12016 records identified through database searching

2217 records after duplicates removed

117 records screened

63 full-text articles assessed for eligibility

26 studies included in qualitative synthesis

- SSI n=18
- Pneumonia n=15
- CRBSI n=5
- UTI n=10
- Total infections n=26

54 records excluded:

- 20: hemodynamic optimization titrated to the same end-point or not titrated to predefined end points, or no difference between groups in the optimization protocol;
- 10: mixed population of critically ill, not surgical patients, with already established sepsis or organ failure and undergoing late optimization;
- 7: no details on incidence of postoperative infectious complications in the total sample.

37 full-text articles excluded: