Records identified through database searching (n = 11,051)

Additional records identified through other sources (n = 66)

Records after duplicates removed (n = 4,615)

Records screened (n = 4,615)

Records excluded (n = 4,063)

Full-text articles assessed for eligibility (n = 552)

Full-text articles excluded (n = 521)
- Duplicate: 133
- Language: 114
- Conference abstract: 36
- Unpublished non-provided: 30
- Continuation study: 18
- Full-text unavailable: 16
- Combined treatment: 16
- Physiology/Pharmacokinetic: 15
- Patient inclusion criteria: 15
- Other antidepressant and no Placebo Control: 122
- Dysthymia: 3
- No data available: 3

Studies included in quantitative synthesis (n = 31)

Excluded for missing data (n = 2)

Studies included in quantitative synthesis Response (n = 29)
- 4 venlafaxine VS fluoxetine VS placebo
- 8 venlafaxine VS fluoxetine
- 9 venlafaxine VS placebo
- 8 fluoxetine VS placebo

Excluded for missing data (n = 11)

Studies included in quantitative synthesis Remission (n = 20)
- 4 venlafaxine VS fluoxetine VS placebo
- 6 venlafaxine VS fluoxetine
- 4 venlafaxine VS placebo
- 6 fluoxetine VS placebo