



Con il Patrocinio di



REVISIONI SISTEMATICHE E META-ANALISI

Coordinatore:
Dr.ssa Stefania Gori

Evento ECM MODULO 4



NEGRAR
10/11 Febbraio 2017

Centro Formazione
Ospedale Sacro Cuore
Don Calabria

Eterogeneità

Negrar, 11 Febbraio 2017

What is a systematic review?

State objectives of the review, and outline eligibility criteria

Search for studies that seem to meet eligibility criteria

Tabulate characteristics of each study identified and assess its methodological quality

Apply eligibility criteria, and justify any exclusions

Assemble the most complete dataset feasible, with involvement of investigators, if possible

Analyse results of eligible studies, use statistical synthesis of data (meta-analysis), if appropriate and possible

Perform sensitivity analysis, and subgroup analysis, if appropriate and possible

Prepare a structured report of the review, stating aims, describing materials and methods, and reporting results

I passi di una RS

Definizione del quesito

Ricerca sistematica delle fonti

Valutazione dei criteri di inclusione ed esclusione e della qualità degli studi eleggibili

Ricerca della migliore sintesi qualitativa delle informazioni

Sintesi quantitativa dei risultati (Metanalisi) se fattibile ad appropriata

Scrittura del paper finale

FATTI

Principi di una meta-analisi

Una **meta-analisi** può:

- Combinare i risultati dei singoli studi per ottenere una stima complessiva dell'effetto del trattamento;
- Esplorare l'eterogeneità tra gli studi (e le relative fonti di eterogeneità).

When can/should you do a meta-analysis?

- When more than one study has estimated an effect
- When there are no differences in the study characteristics that are likely to substantially affect outcome
- When the outcome has been measured in similar ways
- When the data are available (take care with interpretation when only some data are available)

E' efficace?

Author(s)
Teo et al

Reference
Effects of intravenous magnesium in suspected acute myocardial infarction. BMJ 1991;303:1499-50

Outcome object
Mortality

Unit
Event

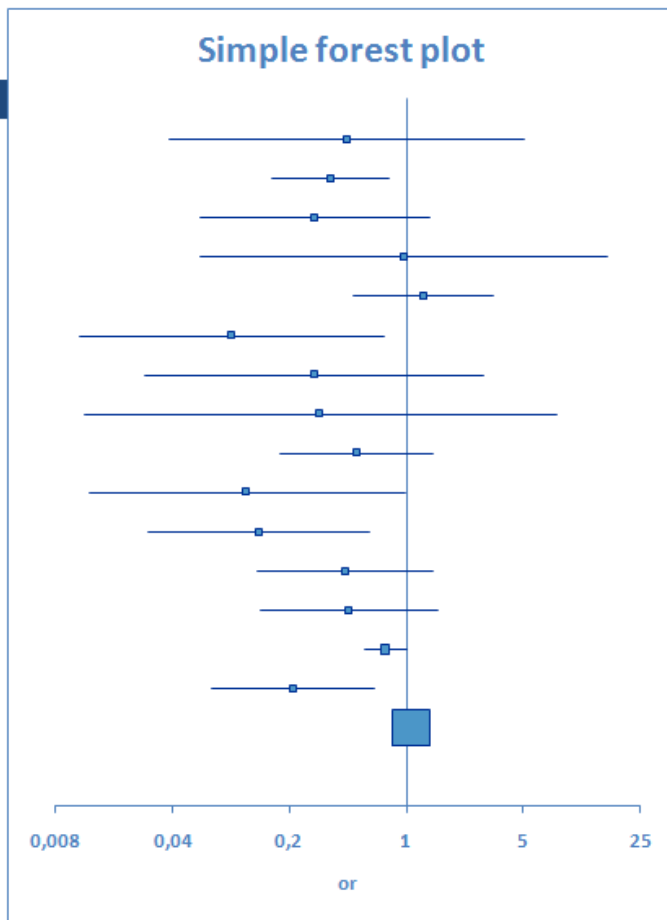
Intervention (e)
Intravenous magnesium

Control (c)
Control

Study ID	Ref #	n[e]	n[e](E=1)	n[c]	n[c](E=1)	Study date	-
Morton	1	40	1	36	2	1984	
Rasmussen	2	135	9	135	23	1986	
Smith	3	200	2	200	7	1986	
Abraham	4	48	1	46	1	1987	
Feldstedt	5	150	10	148	8	1988	
Schechter	6	59	1	56	9	1989	
Ceremuzynski	7	25	1	23	3	1989	
Bertschal	8	22	0	21	1	1989	
Singh	9	76	6	75	11	1990	
Pereira	10	27	1	27	7	1990	
Schechter 1	11	89	2	80	12	1991	
Golf	12	23	5	33	13	1991	
Thogersen	13	130	4	122	8	1991	
LIMIT-2	14	1159	90	1157	118	1992	
Schechter 2	15	107	4	108	17	1995	
ISIS-4	16	29011	2216	29039	2103	1995	

Forest plot (meta-graph) analitico

author	year	n[I]	N[I]	n[C]	N[C]	Weight
Morton	1984	1	40	2	36	0,06%
Rasmussen	1986	9	135	23	135	0,54%
Smith	1986	2	200	7	200	0,14%
Abraham	1987	1	48	1	46	0,05%
Feldstedt	1988	10	150	8	148	0,39%
Schechter	1989	1	59	9	56	0,08%
Ceremuzyansk	1989	1	25	3	23	0,07%
Bertschat	1989	0	22	1	21	0,03%
Singh	1990	6	76	11	75	0,32%
Pereira	1990	1	27	7	27	0,08%
Schechter 1	1991	2	89	12	80	0,15%
Golf	1991	5	23	13	33	0,24%
Thogersen	1991	4	130	8	122	0,24%
LIMIT-2	1992	90	1159	118	1157	4,33%
Schechter 2	1995	4	107	17	108	0,28%
ISIS-4	1995	2216	29011	2103	29039	92,99%



or	ci-	ci+	p
0,44	0,04	5,02	0,51
0,35	0,15	0,78	0,01
0,28	0,06	1,36	0,11
0,96	0,06	15,77	0,98
1,25	0,48	3,26	0,65
0,09	0,01	0,74	0,02
0,28	0,03	2,88	0,28
0,30	0,01	7,88	0,47
0,50	0,17	1,43	0,19
0,11	0,01	0,97	0,05
0,13	0,03	0,60	0,01
0,43	0,13	1,44	0,17
0,45	0,13	1,54	0,21
0,74	0,56	0,99	0,04
0,21	0,07	0,64	0,01
1,06	1,00	1,13	0,07

META-ANALYSIS

General

Number of studies	16
Number of participants	62607 (62607)

OR (MH) - Fixed effect model

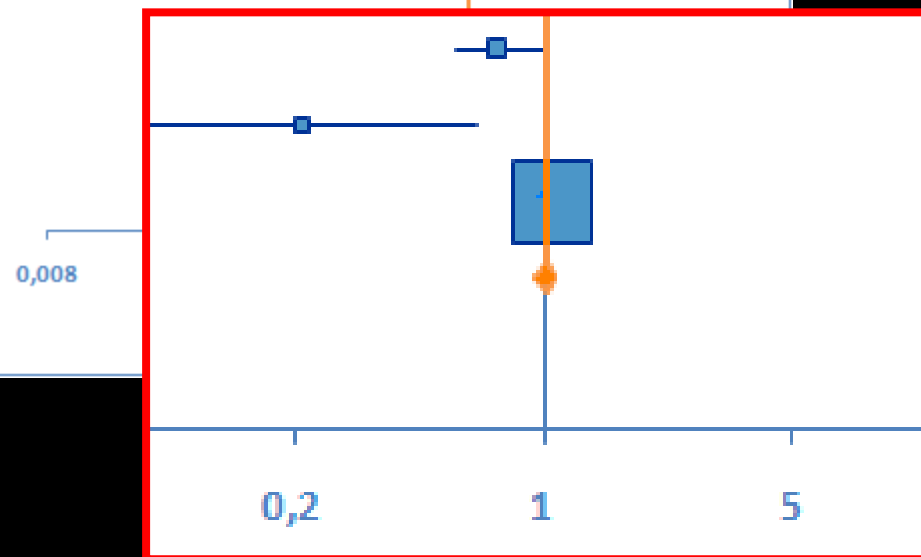
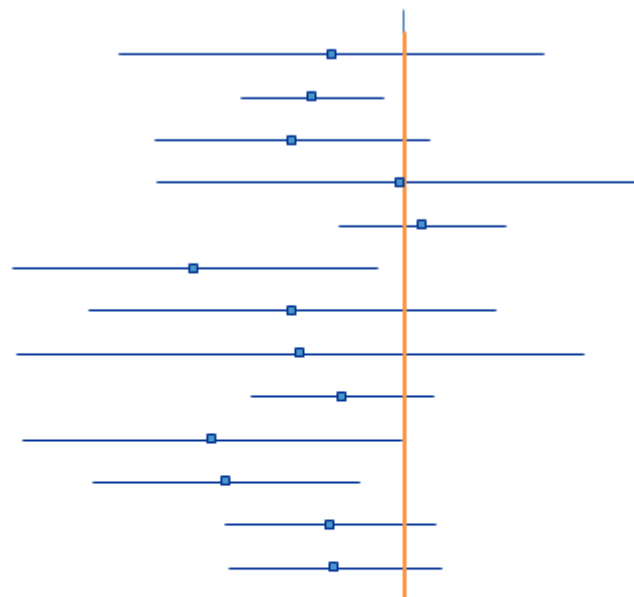
Meta-analysis outcome	1,0063
95% CI lower limit	0,9482
95% CI upper limit	1,068
z	0,2073
p-value (two-tailed)	0,8358

