

Appendix Table 3; Overview of location bias items

Study (primary author)	Indexing of study	Journal	Impact factor	Impact factor rank	Change score disability (baseline – one-year follow-up)		Change score rank
Tobler and Ferrara [59]	Medline	J Bone Joint Surg Am	5.163	1	49.0 – 33.0	16.0	20
Pereira et al. [57]	Medline, Embase	PLoS One	3.057	2	45.5 - 34.5 ‡	11.0	23
Godil et al. [47]	Medline, Embase	The Spine Journal	2.660	3	62.8 – 22.6 †	40.2	3
Pavlov et al. [56]	Medline, Embase	SPINE	2.439	6.5	46.6 – 2.5 *	42.1	2
Lee et al. [54]	Medline	SPINE	2.439	6.5	24.5 – 10.4	14.1	22
Inage et al. [49]	Medline	SPINE	2.439	6.5	40.3 – 24.7 *†	15.6	21
Cuéllar et al. [63]	Medline, Embase	SPINE	2.439	6.5	37.0 – 14.0	23.0	15.5
Hagenmaier et al. [48]	Medline, CINAHL	SPINE	2.439	6.5	36.0 – 9.4	26.6	10
Kleeman et al. [50]	Medline, CINAHL, Embase	SPINE	2.439	6.5	47.0 – 11.0	36.0	6
Mao et al. [55]	Medline	Int Orthop	2.387	10	51.0 – 7.0	44.0	1
Barrey et al. [43]	Medline, Embase	Eur Spine Journal	2.132	12	48.0 – 24.0	24.0	13
Cobo Soriano et al. [45]	Medline, Embase	Eur Spine Journal	2.132	12	45.1 – 23.1 *	32.0	7
Rhee et al. [67]	Medline, Embase	Eur Spine Journal	2.132	12	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.
Xu et al. [62]	Medline	J Neurosurg Spine	2.126	14.5	32.3 – 13.1 †	19.2	19
Ghogawala et al. [46]	Medline, Embase	J Neurosurg Spine	2.126	14.5	46.8 – 22.4	24.4	12
Franke et al. [65]	Medline	Cureus	1.730	16	45.3 – 22.4	22.9	17.5
Kanter et al. [66]	Medline, Embase	J Clin Neurosci	1.610	17.5	50.9 – 24.1	26.8	8.5
Tsahtsarlis and Wood [61]	Medline, Embase	J Clin Neurosci	1.610	17.5	46.9 – 20.1	26.8	8.5
Kok, Grevitt et al. [52]	Medline	Open Orthop Journal	1.470	19	40.9 – 17.7 †	23.2	14
Boissiere et al. [44]	Medline, Embase	Orthop. & Traumatol.	1.393	20	46.5 – 23.6	22.9	17.5
Kok, Donk et al. [51]	Medline	Adv Orthop	1.127	21	38.2 – 12.3	25.9	11
Trouillier et al. [60]	Medline, Embase	Acta Orthop Belg	0.837	22	58.0 – 26.0	23.0	15.5
Pimenta et al. [58]	Medline, Embase	SAS Journal	0.800	23	55.5 – 19.3	36.2	5
Debnath et al. [64]	Medline	Asian Spine Journal	0.740	24	48.0 – 10.0	38.0	4
Lara-Almunia et al. [53]	Medline	Int J Spine Surg	0.430	25	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.

* mean of subgroups, † two-year follow-up, ‡ 4-week follow-up, § 6-month follow-up

Article name: Pain and disability after first-time spinal fusion for lumbar degenerative disorders: a systematic review and meta-analysis

Journal name: European Spine Journal

Author names: Niek Koenders, Alison Rushton, Martin L. Verra, Paul C. Willems, Thomas J. Hoogeboom, J. Bart Staal.

Corresponding author: Niek Koenders, niek.koenders@radboudumc.nl