



Net-work Meta-analysis

網絡統合分析基礎訓練



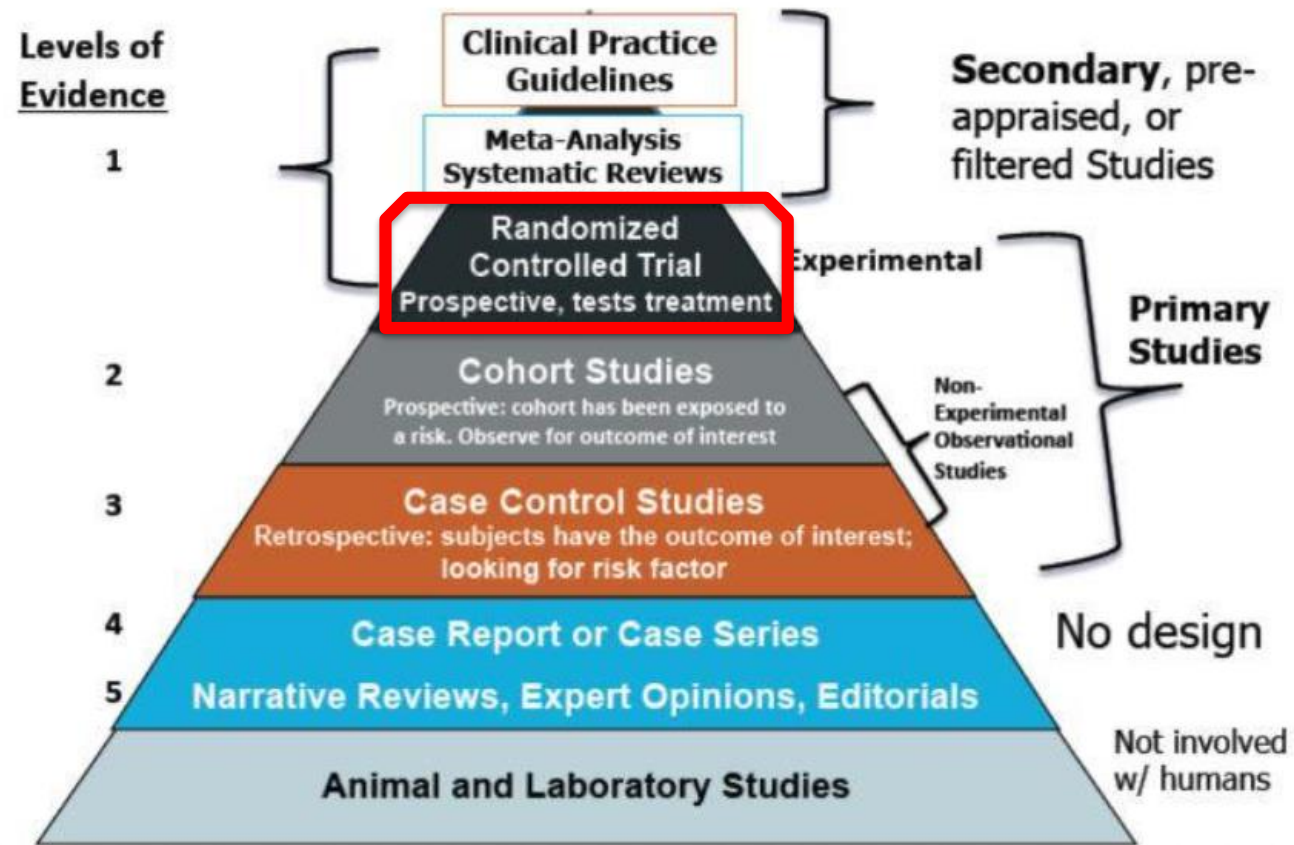
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實證醫學的證據等級

- 文獻的證據等級與研究設計相關

證據金字塔 → 隨機對照試驗 (RCT) :
Level 1 (Gold Standard)



實證醫學的證據等級

- 文獻的證據等級與研究設計相關
- 證據的等級：良好研究設計可以減少偏差的程度→**隨機對照試驗 (RCT)**

表一 Oxford證據等級與建議等級^{6, 9}

建議等級	證據等級	證據的型態
〔A〕	1a	同質性隨機對照試驗的系統性回顧
	1b	單獨的隨機對照試驗
	1c	如果沒有給藥的全部病人會死，給藥後會有一些病人存活；或是如果沒有給藥會有一些病人死亡，而給藥後就不會有病人死亡。
〔B〕	2a	同質性世代研究的系統性文獻回顧
	2b	單獨的世代研究
	2c	結果研究或生態研究
	3a	同質性個案研究的系統性文獻回顧
	3b	單獨的個案對照研究
〔C〕	4	個案發現報告或是品質較差的世代研究和個案對照研究
〔D〕	5	未經清楚且嚴謹的專家意見



為什麼要進行Meta-analysis?

統合多個臨床研究的樣本數和結果，證據力高
花費研究經費和人力相對低

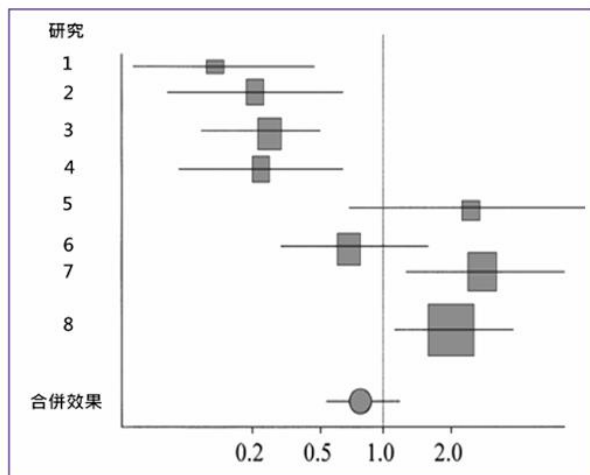
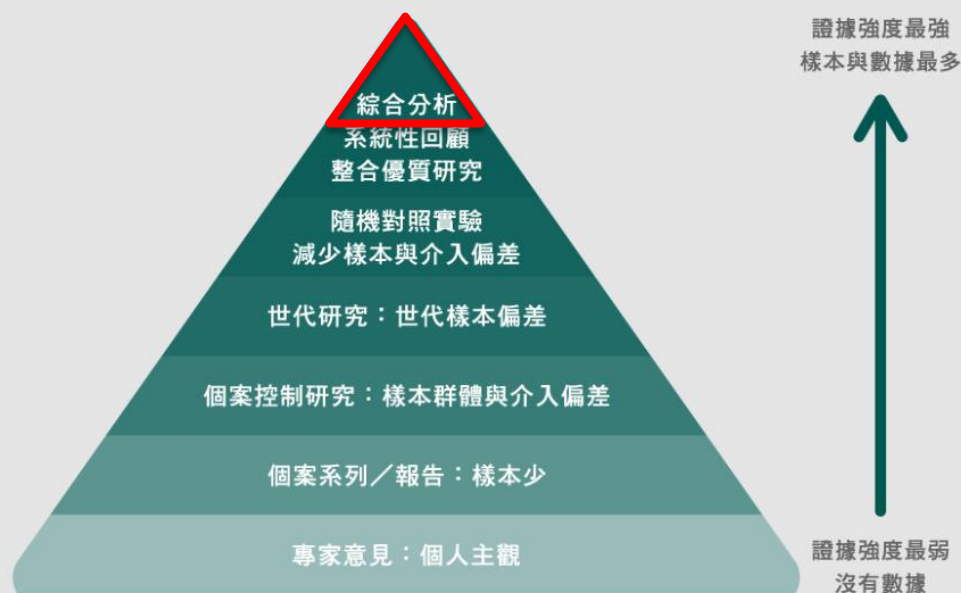


