Electronic search for potentially relevant studies (n = 183)

Search terms (in title or abstract & limited to studies in humans):
- endotoxemia
- gram negative bacteremia

Published call for data [53] and correspondence with authors

Hand search for additional eligible studies (n = 89)

Exclusion criteria
Animal studies (n = 9)
Studies of endotoxemia without suspected GN bacteremia; e.g. post exercise (n = 29)
Data insufficient (n = 54)
Studies with <10 patients (n=9)
Duplicate publication (n = 2)
Reviews and editorials (n = 91)

Excluded studies: partial catalogue in references [42-44]

Potentially relevant studies (n = 68)

Eligibility criteria:
1. limulus assay used
2. ≥1 patient with GN bacteremia
3. mortality percentage derived for >5 patients in group 4
4. not receiving an anti-endotoxin antibody
5. Outcome data extractable into a 2 x 2 x 2 contingency table format

Included studies: (Table 1; n = 35)
- Studies of adult sepsis in ICU (n = 9)
- Other studies (n = 26)

Studies excluded for failing eligibility criteria:
1. n = 6
2. n = 11
3. n = 9
4. n = 2
5. n = 5