Figures:

**Figure 1:** Flow diagram

Records identified using search strategy (n=6339) →
Records after duplicates removed (n=5348) →
Full text articles obtained and assessed for eligibility (n=1340) →
Records excluded after assessing title and abstract (n=4008)
- Not a RCT (n=2463)
- Not a stroke trial (n=1178)
- Secondary paper, no evidence of adjudication (n=351)
- Animal study (n=16) →
Records eligible and included in review (n=2)
- RCTs (n=1) →
Records excluded after assessing full texts (n=1204)
- Not an RCT (n=55)
- Not a stroke trial (n=63)
- No evidence primary outcome has been adjudicated (n=1037)
- Not English (n=32)
- Ongoing trial (n=17) →
Potentially eligible RCTs, but with missing essential information (n=88)
- RCTs (n=88) →
Records with insufficient information to determine eligibility (n=134)
- RCTs (n=88) →
Essential information not obtained, RCT excluded (n=74) →
Essential information obtained after contacting authors (n=14) →
RCTs included in systematic review (n=15)
Outcomes included:
- Stroke (n=8)
- Composite including stroke (n=6)
- Functional outcome after stroke (n=1)
Figure 2: Analysis of 18 comparisons from 15 included trials, comparing the effect size for the primary outcome based on whether assessment was by central adjudicators or not.
**Figure 3:** Meta-analysis of RTE in included studies, using a random-effects model

RTE refers to ratio of treatment effects
Figure 4: Meta-analysis of change in number of reported events in included studies, using a random-effects model

OR refers to odds ratio