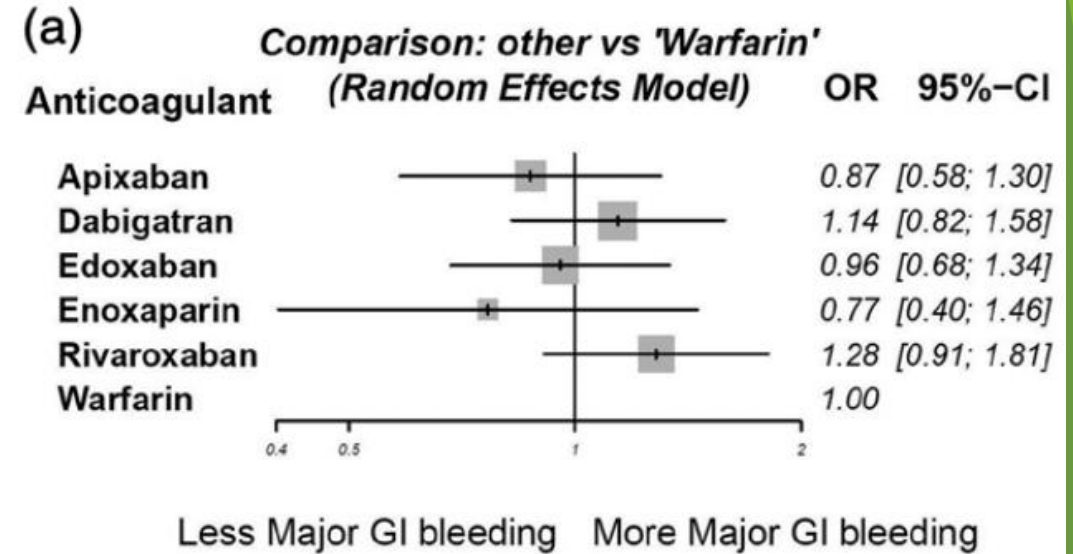
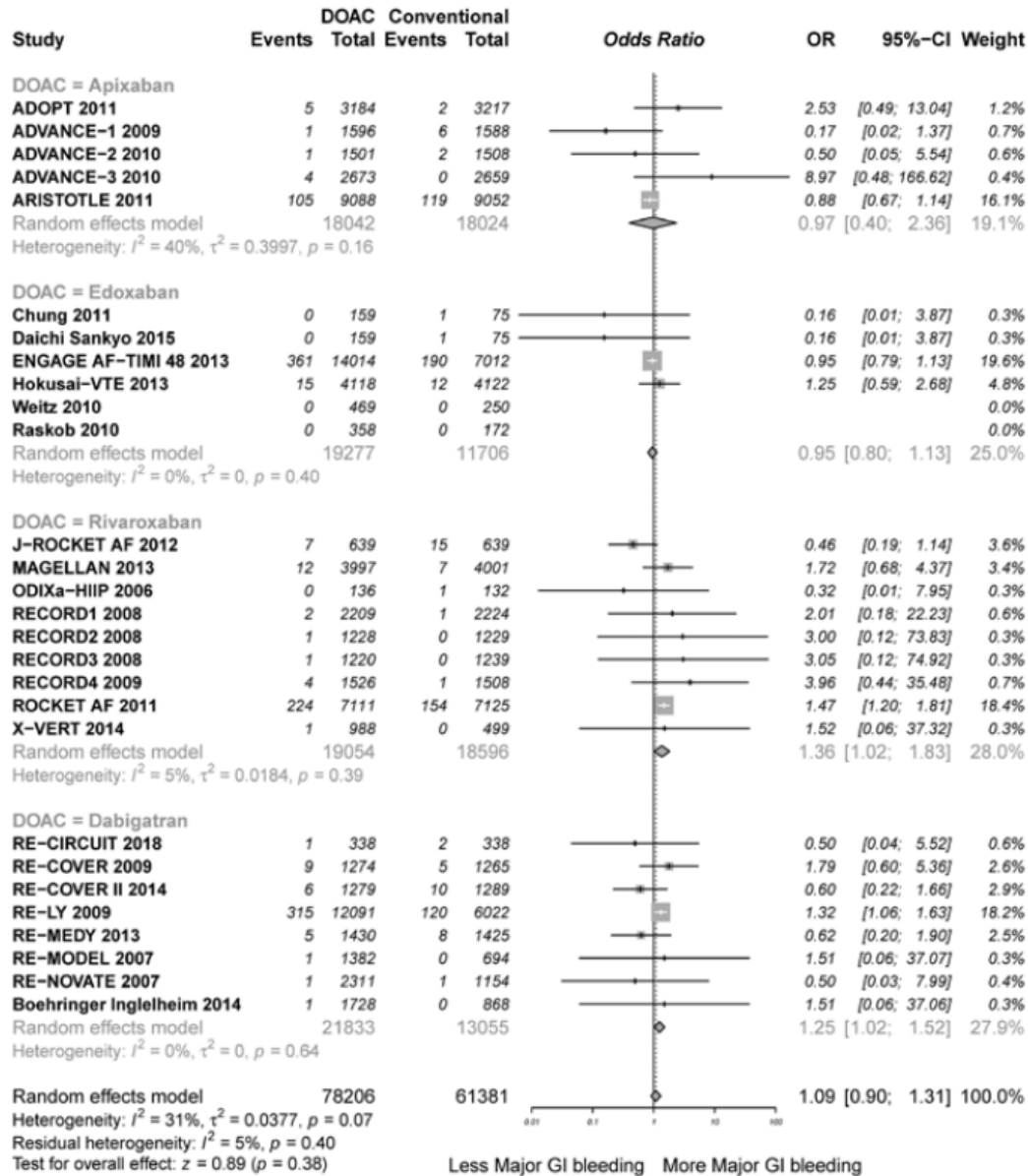
圖2 統合分析中呈現不同研究結果的明顯差異性

科學證據強度分級金字塔



Meta-analysis

Major gastrointestinal bleeding risk: comparison of DOACs Radadiya *et al.*



Quantifying heterogeneity / inconsistency:
 $\tau^2 = 0.0277$; $I^2 = 7.1\%$

Tests of heterogeneity (within designs) and inconsistency (between designs):

	Q	d.f.	p-value
Total	22.61	21	0.3654
Within designs	22.20	19	0.2746
Between designs	0.41	2	0.8153

Fig. 4. Forest plots of network comparison in reference to warfarin: (a) individual direct oral anticoagulants (DOACs) as groups

Fig. 3. Forest plots of direct pair-wise comparisons between direct oral anticoagulant (DOAC) and conventional agents: (a) subgrouped by DOAC type and (b) subgrouped by DOAC type and control type (W: warfarin, E: enoxaparin).

