

Supplementary Digital Content

Search strategy by database

PubMed:

("Placebo Effect"[Mesh] OR "Placebo effect"[Title/Abstract] OR "Placebo effects"[Title/Abstract] OR "Placebo response"[Title/Abstract] OR "Placebo responses"[Title/Abstract] OR "Placebo analgesia"[Title/Abstract] OR "Placebo analgesic"[Title/Abstract] OR "Nocebo Effect"[Mesh] OR Nocebo[Title/Abstract] OR Expectancy[Title/Abstract] OR Expectancies[Title/Abstract] OR "Conditioning (Psychology)"[Mesh:noexp] OR "Conditioning, Classical"[Mesh] OR "Conditioning, Operant"[Mesh] OR (conditioning[tiab] NOT medline[sb]) OR "Verbal Suggestion"[Title/Abstract] OR "Verbal Suggestions"[Title/Abstract]) **AND** ("Pain"[Mesh] OR "Analgesia"[Mesh] OR Pain[Title/Abstract] OR Nocicept*[Title/Abstract] OR Analges*[Title/Abstract] OR Hyperalges*[Title/Abstract] OR Hypoalges*[Title/Abstract] **OR** "pruritus"[Mesh:noexp] OR "antipruritics"[Mesh] OR Itch[Title/Abstract] OR Pruritus[Title/Abstract] OR Pruritic[Title/Abstract]) **NOT** ("animals"[Mesh] NOT "humans"[Mesh])

PsycINFO

(placebo/ OR conditioning/ OR classical conditioning/ OR (placebo effect OR placebo effects OR placebo response OR placebo responses OR placebo analgesia OR Nocebo OR Expectancy OR Expectancies OR conditioning OR verbal suggestion OR verbal suggestions).ti,ab.) **AND** (pain/ OR analgesia/ OR (pain OR analgesia OR analgesic OR hyperalgesia OR hyperalgesic OR hypoalgesia OR hypoalgesic OR itch OR pruritus OR pruritic).ti,ab.)

EMBASE

((placebo effect OR placebo effects OR placebo analgesia OR placebo response OR placebo responses OR nocebo OR Expectancies OR conditioning OR verbal suggestion OR verbal suggestions) **AND** (pain OR analgesia OR analgesic OR hyperalgesia OR hyperalgesic OR hypoalgesia OR hypoalgesic OR itch OR pruritus OR pruritic)).ti,ab. **NOT** ((nonhuman/ OR animal/) NOT human/)

Cochrane CENTRAL Methodology Register

([mh "Placebo Effect"] OR [mh ^"Conditioning (Psychology)"] OR [mh "Conditioning, Classical"] OR ("placebo effect" OR "placebo effects" OR "placebo analgesia" OR Nocebo OR expectancy OR expectancies OR conditioning OR "verbal suggestion" OR "verbal suggestions":ti,ab,kw)) **AND** ([mh Pain] OR [mh Analgesia] OR (pain OR analgesia OR analgesic OR hyperalgesia OR hyperalgesic OR hypoalgesia OR hypoalgesic OR itch OR pruritus OR pruritic:ti,ab,kw)) **NOT** ([mh animals] NOT [mh humans])

Example scoring of Risk of Bias form based on Marcuzzi et al., 2013

LOW 5/34

Appendix B – Risk of bias assessment tool

CRITERIA	YES	NO	UNCLEAR	NA*
Inclusion/exclusion criteria comprise clear information about:				
Duration of pain (stage i.e. acute, subacute)	✓			
Age of participants included (cut-off)	✓			
Diagnosis description				✓
Final decision: Were inclusion/exclusion criteria clearly specified?	✓			
Comment:				
Clinical/demographical characteristics include full information about:				
Sample size	✓			
Mean age of participants		✓		
Gender percentages	✓			
Mean pain duration at time of assessment(s)	✓			
Mean pain intensity at time of assessment(s)	✓			
Final decision: Were clinical/demographical variables fully described?	✓			
Comment:				
The recruitment procedure include information about:				
Clinical setting(s)				✓
How patients have been recruited (e.g. consecutive, convenience sample)	✓			
Controls/comparators recruitment				✓
Final decision: Was recruitment procedure specified and appropriate?	✓			
Comment:				
Somatosensory assessment:				
Was method used to assess somatosensory function standardized or validated?	✓			
Comment:				
Method of somatosensory assessment include information about:				
Number of examiner involved in the assessment (where appropriate)		✓		
Equipment/tool used	✓			
Comprehensive description of the procedure (where appropriate)	✓			
Number of assessments	✓			
Assessment sites	✓			
Final decision: Was somatosensory assessment fully described?	✓			
Comment:				
Blinding of assessment:				
Were examiners who carried out somatosensory assessment blinded to participant group or condition?			✓	
Comment:				
Controlled risk of known confounders:				
Confounders known to influence somatosensory assessment were evaluated	✓			
A description of how confounders have been handled was provided	✓			
Final decision: Were factors known to influence somatosensory assessment evaluated or controlled for?	✓			
Comment:				

