

Appendix Table of bias assessments

As outlined in the instruction, the ROBINS-I (Risk Of Bias In Non-randomized Studies of Interventions) tool was used to evaluate the risk of bias in non-randomised observational studies (2). It is performed on the risk of bias assessments. After the first five studies were assessed, it was assessed them, and 87 out of 133 assessment reports and justifications are included below.

The tool assesses risk of bias in seven domains (2):
1) Who was recruited? (2) bias due to confounding (2) bias in selection of participants into the study
4) Intervention (2) bias in classification of interventions
5) Post-intervention (2) bias due to deviations from intended interventions, (2) bias due to missing data, (2) bias in measurement of outcomes, (7) bias in selection of the reported result.

There are several risk of bias ratings as described below (2):
Low risk of bias: The study is judged to be a well-performed randomised trial.
Moderate risk of bias: The study provides credible evidence for a non-randomised study that cannot be considered comparable to a well-performed randomised trial.
Serious risk of bias: The study has some important problems.
Critical risk of bias: The study has problems that provide any credible evidence should not be included in any synthesis.
No information: No information on which to base a judgement about risk of bias.

- References:
23. Dornan A, Harris MA, Evans R, Street L, Bentley NS, Misraheem M, et al. ROBINS-I: a tool for assessing risk of bias in non-randomised studies of interventions. BMJ. 2016 Oct;355:g818.
24. McArdle N, Pothoran S, Gagne R, Coulter K, Cotnam C, Magner C, et al. Accuracy of systematic review and meta-analysis observational studies: a systematic review of systematic reviews. BMC Med Res Methodol. 2016;16(1):104.
25. Harris MA, Evans MA, Misraheem A, Rowsa BC, Hippner DF, Chappell ZJ, Assuring risk of bias in non-randomized study: to begin, to Thomas J, Ciolek J, Campbell M, Li Page H, et al., editors. Cochrane Handbook for Systematic Reviews of Interventions version 6.3 [Updated February 2022] [Internet]. 2022 [cited 2022 Feb 22]. Available from: <https://training.cochrane.org/handbook>

Table with 14 columns: First author, year, Bias due to confounding, Support for judgement, Bias in selection of participants into the study, Support for judgement, Bias in classification of interventions, Support for judgement, Bias due to deviations from intended interventions, Support for judgement, Bias in measurement of outcomes, Support for judgement, Bias in measurement of outcomes, Support for judgement, Overall risk of bias, Overall risk of bias. Contains 26 rows of study assessments.



