

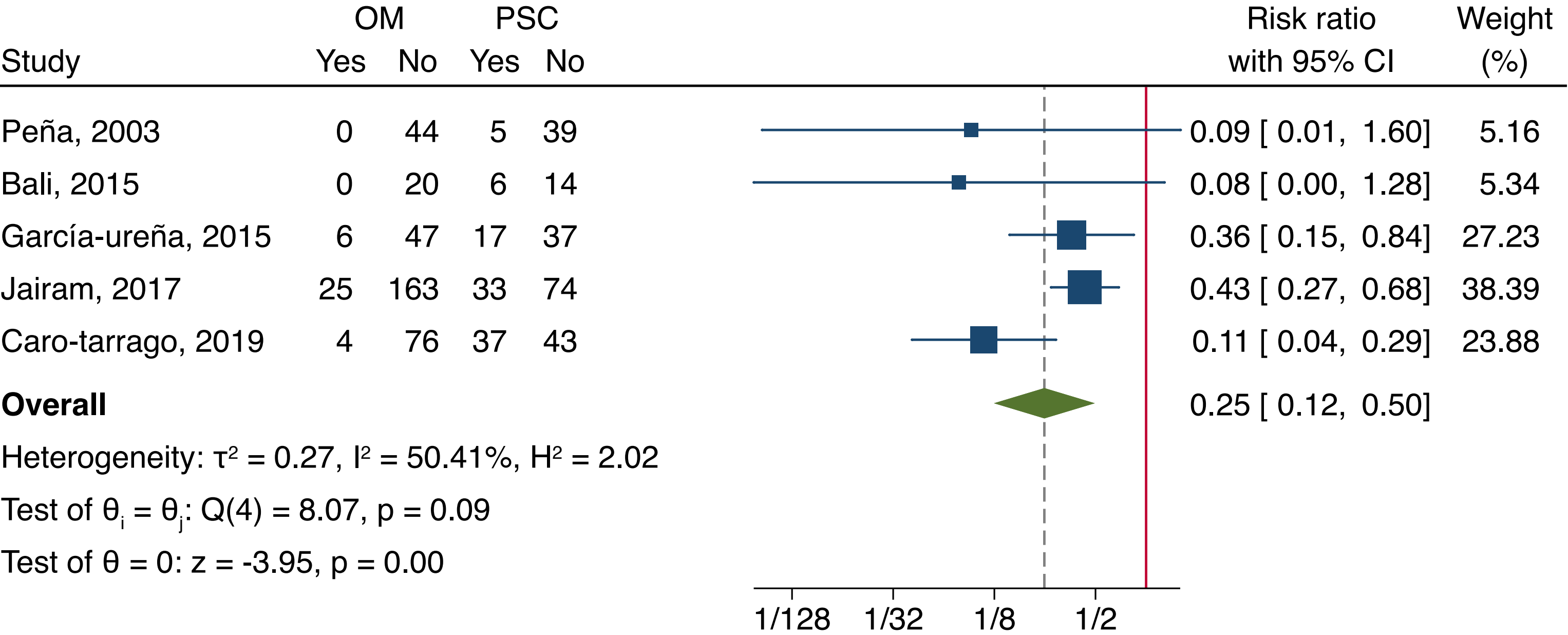


Amarit Tansawet

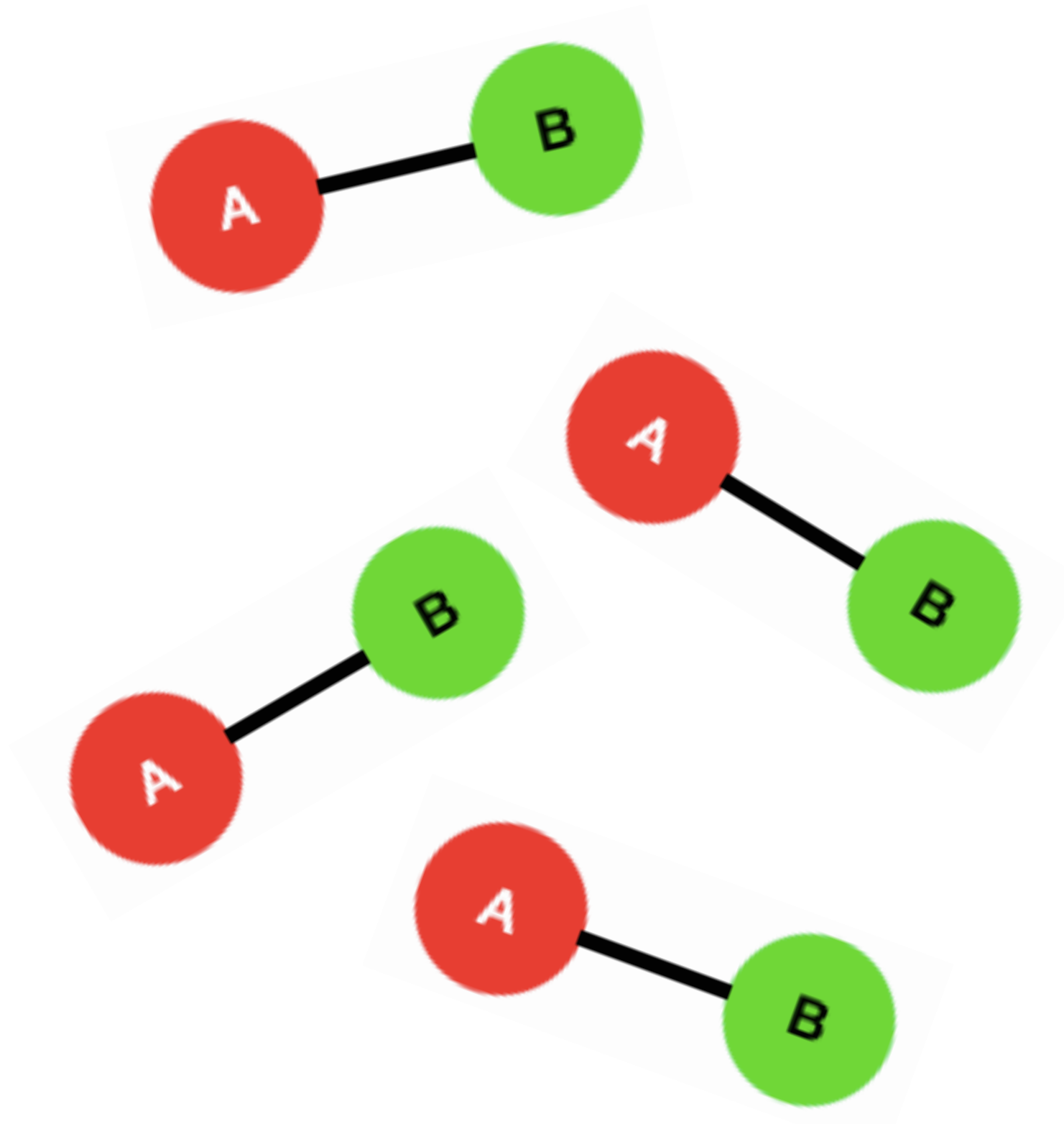
Network Meta-analysis

#CEB workshop 2021

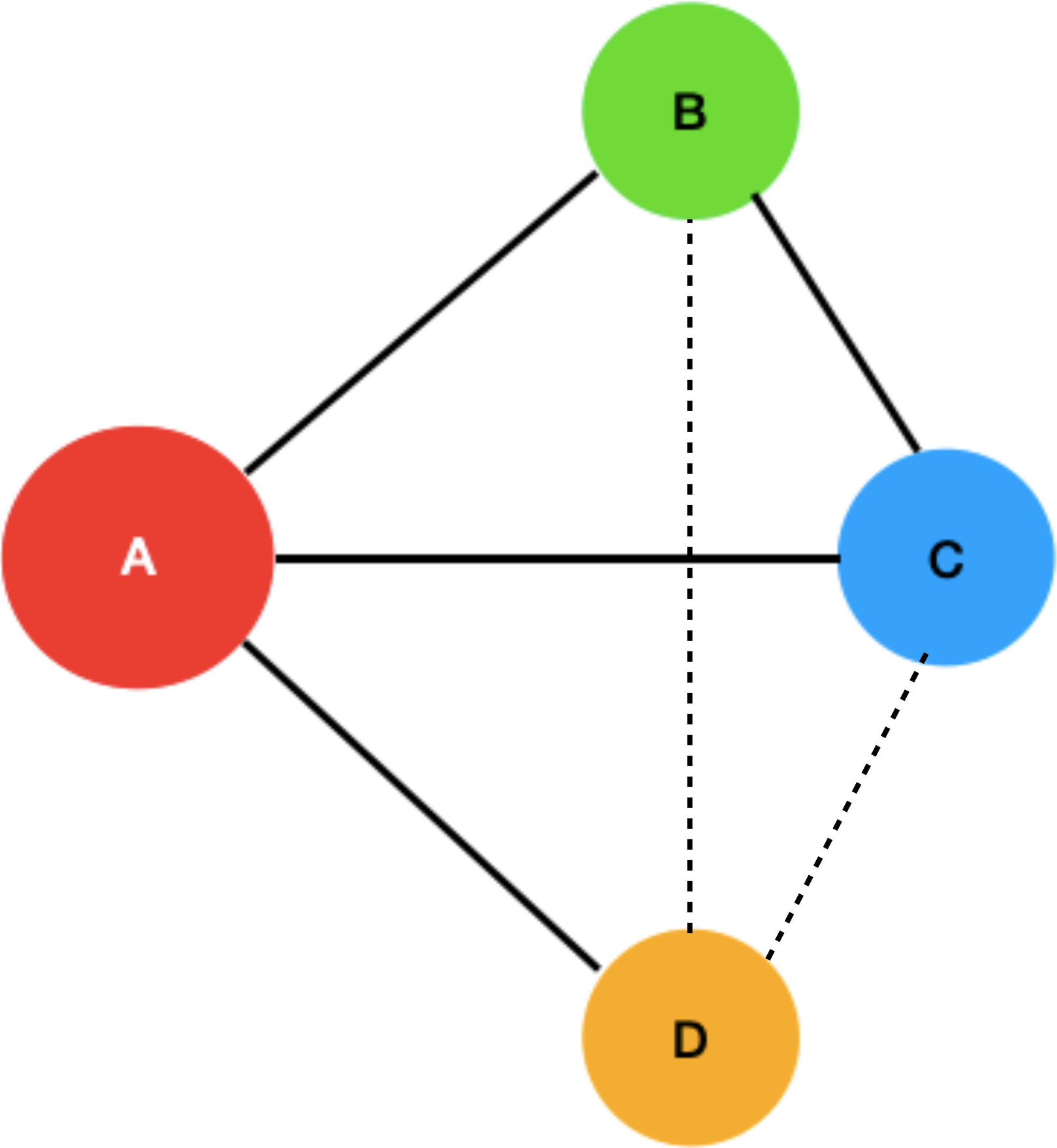
