

**Appendix I**

**Search strategy for observational cohort studies conducted on the 22<sup>nd</sup> of November 2020 and updated on the 20<sup>th</sup> of September 2021.**

**Search strings were developed utilizing the PICOS mnemonic:**

**Population:** early (or methotrexate-naïve) RA

**Intervention:** systemic GCs

**Comparator:** any

**Outcome:** any

**Study design:** observational cohort study

**Medline**

(Rheumatoid[Title] OR Arthritis, Rheumatoid[MeSh:NoExp]) AND (early[title/abstract] OR naïve[title/abstract]) AND (Cortison\*[title/abstract] OR Predniso\*[title/abstract] OR Cortico\*[title/abstract] OR Glucocort\*[title/abstract] OR Steroid\*[title/abstract] OR Glucocorticoids[MeSh:NoExp]) AND (Cohort[Title/Abstract] OR Longitudinal[Title/Abstract] OR Prospective[Title/Abstract] OR Registry[Title/Abstract] OR Longitudinal Studies[Mesh:NoExp] OR Cohort Studies[Mesh:NoExp] OR Registries[Mesh:NoExp]) AND 2005/01/01:2021/01/01[dp] NOT (random\*[Title] OR randomized controlled trial[pt]) NOT (review[Title] or review[pt])

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**Search strategy in several databases for clinical trials part. Search conducted on the 9th of February 2021.**

**Medline**

("Arthritis, Rheumatoid"[Mesh:noexp] OR "rheumatoid arthritis"[tw] OR "early rheumatoid arthritis"[tw] OR "early rheum\*" [tw] OR "early arthritis"[tw] OR "early arthri\*" [tw] OR "early RA"[tw] OR "recent onset rheum\*" [tw] OR "recent onset arthri\*" [tw] OR "recent onset RA"[tw]) AND ("Glucocorticoids"[mesh] OR "Glucocorticoids"[Pharmacological Action] OR "Glucocorticoids"[tw] OR "Glucocorticoid"[tw] OR "glucocorticoid\*" [tw] OR "alclometasone dipropionate"[Supplementary Concept] OR "amcinonide"[Supplementary Concept] OR "Beclomethasone"[mesh] OR "Betamethasone"[mesh] OR "betamethasone acetate"[Supplementary Concept] OR "betamethasone benzoate"[Supplementary Concept] OR "betamethasone dipropionate, betamethasone sodium phosphate drug combination"[Supplementary Concept] OR "betamethasone sodium phosphate"[Supplementary Concept] OR "Betamethasone Valerate"[mesh] OR "Budesonide"[mesh] OR "ciclesonide"[Supplementary Concept] OR "Clobetasol"[mesh] OR "clobetasone butyrate"[Supplementary Concept] OR "clocortolone"[Supplementary Concept] OR "clocortolone pivalate"[Supplementary Concept] OR "Desoximetasone"[mesh] OR "Dexamethasone"[mesh] OR "dexamethasone 21-phosphate"[Supplementary Concept] OR "Dexamethasone Isonicotinate"[mesh] OR "dichlorisone acetate"[Supplementary Concept] OR "diflorasone"[Supplementary Concept] OR "Diflucortolone"[mesh] OR "difluprednate"[Supplementary Concept] OR "drocinonide phosphate potassium"[Supplementary Concept] OR "Flumethasone"[mesh] OR "flumethasone pivalate"[Supplementary Concept] OR