Heterogeneity

Q	47,1363
p-value (two-tailed)	< 0,0001

I ²	68,18%
95% CI lower limit	46,53%
95% CI upper limit	81,06%

Synthesis forest plot



Could we just add the data from all the trials together?

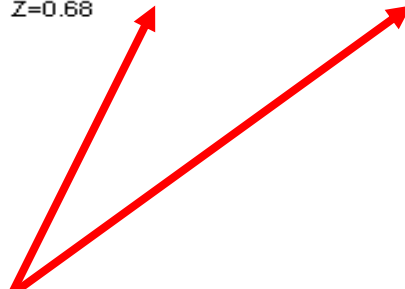
- One approach to combining trials would be to add all the treatment groups together, add all the control groups together, and compare the totals
- This is wrong for several reasons, and it can give the wrong answer

Comparison: Any steroid administered in any dose against no steroid

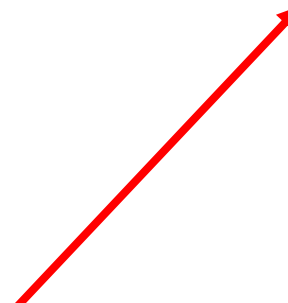
Outcome: Death at end of follow up period

Study	Expt n/N	Ctrl n/N	Relative Risk (95%CI Fixed)	Weight %	RR (95%CI Fixed)
Alexander 1972	16 / 55	22 / 55		6.6	0.73 [0.43, 1.23]
Braakman 1983	44 / 81	47 / 80		14.2	0.92 [0.70, 1.21]
Chacon 1987	1 / 5	0 / 5		0.2	3.00 [0.15, 59.89]
Cooper 1979	26 / 49	13 / 27		5.0	1.10 [0.69, 1.77]
Dearden 1986	33 / 68	21 / 62		6.6	1.43 [0.94, 2.19]
Faupel 1976	16 / 67	16 / 28		6.8	0.42 [0.24, 0.71]
Gaab 1994	19 / 133	21 / 136		6.2	0.93 [0.52, 1.64]
Giannotta 1984	34 / 72	7 / 16		3.4	1.08 [0.59, 1.98]
Grumme 1995	38 / 175	49 / 195		13.9	0.86 [0.60, 1.25]
Hernesniemi 1979	35 / 81	36 / 83		10.7	1.00 [0.70, 1.41]
Pitts 1980	114 / 201	38 / 74		16.7	1.10 [0.86, 1.42]
Ransohoff 1972	9 / 17	13 / 18		3.8	0.73 [0.43, 1.25]
Saul 1981	8 / 50	9 / 50		2.7	0.89 [0.37, 2.12]
Stubbs 1989	13 / 98	5 / 54		1.9	1.43 [0.54, 3.80]
Zagara 1987	4 / 12	4 / 12		1.2	1.00 [0.32, 3.10]
xZarate 1995	0 / 30	0 / 30		0.0	Not Estimable
Total (95%CI)	410 / 1194	301 / 925		100.0	0.96 [0.85, 1.08]

Chi-square 18.11 (df=14) Z=0.68



If we add up the columns we get 34.3% vs 32.5% , a RR of 1.06, a higher chance of death in the steroids group



From a meta-analysis, we get RR=0.96 , a lower chance of death in the steroids group

.1 .2 1 5 10
Steroid better Steroid worse

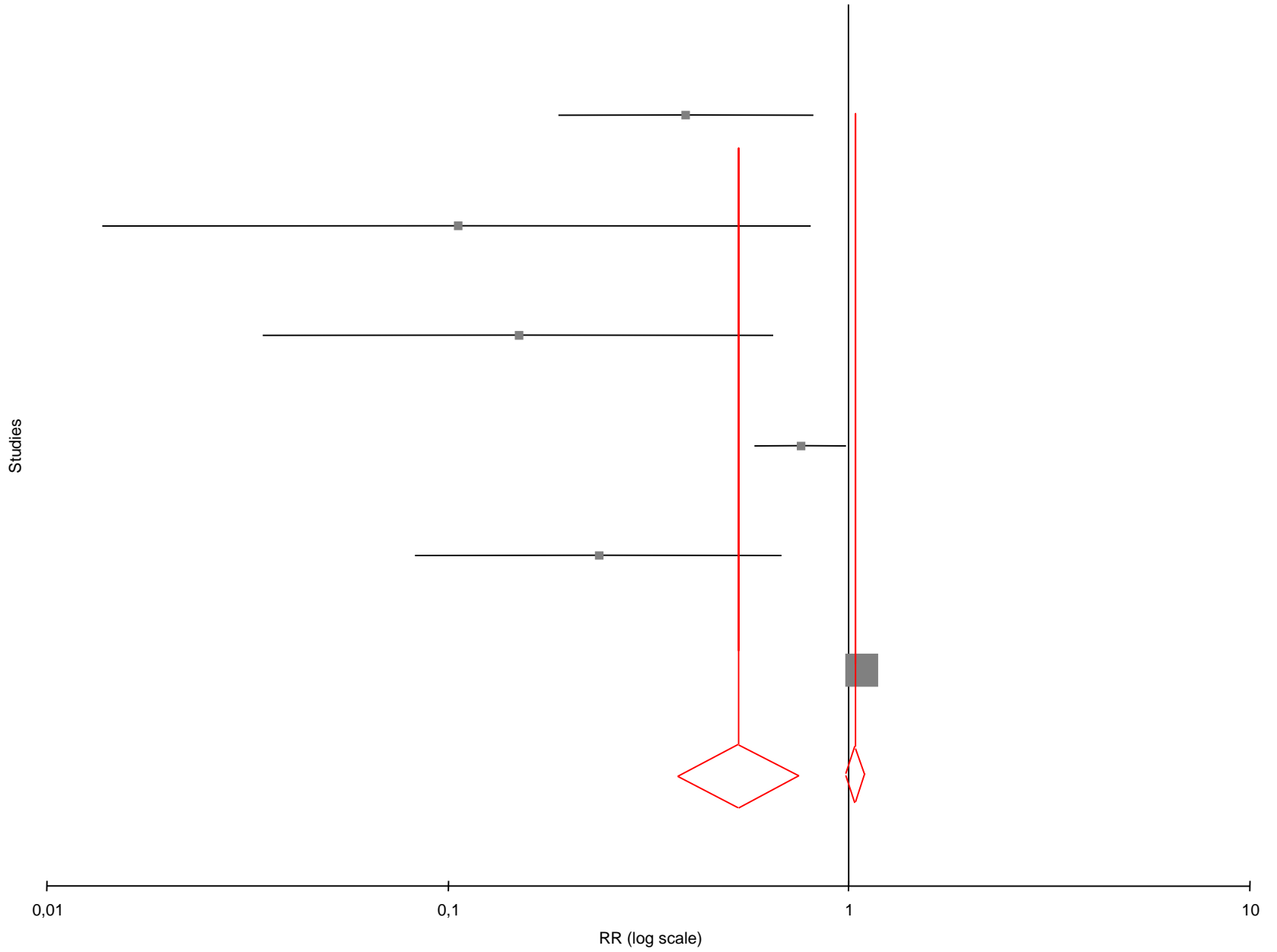
L'intervento funziona?

Valore neutro ("nullo")	Esito sfavorevole (es. morte)	Esito favorevole (es. smettere di fumare)	Effetto avverso (es. vomito)
L'intervento non ha effetto	L'intervento funziona	L'intervento funziona	L'intervento funziona
$RD = 0$	$RD < 0$	$RD > 0$	$RD < 0$
$RR = 1$	$RR < 1$	$RR > 1$	$RR < 1$
$OR = 1$	$OR < 1$	$OR > 1$	$OR < 1$

RD: Risk Difference

RR: Relative Risk

OR: Odds Ratio



Come si decide quanto pesa uno studio?

