

**Electronic Search Strategy: Medline (1966-1998):**

Key to abbreviations and symbols used for searching

/	all subheadings are to be searched	33.	dental technicians.sh.
\$, #	is the truncation symbol	34.	dental trainee\$.tw.
adj4	within 4 words	35.	skill mix adj4 dent\$.tw.
exp	explode the search term (ie include all narrower terms in the search)	36.	allied health personnel.sh.
exp*	explode and restrict to focus	37.	dental therap\$.tw.
.tw	denotes words in any of the text	38.	dental nurs\$.tw.
.ti	denotes words in the title	39.	dental prof\$.tw.
sh	denotes MESH headings	40.	denturis\$.tw.
1.	randomised controlled trial. pt.	41.	dent\$ team.tw.
2.	randomised controlled trials.sh.	42.	dent\$ workforce.tw.
3.	random allocation.sh.	43.	expanded-function auxiliar\$.tw.
4.	double blind method.sh.	44.	expanded-function dental hygienist\$.tw.
5.	single blind method.sh.	45.	expanded-duty assistan\$.tw.
6.	1 or 2 or 3 or 4 or 5	46.	expanded-duty auxiliar\$.tw.
7.	animal.sh.	47.	advanced skills hygienist.tw.
8.	human.sh.	48.	allied dental personnel.tw.
9.	7 not (7 and 8)	49.	chairside personnel.tw.
10.	6 not 9	50.	chairside auxiliar\$.tw.
11.	clinical trial.pt.	51.	chairside assistan\$.tw.
12.	exp clinical trials/	52.	four handed dentistry.tw.
13.	(clin\$ adj3 trial\$.ti,ab.	53.	six handed dentistry.tw.
14.	((singl\$ or doubl\$ or treb\$ or tripl\$) adj3 (blind\$ or mask\$)).ti,ab.	54.	clinical dental technician.tw.
15.	placebos.sh.	55.	clinical maxillo-facial technician.tw.
16.	placebo\$.ti,ab.	56.	maxillo-facial technician.tw.
17.	random.ti,ab.	57.	orthodontic auxiliary.tw.
18.	research design.sh.	58.	30 or 31 or 32 or 33 or 34 or 35 or 36 or 37 or 38 or 39 or 40 or 41 or 42 or 43 or 44 or 45 or 46 or 47 or 48 or 49 or 50 or 51 or 52 or 53 or 54 or 55 or 56 or 57
19.	11 or 12 or 13 or 14 or 15 or 16 or 17 or 18	59.	New Zealand.tw.
20.	19 not 9	60.	South Africa.tw.
21.	20 not 10	61.	59 or 60
22.	comparative study.sh.	62.	dent\$.tw.
23.	exp evaluation studies/	63.	61 and 62
24.	follow-up studies.sh.	64.	63 or 58
25.	prospective studies.sh.	65.	64 and (10 or 21 or 29)
26.	(control\$ or prospectiv\$ or volunteer\$.ti,ab.	66.	64 not 65
27.	21 or 22 or 23 or 24 or 25 or 26		
28.	27 not 9		
29.	28 not (10 or 21)		
30.	dental auxiliaries.sh.		
31.	dental hygienists.sh.		
32.	dental assistants.sh.		