

Electronic search for potentially relevant studies (n = 183)

Search terms (in title or abstract & limited to studies in humans):

➤ endotoxemia

➤ gram negative bacteremia

Published call for data [53] and correspondence with authors

Hand search for additional eligible studies (n = 89)

Exclusion criteria

Animal studies (n = 9)

Studies of endotoxemia without suspected GN bacteremia; e.g. post exercise (n = 29)

Data insufficient (n = 54)

Studies with <10 patients (n=9)

Duplicate publication (n = 2)

Reviews and editorials (n = 91)

Excluded studies;  
partial catalogue in references [42-44]

Potentially relevant studies (n = 68)

Eligibility criteria;

1. limulus assay used
2.  $\geq 1$  patient with GN bacteremia
3. mortality percentage derived for  $>5$  patients in group 4
4. not receiving an anti-endotoxin antibody
5. Outcome data extractable into a 2 x 2 x 2 contingency table format

Studies excluded for failing eligibility criteria;

1. n = 6
2. n = 11
3. n = 9
4. n = 2
5. n = 5

Included studies: (Table 1; n = 35)

- Studies of adult sepsis in ICU (n = 9)
- Other studies (n = 26)