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Table 1 Number of missing trials in meta-analyses estimated by trim and fill method and magnitude of change in outcome with random effects model

Study number*	No of trials	No estimated missing		Original pooled odds ratio (95% CI)	Adjusted odds ratio† (95% CI)	% reduction in outcome	% change in excess odds ratio
		Random effects model	Fixed effects model				
1	10	3	2	2.42 (1.57 to 3.74)	1.99 (1.32 to 3.00)	17.9	30.5
2	10	0	0	0.21 (0.08 to 0.53)	—	0	0
3	11	5	5	1.11 (0.89 to 1.40)	1.01 (0.82 to 1.26)	8.7	87.3
4	15	0	0	1.41 (0.77 to 2.57)	—	0.0	0.0
5	18	3	3	1.23 (1.03 to 1.45)	1.15 (0.98 to 1.36)	5.9	32.1
6	13	4	4	3.00 (2.37 to 3.80)	2.74 (2.13 to 3.53)	8.6	12.9
7	24	3	3	4.34 (2.85 to 6.61)	3.51 (2.24 to 5.52)	19.0	24.7
8	10	0	0	0.71 (0.39 to 1.27)	—	0	0
9	18	0	0	1.45 (1.14 to 1.86)	—	0	0
10	13	6	6	1.62 (1.17 to 2.24)	1.13 (0.79 to 1.63)	30.2	78.9
11	18	5	5	2.31 (1.95 to 2.75)	2.05 (1.70 to 2.47)	11.5	20.2

12	10	0	0	1.10 (0.61 to 1.99)	—	0	0
13	12	2	2	1.36 (1.01 to 1.82)	1.27 (0.94 to 1.71)	6.6	25.0
14	14	1	1	1.20 (0.88 to 1.62)	1.19 (0.88 to 1.61)	1.0	6.0
15	10	0	1	2.32 (1.97 to 2.73)	—	0.0	0.0
16	12	1	1	4.31 (2.53 to 7.35)	3.84 (2.23 to 6.62)	10.9	14.1
17	18	0	0	1.88 (1.57 to 2.24)	—	0	0
18	11	2	2	1.33 (0.94 to 1.89)	1.26 (0.90 to 1.77)	5.4	21.6
19	10	0	0	1.35 (0.92 to 1.98)	—	0	0
20	14	1	1	7.29 (4.29 to 12.42)	6.83 (3.99 to 11.70)	6.3	7.3
21	15	0	0	1.14 (0.88 to 1.48)	—	0	0
22	12	0	0	5.73 (2.89 to 11.38)	—	0	0
23	18	0	4	0.61 (0.35 to 1.07)	—	0	0
24	16	3	3	1.18 (0.81 to 1.74)	1.07 (0.70 to 1.63)	10.1	64.7
25	13	0	0	1.78 (0.67 to 4.71)	—	0	0
26	15	0	0	1.05 (0.88 to 1.26)	—	0	0
27	31	6	5	1.90 (1.57 to 2.31)	1.73 (1.40 to 2.13)	9.1	19.1
28	10	0	0	1.00 (0.69 to 1.43)	—	0	0
29	12	1	1	1.30 (1.05 to 1.61)	1.29 (1.04 to 1.60)	0.9	3.8
30	18	5	5	0.71 (0.41 to 1.23)	0.52 (0.32 to 0.86)	25.9	119.9
31	13	0	0	1.11 (0.87 to 1.41)	—	0	0
32	12	0	0	1.26 (0.90 to 1.77)	—	0	0
33	10	3	3	1.94 (1.29 to 2.93)	1.71 (1.15 to 2.53)	12.1	25.0
34	10	0	0	2.46 (1.72 to 3.50)	—	0	0
35	47	8	8	1.62 (1.46 to 1.80)	1.49 (1.32 to 1.68)	7.9	20.6
36	16	0	0	1.72 (1.40 to 2.12)	—	0	0
37	10	0	0	1.93 (1.52 to 2.47)	—	0	0
38	19	0	0	1.86 (1.41 to 2.12)	—	0	0

39	22	0	0	1.40 (1.03 to 1.90)	—	0	0
40	11	0	0	1.13 (0.76 to 1.66)	—	0	0
41	12	1	2	1.38 (1.10 to 1.73)	1.37 (1.09 to 1.73)	0.7	2.5
42	11	0	0	3.38 (1.75 to 6.51)	—	0	0
43	11	0	0	0.80 (0.63 to 1.00)	—	0	0
44	16	3	3	1.25 (1.06 to 1.49)	1.19 (1.00 to 1.41)	5.2	25.4
45	11	0	4	2.50 (1.74 to 3.60)	—	0	0
46	18	1	1	1.08 (0.97 to 1.21)	1.07 (0.95 to 1.20)	1.1	14.6
47	17	4	4	3.47 (2.12 to 5.67)	2.51 (1.48 to 4.26)	27.7	38.9
48	10	1	1	0.94 (0.42 to 2.11)	0.79 (0.35 to 1.80)	15.5	295.1

* Corresponding to numbers on funnel plots in figure 2.