"Fluocinolone Acetonide"[mesh] OR "Fluocinonide"[mesh] OR "fluocortin butyl ester"[Supplementary Concept] OR "Fluocortolone"[mesh] OR "Fluorometholone"[mesh] OR "fluperolone acetate"[Supplementary Concept] OR "fluprednidene acetate"[Supplementary Concept] OR "Fluprednisolone"[mesh] OR "Flurandrenolone"[mesh] OR "Fluticasone-Salmeterol Drug Combination"[mesh] OR "FX006"[Supplementary Concept] OR "halometasone"[Supplementary Concept] OR "medrysone"[Supplementary Concept] OR "Melengestrol Acetate"[mesh] OR "Methylprednisolone"[mesh] OR "Methylprednisolone Hemisuccinate"[mesh] OR "Paramethasone"[mesh] OR "prednicarbate"[Supplementary Concept] OR "Prednisolone"[mesh] OR "prednisolone hemisuccinate"[Supplementary Concept] OR "prednisolone phosphate"[Supplementary Concept] OR "Prednisone"[mesh] OR "rimexolone"[Supplementary Concept] OR "terofenamate"[Supplementary Concept] OR "Tobramycin, Dexamethasone Drug Combination"[mesh] OR "Triamcinolone"[mesh] OR "Triamcinolone Acetonide"[mesh] OR "triamcinolone benetonide"[Supplementary Concept] OR "alclometasone dipropionate"[tw] OR "amcinonide"[tw] OR "Beclomethasone"[tw] OR "Betamethasone"[tw] OR "betamethasone acetate"[tw] OR "betamethasone benzoate"[tw] OR "betamethasone dipropionate, betamethasone sodium phosphate drug combination"[tw] OR "betamethasone sodium phosphate"[tw] OR "Betamethasone Valerate"[tw] OR "Budesonide"[tw] OR "ciclesonide"[tw] OR "Clobetasol"[tw] OR "clobetasone butyrate"[tw] OR "clocortolone"[tw] OR "clocortolone pivalate"[tw] OR "Desoximetasone"[tw] OR "Dexamethasone"[tw] OR "dexamethasone 21-phosphate"[tw] OR "Dexamethasone Isonicotinate"[tw] OR "dichlorisone acetate"[tw] OR "diflorasone"[tw] OR "Diflucortolone"[tw] OR "difluprednate"[tw] OR "drocinonide phosphate potassium"[tw] OR "Flumethasone"[tw] OR "flumethasone pivalate"[tw] OR "Fluocinolone Acetonide"[tw] OR "Fluocinonide"[tw] OR "fluocortin butyl ester"[tw] OR "Fluocortolone"[tw] OR "Fluorometholone"[tw] OR "fluperolone acetate"[tw] OR "fluprednidene acetate"[tw] OR "Fluprednisolone"[tw] OR "Flurandrenolone"[tw] OR "Fluticasone-Salmeterol Drug Combination"[tw] OR "FX006"[tw] OR "halometasone"[tw] OR "medrysone"[tw] OR "Melengestrol Acetate"[tw] OR "Methylprednisolone"[tw] OR "Methylprednisolone Hemisuccinate"[tw] OR "Paramethasone"[tw] OR "prednicarbate"[tw] OR "Prednisolone"[tw] OR "prednisolone hemisuccinate"[tw] OR "prednisolone phosphate"[tw] OR "Prednisone"[tw] OR "rimexolone"[tw] OR "terofenamate"[tw] OR "Tobramycin, Dexamethasone Drug Combination"[tw] OR "Triamcinolone"[tw] OR "Triamcinolone Acetonide"[tw] OR "triamcinolone benetonide"[tw]) AND (randomized controlled trial[pt] OR controlled clinical trial[pt] OR randomized controlled trials[mesh] OR random allocation[mesh] OR double-blind method[mesh] OR single-blind method[mesh] OR clinical trial[pt] OR clinical trials[mesh] OR "clinical trial"[tw] OR ((singl\*[tw] OR doubl\*[tw] OR treb\*[tw] OR tripl\*[tw]) AND (mask\*[tw] OR blind\*[tw])) OR "latin square"[tw] OR placebos[mesh] OR placebo\*[tw] OR random\*[tw] OR research design[mesh:noexp] OR comparative study[pt] OR evaluation studies[pt] OR follow-up studies[mesh] OR prospective studies[mesh] OR cross-over studies[mesh] OR control[tw] OR controll\*[tw] OR prospectiv\*[tw] OR volunteer\*[tw] OR "rct"[tw] OR "trial"[tw]))

