Identification

CNKI (n=115)
VIP (n=49)
CBM (n=56)
WanFang (n=71)
PubMed (n=3)
Cochrane (n=13)

n=164
n=127
n=16

Reports before duplicates removed (n=164+127+16=307)

Screening

Full-text articles assessed for eligibility (n=139)

Irrelevant reports excluded (n=168)

Reports excluded (n=82): 47 duplicates; 35 irrelevant (including animal experiments, CCT, case series and case reports)

Eligibility

RCTs eligible (n=57)

Full-text articles excluded (n=16): 7 used Chinese herbal medicine in control; 8 reported irrelevant outcomes; one was non-randomized trial.

Included

41 trials (41 papers) included