Studies identified after applying the search strategy to 6 databases
\[ n = 2336 \]

Studies retrieved for review of full text
\[ n = 15 \]
(12 studies available as full text, 3 studies available in abstract form only)

Studies excluded, not relevant
\[ n = 2321 \]

Studies excluded
\[ n = 6 \]
- no markers of airway inflammation evaluated: \( n = 3 \) \( ^{20,21,22} \)
- duplicate publication: \( n = 2 \) \( ^{23,24} \)
- Insufficient information: \( n = 1 \) \( ^{25} \)

Additional studies included after reviewing the reference lists of all 15 articles
\[ n = 1 \] \( ^{26} \)

Studies included in the systematic review
\[ n = 10 \]
(\( n = 9 \) full text, \( n = 1 \) only published in abstract form)