Potentially relevant papers identified and screened for retrieval (n=48)

Papers excluded: non comparative studies: 20; retrospectives: 5; reviews: 3

Papers retrieved for more detailed evaluation (n=20)

Papers excluded: non-randomized: 9

Potentially appropriate papers to be included in the meta-analysis (n=11)

Papers excluded from meta-analysis, (n=4)

RCTs included in meta-analysis (n=7)

RCTs withdrawn, by outcome, (n=0)

RCTs with usable information, by outcome (n=7)