Identification

- MEDLINE: 3,683
- EMBASE: 701
- COCHRANE CENTRAL: 1601
- OTHER SOURCES: 26 identified from reviews of reference lists and trial registries

Screening

- SCREENING - no. of records screened after de-duplication: 5318
  - Records excluded:
    - Non-relevant PICO: 5,126
    - Not randomized: 40

Eligibility

- ELIGIBILITY - no. of full-text articles assessed: 152
  - Records excluded:
    - Wrong study design: 65
    - Wrong PICO: 28
    - Supplementary material or duplicate publication: 32

Included

- STUDIES INCLUDED IN META-ANALYSIS: 27 RCTs (10,797 patients)
- PRIMARILY in CRITICAL CARE PATIENTS: 12 RCTs
- PRIMARILY in SURGERY PATIENTS: 15 RCTs