



Appendix 1. Search strategies

Myalgic encephalomyelitis and Chronic Fatigue Syndrome (ME/CFS)

Search strategies

Cochrane Library via Wiley 31 may 2018 (CDSR, DARE & CENTRAL)

Title: Myalgic Encephalomyelitis/Chronic Fatigue Syndrome

| Search terms | Items found |
|---|--|
| Population: Myalgic Encephalomyelitis/Chronic Fatigue Syndrome | |
| 1. mh Fatigue Syndrome, Chronic | 291 |
| 2. ("chronic fatigue syndrome" or "myalgic encephalomyelitis"):ab,ti | 649 |
| 3. 1 or 2 | 933 |
| 4. Publication Year from 2000 to 2018 | 818 |
| Combined sets | |
| 5. | CDSR/276 DARE/15 Central/514 CRM/7 HTA/17 EED/2 |

The search result, usually found at the end of the documentation, forms the list of abstracts.

[AU] = Author

[MAJR] = MeSH Major Topic

[MeSH] = Term from the Medline controlled vocabulary, including terms found below this term in the MeSH hierarchy

[MeSH:NoExp] = Does not include terms found below this term in the MeSH hierarchy

Systematic[SB] = Filter for retrieving systematic reviews

[TI] = Title

[TIAB] = Title or abstract

[TW] = Text Word

* = Truncation

“ ” = Citation Marks; searches for an exact phrase

CDSR = Cochrane Database of Systematic Review

CENTRAL = Cochrane Central Register of Controlled Trials, “trials”

CRM = Method Studies

DARE = Database Abstracts of Reviews of Effects, “other reviews”

EED = Economic Evaluations

HTA = Health Technology Assessments

Embase via Elsevier August, 15 2018

Title: Myalgic Encephalomyelitis/Chronic Fatigue Syndrome

| Search terms | Items found |
|--|-------------|
| Population: Myalgic Encephalomyelitis/Chronic Fatigue Syndrome | |
| 1. 'chronic fatigue syndrome'/de | 9012 |
| 2. ('chronic fatigue syndrome' or 'myalgic encephalomyelitis' or 'post-viral fatigue' or 'systemic exertion intolerance disease*' or 'prolonged fatigue'):ti,ab,kw | 6948 |
| 3. 1 or 2 | 9921 |
| Study types: randomised controlled trials and other trials | |
| 4. ('crossover procedure':de or 'double-blind procedure':de or 'randomized controlled trial':de or 'single-blind procedure':de or random*:de,ab,ti or factorial*:de,ab,ti or crossover*:de,ab,ti or ((cross NEXT/1 over*):de,ab,ti) or placebo*:de,ab,ti or ((doubl* NEAR/1 blind*):de,ab,ti) or ((singl* NEAR/1 blind*):de,ab,ti) or assign*:de,ab,ti or allocat*:de,ab,ti or volunteer*:de,ab,ti) not ('animal'/exp NOT 'human'/exp) | 2049783 |
| Combined sets | |
| 5. 3 and 4 | 1266 |
| 6. limit 5 to yr="2000 -Current" | 1091 |
| 7. limit 6 to (danish or english or norwegian or swedish) | 1089 |
| 8. 7 and [embase]/lim | 929 |

The search result, usually found at the end of the documentation, forms the list of abstracts.

