Initial literature search (n=768)

Abstracts excluded because of not comparing laparoscopic and open resection for GISTs (n=740)

Articles retrieved for full-text evaluation (n=28)

Articles excluded because of failure to meet inclusion criteria (n=6)\(^{[13-18]}\)
Reasons: Including tumors outside stomach (n=3)\(^{[13-15]}\), overlap data (n=1)\(^{[16]}\) or lacking statistical data (n=2)\(^{[17,18]}\)

Articles suitable for meta-analysis (n=22)\(^{[19-40]}\)