

Studies identified after applying the search strategy to 6 databases
n = 2336

Studies excluded, not relevant **n = 2321**

Studies retrieved for review of full text
n = 15
(12 studies available as full text,
3 studies available in abstract form only)

Studies excluded **n = 6**
no markers of airway inflammation evaluated **n = 3** ^(20,21,22)
duplicate publication **n = 2** ^(23,24)
Insufficient information **n=1** ⁽²⁵⁾

Additional studies included after reviewing the reference lists of all 15 articles **n = 1** ⁽²⁶⁾

Studies included in the systematic review
n = 10
(**n=9 full text,**
n=1 only published in abstract form)