**Table S3** Risk of bias assessment

|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Author** | **I\*** | **II\*** | **III\*** | **IV\*** | **V\*** | **VI\*** | **VII\*** |
| Aghamohammadi 2015 | unclear | unclear | high | high | high | high | unclear |
| Samimi 2015 | low | low | low | low | low | low | unclear |
| Khan 2013 | unclear | low | unclear | unclear | low | low | low |
| Asemi 2012 | low | low | low | low | high | unclear | high |
| Nenad 2011 | unclear | unclear | low | unclear | unclear | unclear | unclear |
| Kumar 2009 | low | low | low | low | low | low | low |
| Villar 2006 | low | low | low | low | low | low | low |
| Herrera 2005 | low | low | low | low | low | unclear | low |
| Taherian 2002 | low | unclear | high | high | unclear | unclear | high |
| Wanchu 2001 | unclear | unclear | high | unclear | unclear | unclear | unclear |
| Niromanesh 2001 | unclear | low | low | low | low | low | low |
| Li 2000 | unclear | unclear | high | unclear | low | low | unclear |
| Crowther 1999 | low | low | low | low | low | low | low |
| Almirante 1998 | unclear | unclear | high | high | unclear | unclear | high |
| Herrera 1998 | low | low | low | low | low | low | low |
| Lopez 1997 | unclear | low | low | low | low | low | low |
| Levine 1997 | unclear | low | low | low | low | low | low |
| Purwar 1996 | unclear | low | low | low | low | low | low |
| Sanchez 1994 | low | unclear | low | low | low | low | low |
| Cong 1995 | high | unclear | high | high | unclear | unclear | unclear |
| Cong 1993 | unclear | unclear | high | high | unclear | unclear | high |
| Belizan 1991 | low | low | low | low | low | low | low |
| Villar 1990 | unclear | low | low | low | low | low | low |
| Lopez 1990 | low | low | low | low | low | low | unclear |
| López 1989 | low | low | low | low | low | low | low |
| Marya 1987 | high | high | high | high | unclear | unclear | high |
| Villar 1987 | low | low | low | low | low | low | low |

I\* Random sequence; II\* Allocation concealment; III\* Blinding of participants and personnel; IV\* Blinding of outcome assessment; V\* Incomplete outcome data; VI\* Selective reporting; VII\* Other bias