## Embase

<http://ovidsp.ovid.com/ovidweb.cgi?T=JS&PAGE=main&MODE=ovid&D=oomezd>

((\*"Rheumatoid Arthritis"/ OR "rheumatoid arthritis".ti,ab OR "early rheumatoid arthritis".ti,ab OR "early rheum\* ".ti,ab OR "early arthritis".ti,ab OR "early arthri\* ".ti,ab OR "early RA".ti,ab OR "recent onset rheum\* ".ti,ab OR "recent onset arthri\* ".ti,ab OR "recent onset RA".ti,ab) AND (exp

\*"Glucocorticoid"/ OR "Glucocorticoids".ti,ab OR "Glucocorticoid".ti,ab OR "glucocorticoid\*".ti,ab OR "alclometasone dipropionate".ti,ab OR "amcinonide".ti,ab OR "Beclomethasone".ti,ab OR "Betamethasone".ti,ab OR "betamethasone acetate".ti,ab OR "betamethasone benzoate".ti,ab OR "betamethasone dipropionate, betamethasone sodium phosphate drug combination".ti,ab OR "betamethasone sodium phosphate".ti,ab OR "Betamethasone Valerate".ti,ab OR "Budesonide".ti,ab OR "ciclesonide".ti,ab OR "Clobetasol".ti,ab OR "clobetasone butyrate".ti,ab OR "clocortolone".ti,ab OR "clocortolone pivalate".ti,ab OR "Desoximetasone".ti,ab OR "Dexamethasone".ti,ab OR "dexamethasone 21-phosphate".ti,ab OR "Dexamethasone Isonicotinate".ti,ab OR "dichlorisone acetate".ti,ab OR "diflorasone".ti,ab OR "Diflucortolone".ti,ab OR "difluprednate".ti,ab OR "drocinonide phosphate potassium".ti,ab OR "Flumethasone".ti,ab OR "flumethasone pivalate".ti,ab OR "Fluocinolone Acetonide".ti,ab OR "Fluocinonide".ti,ab OR "fluocortin butyl ester".ti,ab OR "Fluocortolone".ti,ab OR "Fluorometholone".ti,ab OR "fluperolone acetate".ti,ab OR "fluprednidene acetate".ti,ab OR "Fluprednisolone".ti,ab OR "Flurandrenolone".ti,ab OR "Fluticasone-Salmeterol Drug Combination".ti,ab OR "FX006".ti,ab OR "halometasone".ti,ab OR "medrysone".ti,ab OR "Melengestrol Acetate".ti,ab OR "Methylprednisolone".ti,ab OR "Methylprednisolone Hemisuccinate".ti,ab OR "Paramethasone".ti,ab OR "prednicarbate".ti,ab OR "Prednisolone".ti,ab OR "prednisolone hemisuccinate".ti,ab OR "prednisolone phosphate".ti,ab OR "Prednisone".ti,ab OR "rimexolone".ti,ab OR "terofenamate".ti,ab OR "Tobramycin, Dexamethasone Drug Combination".ti,ab OR "Triamcinolone".ti,ab OR "Triamcinolone Acetonide".ti,ab OR "triamcinolone benetonide".ti,ab) AND (exp "clinical trial"/ OR exp "triple blind procedure"/ OR exp "double blind procedure"/ OR exp "single blind procedure"/ OR exp "randomization"/ OR exp "placebo"/ OR "methodology"/ OR "comparative study"/ OR "evaluation study"/ OR exp "follow up"/ OR exp "prospective study"/ OR exp "crossover procedure"/ OR "clinical trial".ti,ab OR ((singl\*.ti,ab OR doubl\*.ti,ab OR trebl\*.ti,ab OR tripl\*.ti,ab) AND (mask\*.ti,ab OR blind\*.ti,ab)) OR "latin square".ti,ab OR placebo\*.ti,ab OR random\*.ti,ab OR control.ti,ab OR controll\*.ti,ab OR prospectiv\*.ti,ab OR volunteer\*.ti,ab OR "rct".ti,ab OR "trial".ti))

