

Online Supplementary Document

Eze et al. Risk factors for *Clostridium difficile* infections – an overview of the evidence base and challenges in data synthesis

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Table S1: Search strategies by database

Embase (Ovid Technologies)	
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Clostridium difficile/ 2. Enterocolitis, Pseudomembranous/ 3. Pseudomembranous colitis.mp. 4. Antibiotic associated diarrh*.mp. 5. Community acquired clostridium difficile.mp. 6. hospital acquired clostridium difficile.mp. 7. 1 or 2 or 3 or 4 or 5 or 6 8. Risk Factors/ 9. Risk\$.mp. 10. infection risk\$.mp. 11. Risk assessment.mp. or Risk Assessment/ 12. Odds ratio\$.mp. or Odds Ratio/ 13. 8 or 9 or 10 or 11 or 12 14. exp Meta Analysis/ 15. ((meta adj analy\$) or metaanalys\$.tw. 16. (systematic adj (review\$1 or overview\$1)).tw. 17. 14 or 15 or 16 18. cancerlit.ab. 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 19. cochrane.ab. 20. embase.ab. 21. (psychlit or psyclit).ab. 22. (psychinfo or psycinfo).ab. 23. (cinahl or cinhal).ab. 24. science citation index.ab. 25. bids.ab. 26. 18 or 19 or 20 or 21 or 22 or 23 or 24 or 25 27. reference lists.ab. 28. bibliograph\$.ab. 29. hand-search\$.ab. 30. manual search\$.ab. 31. relevant journals.ab. 32. 27 or 28 or 29 or 30 or 31 33. data extraction.ab. 34. selection criteria.ab. 35. 33 or 34 36. review.pt. 37. 35 and 36 38. 17 or 26 or 32 or 37 39. 7 and 13 and 38
Medline (Ovid Technologies, Inc)	
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Clostridium difficile/ 2. Enterocolitis, Pseudomembranous/ 3. Pseudomembranous colitis.mp. 4. Antibiotic associated diarrh*.mp. 5. Community acquired clostridium difficile.mp. 6. hospital acquired clostridium difficile.mp. 7. 1 or 2 or 3 or 4 or 5 or 6 8. Risk Factors/ 9. Risk\$.mp. 10. infection risk\$.mp. 11. Risk assessment.mp. or Risk Assessment/ 12. Odds ratio\$.mp. or Odds Ratio/ 13. 8 or 9 or 10 or 11 or 12 14. Meta-Analysis as Topic/ 15. meta analy\$.tw. 16. metaanaly\$.tw. 17. Meta-Analysis/ 18. (systematic adj (review\$1 or overview\$1)).tw. 19. exp Review Literature as Topic/ 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 20. 14 or 15 or 16 or 17 or 18 or 19 21. cochrane.ab. 22. embase.ab. 23. (psychlit or psyclit).ab. 24. (psychinfo or psycinfo).ab. 25. (cinahl or cinhal).ab. 26. science citation index.ab. 27. bids.ab. 28. cancerlit.ab. 29. 21 or 22 or 23 or 24 or 25 or 26 or 27 or 28 30. reference list\$.ab. 31. bibliograph\$.ab. 32. hand-search\$.ab. 33. relevant journals.ab. 34. manual search\$.ab. 35. 30 or 31 or 32 or 33 or 34 36. selection criteria.ab. 37. data extraction.ab. 38. 36 or 37 39. 20 or 29 or 35 or 38 40. 7 and 13 and 39
Cumulative Index to Nursing and Allied Health Literature, CINAHL (EBSCO Ltd)	

<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. (MH "Meta Analysis") OR "Meta analysis/" 2. (MH "Literature Review") 3. (MH "Systematic Review") OR "(systematic adj (review or overview)).tw." 4. S1 OR S2 OR S3 5. (MH "Risk Factors") OR "Risk factor\$" 6. "Risk\$" OR (MH "Risk Assessment") 7. (MH "Odds Ratio") 8. (MH "Relative Risk") 9. S5 OR S6 OR S7 OR S8 10. (MH "Clostridium Difficile") OR "Clostridium difficile/" 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 11. (MH "Enterocolitis, Pseudomembranous") 12. (MH "Enterocolitis") 13. (MH "Antibiotics, Combined") OR "Antibiotic associated diarrh*.mp." 14. (MH "Community-Acquired Infections") OR "Community acquired clostridium difficile.mp." 15. (MH "Cross Infection") OR "hospital acquired clostridium difficile.mp." 16. S10 OR S11 OR S12 OR S13 OR S14 OR S15 17. S4 AND S9 AND S16
Cochrane Database	
(Clostridium difficile AND Risk factors)	
Global Health Library	
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. (Clostridium difficile AND Risk factor AND Systematic review) 2. (Clostridium difficile AND Risk factor AND Meta-analysis) 	