Records identified through database searching (n = 1044)

Additional records identified through other sources (n = 0)

Records after duplicates removed (n = 835)

Records screened (n = 835)

Records excluded (n = 778)

Full-text articles assessed for eligibility (n = 57)

Studies included in qualitative synthesis (n = 4)

Studies included in quantitative synthesis (meta-analysis) (n = 4)

Full-text articles excluded, with reasons:
Comparison with placebo (n = 26)
Comparison with other methods (n = 23)
Dosage comparison (n = 4)
Paediatric surgery (n = 4)
Upper abdominal surgery (n = 2)