- Il peso è proporzionale al contributo informativo dello studio alla capacità di effettuare una stima
- Studi di ampie dimensione e/o con molti eventi potrebbero contribuire di più
- In gergo sono quelli più precisi

- Ma tutto è relativo ... tutti gli studi stanno misurando lo stesso effetto?

Va a scua il mar

Mettere insieme ... studi diversi... che testano quesiti diversi... considerando popolazione diverse... usando interventi lievemente diversi... ma partendo da protocolli profondamente diversi... e dando risultati ...

Eterogeneità

What is heterogeneity?

- Heterogeneity is variation between the studies' results

What is **heterogeneity**?

Differences between studies with respect to:

Clinical heterogeneity (clinical diversity)

- *Participants*
 - e.g. conditions under investigation, eligibility criteria for trials, geographical variation
- *Interventions*
 - e.g. intensity / dose / duration, sub-type of drug, mode of administration, experience of practitioners, nature of the control (placebo/none/standard care)
- *Outcomes*
 - e.g. definition of an event, follow-up duration, ways of measuring outcomes, cut-off points on scales

What is **heterogeneity**?

Differences between studies with respect to:

Methodological heterogeneity (methodological diversity)

- *Design*
 - e.g. randomised vs non-randomised, crossover vs parallel group vs cluster randomised, pre-test and long follow up
- *Conduct*
 - e.g. allocation concealment, blinding etc, approach to analysis, imputation methods for missing data

What is heterogeneity?

What do we do if there *is* statistical heterogeneity?

- Variation in the *true effects* underlying the studies
- ...which may manifest itself in **more observed variation than expected by chance alone**
- May be due to **clinical diversity** (different treatment effects) or **methodological diversity** (different biases)

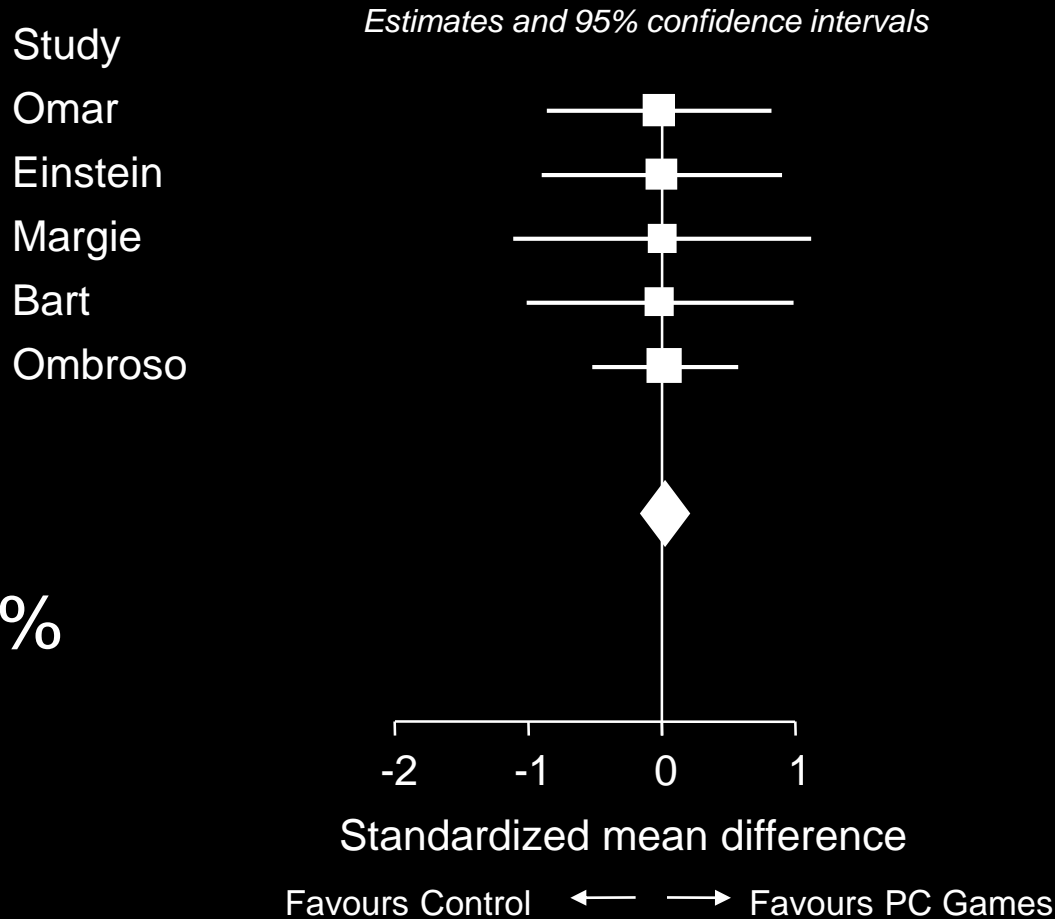
Come si misura questa
eterogeneità?

- Confidence interval overlapping **Eyeball test**
- **Cochran's Q**: to assess whether observed differences in results are compatible with change alone
 χ^2 distribution; low power (small number of studies, small sample size)
 $p < 0.10$ (heterogeneity)
- **I²** quantifying heterogeneity (describes the percentage of variation across studies that is due to heterogeneity rather than chance)
0-40% might not be important
30-60% may represent moderate heterogeneity
50-90% may represent substantial heterogeneity
75-100% considerable heterogeneity
- Tau....

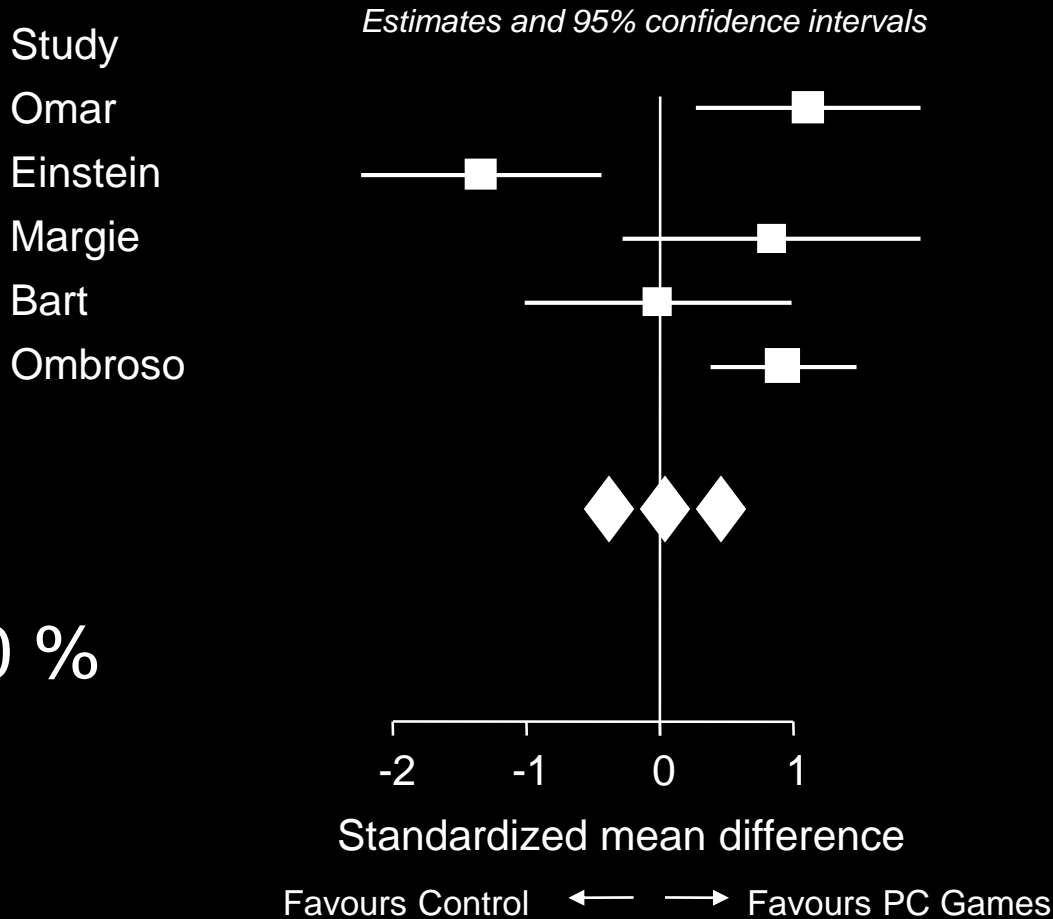
How to deal with heterogeneity

1. Do not pool at all
2. Ignore heterogeneity: use *fixed effect model*
3. Allow for heterogeneity: use *random effects model*
4. Explore heterogeneity: subgroups analysis or meta-regression (tricky)

