

Appendix 1 (as supplied by the authors): Search strategy

PubMed:

(Random*) AND [((blind* OR mask*) AND (unblind* OR nonblind* OR non-blind* OR "non blind*" OR unmask* OR nonmask* OR non-mask* OR "non mask*")) OR ("observer bias" OR "ascertainment bias" OR "rater bias" OR "detection bias")]

Cochrane Central Register of Controlled Trials:

(Random*) AND [((blind* OR mask*) AND (unblind* OR nonblind* OR non-blind* OR "non blind*" OR "not blind*" OR unmask* OR nonmask* OR non-mask* OR "non mask*" OR "not mask*")) OR ("observer bias" OR "ascertainment bias" OR "rater bias" OR "detection bias")]

PsycInfo:

(Random*) AND [((blind* OR mask*) AND (unblind* OR nonblind* OR non-blind* OR "non blind*" OR "not blind*" OR not-blind* OR unmask* OR nonmask* OR non-mask* OR "non mask*" OR "not mask*" OR not-mask*)) OR ("observer bias" OR "ascertainment bias" OR "rater bias" OR "detection bias")]

Embase:

(Random*) AND [((blind* OR mask*) AND (unblind* OR nonblind* OR non-blind* OR "non blind*" OR "not blind*" OR not-blind* OR unmask* OR nonmask* OR non-mask* OR "non mask*" OR "not mask*" OR not-mask*)) OR ("observer bias" OR "ascertainment bias" OR "rater bias" OR "detection bias")]

Cinahl:

(Random*) AND [((blind* OR mask*) AND (unblind* OR nonblind* OR non-blind* OR notblind* OR unmask* OR nonmask* OR non-mask* OR notmask*)) OR ("observer bias" OR "ascertainment bias" OR "rater bias" OR "detection bias")]

HighWire Press:

random* AND ("blinded/unblinded" OR "masked/unmasked") OR
random* AND ("blinded and unblinded" OR "unblinded and blinded") OR
random* AND ("blinded and not blinded" OR "not blinded and blinded") OR
random* AND ("blinded and unblind" OR "unblind and blinded") OR
random* AND ("blinded and nonblinded" OR "nonblinded and blinded") OR
random* AND ("blind and unblinded" OR "unblinded and blind") OR
random* AND ("blind and unblind" OR "unblind and blind") OR
random* AND ("blind and not blind" OR "not blind and blind") OR
random* AND ("blind and nonblind" OR "nonblind and blind") OR
random* AND ("masked and unmasked" OR "unmasked and masked") OR
random* AND ("masked and not masked" OR "not masked and masked") OR
random* AND ("masked and nonmasked" OR "nonmasked and masked") OR
random* AND "blinded observer" AND "unblinded observer" OR
random* AND "masked observer" AND "unmasked observer" OR
random* AND "blinded assessor" AND "unblinded assessor" OR
random* AND "masked assessor" AND "unmasked assessor" OR
random* AND "blinded examiner" AND "unblinded examiner" OR
random* AND "masked examiner" AND "unmasked examiner" OR
random* AND "blinded rater" AND "unblinded rater" OR
random* AND "masked rater" AND "unmasked rater" OR
random* AND "blinded observers" AND "unblinded observers" OR
random* AND "masked observers" AND "unmasked observers" OR
random* AND "blinded assessors" AND "unblinded assessors" OR
random* AND "masked assessors" AND "unmasked assessors" OR
random* AND "blinded examiners" AND "unblinded examiners" OR
random* AND "masked examiners" AND "unmasked examiners" OR

random* AND "blinded raters" AND "unblinded raters" OR
random* AND "masked raters" AND "unmasked raters".

Google Scholar:

(randomised OR random OR randomized) AND ("blinded/unblinded" OR "masked/unmasked") -meta-analysis OR
(randomised OR random OR randomized) AND "(blinded OR blind OR masked) (and OR versus OR vs) (unblinded OR
unblind OR nonblinded OR notblinded OR notblind OR unmasked OR nonmasked OR notmasked)" AND -meta-analysis
(*restrict to medicine*) OR

(randomised OR random OR randomized) AND ("blinded and not blinded" OR "blinded and non blinded" OR "blinded
and not masked") AND -meta-analysis OR

(randomised OR random OR randomized) AND ("blinded and non masked" OR "blind and not blind" OR "blind and non
blind" OR "blind and not masked" OR "blind and non masked") AND -meta-analysis OR

(randomised OR random OR randomized) AND ("masked and not masked" OR "masked and non masked" OR "masked
and not blinded" OR "masked and non blinded") AND -meta-analysis OR

(randomised OR random OR randomized) AND "(blinded OR blind OR masked) (observer OR data OR rater OR assessor
OR assessment OR outcome)" AND "not blinded" (observer OR data OR rater OR assessor OR assessment OR
outcome)" AND -meta-analysis OR

(randomised OR random OR randomized) AND "(blinded OR blind OR masked) (examiner OR reviewer OR investigator
OR evaluator)" AND "not blinded" (examiner OR reviewer OR investigator OR evaluator)" OR

(randomised OR random OR randomized) AND "(blinded OR blind OR masked) (observer OR data OR rater OR assessor
OR assessment OR outcome)" AND "not blind" (observer OR data OR rater OR assessor OR assessment OR outcome")
and -meta-analysis OR

(randomised OR random OR randomized) AND "(blinded OR blind OR masked) (examiner OR reviewer OR investigator
OR evaluator)" AND "not blind" (examiner OR reviewer OR investigator OR evaluator)" OR

(randomised OR random OR randomized) AND "(blinded OR blind OR masked) (observers OR raters OR assessors OR
assessments OR outcomes)" AND "not blinded" (observers OR raters OR assessors OR assessments OR outcomes")
AND -meta-analysis OR

(randomised OR random OR randomized) AND "(blinded OR blind OR masked) (examiners OR reviewers OR
investigators OR evaluators)" AND "not blinded" (examiners OR reviewers OR investigators OR evaluators)" OR

(randomised OR random OR randomized) AND "(blinded OR blind OR masked) (observers OR raters OR assessors OR
assessments OR outcomes)" AND "not blind" (observers OR raters OR assessors OR assessments OR outcomes")
(*restrict to medicine*) OR

(randomised OR random OR randomized) AND "(blinded OR blind OR masked) (examiners OR reviewers OR
investigators OR evaluators)" AND "not blind" (examiners OR reviewers OR investigators OR evaluators").