Network Meta-analysis

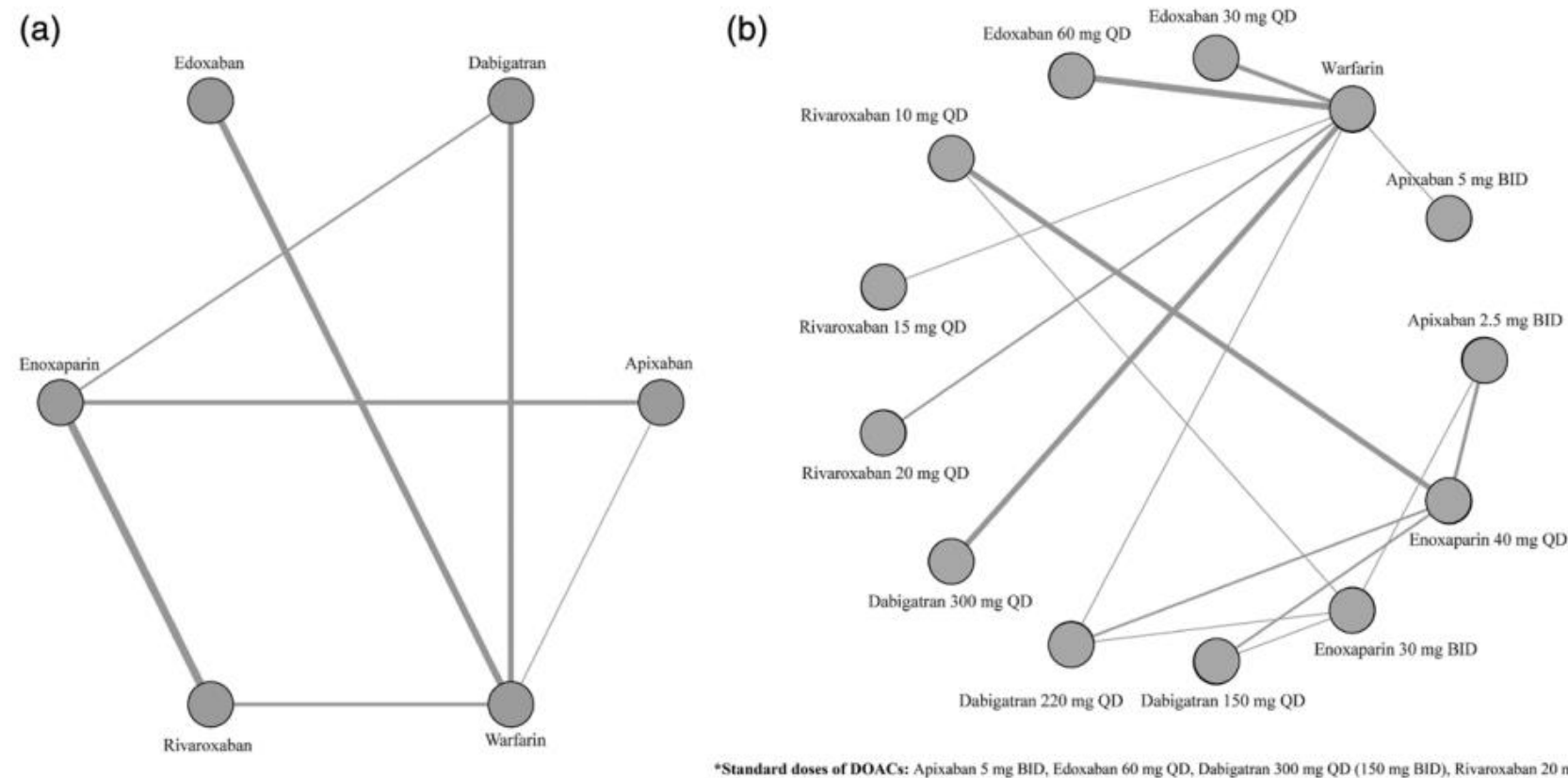


Fig. 2. Network graph showing direct comparisons available between anticoagulants (line width represents the number of trials for every pair): (a) anticoagulants grouped by type and (b) anticoagulants grouped by dosage and type.

安裝Network Meta-analysis相關套件

*從以下開始安裝

* **MA/NMA**

```
net from "http://www.homepages.ucl.ac.uk/~rmjwiww/stata/meta/"  
net install network.pkg, replace  
net install mvmeta.pkg, replace
```

* **Network plot**

```
ssc install netplot  
net from "https://clinicalepidemio.fr/Stata"  
net install network_graphs.pkg, replace  
net install metamiss2.pkg, replace
```

* **SE code**

```
net from "http://www.stata-journal.com/software/sj10-4/"  
net install st0043_2.pkg, replace
```

help network graph

```
SJ-15-4 st0411 . Visualizing assumptions and results in network meta-analysis  
..... A. Chaimani and G. Salanti  
(help network_graphs, clusterank, ifplot, intervalplot, mdsrank,  
netfunnel, netleague, netweight, networkplot, sucra if installed)  
Q4/15 SJ 15(4):905--950  
provides a suite of commands with graphical tools to facilitate  
the understanding of data, the evaluation of assumptions, and  
the interpretation of findings from network meta-analysis
```

Preparing for Analysis: 先設定長檔案 For binary (count) data:

```
import excel "C:\Users\VGH00\Downloads\20250610-Network meta-
analysis\long_data.xlsx", sheet("long_data") firstrow
```

```
network setup d n, studyvar (study) trtvar(trt) ref(A)
```

Data Editor (Browse) - [long_data]

File Edit View Data Tools

study[1] Alshryda2013

	study	d	n	trt
1	Alshryda2013	10	80	C
2	Alshryda2013	26	81	A
3	Barrachina2016	8	35	E
4	Barrachina2016	4	36	B
5	Barrachina2016	14	37	A
6	Benoni2000	9	20	B
7	Benoni2000	15	19	A
8	Benoni2001	4	18	E

d: number of events

n: total sample size

studyvar → study: variable of study title

trtvar → trt: variable of treatment

ref: A or Placebo

先設定檔案 for Network Meta-analysis

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network setup d n, studyvar (study) trtvar(trt) ref(A)

A	B	C	D	E
Placebo	IV_single use	IV_double use	Topical_use	Combination_IV_and_topical

```
. network setup d n, studyvar (study) trtvar(trt) ref(A)
Treatments used
  A (reference):      A
  B:                  B
  C:                  C
  D:                  D
  E:                  E

Measure              Log odds ratio

Studies
  ID variable:        study
  Number dropped:     1
  Number used:        24
  IDs with zero cells:
    - count added to all their cells: .5
  IDs with augmented reference arm:
    - observations added: 0.00001
    - mean in augmented observations: study-specific mean

Network information
  Components:         1 (connected)
  D.f. for inconsistency: 8
  D.f. for heterogeneity: 16

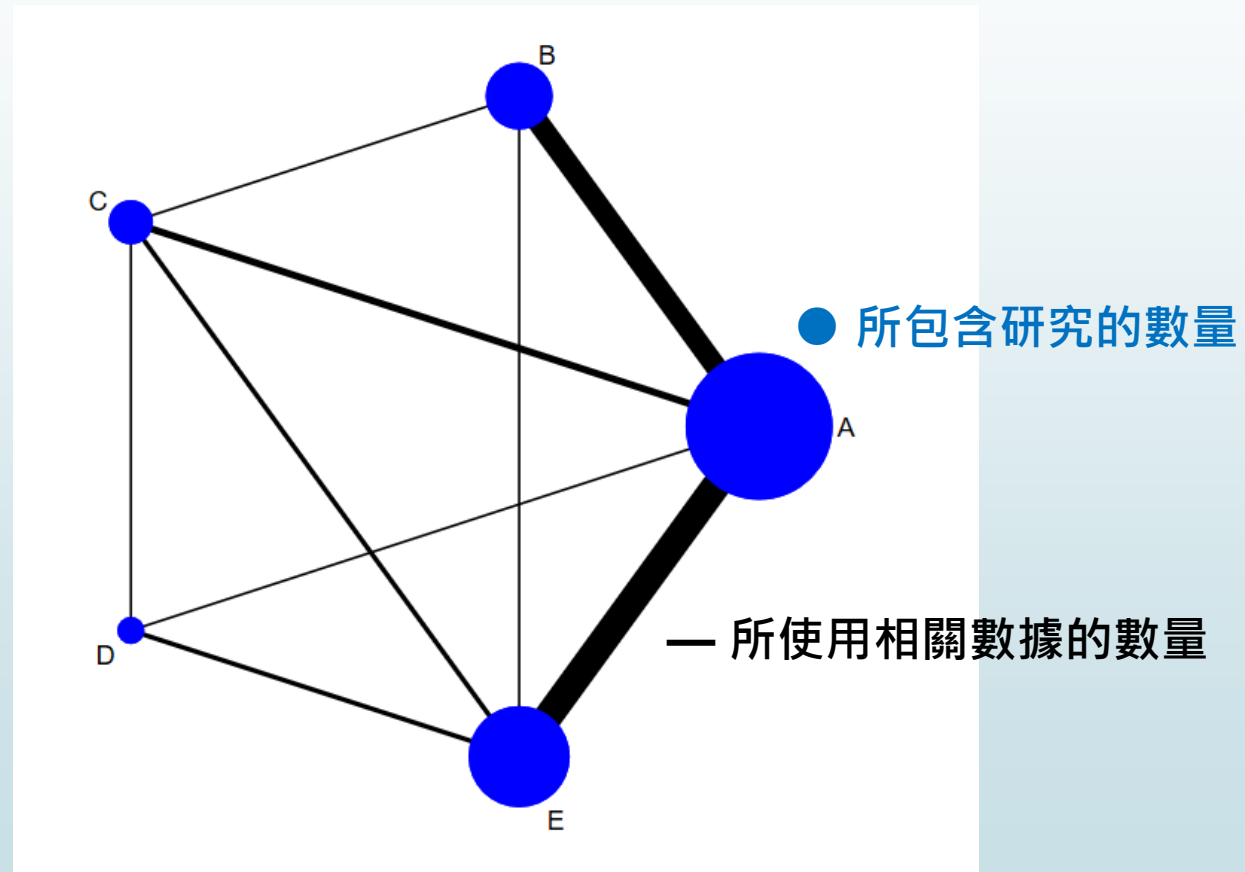
Current data
  Data format:        augmented
  Design variable:     _design
  Estimate variables:  _y*
  Variance variables:  _S*
  Command to list the data: list study _y* _S*, noo sepby(_design)
```

study[1]		Alshryda2013															
	study	dA	nA	dB	nB	dC	nC	dD	nD	dE	nE	_design	_y_B	_y_C	_y_D	_y_E	_S_B_B
1	Alshryda2013	26	81	.	.	10	80	.	.	.	.	A C	.	-1.1966735	.	.	.
2	Barrachina2016	14	37	4	36	.	.	.	.	8	35	A B E	-1.5830047	.	.	-.71995844	.39615683
3	Benoni2000	15	19	9	20	.	.	.	.	.	.	A B	-1.5224265	.	.	.	.51868687
4	Benoni2001	8	20	.	.	.	.	.	.	4	18	A E	.	.	.	-.84729786	.
5	Claeys2007	6	20	.	.	.	.	.	.	1	20	A E	.	.	.	-2.0971411	.
6	Ekb2000	1	20	1	20	.	.	.	.	.	.	A B	0	.	.	.	2.1052632
7	Fraval2017	6	51	1	50	.	.	.	.	.	.	A B	-1.8769173	.	.	.	1.2092971
8	Garneti2004	14	25	.	.	.	.	.	.	16	25	A E	.	.	.	.33420209	.
9	Hsu2015	9	30	2	30	.	.	.	.	.	.	A B	-1.7917595	.	.	.	.69444444
10	Husted2003	7	20	2	20	.	.	.	.	.	.	A B	-1.5781854	.	.	.	.77533578
11	Johansson2005	23	53	.	.	.	.	.	.	8	47	A E	.	.	.	-1.3184169	.