Example: PC Games for intelligence



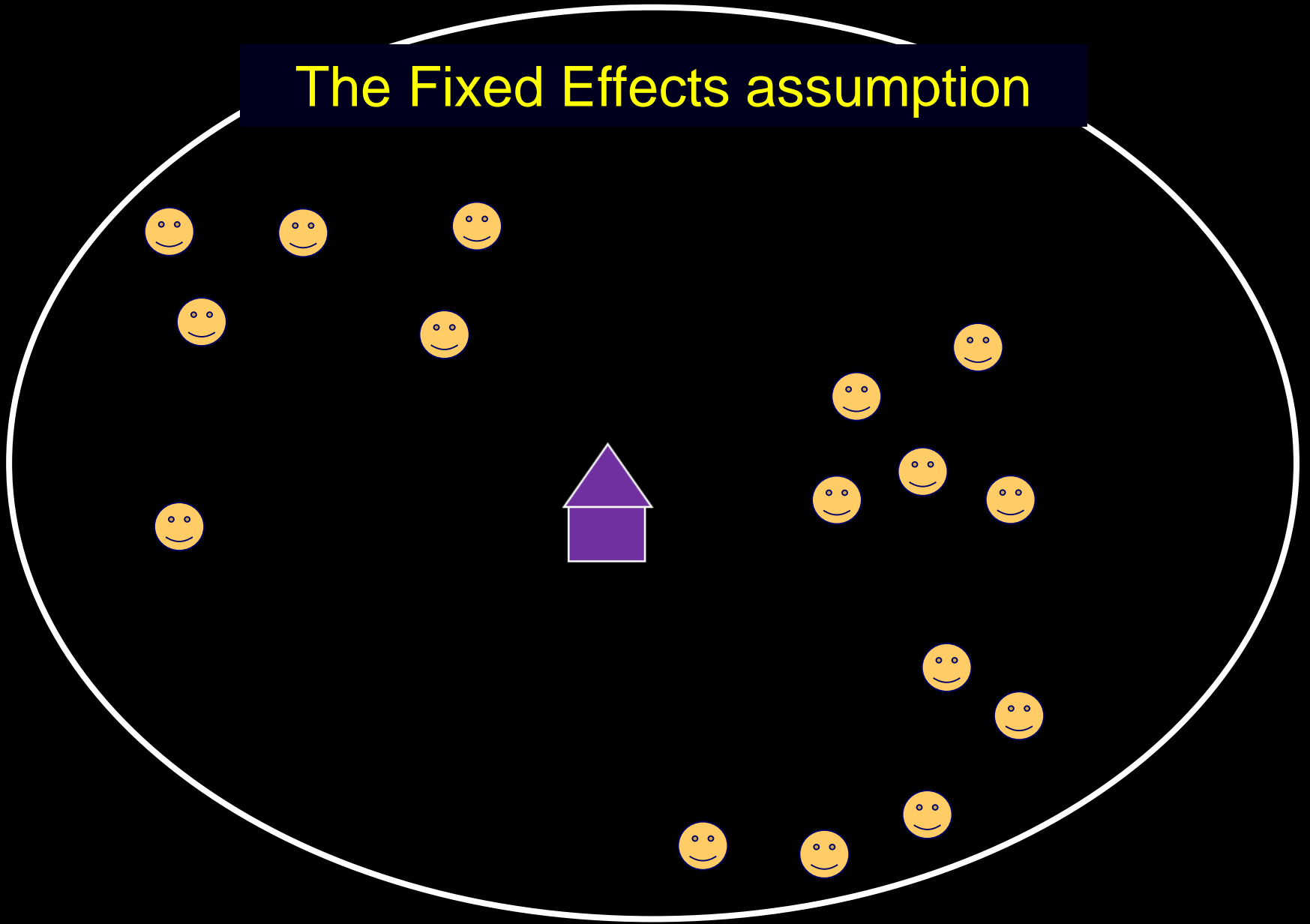
Example: PC Games for intelligence



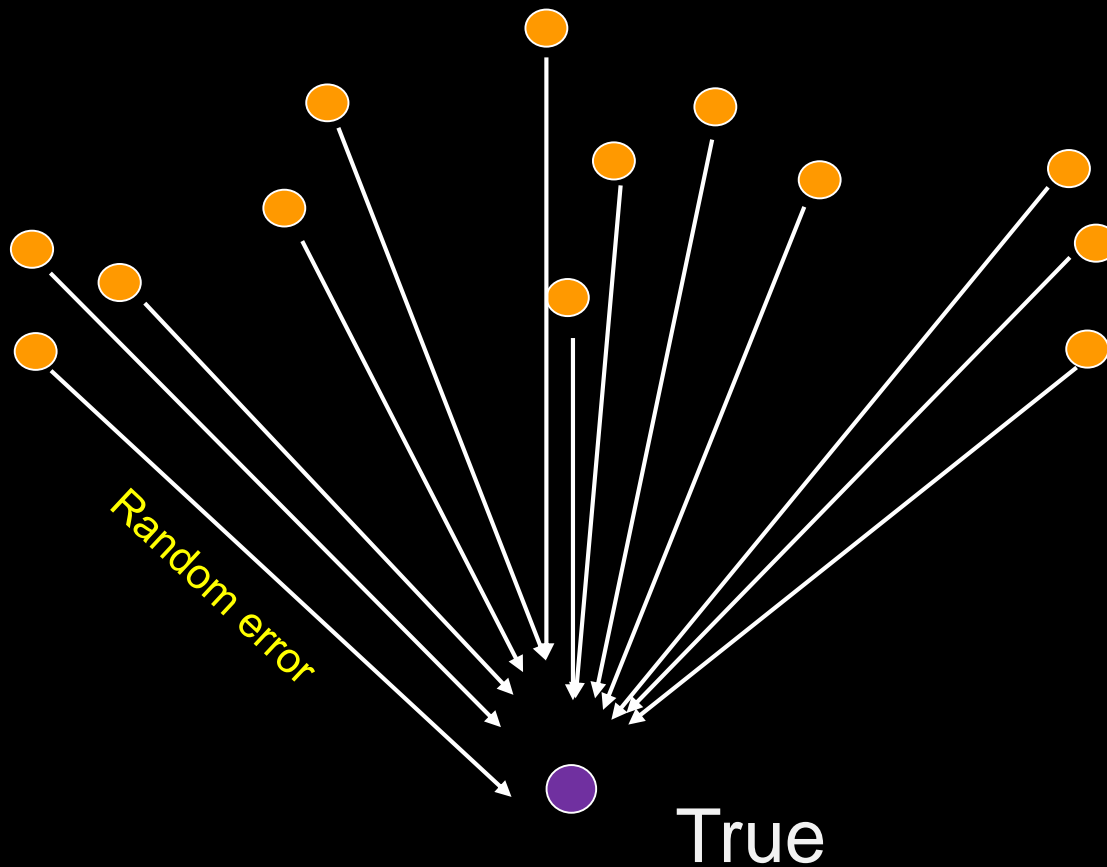
$I^2 = 80\%$

Fixed and random effects

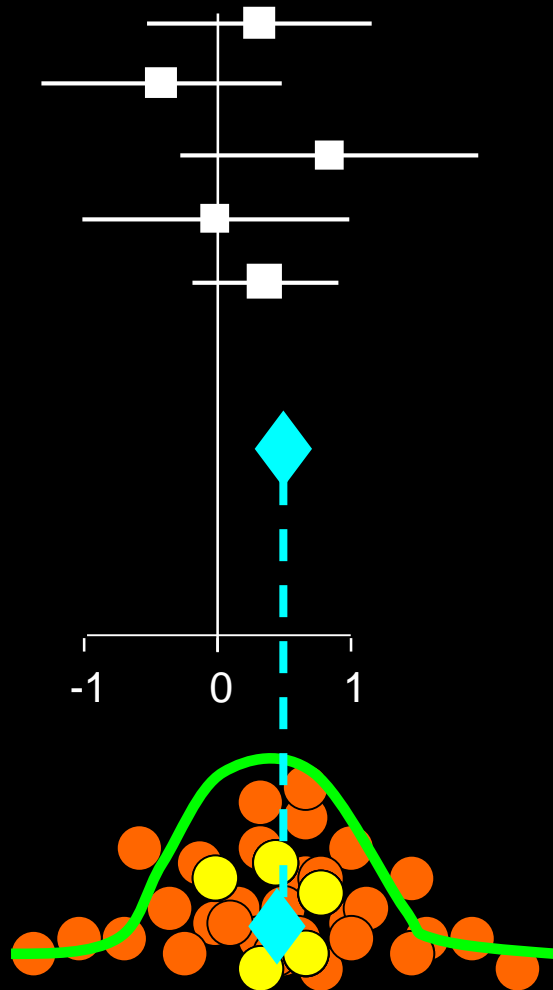
The Fixed Effects assumption



The Fixed Effects assumption



Fixed effects model



In un modello a effetti fissi si assume che tutti gli studi provengano dalla stessa popolazione di studi

