

Usefulness of Handsearching

Journal of the American Academy of Dermatology

Over the 20 year period from 1979 to 1999 handsearching of this journal showed that -

263 records agreed with the Medline classification of RCT (randomised controlled trial) or CCT (controlled clinical trial)

95 records were classified as trials by Medline but on closer inspection by handsearching were found not to be trials

213 records were newly identified as RCT or CCT. This means that by handsearching we found-

26 are RCTs that Medline had classified as 'journal article'

23 are RCTs that Medline had classified as 'clinical trial'

59 are RCTs that Medline had classified as 'controlled clinical trial'

60 are CCTs that Medline had classified as 'journal article'

12 are CCTs that Medline had classified as 'randomized controlled trial'

33 are CCTs that Medline had classified as 'clinical trial'

1 records was an abstract referring to an RCT in the journal that was not listed on Medline

1 record was an abstract referring to a CCT in the journal that was not listed in Medline