Appendix 3. Studies included in qualitative review but excluded from meta-analysis.

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| **First author** | **cN0/N1 patients** | **Study design** | **Study details** | **Reason for exclusion from meta-analysis** |
| Yasufuku et al (2011)[24] | 97 of 153 (63%) | Prospective | EBUS-TBNA followed by confirmatory mediastinoscopy in patients with confirmed or suspected lung cancer | Although 2x2 tables could be created for entire patient cohort, sufficient data could not be extracted to create 2x2 tables specifically for cN0/N1 subsets |
| Liberman et al (2014)[29] | 81 of 166 (49%) | Prospective | EBUS-TBNA followed by confirmatory mediastinoscopy in patients with confirmed or suspected lung cancer | Although 2x2 tables could be created for entire patient cohort, sufficient data could not be extracted to create 2x2 tables specifically for cN0/N1 subsets |
| Cornwell et al (2013)[25] | 62 of 166 (37%) | Retrospective | All 166 patients underwent PET-CT, and 62 were selected to undergo EBUS-TBNA on the basis of specific radiological findings. Patients proceeded to surgical nodal dissection if found to have N0/N1 disease on both PET-CT and EBUS-TBNA. In the 62 EBUS-TBNA patients, NPV was 91.94% and the rate of non-therapeutic surgical resection was 8.1% | Although 2x2 table could be created for the cN0/N1 cohort, meaningful values for sensitivity, specificity and PPV could not be obtained as EBUS-TBNA positive cases were excluded from the study. |
| Clementsen et al (2014)[28] | 55 of 95 (58%) | Retrospective | Patients referred for pre-operative mediastinal staging by EBUS-TBNA | Information about final pathological nodal stage was unclear in all cases and a 2x2 table for cN0/N1 cases could not be constructed |

EBUS-TBNA = Endobronchial ultrasound-guided transbronchial needle aspiration. PET-CT = positron emission tomography-computed tomography. PPV = positive predictive value.