

A systematic search was conducted across the Medline, Embase, and CENTRAL databases for studies published between January 2000 and November 2025. The search strategy incorporated a combination of Medical Subject Headings (MeSH) terms and free-text keywords, including "esophagus," "esophageal," "eating," "ingest," "burns," "caustics," "corrosive," "wounds and injuries," and "trauma." Boolean operators (AND/OR) were tailored to the specific syntax of each database. Two independent reviewers (M.T.Y. and Z.Q.W.) screened the resulting abstracts to identify potentially eligible studies, the full texts of which were subsequently retrieved and assessed. Any discrepancies were resolved through consultation with a senior author (J.R.Q.).

The population of interest comprised patients with esophageal injuries following corrosive substance ingestion. Eligible interventions/comparators encompassed diagnostic modalities (e.g., endoscopy, computed tomography) and management strategies ranging from conservative treatment to endoscopic or surgical interventions. No restrictions were placed on the study setting or publication language. Non-English articles were translated using DeepL Translator (DeepL SE, Cologne, Germany).

Studies were excluded according to the following predefined criteria: (1) Non-clinical publications such as reviews, editorials, brief communications, case reports, or case series with fewer than five patients; (2) Studies that did not report or explicitly document esophageal injuries following corrosive ingestion; (3) Studies lacking relevant content on the management of patients without esophageal strictures; (4) Reports with overlapping datasets (in such instances, the largest and most relevant dataset was selected); and (5) Articles for which the full text could not be obtained.

Figure 1. Preferred Reporting Items for Literature Review (PRISMA) flowchart of study selection.