Step 1: Generating Network Geometry

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➡ Network plot: 輸入指令 **network map**



Step 2: Testing for Inconsistency

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➡ Global inconsistency Test 輸入指令 **network meta inconsistency**

```
Multivariate meta-analysis  
Variance-covariance matrix = proportional .5*I(4)+.5*J(4,4,1)  
Method = reml  
Restricted log likelihood = -34.684006  
Number of dimensions = 4  
Number of observations = 24
```

	Coefficient	Std. err.	z	P> z	[95% conf. interval]	
_y_B	des_ABE	-.2177834	.6846	-0.32	0.750	-1.559575 1.124008
	_cons	-1.365221	.269296	-5.07	0.000	-1.893032 -.8374108
_y_C	des_ACE	-.6561662	.6028711	-1.09	0.276	-1.837772 .5254395
	des_BC	.1947812	.6700162	0.29	0.771	-1.118426 1.507989
	des_CDE	.6167358	.974232	0.63	0.527	-1.292724 2.526195
	_cons	-1.070454	.3665995	-2.92	0.004	-1.788976 -.3519321
_y_D	des_CDE	.6929186	1.922747	0.36	0.719	-3.075596 4.461433
	_cons	-3.402272	1.051331	-3.24	0.001	-5.462844 -1.3417
_y_E	des_ACE	-.9961905	.7114154	-1.40	0.161	-2.390539 .3981581
	des_ADE	-.4487215	.7145929	-0.63	0.530	-1.849298 .9518549
	des_AE	-.2528214	.5704532	-0.44	0.658	-1.370889 .8652463
	_cons	-.7199583	.5262546	-1.37	0.171	-1.751398 .3114817

Estimated between-studies SDs and correlation matrix

	SD	_y_B	_y_C	_y_D	_y_E
_y_B	3.083e-07	1	.	.	.
_y_C	3.083e-07	.5	1	.	.
_y_D	3.083e-07	.5	.5	1	.
_y_E	3.083e-07	.5	.5	.5	1

Estimated between-studies SDs and correlation matrix

	SD	_y_B	_y_C	_y_D	_y_E
_y_B	3.083e-07	1	.	.	.
_y_C	3.083e-07	.5	1	.	.
_y_D	3.083e-07	.5	.5	1	.
_y_E	3.083e-07	.5	.5	.5	1

Testing for inconsistency:

- (1) [_y_B]des_ABE = 0
- (2) [_y_E]des_ACE = 0
- (3) [_y_C]des_ACE = 0
- (4) [_y_E]des_ADE = 0
- (5) [_y_E]des_AE = 0
- (6) [_y_C]des_BC = 0
- (7) [_y_C]des_CDE = 0
- (8) [_y_D]des_CDE = 0

chi2(8) = 4.09

Prob > chi2 = 0.8492

無法拒絕虛無假說

一致性 consistency 的水準可接受

Step 2: Testing for Inconsistency

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► Local inconsistency Test 輸入指令 **network sidesplit all**

```
. network sidesplit all
```

Side	Direct		Indirect		Difference		P> z
	Coef.	Std. Err.	Coef.	Std. Err.	Coef.	Std. Err.	
A B	-1.387832	.246631	-1.834588	.5000808	.4467555	.5475861	0.415
A C	-1.346768	.2878734	-.7355726	.4132222	-.6111958	.4901931	0.212
A D	-3.420298	.939617	-3.203182	1.005883	-.2171159	.9367965	0.817
A E	-1.08404	.1738511	-.7891631	.6352852	-.2948771	.6513169	0.651
B C	.4895483	.4919413	.2233391	.3632928	.2662092	.6115455	0.663
B E	.8919491	.655003	.3065194	.2968191	.5854297	.7146861	0.413
C D	-2.534345	1.25485	-2.009367	.9639263	-.5249778	1.320922	0.691
C E	-.0989284	.4620928	.1914716	.3474008	-.2904	.5783735	0.616
D E *	2.152297	.8813737	2.593058	1.087671	-.4407617	.8966076	0.623

無法拒絕虛無假說

一致性 consistency 的水準可

Because inconsistency was found to be absent in both global and local tests, the consistency assumption was accepted

Step 3: Creating Plots and League Table of Effect Size by Treatment

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➡ 先設定 **network meta consistency**
For network forest

```
. network meta consistency
Command is: mvmeta _y_S , bscovariance(exch 0.5) longparm suppress(uv mm) vars(_y_B _y_C _y_D _y_E)
Note: using method reml
Note: using variables _y_B _y_C _y_D _y_E
Note: 24 observations on 4 variables
Note: variance-covariance matrix is proportional to .5*I(4)+.5*J(4,4,1)
```

```
initial:      log likelihood = -49.494181
rescale:      log likelihood = -49.494181
rescale eq:   log likelihood = -41.242314
Iteration 0:   log likelihood = -41.242314
Iteration 1:   log likelihood = -41.138072
Iteration 2:   log likelihood = -41.13807
```

```
Multivariate meta-analysis
Variance-covariance matrix = proportional .5*I(4)+.5*J(4,4,1)
Method = reml                      Number of dimensions = 4
Restricted log likelihood = -41.13807 Number of observations = 24
```

	Coefficient	Std. err.	z	P> z	[95% conf. interval]	
_y_B						
_cons	-1.470223	.2250083	-6.53	0.000	-1.911231	-1.029215
_y_C						
_cons	-1.152938	.2422897	-4.76	0.000	-1.627817	-.6780585
_y_D						
_cons	-3.327687	.8504168	-3.91	0.000	-4.994473	-1.660901
_y_E						
_cons	-1.066367	.1694118	-6.29	0.000	-1.398408	-.7343258

