Literature search
Databases: PubMed, EMBASE, the Cochrane Library, and Meta-registry of Controlled Clinical trials. (n=680)

Search results combined n=680

Additional records identified through review of references of initially retrieved articles (n=0)

601 articles excluded
- animal studies (n=188)
- paediatric studies (n=28)
- reviews (n=150)
- case reports (n=37)
- letters (n=70)
- editorials (n=23)
- non-RCT clinical trials (n=38)
- not relevant (n=67)

Articles screened on the basis of title and abstract and 79 full text articles retrieved

62 articles excluded
- decompensated heart failure (n=43)
- duplicate publication (n=2)
- both groups received levosimendan (n=1)
- no relevant outcomes (n=2)

Included (n=17)