

Supplemental Material

S1. Search plan: an example with PubMed

Recent queries in pubmed			
Search	Query	Items found	Time
#01	Search lumbar	123089	06:26:33
#02	Search back	219999	06:26:40
#03	Search pain	787947	06:27:09
#04	Search radiculopathy	8671	06:27:34
#05	Search radicular pain	3971	06:27:51
#06	Search referred pain	16035	06:28:06
#07	Search sciatica	6623	06:28:25
#08	Search traction	22738	06:28:37
#09	Search physiotherapy	175230	06:28:48
#10	Search physical therapy	300353	06:29:01
#11	Search decompression	44649	06:29:10
#12	Search disc*	395565	06:29:23
#13	Search herniated disc	19364	06:29:32
#14	Search herniated disk	18721	06:29:45
#15	Search lumbar disc herniation	12279	06:29:59
#16	Search lumbar disk herniation	2773	06:30:09
#17	Search disc prolapsed	441	06:30:34
#18	Search disk prolapsed	93	06:30:49
#19	Search intervertebral disc displacement	18549	06:31:51
#20	Search intervertebral disk displacement	18573	06:31:59
#21	Search discogenic	1268	06:32:11
#22	Search bulging disc	346	06:32:23
#23	Search bulging disk	80	06:32:29
#24	Search (#1 or #2)	311958	06:32:49
#25	Search (#3 or #4 or #5 or #6 or #7)	792362	06:33:17
#26	Search (#8 or #9 or #10 or #11)	388121	06:33:48
#27	Search (#12 or #13 or #14 or #15 or #16 or #17 or #18 or #19 or #20 or #21 or #22 or #23)	396141	06:34:31
#28	Search (#24 and #25 and #26 and #27)	2955	10:45:13
#29	Search (#24 and #25 and #26 and #27) Filters: Clinical Trial	414	10:45:21

S2. PEDro scores of included studies.

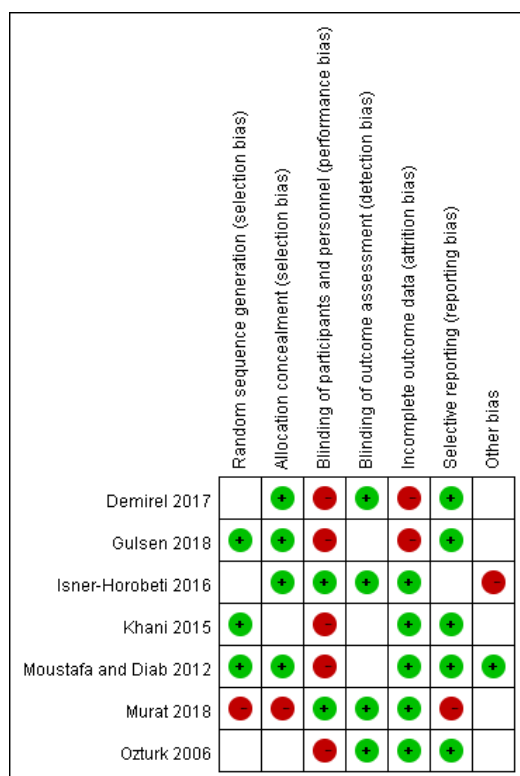
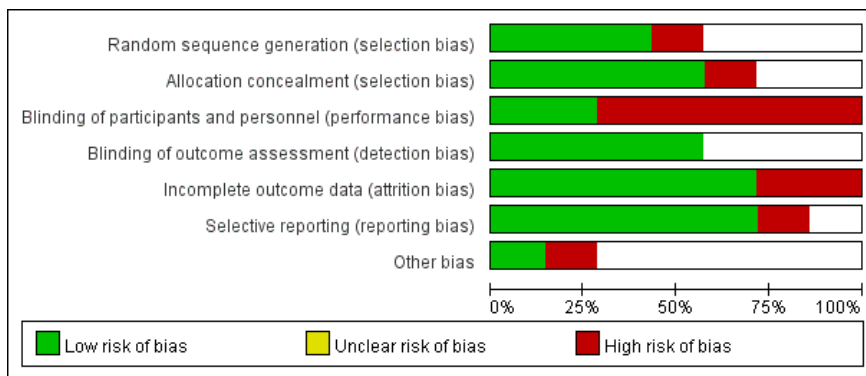
Study	PEDro scale items ^a											PEDro score (0~10)
	1 ^b	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	
Demirel 2017	+	+	+	+			+		+	+	+	7
Gulsen 2018	+	+	+	+					+	+	+	6
Isner-Horobeti 2016	+	+	+	+	+		+	+	+	+	+	9
Khani 2015	+	+		+				+		+	+	6
Moustafa 2013	+	+	+	+				+	+	+	+	7
Murat 2018	+	+		+	+		+	+	+	+	+	8
Ozturk 2006	+	+		+				+	+	+	+	6
Prasad 2012	+	+	+				+			+	+	6

^a 1, eligibility criteria and source of participants; 2, random allocation; 3, concealed allocation; 4, baseline comparability; 5, blinded participants; 6, blinded therapists; 7, blinded assessors; 8, adequate follow-up; 9, intention-to-treat analysis; 10, between-group comparisons; 11, point estimates and variability.

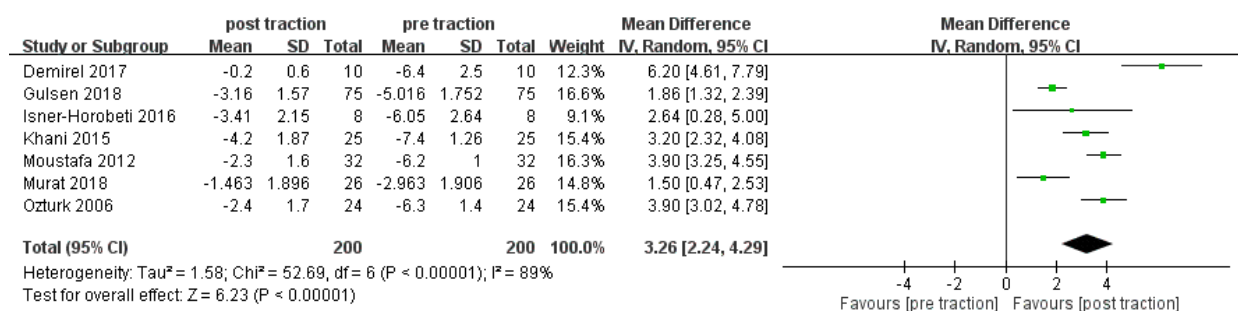
^b Item 1 did not contribute to the total score.

High quality, PEDro score 6~10; fair quality, PEDro score 4~5; poor quality, PEDro score ≤ 3

S3. Cochrane risk of bias assessment



S4. Weighted mean difference regarding pain (either VAS or NAS) within the traction group.



VAS, visual analog scale; NAS, Numerical analog scale.

S5. Investigation of publication bias: funnel plot.

