**Supplementary Table 1. Number of citations by each database and trial registry searched**

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| **Total databases: 1451** |
| **Medline: 764** |
| 1. Hepatitis B, Chronic [MeSH Terms] |
| 2. Chronic Hepatitis B [Title/Abstract] |
| 3. Hepatitis B virus [Title/Abstract] |
| 4. Hepatitis B [Title/Abstract] |
| 5. HBV [Title/Abstract] |
| 6. 1 OR 2 OR 3 OR 4 OR 5 |
| 7. liver biopsy [Title/Abstract] |
| 8. Histo\*[Title/Abstract] |
| 9. Patho\*[Title/Abstract] |
| 10. 7 OR 8 OR 9 |
| 11. Alanine Transaminase [MeSH Terms] |
| 12. Alanine Transaminase [Title/Abstract] |
| 13. Alanine Aminotransferase [Title/Abstract] |
| 14. 11 OR 12 OR 13 |
| 15. 6 AND 10 AND 14 |
| 16. Liver Neoplasms[MeSH Terms] |
| 17. liver cancer[Title/Abstract] |
| 18. Hepatocellular carcinoma[Title/Abstract] |
| 19. 16 OR 17 OR 18 |
| 20. 15 NOT 19 |
| 21. 20 Filters: Case Reports, Editorial, Meta-Analysis, Review, Systematic Reviews |
| 22. 20 NOT 21 |
| 23. 22 Filters: Full text, Humans, English, Adult: 19+ years, Full text |
| **Embase: 1026** |
| 1. 'chronic hepatitis b'/exp |
| 2. 'chronic hepatitis b':ab,ti |
| 3. 'hepatitis b virus':ab,ti |
| 4. 'hbv':ab,ti |
| 5. 1 OR 2 OR 3 OR 4 |
| 6. 'liver biopsy'/exp |
| 7. 'liver biopsy':ab,ti |
| 8. 'histo\*':ab,ti |
| 9. 'patho\*':ab,ti |
| 10. 6 OR 7 OR 8 OR 9 |
| 11. 'alanine aminotransferase'/exp |
| 12. 'alanine aminotransferase':ab,ti |
| 13. 'alanine transaminase':ab,ti |
| 14. 11 OR 12 OR 13 |
| 15. 5 AND 10 AND 14 |
| 16. 'liver cancer'/exp |
| 17. 'liver cancer':ab,ti |
| 18. 'hepatocellular carcinoma':ab,ti |
| 19. 16 OR 17 OR 18 |
| 20. 15 NOT 19 |
| 21. 20 AND [humans]/lim AND [english]/lim |
| 22. 21 AND ([conference abstract]/lim OR [conference paper]/lim OR [conference review]/lim OR [editorial]/lim OR [erratum]/lim OR [letter]/lim OR [note]/lim OR [review]/lim OR [short survey]/lim) |
| 23. 21 AND ([embryo]/lim OR [fetus]/lim OR [newborn]/lim OR [infant]/lim OR [child]/lim OR [preschool]/lim OR [school]/lim OR [adolescent]/lim) |
| 24. 22 OR 23 |
| 25. 21 NOT 24 |
| 26. 25 AND ('case report'/de OR 'nonhuman'/de) |
| 27. 25 NOT26 |
| **Cochrane Library: 117** |
| 1. MeSH descriptor: [Hepatitis B, Chronic] explode all trees |
| 2. (Chronic Hepatitis B):ti,ab,kw (Word variations have been searched) |
| 3. ("hepatitis B virus"):ti,ab,kw (Word variations have been searched) |
| 4. ("hepatitis B"):ti,ab,kw OR (HBV):ti,ab,kw (Word variations have been searched) |
| 5. 1 OR 2 OR 3 OR 4 |
| 6. ("liver biopsy"):ti,ab,kw |
| 7. ("Histo\*"):ti,ab,kw |
| 8. ("patho\*"):ti,ab,kw |
| 9. 6 OR 7 OR 8 |
| 10. MeSH descriptor: [Alanine Transaminase] explode all trees |
| 11. (Alanine Transaminase):ti,ab,kw |
| 12. (Alanine Aminotransferase):ti,ab,kw |
| 13. 10 OR 11 OR 12 |
| 14. 5 AND 9 AND 13 |
| 15. MeSH descriptor: [Liver Neoplasms] explode all trees |
| 16. (liver cancer):ti,ab,kw |
| 17. (Hepatocellular carcinoma):ti,ab,kw |
| 18. 15 OR 16 OR 17 |
| 19. 14 NOT 18 |