/de= Term from the EMTREE controlled vocabulary

/exp= Includes terms found below this term in the EMTREE hierarchy

/mj = Major Topic

:ab = Abstract

:au = Author

:ti = Article Title

:ti:ab = Title or abstract

* = Truncation

“ ” = Citation Marks; searches for an exact phrase

Medline via OvidSP August, 15 2018

Title: Myalgic Encephalomyelitis/Chronic Fatigue Syndrome

| Search terms | Items found |
|---|-------------|
| Population: Myalgic Encephalomyelitis/Chronic Fatigue Syndrome | |
| 1. Fatigue Syndrome, Chronic/ | 5125 |
| 2. (chronic fatigue syndrome or myalgic encephalomyelitis or post-viral fatigue or systemic exertion intolerance disease* or prolonged fatigue).ti,ab,kf. | 5449 |
| 3. 1 or 2 | 6592 |
| Study types: randomised controlled trials and other trials | |
| 4. ((randomized or randomised or placebo or randomly or trial or groups).ab. or exp Controlled Clinical Trial/ or exp Randomized Controlled Trial/ or exp Pragmatic Clinical Trial/ or exp Clinical Trials as Topic/ or drug therapy/) not (exp animals/ not exp humans/) | 2416189 |
| Combined sets | |
| 5. 3 and 4 | 1375 |
| 6. limit 5 to yr="2000 -Current" | 1102 |
| 7. limit 6 to (danish or english or norwegian or swedish) | 1055 |

The search result, usually found at the end of the documentation, forms the list of abstracts.

.ab. =Abstract

.ab,ti. = Abstract or title

.af.= All fields

Exp= Term from the Medline controlled vocabulary, including terms found below this term in the MeSH hierarchy

.sh.= Term from the Medline controlled vocabulary

.ti. = Title

/ = Term from the Medline controlled vocabulary, but does not include terms found below this term in the MeSH hierarchy

* = Focus (if found in front of a MeSH-term)

* or \$= Truncation (if found at the end of a free text term)

.mp=text, heading word, subject area node, title

((clinical[Title/Abstract] AND trial[Title/Abstract]) OR clinical trials[MeSH Terms] OR clinical trial[Publication Type] OR random*[Title/Abstract] OR random allocation[MeSH Terms] OR therapeutic use[MeSH Subheading])

PsycInfo via EBSCO August, 15 2018

Title: Myalgic Encephalomyelitis/Chronic Fatigue Syndrome

| Search terms | Items found |
|--|-------------|
| Population: Myalgic Encephalomyelitis/Chronic Fatigue Syndrome | |
| 1. DE "Chronic Fatigue Syndrome" | 1850 |
| 2. TI "chronic fatigue syndrome" or "myalgic encephalomyelitis" or "post-viral fatigue" or "systemic exertion intolerance disease*" or "prolonged fatigue" or AB "chronic fatigue syndrome" or "myalgic encephalomyelitis" or "post-viral fatigue" or "systemic exertion intolerance disease*" or "prolonged fatigue" | 2213 |
| 3. 1 or 4 | 2389 |
| Study types: randomised controlled trials and other trials | |
| 4. ZC "treatment outcome/clinical trial" or DE "Clinical Trials" or DE "Placebo" | 15304 |
| 5. TX((randomi?ed) N3 (study or trial or design or method* or test* or assessment)) or TX ((random*) N3 (assign* or alloca*)) or TX((singl* or doubl* or tripl* or trebl*) N3 (blind* or dumm* or mask*)) or TX(clinical W2 trial*) or TX ((singl* or doubl* or treb* or tripl*) W2 (blind* or mask*)) or TX (placebo*) or TX (randomly allocated) or TX(allocated N2 random*) or AB(randomi?ed N6 n=) or TI (controlled W3 trial*) or AB (controlled W3 trial*) | 162062 |
| 6. 4 or 5 | 162062 |
| Limits: | |
| 7. 3 and 6 | 271 |
| 8. 2000 - Current | 236 |
| 9. Danish or English or Norwegian or Swedish | |
| Combined sets | |
| 10. 7 and 8 and 9 | 230 |

The search result, usually found at the end of the documentation, forms the list of abstracts.