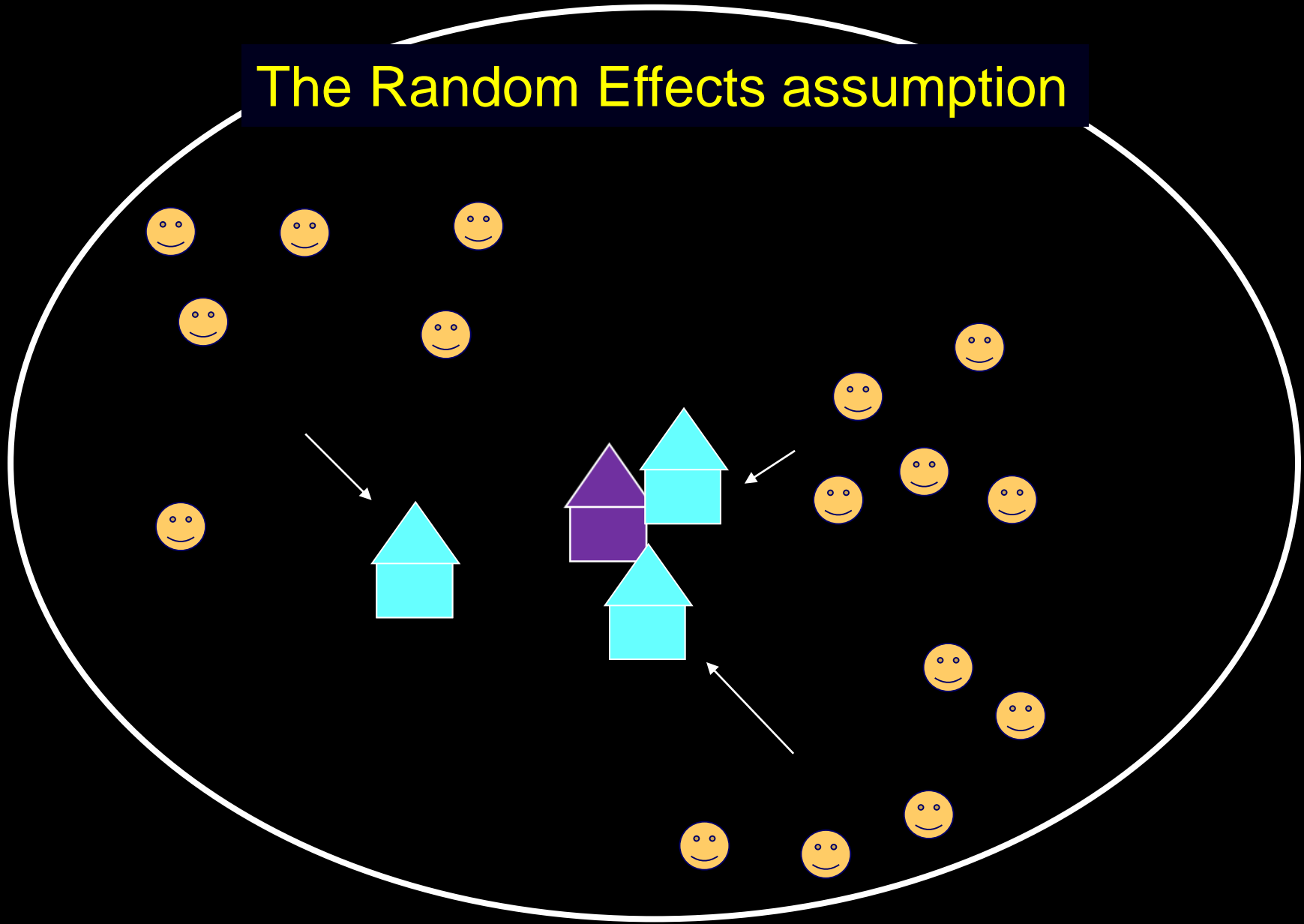
Si assume che ci sia un parametro (es.media) unico, fisso

Il peso degli studi è funzione della variabilità intra-studio

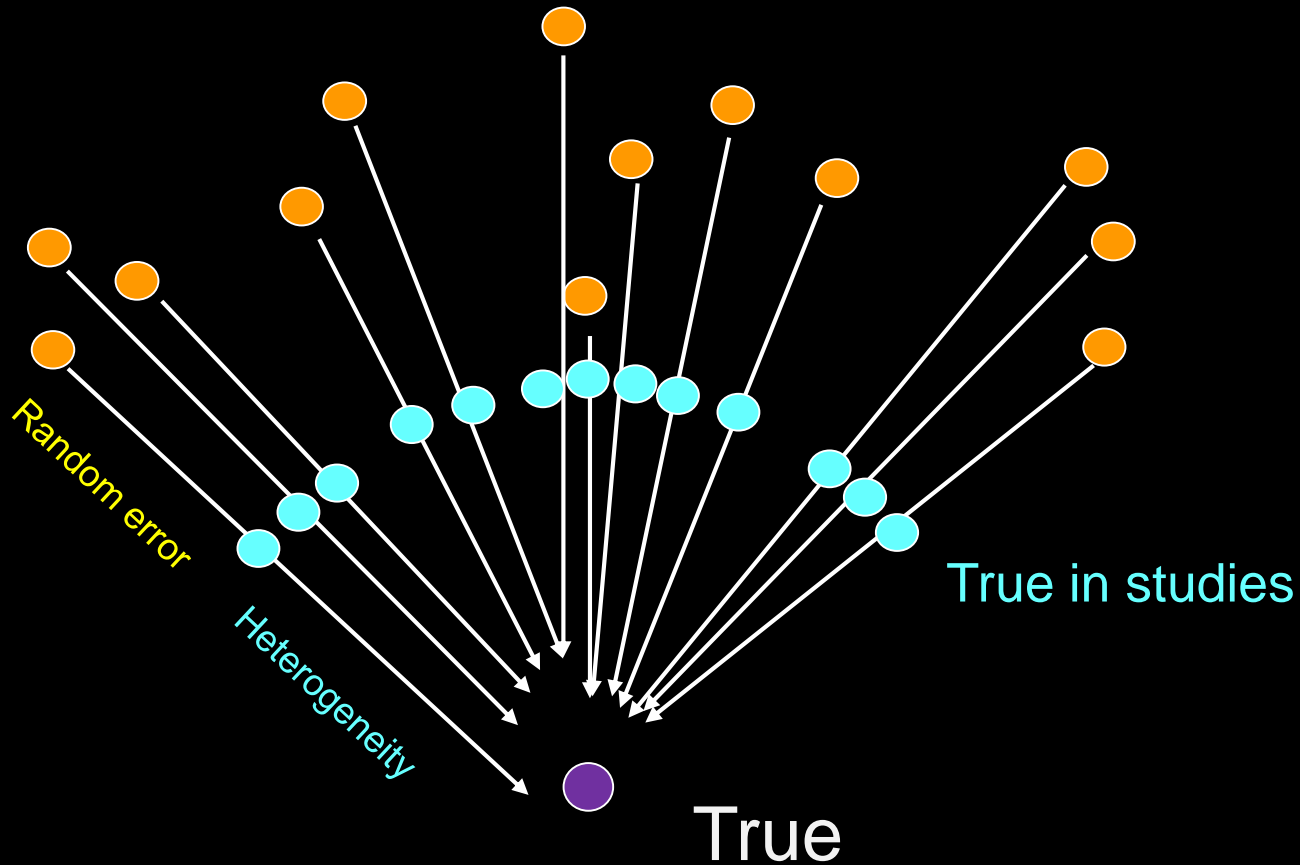
Gli intervalli di confidenza del parametro sono ridotti

