

**SEARCH STRATEGY*****Inclusion and exclusion criteria for studies.***

<b>PICO</b>	<b>Inclusion Criteria</b>	<b>Exclusion Criteria</b>
Population	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Infants (0 to 24 months of age) with infantile spasms</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Older children (&gt; 24 months)</li> <li>Studies only on specific subgroups (only Down syndrome, only tuberous sclerosis complex, etc.)</li> </ul>
Intervention	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Oral prednisone or prednisolone</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Other steroids</li> </ul>
Comparison	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Intramuscular ACTH</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Other steroids</li> </ul>
Outcomes	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Cessation of clinical spasms at 14 days after initiation of treatment</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Lack of information on clinical outcome</li> </ul>

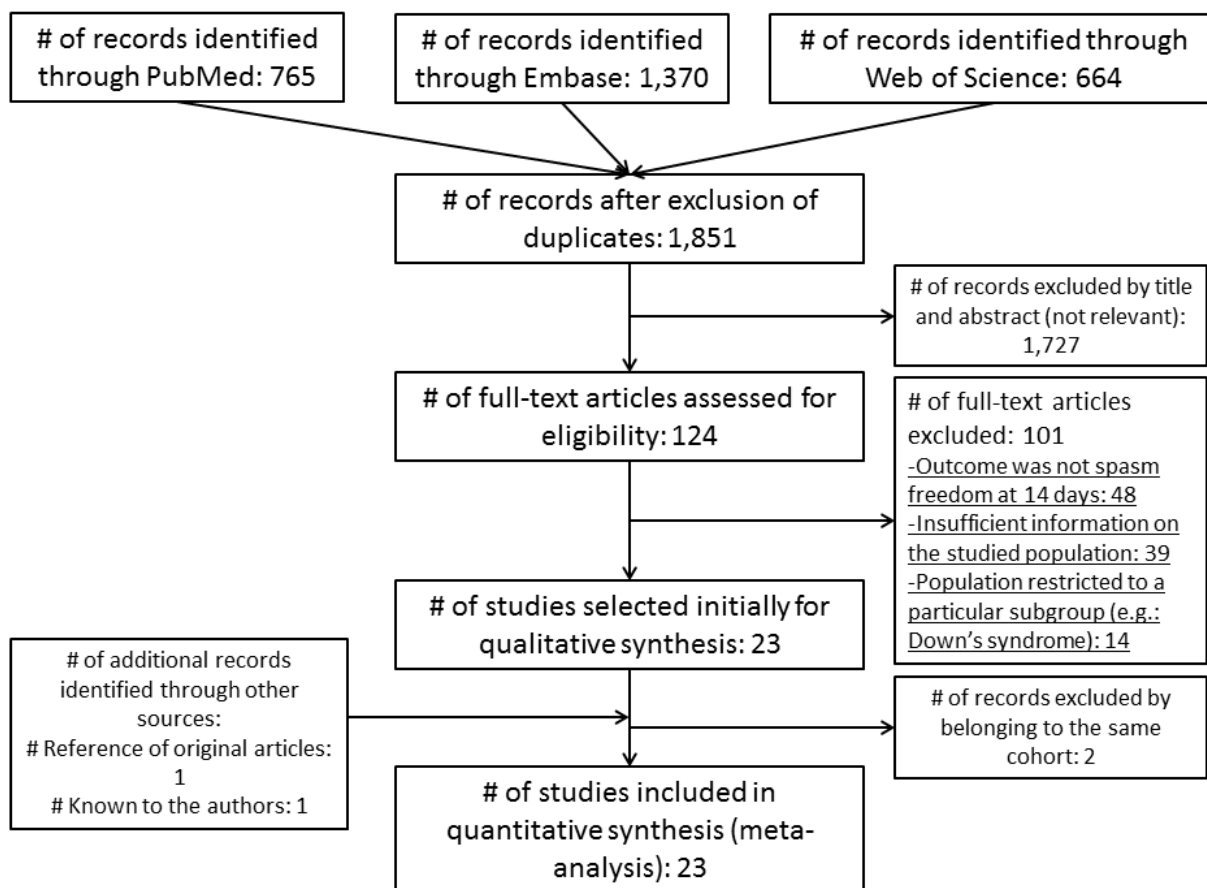
***Systematic search of the literature.*** Our search strategy was registered at PROSPERO

([https://www.crd.york.ac.uk/PROSPEROFILES/152181\\_STRATEGY\\_20191129.pdf](https://www.crd.york.ac.uk/PROSPEROFILES/152181_STRATEGY_20191129.pdf))<sup>1</sup> and performed on November, 29, 2019. The search strategy included:

-PubMed ("Spasms, Infantile"[mesh] OR infantile spasm\*[tiab] OR west syndrome[tiab] OR neonatal spasm\*[tiab]) AND ("Adrenocorticotrophic Hormone"[Mesh] OR corticotrophin[tiab] OR corticotropin[tiab] OR adrenocroticotrophic hormone[tiab] OR adrenocorticotropin[tiab] OR adrenocorticotrophin[tiab] OR acth[tiab] OR "Prednisolone"[Mesh:noexp] OR "Prednisone"[Mesh] OR Predniso\*[tiab] OR dacortin[tiab])

-Embase ('infantile spasm'/exp OR 'infantile spasm\*':ab,ti OR 'west syndrome':ab,ti OR 'neonatal spasm\*':ab,ti) AND ('prednisolone'/exp OR 'corticotropin'/exp OR 'prednisone'/exp OR corticotrophin:ab,ti OR corticotropin:ab,ti OR 'adrenocroticotrophic hormone':ab,ti OR adrenocorticotropin:ab,ti OR adrenocorticotrophin:ab,ti OR acth:ab,ti OR predniso\*:ab,ti OR dacortin:ab,ti)

-Web of Science (TS=("infantile spasm\*" OR "west syndrome" OR "neonatal spasm\*") AND  
TS=("corticotrophin" OR "corticotropin" OR "adrenocorticotrophic hormone" OR "adrenocorticotropin"  
OR "adrenocorticotrophin" OR "acth" OR "predniso\*" OR "dacortin"))



**Figure. Search strategy.**

## REFERENCES

1. National Institute for Health Research. PROSPERO. International prospective register of systematic reviews. URL for our search strategy:  
[https://www.crd.york.ac.uk/PROSPEROFILES/152181\\_STRATEGY\\_20191129.pdf](https://www.crd.york.ac.uk/PROSPEROFILES/152181_STRATEGY_20191129.pdf). 2019.