### Web of Science

<http://isiknowledge.com/wos>

(TS=("early rheumatoid arthritis" OR "early rheum\*" OR "early arthritis" OR "early arthri\*" OR "early RA" OR "recent onset rheum\*" OR "recent onset arthri\*" OR "recent onset RA") AND TS=("Glucocorticoid" OR "Glucocorticoids" OR "Glucocorticoid" OR "glucocorticoid\*" OR "alclometasone dipropionate" OR "amcinonide" OR "Beclomethasone" OR "Betamethasone" OR "betamethasone acetate" OR "betamethasone benzoate" OR "betamethasone dipropionate, betamethasone sodium phosphate drug combination" OR "betamethasone sodium phosphate" OR "Betamethasone Valerate" OR "Budesonide" OR "ciclesonide" OR "Clobetasol" OR "clobetasone butyrate" OR "clocortolone" OR "clocortolone pivalate" OR "Desoximetasone" OR "Dexamethasone" OR "dexamethasone 21-phosphate" OR "Dexamethasone Isonicotinate" OR "dichlorisone acetate" OR "diflorasone" OR "Diflucortolone" OR "difluprednate" OR "drocinonide phosphate potassium" OR "Flumethasone" OR "flumethasone pivalate" OR "Fluocinolone Acetonide" OR "Fluocinonide" OR "fluocortin butyl ester" OR "Fluocortolone" OR "Fluorometholone" OR "fluperolone acetate" OR "fluprednidene acetate" OR "Fluprednisolone" OR "Flurandrenolone" OR "Fluticasone-Salmeterol Drug Combination" OR "FX006" OR "halometasone" OR "medrysone" OR "Melengestrol Acetate" OR "Methylprednisolone" OR "Methylprednisolone Hemisuccinate" OR "Paramethasone" OR

