

1176 titles and abstracts identified through 8 databases

1137 citations were excluded for:
1122 not relevant to TNF- α and TB risk or duplicated studies
3 abstracts
10 reviews
2 meta-analyses

33 full-texts retrieved for more detailed evaluation, 2 reviewers evaluated the study relevance

19 articles were excluded for not relevant to TNF-238G/A polymorphism and TB risk

14 case-control studies were identified

5 articles were excluded for:
1 not enough useful information
1 includes patients with pneumoconiosis
3 not consistent to HWE in controls

9 articles were finally included