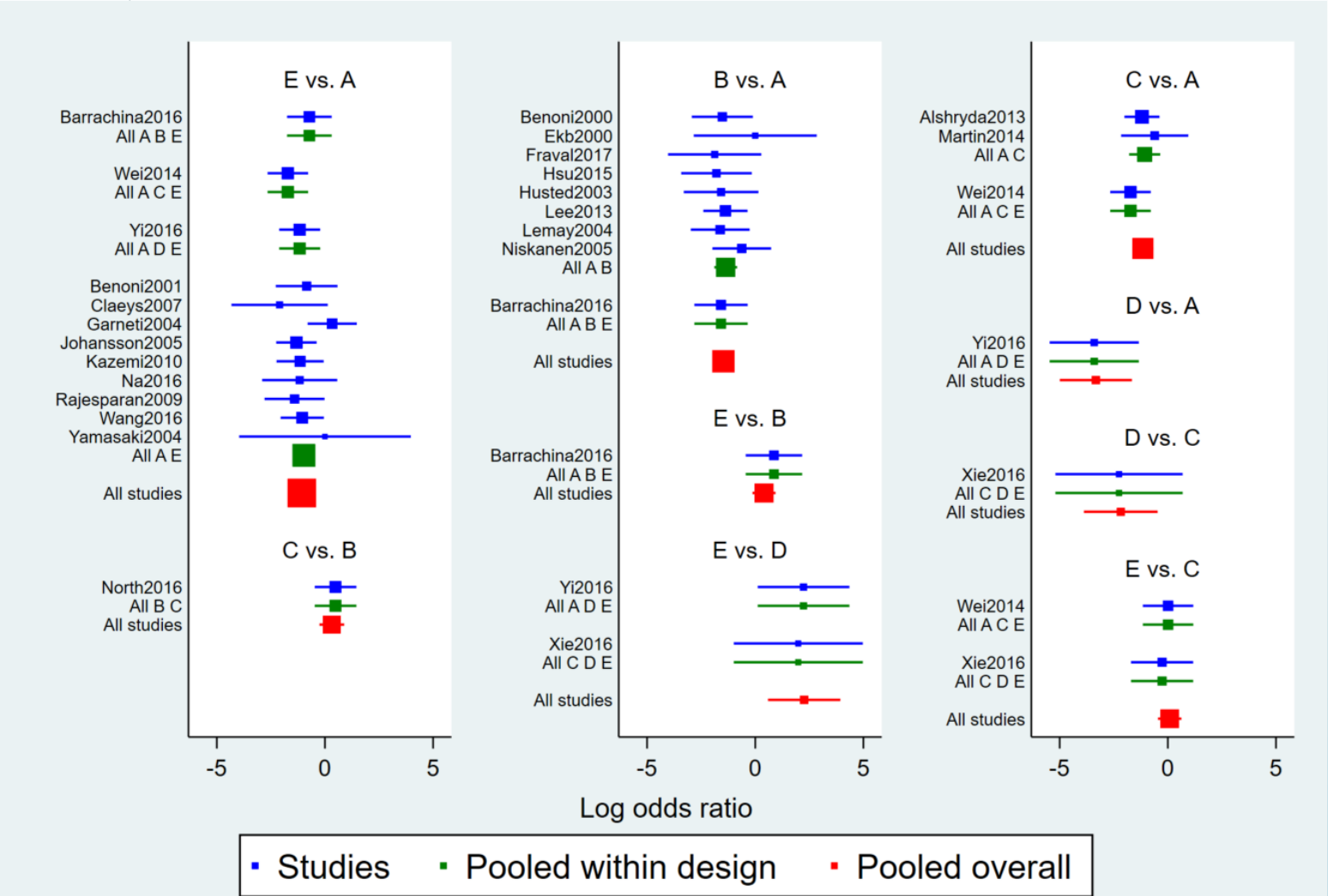
Estimated between-studies SDs and correlation matrix

	SD	_y_B	_y_C	_y_D	_y_E
_y_B	2.246e-07	1	.	.	.
_y_C	2.246e-07	.5	1	.	.
_y_D	2.246e-07	.5	.5	1	.
_y_E	2.246e-07	.5	.5	.5	1

Step 3: Creating Plots and League Table of Effect Size by Treatment

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Network forest plot (NFP) 輸入 :
network forest



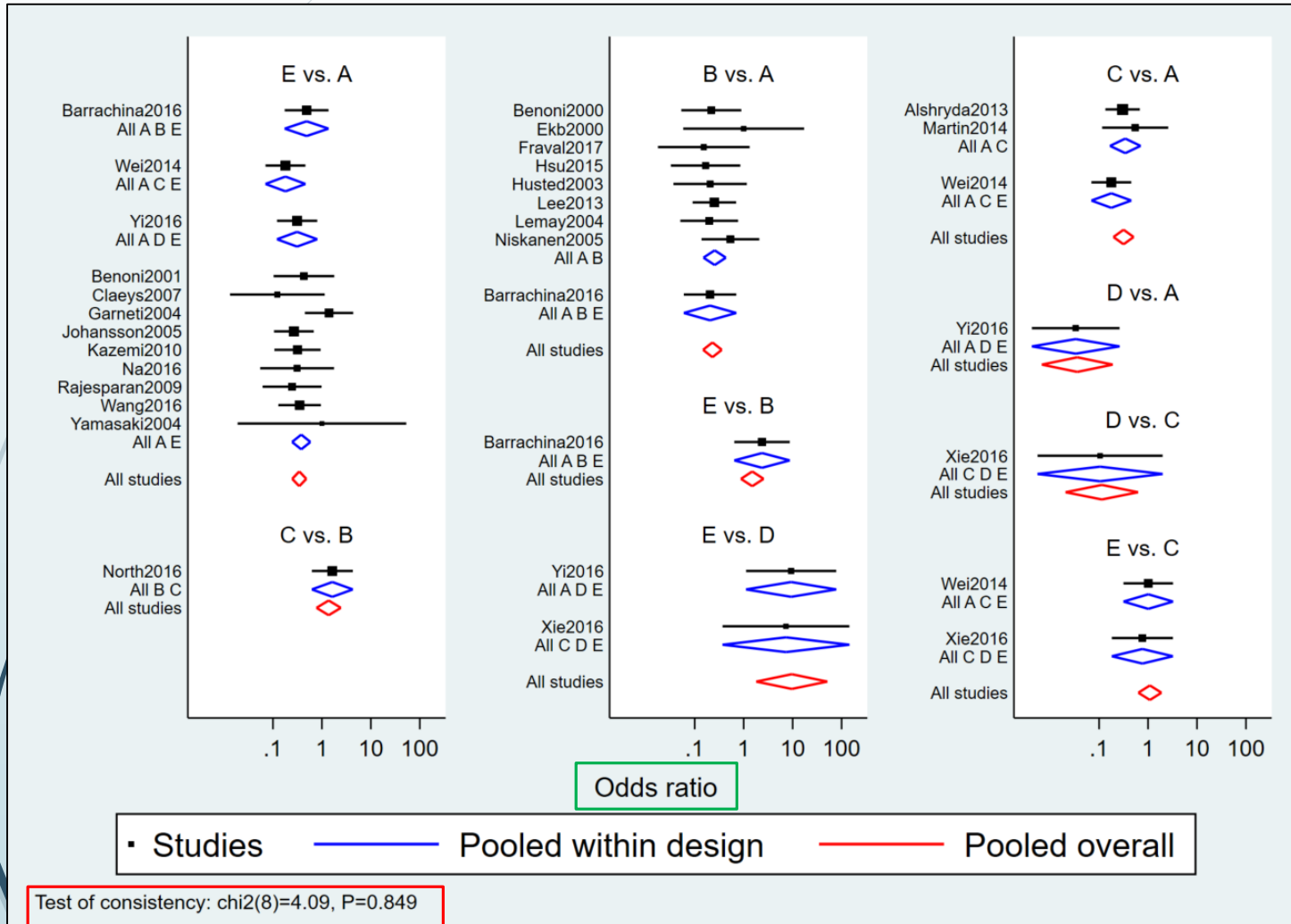
Test of consistency: $\chi^2(8)=4.09$, $P=0.849$

Step 3: Creating Plots and League Table of Effect Size by Treatment

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► Network forest plot (NFP) 輸入 :

network forest, msize (*0.15) diamond eform xlabel (0.1 1 10 100) colors (black blue red) list



<diamond> uses a diamond shape to show summary effect sizes

<eform> generates transformed indices to make it easy to interpret the forest plot

