

Questionable research practices in clinical trials

Herm Lamberink

University Medical Center Utrecht

Research team



Anneke Damen



Lotty Hooft



Pauline Heus



Herm Lamberink



Wim Otte



Joeri Tijdink



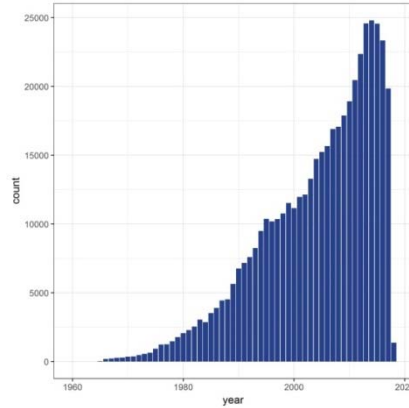
Christiaan Vinkers

Quality of trials



Figure 2.1 Evidence hierarchy: levels of evidence for different EBP questions.

Source: <https://nursekey.com/fundamentals-of-evidence-based-nursing-practice/>



Base of EBM

RCTs per year

quality

Methods

1

**download
RCTs**



2

extract information



Determinants

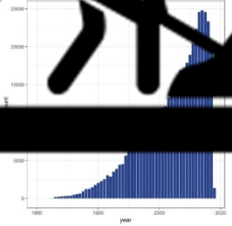
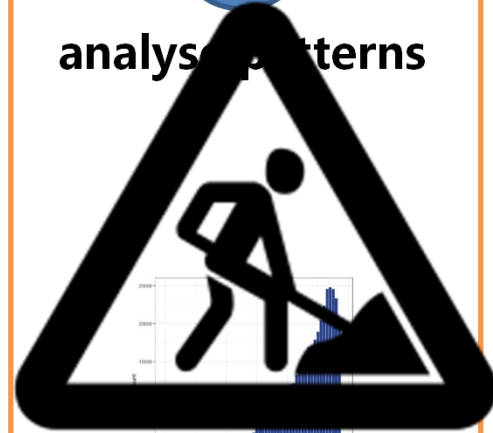
authors
journal
institute
trial

Outcomes

power
risk of bias
statistical errors
pre-registration

3

analyse patterns



Outcomes at a glance

Pre-registration ClinicalTrials.gov

Study power

- obtained sample size / planned sample size

Statistical errors

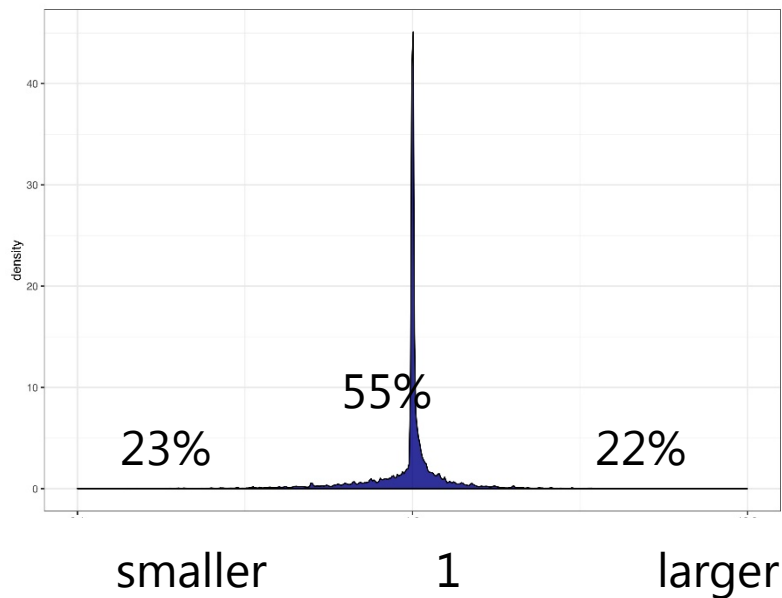
- StatCheck package in R
- Algorithm by Georgescu & Wren, 2018

