

Distinct references identified (n= 903):

- * MEDLINE search: 243
- * Hand search: 16
- * Cochrane search: 0
- * Scopus: 644

References excluded (n= 881):

- No original data
- Children, adolescents, pregnant women
- Participants with hemochromatosis, chronic liver disease, liver cirrhosis or chronic renal diseases
- Population with type 1 or type 2 diabetes
- No measures of association for metabolic syndrome or did not study metabolic syndrome as outcome

Distinct references (n=22)

References excluded (n=7):

- Multiple publications from same population: 5
- Lack of data on ferritin for the analysis: 2

Prospective studies (n=2)
Cross sectional studies (n=12)
Case-control (n=1)