

**Supplementary Table S1.** Search filters.

MEDLINE	Embase	Clinicaltrials.gov	PsychINFO
20 <sup>th</sup> February 2017-8 <sup>th</sup> May 2020	20 <sup>th</sup> February 2017-8 <sup>th</sup> May 2020	20 <sup>th</sup> February 2017-8 <sup>th</sup> May 2020	20 <sup>th</sup> February 2017-8 <sup>th</sup> May 2020
1. randomised controlled trial.pt. 2. controlled clinical trial.pt. 3. pragmatic clinical trial.pt. 4. randomised.ab. 5. placebo.ab. 6. clinical trials as topic/ 7. randomly.ab. 8. trial.ti. 9. or/1-8 9. 10. exp dermatomyositis/ 11. dermatomyositis\$.tw. 12. 10 or 11 13. 9 and 12 14. animals/ not (humans/and animals/) 15. 13 not 14	1. randomised controlled trial.pt. 2. controlled clinical trial.pt. 3. pragmatic clinical trial.pt. 4. randomised.ab. 5. placebo.ab. 6. clinical trials as topic/ 7. randomly.ab. 8. trial.ti. 9. or/1-8 9. 10. exp dermatomyositis/ 11. dermatomyositis\$.tw. 12. 10 or 11 13. 9 and 12 14. animals/ not (humans/and animals/) 15. 13 not 14	dermatomyositis	dermatomyositis.mp

**Supplementary Table S2.** Description of outcome domains.

<b>Treatment efficacy</b>	Unspecified definition of improvement
<b>Global health</b>	Clinical composite scores encompassing disease activity
<b>Muscle strength</b>	Variable measures of muscle strength
<b>Physical function</b>	Measures of physical function
<b>Quality of life</b>	Measures of quality of life
<b>Skin</b>	Adverse events of skin, changes in composite score measuring skin disease activity
<b>Muscle inflammation</b>	Specific markers of muscle inflammation <i>e.g.</i> , CK, AST
<b>Immunologic marker</b>	Autoantibodies, novel immune markers
<b>Haematologic</b>	Cell counts, haematologic disorders
<b>Metabolic</b>	“complete metabolic profile”, electrolytes
<b>Bone</b>	Clinical endpoints for disease states related to bone
<b>Cardiovascular</b>	Cardiac disorders, measures of cardiac function
<b>Pulmonary</b>	Pulmonary disorders, measures of pulmonary function
<b>Steroid use</b>	Steroid treatment, +/- dose
<b>Pain</b>	Pain VAS
<b>Anxiety/depression</b>	Anxiety/depression
<b>fatigue</b>	Fatigue scores
<b>Adverse event not specified</b>	
<b>Renal</b>	Measures of renal function
<b>Liver</b>	Measures of liver function
<b>Inflammation</b>	CRP, ESR
<b>Genetic</b>	Genetic markers
<b>Blood glucose</b>	Blood sugar level, HBA1c
<b>Cholesterol</b>	Measures of lipids
<b>Weight</b>	BMI, weight measures
<b>Height</b>	Height measures
<b>Nutrition</b>	Diet
<b>Systemic symptoms</b>	Temperature
<b>Neurologic</b>	Neurologic disorders
<b>Death</b>	Death
<b>Infection</b>	Sepsis
<b>Gastrointestinal</b>	Gastrointestinal disorders
<b>Injury</b>	Iatrogenic adverse event
<b>Malignancy</b>	Neoplasms

**Supplementary Table S3.** Reported muscle strength outcomes, the number of reported muscle groups tested and the scale used.

Muscle Strength Outcome Measure	No. of muscle groups tested	Scale
MMT	Not specified	Not specified
MMT-8	8	Not specified
MMT	Not specified	0-15
MMT	16	0-6
Medical Research Scale	6	0-60
MMT-8	8	0-80
MMT-8	8	>15%/<15% improvement
MMT-8	8	20% improvement in muscle strength on 2 visits
PIT (peak isometric torque) peak muscle strength	Not specified	Not specified
MVICT (maximal voluntary isometric contraction testing) quantitative myometry score	10	Not specified
Muscle performance	Not specified	Not specified
Medical Research Scale	6	0-15
Muscle function	Not specified	Not specified
1-RM leg press	Not specified	Not specified
1-RM bench press	Not specified	Not specified
Handgrip	Not specified	Not specified
Timed stands	Not specified	No. of repetitions
Timed up and go	Not specified	No. of seconds
Isometric muscle strength (handheld dynametry break method)	Not specified	Not specified

**Fig. 4 legend.**

PhVAS: physician VAS; PaVAS: patient VAS; GD: global damage; ParVAS: parent VAS; VASGDact: VAS global disease activity; CAS: Convery Assessment Scale; MphGVAS: mean physician global VAS; OD: other damage (death not specified); CutUlc: cutaneous ulceration; Ery: erythroderma; Pann: panniculitis; Eryrash: erythematous rashes; Helrash: heliotrope rash; Gottpap: Gottran's papules; Pericap: periungal capillary changes; Alop: alopecia; Mech: mechanic's hands; Arth: arthritis; Arthral: arthralgia; Pyrex: pyrexia; Weight: weight loss; Fatigue: fatigue; Dysphag: dysphagia; Abdpain: abdominal pain; Respms: respiratory muscle weakness; ILD: acute reversible interstitial lung disease; Dyspho: dysphonia; Pericar: pericarditis; Myocar: myocarditis; Arryth: arrhythmia; ST: sinus tachycardia; Myos: myositis; Mya: myalgia; PhysGA: physician global assessment; MyosTre: myositis treatment; CPK: creatinine phosphokinase; Othenz: other muscle enzymes; Arms: lift arms; Dressing: dress; Jars: open jars; Keys: use keys; Stairs: go up stairs; Lowchair: sit on low chair; Lift feet: lift feet up; Trip: trip over; Turnover: turn over; Lyingtosit: lying to sit; Eat: eat; Blow: blow through mouth; Headup: lift head up; Tiredminex: tired with minimal exertion; Bowelscx: bowel complications; Tiredprolex: tired with prolonged exertion; Write: write; Shoes: put on shoes; Msatrophy: muscle atrophy; Msweak: muscle weakness; Msatrophyrad: muscle atrophy radiographically; Contractures: contractures; Osteo#: osteoporosis with fracture; Osteo: osteoporosis; AVN: avascular necrosis; Deformities: deformities; Restrictedmvt: restricted movement; Poik: poikiloderma; Lipo: lipodystrophy; GITdysm: GIT dysmotility; Constip: constipation; Diarrhoea: diarrhoea; Joint Count: joint count; EMGAX: extramuscular global assessment; MsDA: muscle disease activity VAS (100mm); OthDA: other disease activity.