No points

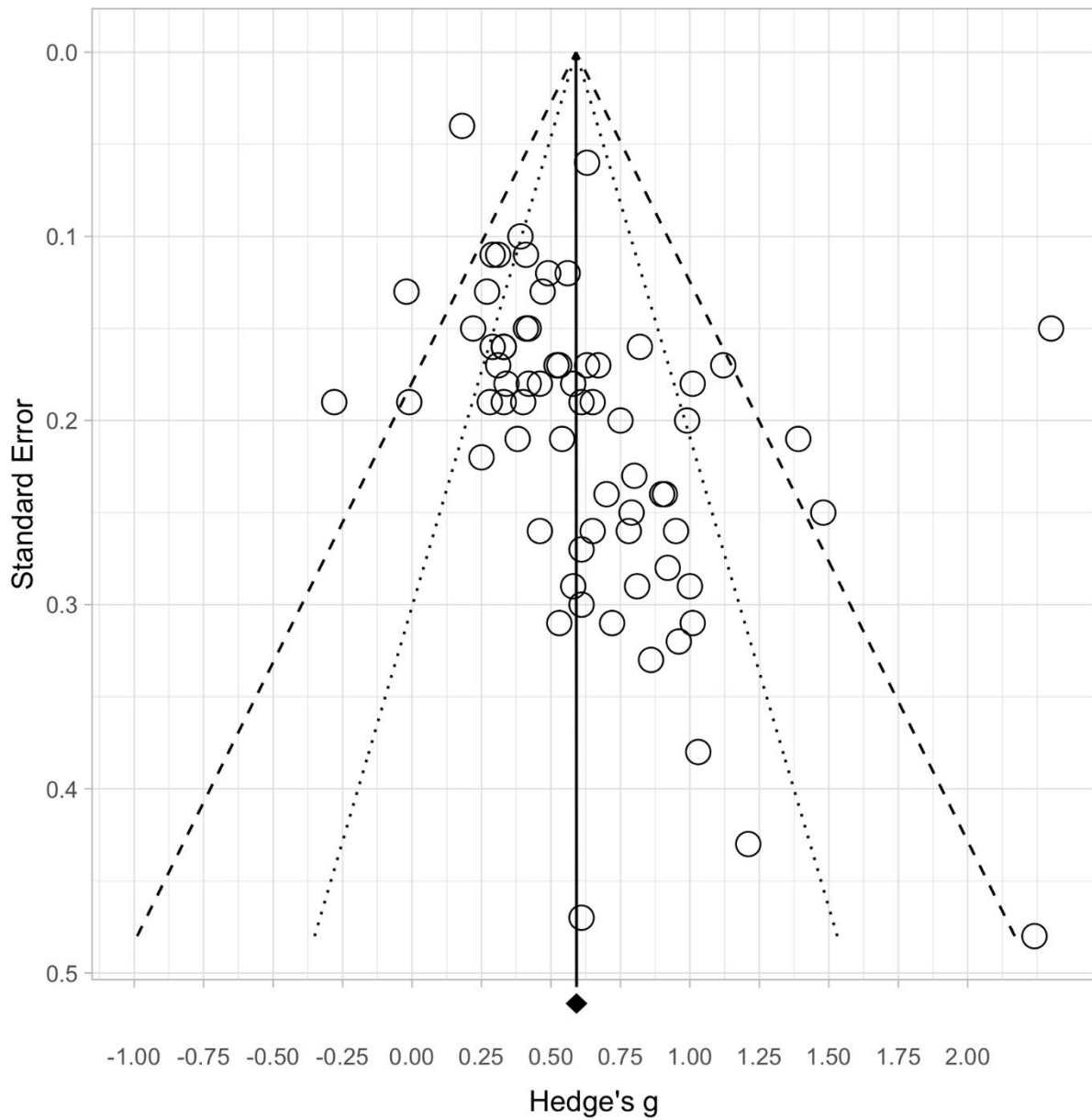
No points

2 points

Not noted
1 point

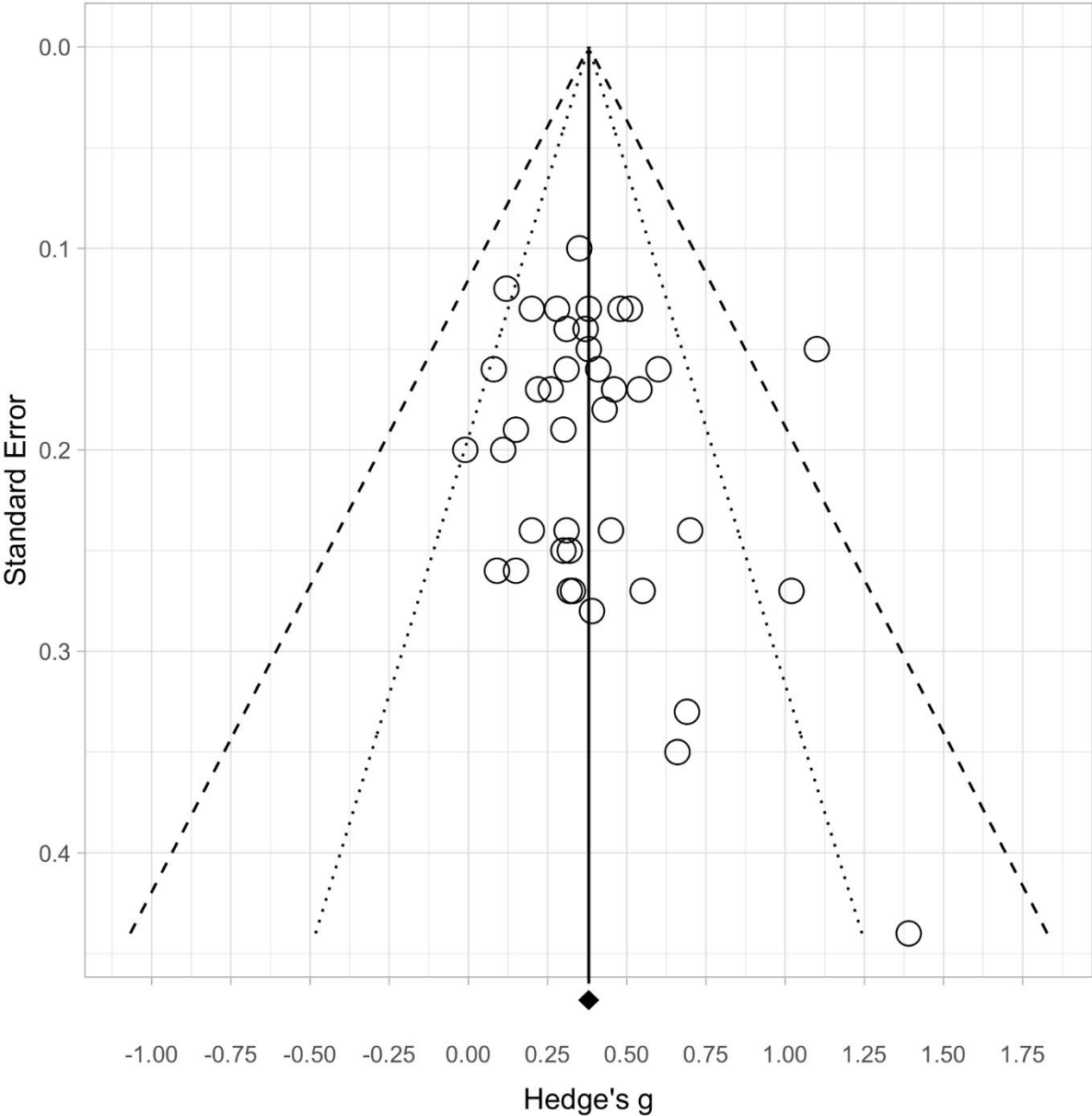
*NA: not applicable

