Databases searched (records retrieved):
- Medline (n=802)
- Embase (n=3036)
- Central (n=260)
- Meta-register (n=2591)

Conference proceedings searched (records retrieved):
- American Society of Clinical Oncology (n=2081)
- European Lung Cancer Conference (n=820)
- European Society of Medical Oncology (n=1345)
- European Cancer Organisation (n=4821)
- International Association for the Study of Lung Cancer (n=1803)

Total records screened: n=19,714

Potentially eligible trials: n=28

Ineligible:
- Chemotherapy given on both arms: n=4
- Surgery for chemotherapy responders only (research arm): n=2
- Not a randomized trial: n=2
- Radiotherapy for selected patients only (research arm): n=1

Eligible trials: n=19

IPD sought, but unavailable:
- Data could not be supplied: n=3
- Trial only recruited two patients: n=1

Trials included in the meta-analysis: n=15