

Changes of Brain-Derived Neurotrophic Factor (BDNF) levels after different exercise protocols: a systematic review of clinical studies in Parkinson's disease

Supplementary File 1. Search strategies

Pubmed

Search: ((Parkinson*[Title/Abstract] OR PD[Title/Abstract]) AND (exercise[Title/Abstract] OR "physical activity"[Title/Abstract] OR training[Title/Abstract] OR sport*[Title/Abstract] OR rehabilit*[Title/Abstract] OR "physical therapy"[Title/Abstract] OR physiotherapy[Title/Abstract]) AND (BDNF[Title/Abstract] OR plastic*[Title/Abstract] OR synap*[Title/Abstract] OR neuro*[Title/Abstract] OR cognit*[Title/Abstract] OR biomarker*[Title/Abstract])) NOT ((rat[Title] OR animal[Title] OR mouse[Title] OR mice[Title]) NOT review[Title]) Filters: from 2003/1/1 - 2022/12/31 Sort by: Most Recent

Scopus

(TITLE ((parkinson* OR pd) AND (exercise OR "physical activity" OR training OR sport* OR rehabilit* OR "physical therapy" OR physiotherapy) AND (bdnf OR plastic* OR synap* OR neuro* OR cognit* OR biomarker*)) OR ABS ((parkinson* OR pd) AND (exercise OR "physical activity" OR training OR sport* OR rehabilit* OR "physical therapy" OR physiotherapy) AND (bdnf OR plastic* OR synap* OR neuro* OR cognit* OR biomarker*)) AND NOT TITLE ((rat OR animal OR mouse OR mice) not AND review)) AND PUBYEAR > 2002 AND PUBYEAR < 2023

Web of Science

(Parkinson* OR PD) AND (exercise OR "physical activity" OR training OR sport* OR rehabilit* OR "physical therapy" OR physiotherapy) AND (BDNF OR plastic* OR synap* OR neuro* OR cognit* OR biomarker*) (Title) or (Parkinson* OR PD) AND (exercise OR "physical activity" OR training OR sport* OR rehabilit* OR "physical therapy" OR physiotherapy) AND (BDNF OR plastic* OR synap* OR neuro* OR cognit* OR biomarker*) (Abstract) not (rat OR animal OR mouse OR mice) NOT review (Title)

ClinicalTrial.gov

(Parkinson* OR PD) AND (exercise OR "physical activity" OR training OR sport* OR rehabilit* OR "physical therapy" OR physiotherapy) AND (BDNF OR plastic* OR synap* OR neuro* OR cognit* OR biomarker*) in Record Title OR (Parkinson* OR PD) AND (exercise OR "physical activity" OR training OR sport* OR rehabilit* OR "physical therapy" OR physiotherapy) AND (BDNF OR plastic* OR synap* OR neuro* OR cognit* OR biomarker*) in Abstract NOT (rat OR animal OR mouse OR mice) NOT review in Record Title - (Word variations have been searched)

Embase

(Parkinson* OR PD) AND (exercise OR "physical activity" OR training OR sport* OR rehabilit* OR "physical therapy" OR physiotherapy) AND (BDNF OR plastic* OR synap* OR neuro* OR cognit* OR biomarker*) in Record Title OR (Parkinson* OR PD) AND (exercise OR "physical activity" OR training OR sport* OR rehabilit* OR "physical therapy" OR physiotherapy) AND (BDNF OR plastic* OR synap* OR neuro* OR cognit* OR biomarker*) in Abstract NOT (rat OR animal OR mouse OR mice) NOT review in Record Title - (Word variations have been searched)

CINHAL

(Parkinson* OR PD) AND (exercise OR "physical activity" OR training OR sport* OR rehabilit* OR "physical therapy" OR physiotherapy) AND (BDNF OR plastic* OR synap* OR neuro* OR cognit* OR biomarker*) in Record Title OR (Parkinson* OR PD) AND (exercise OR "physical activity" OR training OR sport* OR rehabilit* OR "physical therapy" OR physiotherapy) AND (BDNF OR plastic* OR synap* OR neuro* OR cognit* OR biomarker*) in Abstract NOT (rat OR animal OR mouse OR mice) NOT review in Record Title - (Word variations have been searched)

