

Appendix: Search terms and Search Strategies for individual databases

Search terms:

Chinese terms: “*chang_yi_ji_zong_he_zheng*” (irritable bowel syndrome), “*zhong_yi*” (Chinese medicine), “*zhong_yao*” (Chinese herbs), “*zhong_yi_yao*” (traditional Chinese medicine), “*zhong_cheng_yao*” (Chinese patent medicine), “*zhong_cao_yao*” (Chinese herb medicine), “*zhong_xi_yi_jie_he*” (integrated traditional and western medicine), “*sui_ji*” (randomized), “*dui_zhao*” (controlled)

English terms: “irritable bowel syndrome”, “herb”, “Chinese medicine”, “traditional medicine”, “plant extracts”, “alternative medicine”, “complementary medicine”, “randomized controlled trial”, “controlled clinical trial”

Search strategy:

CNKI

- 1 “*chang_yi_ji_zong_he_zheng*” (Title)
- 2 “*zhong_yi*” (Title/Abstract)
- 3 “*zhong_yao*” (Title/Abstract)
- 4 “*zhong_yi_yao*” (Title/Abstract)
- 5 “*zhong_cheng_yao*” (Title/Abstract)
- 6 “*zhong_cao_yao*” (Title/Abstract)
- 7 “*zhong_xi_yi_jie_he*” (Title/Abstract)
- 8 “*sui_ji*” (All fields)
- 9 “*dui_zhao*” (All fields)
- 10 or/ 2-7
- 11 or/ 8-9
- 12 10 and 11
- 13 1 and 12

VIP

- 1 “*chang_yi_ji_zong_he_zheng*” (Title)
- 2 “*zhong_yi*” (Title/Abstract)

- 3 “zhong_yao” (Title/Abstract)
- 4 “zhong_yi_yao” (Title/Abstract)
- 5 “zhong_cheng_yao” (Title/Abstract)
- 6 “zhong_cao_yao” (Title/Abstract)
- 7 “zhong_xi_yi_jie_he” (Title/Abstract)
- 8 “sui_ji” (All fields)
- 9 “dui_zhao” (All fields)
- 10 or/ 2-7
- 11 or/ 8-9
- 12 10 and 11
- 13 1 and 12

CBM

- 1 “chang_yi_ji_zong_he_zheng” (Title)
- 2 “zhong_yi” (Default)
- 3 “zhong_yao” (Default)
- 4 “zhong_yi_yao” (Default)
- 5 “zhong_cheng_yao” (Default)
- 6 “zhong_cao_yao” (Default)
- 7 “zhong_xi_yi_jie_he” (Default)
- 8 “sui_ji” (All fields)
- 9 “dui_zhao” (All fields)
- 10 or/ 2-7
- 11 or/ 8-9
- 12 10 and 11
- 13 1 and 12

Wanfang

- 1 “chang_yi_ji_zong_he_zheng” (Title)
- 2 “zhong_yi” (Keyword/Abstract)
- 3 “zhong_yao” (Keyword/Abstract)

- 4 “zhong_yi_yao” (Keyword/Abstract)
- 5 “zhong_cheng_yao” (Keyword/Abstract)
- 6 “zhong_cao_yao” (Keyword/Abstract)
- 7 “zhong_xi_yi_jie_he” (Keyword/Abstract)
- 8 “sui_ji” (All fields)
- 9 “dui_zhao” (All fields)
- 10 or/ 2-7
- 11 or/ 8-9
- 12 10 and 11
- 13 1 and 12

PubMed

- 1 irritable bowel syndrome.mh
- 2 herb.tw
- 3 Chinese medicine \$.tw
- 4 traditional medicine \$.tw
- 5 plant extract \$.tw
- 6 alternative medicine \$.tw
- 7 complementary medicine \$.tw
- 8 randomized controlled trial.pt
- 9 controlled clinical trial.pt
- 10 or/2-7
- 11 or/8-9
- 12 10 and 11
- 13 1 and 12

Cochrane library

- 1 irritable bowel syndrome.mh
- 2 herb.tw
- 3 Chinese medicine.ti,ab,sh
- 4 traditional medicine. ti,ab,sh
- 5 plant extract. ti,ab,sh

6 alternative medicine. ti,ab,sh

7 complementary medicine. ti,ab,sh

8 randomized controlled trial.pt

9 controlled clinical trial.pt

10 or/2-7

11 or/8-9

12 10 and 11

13 1 and 12