

Appendix 1: Details of the literature search strategy (from their inception to Sep 30, 2020)

PubMed

Search	Query	Items found
#1	((Xuebijing[Title/Abstract]) OR (Xue bi jing[Title/Abstract])) OR (XBJ[Title/Abstract])	208
#2	(((((sepsis[MeSH Terms]) OR (sepsis[Title/Abstract])) OR (severe sepsis[Title/Abstract])) OR (severe sepsis[MeSH Terms])) OR (septic shock[MeSH Terms])) OR (septic shock[Title/Abstract])	191,603
#3	((Meta-Analysis[MeSH Terms]) OR (Meta-Analysis[Title/Abstract])) OR (Systematic Review[Title/Abstract])	275,484
#4	#1 AND #2 AND #3	13

Embase

Quick search

Search	Query	Items found
#1	sepsis:ab,ti OR 'severe sepsis':ab,ti OR 'septic shock':ab,ti	177,641
#2	xuebijing:ab,ti OR 'xue bi jing':ab,ti OR xbj:ab,ti	275
#3	'systematic review':ab,ti OR 'meta analysis':ab,ti	333,030
#4	#1 AND #2 AND #3	13

Cochrane Library

Search	Query	Items found
#1	(Xuebijing):ti,ab,kw OR (Xue bi jing):ti,ab,kw OR (XBJ):ti,ab,kw	86
#2	(sepsis):ti,ab,kw OR (severe sepsis):ti,ab,kw OR (septic shock):ti,ab,kw	12,560
#3	(systematic review):ti,ab,kw OR (meta-analysis):ti,ab,kw	25,202
#4	#1 AND #2 AND #3	2

Web of Science

Search	Query	Items found
#1	TS=(Xuebijing OR Xue bi jing OR XBJ)	347
#2	TS=(sepsis OR severe sepsis OR septic shock)	215,159
#3	TS= (Systematic Review OR Meta-Analysis)	446,963
#4	#1 AND #2 AND #3	15

China National Knowledge Infrastructure Database

Search	Query	Items found
#1	SU=(脓毒症+脓毒血症+重症脓毒症+脓毒症休克+脓毒性休克) AND SU=(血必净) AND SU=(系统评价+荟萃分析+Meta分析+系统综述+循证评价)	23

Wanfang Data

Search	Query	Items found
#1	(主题：“脓毒症”+“脓毒血症”+“重症脓毒症”+“脓毒症休克”+“脓毒性休克”)*(主题：“血必净”)*(主题：“Meta分析”+“系统评价”+“荟萃分析”+“系统综述”+“循证评价”)	26

Chinese Biomedical Literature Database

Search	Query	Items found
#1	“脓毒症”[常用字段：智能] OR “脓毒血症”[常用字段：智能] OR “重症脓毒症”[常用字段：智能] OR “脓毒症休克”[常用字段：智能] OR “脓毒性休克”[常用字段：智能]	220,463
#2	“血必净”[常用字段：智能]	2,950
#3	“Meta分析”[常用字段：智能] OR “系统评价”[常用字段：智能] OR “荟萃分析”[常用字段：智能] OR “系统综述”[常用字段：智能] OR “循证评价”[常用字段：智能]	198,658
#4	(“脓毒症”[常用字段：智能] OR “脓毒血症”[常用字段：智能] OR “重症脓毒症”[常用字段：智能] OR “脓毒症休克”[常用字段：智能] OR “脓毒性休克”[常用字段：智能]) AND (“Meta分析”[常用字段：智能] OR “系统评价”[常用字段：智能] OR “荟萃分析”[常用字段：智能] OR “系统综述”[常用字段：智能] OR “循证评价”[常用字段：智能]) AND (“血必净”[常用字段：智能])	18

Chongqing VIP Database

Search	Query	Items found
#1	(M=脓毒症+脓毒血症+重症脓毒症+脓毒症休克+脓毒性休克)*(M=血必净)*(M=Meta分析+系统评价+荟萃分析+系统综述+循证评价)	15

Appendix 2: Characteristics of excluded studies by full text

	Author, year	Title	Reasons
1	Sun CL, 2012	Meta analysis of Xuebijing injection in the treatment of sepsis	Repeated publications (n=1)
2	Xu YQ, 2014	Meta analysis of randomized controlled trial of Chinese patent drug Xuebijing in the treatment of sepsis	Combined with other intervention (n=3)
3	Liu QQ, 2010	Systematic review of Xuebijing injection for the treatment of sepsis	
4	Hu J, 2010	Xuebijing injection for sepsis: a comprehensive review	
5	Zhang YL, 2010	Study on the effectiveness of Xuebijing injection in reducing sepsis mortality	Lack of goal outcomes (n=1)