Popolazione di riferimento unica, omogenea

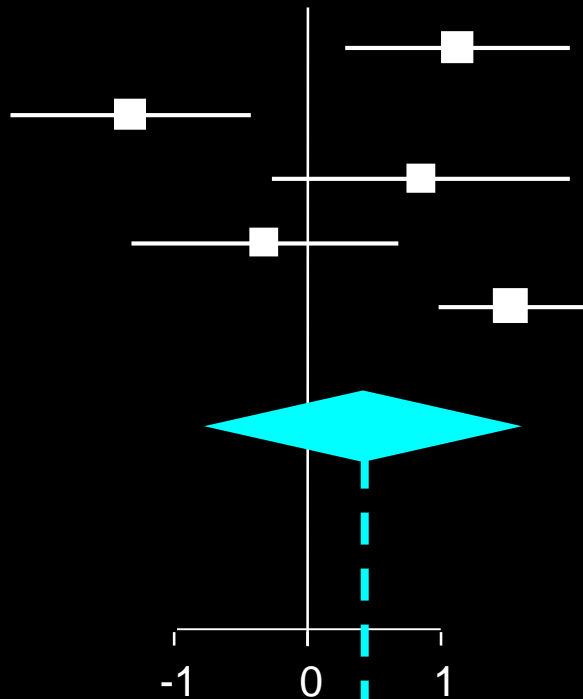
The Random Effects assumption



The Random Effects assumption



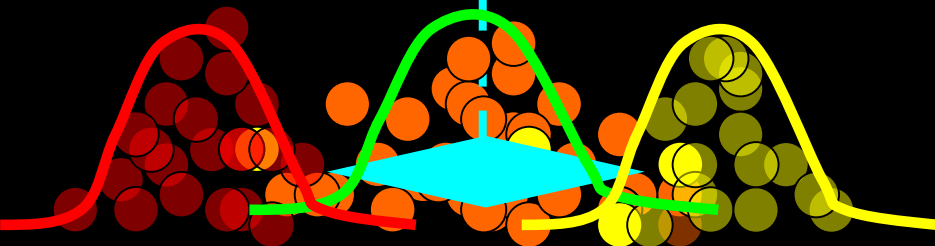
Random effects model



In un modello a effetti random gli studi potrebbero provenire da popolazioni di studi diverse

I pesi sono ridistribuiti in modo più omogeneo tra studi grandi e piccoli (il peso non è dovuto solo alla variabilità intra-studio)

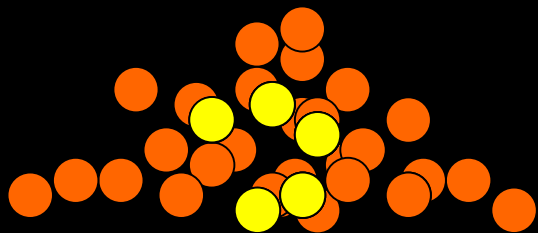
Gli intervalli di confidenza del parametro sono aumentati



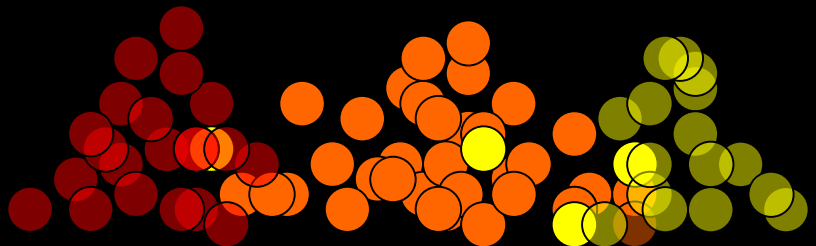
Popolazioni di riferimento molteplici, eterogenee

Quale modello?

Fixed effect



Random effect



Quale modello?

Fixed effect

Random effect

Potente (IC ristretti)

Assume un solo parametro, non facile in ambito biomedico

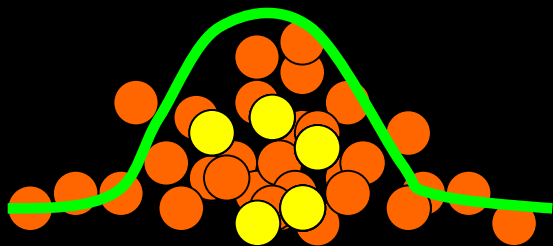
Più facile per sottogruppi

Semplicistico

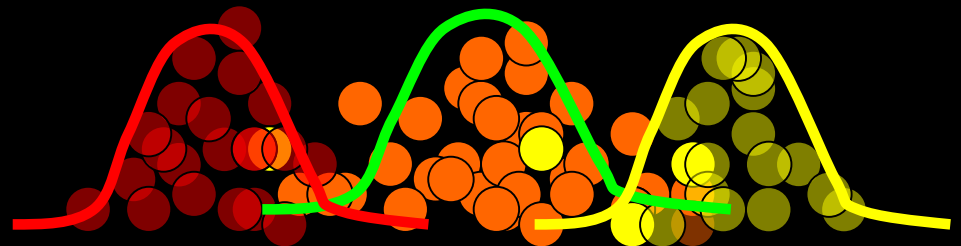
Dà luogo a un aggiustamento dei pesi grezzo (ridistribuzione senza tener conto di nessuna co-variata)

IC realistici

$I^2 = 20\% - 50\%$



$I^2 = 50\% - 70\%$



$I^2 = > 70\%$

Per decidere

Q - I²

Ma anche:

- E' ragionevole assumere una media costante?
- La variabilità tra gli studi (inter-studio) può essere attribuita al (solo) caso?
- I protocolli degli studi sono diversi?

SOTTOGRUPPI



Architecture



FRANK
LOYD
WRIGHT
COLLECTION

Review Manager 5.1

File Edit Format View Tools Table Window Help

[MASTER Trastuzumab_containing_regimens_for_EBC_2011_11_3.rm5.xml.rm5] Trastuzumab containing regimens for early breast cancer

Text of Review

Trastuzumab containing regimens for early breast cancer

Intervention review

- Title
- Review information
- Main text
- Tables
- Studies and references
- Data and analyses
 - 1 Effect of trastuzumab
 - 1.1 Overall Survival - all studies
 - B31
 - BCIRG006
 - Buzdar
 - FinHer
 - HERA
 - NOAH
 - PACS-04
 - 1.2 OS stratified by duration of trastuzumab administration
 - 1.2.1 <= 6 months
 - Buzdar
 - FinHer
 - 1.2.2 > 6 months
 - NOAH
 - BCIRG006
 - HERA
 - B31
 - PACS-04
 - 1.3 OS stratified by type of trastuzumab administration
 - 1.4 Disease Free Survival - all studies
 - 1.5 DFS stratified by duration of trastuzumab administration

Meta-analysis architecture

Basic: Comparison

Basic: Outcome

Basic: Study

Meta-analysis architecture

Basic: Comparison

Basic: Outcome

Beyond the basic: Subgroup

Basic: Study

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 - 1.4 Disease Free Survival - all studies
 - 1.5 DFS stratified by duration of trastuzumab
 - 1.6 DFS stratified by type of trastuzumab
 - 2 Cardiac toxicity
 - 3 Other toxicities
 - 4 Brain metastases as site of first relapse
 - 5 Sensitivity analysis
 - Figures
 - Sources of support

Text of Review 1.1 Overall Survival...

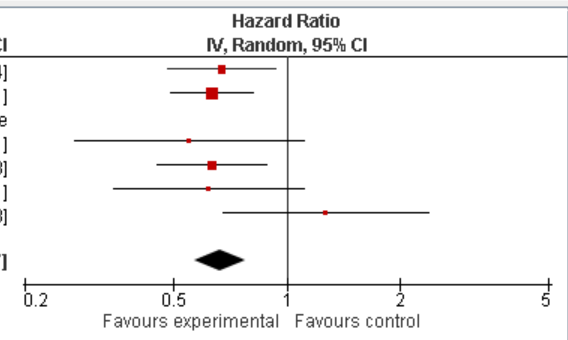
Comparison: 1 Effect of trastuzumab Outcome: 1.1 Overall Survival - all studies

Forest plot

Study or Subgroup	log[Hazard Ratio]	SE	Experimental		Control		Hazard Ratio	
			Total	Total	Total	Weight	IV, Random, 95% CI	
B31 (1)	-0.4	0.17	1672	1679	22.0%	0.67	[0.48, 0.94]	
BCIRG006	-0.46	0.13	1074	1073	37.7%	0.63	[0.49, 0.81]	
Buzdar	0	0	23	19			Not estimable	
FinHer	-0.6	0.36	115	116	4.9%	0.55	[0.27, 1.11]	
HERA	-0.46	0.17	1703	1698	22.0%	0.63	[0.45, 0.88]	
NOAH	-0.48	0.3	117	118	7.1%	0.62	[0.34, 1.11]	
PACS-04	0.24	0.32	260	268	6.2%	1.27	[0.68, 2.38]	
Total (95% CI)			4964	4971	100.0%	0.66	[0.57, 0.77]	

