**Supplementary file 1.** List of excluded studies with reasons for exclusion

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| **Title** | **Reasons for exclusion** | **Cochrane Review Group** |
| **Adjusting the pH of lidocaine for reducing pain on injection** | Withdrawn | Cochrane Anaesthesia Group |
| **Drugs for preventing postoperative nausea and vomiting** | Withdrawn | Cochrane Anaesthesia Group |
| **Patient controlled intravenous opioid analgesia versus continuous epidural analgesia for pain after intra-abdominal surgery** | Withdrawn | Cochrane Anaesthesia Group |
| **Supplemental perioperative steroids for surgical patients with adrenal insufficiency** | Withdrawn | Cochrane Anaesthesia Group |
| **Target-controlled infusion versus manually-controlled infusion of propofol for general anaesthesia or sedation in adults** | Withdrawn | Cochrane Anaesthesia Group |
| **Anticonvulsant drugs for acute and chronic pain** | Withdrawn | Cochrane Pain and Palliative Care Group |
| **Anticonvulsant drugs for migraine prophylaxis** | Withdrawn | Cochrane Pain and Palliative Care Group |
| **Anticonvulsants for fibromyalgia** | Withdrawn | Cochrane Pain and Palliative Care Group |
| **Aromatherapy and massage for symptom relief in patients with cancer** | Withdrawn | Cochrane Pain and Palliative Care Group |
| **Benzodiazepines and related drugs for insomnia in palliative care** | Withdrawn | Cochrane Pain and Palliative Care Group |
| **Comparative efficacy of epidural, subarachnoid, and intracerebroventricular opioids in patients with pain due to cancer** | Withdrawn | Cochrane Pain and Palliative Care Group |
| **Diclofenac for acute pain in children** | Withdrawn | Cochrane Pain and Palliative Care Group |
| **Dipyrone for acute primary headaches** | Withdrawn | Cochrane Pain and Palliative Care Group |
| **Drugs for preventing migraine headaches in children** | Withdrawn | Cochrane Pain and Palliative Care Group |
| **Eletriptan for acute migraine** | Withdrawn | Cochrane Pain and Palliative Care Group |
| **EMLA and Amethocaine for reduction of children's pain associated with needle insertion** | Withdrawn | Cochrane Pain and Palliative Care Group |
| **Gabapentin for acute and chronic pain** | Withdrawn | Cochrane Pain and Palliative Care Group |
| **Hydromorphone for acute and chronic pain** | Withdrawn | Cochrane Pain and Palliative Care Group |
| **Interventions for fatigue and weight loss in adults with advanced progressive illness** | Withdrawn | Cochrane Pain and Palliative Care Group |
| **Music for pain relief** | Withdrawn | Cochrane Pain and Palliative Care Group |
| **Music therapy for end-of-life care** | Withdrawn | Cochrane Pain and Palliative Care Group |
| **Non-invasive physical treatments for chronic/recurrent headache** | Withdrawn | Cochrane Pain and Palliative Care Group |
| **Non-pharmacological interventions for breathlessness in advanced stages of malignant and non-malignant diseases** | Withdrawn | Cochrane Pain and Palliative Care Group |
| **NSAIDS or paracetamol, alone or combined with opioids, for cancer pain** | Withdrawn | Cochrane Pain and Palliative Care Group |
| **Nutrition support for bone marrow transplant patients** | Withdrawn | Cochrane Pain and Palliative Care Group |
| **Opioid switching to improve pain relief and drug tolerability** | Withdrawn | Cochrane Pain and Palliative Care Group |
| **Opioids for the management of breakthrough pain in cancer patients** | Withdrawn | Cochrane Pain and Palliative Care Group |
| **Opioids for the palliation of breathlessness in advanced disease and terminal illness** | Withdrawn | Cochrane Pain and Palliative Care Group |
| **Oral sumatriptan for acute migraine** | Withdrawn | Cochrane Pain and Palliative Care Group |
| **Oxygen therapy for dyspnoea in adults** | Withdrawn | Cochrane Pain and Palliative Care Group |
| **Pain management for sickle cell disease in children and adults** | Withdrawn | Cochrane Pain and Palliative Care Group |
| **Perioperative ketamine for acute postoperative pain** | Withdrawn | Cochrane Pain and Palliative Care Group |
| **Peripheral nerve blocks for postoperative pain after major knee surgery** | Withdrawn | Cochrane Pain and Palliative Care Group |
| **Pleurodesis for malignant pleural effusions** | Withdrawn | Cochrane Pain and Palliative Care Group |
