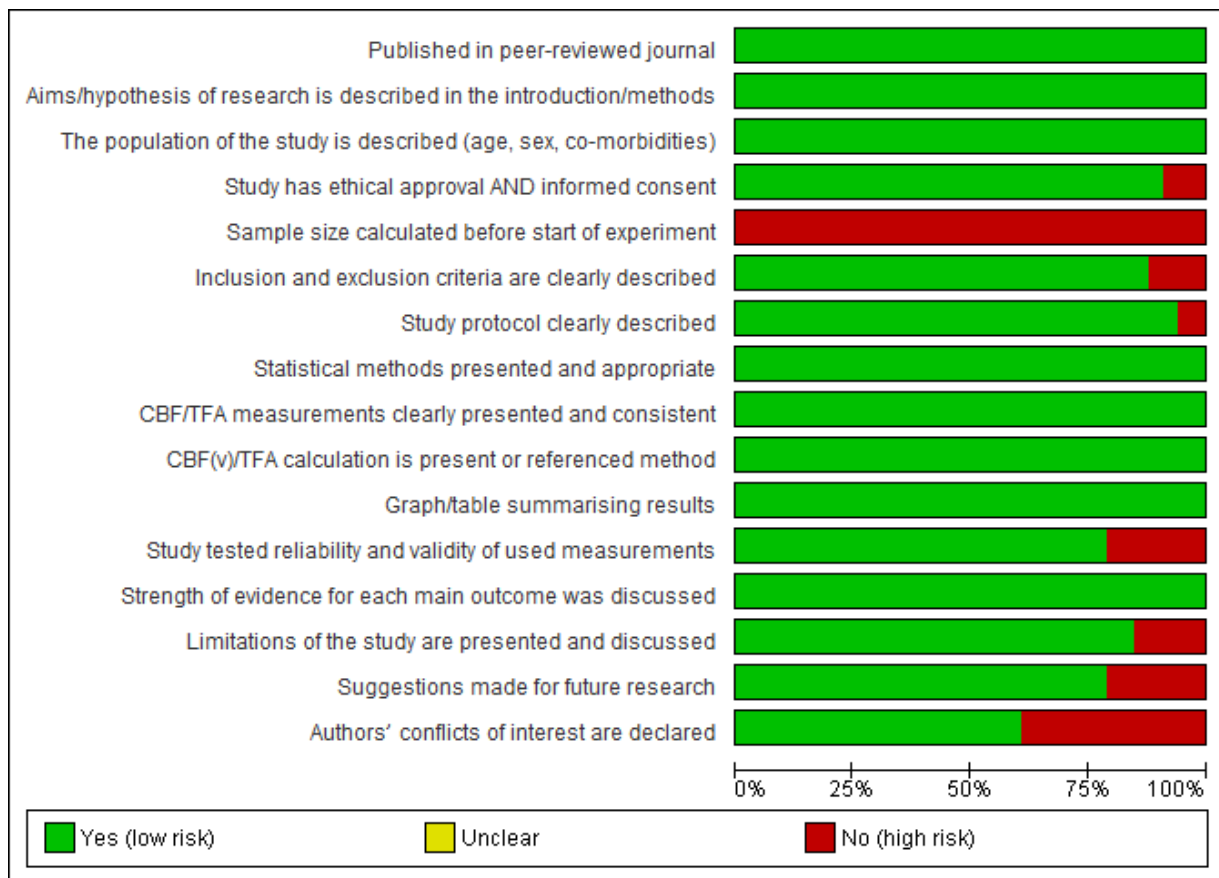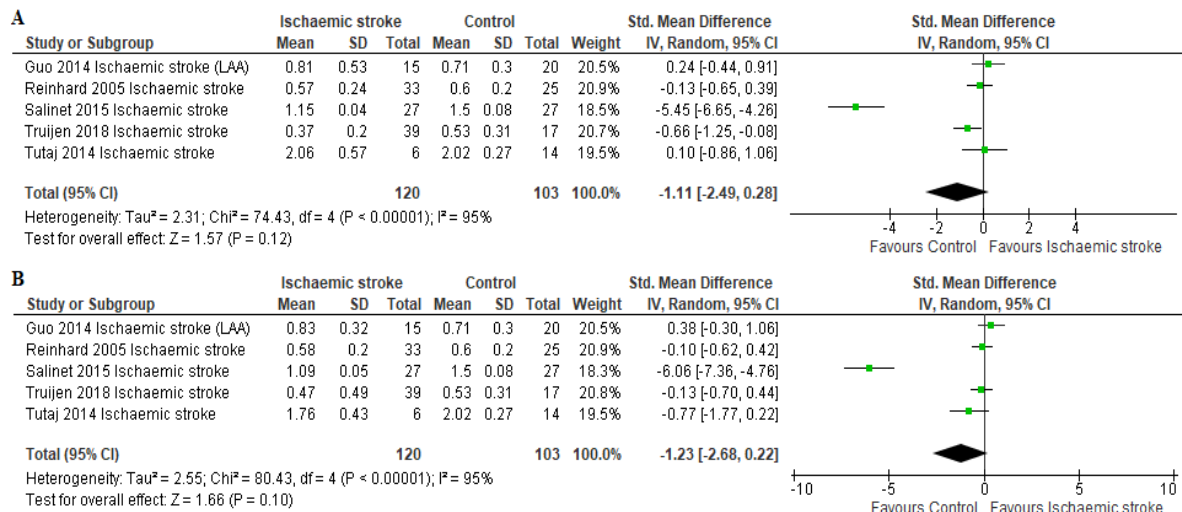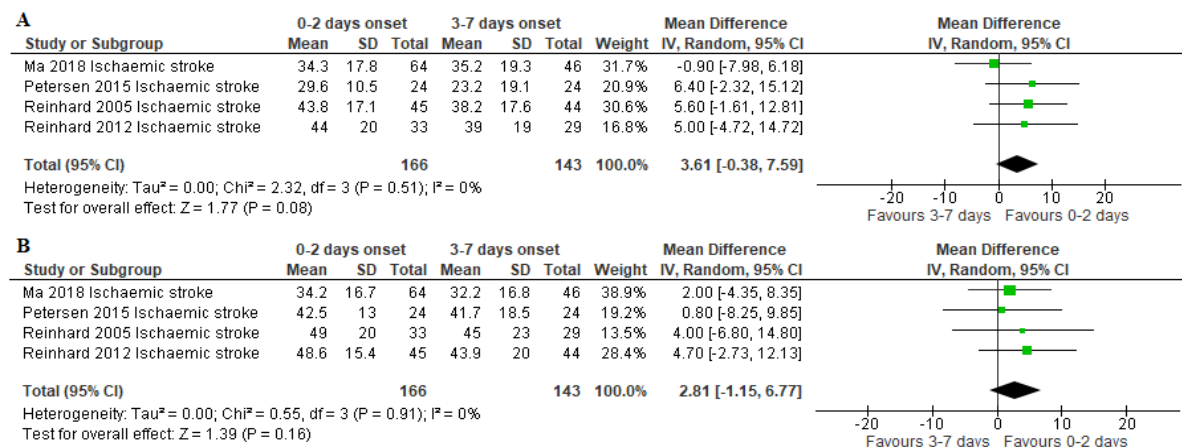**Supplementary Figures**

Supplementary Figure I: authors' evaluation about each risk of bias item presented as percentages across all included studies for each of the Downs and Black criteria.

Supplementary Figure II: review authors' evaluation about each risk of bias item for each included study of low risk of bias (green), and high risk of bias (red).

Supplementary Figure III. A: Forest plot of gain for a sub-group of large vessel disease (affected side) in five studies of AIS. Heterogeneity is high and significant ($I^2 = 95\%$, P < 0.00001). B: Gain for a sub-group of five studies in large vessel disease (unaffected side). Heterogeneity is high and also significant ($I^2 = 95\%$, P < 0.00001).

Supplementary Figure IV. A: Forest plot of phase for serial measurement in the affected side of AIS. Heterogeneity is low and non-significant ($I^2 = 0\%$, P = 0.51). B: Phase for serial measurement of four studies of AIS in the unaffected side. Heterogeneity is low and also non-significant ($I^2 = 0\%$, P = 0.91).