Supplementary File 2. Measurement of BDNF by study

Author and year	Sample	Unit	Timing of post-exercise BDNF measurement
Angelucci et al. 2016	Serum	pg/mL	At 8:00-9:00 a.m.
Da Silva Germanos et al. 2019	Plasma	pg/ml	Not specified
De Oliveira et al. 2020	Plasma	ng/mg	At 10-11 a.m.
Frazzitta et al. 2014	Serum	ng/mL	At 7:00 am, away from exercise
Freidle et al. 2022	Serum	pg/mL	Within 2-3 weeks after the end of the intervention ^a
Harro et al. 2022	Serum	ng/mL	On a non-exercise day ^a
Landers et al. 2019	Plasma	pg/mL	Between 48 and 72 hours from active participation in the trial ^a
O'Callaghan et al. 2019	Serum	ng/ml	Not specified
Pondé et al. 2019	Serum	pg/mL	Not specified
Sajatovic et al. 2017	Serum	pg/mL	Not specified
Schaeffer et al. 2022	Serum	ng/mL	Away from the exercise ^a
Segura et al. 2020	Plasma	pg/mL	Not specified
Soke et al. 2021	Serum	pg/ml	At 8-9 am, the day after the end of the intervention
Stuckenschneider et al. 2021	Serum	ng/mL	Not on exercise days ^a
Szymura et al. 2020	Serum	ng/mL	At 8-10 a.m., 2 days after the completion of the programme
Zoladz et al. 2014	Serum	pg/mL	One week after the end of the training ^a

^aPersonal communication from the authors

Supplementary File 3. Studies not included in this review and reason for exclusion

Authors, year	Reason for exclusion
Angelucci et al., 2015 [1]	Not physical training
Angelucci et al., 2015 [1]	Abstract (duplicate)
Azevedo et al., 2022 [2]	Observational study
Bastioli et al., 2022 [3]	Animals
Bekinschtein et al., 2020 [4]	Review
Biagioni et al., 2018 [5]	Abstract
Campos et al., 2016 [6]	Review
Dias Belchior et al., 2017 [7]	Not BDNF measures
Farshbaf et al., 2016 [8]	Review
Farshbaf et al., 2016 [8]	Review (duplicate)
Ferreira et al., 2018 [9]	Review
Fontanesi et al., 2016 [10]	Not BDNF measures
Franzén et al., 2018 [11]	Protocol
Franzén et al., 2019 [12]	Protocol
Goldberg et al., 2015 [13]	Review
Harper et al., 2019 [14]	Not BDNF measures
Harpham et al., 2023 [15]	Not BDNF measures
Hirsch et al., 2016 [16]	Review
Hooper et al., 2016 [17]	Animals
HU et al., 2005 [18]	Not physical training

Karim et al., 2022 [19]	Measure of BDNF <12h (5-60 min)
Khalil et al., 2017 [20]	Cross-sectional
Marusiak et al., 2015 [21]	Not BDNF measures
Mattson et al., 2004 [22]	Animals
Migdadi et al., 2018 [23]	Abstract
Monteiro-Junior et al., 2015 [24]	Review
Norwitz et al., 2020 [25]	Not BDNF measures
Pagnussat et al., 2018 [26]	Not physical training
Patterson et al., 2022 [27]	Protocol
Radak et al., 2007 [28]	Review
Rothman et al., 2012 [29]	Review
Szymura et al., 2019 [30]	Abstract
Tuon et al., 2014 [31]	Animals
van Wegen et al., 2020 [32]	Protocol
Wang et al., 2022 [33]	Animals
Wu et al., 2011 [34]	Animals
Yang et al., 2014 [35]	Animals