Risk of bias

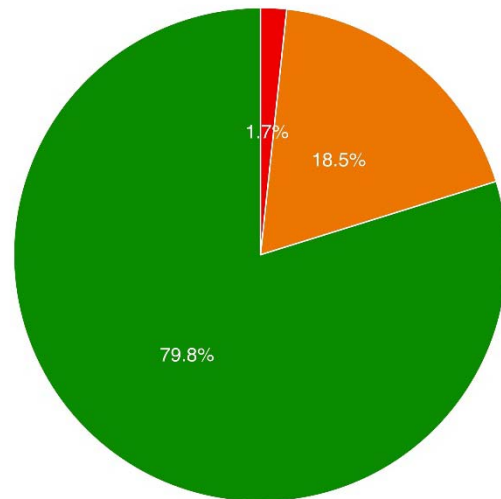
- RobotReviewer

Outcomes at a glance

sample size / planned size



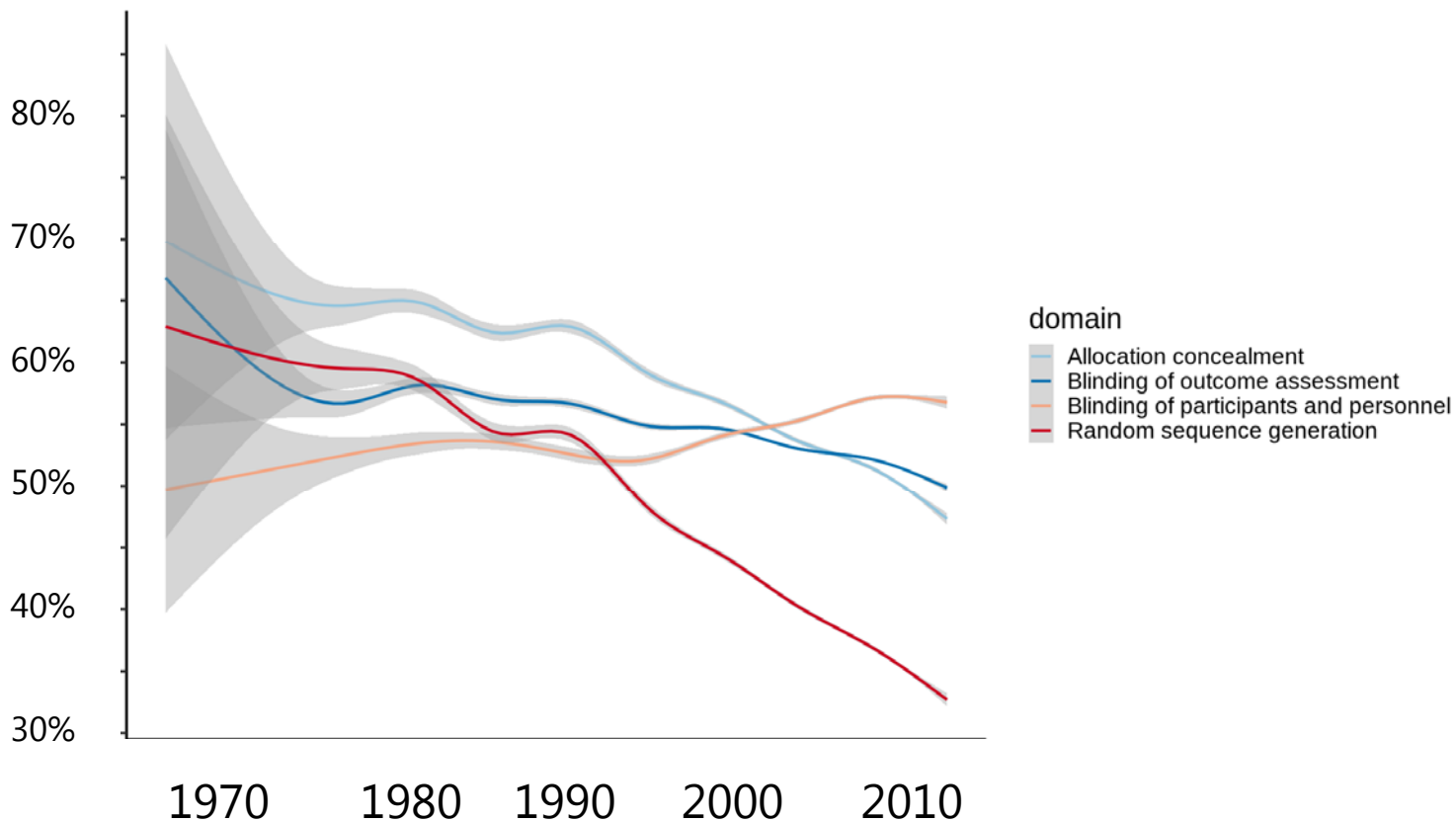
