Potentially relevant publications identified and screened for retrieval: n = 77

Papers retrieved for more detailed evaluation: n = 41

Papers included: n = 10

Papers excluded on the bases of title and abstract (generally due to lack of suitability of study design or intervention): n = 36

Excluded, reasons:
- Does not include RF as outcome: 11
- Not a RCT: 5
- No randomisation or method not described: 5
- Secondary prevention: 3
- No control group: 3
- Retrospective study: 2
- Patients included with history of RF: 1
- Non-human subjects: 1
- Total: 31

Categories of studies by interventions under comparison:
- IM penicillin vs. symptomatic tot: 5
- IM penicillin vs. placebo: 2
- IM penicillin vs. oral aureomycin vs. oral terramycin vs. oral placebo: 1
- IM penicillin vs. oral aureomycin vs. no tot: 1
- Oral aureomycin vs. no tot: 1