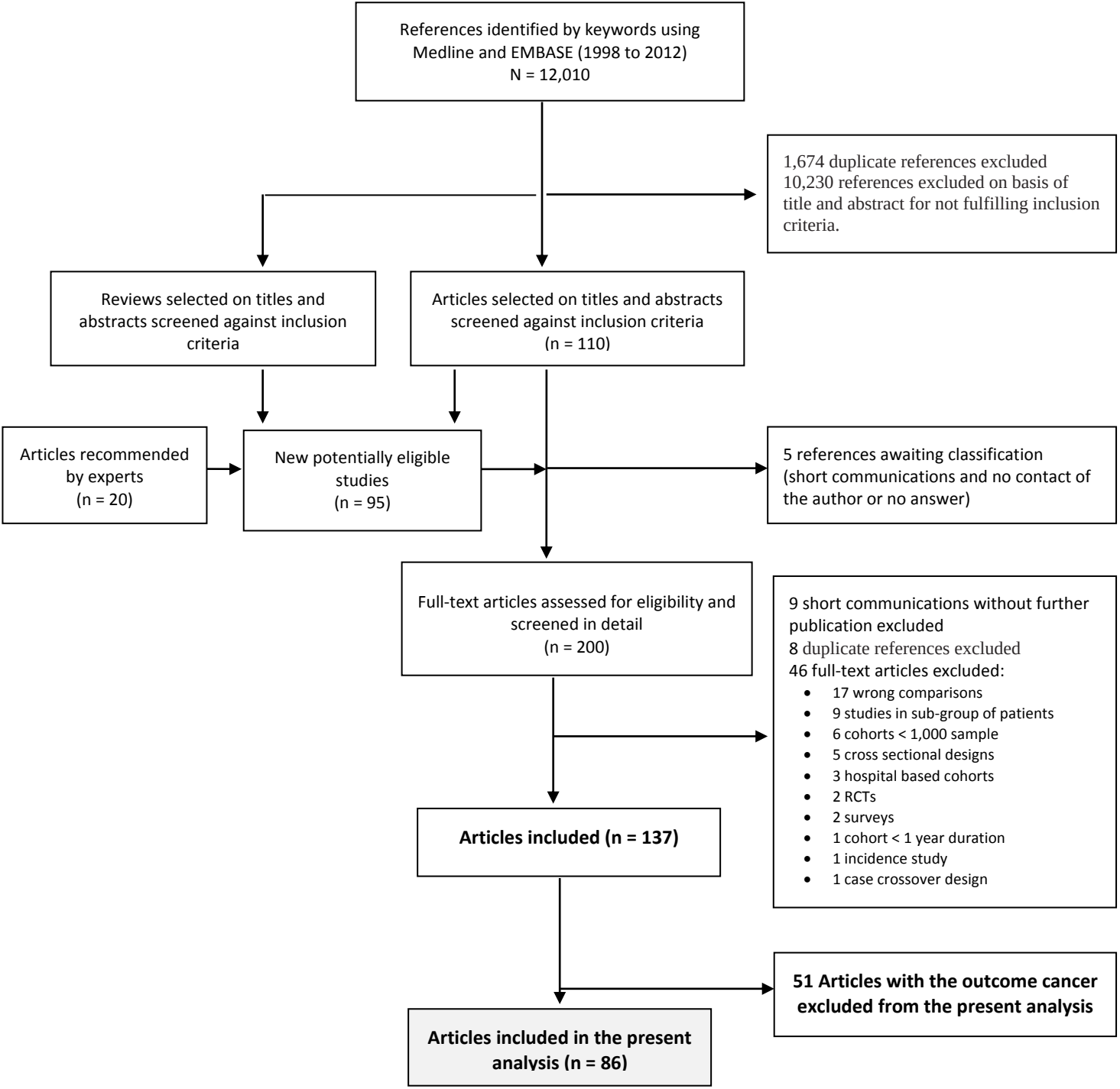
References identified by keywords using Medline and EMBASE (1998 to 2012)
N = 12,010
1,674 duplicate references excluded
10,230 references excluded on basis of title and abstract for not fulfilling inclusion criteria.
Reviews selected on titles and abstracts screened against inclusion criteria
Articles selected on titles and abstracts screened against inclusion criteria
(n = 110)
Articles recommended by experts
(n = 20)
New potentially eligible studies
(n = 95)
5 references awaiting classification
(short communications and no contact of the author or no answer)
Full-text articles assessed for eligibility and screened in detail
(n = 200)
9 short communications without further publication excluded
8 duplicate references excluded
46 full-text articles excluded:
17 wrong comparisons
9 studies in sub-group of patients
6 cohorts < 1,000 sample
5 cross sectional designs
3 hospital based cohorts
2 RCTs
2 surveys
1 cohort < 1 year duration
1 incidence study
1 case crossover design
Articles included (n = 137)
51 Articles with the outcome cancer excluded from the present analysis
Articles included in the present analysis (n = 86)