statistical errors



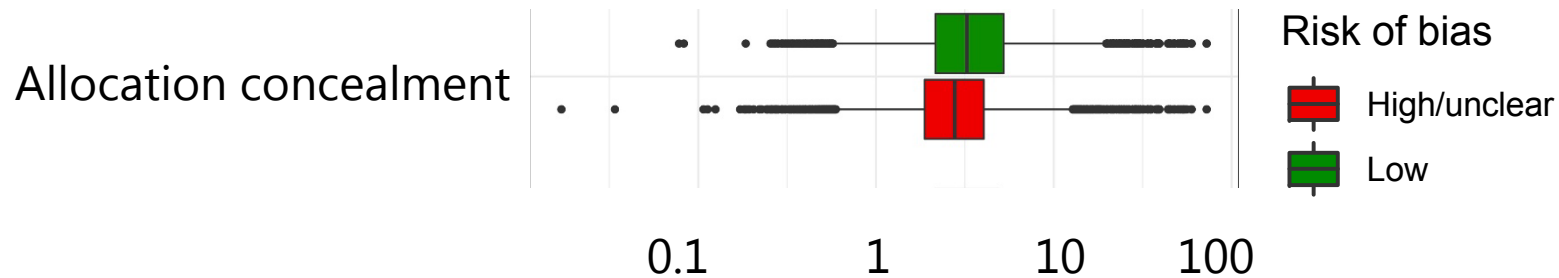
Outcomes at a glance



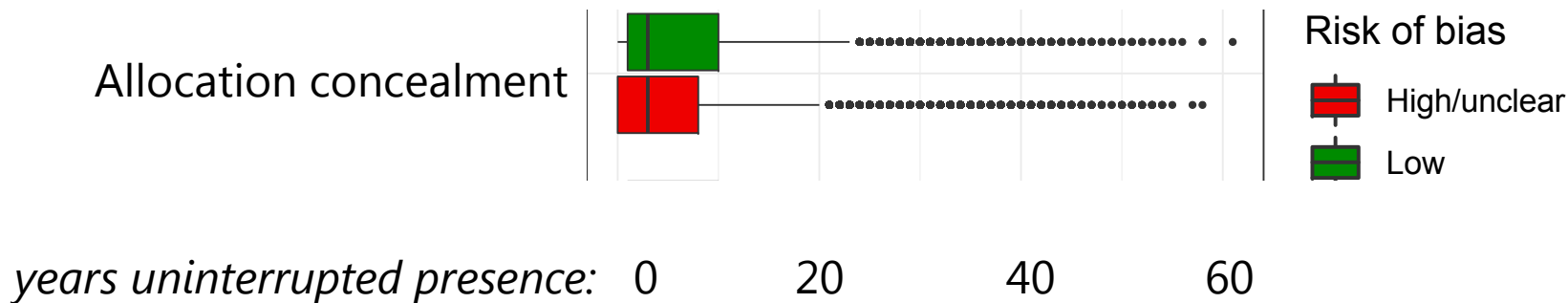
Probability
of
bias