Heterogeneity: Tau² = 0.00; Chi² = 4.70, df = 5 (P = 0.45); I² = 0%
Test for overall effect: Z = 5.16 (P < 0.00001)

(1) B31+N9831



Navigation icons: Help, Home, Save, Print, Copy, Paste

Buttons: Add as Figure, Cancel

Footnote:

Intervention review

Title

Review information

Main text

Tables

Studies and references

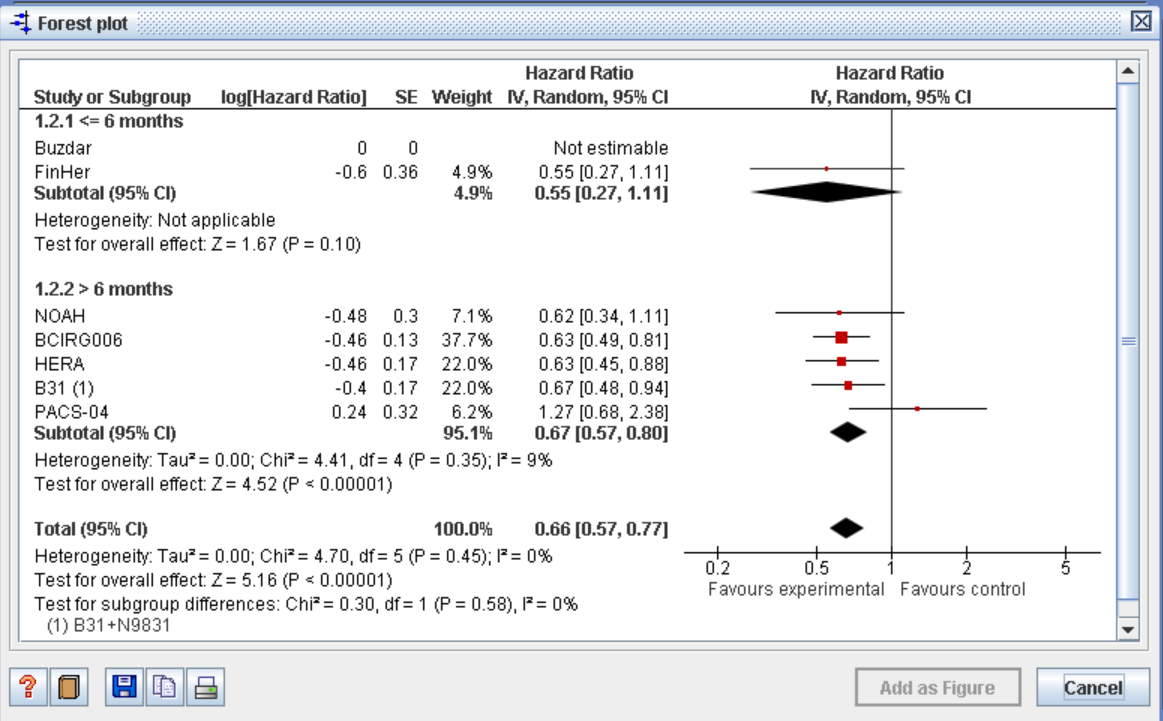
Data and analyses

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- 3 Other toxicities
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- 5 Sensitivity analysis

Figures

Sources of support

Text of Review 1.1 Overall Survival... 1.2 OS stratified by...



Add as Figure Cancel

Footnote:

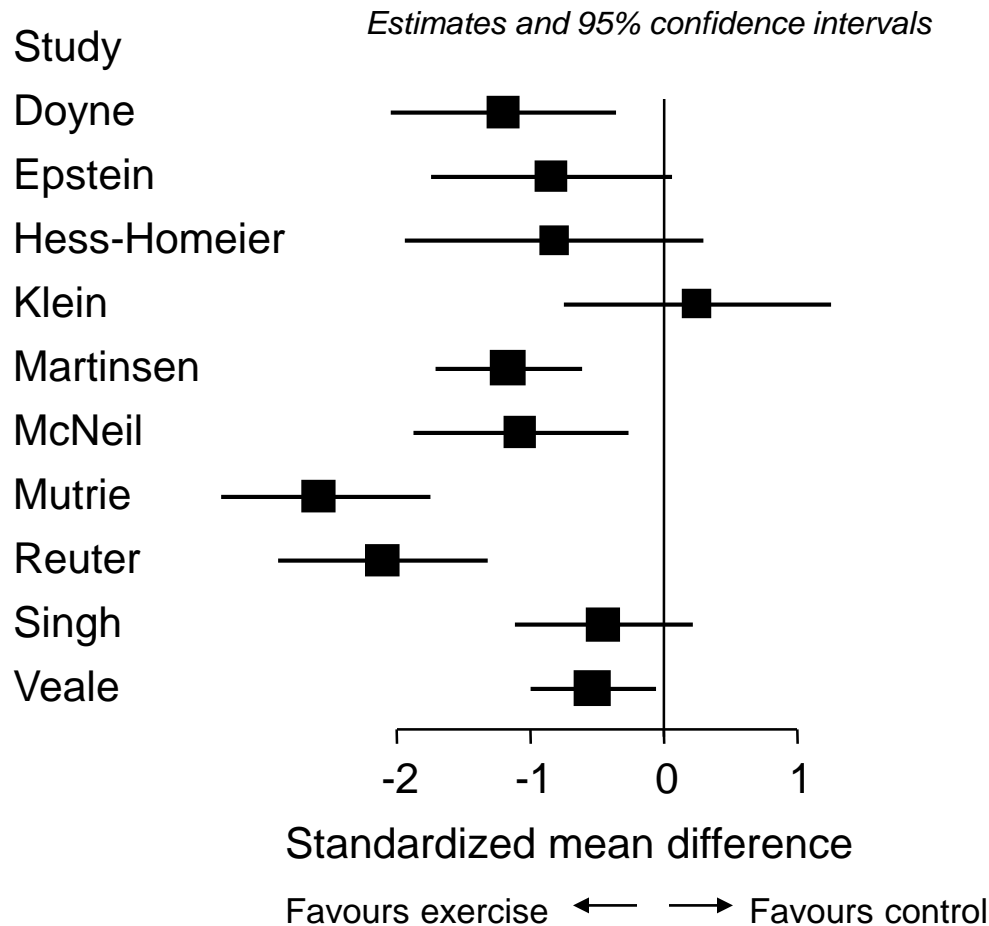
What are subgroup / sensitivity analyses?

- An analysis of treatment effects within subgroups of patients enrolled on a clinical trial who might be expected to respond to treatment differently
- “Should all patients be given XYZ? Can/should treatment be limited to a selected group?”
- Methods for investigating possible causes of heterogeneity in a meta-analysis

*• Only one thing is worse than doing subgroup analyses---
believing the results*

R. Peto

Example: exercise for depression



Lawlor DA, Hopker SW.
BMJ 2001; 322: 763-7

Significant heterogeneity between studies ($Q=35.0$, $P<0.001$)

Standardised mean difference in size of effect of exercise compared with “no treatment” for depression.

Study (No of weeks of intervention)

Mutrie⁷⁸(4)

McNeil et al⁷⁷(6)

Reuter et al⁸⁶(8)

Doyne et al⁷⁹(8)

Hess-Homeier⁸⁷(8)

Epstein⁸¹(8)