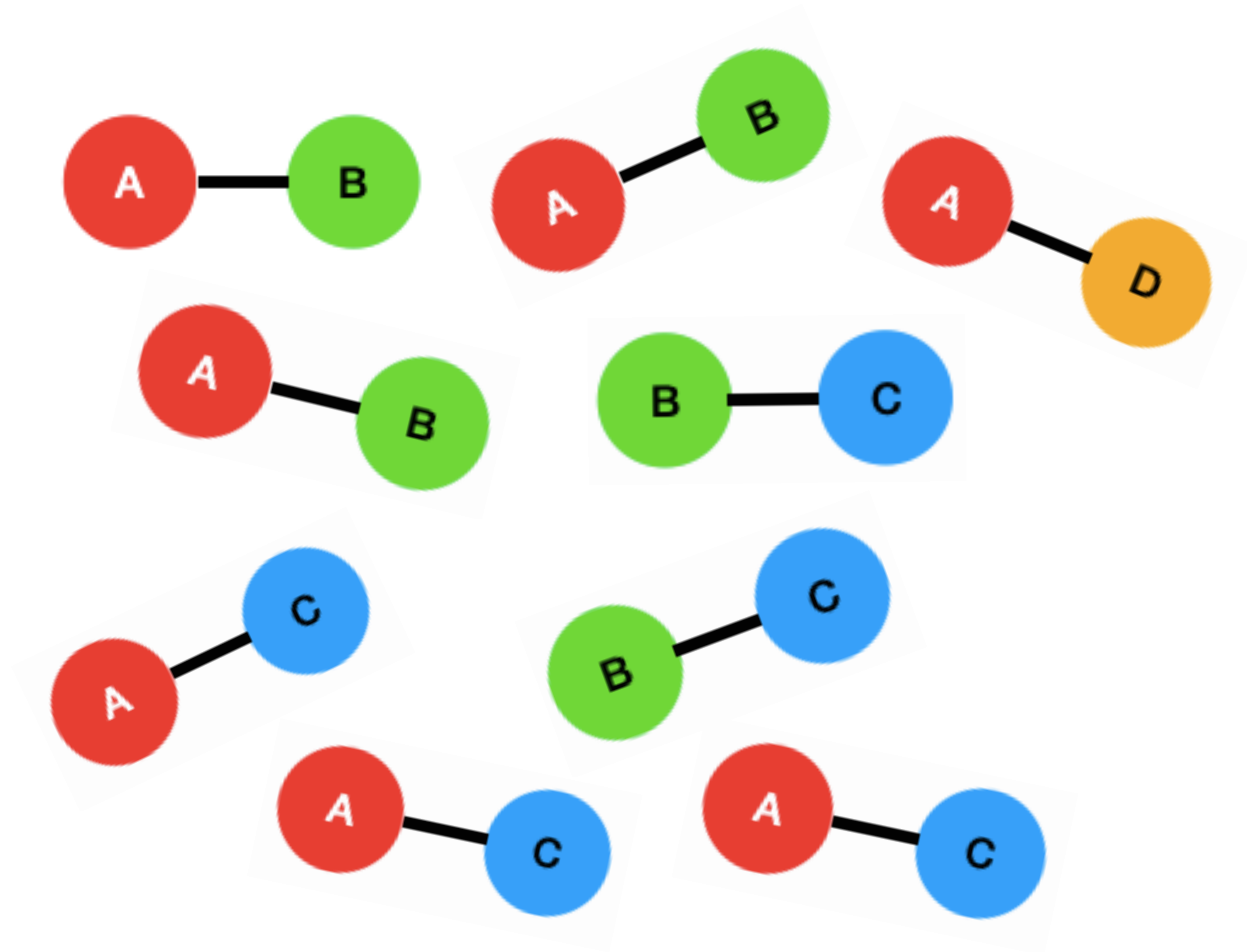
Pairwise Meta-analysis



Random-effects DerSimonian–Laird model



Network Meta-analysis

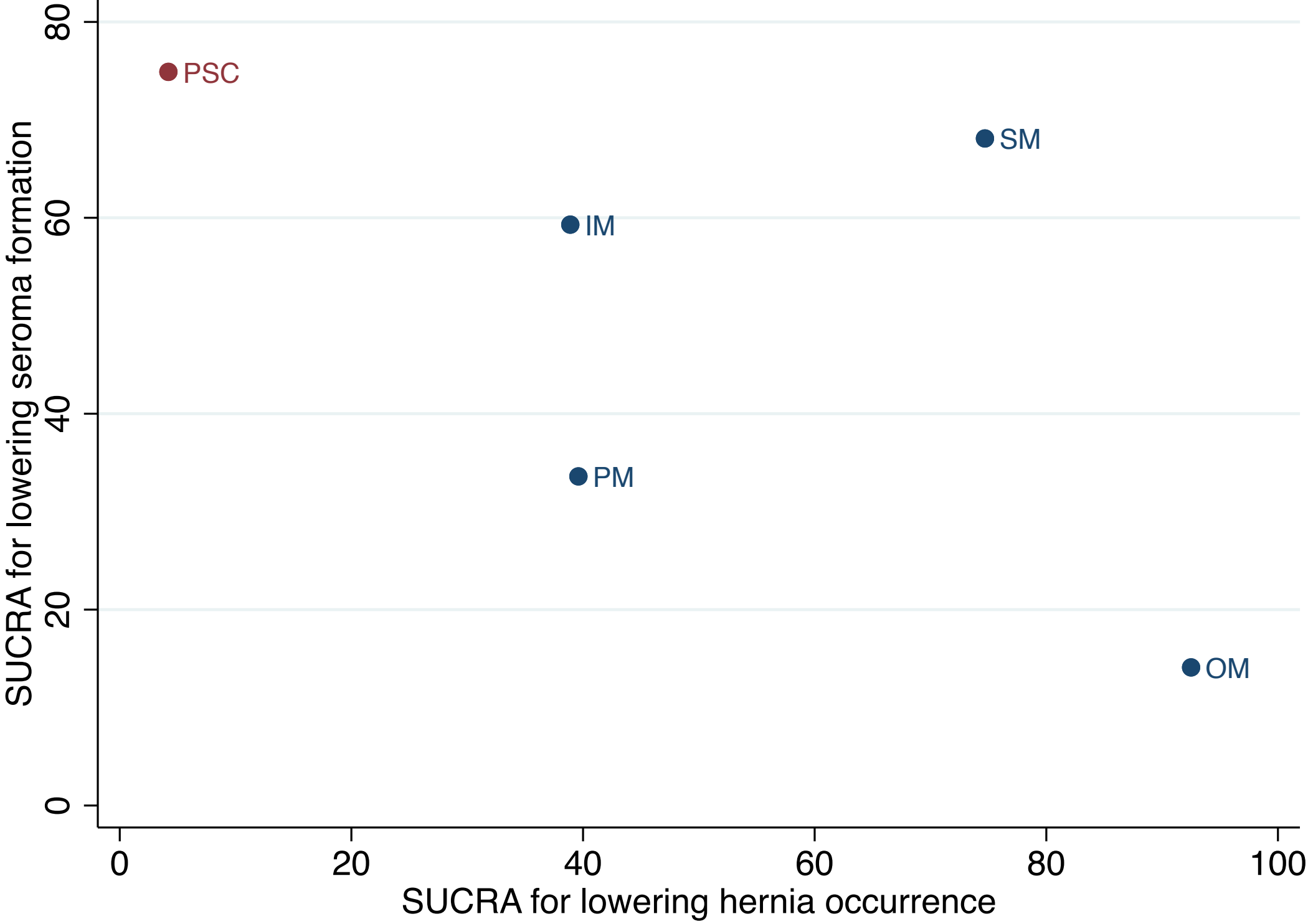
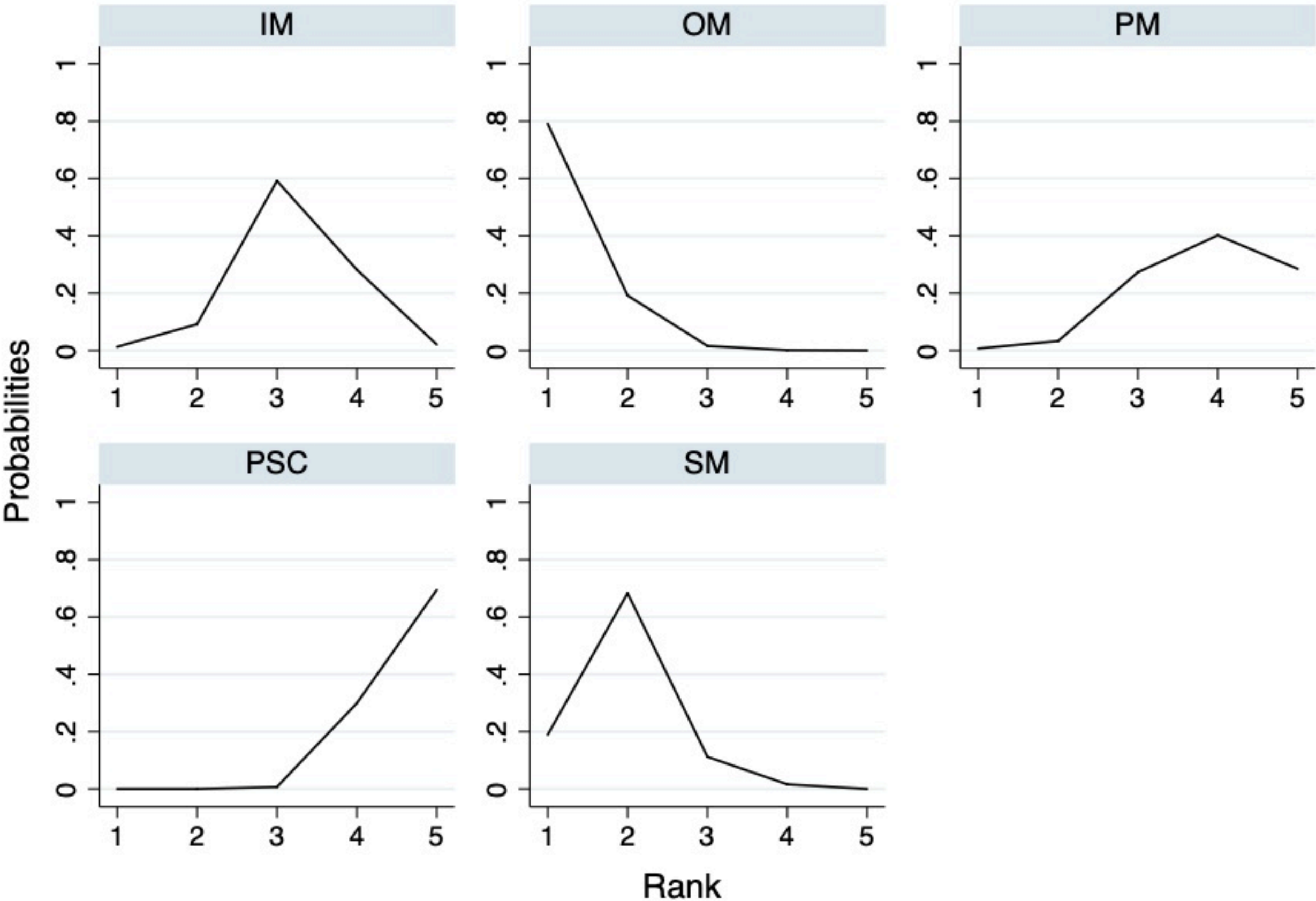


