

Stage 1

Citations identified, n=2409
MEDLINE (358), AMED (2),
PsychINFO (34), EMBASE (460),
CINAHL (200), SCOPUS (313), Web
of Knowledge (217), Cochrane Library
(482), Dissertations and theses (51),
OpenGrey (214), NNR (64),
ISTCTNR (14)

Excluded, n=873 duplicates

Titles screened, n=1536

Excluded, n=1441

Stage 2

Abstracts screened, n=95

Cochrane systematic review
(latest version), n=1

Papers identified from
thesis (1), n=1

Papers identified from
registered trial (1), n=1

Excluded references:

- Theses, n=5
- Registered trials, n=11
- Withdrawn versions of a
Cochrane review, n=2
- Books, n=2
- Conference papers, n=2
- Study/review papers,
n=62

Stage 3

Abstracts of study (9)
and review papers (5) screened, n=14

Papers identified from reference
lists of review papers, n=7

Stage 4

Abstracts of study (16)
and review papers (5) screened, n=21

Studies and reviews from
reference lists and citing papers
(using Web of Knowledge and
Google Scholar), n=40

Excluded systematic,
n= 4, and 'non-systematic'
reviews (n=1)

Studies from reference lists of
new systematic reviews (14),
n=4

Excluded systematic reviews,
n=14

Stage 5

Full text papers screened, n=46

Excluded papers,
n=30 (Table 1)

Relevant papers (n=16)
representing (n=14) studies