AB = Abstract

AU = Author

DE = Term from the thesaurus

MM = Major Concept

TI = Title

TX = All Text. Performs a keyword search of all the ^[]database's searchable fields

ZC = Methodology Index

* = Truncation

“ ” = Citation Marks; searches for an exact phrase

Cochrane Library via Wiley August, 8 2018 (CDSR, DARE & CENTRAL)

Title: Myalgic Encephalomyelitis/Chronic Fatigue Syndrome – sick leave and disabilities

| Search terms | Items found |
|---|---------------|
| Population: Myalgic Encephalomyelitis/Chronic Fatigue Syndrome | |
| 1. [mh Fatigue Syndrome, Chronic] | 340 |
| 2. (chronic fatigue syndrome or myalgic encephalomyelitis or post-viral fatigue or systemic exertion intolerance disease* or prolonged fatigue):ti,ab,kw | 2008 |
| 3. 1 or 2 | 2008 |
| Exposure: sick leave | |
| 4. [mh Disability Evaluation] or [mh Absenteeism] or [mh Sick Leave] or [mh Return to Work] or [mh Insurance, Disability] or [mh Employment] or [mh Occupational Medicine] or [mh Occupational Health] or [Occupational Health Services] or [mh "International Classification of Functioning, Disability and Health] | 5995 |
| 5. (absenteeism or long-term sickness absen* or long-term incapacity* for work* or work resumption or return-to-work or return to work or back-to-work or back to work or impact on productivit* or employment-disabled or work capacity evaluation* or disabled from work* or workabilit* or employabilit* or employable*):ti,ab,kw | 5246 |
| 6. ((discontinuation or stop*) NEAR/2 (employment* or job* or work*)):ti,ab,kw | 67 |
| 7. ((sick or sickness or ill or illness) NEAR/2 (absen* or day* or leave* or reimbursement*)):ti,ab,kw | 1616 |
| 8. (work* NEAR/2 (abilit* or absen* or activit* or capabilit* or capacit* or disablement or disabilit* or inabilit* or incapabilit* or rehabilitation or retention)):ti,ab,kw | 3548 |
| 9. ((disabilit* or disablement*) NEAR/2 (assessment* or evaluation* or leave* or insurance* or pension*)):ti,ab,kw | 4340 |
| 10. <i>4 or 5 or 6 or 7 or 8 or 9</i> | <i>13769</i> |
| Exposure: disability | |
| 11. [mh Disabled Persons] or [mh Disability Evaluation] or [Insurance, Disability] or [mh Sickness Impact Profile] or [mh Activities of Daily Living] or [mh Homebound Persons] | 9087 |
| 12. (daily function* or functional capacit* or functional level or functional recover* or functional status* or functional outcome or physical activit* or physical capacit* or physical function* or physical impairment* or physically challenged or handicap* or sickness impact profile* or function* recover* or ADL or daily living activit* or activit* of daily living or disabilit* or disabled or health status* or homebound or home-bound or housebound or house-bound or bed bound* or bedbound* or bed-ridden or bedridden or bedfast or bed-confined or chair bound* or chairbound or chairfast or wheelchair bound* or incapacit* or limited mobililit*):ti,ab,kw | 135962 |
| 13. <i>11 or 12</i> | <i>136291</i> |
| Limits: publication year | |
| 14. Limit to yr="2000 - Current" | |
| Combined sets | |
| 15. 3 and 10 | 84 |

| | | |
|-----|------------------------|--|
| 16. | 3 and 10 and 14 | 78 |
| 17. | 3 and 13 | 589 |
| 18. | 3 and 13 and 14 | 550 |
| 19. | 16 or 18 | CDSR/16 DARE/0 Central/556 CRM/0 HTA/0 EED/0 |

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EED = Economic Evaluations

HTA = Health Technology Assessments

Embase via Elsevier August, 8 2018

Title: Myalgic Encephalomyelitis/Chronic Fatigue Syndrome – sick leave and disabilities