"prednicarbate" OR "Prednisolone" OR "prednisolone hemisuccinate" OR "prednisolone phosphate" OR "Prednisone" OR "rimexolone" OR "terofenamate" OR "Tobramycin, Dexamethasone Drug Combination" OR "Triamcinolone" OR "Triamcinolone Acetonide" OR "triamcinolone benetonide") AND TS=("random\*" OR "control\*" OR "study" OR "trial" OR "compar\*" OR "group" OR "groups" OR "therapy" OR "treatment" OR "intervention" OR "placebo\*" OR "RCT")) OR (TI=("Rheumatoid Arthritis" OR "rheumatoid arthritis" OR "early rheumatoid arthritis" OR "early rheum\*" OR "early arthritis" OR "early arthri\*" OR "early RA" OR "recent onset rheum\*" OR "recent onset arthri\*" OR "recent onset RA") AND TI=("Glucocorticoid" OR "Glucocorticoids" OR "Glucocorticoid" OR "glucocorticoid\*" OR "alclometasone dipropionate" OR "amcinonide" OR "Beclomethasone" OR "Betamethasone" OR "betamethasone acetate" OR "betamethasone benzoate" OR "betamethasone dipropionate, betamethasone sodium phosphate drug combination" OR "betamethasone sodium phosphate" OR "Betamethasone Valerate" OR "Budesonide" OR "ciclesonide" OR "Clobetasol" OR "clobetasone butyrate" OR "clocortolone" OR "clocortolone pivalate" OR "Desoximetasone" OR "Dexamethasone" OR "dexamethasone 21-phosphate" OR "Dexamethasone Isonicotinate" OR "dichlorisone acetate" OR "diflorasone" OR "Diflucortolone" OR "difluprednate" OR "drocinonide phosphate potassium" OR "Flumethasone" OR "flumethasone pivalate" OR "Fluocinolone Acetonide" OR "Fluocinonide" OR "fluocortin butyl ester" OR "Fluocortolone" OR "Fluorometholone" OR "fluperolone acetate" OR "fluprednidene acetate" OR "Fluprednisolone" OR "Flurandrenolone" OR "Fluticasone-Salmeterol Drug Combination" OR "FX006" OR "halometasone" OR "medryson" OR "Melengestrol Acetate" OR "Methylprednisolone" OR "Methylprednisolone Hemisuccinate" OR "Paramethasone" OR "prednicarbate" OR "Prednisolone" OR "prednisolone hemisuccinate" OR "prednisolone phosphate" OR "Prednisone" OR "rimexolone" OR "terofenamate" OR "Tobramycin, Dexamethasone Drug Combination" OR "Triamcinolone" OR "Triamcinolone Acetonide" OR "triamcinolone benetonide") AND TS=("random\*" OR "control\*" OR "study" OR "trial" OR "compar\*" OR "group" OR "groups" OR "therapy" OR "treatment" OR "intervention" OR "placebo\*" OR "RCT")) OR (AB=("Rheumatoid Arthritis" OR "rheumatoid arthritis" OR "early rheumatoid arthritis" OR "early rheum\*" OR "early arthritis" OR "early arthri\*" OR "early RA" OR "recent onset rheum\*" OR "recent onset arthri\*" OR "recent onset RA") AND TI=("Glucocorticoid" OR "Glucocorticoids" OR "Glucocorticoid" OR "glucocorticoid\*" OR "alclometasone dipropionate" OR "amcinonide" OR "Beclomethasone" OR "Betamethasone" OR "betamethasone acetate" OR "betamethasone benzoate" OR "betamethasone dipropionate, betamethasone sodium phosphate drug combination" OR "betamethasone sodium phosphate" OR "Betamethasone Valerate" OR "Budesonide" OR "ciclesonide" OR "Clobetasol" OR "clobetasone butyrate" OR "clocortolone" OR "clocortolone pivalate" OR "Desoximetasone" OR "Dexamethasone" OR "dexamethasone 21-phosphate" OR "Dexamethasone Isonicotinate" OR "dichlorisone acetate" OR "diflorasone" OR "Diflucortolone" OR "difluprednate" OR "drocinonide phosphate potassium" OR "Flumethasone" OR "flumethasone pivalate" OR "Fluocinolone Acetonide" OR "Fluocinonide" OR "fluocortin butyl ester" OR "Fluocortolone" OR "Fluorometholone" OR "fluperolone acetate" OR "fluprednidene acetate" OR "Fluprednisolone" OR "Flurandrenolone" OR "Fluticasone-Salmeterol Drug Combination" OR "FX006" OR "halometasone" OR "medryson" OR "Melengestrol Acetate" OR "Methylprednisolone" OR "Methylprednisolone Hemisuccinate" OR "Paramethasone" OR "prednicarbate" OR "Prednisolone" OR "prednisolone hemisuccinate" OR "prednisolone phosphate" OR "Prednisone" OR "rimexolone" OR "terofenamate" OR "Tobramycin, Dexamethasone Drug Combination" OR "Triamcinolone" OR "Triamcinolone Acetonide" OR "triamcinolone benetonide") AND TI=("random\*" OR "control\*" OR

"study" OR "trial" OR "compar\*" OR "group" OR "groups" OR "therapy" OR "treatment" OR "intervention" OR "placebo\*" OR "RCT"))

