Step-wise approach to identifying pivotal trial publications

**Step 1: Identification of approved products**
- **METHODS** change to help ameliorate this problem.

**Step 2: PubMed and Medline**
- Searched PubMed for generic names of shortlisted drugs, applying filters.
- When this failed, the search was repeated using the full title of the study.

**Step 3: Approaches to identifying pivotal trials**—each subsequent step was refined to improve results.
- **CONCLUSIONS** The process we tested was unwieldy, and evolved from failures of previous approaches.

**RESULTS**
- **CONCLUSIONS** Characteristics that can help identify pivotal trial publications are:
  - Descriptive terms that include comparators, indication, and study design or study acronym
  - Multiple authors from different national or international institutions or a research group
  - Publication in leading clinical or therapy area journals
  - Accompanying errata and comments appearing with the abstract
- **CONCLUSIONS**: Published pivotal studies with short, less-informative titles can be easily missed when screening abstracts by titles.

**DISCLAIMER** The authors were fully responsible for the design of the research, analysis of the results, and writing of the poster.

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**RESULTS**

**Step 3: Approaches to identifying pivotal trials**—each subsequent step was refined to improve results.
- **STEP 1**: Identification of approved products
- **STEP 2**: PubMed and Medline
- **STEP 3**: Approaches to identifying pivotal trials—each subsequent step was refined to improve results.

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