multiple treatment comparison

Why Network Meta-analysis?

- No direct comparison
- multiple comparison leads to type I error inflation
- Benefit of NMA
 - compare all treatments at the same time
 - treatments can be ranked

PSC	0.24 (0.12,0.46)	0.32 (0.16,0.66)	0.58 (0.23,1.47)	0.58 (0.32,1.06)
4.24 (2.19,8.21)	OM	1.37 (0.64,2.96)	2.47 (0.87,7.01)	2.47 (1.03,5.93)
3.08 (1.52,6.23)	0.73 (0.34,1.57)	SM	1.79 (0.63,5.09)	1.79 (0.73,4.43)
1.72 (0.68,4.33)	0.41 (0.14,1.15)	0.56 (0.20,1.58)	PM	1.00 (0.34,2.95)
1.72 (0.94,3.14)	0.41 (0.17,0.98)	0.56 (0.23,1.38)	1.00 (0.34,2.95)	IM



NMA could be

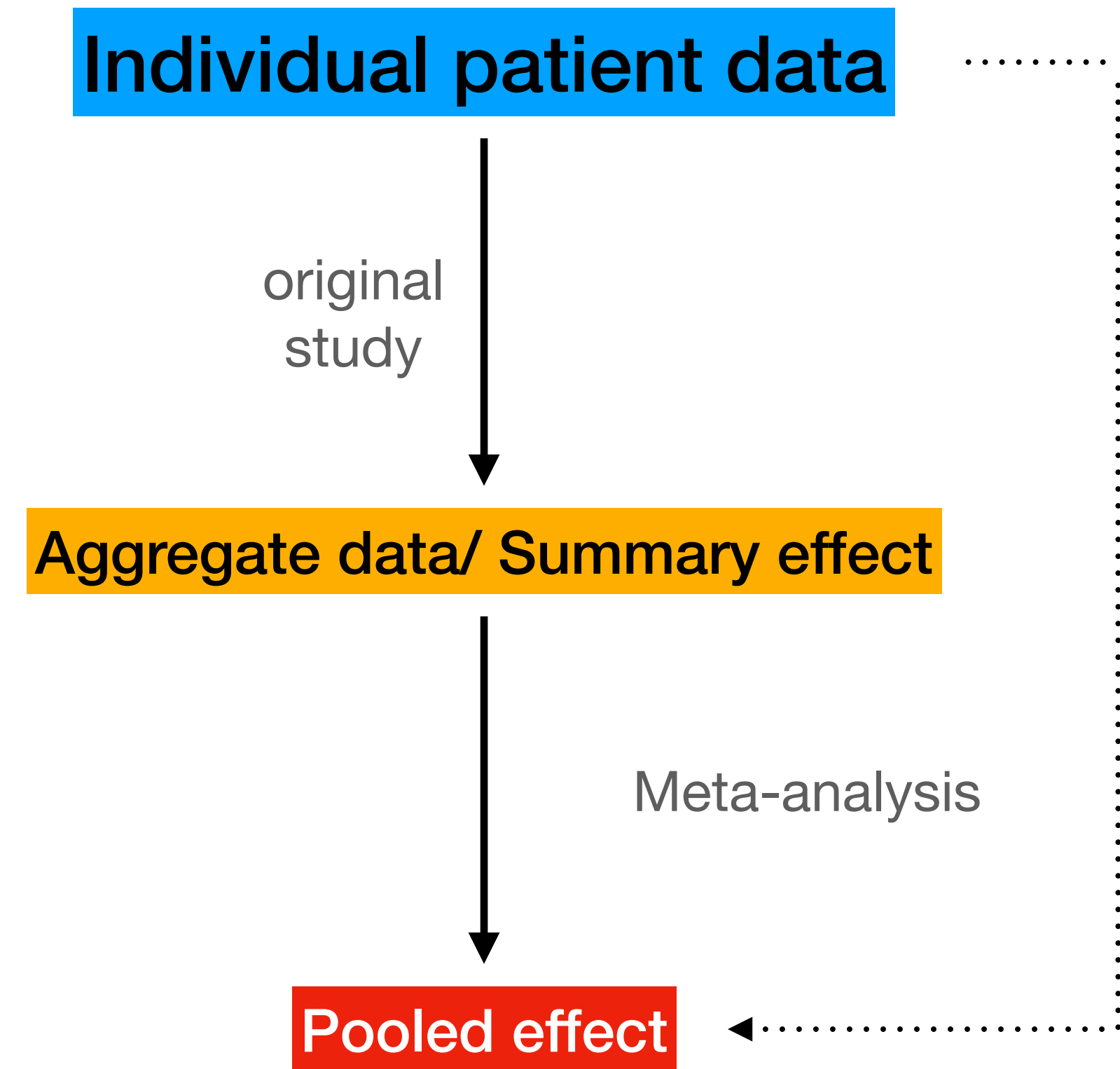
For

- Therapeutic
 - Binary outcome
 - Continuous outcome
 - Time-to-event outcome
 - Economic
 - Diagnostic
- One-stage
 - mixed-effect (multilevel) regression: “study” as a random intercept
 - Two-stage: first, estimate effect size (ES) for each study
 - multivariate meta-regression

... Let's begin with Therapeutic NMA

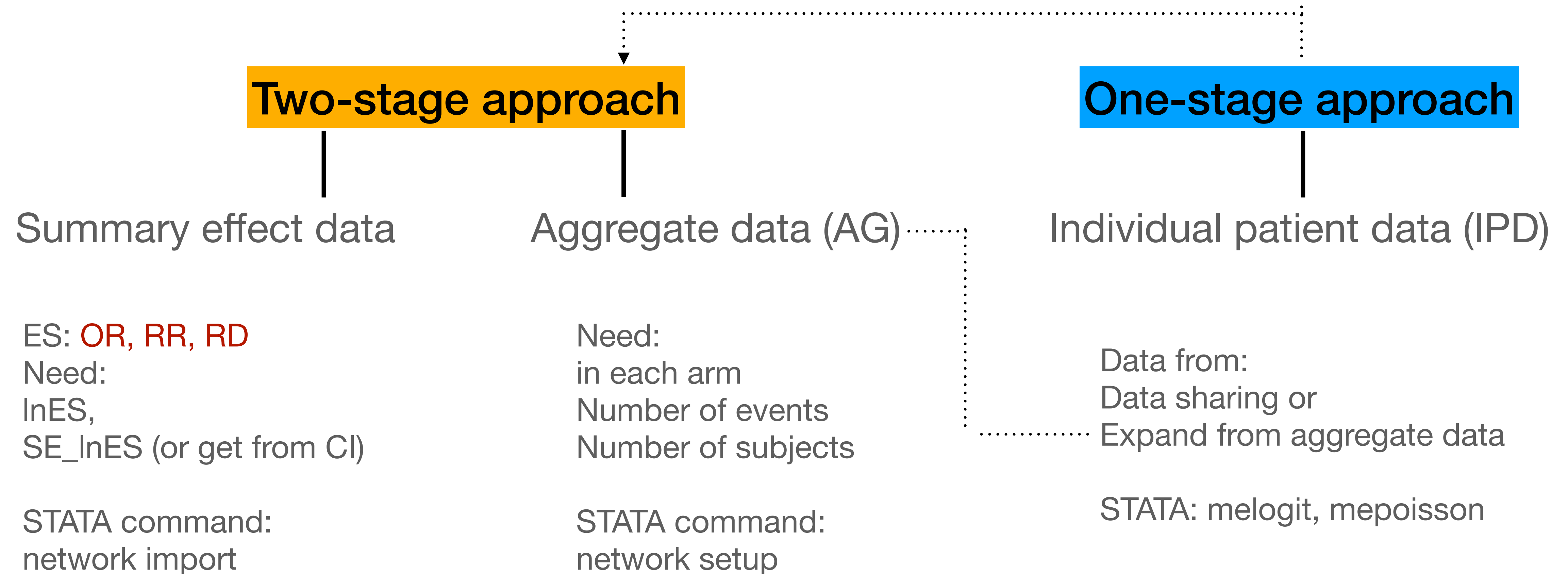
What kind of data do you have?

