Potentially relevant studies identified and screened for retrieval (n=41)

26 studies excluded with reasons:
- review articles (n=3)
- not researches of microangiopathy (n=23)

Studies retrieved for more detailed evaluation (n=15)

4 studies excluded:
- no data of retinopathy (n=2)
- protein research (n=1)
- not 4G/5G polymorphism (n=1)

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

2 studies were excluded because:
- same sample study (n=1)
- cannot withdraw accurate data (n=1)

Studies (with usable information) included in meta-analysis (n=9)