### Cochrane

<https://www.cochranelibrary.com/advanced-search/search-manager>

(("early rheumatoid arthritis" OR "early rheumatoid" OR "early arthritis" OR "early arthri\*" OR "early RA" OR "recent onset rheumatoid" OR "recent onset arthritis" OR "recent onset RA") AND ("Glucocorticoid" OR "Glucocorticoids" OR "Glucocorticoid" OR "glucocorticoid\*" OR "alclometasone dipropionate" OR "amcinonide" OR "Beclomethasone" OR "Betamethasone" OR "betamethasone acetate" OR "betamethasone benzoate" OR "betamethasone dipropionate, betamethasone sodium phosphate drug combination" OR "betamethasone sodium phosphate" OR "Betamethasone Valerate" OR "Budesonide" OR "ciclesonide" OR "Clobetasol" OR "clobetasone butyrate" OR "clocortolone" OR "clocortolone pivalate" OR "Desoximetasone" OR "Dexamethasone" OR "dexamethasone 21-phosphate" OR "Dexamethasone Isonicotinate" OR "dichlorisone acetate" OR "diflorasone" OR "Diflucortolone" OR "difluprednate" OR "drocinonide phosphate potassium" OR "Flumethasone" OR "flumethasone pivalate" OR "Fluocinolone Acetonide" OR "Fluocinonide" OR "fluocortin butyl ester" OR "Fluocortolone" OR "Fluorometholone" OR "fluperolone acetate" OR "fluprednidene acetate" OR "Fluprednisolone" OR "Flurandrenolone" OR "Fluticasone-Salmeterol Drug Combination" OR "FX006" OR "halometasone" OR "medrysone" OR "Melengestrol Acetate" OR "Methylprednisolone" OR "Methylprednisolone Hemisuccinate" OR "Paramethasone" OR "prednicarbate" OR "Prednisolone" OR "prednisolone hemisuccinate" OR "prednisolone phosphate" OR "Prednisone" OR "rimexolone" OR "terofenamate" OR "Tobramycin, Dexamethasone Drug Combination" OR "Triamcinolone" OR "Triamcinolone Acetonide" OR "triamcinolone benetonide")):ti,ab,kw OR (("Rheumatoid Arthritis" OR "early rheumatoid arthritis" OR "early rheumatoid" OR "early arthritis" OR "early arthri\*" OR "early RA" OR "recent onset rheumatoid" OR "recent onset arthritis" OR "recent onset RA"):ti AND ("Glucocorticoid" OR "Glucocorticoids" OR "Glucocorticoid" OR "glucocorticoid\*" OR "alclometasone dipropionate" OR "amcinonide" OR "Beclomethasone" OR "Betamethasone" OR "betamethasone acetate" OR "betamethasone benzoate" OR "betamethasone dipropionate, betamethasone sodium phosphate drug combination" OR "betamethasone sodium phosphate" OR "Betamethasone Valerate" OR "Budesonide" OR "ciclesonide" OR "Clobetasol" OR "clobetasone butyrate" OR "clocortolone" OR "clocortolone pivalate" OR "Desoximetasone" OR "Dexamethasone" OR "dexamethasone 21-phosphate" OR "Dexamethasone Isonicotinate" OR "dichlorisone acetate" OR "diflorasone" OR "Diflucortolone" OR "difluprednate" OR "drocinonide phosphate potassium" OR "Flumethasone" OR "flumethasone pivalate" OR "Fluocinolone Acetonide" OR "Fluocinonide" OR "fluocortin butyl ester" OR "Fluocortolone" OR "Fluorometholone" OR "fluperolone acetate" OR "fluprednidene acetate" OR "Fluprednisolone" OR "Flurandrenolone" OR "Fluticasone-Salmeterol Drug Combination" OR "FX006" OR "halometasone" OR "medrysone" OR "Melengestrol Acetate" OR "Methylprednisolone" OR "Methylprednisolone Hemisuccinate" OR "Paramethasone" OR "prednicarbate" OR "Prednisolone" OR "prednisolone hemisuccinate" OR "prednisolone phosphate" OR "Prednisone" OR "rimexolone" OR "terofenamate" OR "Tobramycin, Dexamethasone Drug Combination" OR "Triamcinolone" OR "Triamcinolone Acetonide" OR "triamcinolone benetonide"):ti,ab,kw) OR (("Rheumatoid Arthritis" OR "early rheumatoid arthritis" OR "early rheumatoid" OR "early arthritis" OR "early arthri\*" OR "early RA" OR "recent onset rheumatoid" OR "recent onset arthritis" OR "recent onset RA"):ti,ab,kw

