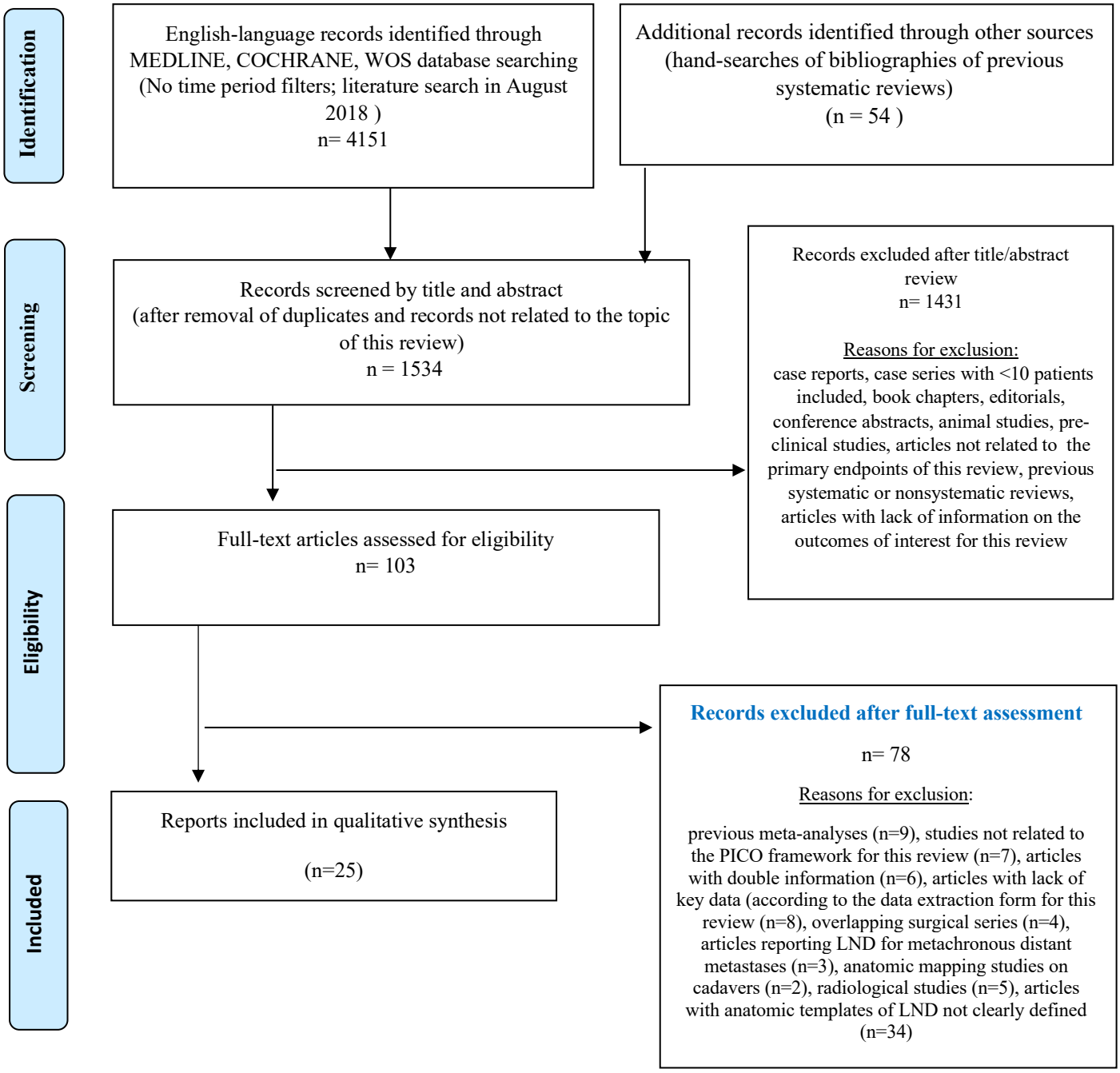
Identification
Screening
Eligibility
Included
English-language records identified through MEDLINE, COCHRANE, WOS database searching (No time period filters; literature search in August 2018)
n= 4151
Additional records identified through other sources (hand-searches of bibliographies of previous systematic reviews)
(n = 54)
Records screened by title and abstract
(after removal of duplicates and records not related to the topic of this review)
n = 1534
Records excluded after title/abstract review
n= 1431
Reasons for exclusion:
case reports, case series with <10 patients included, book chapters, editorials, conference abstracts, animal studies, pre-clinical studies, articles not related to the primary endpoints of this review, previous systematic or nonsystematic reviews, articles with lack of information on the outcomes of interest for this review
Full-text articles assessed for eligibility
n= 103
Records excluded after full-text assessment
n= 78
Reasons for exclusion:
previous meta-analyses (n=9), studies not related to the PICO framework for this review (n=7), articles with double information (n=6), articles with lack of key data (according to the data extraction form for this review (n=8), overlapping surgical series (n=4), articles reporting LND for metachronous distant metastases (n=3), anatomic mapping studies on cadavers (n=2), radiological studies (n=5), articles with anatomic templates of LND not clearly defined (n=34)
Reports included in qualitative synthesis
(n=25)