| **Propranolol for migraine prophylaxis** | Withdrawn | Cochrane Pain and Palliative Care Group |
| **Psychotherapy for depression among incurable cancer patients** | Withdrawn | Cochrane Pain and Palliative Care Group |
| **Radioisotopes for metastatic bone pain** | Withdrawn | Cochrane Pain and Palliative Care Group |
| **Radiotherapy for the palliation of painful bone metastases** | Withdrawn | Cochrane Pain and Palliative Care Group |
| **Rizatriptan for acute migraine** | Withdrawn | Cochrane Pain and Palliative Care Group |
| **Serotonin receptor antagonists for highly emetogenic chemotherapy in adults** | Withdrawn | Cochrane Pain and Palliative Care Group |
| **Single dose dipyrone for acute postoperative pain** | Withdrawn | Cochrane Pain and Palliative Care Group |
| **Spinal cord stimulation for chronic pain** | Withdrawn | Cochrane Pain and Palliative Care Group |
| **Topical lidocaine for the treatment of postherpetic neuralgia** | Withdrawn | Cochrane Pain and Palliative Care Group |
| **Touch therapies for pain relief in adults** | Withdrawn | Cochrane Pain and Palliative Care Group |
| **Transcutaneous electrical nerve stimulation (TENS) for chronic pain** | Withdrawn | Cochrane Pain and Palliative Care Group |
| **Benzodiazepines for the relief of breathlessness in advanced malignant and non-malignant diseases in adults** | Investigating palliative care | Cochrane Pain and Palliative Care Group |
| **Blood transfusions for anaemia in patients with advanced cancer** | Investigating palliative care | Cochrane Pain and Palliative Care Group |
| **Corticosteroids for adult patients with advanced cancer who have nausea and vomiting (not related to chemotherapy, radiotherapy, or surgery)** | Investigating palliative care | Cochrane Pain and Palliative Care Group |
| **Corticosteroids for the resolution of malignant bowel obstruction in advanced gynaecological and gastrointestinal cancer** | Investigating palliative care | Cochrane Pain and Palliative Care Group |
| **Droperidol for treatment of nausea and vomiting in palliative care patients** | Investigating palliative care | Cochrane Pain and Palliative Care Group |
| **Drug therapy for delirium in terminally ill adults** | Investigating palliative care | Cochrane Pain and Palliative Care Group |
| **Drug therapy for symptoms associated with anxiety in adult palliative care patients** | Investigating palliative care | Cochrane Pain and Palliative Care Group |
| **Drug therapy for the management of cancer-related fatigue** | Investigating palliative care | Cochrane Pain and Palliative Care Group |
| **Early palliative care for adults with advanced cancer** | Investigating palliative care | Cochrane Pain and Palliative Care Group |
| **Educational interventions for the management of cancer-related fatigue in adults** | Investigating palliative care | Cochrane Pain and Palliative Care Group |
| **Effectiveness and cost-effectiveness of home palliative care services for adults with advanced illness and their caregivers** | Investigating palliative care | Cochrane Pain and Palliative Care Group |
| **Eicosapentaenoic acid (EPA, an omega-3 fatty acid from fish oils) for the treatment of cancer cachexia** | Investigating palliative care | Cochrane Pain and Palliative Care Group |
| **End-of-life care pathways for improving outcomes in caring for the dying** | Investigating palliative care | Cochrane Pain and Palliative Care Group |
| **Exercise for cancer cachexia in adults** | Investigating palliative care | Cochrane Pain and Palliative Care Group |
| **Exercise for the management of cancer-related fatigue in adults** | Investigating palliative care | Cochrane Pain and Palliative Care Group |
| **Ghrelin for the management of cachexia associated with cancer** | Investigating palliative care | Cochrane Pain and Palliative Care Group |
| **Haloperidol for the treatment of nausea and vomiting in palliative care patients** | Investigating palliative care | Cochrane Pain and Palliative Care Group |
| **Homeopathic medicines for adverse effects of cancer treatments** | Investigating palliative care | Cochrane Pain and Palliative Care Group |
| **Impact of morphine, fentanyl, oxycodone or codeine on patient consciousness, appetite and thirst when used to treat cancer pain** | Investigating palliative care | Cochrane Pain and Palliative Care Group |
