Selection Criteria

Inclusion criteria:
(1) Only randomized controlled trials were eligible;
(2) Head-to-head studies compared clinical effect of saxagliptin versus acarbose as add-on therapy to metformin;
(3) Studies on Chinese patients with type 2 diabetes (T2DM) who are 18 years or older;
(4) Studies on patients not adequately controlled by metformin; expect for diet or/and exercise, only saxagliptin and metformin in saxagliptin arm, and acarbose and metformin in acarbose arm were allowed;
(5) Studies written in Chinese or English;
(6) Studies had glycosylated hemoglobin (HbA1c) as the primary outcome indicator; and systolic blood pressure (SBP), body weights, cholesterol, or hypoglycemia as outcome indicator;
(7) Studies with a follow-up duration of 12 weeks or longer;

Exclusion criteria:
(1) Studies not related to or not targeted at saxagliptin (or acarbose), including studies merely on dipeptidyl peptidase-4 inhibitor (DPP-4i) or alpha-glucosidase inhibitors;
(2) Studies only provided information about saxagliptin (or acarbose), including introduction of pharmacokinetics, pharmacologic properties, pharmacodynamics, clinical use or mechanism of action;
(3) Studies were monotherapy design;
(4) Studies not targeted at (saxagliptin + metformin) versus (acarbose + metformin);
(5) Studies not targeted at T2DM, including impaired glucose tolerance (IGT), impaired fasting glucose (IFG), gestational diabetes or type 1 diabetes (T1DM);
(6) Studies on cell lines or animals;
(7) Literature reviews or meta-analysis;
(8) Meeting abstracts;
(9) Economic evaluation studies;
(10) Letters or comments;
(11) Duplicate;