

Supplementary material

Title: A systematic evaluation of the outcome measures reported in randomized controlled trials on the management of COPD exacerbations.

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Keywords: COPD, Exacerbations, COPD exacerbations, Trials Methods, Study population, Study outcomes, Endpoints, Systematic Review.

@ERSpublications: Comparability of RCTs evaluating the management of COPD exacerbations is limited by heterogeneity in their design. Standardization of the reported outcome measures would facilitate researchers to compare, contrast and synthesize them.

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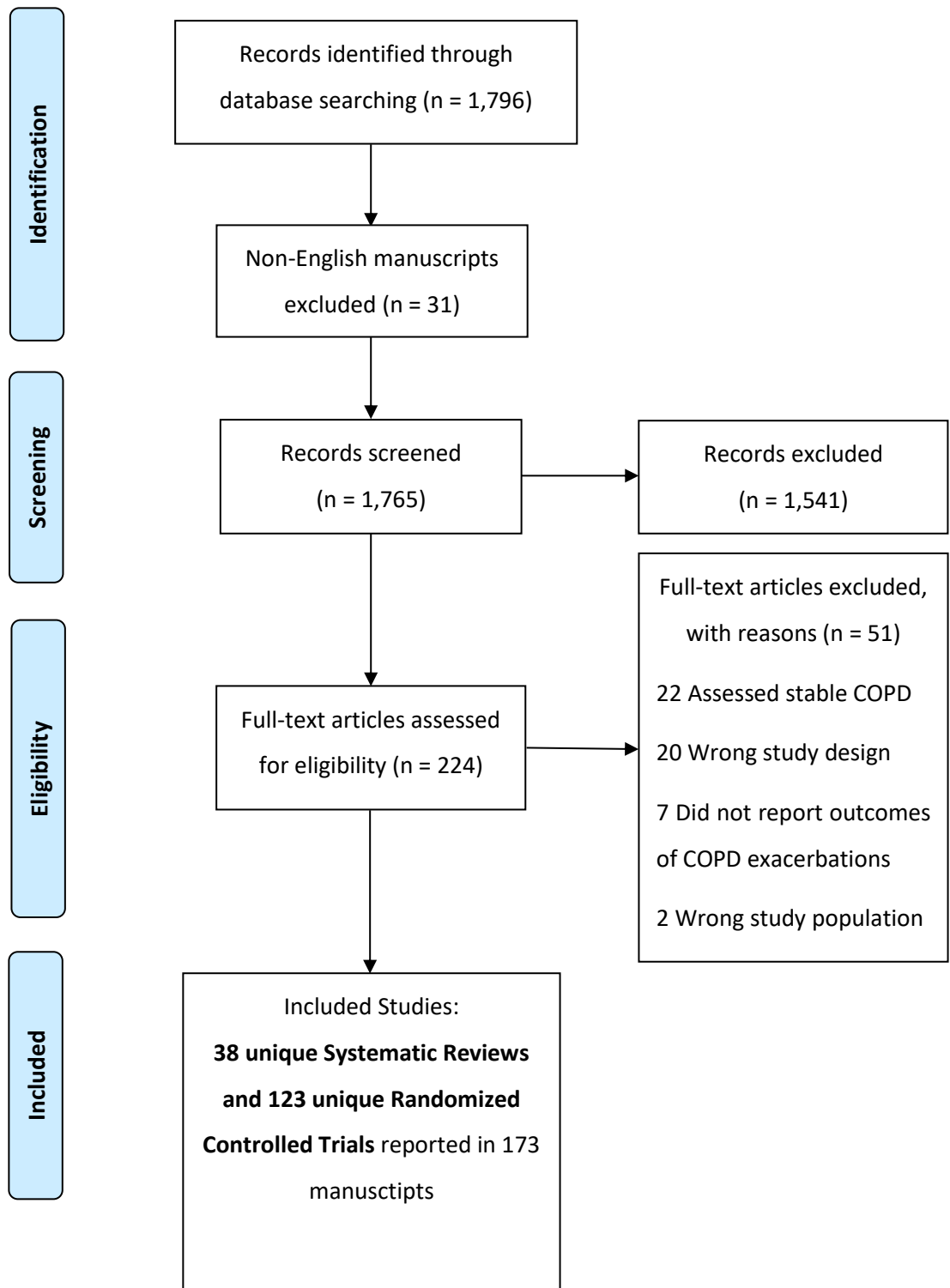
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Figure S1: Search strategy

Chronic Obstructive Pulmonary Disease	#1	Chronic Obstructive Pulmonary Disease [MH]
	#2	Lung Diseases, Obstructive [MH:NOEXP]
	#3	Emphysema [MH]
	#4	Chronic Bronchitis [MH]
	#5	COPD [tiab]
	#6	COAD [tiab]
	#7	“Chronic Bronchitis” [tiab]
	#8	Emphysema [tiab]
	#9	Obstructive[ti]
	#10	(Pulmonary OR Respiratory OR Airway OR Airflow OR Lung)[ti]
	#11	#9 AND #10
	#12	#1 OR #2 OR #3 OR #4 OR #5 OR #6 OR #7 OR #8 OR #11
Exacerbation	#13	Disease Exacerbation [MH]
	#14	Exacerbation [tiab]
	#15	Exacerbation* [tiab]
	#16	#13 OR #14 OR #15
RCT Filter	#17	randomized controlled trial [pt]
	#18	controlled clinical trial [pt]
	#19	randomized [tiab]
	#20	placebo [tiab]
	#21	clinical trials as topic [mesh: noexp]
	#22	randomly [tiab]
	#23	trial [ti]
	#24	#17 OR #18 OR #19 OR #20 OR #21 OR #22 OR #23
SR Filter	#25	Medline[tiab]
	#26	Systematic[tiab] and (review[tiab])
	#27	Meta analysis[publication type]
	#28	Meta-analysis[tiab]
	#29	Metaanalysis[tiab]
	#30	#25 OR #26 OR #27 OR #28 OR #29
Final selection	#31	Search ("2006"[Date - Publication] : "2017"[Date - Publication])
	#32	animals [mh] NOT humans [mh]
	#33	#12 AND #16 AND #31 AND (#24 OR #30)
	#34	#33 NOT #32

Figure S2: PRISMA Flowchart



List of Included Studies

Systematic Reviews

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Studies Excluded with Reason

Assessed management of stable COPD, rather than exacerbations

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Did not report outcomes of AECOPD

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Wrong study design

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Wrong study population

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