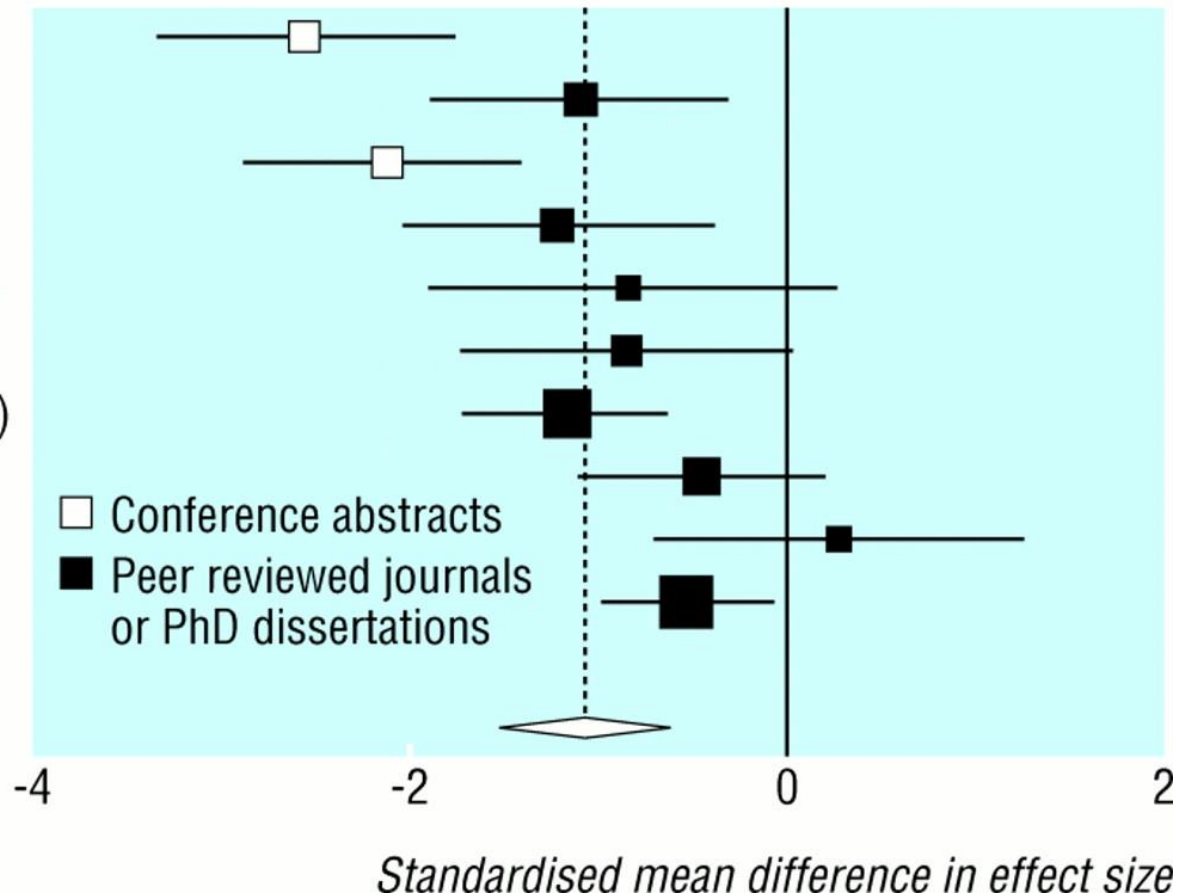
Martinsen et al⁸²(9)

Singh et al⁷⁴(10)

Klein et al⁸⁴(12)

Veale et al⁷⁵(12)

Combined



Not associated with

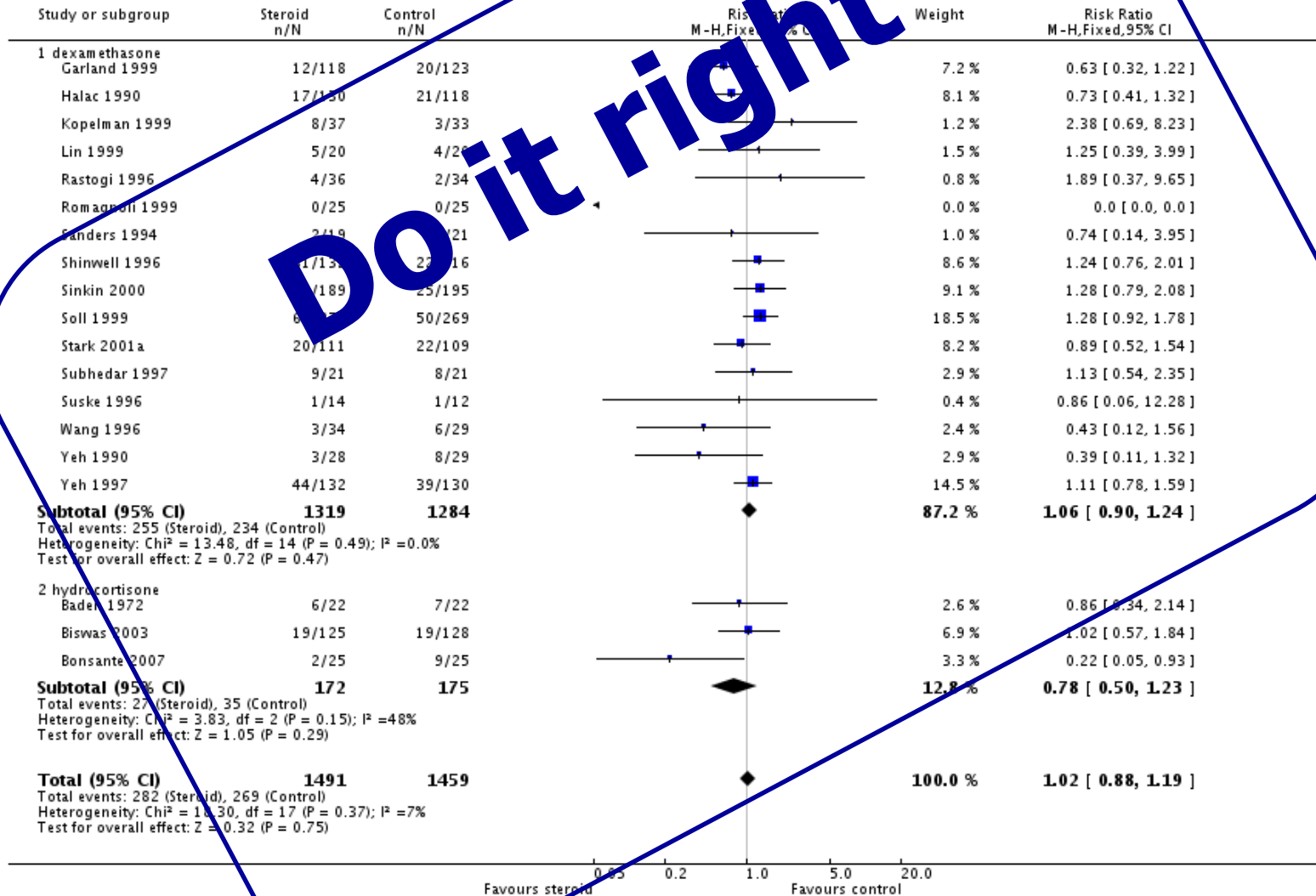
- Allocation concealment
- Intention to treat analysis
- Blinding
- Setting
- Baseline severity of depression
- Or exercise type

Associated with

- Type of publication
- Length of follow up.

Knowledge synthesis

Review: Early (< 8 days) postnatal corticosteroids for preventing chronic lung disease in preterm infants
 Comparison: 1 Mortality
 Outcome: 1 Neonatal mortality (up to 28 days)



HETEROGENEOUS TREATMENT EFFECTS

~~IGNORE~~

ESTIMATE
(insensitive)

INCORPORATE

EXPLAIN

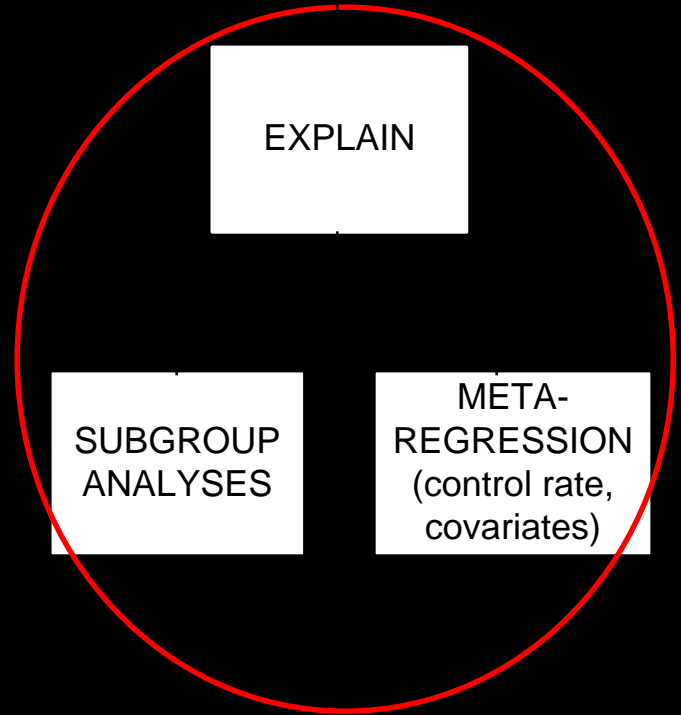
~~FIXED
EFFECTS
MODEL~~

~~DO NOT COMBINE
WHEN
HETEROGENEITY
IS PRESENT~~

RANDOM
EFFECTS
MODEL

SUBGROUP
ANALYSES

META-
REGRESSION
(control rate,
covariates)



I trucchi del mestiere

Esempio di Metaview

Review: Organised inpatient (stroke unit) care for stroke
Comparison: 01 Organised stroke unit care vs Alternative service
Outcome: 05 Death at five years follow up