Figure S1



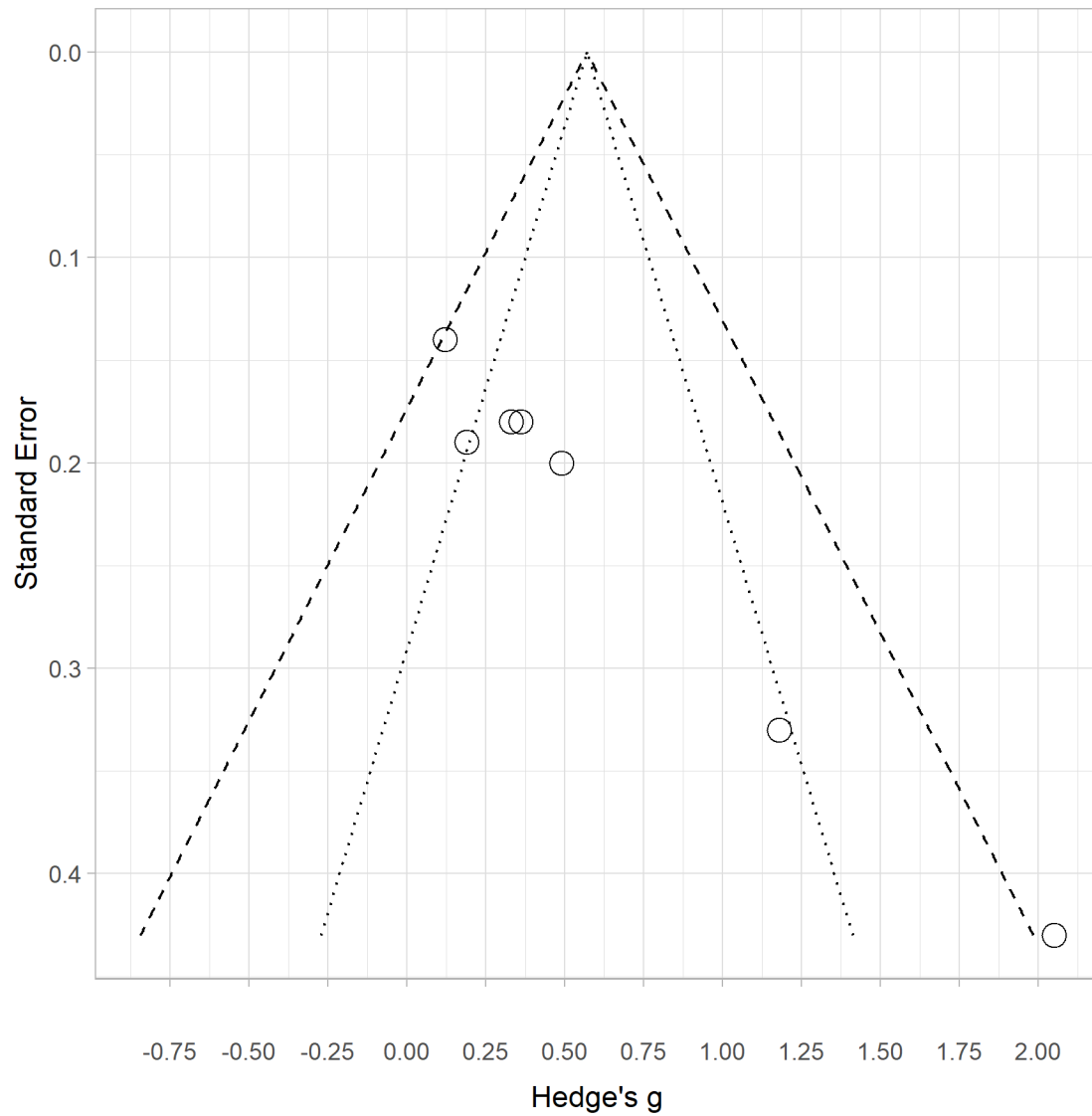
Note. Funnel plot of studies included in the pain classical conditioning with verbal suggestion meta-analysis. Outer, dashed line indicates a 95% confidence interval. Inner, dotted line indicates a 99% confidence interval.