- Summary effect
- Aggregate data (AG)
- Individual patient data (IPD)



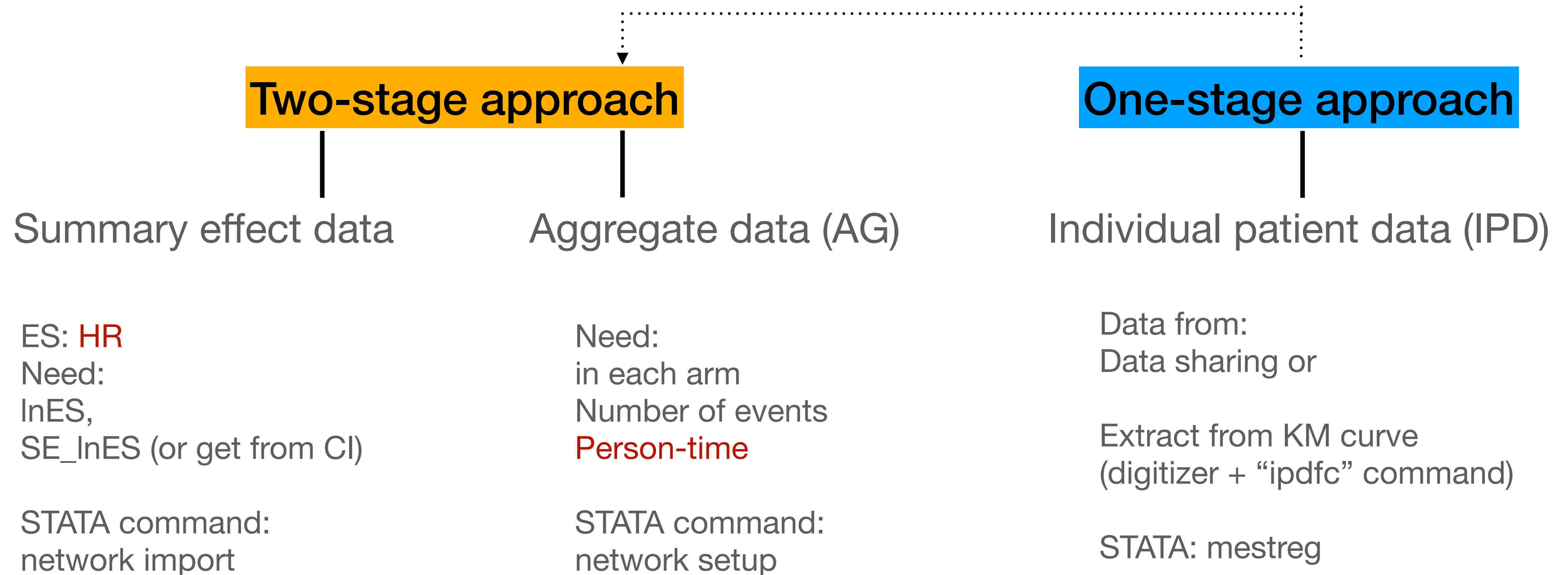
Therapeutic NMA

Binary outcome



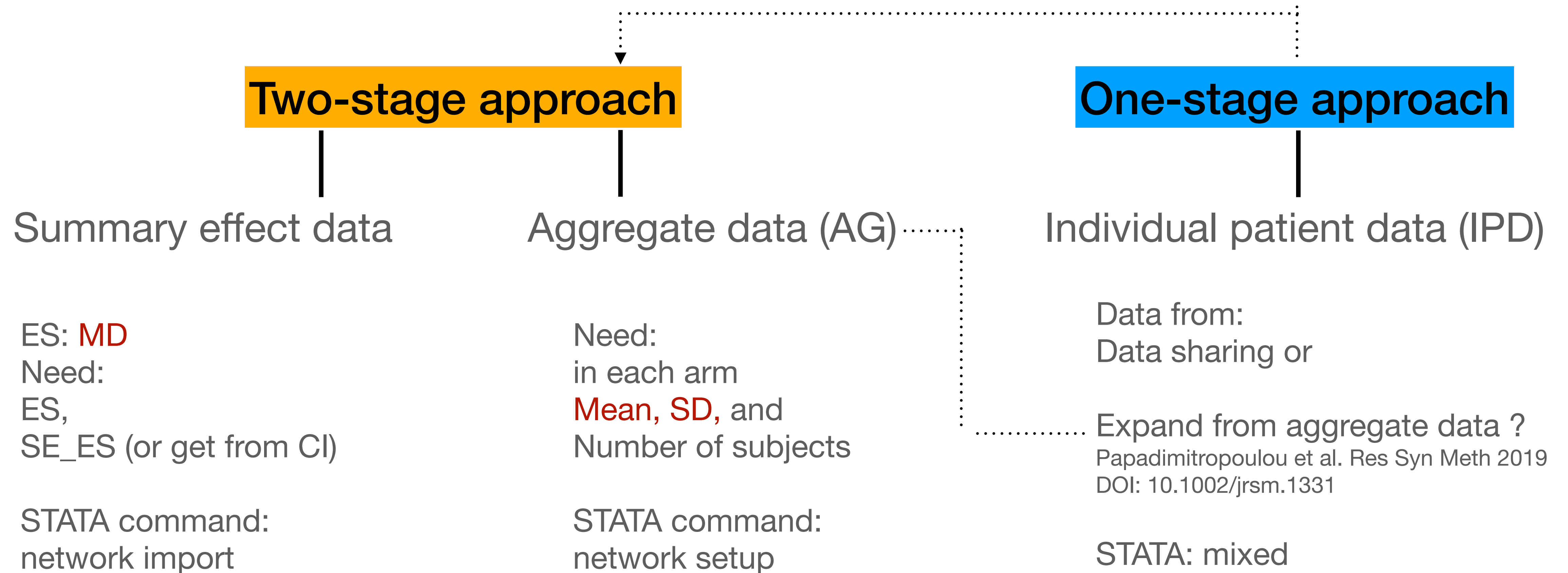
Therapeutic NMA

Time-to-event outcome



Therapeutic NMA

Continuous outcome



network setup eventvar nvar [if] [in], studyvar(varname) [or|rr|rd|hr zeroadd(#) common_options]

network setup meanvar sdvar nvar [if] [in], studyvar(varname) [md|smd sdpool(on|off) common_options]

<i>common_options</i>	Description
trtvar (<i>varname</i>)	treatment identifier (implies <i>data in long format</i>)
armvars (drop keep[(<i>varlist</i>)])	how to handle arm-level variables (only when the data are in <i>long format</i>)
trtlist (<i>string</i>)	list of treatment names to use; default is to use all treatments found in alphabetical order
alpha	force treatments to be coded in alphabetical order; default except with data in <i>long format</i> when trtvar() is numeric with value labels
numcodes	code treatments as numbers 1, 2, 3, ... or 01, 02, 03, ...; default is to code treatments as letters A, B, C, ...
nocodes	use current treatment names as treatment codes
format (augmented standard pairs)	specify format required
genprefix (<i>string</i>)	prefix to use before default variable names; default is genprefix(_)
gensuffix (<i>string</i>)	suffix to use after default variable names; default is no suffix
ref (<i>trtname</i>)	name of reference treatment
augment (#)	number of individuals to use to augment missing reference treatment arms; default is augment(0.001)
augmean (#)	mean outcome to use to augment missing reference treatment arms
augsd (#)	standard deviation to use to augment missing reference treatment arms (only for quantitative data)
augoverall	change default behavior for augmean() and augsd() to use the overall mean and standard deviation across all studies

wide format

A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H	I	J	K	L	M
ID	author	year	compare	total1	perstime1	event1	total2	perstime2	event2	total3	perstime3	event3
1	aaa	2015	12	xx	xx	xx	xx	xx	xx			
2	bbb	2016	12	xx		xx	xx		xx			
3	ccc	2016	12	xx		xx	xx		xx			
4	ddd	2017	12	xx		xx	xx		xx			
5	eee	2016	13	xx	xx	xx				xx	xx	xx
6	fff	2017	13	xx	xx	xx				xx	xx	xx
7	ggg	2020	13	xx		xx				xx		xx
8	hhh	2019	23				xx	xx	xx	xx	xx	xx
9	iii	2020	23				xx		xx	xx		xx
10	jjj	2020	23				xx		xx	xx		xx

long format

ID	author	year	med	total	perstime	event
1	aaa	2015	1	xx	xx	xx
1	aaa	2015	2	xx	xx	xx
2	bbb	2016	1	xx		xx
2	bbb	2016	2	xx		xx
3	ccc	2016	1	xx		xx
3	ccc	2016	2	xx		xx
4	ddd	2017	1	xx		xx
4	ddd	2017	2	xx		xx
5	eee	2016	1	xx	xx	xx
5	eee	2016	3	xx	xx	xx
6	fff	2017	1	xx	xx	xx
6	fff	2017	3	xx	xx	xx
7	ggg	2020	1	xx		xx
7	ggg	2020	3	xx		xx
8	hhh	2019	2	xx	xx	xx
8	hhh	2019	3	xx	xx	xx
9	iii	2020	2	xx		xx
9	iii	2020	3	xx		xx
10	jjj	2020	2	xx		xx
10	jjj	2020	3	xx		xx

A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H	I	J
ID	author	year	compare	treat1	treat2	hr	se_hr	rr	se_rr
1	aaa	2015	12	1	2	xx	xx	xx	xx
2	bbb	2016	12	1	2	xx	xx	xx	xx
3	ccc	2016	12	1	2	xx	xx	xx	xx
4	ddd	2017	12	1	2	xx	xx	xx	xx
5	eee	2016	13	1	3	xx	xx	xx	xx
6	fff	2017	13	1	3	xx	xx	xx	xx
7	ggg	2020	13	1	3	xx	xx		
8	hhh	2019	23	2	3	xx	xx	xx	xx
9	iii	2020	23	2	3	xx	xx		
10	jjj	2020	23	2	3	xx	xx		

