A total of 790 potentially relevant reports were initially identified via literature and hand searching (conducted up to November 2004)

77 articles excluded as they were not written in English/no abstract was available

The abstracts of 713 articles were retrieved for more detailed evaluation.

603 articles were rejected as they met one or more of the review’s exclusion criteria (i.e. did not assess multiple domains of QoL, examined fewer than 10 patients with BD, were not published in a peer-reviewed journal)

110 articles were obtained for further evaluation

A further 82 articles were rejected after further examination. The authors of 15 papers were unable to provide separate QoL results for patients with BD from studies that had used heterogeneous patient populations

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28 studies were finally included in the review, and were classified into four categories

Assessment of QoL in patients with BD at different stages of the disorder (N=10)

Comparisons of QoL in BD patients with that of other patient populations (N=5)

QoL instrument evaluation in BD patients (N=5)

Treatment studies using QoL instruments to assess outcome in BD patients (N=8)