Figure 1: Process of search and analysis for selection of studies conducted on COPD

PubMed: 22,639

Totally 61,588 relevant articles were resulted from primary search in electronic databases

Scopus: 23,033

ISI: 15,916

15,578 articles were eliminated after deleting duplicate articles

46,010 relatively potential articles

45,503 articles were excluded due to irrelevancy to study subject after evaluation of titles and abstracts

507 articles included into the study for reviewing full text

447 articles were excluded after reviewing full-texts due to inappropriate study design and outcomes

60 eligible papers which were included into the meta-analysis (16 papers without post bronchodilator test)