

Figure A: Search Strategies

Set no.	Search History
1	CEREBRAL-INFARCTION/ all subheadings data OR explode CEREBRAL-ISCHEMIA/ all subheadings OR explode CEREBRAL-EMBOLISM-AND-THROMBOSIS/all subheadings OR CEREBROVASCULAR-DISORDERS/all subheadings OR AIS*
2	explode CHILD/ all subheadings
3	explode COAGULATION/ all subheadings OR COAG* OR PROCOAG* OR THROM*
4	FACTOR V LEIDEN OR PROTEIN C OR PROTEIN S OR ANTITHROMBIN OR PLASMINOGEN OR 1691GA OR G1691A OR PROTHROMBIN OR 20210GA OR G20210A OR LIPOPROTEIN* OR HOMOCYSTEIN* OR MTHFR OR C677T
5	1 and 2 and 3 and 4
6	Article/ or Case control study/ or Controlled study/ or Major clinical study/ or Priority journal/ or “case control”. mp.
7	5 and 6

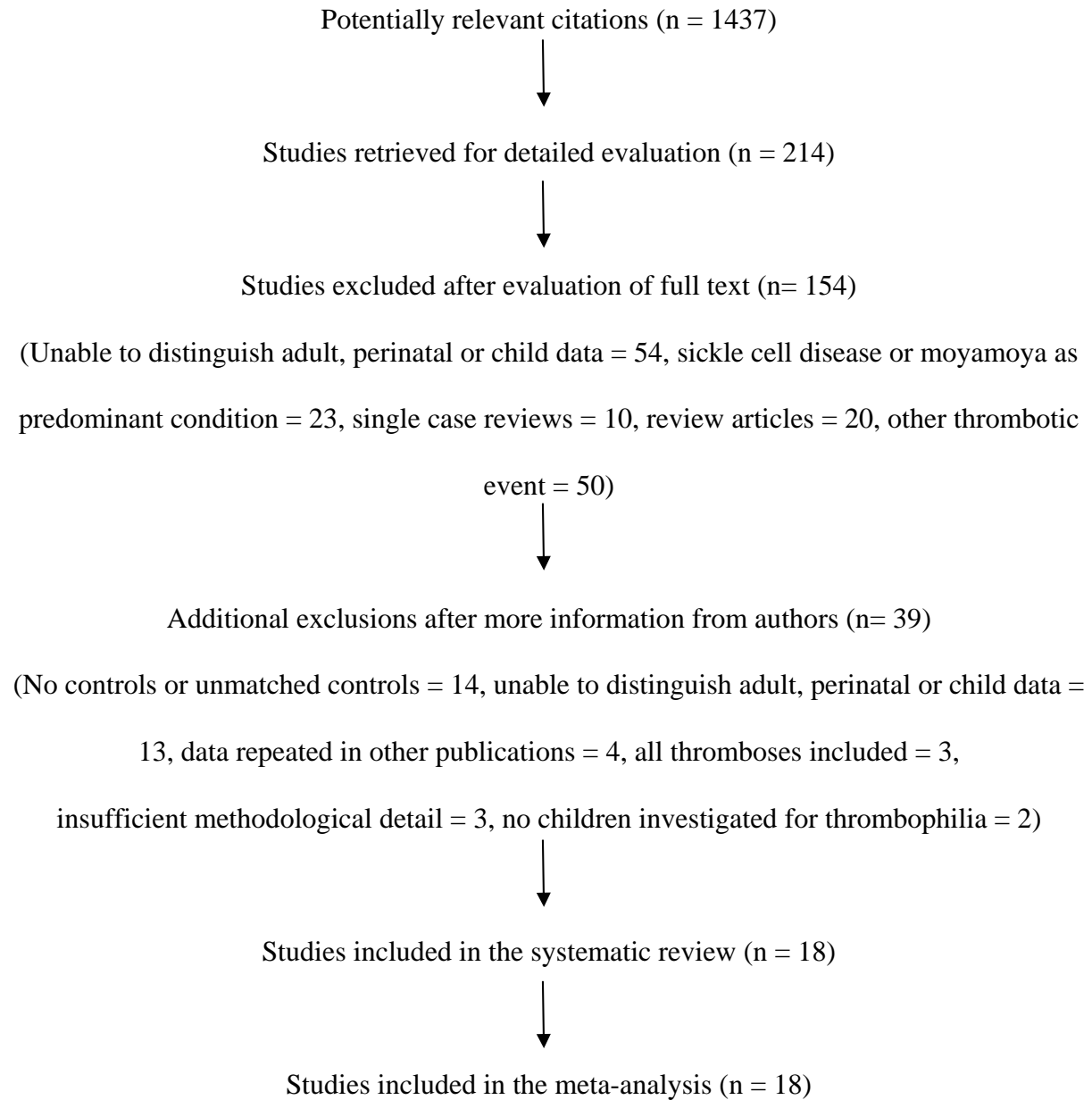
Figure B: Stages of the systematic review

Table 1: Results of meta-analyses

Factor	No. studies	No. included in meta-analysis	No. AIS patients with factor of AIS patients tested	No. controls with factor of controls tested	Pooled odds ratio	95% confidence intervals	p value for χ^2 test for heterogeneity
Protein C deficiency ^{5,8,9/10} ** _{12,13,14*} ,15-17,23,24	11	11	39/470	11/1081	6.49	2.96,14.27	0.28
Protein S deficiency ^{5,8,9/10} ** _{12,13,14*} ,15,17,24	9	9	13/428	0/944	1.14	0.34,3.80	1.0
FVL 169GA ^{4,5,11,12,14} * _{15,18,23,24}	9	9	71/629	39/2004	1.22	0.80,1.87	1.0
AT deficiency ^{5,9/10**} ,12, 13,14*,15,17,24	8	8	1/435	0/952	1.02	0.28,3.67	1.0
APCr ratio ^{9/10**} ,14	2	2	3/ 63	2/ 65	1.34	0.16,11.52	0.12
Prothrombin 20210GA ^{5,11,12,15,18,23,24}	7	7	35/550	15/1902	1.10	0.51,2.34	0.88
***MTHFR C677T ^{5,11,12,15,18,20,25}	7	7	107/589	127/1678	1.70	1.23,2.34	0.057
Total plasma homocysteine >95th centile 22,23*	2	2	8/ 71	11/393	1.36	0.53,3.51	1.0

* Where zero is presumed as the result for controls as no result was available in the publication or from attempted contact with authors

** Combines published and unpublished data

*** Pooled heterozygous and homozygous data

NB. Results from publications 9 and 10 were combined following correspondence with the authors as they contained patients in common