

Studies retrieved by literature search (n=586)

Studies excluded after reviewing of titles and abstracts (not randomized controlled trials, letters to the editor, reviews, case reports or comments) (n=527)

Potentially appropriate RCTs screened for more detailed review (n=59)

Studies excluded after detailed screening (not real randomized controlled trials, not desirable outcomes, search overlap) (n=8)

Studies included in meta-analysis (n=51)

Studies repeatedly published (n=5)
Studies involved diagnostic laparoscopy in OA group (n=2)

Studies ultimately included in meta-analysis (n=44)