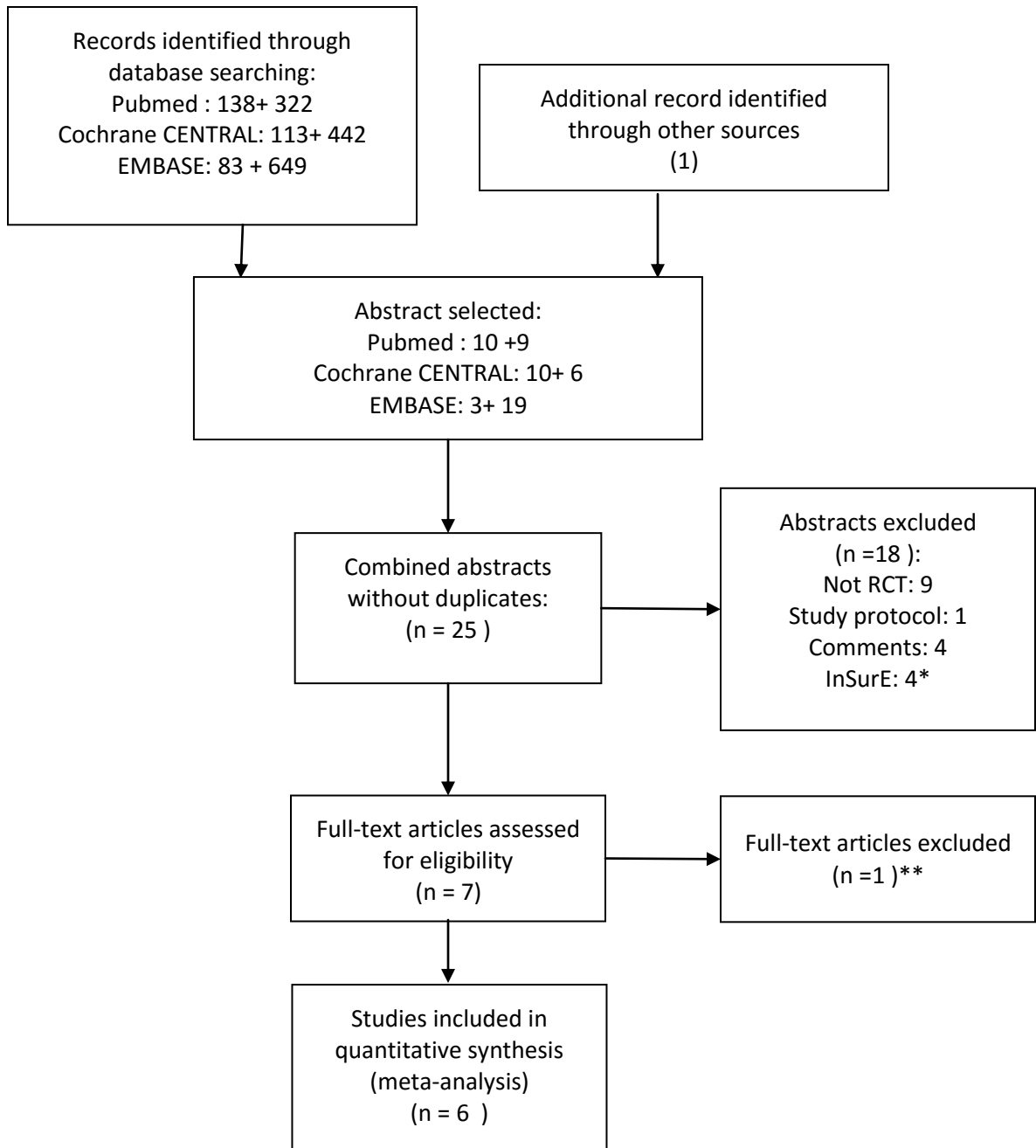


Online Resource 1: Figure: Flow diagram for selection of eligible studies.



* For Liu et al 2008 [Combined use of pulmonary surfactants with continuous distending pressure is useful in the treatment of respiratory distress syndrome in very low birth weight infants] Chinese journal of contemporary pediatrics 10 (4) 451-4. Intervention difficult to define from the English abstract. Outcome focusing on first day and blood gases. Not able to assess full text in Chinese. At time of publication, InSurE is the most likely intervention

** Heidarzadeh et al. 2013 not retained as it described single centre data derived from a multi-centre trial described in Minrnia et al.2013: same authors; same location (one study site); same recruitment period with one extra month; same number of patients in control group, one additional patient in intervention group.