Figure S2



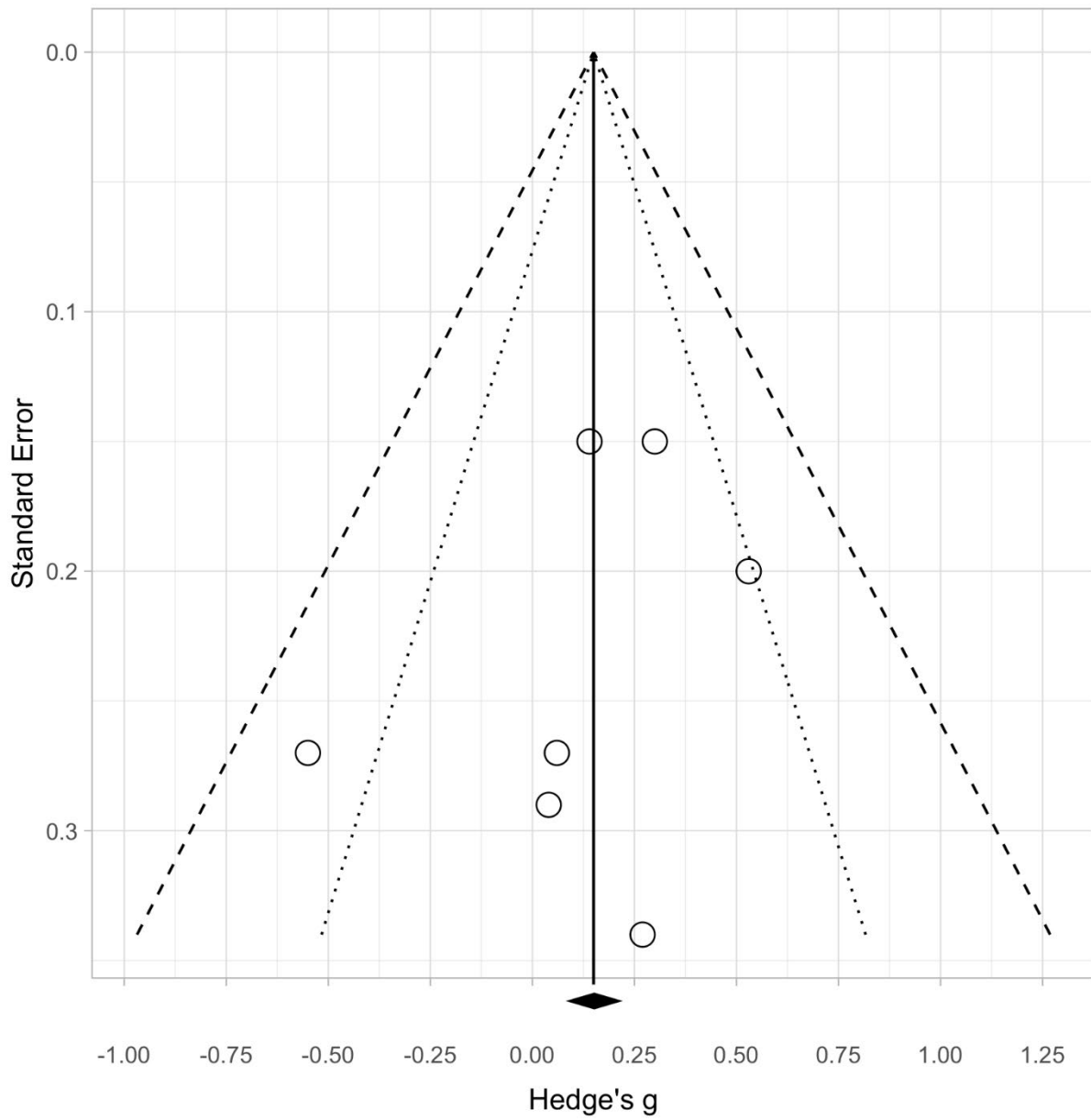
Note. Funnel plot of studies included in the pain verbal suggestion meta-analysis. Outer, dashed line indicates a 95% confidence interval. Inner, dotted line indicates a 99% confidence interval.

Figure S3



Note. Funnel plot of studies included in the pain observational learning meta-analysis. Outer, dashed line indicates a 95% confidence interval. Inner, dotted line indicates a 99% confidence interval.

Figure S4



Note. Funnel plot of studies included in the itch verbal suggestion meta-analysis. Outer, dashed line indicates a 95% confidence interval. Inner, dotted line indicates a 99% confidence interval.

