

## Appendix 1

Detailed search strategy (Medline via Pubmed, also see *Table 1*)

	Query	Hits [n]
#1	dexmedetomid <sup>*</sup> [ti]	5.404
#2	#1 AND palliative	41 <sup>*</sup>
#3	#1 AND (cancer[tiab] OR end-of-life OR hospice OR death[tiab] OR dyin <sup>*</sup> [tiab] OR symptom control[tiab])	262
#4	#3 NOT (postoperative[ti] OR surgery[ti] OR *ectomy[ti] OR ventilated[ti])	198
#5	#4 NOT (“rat”[ti] OR “rats”[ti] OR mouse[ti] OR mice[ti])	162

<sup>\*</sup>, of these, only 15 concerned adult palliative care.