Fig. 1 Flow of Study Selection

Potential relevant published articles identified: (n=131)

84 excluded for the following reasons: review articles/meta-analysis/comments and editorials/Letter to editor/case reports/

Articles retrieved for more detailed evaluation: (n=47)

25 excluded for the following reasons:
- Not a randomized controlled study (n=3)
- Evaluating in animal experiments (n=13)
- Pediatric study (n=9)

Articles meeting inclusion criteria for this meta-analysis: (n=22)

10 excluded for the following reason:
- Not relevant to the main outcome (n=5)
- Population not critically ill (n=3)
- Inappropriate control group (n=2)

Articles included in this meta-analysis: 12