AND ("Glucocorticoid" OR "Glucocorticoids" OR "Glucocorticoid" OR "glucocorticoid\*" OR "alclometasone dipropionate" OR "amcinonide" OR "Beclomethasone" OR "Betamethasone" OR "betamethasone acetate" OR "betamethasone benzoate" OR "betamethasone dipropionate, betamethasone sodium phosphate drug combination" OR "betamethasone sodium phosphate" OR "Betamethasone Valerate" OR "Budesonide" OR "ciclesonide" OR "Clobetasol" OR "clobetasone butyrate" OR "clocortolone" OR "clocortolone pivalate" OR "Desoximetasone" OR "Dexamethasone" OR "dexamethasone 21-phosphate" OR "Dexamethasone Isonicotinate" OR "dichlorisone acetate" OR "diflorasone" OR "Diflucortolone" OR "difluprednate" OR "drocinonide phosphate potassium" OR "Flumethasone" OR "flumethasone pivalate" OR "Fluocinolone Acetonide" OR "Fluocinonide" OR "fluocortin butyl ester" OR "Fluocortolone" OR "Fluorometholone" OR "fluperolone acetate" OR "fluprednidene acetate" OR "Fluprednisolone" OR "Flurandrenolone" OR "Fluticasone-Salmeterol Drug Combination" OR "FX006" OR "halometasone" OR "medrysone" OR "Melengestrol Acetate" OR "Methylprednisolone" OR "Methylprednisolone Hemisuccinate" OR "Paramethasone" OR "prednicarbate" OR "Prednisolone" OR "prednisolone hemisuccinate" OR "prednisolone phosphate" OR "Prednisone" OR "rimexolone" OR "terofenamate" OR "Tobramycin, Dexamethasone Drug Combination" OR "Triamcinolone" OR "Triamcinolone Acetonide" OR "triamcinolone benetonide"):ti)

#### Emcare

<http://ovidsp.ovid.com/ovidweb.cgi?T=JS&NEWS=n&CSC=Y&PAGE=main&D=emcr>

(("Rheumatoid Arthritis"/ OR "rheumatoid arthritis".ti,ab OR "early rheumatoid arthritis".ti,ab OR "early rheum\*".ti,ab OR "early arthritis".ti,ab OR "early arthri\*".ti,ab OR "early RA".ti,ab OR "recent onset rheum\*".ti,ab OR "recent onset arthri\*".ti,ab OR "recent onset RA".ti,ab) AND (exp "Glucocorticoid"/ OR "Glucocorticoids".ti,ab OR "Glucocorticoid".ti,ab OR "glucocorticoid\*".ti,ab OR "alclometasone dipropionate".ti,ab OR "amcinonide".ti,ab OR "Beclomethasone".ti,ab OR "Betamethasone".ti,ab OR "betamethasone acetate".ti,ab OR "betamethasone benzoate".ti,ab OR "betamethasone dipropionate, betamethasone sodium phosphate drug combination".ti,ab OR "betamethasone sodium phosphate".ti,ab OR "Betamethasone Valerate".ti,ab OR "Budesonide".ti,ab OR "ciclesonide".ti,ab OR "Clobetasol".ti,ab OR "clobetasone butyrate".ti,ab OR "clocortolone".ti,ab OR "clocortolone pivalate".ti,ab OR "Desoximetasone".ti,ab OR "Dexamethasone".ti,ab OR "dexamethasone 21-phosphate".ti,ab OR "Dexamethasone Isonicotinate".ti,ab OR "dichlorisone acetate".ti,ab OR "diflorasone".ti,ab OR "Diflucortolone".ti,ab OR "difluprednate".ti,ab OR "drocinonide phosphate potassium".ti,ab OR "Flumethasone".ti,ab OR "flumethasone pivalate".ti,ab OR "Fluocinolone Acetonide".ti,ab OR "Fluocinonide".ti,ab OR "fluocortin butyl ester".ti,ab OR "Fluocortolone".ti,ab OR "Fluorometholone".ti,ab OR "fluperolone acetate".ti,ab OR "fluprednidene acetate".ti,ab OR "Fluprednisolone".ti,ab OR "Flurandrenolone".ti,ab OR "Fluticasone-Salmeterol Drug Combination".ti,ab OR "FX006".ti,ab OR "halometasone".ti,ab OR "medrysone".ti,ab OR "Melengestrol Acetate".ti,ab OR "Methylprednisolone".ti,ab OR "Methylprednisolone Hemisuccinate".ti,ab OR "Paramethasone".ti,ab OR "prednicarbate".ti,ab OR "Prednisolone".ti,ab OR "prednisolone hemisuccinate".ti,ab OR "prednisolone phosphate".ti,ab OR "Prednisone".ti,ab OR "rimexolone".ti,ab OR "terofenamate".ti,ab OR "Tobramycin, Dexamethasone Drug Combination".ti,ab OR "Triamcinolone".ti,ab OR "Triamcinolone Acetonide".ti,ab OR "triamcinolone benetonide".ti,ab) AND (exp "clinical trial"/ OR exp "triple blind procedure"/ OR exp "double blind procedure"/ OR exp "single blind procedure"/ OR exp "randomization"/ OR exp "placebo"/ OR



