Distinct references identified (n= 903):
* MEDLINE search: 243
* Hand search: 16
* Cochrane search: 0
* Scopus: 644

References excluded (n= 881):
No original data
Children, adolescents, pregnant women
Participants with hemochromatosis, chronic liver disease, liver cirrhosis or chronic renal diseases
Population with type 1 or type 2 diabetes
No measures of association for metabolic syndrome or did not study metabolic syndrome as outcome

Distinct references (n=22)

References excluded (n=7):
Multiple publications from same population: 5
Lack of data on ferritin for the analysis: 2

Prospective studies (n=2)
Cross sectional studies (n=12)
Case-control (n=1)