

111 potentially relevant publications retrieved for abstract assessment
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19 potentially relevant unpublished studies identified on trial registries

93 publications excluded because

- not an RCT, or study not assessing the effects of cocoa on BP in humans

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19 unpublished registered trials excluded because

- 13 not meeting inclusion criteria
- 3 not completed at time of meta-analysis
- 3 completed but data not available

21 potentially relevant trial arms (in 18 publications) retrieved for detailed assessment

6 trial arms excluded from meta-analysis because

- 3 had no true control group
- 1 duration < 14 days
- 1 mean SBP/DBP + SD not available
- 1 same population studied as in another trial included in meta-analysis

15 trial arms (in 13 publications) included in meta-analysis