Appendix 3.

Characteristics of studies that fulfilled the inclusion criteria but were excluded due to other reasons, and studies with minor deviation from the inclusion criteria.

First author, **Publication year**	**Reason for exclusion**
Ciolkowski 2014 (1)	Study design fulfils inclusion criteria of research question 4 of this review, but instead of quitting anti-inflammatory medication it focuses on switching ICS to montelukast.
Deykin 2005 (2)	Study design almost fulfilled inclusion criteria of research questions 4 and 5, but patients were on ICS for only 6 weeks before withdrawal of ICS and only 20 out of 56 subjects were included in the analysis regarding FeNO.
Jones 2001 (3)	Study design almost fulfilled inclusion criteria of research questions 4 and 5, but not all the patients were on low-dose ICS (ICS dose range 100 – 1600 µg of bechlometasone eq.) and results were not reported separately in subjects on low dose ICS. Subjects on higher doses of ICS should not be withdrawn from ICS but a step-down is recommended instead.
Ko 2012 (4)	Study design almost fulfilled inclusion criteria of research question 2, but patients were not on stabile medication as medication could be either increased or decreased during the 6 months follow-up.
McCormack 2013 (5)	Study design almost fulfilled inclusion criteria of research question 2, but the report infers that patients were not on stabile medication but their medication could be either increased or decreased during the follow-up as part of their usual care.
Raj 2014 (6)	This study mainly focused on measuring FeNO during acute exacerbation, but there was also a part on predicting future exacerbation risk. On this part, the study design almost fulfilled inclusion criteria of research question 2, but 46 of 243 patients were not on ICS and it is not stated if medication was changed and on what grounds during the follow-up.
Robroeks 2012 (7)	Study design almost fulfilled inclusion criteria of research question 2, but patients were not on stabile medication as medication could be either increased or decreased during the follow-up.
van Vliet 2015 (8)	Study design almost fulfilled inclusion criteria of research question 2, but patients were not on stabile medication as medication could be either increased or decreased during the follow-up based on clinical grounds.

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