| Search terms | Items found |
|--|----------------|
| Population: Myalgic Encephalomyelitis/Chronic Fatigue Syndrome | |
| 1. 'chronic fatigue syndrome'/exp | 9008 |
| 2. ('chronic fatigue syndrome' or 'myalgic encephalomyelitis' or 'post-viral fatigue' or 'systemic exertion intolerance disease*' or 'prolonged fatigue'):ti,ab,kw | 6947 |
| 3. 1 or 2 | 9917 |
| Exposure: sick leave | |
| 4. 'disability'/exp or 'absenteeism'/de or 'medical leave'/de or 'return to work'/de or 'insurance'/exp or 'employment'/exp or 'occupational medicine'/exp or 'occupational health'/exp | 796200 |
| 5. (absenteeism or 'long-term sickness absen*' or 'long-term incapacit* for work*' or 'work resumption' or 'return-to-work' or 'return to work' or 'back-to-work' or 'back to work' or 'impact on productivit*' or 'employment-disabled' or 'work capacity evaluation*' or 'disabled from work*' or 'workabilit*' or 'employabilit*' or 'employable*'):ti,ab,kw | 20388 |
| 6. ((discontinuation or stop*) NEAR/2 (employment* or job* or work*)):ti,ab,kw | 1077 |
| 7. ((sick or sickness or ill or illness) NEAR/2 (absen* or day* or leave* or reimbursement*)):ti,ab,kw | 11327 |
| 8. (work* NEAR/2 (abilit* or absen* or activit* or capabilit* or capacit* or disablement or disabilit* or incapacilit* or rehabilitation or retention)):ti,ab,kw | 37973 |
| 9. ((disabilit* or disablement*) NEAR/2 (assessment* or evaluation* or leave* or insurance* or pension*)):ti,ab,kw | 10157 |
| 10. <i>4 or 5 or 6 or 7 or 8 or 9</i> | <i>828720</i> |
| Exposure: disability | |
| 11. 'disabled person'/exp or 'disability'/exp or 'insurance'/exp or 'Sickness Impact Profile'/de or 'daily life activity'/de or 'homebound patient'/de | 562906 |
| 12. ('daily function*' or 'functional capacit*' or 'functional level' or 'functional recover*' or 'functional status*' or 'functional outcome' or 'physical activit*' or 'physical capacit*' or 'physical function*' or 'physical impairment*' or 'physically challenged' or handicap* or 'sickness impact profile*' or 'function* recover*' or ADL or 'daily living activit*' or 'activit* of daily living' or disabilit* or disabled or 'health status*' or homebound or home-bound or housebound or house-bound or 'bed bound*' or bedbound* or bed-ridden or bedridden or bedfast or bed-confined or 'chair bound*' or chairbound or chairfast or 'wheelchair bound*' or incapacit* or 'limited mobilitt*'):ti,ab,kw | 615803 |
| 13. <i>11 or 12</i> | <i>1006739</i> |
| Limits: publication year, languages | |
| 14. ([danish]/lim OR [english]/lim OR [norwegian]/lim OR [swedish]/lim) AND [2000-2018]/py | |
| Combined sets | |
| 15. 3 and 10 | 823 |
| 16. 3 and 10 and 14 | 626 |

| | | |
|-----|------------------------|-------------|
| 17. | 3 and 13 | 1359 |
| 18. | 3 and 13 and 14 | 1074 |
| 19. | 16 or 18 | 1277 |

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/mj = Major Topic

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:ti:ab = Title or abstract

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Medline via OvidSP August, 8 2018

Title: Myalgic Encephalomyelitis/Chronic Fatigue Syndrome – sick leave and disabilities

