

Potentially relevant articles
retrieved (n=44)

25 papers excluded due to lack
of randomized-control design

Articles selected for further
evaluation after first screening
by general criteria (n=19)

Excluded due to:

- Being part of RCTs already included in the meta-analysis (n=9)
- Being combination analysis of RCTs already included in the meta-analysis (n=2)
- Being post hoc analysis of RCTs already included in the meta-analysis (n=1)
- Being economic evaluation of the subset of patients enrolled in RCTs already included in the meta-analysis (n=1)

Studies included in final analysis (n=6)