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11. Franzen, E., et al. *Linking neuroplastic effects to behavioral changes after balance training in Parkinson's disease: a study protocol of a randomized controlled trial*. in *MOVEMENT DISORDERS*. 2018. WILEY 111 RIVER ST, HOBOKEN 07030-5774, NJ USA. <https://www.mdsabstracts.org/abstract/linking-neuroplastic-effects-to-behavioral-changes-after-balance-training-in-parkinsons-disease-a-study-protocol-of-a-randomized-controlled-trial/>
12. Franzén, E., et al., *The EXPANd trial: effects of exercise and exploring neuroplastic changes in people with Parkinson's disease: a study protocol for a double-blinded randomized controlled trial*. *BMC Neurol*, 2019. **19**(1): p. 280. <https://doi.org/10.1186/s12883-019-1520-2>
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Supplementary File 4. Type, intensity, frequency and duration of exercise components by study arm

Author and year	Study arm ^a	Activity	Type of activity	MET	Sessions week	Min session
Angelucci et al. 2016	Multimodal	Relaxation, breathing	Others	1.5	5	10
		Flexibility	Others	2.0	5	15
		Mobility	Others	2.3	5	20
		Postural	Others	2.5	5	20
		Treadmill	Aerobic	3.0	5	20
		Stationary bike	Aerobic	3.0	5	20
		Wii Fit Balance Board	Balance	2.3	5	20
		Coordination	Others	2.5	5	25
Da Silva Germanos et al. 2019	Multimodal	Aquatic exercises: stretching, mobility	Others	2.5	2	10
		Aquatic exercises: strengthening, gait, balance, proprioception	Resistance	5.0	2	20
		Aquatic exercises: dual task	Aerobic	3.0	2	20
De Oliveira et al. 2020	Multimodal	Mobility, coordination	Others	2.5	2	8
		Deep water running (endurance)	Aerobic	5.0	2	35
		Coordination	Balance	3.0	2	13
		Stretching, relaxation	Others	2.0	2	8
Frazzitta et al. 2014	Multimodal	Cardiovascular exercises	Aerobic	2.5	5	15
		Stretching, mobility	Others	2.3	5	15
		Postural	Others	2.5	5	15
		Stabilometric platform with a visual cue	Balance	2.5	5	15
		Treadmill training with both a visual and an auditory cue	Aerobic	2.8	5	30
		Occupational therapy	Others	2.0	5	40
Freidle et al. 2022	Multimodal	HiBalance: sensory integration, motor agility, anticipatory postural adjustments and stability limits	Balance	3.0	2	50

		Functional aerobic (home exercises)	Aerobic	3.5	1	20
		Strength exercises (home exercises)	Resistance	3.5	1	20
	Speech and communication	HiCommunication: voice sound level, articulatory precision, word retrieval, memory	Others	1.3	2	50
		Voice, speech function (home exercises)	Others	1.3	1	30
Harro et al. 2022	Endurance	Warm up (nordic walking)	Aerobic	2.5	2	10
		Nordic walking	Aerobic	5.0	2	43
		Cool down (nordic walking)	Aerobic	2.5	2	10
Landers et al. 2019	Multimodal (High intensity)	Treadmill, overground walking on the indoor track, stair climber, bike, recumbent bike, rowing machine	Aerobic	4.5	4	30
		Strengthening the major muscle groups of the trunk and upper/lower extremities	Resistance	4.5	4	30
		Postural, dynamic gait, sensory orientation	Balance	3.0	4	15
		Stretching	Others	2.3	4	15
		Home exercise (same exercises)	Aerobic	4.0	2	18
		Home exercise (same exercises)	Resistance	4.0	2	18
		Home exercise (same exercises)	Balance	3.0	2	9
		Home exercise (same exercises)	Others	2.3	2	9
	Multimodal (Low intensity)	Treadmill, overground walking on the indoor track, stair climber, bike, recumbent bike, rowing machine	Aerobic	2.7	4	15
		Strengthening the major muscle groups of the trunk and upper/lower extremities	Resistance	3.0	4	15
		Step touch task	Balance	2.5	4	10
		Stretching	Others	2.3	4	10
		Home exercise (same exercises)	Aerobic	3.0	2	11
		Home exercise (same exercises)	Resistance	3.0	2	11
		Home exercise (same exercises)	Balance	2.5	2	8
		Home exercise (same exercises)	Others	2.3	2	8
O'Callaghan et al. 2019	Aerobic + Resistance	Warm up	Aerobic	2.5	3	8