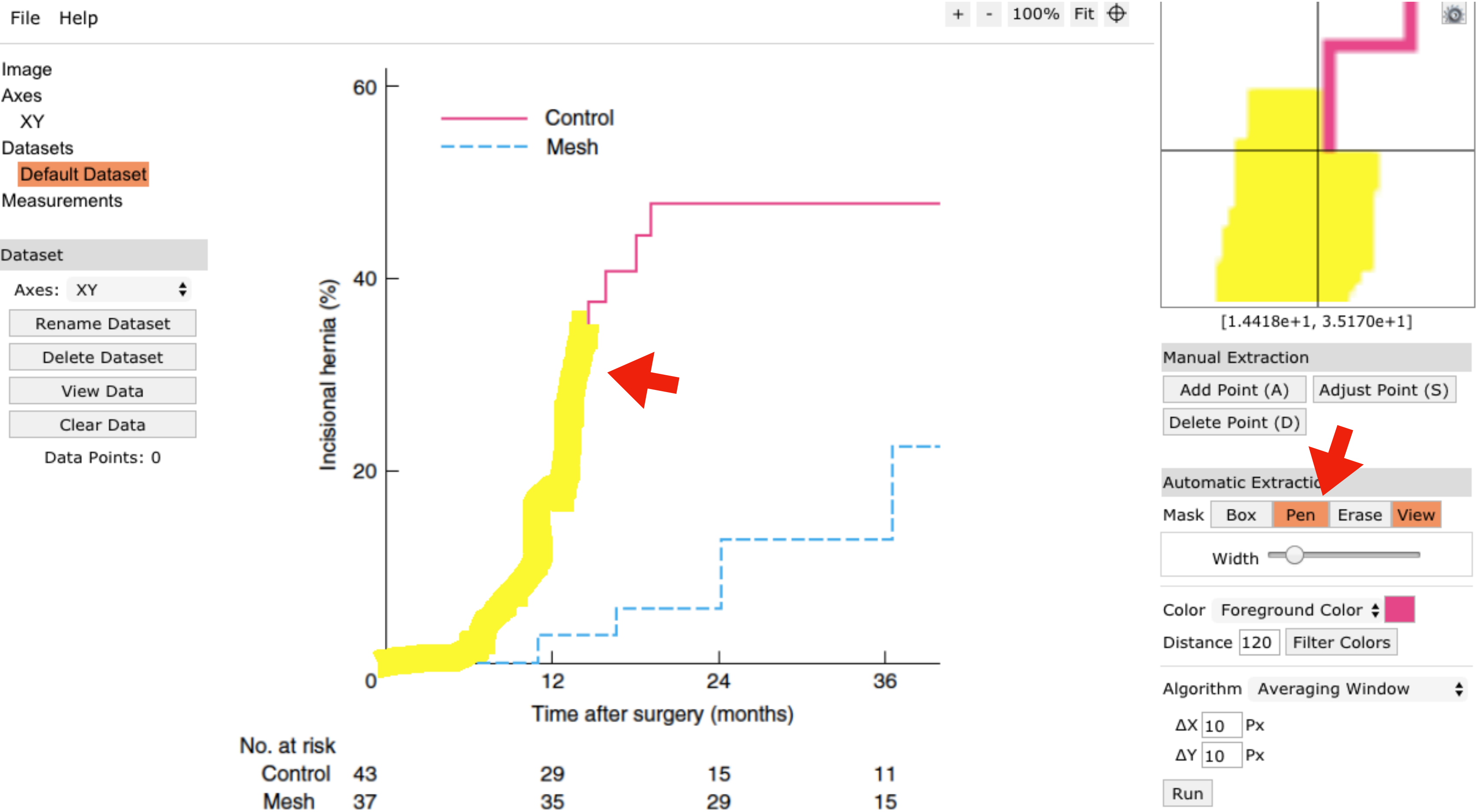
network import [if] [in] , studyvar(varname) treat(trtvar1 trtvar2) effect(effectstub) stderr(varname) [options]

Benefits of One-stage approach

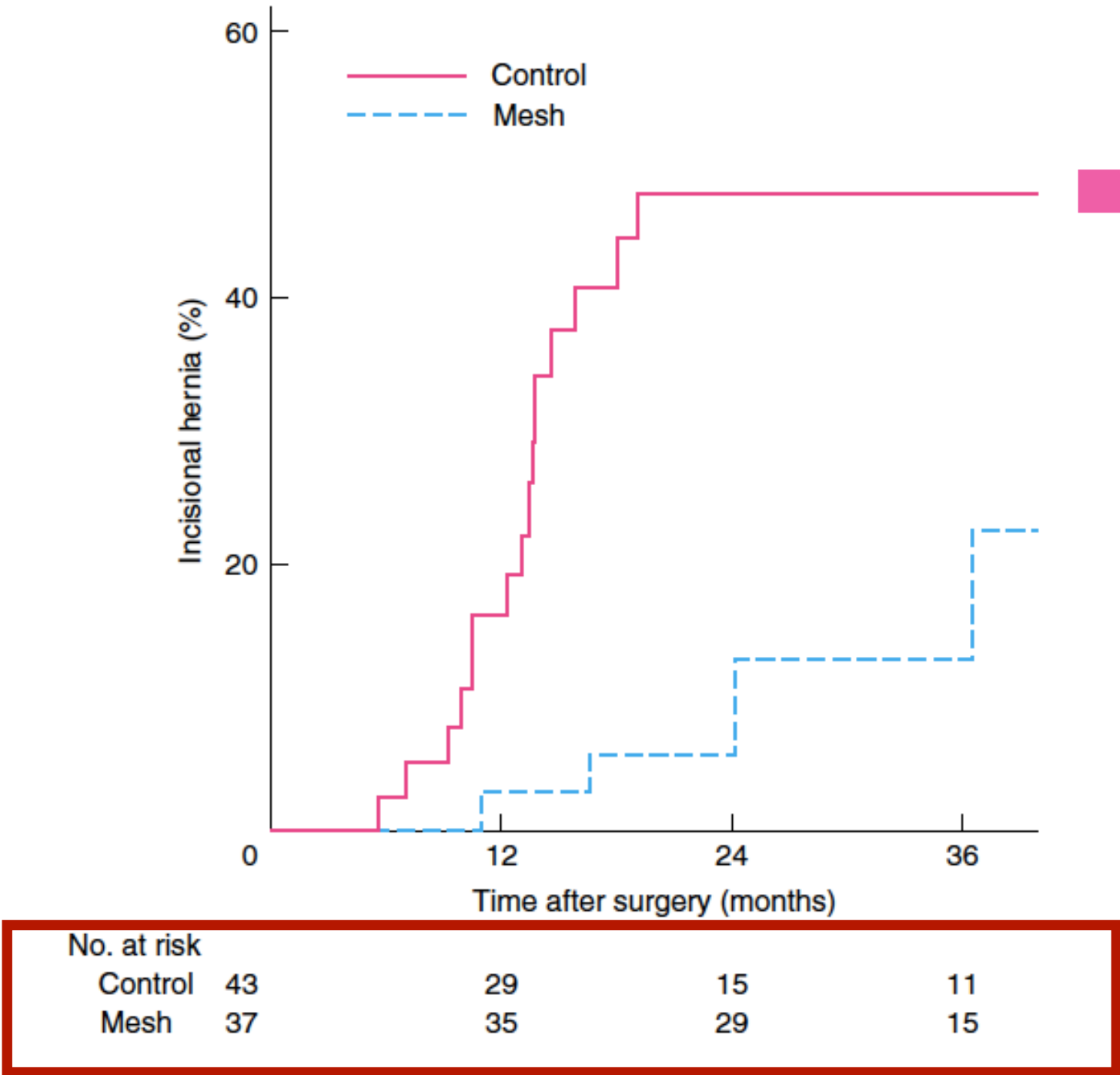
(Real IPD)

- increase precision of estimated treatment effect
- improve network consistency
- could adjust for participant-level effect modifier
- could adopt more advanced model for dealing with missing data

Extract data from KM curve



Extract data from KM curve



Risk table

CURVE		RISK TABLE		
	A	B	C	D
1	ts0	f0	trisk0	nrisk0
2	0	0	0	43
3	5.65	2.53	12	29
4	7.09	5.13	24	15
5	9.3	7.73	36	11
6	9.97	10.71		
7	10.51	16.17		
8	12.32	19.16		
9	13.13	22.14		
10	13.49	26.17		
11	13.67	29.16		
12	13.8	34.09		
13	14.66	37.6		
14	15.92	40.71		
15	18.08	44.48		
16	19.16	47.73		
17	24	47.73		
18	36	47.73		

<< may have to f
manual

fill until 36 like trisk

<< may have to fill manually

time[1]			5.65000
	time	event	
1	5.65	1	
2	7.09	1	
3	9.3	1	
4	9.97	1	
5	10.51	1	
6	10.51	1	
7	12.32	1	
8	13.13	1	
9	13.49	1	
10	13.67	1	
11	13.8	1	
12	13.8	1	
13	14.66	1	
14	15.92	1	
15	18.08	1	
16	18.08	1	
17	19.16	1	
18	2.825	0	
19	2.825	0	
20	2.825	0	
21	2.825	0	
22	6.37	0	
23	8.195	0	
24	9.635	0	
25	11.415	0	
26	15.29	0	
27	18.62	0	
28	21.58	0	
29	30	0	
30	30	0	

failure curve
(default = survival curve)

prob
if y axis = probability
(default = percentage)

- ipdfc, surv(f0) **failure** tstart(ts0) trisk(trisk0) nrisk(nrisk0) tot(#event)

isotonic gen(time event) saving(filename, replace)

New var

New file

f0, ts0 from digitizer
trisk0, nrisk0 from risk table under KM

Zero event

- Single-arm zero-event
 - Peto or Mantel-Haenszel method are recommended
- Double-arm zero-event
 - usually excluded in many software
 - excluding studies with no events in both arms can result in about 10% of the meta- analyses change the statistical significance

Zero event



Type 1. MA-SZ

Zero-events only occur in single arm and no double-arm-zero-events studies exist; the total event count in each arm is non-zero



Type 2. MA-MZ

Both single-arm-zero-events studies and double-arm-zero-events studies were included; the total event count in each arm is non-zero



Type 3. MA-DZ

Only double-arm-zero-events studies were included, without single-arm-zero studies; the total event count in each arm is non-zero



Type 4. MA-CSZ

Zero-events only occur in a single arm and no double-arm-zero-events studies exist, but the total event count in one arm is zero



Type 5. MA-CMZ

Both single-arm-zero-events studies and double-arm-zero-events studies were included, but the total event count one arm is zero



Type 6. MA-CDZ

All included studies were double-arm-zero-events studies and the total event counts in both arms are zero

1

Single-arm-zero—events (MA-SZ)				
Study	r1	n1	r2	n2
1	1	50	0	50
2	0	50	1	50
⋮	⋮	⋮	⋮	⋮
k	1	50	0	50

2

Mixed zero-events (MA-MZ)				
Study	r1	n1	r2	n2
1	1	50	0	50
2	0	50	0	50
⋮	⋮	⋮	⋮	⋮
k	1	50	1	50

3

Double-arm-zero—events (MA-DZ)				
Study	r1	n1	r2	n2
1	0	50	0	50
2	1	50	1	50
⋮	⋮	⋮	⋮	⋮
k	1	50	1	50

4

Completely single-arm-zero—events (MA-CSZ)				
Study	r1	n1	r2	n2
1	1	50	0	50
2	1	50	0	50
⋮	⋮	⋮	⋮	⋮
k	1	50	0	50