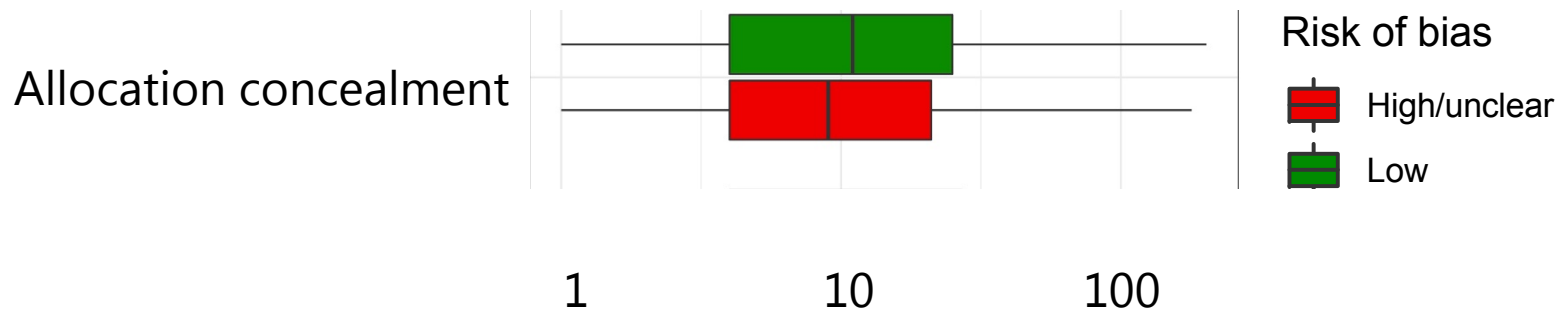
Risk of Bias & journal IF



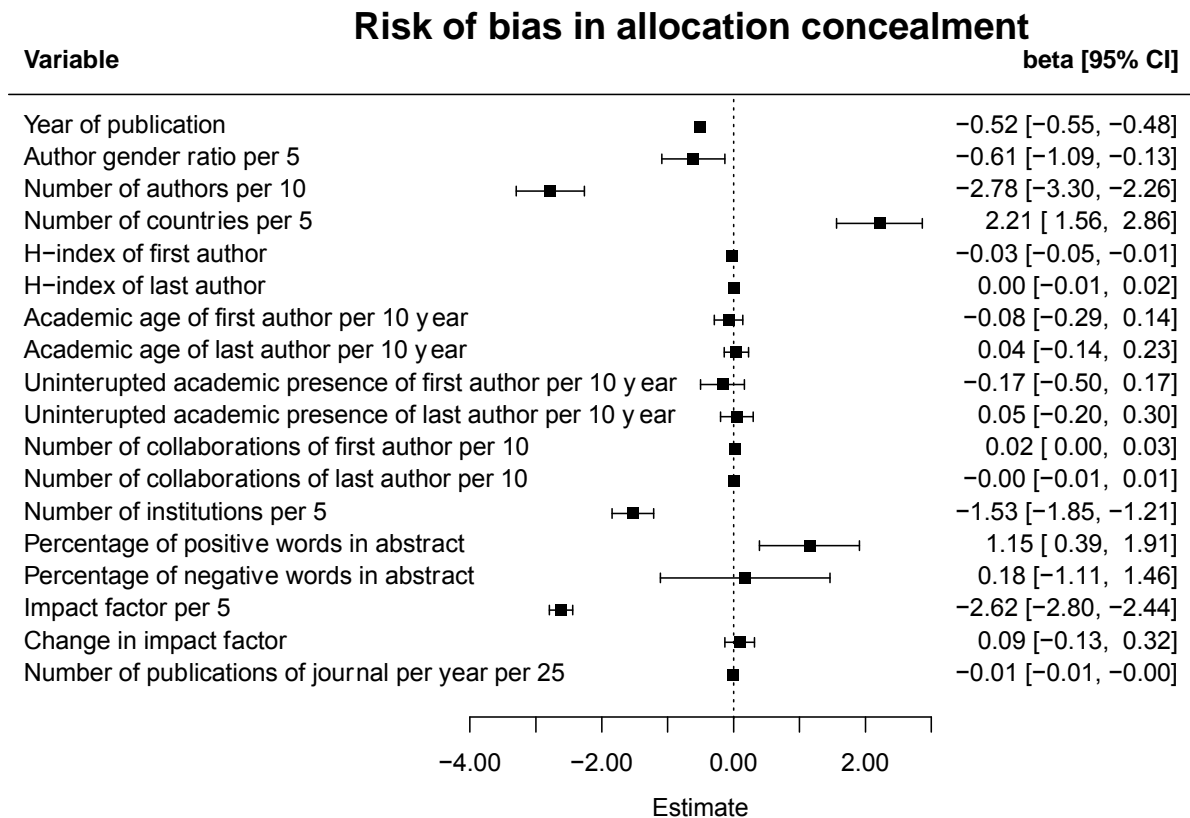
Risk of Bias & first author presence



