

Supplementary Table 1. Studies excluded from the meta-analysis and reasons for exclusion

No.	Author (year)	Study design	Reason for exclusion from meta-analysis
1	Azevedo et al. [31,A1] (2014)	Retrospective matched cohort	Control group based on ICU status; not a readmission-based comparison → effect size not calculable
2	Gibb et al. [18,A4] (2016)	Retrospective cohort	No comparative statistics between readmitted vs non-readmitted patients → effect size not calculable
3	Liao et al. [28,A8] (2022)	Retrospective cohort	Only multivariable regression results; no group-level statistics → effect size not calculable
4	Lohiya et al. [20,A9] (2013)	Retrospective cohort	Single-group descriptive study; no comparator group → effect size not calculable
5	Lyerla et al. [21,A10] (2021)	Retrospective case control	Different study design; not compatible with cohort-based analysis
6	Xu et al. [29,A14] (2020)	Retrospective cohort	Only regression-adjusted ORs reported; no raw/univariate data → effect size not calculable
7	Zhong et al. [30,A15] (2018)	Retrospective cohort	No patient-level data for effect size calculation

ICU, intensive care unit; OR, odds ratio.