"methodology"/ OR "comparative study"/ OR "evaluation study"/ OR exp "follow up"/ OR exp "prospective study"/ OR exp "crossover procedure"/ OR "clinical trial".ti,ab OR ((singl\*.ti,ab OR doubl\*.ti,ab OR trebl\*.ti,ab OR tripl\*.ti,ab) AND (mask\*.ti,ab OR blind\*.ti,ab)) OR "latin square".ti,ab OR placebo\*.ti,ab OR random\*.ti,ab OR control.ti,ab OR controll\*.ti,ab OR prospectiv\*.ti,ab OR volunteer\*.ti,ab OR "rct".ti,ab OR "trial".ti))

#### Academic Search Premier [full text search]

<http://search.ebscohost.com/login.aspx?authtype=ip,uid&profile=lumc&defaultdb=aph>

TI(("rheumatoid arthritis" OR "early rheumatoid arthritis" OR "early rheum\*" OR "early arthritis" OR "early arthri\*" OR "early RA" OR "recent onset rheum\*" OR "recent onset arthri\*" OR "recent onset RA") AND ("Glucocorticoid" OR "Glucocorticoids" OR "Glucocorticoid" OR "glucocorticoid\*" OR "alclometasone dipropionate" OR "amcinonide" OR "Beclomethasone" OR "Betamethasone" OR "betamethasone acetate" OR "betamethasone benzoate" OR "betamethasone dipropionate, betamethasone sodium phosphate drug combination" OR "betamethasone sodium phosphate" OR "Betamethasone Valerate" OR "Budesonide" OR "ciclesonide" OR "Clobetasol" OR "clobetasone butyrate" OR "clocortolone" OR "clocortolone pivalate" OR "Desoximetasone" OR "Dexamethasone" OR "dexamethasone 21-phosphate" OR "Dexamethasone Isonicotinate" OR "dichlorisone acetate" OR "diflorasone" OR "Diflucortolone" OR "difluprednate" OR "drocinonide phosphate potassium" OR "Flumethasone" OR "flumethasone pivalate" OR "Fluocinolone Acetonide" OR "Fluocinonide" OR "fluocortin butyl ester" OR "Fluocortolone" OR "Fluorometholone" OR "fluperolone acetate" OR "fluprednidene acetate" OR "Fluprednisolone" OR "Flurandrenolone" OR "Fluticasone-Salmeterol Drug Combination" OR "FX006" OR "halometasone" OR "medrysone" OR "Melengestrol Acetate" OR "Methylprednisolone" OR "Methylprednisolone Hemisuccinate" OR "Paramethasone" OR "prednicarbate" OR "Prednisolone" OR "prednisolone hemisuccinate" OR "prednisolone phosphate" OR "Prednisone" OR "rimexolone" OR "terofenamate" OR "Tobramycin, Dexamethasone Drug Combination" OR "Triamcinolone" OR "Triamcinolone Acetonide" OR "triamcinolone benetonide") AND ("random\*" OR "control\*" OR "study" OR "trial" OR "compar\*" OR "group" OR "groups" OR "therapy" OR "treatment" OR "intervention" OR "placebo\*" OR "RCT"))

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#### Data analysis and statistics

Confidence intervals were converted to standard deviations (SDs) using the recommendations provided by the Cochrane Handbook.<sup>(1)</sup> To obtain standard errors from proportions the following estimator was used:

$$SE = \sqrt{\frac{p(1-p)}{n}}$$

#### References

1. Higgins JPT GS. Cochrane Handbook for Systematic Reviews of Interventions Version 5.1.0. Collaboration TC, editor: The Cochrane Collaboration; 2011.