Table 1 : Key features of included studies

Author	Location	Sample Size	Altitude (m)	HT (%)	BP values (mean) (mmHg)
Clegg et al. 1976	Ethopia/ Siemien mountains	142 (18-65 yrs)	3000 m	Not reported	3000 m (Debarek) SBP:122.9, DBP:76.6 (M) SBP:120, DBP:75.7 (W)
Makela et al. 1978	Chile/ Andean mountains	139 (18-84 yrs)	>4000 m	Not reported	> 4000 m (Altiplano) SBP: 119.45, DBP: 78.23 (M) SBP: 112.23, DBP: 72.94 (W)
Dasgupta et al. 1982	India/ Himachal Pradesh	857 (20-74 yrs)	3050 m	1.9* (including ≥ 15 yrs sample)	SBP:111.28, DBP:74.88 (M) SBP:111.72, DBP:74.20 (W)
Sun 1986	China/ Tibet	25050 (≥ 25 yrs)	2500 m - 5000 m	15.2 M:13.4, W:16.6	Not reported
Khalid & Adzaku 1995	Saudi Arabia/Assir Province	189 (M) (21-60 yrs)	>3150m	Not reported	> 3150 m (AlSoda& AlSoga) SBP:114.79, DBP:76.38 (M)
Smith 1999	Nepal/ Khumbu	133 (M) (>18 yrs)	3400-3900 m	25	3400-3900 m (Khumbu) SBP:122.9, DBP:79.7
Shah et al. 2001	Pakistan/ Ghizar	4203 (> 18 yrs)	2438 m	15 M: 13.7, W:15.4	SBP:124.5, DBP:79.8 (M) SBP: 124.9, DBP: 77.8 (W)
Liu et al. 2001	China/ Tibet	125 (48-56 yrs)	3760 m	39.7 M:28.8, W:50.7	3760 m (Tibetan) SBP: 127.7, DBP:81.9 (M) SBP: 132.6, DBP:83.7 (W)
Lindgarde et al. 2004	Peru/ Cuzco	105 (W) (≥ 35 yrs)	3800 m	Not Reported	3800 m (Cuzco) SBP:97, DBP:59

Tripathy & Gupta 2007	India/ Leh	158 (> 20 yrs)	3521 m	39.9 M:43.8, W:38	3521 m SBP:134.55,DBP:81.59(M) SBP: 131.92, DBP:80.58 (W)
Matsubayashi et al. 2009	China/ Qinghai	247 (≥ 60 yrs)	3000-3300 m	Han: 58	Han SBP:141, DBP:86
Okumiya et al. 2010	China & India	Tibet:209 Ladakh:117 (≥ 60 yrs)	3700 m, 2900-3800 m	Tibet: 72 Ladakh:53	3700 m (Tibet) SBP:142, DBP:91 2900-3800 m (Ladakh) SBP:137, DBP:87
Hernandez-Hernandez et al. 2010	Colombia, Ecuador	Bogota:1553 Quito:1638	2600 m, 2850 m	Bogota:13.4 M:14.6,W:12.4 Quito :8.6 M:7.2,W:10.1	2600 m (Bogota) SBP:114, DBP:76.2(M) SBP:111.4,DBP:73.1 (W) 2850 m (Quito) SBP:114.5,DBP:72.7(M) SBP:112.3,DBP:70.5 (W)
Negi et al. 2012	India/ Himachal Pradesh	3100m: 171 3900m: 242 (> 20 years)	3100 m, 3900 m	3100m: 27.5 3900m: 19	3100 m SBP:130.7, DBP:83.1 3900 m SBP:120.98, DBP:80.05
Zhao et al. 2012	China/ Tibet	701 (≥ 40 yrs)	4300 m	55.9 M:66.1, W:48.3	SBP:151.6,DBP: 95.9(M) SBP: 142.8, DBP: 89 (W)
Zheng et al. 2012	China/ Tibet	1370 (≥ 18 yrs)	3650 m	51.2 M:56, W:48	SBP:141.80, DBP:92.38 (M) SBP:133.76, DBP:87.33 (W)
Sherpa et al. 2013	China/ Tibet	692 (30-80 yrs)	3700 m	37 M: 35.3, W: 38.4	Not reported

Gonzales et al. 2013	Peru/ Junin	506 (35-75 yrs)	4100 m	Not reported	SBP:117.4, DBP:74.7(M) SBP:114.2,DBP:72.38(W)
Caravedo et al. 2014	Peru/ Puno	519 (≥35 yrs)	3825 m	Not reported	SBP:115.31
Ojeda et al. 2014	Peru/ Cusco	Hispanic:395 (W) Quechas:376 (W)	2577-3570 m	Hispanic:10.9 Quechas:1.1	Not reported
Negi et al. 2014	India/ Himachal Pradesh	1017 (>20 yrs)	3000-4000m	27.3 M: 27.9, F:27	Not reported

Abbreviations: m: metre, M: men, W: women, BP: blood pressure, HT: hypertension, SBP: systolic blood pressure, DBP: diastolic blood pressure, HA: High altitude. *Excluded from the HT analysis.

Table 2: Risk of bias table of the included studies

Study	Sampling process	HT cut-point (mmHg)	BP measuring device	Number of BP readings	Body position during BP measurements
Clegg et al. 1976	Random	Not relevant	Unclear	Unclear	Unclear
Makela et al. 1978	Unclear	Not relevant	Mercury sphygmomanometer	Two	Sitting
Dasgupta et al. 1982	Complete survey	≥160/95	Mercury sphygmomanometer	One (if HT in first then second)	Sitting
Sun 1986	Non-random	≥160/95	Mercury sphygmomanometer	Multiple till stable within 2 to 3 mmHg	Sitting
Khalid & Adzaku 1995	Random	Not relevant	Mercury sphygmomanometer	Two	Sitting
Smith 1999	Non-random	≥140/90	Unclear	One (if HT in first then two)	Sitting
Shah et al. 2001	Random	≥140/90	Mercury sphygmomanometer	Three	Sitting
Liu et al. 2001	Random	≥140/90	Automated device	Three	Unclear
Lindgarde et al. 2004	Non-random	Not relevant	Mercury sphygmomanometer	Unclear	Supine
Tripathy & Gupta 2007	Random	≥140/90	Mercury sphygmomanometer	Unclear	Sitting
Matsubayashi et al.2009	Non-random	≥140/90	Automated device	Two	Sitting
Okumiya et al. 2010	Non-random	≥140/90	Automated device	Two	Sitting
Hernandez-Hernandez et al. 2010	Random	≥140/90	Mercury sphygmomanometer	Two (or till the close reading within 5 mmHg)	Sitting
Negi et al. 2012	Random	≥140/90	Mercury sphygmomanometer	Two	Sitting
Zhao et al. 2012	Non-random	≥140/90	Automated device	Three	Sitting
Zheng et al. 2012	Random	≥140/90	Mercury sphygmomanometer	Two	Sitting
Sherpa et al. 2013	Random	≥130/85	Automated device	Three	Unclear
Gonzales et al. 2013	Random	Not relevant	Aneroid sphygmomanometer	Unclear	Sitting
Caravedo et al.	Random	Not	Unclear	Unclear	Unclear

2014		relevant			
Ojeda et al. 2014	Unclear	≥140/90	Unclear	Unclear	Unclear
Negi et al. 2014	Complete survey	Unclear	Unclear	Unclear	Unclear