

Online Resource 2. Search Strategies

Article title: Incidence of Hypertrophic Scarring After Non-Burn Surgery in Children: A Systematic Review and Meta-analysis

Journal: Pediatric Surgery International

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Caption: Complete database search strategies, search dates, restrictions, and numbers of records retrieved.

Search summary

Source	Platform	Search date	Restrictions/filters	Records retrieved	Notes
MEDLINE/PubMed	PubMed	March 30, 2026, 3:12 p.m.	Title/abstract terms; NOT animals-only; NOT case reports. English-language eligibility applied during screening.	169	The provided extraction workbook contained 170 records because one additional PubMed-indexed record was retained in the workbook import.
Reference-list searching	Manual review of included and related records	During eligibility review	Relevant reference lists and related citations were reviewed for additional pediatric non-burn surgery hypertrophic-scar records.	No additional quantitative records added outside the 20 priority records	Reference checking did not change the 14-study quantitative set.
Google Scholar and CINAHL	Protocol-listed sources	Not separately exported in project files	Listed in the project recipe as intended sources.	Not counted separately	No independent reproducible export or additional included quantitative records were available in the project files; these sources are therefore not listed as separate completed database searches.

Exact PubMed search string

```
(
("hypertrophic scar"[Title/Abstract]
OR "scar hypertrophy"[Title/Abstract]
OR "abnormal scar"[Title/Abstract]
OR "scar formation"[Title/Abstract])
)
AND
(
surgery[Title/Abstract]
OR surgical[Title/Abstract]
OR postoperative[Title/Abstract]
OR incision[Title/Abstract]
OR operative[Title/Abstract])
AND
(
pediatric[Title/Abstract]
OR child*[Title/Abstract]
OR infant*[Title/Abstract]
OR adolescent*[Title/Abstract])
AND
(
incidence[Title/Abstract]
OR prevalence[Title/Abstract]
OR outcome*[Title/Abstract]
OR complication*[Title/Abstract]
```

```
OR follow-up[Title/Abstract])
NOT
(
animals[Mesh] NOT humans[Mesh]
)
NOT
(
case reports[Publication Type]
)
```

Final update statement

The analytic set used for submission was the final 170-record project workbook, with 20 priority records and 14 strict quantitative studies retained for synthesis. No additional quantitative studies were added after reference-list review.