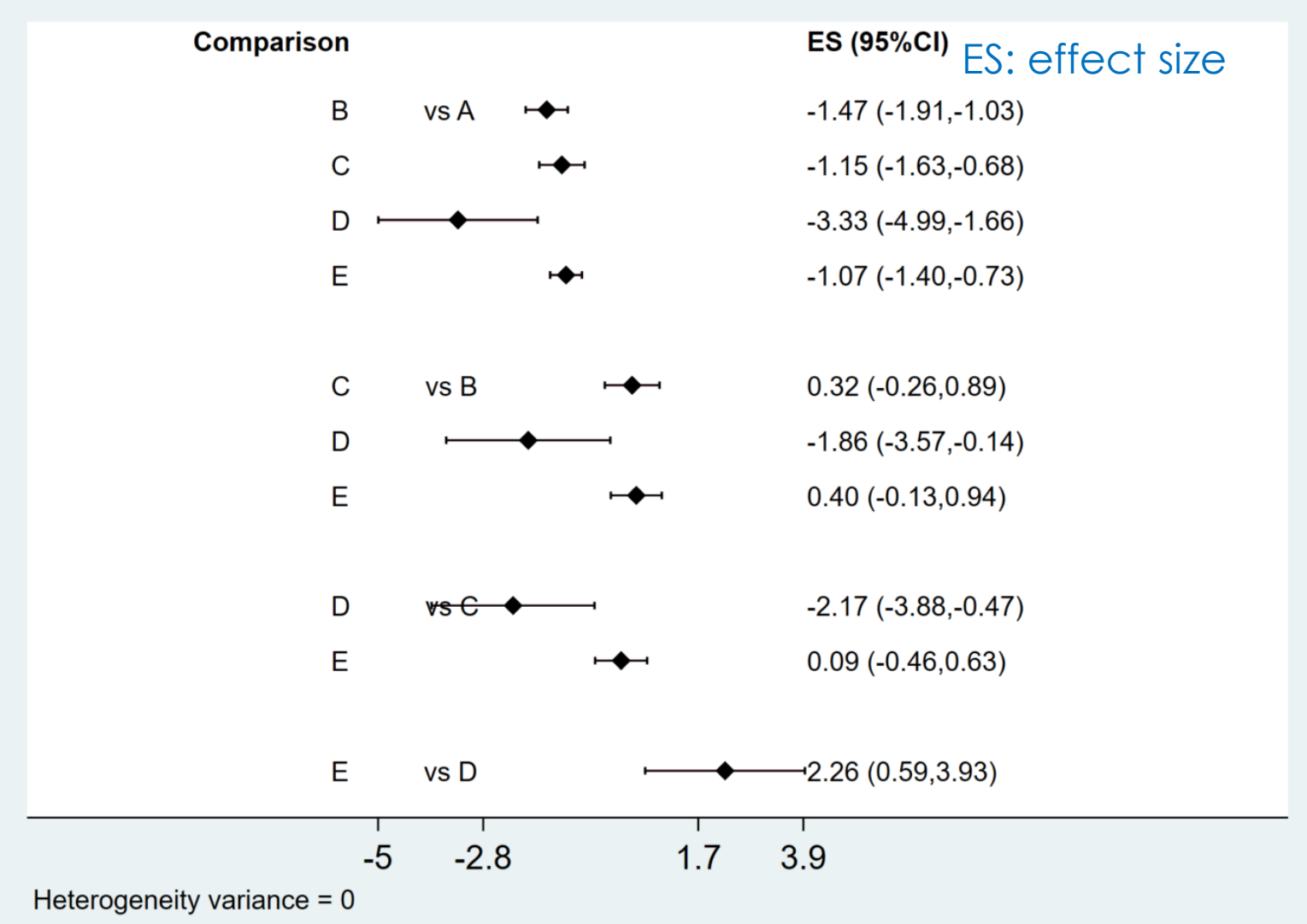
Global test on inconsistency

Step 3: Creating Plots and League Table of Effect Size by Treatment

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Network forest plot (NFP) 輸入 :

intervalplot

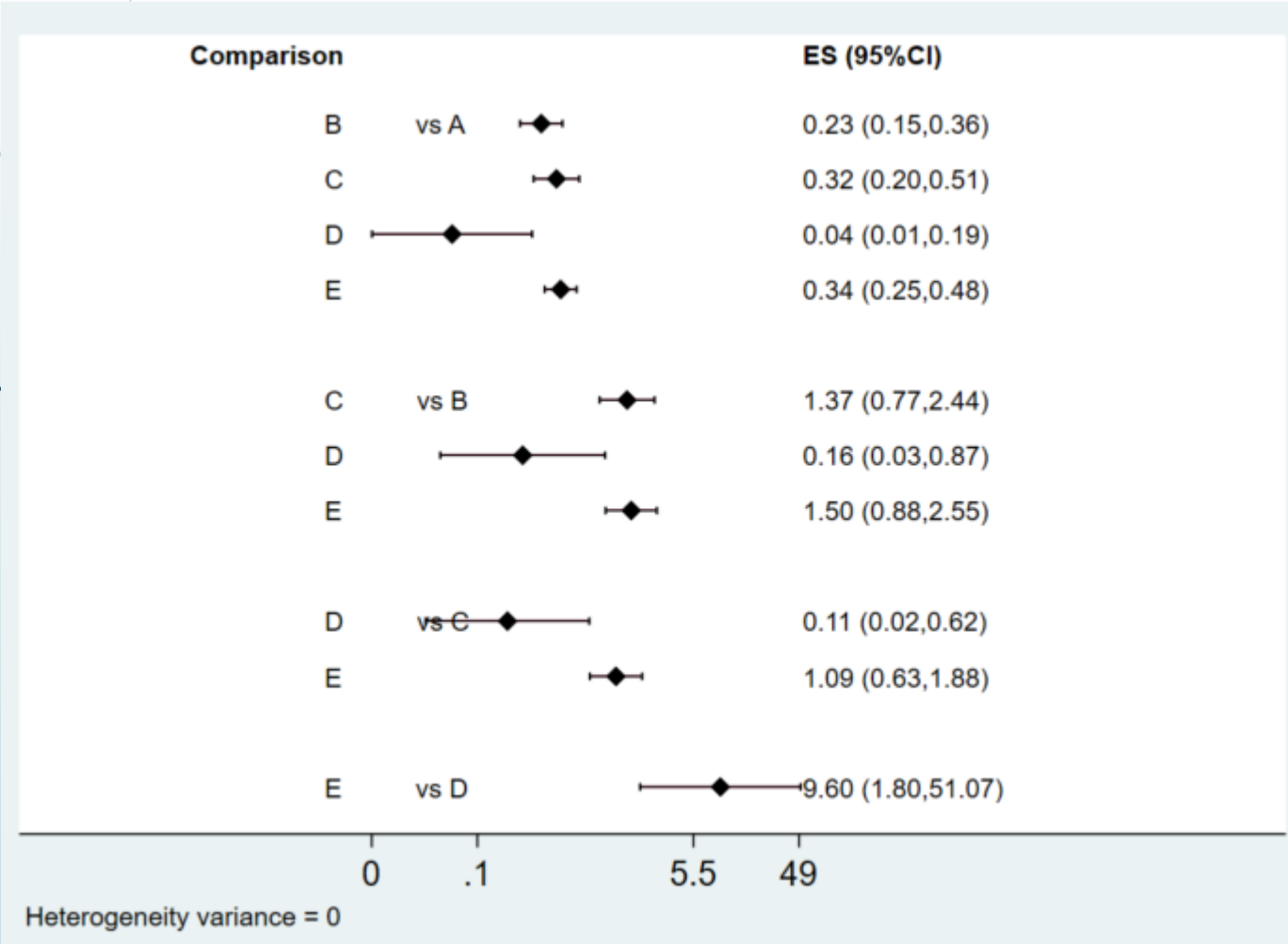


Step 3: Creating Plots and League Table of Effect Size by Treatment

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Network forest plot (NFP) and interval plot 輸入 :

`intervalplot, eform`



ES: effect size

`<eform>` generates transformed indices to make it easy to interpret the forest plot

Step 3: Creating Plots and League Table of Effect Size by Treatment

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► Network forest plot (NFP) and interval plot 輸入 :

`intervalplot, eform null (1) labels (Placebo IV_single IV_double Topical Combination) margin (10 8 5 10) textsize (2) xlabel (0.01 0.1 1 10)`

`intervalplot, eform null (1) labels (Placebo IV_single IV_double Topical Combination) separate margin (10 8 5 10) textsize (1.5) xlabel (0.01 0.1 1 10)`