Risk of Bias & first author H-index



Risk of allocation concealment - Multivariable model

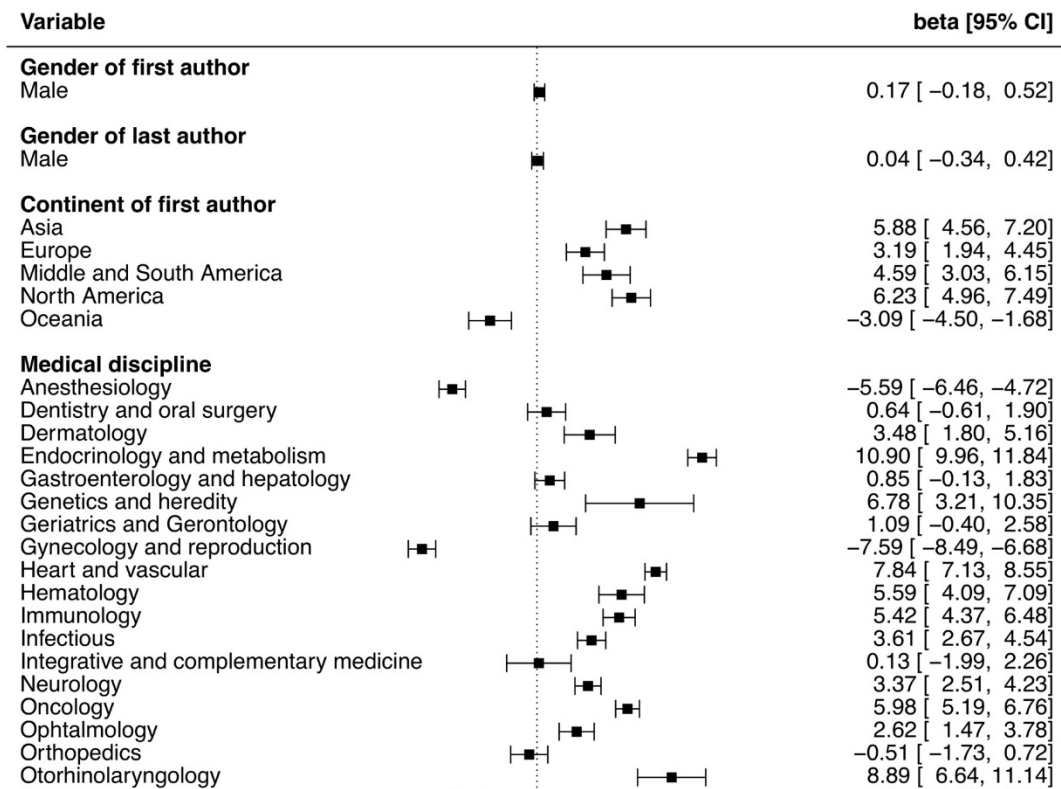


Selection RC

- Year: -0.5
