

## Supplementary file 1: search strategy

QUORUM guidelines were followed [11]. Full journal publications of randomised trials of imiquimod in the treatment of genital warts were sought. Different search strategies were used to identify eligible reports from MEDLINE (1966 – December 2000), Cochrane Library (Issue 3, 2000) and PubMed (December 15, 2000). A series of free text searches were undertaken using the terms imiquimod, genital warts, anogenital warts, and condyloma acuminatum. Review articles [2, 10] were read for details of trials, and reference lists of retrieved reports were searched for additional trials. The manufacturers of Aldara (imiquimod 5% cream; 3M, Loughborough, Leicestershire, UK) were asked about clinical trials. Authors of papers were not contacted for unpublished reports or additional information from published reports. No restrictions to language were made.

References are numbered as in the main body of the paper.