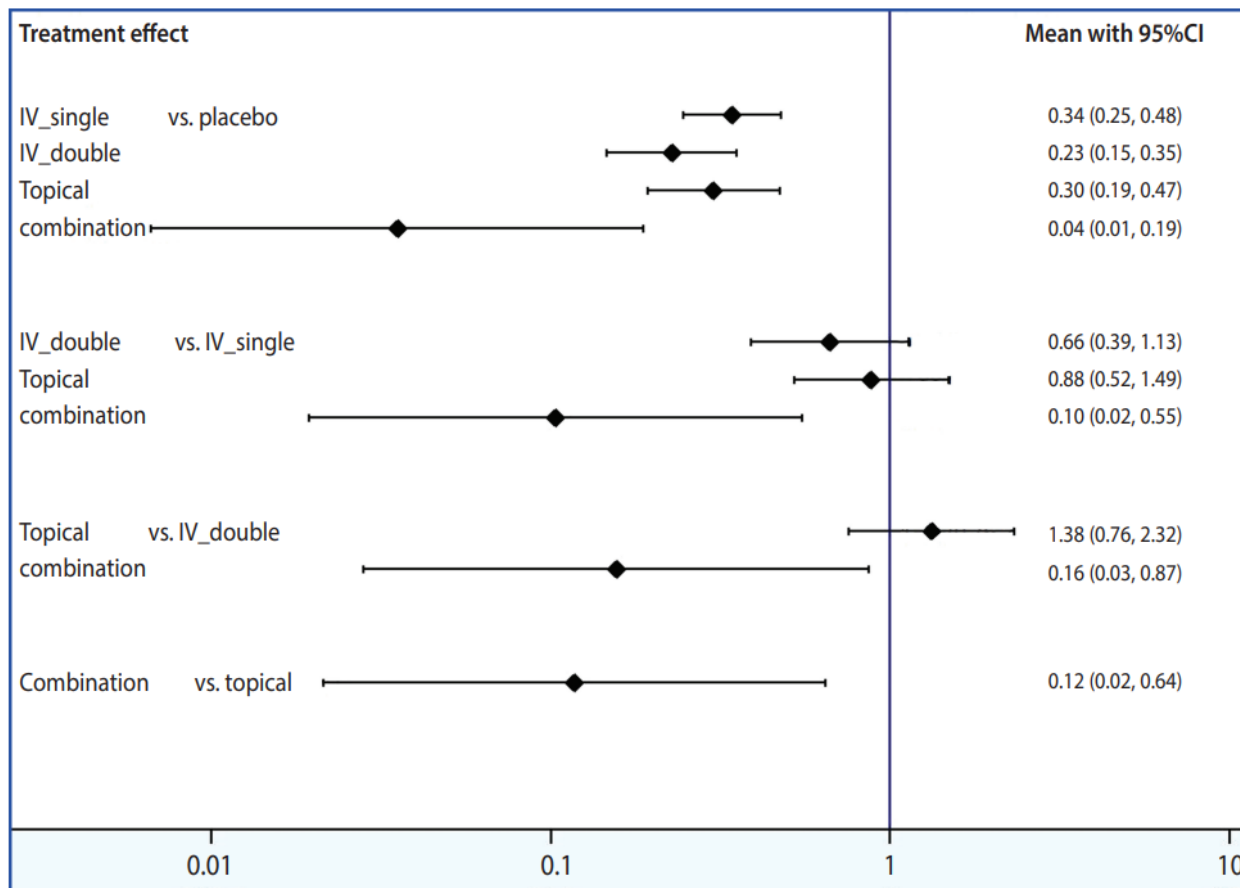


Figure 5. Interval plot.
CI, confidence interval.

<eform> generates transformed indices to make it easy to interpret the forest plot

<separate> and < margin> set the ranges to generate easy-to-read plots, the values of which should be appropriately determined by the user

Step 4: Determining Relative Rankings of Treatments

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- Identify superiority 輸入 :

network rank min

```
. network rank min  
Command is: mvmeta, noest pbest(min in 1, zero id(study) stripprefix(_y_) zeroname(A) rename(A = A, B = B, C = C, D = D, E = E))
```

Estimated probabilities (%) of each treatment having each rank

- assuming the minimum parameter is the best
- using 1000 draws
- allowing for parameter uncertainty

Rank	Treatment				
	A	B	C	D	E
Best	0.0	1.4	0.4	98.1	0.1
2nd	0.0	81.2	12.5	1.1	5.2
3rd	0.0	13.4	51.3	0.2	35.1
4th	0.0	4.0	35.8	0.6	59.6
Worst	100.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0

network rank max

```
. network rank max  
Command is: mvmeta, noest pbest(max in 1, zero id(study) stripprefix(_y_) zeroname(A) rename(A = A, B = B, C = C, D = D, E = E))
```

Estimated probabilities (%) of each treatment having each rank

- assuming the maximum parameter is the best
- using 1000 draws
- allowing for parameter uncertainty

Rank	Treatment				
	A	B	C	D	E
Best	100.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
2nd	0.0	3.0	33.7	0.3	63.0
3rd	0.0	13.3	54.2	0.3	32.2
4th	0.0	82.0	12.0	1.2	4.8
Worst	0.0	1.7	0.1	98.2	0.0

Step 4: Determining Relative Rankings of Treatments

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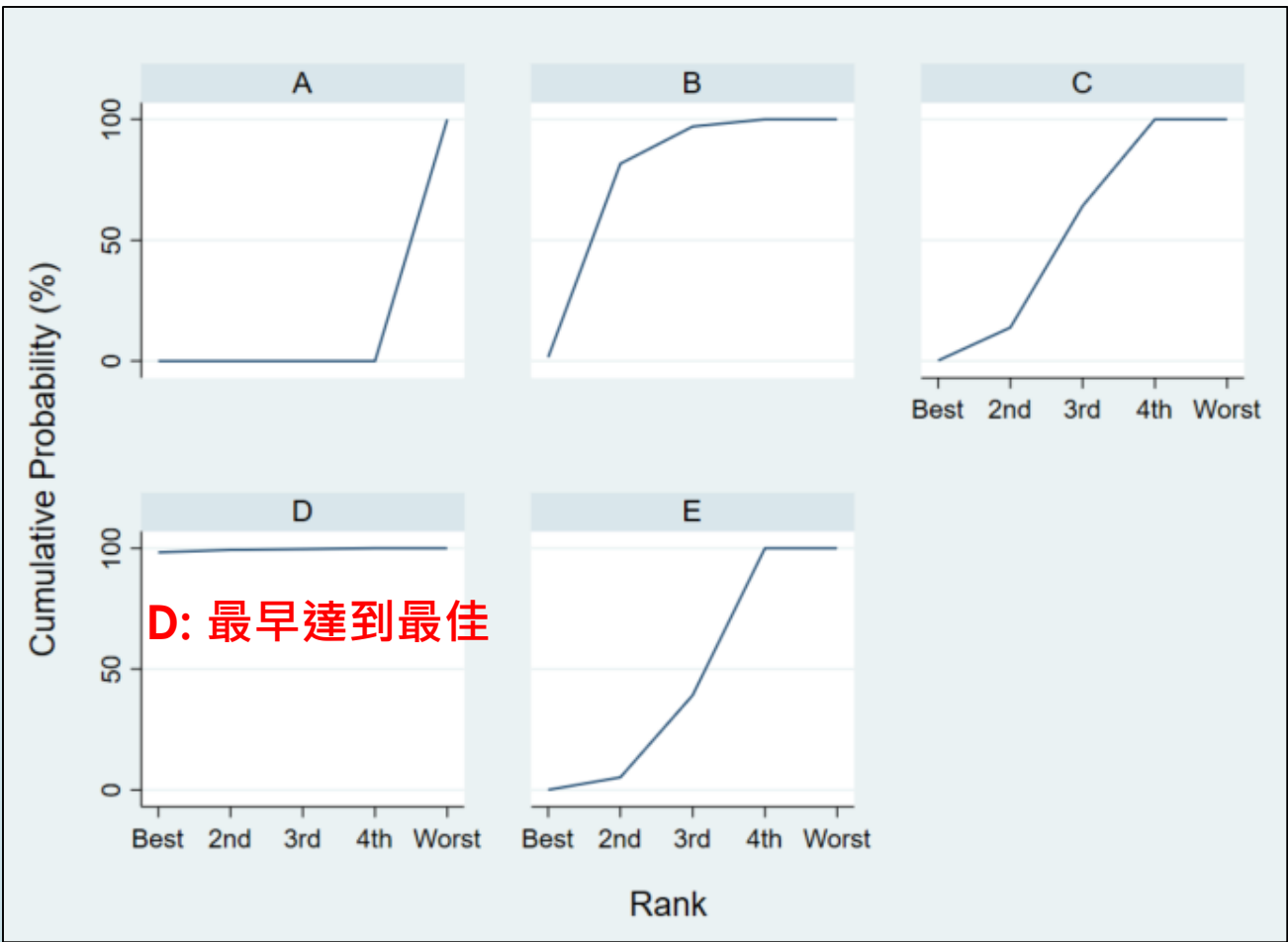
Identify superiority 輸入 :

network rank min, line cumulative xlabel (1/5) seed (1000) reps (1000) meanrank

Estimated probabilities (%) of each treatment having

- assuming the minimum parameter is the best
- using 10000 draws
- allowing for parameter uncertainty

Rank	Treatment				
	A	B	C	D	E
Best	0.0	1.5	0.2	98.3	0.0
2nd	0.0	80.1	13.7	1.0	5.2
3rd	0.0	15.4	50.3	0.3	34.0
4th	0.0	3.0	35.8	0.4	60.8
Worst	100.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
MEAN RANK	5.0	2.2	3.2	1.0	3.6
SUCRA	0.0	0.7	0.4	1.0	0.4



