Supplementary Table 1. Major exclusions

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| First author | Publication year | Journal | Reasons for exclusion |
| Borgi A | 2021 | Pan Afr Med J. | Control group used NIV |
| Mayordomo-Colunga J | 2018 | Respiratory Care. | Comparison between NIVs |
| Milési C | 2013 | Pediatr Pulmonol. | Control group used NIV, and population included neonates  |
| Mohanty S | 2021 | Pediatric Critical Care Medicine | Poster presentation and not report clinically relevant results |
| Peters MJ | 2018 | Pediatric Critical Care Medicine | Comparison between NIVs |
| Saritas Nakip O | 2021 | Pediatric Critical Care Medicine | Poster presentation and not report clinically relevant results |
| Sessions KL | 2019 | BMC Health Serv Res. | No clinically relevant outcome reported |
| Silva CRS | 2016 | Braz J Phys Ther | Prophylactic NIV application (not to treat ARF) |
| Thia LP | 2008 | Archives of Disease in Childhood | No clinically relevant outcome reported, pre-planned crossover design |
| Thill PJ | 2004 | Pediatr Crit Care Med | Pre-planned crossover design |
| Vahlkvist S | 2020 | Eur J Pediatr. | No clinically relevant outcome reported |
| Wilson PT | 2017 | The Lancet Global Health | Quasi-randomized study |

NIV: non-invasive ventilation

Supplemental references

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Wilson PT, Baiden F, Brooks JC, et al.: Continuous positive airway pressure for children with undifferentiated respiratory distress in Ghana: an open-label, cluster, crossover trial. The Lancet Global Health 2017; 5:e615–e623