Records excluded

(k=6194)

Identification

Records screened

(k=8031)

Records after duplicates removed

(k=8031)

Screening

Eligibility

Full text articles assessed for eligibility

(k=514)

Studies included in quantitative synthesis

(meta-analysis)

(k=253)

Included

Figure 1. Preferred Reporting Items for Systematic Reviews and Meta-Analysis flow diagram (PRISMA).

Full-text articles excluded, with reasons: k=261

105 conference abstracts

45 no-delirium or delirium comparator absent

17 mean age less than 60

15 delirium in hospital outcomes

13 did not compare delirium with non-delirium group

13 excluded publication type (e.g. editorials)

11 non-systematic delirium ascertainment method

11 criteria for delirium not met

7 non-English language

7 no relevant data for our analysis

4 mean age not reported

4 multiple reasons (non-systematic delirium ascertainment, mean age less than 60, no-non delirium comparator, in-hospital outcomes)

4 mixed unresolved and resolved delirium

2 terminally ill patients

2 difference other than delirium

1 mix in hospital and after discharge outcome

Records identified through database searching

(k=14225)