References identified by keywords using Medline and EMBASE (1998 to 2012) 
N = 12,010

1,674 duplicate references excluded
10,230 references excluded on basis of title and abstract for not fulfilling inclusion criteria.

Reviews selected on titles and abstracts screened against inclusion criteria 
(n = 110)

Articles selected on titles and abstracts screened against inclusion criteria

New potentially eligible studies 
(n = 95)

5 references awaiting classification (short communications and no contact of the author or no answer)

Reviews selected on titles and abstracts screened against inclusion criteria 
(n = 55) 
(33 checked)

Full-text articles assessed for eligibility and screened in detail 
(n = 200)

9 short communications without further publication excluded
8 duplicate references excluded
46 full-text articles excluded:
• 17 wrong comparisons
• 9 studies in sub-group of patients
• 6 cohorts < 1,000 sample
• 5 cross sectional designs
• 3 hospital based cohorts
• 2 RCTs
• 2 surveys
• 1 cohort < 1 year duration
• 1 incidence study
• 1 case crossover design

Articles included (n = 137)

Articles recommended by experts 
(n = 20)

Articles included in the present analysis (n = 86)

Articles included in the present analysis (n = 86)

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