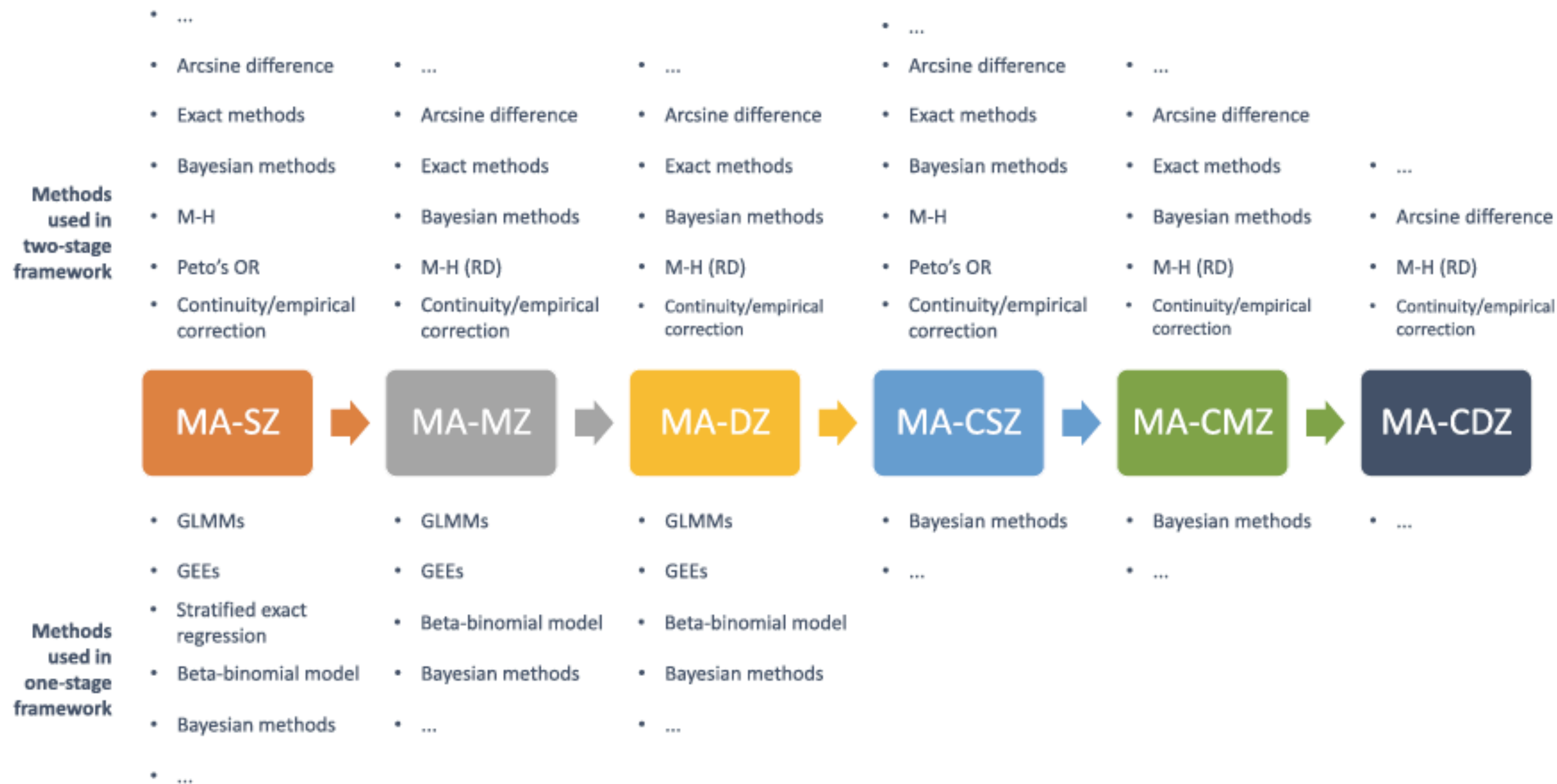
5

Completely mixed zero-events (MA-CMZ)				
Study	r1	n1	r2	n2
1	1	50	0	50
2	0	50	0	50
⋮	⋮	⋮	⋮	⋮
k	1	50	0	50

6

Completely double-arm-zero-events (MA-CDZ)				
Study	r1	n1	r2	n2
1	0	50	0	50
2	0	50	0	50
⋮	⋮	⋮	⋮	⋮
k	0	50	0	50

Zero event



Zero event

Box 1. Five steps for meta-analysis with zero-events studies.

1. Check for zero-events studies;
2. Check the framework of the classification to identify the meta-analysis belongs to which of MA-SZ, MA-MZ, MA-DZ, MA-CSZ, MA-CMZ, and MA-CDZ;
3. Check all available methods that could be used under the classification in the flow diagram;
4. Conduct the meta-analysis by using one or more appropriate methods;
5. Conduct sensitivity analysis using other available methods to test whether the results are robust.

Combining of RCTs and Observational studies

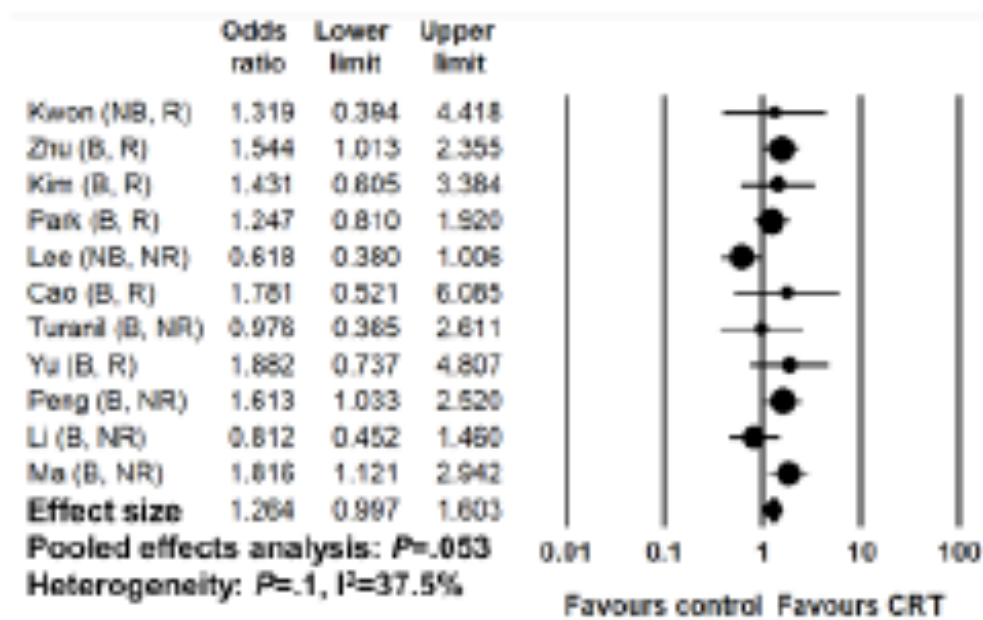
Why?

- small number of RCTs
 - small number of participants in RCTs
-
- Naïve pooling
 - Sensitivity analysis

Combining of RCTs and Observational studies

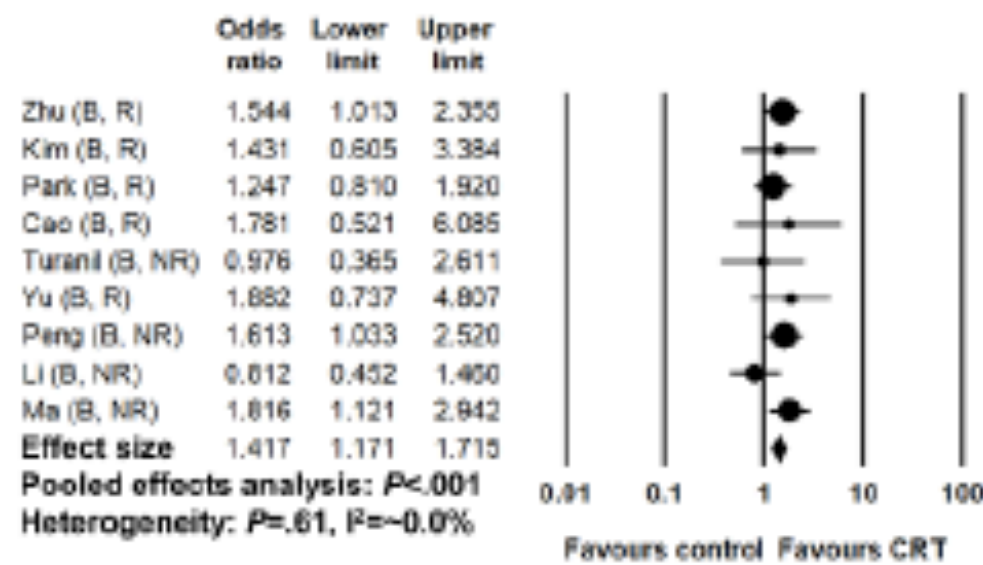
Stepwise-Hierarchical Pooled Analysis

(A) All studies included



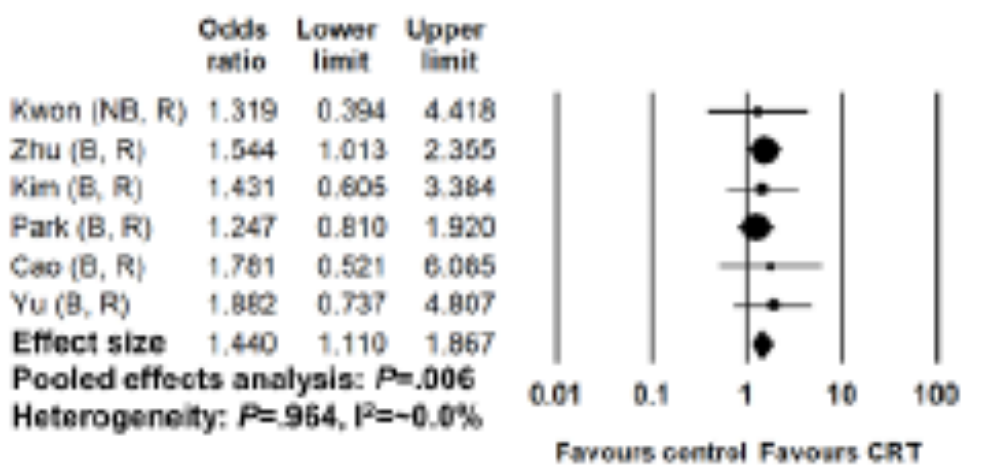
ES: 1.26,
 P : Nonsignificant
(.053)
Moderate
heterogeneity