		Stretching	Others	2.3	3	2
		12 stations in a circuit	Aerobic	4.0	3	27
		Resistance stations	Resistance	4.0	3	12
		Cool down	Aerobic	2.5	3	8
		Stretching	Others	2.3	3	2
	High-Intensity Interval Training	Warm up	Resistance	3.0	3	10
		Power clean and press, step and press, squat, pull-down to squat, high pull, bent over row	Resistance	7.0	3	20
		Cool down	Resistance	3.0	3	5
Pondé et al. 2019	Aerobic	Treadmill	Aerobic	3.0	2	40
		Motor imagery	Others	1.1	2	14
Sajatovic et al. 2017	Aerobic + Resistance (peer support)	Warm up	Aerobic	2.5	3	5
		EXCEED: fast-paced, low-resistance cycling	Aerobic	4.0	3	20
		EXCEED: progressive sequence of resistance bands	Resistance	3.5	3	20
		Cool down	Aerobic	2.5	3	5
	Aerobic + Resistance	Warm up	Aerobic	2.5	3	5
		SGE: fast-paced, low-resistance cycling	Aerobic	4.0	3	20
		SGE: progressive sequence of resistance bands	Resistance	3.5	3	20
		Cool down	Aerobic	2.5	3	5
Schaeffer et al. 2022	Aerobic	Exergaming	Aerobic	4.0	3	45
Segura et al. 2020	Aerobic	Warm up	Aerobic	2.5	3	10
		Stationary tandem bicycle	Aerobic	6.0	3	20
		Cool down	Aerobic	2.5	3	5
		Stretching	Others	2.3	3	10
Soke et al. 2021	Aerobic + Resistance	Warm up	Aerobic	2.5	3	5

		Treadmill	Aerobic	4.5	3	20
		Cool down	Aerobic	2.5	3	5
		Task-oriented training (TOT): circuit with a series of workstations	Resistance	4.0	3	33
	Aerobic	Warm up	Aerobic	2.5	3	5
		Treadmill	Aerobic	4.5	3	20
		Cool down	Aerobic	2.5	3	5
Stuckenschneider et al. 2021	Multimodal	Coordination	Balance	2.5	2	20
		Wall pushups, holding medicine balls with outstretched arms, squats, or crunches	Resistance	4.1	2	20
		Walking or running exercises	Aerobic	4.1	2	20
Szymura et al. 2020	Aerobic	Warm up	Aerobic	2.5	3	5
		Wii Fit Balance Board	Balance	3.3	3	50
		Cool down	Aerobic	2.5	3	5
Zoladz et al. 2014	Aerobic	Warm up	Aerobic	2.5	3	10
		Interval training	Aerobic	3.5	3	40
		Cool down	Aerobic	2.5	3	10

^aDefinition of exercise intervention according Zhou B et al. in Aging Neurosci 2022
Abbreviations: MET, Metabolic Equivalent of Task.

