

## Supplementary Table 2.

Risk assessment of publication bias for the included RCTs

Criteria <sup>17</sup>	Schwarz et al. (2012) <sup>43</sup>	Schwarz et al. (2005) <sup>10</sup>	Persson et al. (2011) <sup>44</sup>	Renvert et al. (2011) <sup>45</sup>
Study type	RCT	RCT	RCT	RCT
Representative of general population	Y	Y	Y	Y
Allocation concealment method	Y	Y	Y	Y
Examiner masked	Y	Y	Y	Y
Calibration (intra/inter-examiner)	Y	Y	Y	N
Defined inclusions/exclusions	Y	Y	Y	Y
Appropriate statistics methods	Y	Y	Y	Y
All patients accounted for at the end of study	Y	Y	Y	Y
Analysis accounts for patient losses	Y	Y	Y	Y
Estimated potential risk of bias	Low	Low	Low	Moderate

Y = Yes; N = Not specified/unclear.