(B) Balanced studies



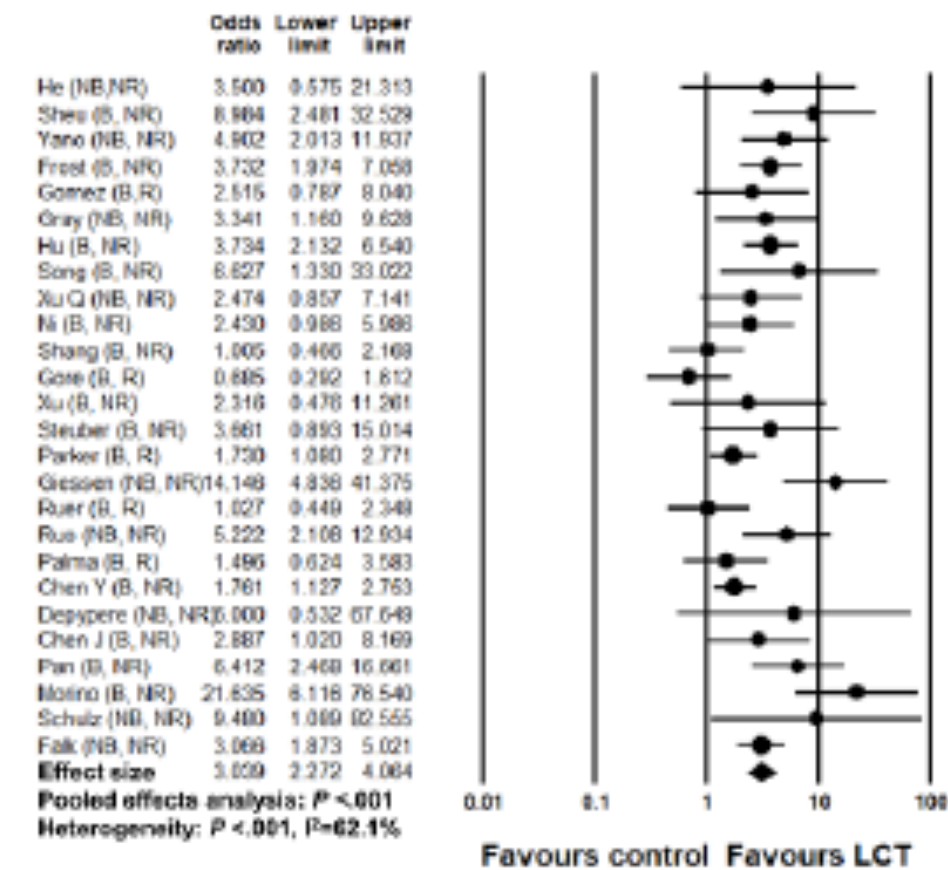
ES: 1.42,
 P : Significant
($<.001$)
Low
heterogeneity

(C) Randomized studies



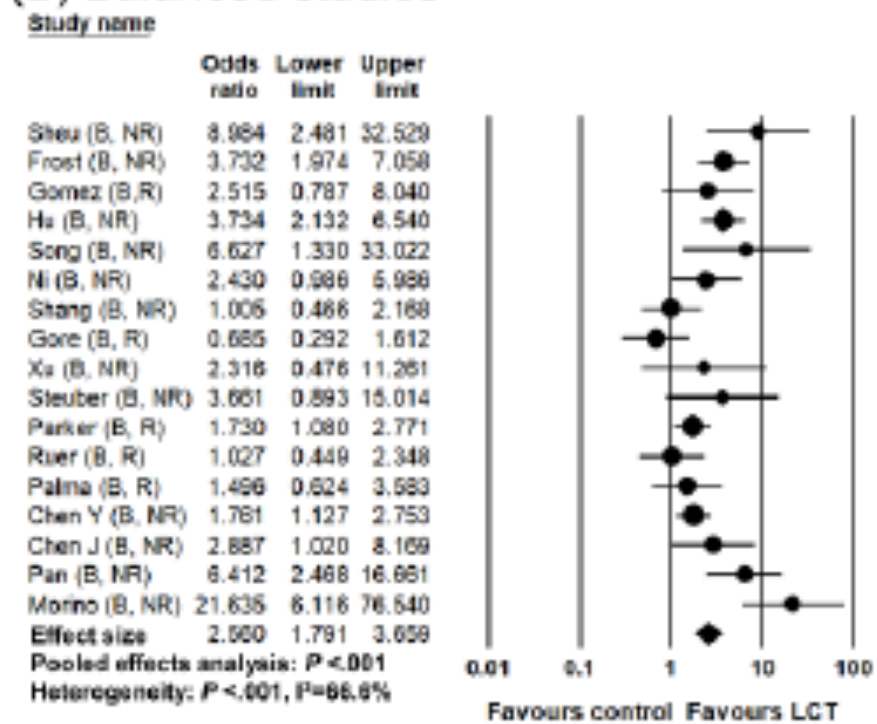
ES: 1.44,
 P : Significant
(.006)
Very low
heterogeneity

(A) All studies included



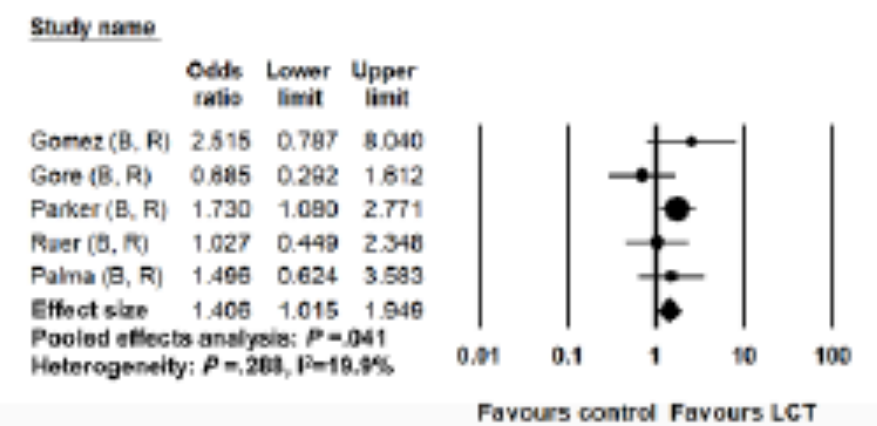
ES: 3.04,
 P : Significant
($<.001$)
High
heterogeneity

(B) Balanced studies



ES: 2.56,
 P : Significant
($<.001$)
High
heterogeneity





(C) Randomized studies



ES: 1.41,
 P : Significant
(.041)
Low
heterogeneity

Combining of RCTs and Observational studies

Stepwise-Hierarchical Pooled Analysis

Pattern type	Results	All studies included	^a Balanced studies	^b Randomized studies	Hypothesis	Confounder in OBS	Effect size of OBS	Further interpretation
Ascending patterns	Effect size				Strongly true	Possibly	May be smaller than the true effect	OBS may be affected by confounders negative to the hypothesis.
	Significance	Non-significant		Significant				
	Effect size				Strongly true	Less likely		
	Significance	Significant		Significant				
Descending patterns	Effect size				Not true	Very likely	Less reliable	OBS may be affected by researchers' bias, or confounders positive to hypothesis.
	Significance	Significant		Non-significant				
	Effect size				True	Possibly	May be larger than the true effect	
	Significance	Significant		Significant				

^aDesigned to reasonably control for possible confounders, including randomized studies.

^bStudies with a flawed design or too few subjects might be downgraded.

Combining of RCTs and Observational studies

in NMA

- design-adjusted synthesis
- using non-randomized evidence as prior information
- three-level hierarchical model

Health Economic study

Data that can be pooled

- NMB (or INB)

$$\text{ICER} < K$$

$$\frac{(\hat{\mu}_{C1} - \hat{\mu}_{C2})}{(\hat{\mu}_{E1} - \hat{\mu}_{E2})} < K$$

$$K(\hat{\mu}_{E1} - \hat{\mu}_{E2}) - (\hat{\mu}_{C1} - \hat{\mu}_{C2}) > 0$$

$$\text{INB} = K(\hat{\mu}_{E1} - \hat{\mu}_{E2}) - (\hat{\mu}_{C1} - \hat{\mu}_{C2}) > 0$$

- Don't use ICER

$$\begin{aligned}\text{Var}(\text{INB}) &= \text{Var}[K(\hat{\mu}_{E1} - \hat{\mu}_{E2}) - (\hat{\mu}_{C1} - \hat{\mu}_{C2})] \\ &= K^2 \text{Var}((\hat{\mu}_{E1} - \hat{\mu}_{E2})) + \text{Var}(\hat{\mu}_{C1} - \hat{\mu}_{C2}) - 2K \text{Cov}[(\hat{\mu}_{E1} - \hat{\mu}_{E2})(\hat{\mu}_{C1} - \hat{\mu}_{C2})] \\ &= K^2 \sigma_{\Delta E}^2 + \sigma_{\Delta C}^2 - 2K \rho_{CE} \sigma_{\Delta C} \sigma_{\Delta E}\end{aligned}$$

e.g. ICER = -4000 may come from

$\Delta \text{cost} = 40,000$ & $\Delta \text{QALY} = -10$ or $\Delta \text{cost} = -40,000$ & $\Delta \text{QALY} = 10$

Health Economic study

Scenario

Scenario 1: Studies that reported means along with the variance of all parameters; C and E for each treatment, ΔC , ΔE , ICER and also K. The INB and its variance were estimated by the following equation:

$$INB = \Delta E (K - ICER)$$

$$Var (INB) \cong K^2 \sigma_{\Delta E}^2 + \sigma_{ICER}^2$$

Where $\sigma_{\Delta E}^2$ is the variance of ΔE and σ_{ICER}^2 is the variance of ICER.

