### Appendix 1. Databases search strategies

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<th>Database</th>
<th>Search Strategies</th>
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| **CENTRAL** | 1. MeSH descriptor Gout explode all trees  
2. Search on ‘gout’ in ‘Title, abstract, keywords’ in ‘Trials’  
3. Search on ‘gouty arthritis’ in ‘Title, abstract, keywords’ in ‘Trials’  
4. #1 OR #2 OR #3  
5. MeSH descriptor Drugs, Chinese Herbal explode all trees  
6. #4 AND #5 |
| **CNKI** | 1. Search on ‘random*’ in Text  
2. Search on ‘gout’ or ‘gouty arthritis’ or ‘hyperuricemia’ or ‘bi syndrome’ in ‘Title’  
4. #1 AND #2 AND #3  
5. Exclude ‘mice’ nor ‘rabbit’ in ‘Title’ in the results from #4 |
| **VIP** | (((random term=random*) AND ((Title or abstract=gout) OR (Title or abstract=gouty arthritis) OR (Title or abstract=hyperuricemia) OR (Title or abstract=bi syndrome)) AND (Classification number=R2)) NOT (Title or abstract=mice)) NOT (Title or abstract=rabbit) AND Publication year=1989-2012  
Note: ‘Classification number=R2’ represents all publication related to traditional Chinese medicine. |
| **CBM** | Random term: random* AND (Title: gout OR Title: gouty arthritis OR Title: hyperuricemia OR Title: bi syndrome) AND (Random term: traditional Chinese medicine OR Random term: Chinese medicine OR Random term: Chinese herbal medicine OR Random term: Chinese patent medicine OR Random term: integrative traditional Chinese and western medicine) NOT (Title: mice OR Title: rabbit) |
| **Wangfang** | (Title or keywords: (gout) + Title or keywords: (gouty arthritis) + Title or keywords: (hyperuricemia) + Title or keywords: (bi syndrome)) AND (Abstract: (Chinese herbal medicine) + Abstract: (Chinese medicine) + Abstract: (traditional Chinese medicine) + Abstract: (Chinese patent medicine) + Abstract: (integrative traditional Chinese and western medicine)) AND (Abstract: (random*)) |