† Adjusted by trim and fill method with random effects model.

Figure 1

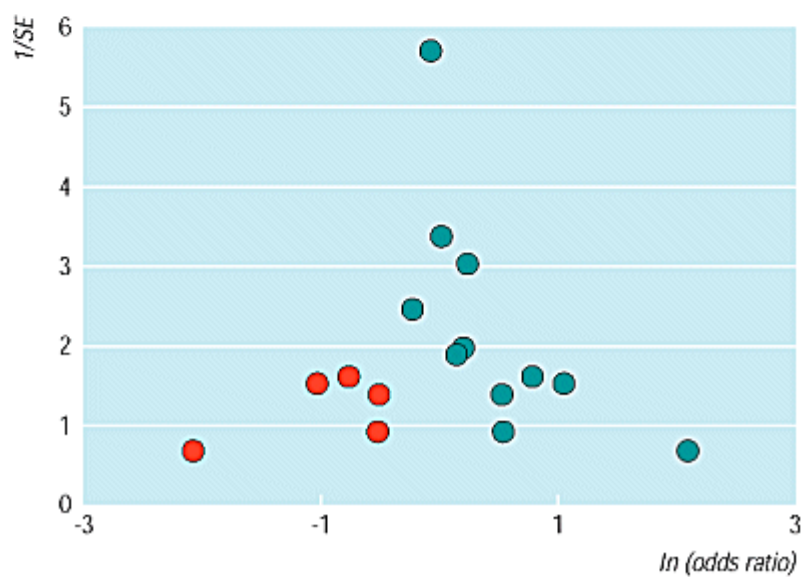
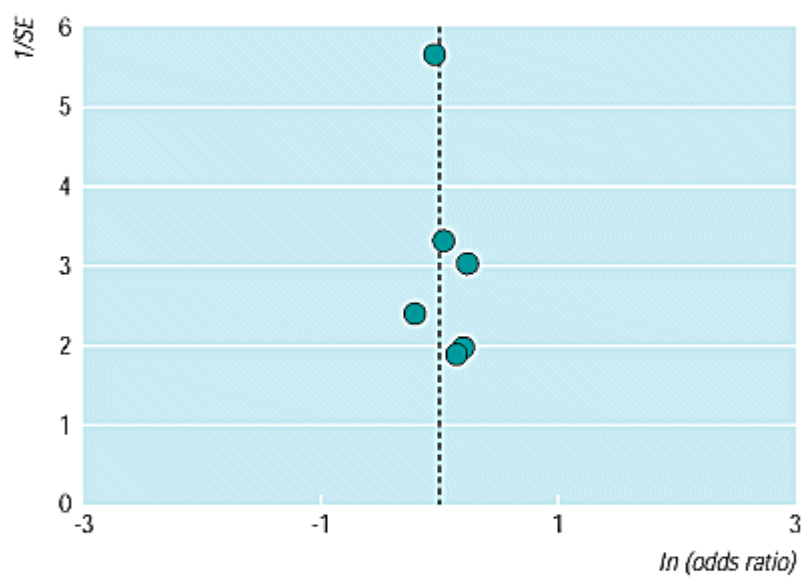
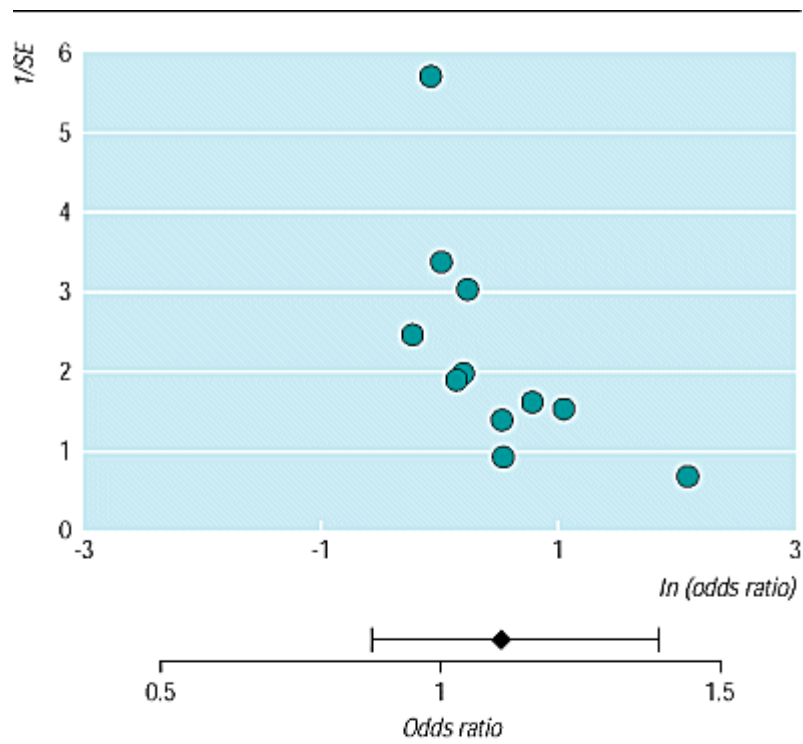
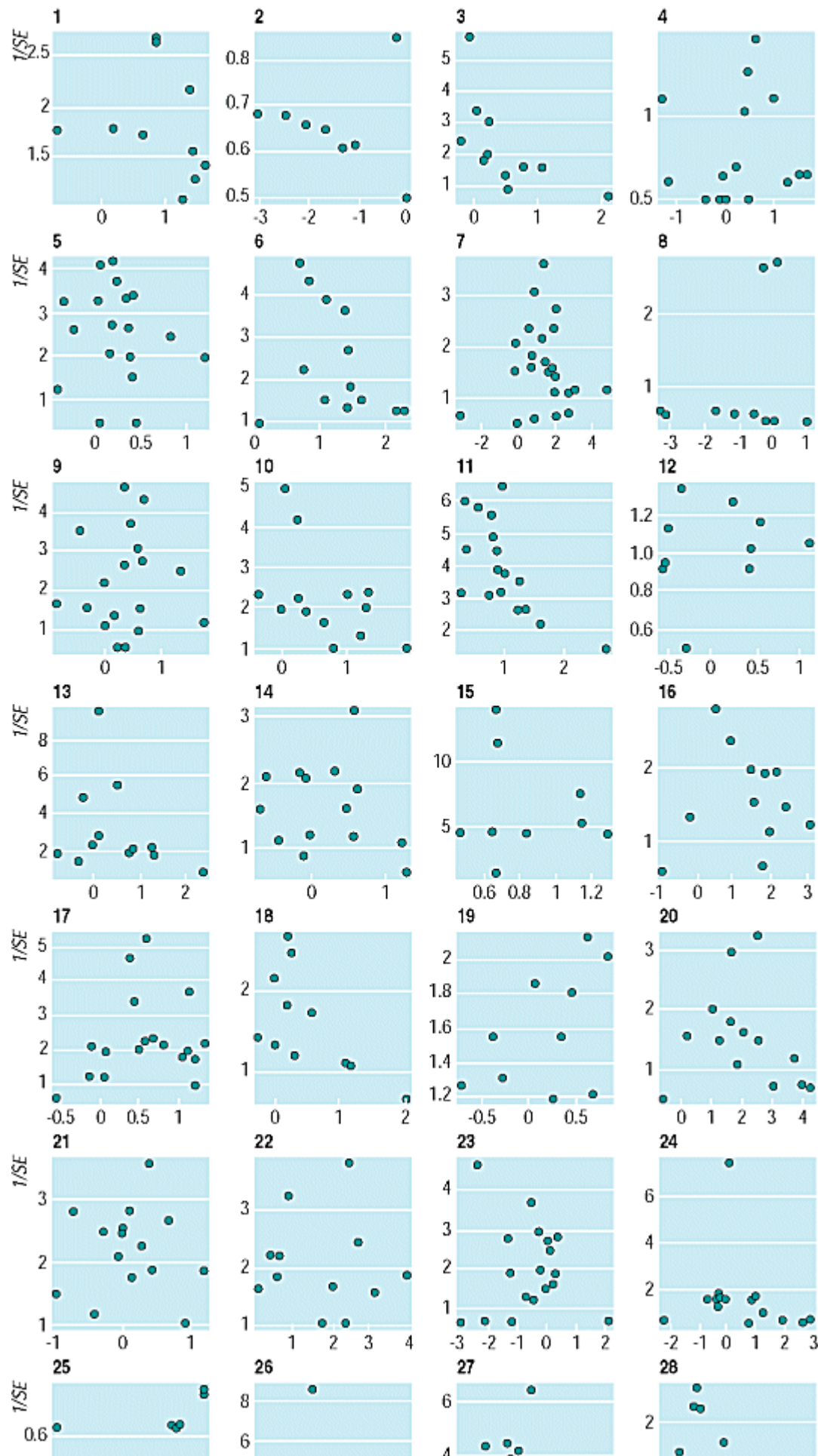


Illustration of trim and fill method on meta-analysis of effect of gangliosides on mortality from stroke. (Top) original funnel plot; (middle) plot with asymmetric trials trimmed and weighted mean of remaining studies calculated; (bottom) funnel is filled with imputed trials allowing a 95% confidence interval to be calculated for adjusted pooled estimate

Figure 2



Funnel plots of 48 meta-analyses included in assessment. Scales vary between datasets since analysis does not compare reviews

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