- N authors: -2.8 per 10
- N instit.: -1.5 per 5
- IF -2.6 per 5

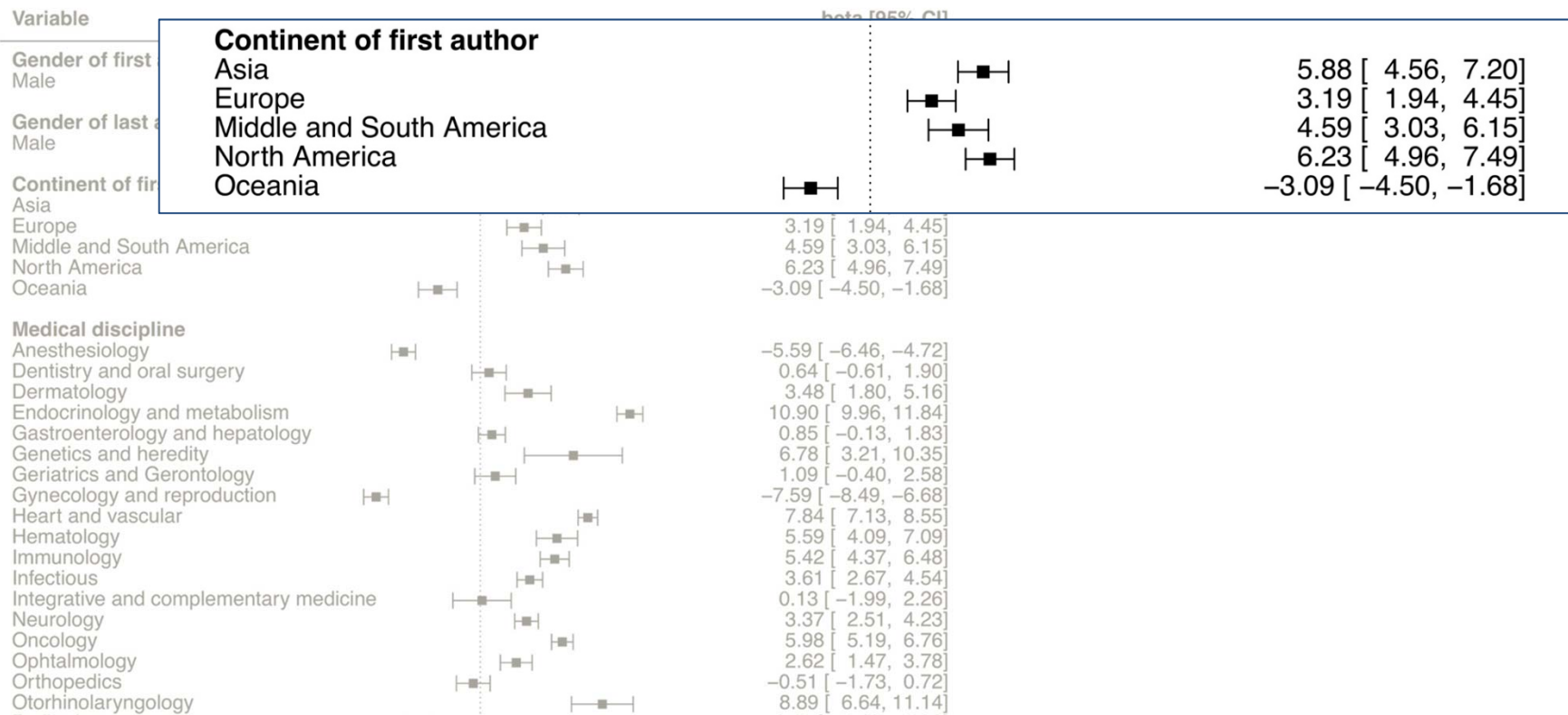
Risk of allocation concealment - Multivariable model

