Search results (combined) of potentially relevant studies \((n = 1,079)\)

Articles screened on basis of title and abstract \((n = 1,101)\)

Articles (full text) retrieved, based on title and abstract, for more detailed evaluation \((n = 67)\)

Manuscript review and application of inclusion criteria

Articles excluded \((n = 1,034)\)
- Based on title and abstract \((n = 1,025)\)
- Unable to locate full-text article \((n = 9)\)

Articles excluded \((n = 34)\)
- Surgery not examined in analysis \((n = 18)\)
- No control group \((n = 6)\)
- Review article \((n = 5)\)
- Not specific to MS \((n = 4)\)
- Insufficient data-unable to locate author \((n = 1)\)

Studies included in the review (Meta-analysis) \((n = 33)\)