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| **Appendix S1. Search Strategy** |
| **Source:** PubMed; Searched on: August, 2019; Results: 176 |
| Search | Query |  Results |
| 1 | diskectom\* [tiab] | 672 |
| 2 | discectom\* [tiab] | 6,266 |
| 3 | #1 OR #2 | 6,872 |
| 4 | Annulus [tiab] | 12,479 |
| 5 | Anulus [tiab]  | 1,348 |
| 6 | Annular [tiab] | 16,245 |
| 7 | #4 OR #5 OR #6 | 27,624 |
| 8 | Lumbar [tiab] | 10,1933 |
| 9 | #3 AND #7 AND #8 | 176 |

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| **Source:** Embase; Searched on: August, 2019; Results: 220 |
| Search | Query | Results |
| 1 | ' diskectom\*':ab,ti | 727 |
| 2 | ' discectom\*':ab,ti | 7,627 |
| 3 | #1 OR #2 | 8,313 |
| 4 | 'Annulus':ab,ti | 20,248 |
| 5 | 'Anulus':ab,ti | 1,580 |
| 6 | 'Annular':ab,ti | 23,412 |
| 7 | #4 OR #5 OR #6 | 41,055 |
| 8 | ' Lumbar\*':ab,ti | 139,625 |
| 9 | #3 AND #7 AND #8 | 220 |

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| **Source:** Web of Science; Searched on: August, 2019; Results: 211 |
| Search | Query | Results |
| 1 | TS= diskectom\* | 3,499 |
| 2 | TS= discectom\* | 5,523 |
| 3 | #1 OR #2  | 7,554 |
| 4 |  TS= annulus | 22,294 |
| 5 |  TS= anulus  | 1,487 |
| 6 | TS= annular | 39,895 |
| 7 | #4 OR #5 OR #6 | 60,697 |
| 8 | TS= lumbar | 92,149 |
| 9 | #3 OR #7 OR #8 | 211 |

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| Searched on: August, 2019; Results: 365 |
| Search | Source | Results |
| 1 | CKNI | 167 |
| 2 | WanFang Data | 198 |