**Appendix Table F9. Characteristics of included subjects in the studies of physical therapy interventions**

| **Study characteristics** | **Category** | **Included in quantitative pooling analyses** | **Included in qualitative analyses** | **Included in quantitative analyses** | **Total** |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Country | USA | 67 | 8 | 3 | 78 |
| Country | UK | 18 | 4 | 3 | 25 |
| Country | Turkey | 20 | 0 | 3 | 23 |
| Country | Taiwan | 10 | 0 | 2 | 12 |
| Country | Japan | 11 | 0 | 4 | 15 |
| Country | Canada | 8 | 0 | 2 | 10 |
| Country | Australia | 15 | 5 | 2 | 22 |
| Country | Other | 63 | 10 | 3 | 76 |
| Recruitment | Clinic | 174 | 17 | 14 | 205 |
| Recruitment | Clinic plus community | 1 | 0 | 0 | 1 |
| Recruitment | Community | 27 | 8 | 5 | 40 |
| Recruitment | Not reported | 10 | 2 | 3 | 15 |
| OA severity definition | ACR class | 0 | 1 | 0 | 1 |
| OA severity definition | AIMS | 0 | 1 | 0 | 1 |
| OA severity definition | Aecke index | 1 | 0 | 0 | 1 |
| OA severity definition | Ahlback | 2 | 0 | 0 | 2 |
| OA severity definition | Altman Grade II | 4 | 0 | 1 | 5 |
| OA severity definition | American Rheumatism Association class | 0 | 1 | 0 | 1 |
| OA severity definition | Global assessment joint | 0 | 1 | 0 | 1 |
| OA severity definition | Grade of OA | 3 | 0 | 0 | 3 |
| OA severity definition | Kellgren and Lawrence | 76 | 4 | 8 | 88 |
| OA severity definition | Lequesne's functional index | 1 | 0 | 0 | 1 |
| OA severity definition | Not reported | 117 | 17 | 10 | 144 |
| OA severity definition | Number of tender joints | 0 | 1 | 0 | 1 |
| OA severity definition | OARSI–Medial JSN Grade | 1 | 0 | 0 | 1 |
| OA severity definition | Radiographs | 3 | 0 | 2 | 5 |
| OA severity definition | Severe score defined by the authors | 1 | 0 | 0 | 1 |
| OA severity definition | Steinbrocker | 1 | 0 | 0 | 1 |
| OA severity definition | VAS | 1 | 0 | 0 | 1 |
| OA severity definition | WOMAC | 1 | 1 | 1 | 3 |
| Activity level | % with sedentary lifestyle | 5 | 1 | 0 | 6 |
| Activity level | % disability | 6 | 0 | 0 | 6 |
| Activity level | Not reported | 201 | 26 | 22 | 249 |
| Baseline disability | Not reported | 211 | 27 | 22 | 260 |
| % with baseline disability | Total | 212 | 27 | 22 | 261 |
| Comorbidity | Chronic condition | 11 | 12 | 2 | 25 |
| Comorbidity | Chronic condition+other OA | 10 | 0 | 0 | 10 |
| Comorbidity | Not reported | 190 | 15 | 20 | 225 |
| Comorbidity | Other OA | 1 | 0 | 0 | 1 |
| Occupation | % by type | 8 | 1 | 0 | 9 |
| Occupation | Not reported | 204 | 26 | 22 | 252 |
| Concomitant drugs | Not reported | 94 | 15 | 19 | 128 |
| Concomitant drugs | NO | 18 | 0 | 0 | 18 |
| Concomitant drugs | YES | 100 | 12 | 3 | 115 |
| Prior surgery | Not reported | 185 | 25 | 22 | 232 |
| Prior surgery | NO | 20 | 1 | 0 | 21 |
| Prior surgery | YES | 7 | 1 | 0 | 8 |
| Prior surgery | Total | 212 | 27 | 22 | 261 |
| Prior OA treatments | Not reported | 204 | 22 | 22 | 248 |
| Prior OA treatments | No surgery or PT | 4 | 0 | 0 | 4 |
| Prior OA treatments | No surgery or injection | 3 | 0 | 0 | 3 |
| Prior OA treatments | OA conservative treatment | 1 | 4 | 0 | 5 |
| Prior OA treatments | Joint replacement | 0 | 1 | 0 | 1 |
| PT involvement | NO | 50 | 9 | 8 | 67 |
| PT involvement | Unclear | 87 | 2 | 2 | 91 |
| PT involvement | YES | 75 | 16 | 12 | 103 |
| PT involvement | Total | 212 | 27 | 22 | 261 |