

722 Additional file 3 — Extended model for assessing heterogeneity of treatment effect

723 To explore the impact of a pre-treatment covariate on the CCP effect, we developed another extension to model (3)

724 for investigating the interaction between treatment and a categorical pre-treatment covariate, which  $S$  denotes. In

725 this model, an indicator variable  $d_{k i s}$  that equals 1 if the covariate  $S$  for the  $i^{th}$  patient in the  $k^{th}$  RCT falls in

726 stratum  $s$ , and is 0 otherwise.

The model with the interaction between treatment and a pre-specified covariate  $S$  is as follows:

$$\begin{aligned}
 \text{logit}(P(Y_{ki} \geq y)) &= \tau_{yk} + \beta \mathbf{X}_{ki} + A_{ki} (\delta_{k_c} + \gamma_{(ks)_c} d_{k i s}) \\
 \tau_{yk} &\sim \text{Normal}(\mu = 0, \sigma = \sigma_\tau) \\
 \beta &\sim \text{Normal}(\boldsymbol{\mu} = \mathbf{0}, \Sigma = \sigma_\beta^2 I_{p \times p}) \\
 \delta_{k_c} &\sim \text{Normal}(\mu = \delta_c, \sigma = \eta), \quad c \in (1, \dots, C) \\
 \eta &\sim \text{Cauchy}(\mu = 0, \sigma = \sigma_\eta) \\
 \delta_c &\sim \text{Normal}(\mu = -\Delta_{co}, \sigma = \eta_0) \\
 \eta_0 &\sim \text{Cauchy}(\mu = 0, \sigma = \sigma_{\eta_0}) \\
 -\Delta_{co} &\sim \text{Normal}(\mu = 0, \sigma = \sigma_{\Delta_{co}}) \\
 \gamma_{(ks)_c} &\sim \text{Normal}(\mu = \gamma_{cs}, \sigma = \zeta), \quad s \in (1, \dots, S) \\
 \zeta &\sim \text{Cauchy}(\mu = 0, \sigma = \sigma_\zeta) \\
 \gamma_{cs} &\sim \text{Normal}(\mu = -\Gamma_s, \sigma = \zeta_0) \\
 \zeta_0 &\sim \text{Cauchy}(\mu = 0, \sigma = \sigma_{\zeta_0}) \\
 -\Gamma_s &\sim \text{Normal}(\mu = 0, \sigma = \sigma_{\Gamma_s}).
 \end{aligned} \tag{A2}$$

727 The extended model includes *RCT-specific* control treatment by covariate interaction parameter  $\gamma_{(ks)_c}$ .  $\gamma_{(ks)_c}$  are

728 assumed to be centered around a control-type mean  $\gamma_{cs}$ . In turn, the  $\gamma_{cs}$ 's are centered around  $-\Gamma_s$ , the overall

729 "control effect" modification across RCTs.

730 The pooled effect of CCP (measured by log OR) across all RCTs for all patients is still  $\Delta_{co}$ , where as the pooled

731 effect for patients with covariate  $S = s$  will be  $\Delta_s = \Delta_{co} + \Gamma_s$ .