Scenario 2: Studies that reported only 95%CI of C or ΔC , E or ΔE , and ICER. The SE of ICER was estimated by following formula:

$$UL = \mu + 1.96 SE$$

$$SE = \frac{UL - \mu}{1.96}$$

The INB and its variance were estimated as following equation.

$$INB = \Delta E (K - ICER)$$

$$Var (INB) \cong K^2 \sigma_{\Delta E}^2 + \sigma_{ICER}^2$$

Health Economic study

Scenario

Scenario 3: Studies that reported mean and 95% CI for C or ΔC , E or ΔE , but did not report the ICER and its variance. The data of ΔC and ΔE were simulated by a Monte Carlo- simulation with 1000 simulations using gamma distribution for ΔC and normal distribution for ΔE . The ICER and covariance between ΔC and ΔE ($\rho_{CE}\sigma_{\Delta C}\sigma_{\Delta E}$) was estimated. As a result, the INB and its variance were estimated by the following equations.

$$\text{INB} = K(\Delta E) - \Delta C$$

$$\text{Var (INB)} = K^2\sigma_{\Delta E}^2 + \sigma_{\Delta C}^2 - 2K(\rho_{CE}\sigma_{\Delta C}\sigma_{\Delta E})$$

Health Economic study

Scenario

Scenario 4: Studies that reported only the mean outcome without its dispersion, but provided a cost-effective plane graph for ΔC and ΔE . Data of ΔC and ΔE were extracted from the graph using Web-Plot Digitizer software version 4.2. Subsequently, means and SE of ΔC and ΔE as well as the covariance of ΔC and ΔE , were estimated. As a result, the INB and its variance were estimated by the following equations.

$$INB = K(\Delta E) - \Delta C$$

$$Var (INB) = K^2 \sigma_{\Delta E}^2 + \sigma_{\Delta C}^2 - 2K(\rho_{CE} \sigma_{\Delta C} \sigma_{\Delta E})$$

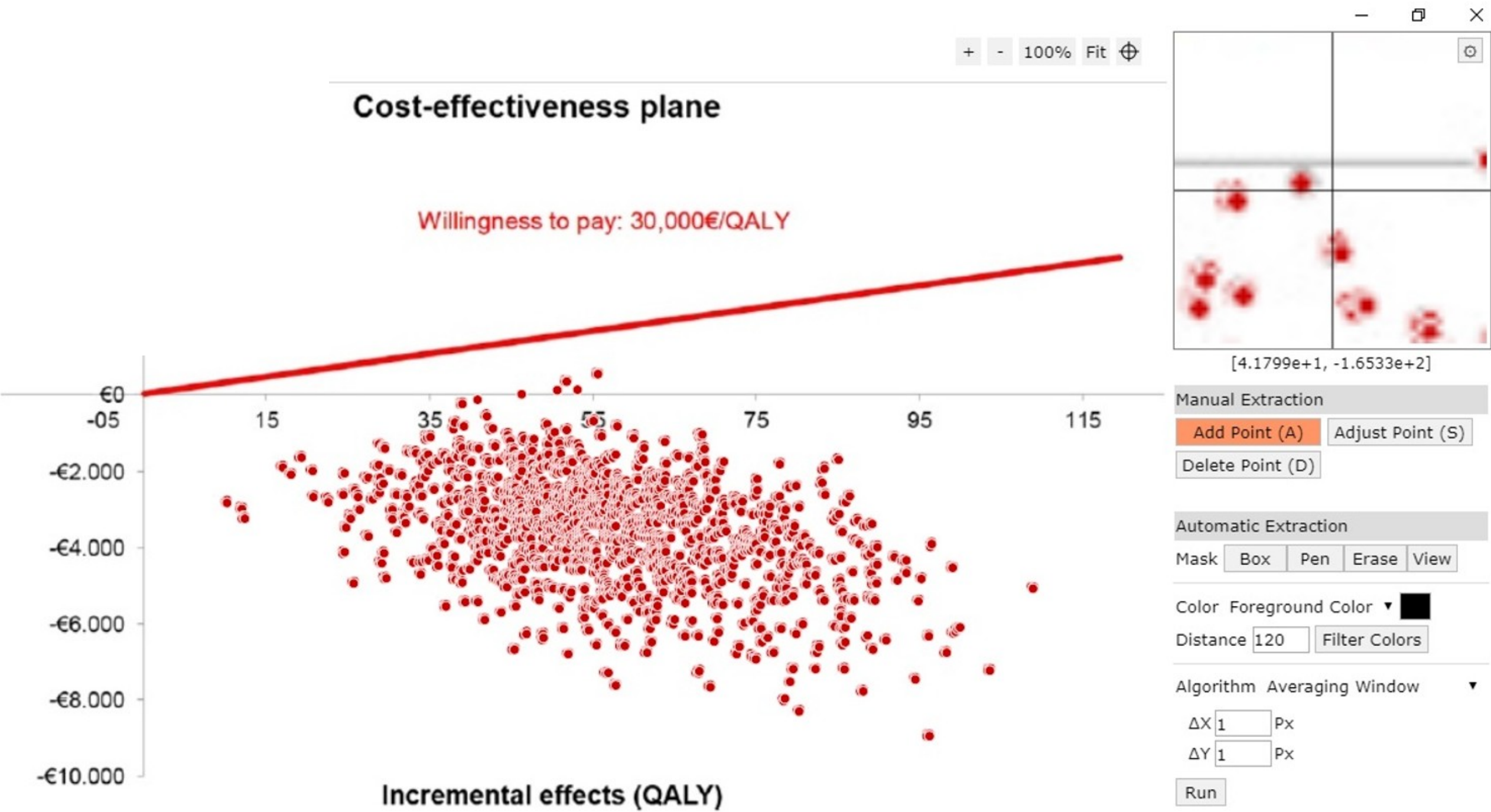
Rename Dataset

Delete Dataset

View Data

Clear Data

Data Points: 2829



Health Economic study

Scenario

Scenario 5: Studies that reported only the mean outcome without its dispersion and also the cost-effective plane. Data for pooling were used from other similar studies; in terms of participant, intervention, comparator, level of income country, country or gross domestic product (GDP) per capita, model inputs (e.g., type of cost/effectiveness, type of model, discount rate, time horizon, etc.).

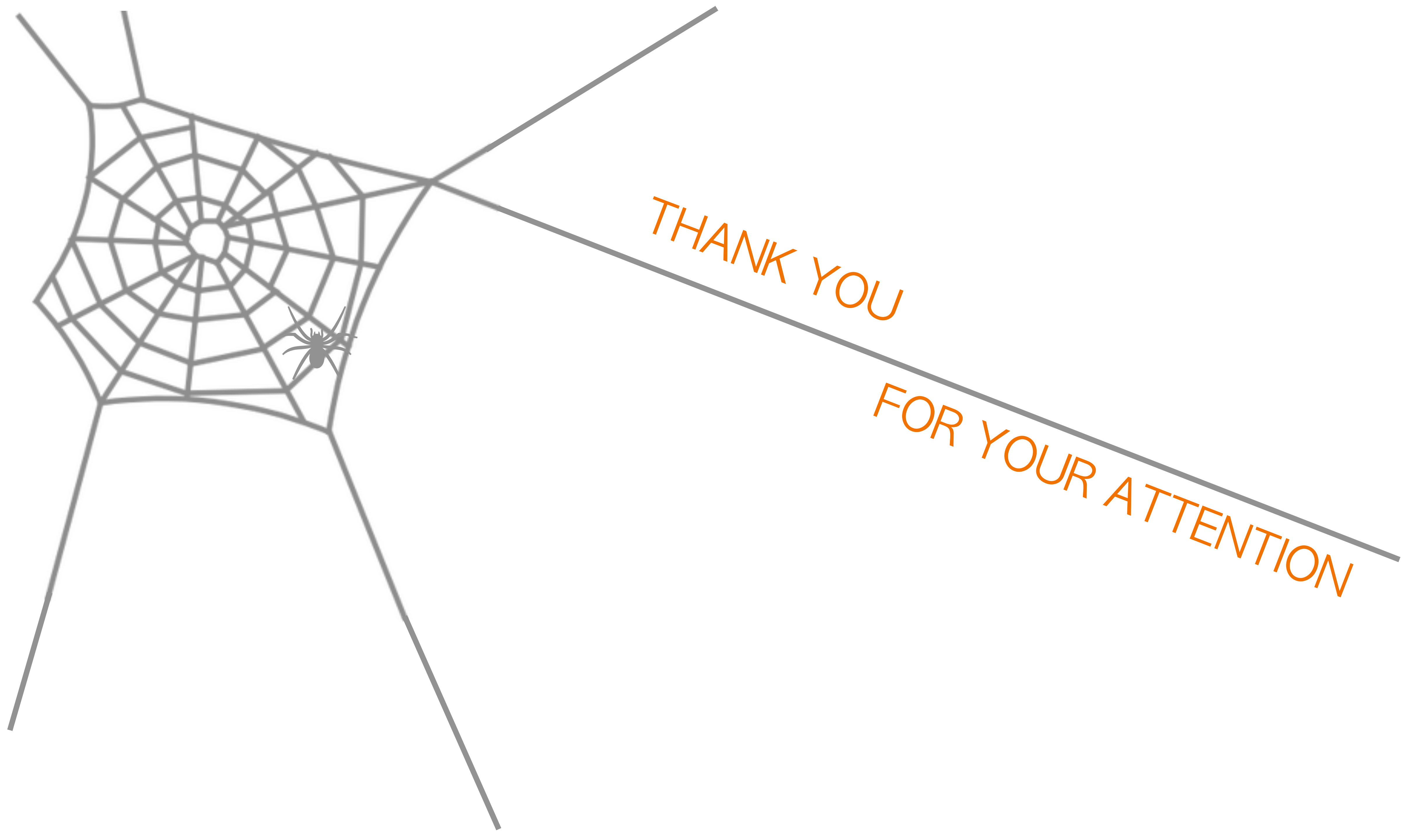
Diagnostic test accuracy NMA

Challenge

- most studies are single-test study (against reference standard – to verify outcome of the index test)
- In multiple-test studies, tests are performed
 - in the same individuals = within-participant comparison
 - unlikely to report the correlation
 - random participants to different tests = between-participant comparison
- Threshold difference
- Correlation of sensitivity & specificity (bivariate character)

Diagnostic test accuracy NMA

- Trikalinos et al. 2014: Bayesian framework, Joint meta-analysis (DOI: [10.1002/jrsm.1115](#))
- Menten & Lesaffre 2015: Bayesian framework (DOI: [10.1186/s12874-015-0061-7](#))
- Dimou et al. 2016: Bivariate random-effect meta-analysis using log-transformed sensitivity & specificity (DOI: [10.1002/sim.6919](#))
- Hoyer & Kuss 2016: Quadrivariate generalized linear mixed model (DOI: [10.1177/0962280216661587](#))
- Nyaga et al. 2016:
 - ANOVA arm-based hierarchical model, 2-stage (DOI: [10.1177/0962280216669182](#))
 - Beta-binomial arm-based, 1-stage based on copula model (DOI: [10.1177/0962280216682532](#))
- Owen et al. 2018: Bayesian beta-binomial arm-based (DOI: [10.1016/j.jclinepi.2018.03.005](#))



THANK YOU

FOR YOUR ATTENTION