Publication and related biases: a review
Song F, Eastwood A J, Gilbody S, Duley L, Sutton A J

Record Status
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Citation

Authors' objectives
This review aims to identify systematically and appraise studies that have examined methodological issues and provide empirical evidence about publication bias and other dissemination-related biases, including biases due to the time, type and language of publication, multiple publication, selective citation of references, database index bias, and biased media attention. The review seeks to answer the following questions: - What empirical evidence is available on the existence and consequences of publication and related biases? - What are the causes and risk factors of publication and related biases? - What methods have been developed and how useful are these methods for preventing, detecting and correcting publication and related biases?

Authors' conclusions
Although the extent, direction and impact of publication and related biases are uncertain and may vary greatly depending on circumstances, it seems reasonable to conclude that studies with significant or favourable results are more widely disseminated than those with non-significant or unfavourable results. The potential problem of publication and related biases should be taken into consideration in the field of health technology assessment. All funded or approved studies should be prospectively registered. The risk of publication bias should be assessed in all systematic reviews.

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Address for correspondence
NETSCC, Health Technology Assessment, Alpha House, University of Southampton Science Park, Southampton, SO16 7NS UK Tel: +44 23 8059 5586 Email: hta@hta.ac.uk

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