Supplementary File 5. Pre-post exercise BDNF levels of experimental and comparison group in controlled studies only

Author and year	Study arm ^a	BDNF before the exercise ^b	BDNF after the exercise ^b	SMD ^c	(95% CI)
Frazzitta et al. 2014	Multimodal	21.6 (3.4)	24.8 (6.4)	0.64	(-0.16 1.45)
	Control	22.9 (4.0)	22.6 (4.3)		
Freidle et al. 2022	Multimodal	38010.8 (7956.7)	37169.4 (5928.3)	0.14	(-0.26 0.54)
	Speech and communication	37805.3 (8044.6)	35945.8 (6208.5)		
Landers et al. 2019	Multimodal (high intensity)	1960.2 (1529.5)	2580.7 (1411.2)	-0.07	(-0.85 0.70)
	Multimodal (low intensity)	960.3 (1482.9)	1697.5 (1368.1)		
O'Callaghan et al. 2019	Aerobic + Resistance	1300.1	1338.0	0.32	(-0.42 1.06)
	Control	1470.3	861.4		
	High-Intensity Interval Training	685.0	783.9		
	Control	699.9	627.9		
Sajatovic et al. 2017	Aerobic + Resistance (peer support)			0.54	(-0.24 1.32)
	Aerobic + Resistance				
Segura et al. 2020	Aerobic	20.6 (120.0)	207.1 (120.0)	1.85	(0.61 3.09)
	Control	260.0 (150.0)	149.6 (150.0)		
Soke et al. 2021	Aerobic + Resistance	1397.0	1507.5	0.03	(-0.68 0.74)
	Aerobic	1487.6	1411.2		
Szymura et al. 2020	Aerobic	21.2 (8.4)	30.4 (6.3)	1.45	(0.64 2.25)
	Control	30.1 (8.0)	25.8 (11.7)		

^aDefinition of exercise intervention according Zhou B et al. in Aging Neurosci 2022; ^bMean (Standard deviation). For O'Callaghan et al. 2019, Soke et al. 2021 the median is reported; ^cStandardized Mean Difference (Hedges' g); for the studies by O'Callaghan et al. 2019, Sajatovic et al. 2017, Soke et al. 2021 data was derived from Jiecheng et al. 2023

Supplementary File 6. Pre-post exercise BDNF levels separately by study arm in controlled and non-controlled studies

Author and year	Study arm ^a	BDNF before the exercise ^b	BDNF after the exercise ^b	SMD ^c	(95% CI)
Angelucci et al. 2016	Multimodal	2188.4 (1718.8)	2356.5 (1666.7)	0.10	(-0.83 1.02)
Da Silva Germanos et al. 2019	Multimodal	493.9	933.3	-	
De Oliveira et al. 2020	Multimodal	0.2 (0.1)	0.4 (0.3)	1.00	(0.02 1.98)
Frazzitta et al. 2014	Multimodal	21.6 (3.4)	24.8 (6.4)	0.61	(-0.15 1.37)
	Control	22.9 (4.0)	22.6 (4.3)	-0.07	(-0.95 0.81)
Freidle et al. 2022	Multimodal	38010.8 (7956.7)	37169.4 (5928.3)	-0.12	(-0.52 0.28)
	Speech and communication	37805.3 (8044.6)	35945.8 (6208.5)	-0.26	(-0.66 0.15)
Harro et al. 2022	Endurance	34.8	32.3	-	
Landers et al. 2019	Multimodal (high intensity)	1960.2 (1529.5)	2580.7 (1411.2)	0.42	(-0.36 1.20)
	Multimodal (low intensity)	960.3 (1482.9)	1697.5 (1368.1)	0.52	(-0.33 1.37)
O'Callaghan et al. 2019	Aerobic + Resistance	1300.1	1338.0	-	
	Control	1470.3	861.4	-	
	High-Intensity Interval Training	685.0	783.9	-	
	Control	699.9	627.9	-	
Pondé et al. 2019	Aerobic	88.8 (111.8)	202.6 (183.4)	0.75	(-0.26 1.76)
Sajatovic et al. 2017	Aerobic + Resistance (peer support)	26.8 (15.6)	90.0 (166.4)	0.53	(-0.25 1.32)
	Aerobic + Resistance	26.8 (15.6)	90.0 (166.4)	0.53	(-0.19 1.26)
Schaeffer et al. 2022	Aerobic	23.9 (7.5)	25.2 (7.3)	0.18	(-0.50 0.85)
Segura et al. 2020	Aerobic	20.6 (120.0)	207.1 (120.0)	1.55	(0.26 2.85)
	Control	260.0 (150.0)	149.6 (150.0)	-0.74	(-1.82 0.35)
Soke et al. 2021	Aerobic + Resistance	1397.0	1507.5	-	
	Aerobic	1487.6	1411.2	-	
Stuckenschneider et al. 2021	Multimodal	33.6 (9.7)	34.3 (11.8)	0.07	(-0.91 1.05)
Szymura et al. 2020	Aerobic	21.2 (8.4)	30.4 (6.3)	1.24	(0.48 1.99)
	Control	30.1 (8.0)	25.8 (11.7)	-0.43	(-1.21 0.35)

