

Additional file 1. Search Strategy for Each Bibliographic Database

Database	Search
PubMed	((linkage OR pre-ART OR initiation OR retention OR attrition OR "loss to follow up") AND ((HIV OR "antiretroviral therapy")) AND ((efficacy OR evaluation OR intervention OR trial))) AND (("2008/01/01"[PDat] : "2016/12/31"[PDat]) AND Humans[Mesh] AND English[lang])
ISI Web of Knowledge	(TS=((HIV OR "antiretroviral therapy")) AND TS=((linkage OR pre-ART OR initiation OR retention OR attrition OR "loss to follow up")) AND TS=((efficacy OR evaluation OR intervention OR trial))) AND LANGUAGE: (English) AND DOCUMENT TYPES: (Article OR Proceedings Paper) Indexes=SCI-EXPANDED, SSCI, A&HCI, CPCI-S, CPCI-SSH Timespan=2008-2015
EMBASE	'hiv'/exp or hiv or 'antiretroviral therapy' and (linkage or 'pre art' or initiation or retention or attrition or 'loss to follow up') and (efficacy or 'evaluation'/exp or evaluation or intervention or trial) and [english]/lim and [abstracts]/lim and [2008-2015]/py and [embase]/lim and [humans]/lim
LILACS Portal	(HIV OR antiretroviral) AND (linkage OR pre-ART OR initiation OR retention OR attrition OR adherence OR compliance) AND (efficacy OR evaluation OR intervention OR trial) AND (db:("LILACS"))
Global Index Medicus	(HIV) AND (linkage OR retention)
African Index Medicus	(HIV) AND (linkage OR retention)

Additional file 2. Forest plots of each intervention, relative weights and corresponding I² values

