**Supplementary table S1: Excluded studies**

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| **Excluded studies** | **Reason for exclusion** |
| [[1-9](#_ENREF_1)]  | Not randomised |
| [[10-14](#_ENREF_10)]  | Study not in adults |
| [[15-25](#_ENREF_15)]  | No MRI, CT or DEXA measures done or reported |
| [[26-30](#_ENREF_26)]  | No repeated measures done or reported |
| [[31-34](#_ENREF_31)]  | No baseline measures done or reported |
| [[35](#_ENREF_35)] | DEXA results not presented by study arm |
| [[36](#_ENREF_36), [37](#_ENREF_37)] | No control group (cohort studies) |
| [[38-46](#_ENREF_38)] | Fewer than 20 participants in each arm |
| [[47](#_ENREF_47)] | Regimen included hydroxyurea  |
| [[48](#_ENREF_48)] | Comparison was treatment strategy, not drug regimen |
| [[49](#_ENREF_49)] | Compared two different formulations of the same drug |

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