Risk of bias in allocation concealment

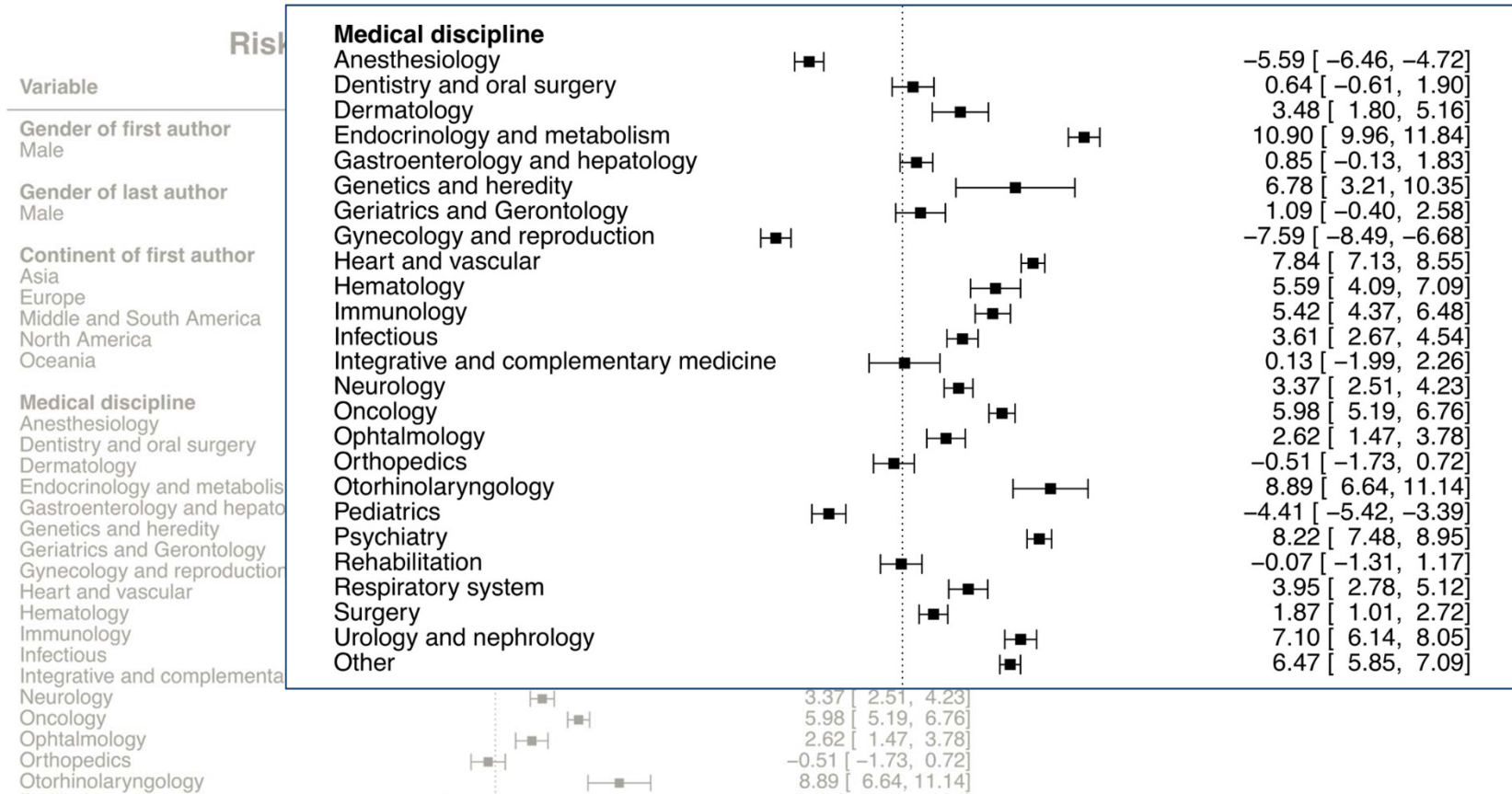


Risk of allocation concealment - Multivariable model

Risk of bias in allocation concealment



Risk of allocation concealment - Multivariable model



Summary

1. 20% does not reach planned sample size
2. 2% presents statistical significance errors
3. Risk of Bias decreased over time
4. Factors associated to lower RoB allocation concealment:
 1. year of publication
 2. number of authors
 3. number of institutions
 4. journal impact factor
 5. continent first author
 6. journal category
 7. publishing with a large publisher

Discussion

Work in progress

Decreasing RoB probability over time

? Better reporting or better trials

Number of authors & institutions

? Collaborations improve quality

Journal impact factor

? High IF journals ~ higher standards reporting

Thank you!

Core team



Anneke Damen



Pauliene Heus



Herm Lamberink



Joeri Tijdink



Lotty Hooft



Wim Otte



Christiaan Vinkers

Collaborators

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Daniele Fanelli

David Moher

Rob Scholten

Paul Glasziou



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