## Search strategy

## Use of tocilizumab or alternative interleukin 6 (IL6) inhibitor in treating covid-19

**Sources searched**  
Citation tracking (4)  
Cochrane Library (1)  
EMBASE (125)  
Europe PubMed Central (49)  
UpToDate (1)

**Date range used** (5 years, 10 years): 1 Jan 2021 -   
**Limits used** (gender, article/study type, etc.): English language   
**Search terms and notes** (full search strategy for database searches below):

Embase was searched via OVID using relevant natural language and controlled vocabulary terms. A scoping search found frequent mentions of sarilumab as a treatment therefore this was included as a separate search term.  Europe PMC was searched to find additional articles including preprints. Searches were limited to English language material published since 1st January 2021. Results were reviewed for relevance and then de-duplicated in EndNote. Due to the large number of results retrieved no further resources were searched other than those listed above.

## D. Search History

|  | **Source** | **Criteria** | **Results** |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| 1. | EMBASE | ((corona\* or corono\*) adj1 (virus\* or viral\* or virinae\*)).ab,kw,ti. | 2572 |
| 2. | EMBASE | (coronavirus\* or coronovirus\* or coronavirinae\* or CoV).ab,kw,ti. | 77629 |
| 3. | EMBASE | ("2019-nCoV\*" or 2019nCoV\* or "19-nCoV\*" or 19nCoV\* or nCoV2019\* or "nCoV-2019\*" or nCoV19\* or "nCoV-19\*" or "COVID-19\*" or COVID19\* or "COVID-2019\*" or COVID2019\* or "HCoV-19\*" or HCoV19\* or "HCoV-2019\*" or HCoV2019\* or "2019 novel\*" or Ncov\* or "n-cov" or "SARS-CoV-2\*" or "SARSCoV-2\*" or "SARSCoV2\*" or "SARS-CoV2\*" or SARSCov19\* or "SARS-Cov19\*" or "SARSCov-19\*" or "SARS-Cov-19\*" or SARSCov2019\* or "SARS-Cov2019\*" or "SARSCov-2019\*" or "SARS-Cov-2019\*" or SARS2\* or "SARS-2\*" or SARScoronavirus2\* or "SARS-coronavirus-2\*" or "SARScoronavirus 2\*" or "SARS coronavirus2\*" or SARScoronovirus2\* or "SARS-coronovirus-2\*" or "SARScoronovirus 2\*" or "SARS coronovirus2\*" or covid).ab,kw,ti. | 113184 |
| 4. | EMBASE | exp Coronavirinae/ | 33615 |
| 5. | EMBASE | exp Coronavirus infection/dr, dt [Drug Resistance, Drug Therapy] | 5357 |
| 6. | EMBASE | 1 or 2 or 3 or 4 or 5 | 138522 |
| 7. | EMBASE | tocilizumab.ab,ti. | 9131 |
| 8. | EMBASE | sarilumab.ab,ti. | 447 |
| 9. | EMBASE | exp \*sarilumab/ | 313 |
| 10. | EMBASE | (("interleukin 6" or "interleukin-6" or IL6) adj2 inhibit\*).ab,ti. | 1214 |
| 11. | EMBASE | ("anti-interleukin-6" or "anti interleukin 6" or "anti-IL6" or "anti IL6").ab,ti. | 1124 |
| 12. | EMBASE | exp \*tocilizumab/ | 4258 |
| 13. | EMBASE | 7 or 8 or 9 or 10 or 11 or 12 | 11106 |
| 14. | EMBASE | 6 and 13 | 1090 |
| 15. | EMBASE | limit 14 to (english language and yr="2021 - 2022") | 277 |