 33  35 limit 34 to (human and english language)  36 or/22-31  37 21 and 36  38 limit 37 to (human and english language)</p>
<p><b>Cochrane Library Database of Abstracts and Reviews of Effectiveness (DARE) Issue 1/2006</b></p> <p><u>Date limit:</u> From 1994</p> <p><u>Date of initial search:</u> 01 March 2006</p> <p><u>Date of updated search:</u> 26 September 2006</p>	<p>All fields: asthma AND (beclometasone OR beclomethasone OR budesonide OR ciclesonide OR fluticasone OR mometasone)</p>
<p><b>Cochrane Database of Systematic Reviews (CDSR) Issue 1/2006</b></p> <p><u>Date limit:</u> From 1800</p> <p><u>Date of initial search:</u> 21 March 2006</p> <p><u>Date of updated search:</u> 26 September 2006</p>	<p>All fields: asthma AND Record title: corticosteroid* OR glucocorticoid* OR beclometasone OR beclomethasone OR budesonide OR ciclesonide OR fluticasone OR mometasone</p>
<p><b>Cochrane Library CENTRAL Issue 1/2006</b></p> <p><u>Date limit:</u> From 1800</p> <p><u>Date of initial search:</u> 20 March 2006</p> <p><u>Date of updated search:</u></p>	<p>All fields: asthma AND Record title: corticosteroid* OR glucocorticoid* OR beclometasone OR beclomethasone OR budesonide OR ciclesonide OR fluticasone OR mometasone</p>

26 September 2006	
<p><b>Cochrane Library Health Technology Assessment (HTA) database</b></p> <p><u>Date limit:</u> None</p> <p><u>Date of initial search:</u> 01 March 2006</p> <p><u>Date of updated search:</u> 26 September 2006</p>	<p>All fields: asthma AND Record title: corticosteroid* OR glucocorticoid* OR beclometasone OR beclomethasone OR budesonide OR ciclesonide OR fluticasone OR mometasone</p>
<p><b>ISI Science Citation Index Web of Knowledge</b></p> <p><u>Date limit:</u> From 1970</p> <p><u>Date of initial search:</u> 20 February 2006</p> <p><u>Date of updated search:</u> 26 September 2006</p>	<p>DocType=All document types; Language=English; Database=SCI-EXPANDED; Timespan=1970-2006</p> <p>#1 TS=asthma #2 TS=(beclometasone OR beclomethasone OR budesonide OR ciclesonide OR fluticasone OR mometasone) #3 #1 and #2 #4 TS=animal #5 #3 NOT #4 #6 TS=(randomiz* or randomis* or blind* or placebo) #7 TS=meta analys* #8 TS=systematic review* #9 TS=systematic overview* #10 TS=random allocat* #11 TS=controlled clinical trial* #12 TS=controlled trial* #13 #5 and (#6 or #7 or #8 or#9 or#10 or#11 or #12)</p>
<p><b>ISI Science Citation Index Proceedings</b></p> <p><u>Date limit:</u> From 2001</p> <p><u>Date of initial search:</u> 20 February 2006</p> <p><u>Date of updated search:</u> 26 September 2006</p>	<p>DocType=All document types; Language=English; Database=STP; Timespan=2001-2006</p> <p>#1 TS=asthma #2 TS=(beclometasone OR beclomethasone OR budesonide OR ciclesonide OR fluticasone OR mometasone) #3 #1 and #2 #4 TS=animal #5 #3 not #4</p>
<p><b>EDINA BIOSIS Previews</b></p> <p><u>Date limit:</u> From 2001</p> <p><u>Date of initial search:</u> 08 March 2006</p> <p><u>Date of updated search:</u> 26 September 2006</p>	<p>al: (asthma) AND al: (beclometasone OR beclomethasone OR budesonide OR ciclesonide OR fluticasone OR mometasone) AND al: (placebo* or trial* or method* or random* or controlled or blind* or meta or systematic)</p>

<p><b>NRR (National Research Register)</b></p> <p><u>Date limit:</u> None</p> <p><u>Date of initial search:</u> 08 March 2006</p> <p><u>Date of updated search:</u> 26 September 2006</p>	<p>asthma</p> <p>AND</p> <p>(beclometasone OR beclomethasone OR budesonide OR ciclesonide OR fluticasone OR mometasone)</p>
<p><b>Current Controlled Trials, including MRC trials database <a href="http://controlled-trials.com">http://controlled-trials.com</a></b></p> <p><u>Date limit:</u> None</p> <p><u>Date of initial search:</u> 21 March 2006</p> <p><u>Date of updated search:</u> 26 September 2006</p>	<p>asthma</p> <p>AND</p> <p>(beclometasone OR beclomethasone OR budesonide OR ciclesonide OR fluticasone OR mometasone)</p>