^aDefinition of exercise intervention according Zhou B et al. in Aging Neurosci 2022; ^bMean (Standard deviation). For the studies by Da Silva Germanos et al. 2019, Harro et al. 2022, O'Callaghan et al. 2019, Soke et al. 2021 the median is reported. ^cStandardized Mean Difference (Cohen's d)

Supplementary File 7. Sensitivity analysis

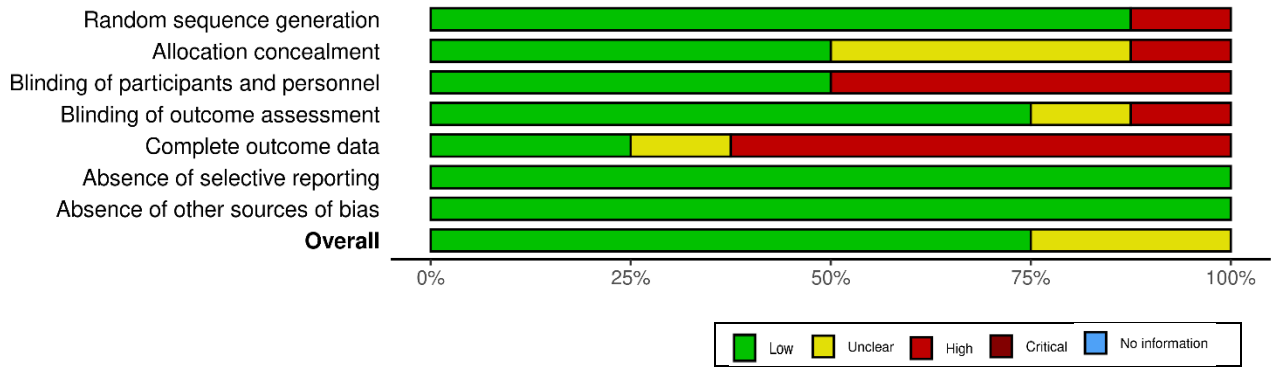
Meta-regression of between-group differences in intensity, volume and type of exercise on changes in BDNF levels (controlled studies only)

	5 studies			9 studies		
	Coefficient	(95% CI)	P value	Coefficient	(95% CI)	P value
Δ Time-weighted average of MET	0.41	(0.02 0.81)	0.042	0.14	(-0.04 0.32)	0.124
Δ Total MET-hours (x100)	-0.26	(-2.23 1.71)	0.797	-0.04	(-0.94 0.87)	0.934
Type						
Identical (Aerobic + Resistance)	Reference			Reference		
Aerobic	1.25	(-0.93 3.43)	0.262	0.58	(-0.64 1.79)	0.350
Balance	0.81	(-1.29 2.91)	0.449	0.45	(-0.80 1.70)	0.476
Resistance				0.00	(-1.31 1.31)	0.999

Linear regression of intensity, volume and type of exercise on change in BDNF (study arms of controlled and non-controlled studies)