SUCRA: Surface under the cumulative ranking →
more precise estimation of cumulative ranking probabilities

Step 3: Creating Plots and League Table of Effect Size by Treatment

Step 5: Checking for Publication Bias

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```
import excel "C:\Users\VGH00\Downloads\20250610-Network meta-analysis\raw data f
> or drawing a network funnel plot.xlsx", sheet("工作表1") firstrow
```

► Comparative effect size (diff) and standard error (se) for each pair of treatment 輸入 :

network forest, msize (*0.15) diamond eform xlabel (0.1 1 10 100) colors (black blue red) list

```
. network forest, msize (*0.15) diamond eform xlabel (0.1 1 10 100) colors (black blue red) list
Warning: inconsistency matrix of fitted values not found - forest plot will be incomplete
Listing of results extracted from current data and saved network meta-analyses:
```

	t1	t2	design	type	studyvar	diff	se
1.	A	B	A B E	study	Barrachina2016	-1.5830047	.62940991
2.	A	B	A B	study	Benoni2000	-1.5224265	.72019919
3.	A	B	A B	study	Ekb2000	0	1.4509525
4.	A	B	A B	study	Fraval2017	-1.8769173	1.0996804
5.	A	B	A B	study	Hsu2015	-1.7917595	.83333333
6.	A	B	A B	study	Husted2003	-1.5781854	.88053153
7.	A	B	A B	study	Lee2013	-1.3783262	.52205333
8.	A	B	A B	study	Lemay2004	-1.6204877	.69403529
9.	A	B	A B	study	Niskanen2005	-.62415431	.69264847
10.	A	B		cons		-1.4702229	.22500835
11.	A	C	A C	study	Alshryda2013	-1.1966735	.41343569
12.	A	C	A C	study	Martin2014	-.6061358	.79296146
13.	A	C	A C E	study	Wei2014	-1.7266202	.47860044
14.	A	C		cons		-1.1529375	.24228968
15.	A	D	A D E	study	Yi2016	-3.4022721	1.0513314
16.	A	D		cons		-3.327687	.85041684
17.	A	E	A B E	study	Barrachina2016	-.71995844	.52625457
18.	A	E	A E	study	Benoni2001	-.84729786	.72784745
19.	A	E	A E	study	Claeys2007	-2.0971411	1.1361016
20.	A	E	A E	study	Garneti2004	.33420209	.57961088

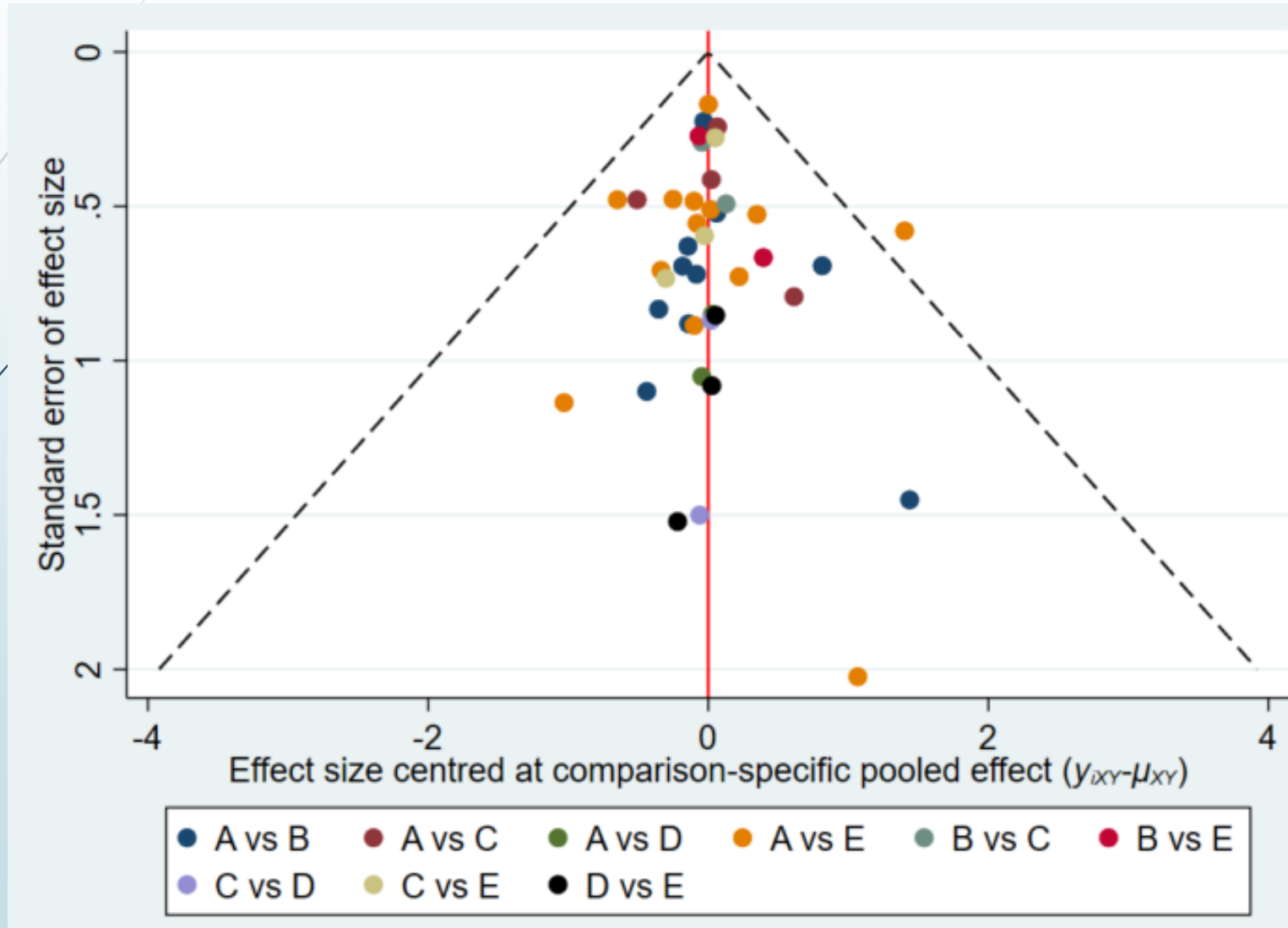
Step 3: Creating Plots and League Table of Effect Size by Treatment

Step 5: Checking for Publication Bias

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► Network Funnel Plot 輸入：

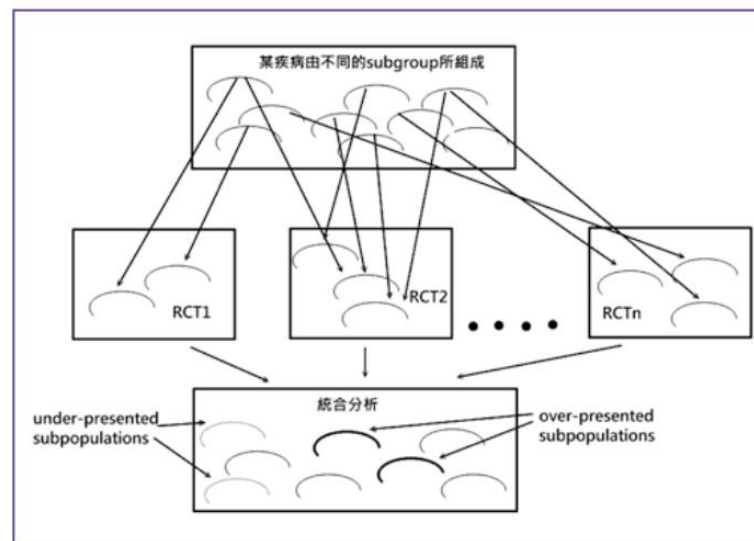
`netfunnel diff se t1 t2, random bycomparison`



總結

- ▶ 僅由單一個隨機分派研究的結果來下結論是一種比較危險的行為，萬一這個結果有隨機錯誤時（error by chance），我們就有可能對某個醫學議題造成誤判。
- ▶ 統合分析可以提供較客觀的整合分析結果，對於不合適的研究我們也可藉由敏感性分析將其剔除，而使分析結果更正確。
- ▶ 隨機分派研究與觀察性研究的證據強度（level of evidence）是不同的，我們在看一篇統合分析的論文時一定要注意所選取論文的研究種類、品質、和訊息強度。

統合分析和隨機分派研究論文結果牴觸的可能原因：
某些特定族群被過度呈現





Thank you for listening