| **Interventions for cough in cancer** | Investigating palliative care | Cochrane Pain and Palliative Care Group |
| **Interventions for improving palliative care for older people living in nursing care homes** | Investigating palliative care | Cochrane Pain and Palliative Care Group |
| **Interventions for noisy breathing in patients near to death** | Investigating palliative care | Cochrane Pain and Palliative Care Group |
| **Interventions for sexual dysfunction following treatments for cancer in women** | Investigating palliative care | Cochrane Pain and Palliative Care Group |
| **Interventions for the management of malignant pleural effusions: a network meta-analysis** | Investigating palliative care | Cochrane Pain and Palliative Care Group |
| **Interventions for the treatment of metastatic extradural spinal cord compression in adults** | Investigating palliative care | Cochrane Pain and Palliative Care Group |
| **Laxatives for the management of constipation in people receiving palliative care** | Investigating palliative care | Cochrane Pain and Palliative Care Group |
| **Levomepromazine for nausea and vomiting in palliative care** | Investigating palliative care | Cochrane Pain and Palliative Care Group |
| **Medically assisted hydration for adult palliative care patients** | Investigating palliative care | Cochrane Pain and Palliative Care Group |
| **Medically assisted nutrition for adult palliative care patients** | Investigating palliative care | Cochrane Pain and Palliative Care Group |
| **Megestrol acetate for treatment of anorexia-cachexia syndrome** | Investigating palliative care | Cochrane Pain and Palliative Care Group |
| **Mu-opioid antagonists for opioid-induced bowel dysfunction in people with cancer and people receiving palliative care** | Investigating palliative care | Cochrane Pain and Palliative Care Group |
| **Neuromuscular electrical stimulation for muscle weakness in adults with advanced disease** | Investigating palliative care | Cochrane Pain and Palliative Care Group |
| **Olanzapine for the prevention and treatment of cancer-related nausea and vomiting in adults** | Investigating palliative care | Cochrane Pain and Palliative Care Group |
| **Opioids for the palliation of refractory breathlessness in adults with advanced disease and terminal illness** | Investigating palliative care | Cochrane Pain and Palliative Care Group |
| **Oral water soluble contrast for malignant bowel obstruction** | Investigating palliative care | Cochrane Pain and Palliative Care Group |
| **Palliative pharmacological sedation for terminally ill adults** | Investigating palliative care | Cochrane Pain and Palliative Care Group |
| **Pharmacological interventions for pruritus in adult palliative care patients** | Investigating palliative care | Cochrane Pain and Palliative Care Group |
| **Pharmacological treatments for fatigue associated with palliative care** | Investigating palliative care | Cochrane Pain and Palliative Care Group |
| **Psychosocial interventions for fatigue during cancer treatment with palliative intent** | Investigating palliative care | Cochrane Pain and Palliative Care Group |
| **Psychosocial interventions for reducing fatigue during cancer treatment in adults** | Investigating palliative care | Cochrane Pain and Palliative Care Group |
| **Selenium for alleviating the side effects of chemotherapy, radiotherapy and surgery in cancer patients** | Investigating palliative care | Cochrane Pain and Palliative Care Group |
| **Spiritual and religious interventions for well-being of adults in the terminal phase of disease** | Investigating palliative care | Cochrane Pain and Palliative Care Group |
| **Supportive care for patients with gastrointestinal cancer** | Investigating palliative care | Cochrane Pain and Palliative Care Group |
| **Surgery for the resolution of symptoms in malignant bowel obstruction in advanced gynaecological and gastrointestinal cancer** | Investigating palliative care | Cochrane Pain and Palliative Care Group |
| **Systemic corticosteroids for the management of cancer-related breathlessness (dyspnoea) in adults** | Investigating palliative care | Cochrane Pain and Palliative Care Group |