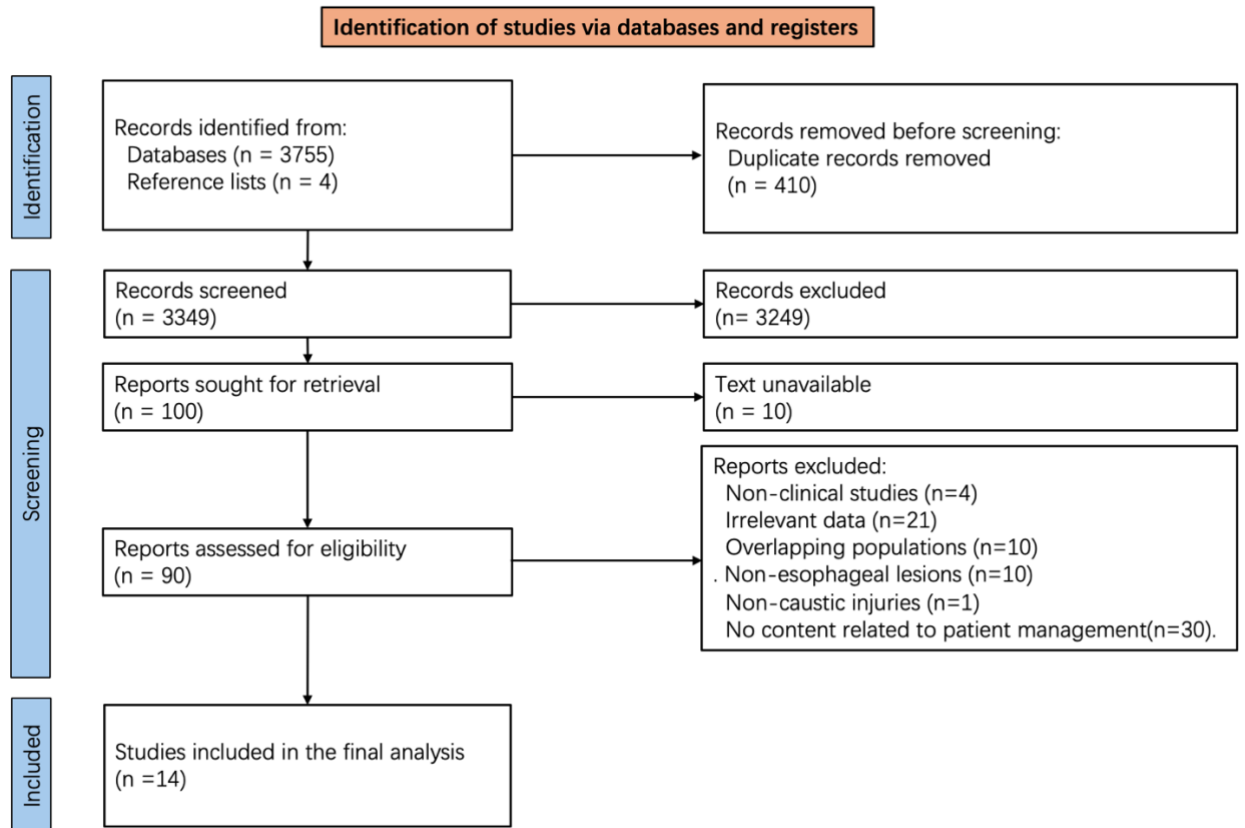


Table 1. Detailed search strategy utilized for each database.

Medline	((("oesophagus"[All Fields] OR "esophagus"[MeSH Terms] OR "esophagus"[All Fields] OR ("esophageal"[All Fields] OR "esophagic"[All Fields] OR "esophagitis"[MeSH Terms] OR "esophagitis"[All Fields] OR "esophagitides"[All Fields] OR "oesophagal"[All Fields] OR "oesophageal"[All Fields] OR "oesophagic"[All Fields] OR "oesophagitis"[All Fields]) OR ("eating"[MeSH Terms] OR "eating"[All Fields] OR "ingest"[All Fields] OR "ingested"[All Fields] OR "ingesting"[All Fields] OR "ingestion"[All Fields] OR "ingestions"[All Fields] OR "ingesters"[All Fields] OR "ingests"[All Fields])) AND ("burns"[MeSH Terms] OR "burns"[All Fields] OR "burn"[All Fields] OR ("causticity"[All Fields] OR "caustics"[Pharmacological Action] OR "caustics"[MeSH Terms] OR "caustics"[All Fields] OR "caustic"[All Fields]) OR ("caustics"[Pharmacological Action] OR "caustics"[MeSH Terms] OR "caustics"[All Fields] OR "corrosive"[All Fields] OR "corrosives"[All Fields] OR "corrosion"[MeSH Terms] OR "corrosion"[All Fields] OR "corrosions"[All Fields] OR "corrosiveness"[All Fields] OR "corrosivity"[All Fields])) AND ("injurie"[All Fields] OR "injured"[All Fields] OR "injuries"[MeSH Subheading] OR "injuries"[All Fields] OR "wounds and injuries"[MeSH Terms] OR ("wounds"[All Fields] AND "injuries"[All Fields]) OR "wounds and injuries"[All Fields] OR "injurious"[All Fields] OR "injury s"[All Fields] OR "injured"[All Fields] OR "injurys"[All Fields] OR "injury"[All Fields] OR ("injuries"[MeSH Subheading] OR "injuries"[All Fields] OR "trauma"[All Fields] OR "wounds and injuries"[MeSH Terms] OR ("wounds"[All Fields] AND "injuries"[All Fields]) OR "wounds and injuries"[All Fields] OR "trauma s"[All Fields] OR "traumas"[All Fields]))) NOT ("review"[Publication Type] OR "review literature as topic"[MeSH Terms] OR "review"[All Fields]))
Embase	('oesophagus'/exp OR 'esophagus'/exp OR 'esophageal' OR 'esophagic' OR 'esophagitis'/exp OR 'oesophagal' OR 'oesophageal' OR 'oesophagic' OR 'ingestion'/exp) AND ('burn'/exp OR 'causticity' OR 'caustics'/exp OR 'corrosive'/exp OR 'corrosion'/exp) AND ('injury'/exp OR 'trauma'/exp OR 'wounds and injuries'/exp OR 'injurious' OR 'injury' OR 'traumas') NOT ([publication type] = 'review' OR [publication type] = 'review literature as topic')
CENTRAL	corrosive ingestion in Title Abstract Keyword OR esophageal injury in Title Abstract Keyword OR esophageal burn in Title Abstract Keyword OR esophageal caustic in Title Abstract Keyword - with Cochrane Library publication date from Jan 2000 to present (Word variations have been searched).