| Search terms | Items found |
|---|---------------|
| Population: Myalgic Encephalomyelitis/Chronic Fatigue Syndrome | |
| 1. Fatigue Syndrome, Chronic/ | 5122 |
| 2. (chronic fatigue syndrome or myalgic encephalomyelitis or post-viral fatigue or systemic exertion intolerance disease* or prolonged fatigue).ti,ab,kf. | 5441 |
| 3. 1 or 2 | 6584 |
| Exposure: sick leave | |
| 4. exp Disability Evaluation/ or Absenteeism/ or Sick Leave/ or Return to Work/ or Insurance, Disability/ or exp Employment/ or Occupational Medicine/ or Occupational Health/ or Occupational Health Services/ or "International Classification of Functioning, Disability and Health"/ or Recovery of Function/ | 185256 |
| 5. (absenteeism or long-term sickness absen* or long-term incapacity* for work* or work resumption or return-to-work or return to work or back-to-work or back to work or impact on productivit* or employment-disabled or work capacity evaluation* or disabled from work* or workabilit* or employabilit* or employable*).ti,ab,kf. | 15762 |
| 6. ((discontinuation or stop*) adj2 (employment* or job* or work*)).ti,ab,kf. | 699 |
| 7. ((sick or sickness or ill or illness) adj2 (absen* or day* or leave* or reimbursement*)).ti,ab,kf. | 8990 |
| 8. (work* adj2 (abilit* or absen* or activit* or capabilit* or capacit* or disablement or disabilit* or inabilit* or incapabilit* or rehabilitation or retention)).ti,ab,kf. | 29071 |
| 9. ((disabilit* or disablement*) adj2 (assessment* or evaluation* or leave* or insurance* or pension*)).ti,ab,kf. | 7592 |
| 10. <i>4 or 5 or 6 or 7 or 8 or 9</i> | <i>219262</i> |
| Exposure: disability | |
| 11. exp Disabled Persons/ or exp Disability Evaluation/ or exp Insurance, Disability/ or Sickness Impact Profile/ or Activities of Daily Living/ or Homebound Persons/ | 163944 |
| 12. (daily function* or functional capacit* or functional level or functional recover* or functional status* or functional outcome or physical activit* or physical capacit* or physical function* or physical impairment* or physically challenged or handicap* or sickness impact profile* or function* recover* or ADL or daily living activit* or activit* of daily living or disabilit* or disabled or health status* or homebound or home-bound or housebound or house-bound or bed bound* or bedbound* or bed-ridden or bedridden or bedfast or bed-confined or chair bound* or chairbound or chairfast or wheelchair bound* or incapacit* or limited mobilite*).ti,ab,kf. | 445910 |
| 13. <i>11 or 12</i> | <i>529425</i> |
| Limits: publication year, languages | |
| 14. Limit to yr="2000 - Current", danish or english or norwegian or swedish | |
| Combined sets | |
| 15. 3 and 10 | 309 |
| 16. 3 and 10 and 14 | 229 |

| | | |
|-----|------------------------|------------|
| 17. | 3 and 13 | 890 |
| 18. | 3 and 13 and 14 | 697 |
| 19. | 16 or 18 | 788 |

The search result, usually found at the end of the documentation, forms the list of abstracts.

Per L och Agneta P har tittat på denna sökning och lagt till en del termer. 180807

.ab. =Abstract

.ab,ti. = Abstract or title

.af.= All fields

Exp= Term from the Medline controlled vocabulary, including terms found below this term in the MeSH hierarchy

.sh.= Term from the Medline controlled vocabulary

.ti. = Title

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.mp=text, heading word, subject area node, title

PsycInfo via EBSCO August, 8 2018

Title: Myalgic Encephalomyelitis/Chronic Fatigue Syndrome – sick leave and disabilities

