**APPENDIX 2**

**EXCLUSION CRITERIA**

1. Studies on review and previous systematic review
2. Studies already included in the previous systematic review
3. Studies that examined CT, MR and PET/CT imaging modalities as surveillance or screening, diagnosis and staging, re-staging and prediction and assessment of tumour response or monitoring tumour response in rectal cancer
4. Studies that compared three-dimensional conformal radiotherapy (3D-CRT) with advanced conformal radiotherapy techniques (intensity-modulated radiotherapy (IMRT), volumetric arc therapy (VMAC) and image-guided radiotherapy (IGRT))
5. Studies with small sample size that is, < 10
6. Studies that examined CT, MR and PET/CT imaging modalities for RTP of rectal cancer for brachytherapy treatment
7. Studies correlating CT, MR and PET/CT with histopathologic imaging for RTP of rectal cancer
8. Studies that were performed with PET alone
9. Studies that examined imaging in local recurrence of rectal tumour
10. Individual diagnostic case study publications which are not significant
11. Studies on multidisciplinary management of rectal cancer (surgery, chemoradiotherapy)
12. Studies on set-up positioning for rectal cancer radiotherapy planning

**Characteristics of studies excluded from review based on titles and abstracts**

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| **STUDIES** | **TOTAL** |
| 1. Studies that are non-relevant to the topic | 576 |
| 1. Studies on previous systematic review | 1 |
| 1. Studies already included in the previous systematic review | 12 |
| 1. Studies on review | 23 |
| 1. Studies that examined CT, MR and PET/CT imaging modalities as surveillance or screening, diagnosis and staging, and re-staging | 9 |
| 1. Studies on prediction and assessment/monitoring of tumour response | 54 |
| 1. Studies that compared 3D-CRT with advanced conformal radiotherapy techniques (intensity-modulated radiotherapy (IMRT), volumetric arc therapy (VMAC) and image-guided radiotherapy (IGRT)) | 17 |
| 1. Studies with small sample size (< 10) | 4 |
| 1. Studies that examined CT, MR and PET/CT imaging modalities for RTP of rectal cancer for brachytherapy treatment | 12 |
| 1. Studies correlating CT, MR and PET/CT with histopathologic imaging for RTP of rectal cancer | 4 |
| 1. Studies that were performed with PET alone | 1 |
| 1. Studies that examined imaging in local recurrence of rectal tumour | 2 |
| 1. Studies that examined imaging in metastatic colorectal cancer | 3 |
| 1. Individual case study publications which are not significant | - |
| 1. Studies on multidisciplinary management of rectal cancer (surgery, chemoradiotherapy) | 60 |
| 1. Studies on set-up positioning for rectal cancer radiotherapy planning | 21 |
| 1. Studies that examined treatment planning software | 2 |
| 1. Studies on consensus report on RTP in rectal cancer | 3 |
| 1. Studies that evaluated CT synthesis approach for MR-only RTP in rectal cancer | 1 |
| **TOTAL** | **805** |