	Coefficient	(95% CI)	P value
Time-weighted average of MET	0.26	(0.15 0.38)	0.000
Total MET-hours (x100)	0.52	(-0.02 1.06)	0.059
Type			
Aerobic	1.10	(0.50 1.70)	0.002
Balance	0.93	(0.10 1.77)	0.031
Aerobic + Resistance	0.79	(0.14 1.43)	0.020

Supplementary File 8. Risk of bias assessment using Cochrane risk of bias tool (RoB)

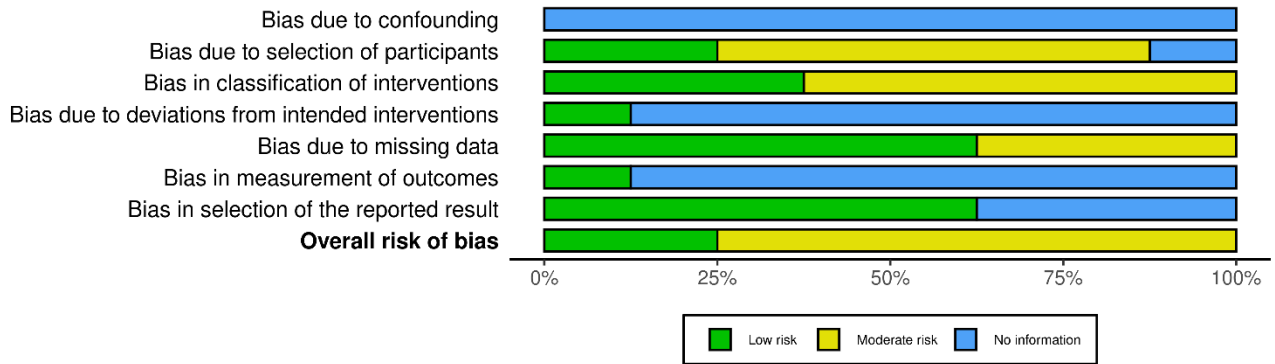


Study	Risk of bias							Overall
	D1	D2	D3	D4	D5	D6	D7	
Frazzitta et al. 2014	+	+	X	+	X	+	+	+
Freidle et al. 2022	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+
Landers et al. 2019	+	+	+	+	X	+	+	+
O'Callaghan et al. 2019	+	+	X	+	X	+	+	+
Sajatovic et al. 2017	+	-	+	+	X	+	+	+
Segura et al. 2020	X	-	+	+	+	+	+	+
Soke et al. 2021	+	X	X	X	X	+	+	-
Szymura et al. 2020	+	-	X	-	-	+	+	-

D1: Random sequence generation
 D2: Allocation concealment
 D3: Blinding of participants and personnel
 D4: Blinding of outcome assessment
 D5: Complete outcome data
 D6: Absence of selective reporting
 D7: Absence of other sources of bias

Judgement
 X High
 - Unclear
 + Low

Supplementary File 9. Risk Of Bias In Non-randomized Studies-of Interventions (ROBINS-I)



Study	Risk of bias domains							Overall
	D1	D2	D3	D4	D5	D6	D7	
Angelucci et al. 2016	?	?	+	+	+	?	?	-
da Silva Germanos et al. 2019	?	+	+	?	+	?	?	-
De Oliveira et al. 2020	?	-	-	?	-	+	+	+
Harro et al. 2022	?	-	-	?	+	?	+	-
Pondé et al. 2019	?	-	-	?	-	?	?	-
Schaeffer et al. 2022	?	-	-	?	+	?	+	+
Stuckenschneider et al. 2021	?	-	-	?	-	?	+	-
Zoladz et al. 2014	?	+	+	?	+	?	+	-

Domains:
D1: Bias due to confounding.
D2: Bias due to selection of participants.
D3: Bias in classification of interventions.
D4: Bias due to deviations from intended interventions.
D5: Bias due to missing data.
D6: Bias in measurement of outcomes.
D7: Bias in selection of the reported result.

Judgement
- Moderate
+ Low
? No information