| Search terms | | Items found |
|---|--|--------------|
| Population: Myalgic Encephalomyelitis/Chronic Fatigue Syndrome | | |
| 1. | DE "Chronic Fatigue Syndrome" | 1850 |
| 2. | TI "chronic fatigue syndrome" or "myalgic encephalomyelitis" or "post-viral fatigue" or "systemic exertion intolerance disease*" or "prolonged fatigue" or AB "chronic fatigue syndrome" or "myalgic encephalomyelitis" or "post-viral fatigue" or "systemic exertion intolerance disease*" or "prolonged fatigue" | 2213 |
| 3. | 1 or 2 | 2389 |
| Exposure: sick leave | | |
| 4. | DE "Disability Evaluation" OR DE "Employee Absenteeism" OR DE "Employee Leave Benefits" OR DE "Reemployment" OR DE "Insurance" OR DE "Health Insurance" OR DE "Life Insurance" OR DE "Social Security" OR DE "Employment Status" OR DE "Occupational Mobility" OR DE "Occupational Health" | 38483 |
| 5. | TI absenteeism or "long-term sickness absen*" or "long-term incapacit* for work*" or "work resumption" or "return-to-work" or "return to work" or "back-to-work" or "back to work" or "impact on productivit*" or "employment-disabled" or "work capacity evaluation*" or "disabled from work*" or workabilit* or employabilit* or employable* or AB absenteeism or "long-term sickness absen*" or "long-term incapacit* for work*" or "work resumption" or "return-to-work" or "return to work" or "back-to-work" or "back to work" or "impact on productivit*" or "employment-disabled" or "work capacity evaluation*" or "disabled from work*" or workabilit* or employabilit* or employable* | 9437 |
| 6. | TI ((discontinuation or stop*) N2 (employment* or job* or work*)) or AB ((discontinuation or stop*) N2 (employment* or job* or work*)) | 412 |
| 7. | TI ((sick or sickness or ill or illness) N2 (absen* or day* or leave* or reimbursement*)) or AB ((sick or sickness or ill or illness) N2 (absen* or day* or leave* or reimbursement*)) | 3142 |
| 8. | TI (work* N2 (abilit* or absen* or activit* or capabilit* or capacit* or disablement or disabilit* or incapabilit* or rehabilitation or retention)) or AB (work* N2 (abilit* or absen* or activit* or capabilit* or capacit* or disablement or disabilit* or incapabilit* or rehabilitation or retention)) | 20885 |
| 9. | TI ((disabilit* or disablement*) N2 (assessment* or evaluation* or leave* or insurance* or pension*)) or AB ((disabilit* or disablement*) N2 (assessment* or evaluation* or leave* or insurance* or pension*)) | 3337 |
| 10. | <i>4 or 5 or 6 or 7 or 8 or 9</i> | <i>65744</i> |
| Exposure: disability | | |
| 11. | DE "Disability Evaluation" or DE "Disabled Personnel" or DE "Insurance" OR DE "Health Insurance" OR DE "Life Insurance" OR DE "Social Security" or DE "Activities of Daily Living" or DE "Homebound" | 33201 |
| 12. | TI "daily function*" or "functional capacit*" or "functional level" or "functional recover*" or "functional status*" or "functional outcome" or "physical activit*" or "physical capacit*" or "physical function*" or "physical impairment*" or "physically challenged" or handicap* or "sickness impact profile*" or "function* recover*" or ADL or "daily living activit*" or "activit* of daily living" or disabilit* or | 296776 |

disabled or "health status*" or homebound or home-bound or housebound or house-bound or "bed bound*" or bedbound* or bed-ridden or bedridden or bedfast or bed-confined or "chair bound*" or chairbound or chairfast or "wheelchair bound*" or incapacit* or "limited mobilite*" or AB "daily function*" or "functional capacit*" or "functional level" or "functional recover*" or "functional status*" or "functional outcome" or "physical activit*" or "physical capacit*" or "physical function*" or "physical impairment*" or "physically challenged" or handicap* or "sickness impact profile*" or "function* recover*" or ADL or "daily living activit*" or "activit* of daily living" or disabilit* or disabled or "health status*" or homebound or home-bound or housebound or house-bound or "bed bound*" or bedbound* or bed-ridden or bedridden or bedfast or bed-confined or "chair bound*" or chairbound or chairfast or "wheelchair bound*" or incapacit* or "limited mobilite*"

| | | |
|--|--|---------------|
| 13. | <i>11 or 12</i> | <i>301983</i> |
| Limits: publication year, languages | | |
| 14. | Publication Year: 2000-2018, Danish or English or Norwegian or Swedish | |
| Combined sets | | |
| 15. | 3 and 10 | 120 |
| 16. | 3 and 10 and 14 | 91 |
| 17. | 3 and 13 | 578 |
| 18. | 3 and 13 and 14 | 466 |
| 19. | 16 or 18 | 491 |

The search result, usually found at the end of the documentation, forms the list of abstracts.

AB = Abstract

AU = Author

DE = Term from the thesaurus

MM = Major Concept

TI = Title

TX = All Text. Performs a keyword search of all the ^{SEP}database"s searchable fields

ZC = Methodology Index

* = Truncation

“ “ = Citation Marks; searches for an exact phrase