

APPENDIX 2: Risk of bias of the included studies. Each criterion was assessed as adequate and with low risk of bias (Yes), inadequate and therefore with high risk of bias (No) or unclear. An asterisk (*) indicates the studies in which blinding procedure was not specifically described but it involved an endoscopic intervention in patients under general anaesthesia or sedated therefore preventing the patients from knowing which treatment was used.

Number	Study authors	Publication year	Adequate sequence generation	Allocation concealment	Bias free blinding procedure	Patients blinded	Care-givers blinded	Assessors blinded	Blinding specifically described	Success of blinding	All primary outcomes reported	Single primary outcome	Intention-to-treat analysis
1	Thomsen et al.	1981	No	No	Unclear	Yes	Unclear	Yes	No	Unclear	Yes	No	Yes
2	MacLeod et al.	1983	Yes	Yes	Unclear*	Yes	No	No	Yes	Unclear	Yes	No	Yes
3	Fleischer et al.	1985	Unclear	Yes	Yes*	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Unclear	Yes	No	Yes
4	Freitas et al.	1985	Unclear	Unclear	Unclear*	Unclear	Yes	Unclear	Unclear	Unclear	Yes	No	Yes
5	Laine et al.	1987	Yes	Yes	Yes*	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Unclear	Unclear	No	Yes
6	Lindor et al.	1987	Unclear	Unclear	Yes*	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Unclear	Yes	Yes	No
7	Meshkinpour et al.	1988	Unclear	Unclear	Unclear*	Yes	Unclear	Yes	Yes	Yes	Unclear	No	No
8	Fullarton et al.	1989	Unclear	Yes	Unclear*	Yes	Yes	Yes	Unclear	Unclear	Unclear	No	Yes
9	Geenen et al.	1989	Unclear	Yes	Yes*	Yes	Yes	Yes	Unclear	Unclear	Yes	No	Yes
10	Hogan et al.	1989	No	Unclear	Yes*	Yes	Unclear	Yes	Yes	Unclear	Yes	Yes	No
11	Geliebter et al.	1990	Unclear	Unclear	Unclear*	Yes	Unclear	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	Unclear
12	Mathus-Viiegen et al.	1990	Yes	Yes	Yes*	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	No
13	Hartigan et al.	1994	Yes	Yes	Unclear*	Yes	Yes	Unclear	Unclear	Unclear	Yes	No	Yes
14	Sutton et al.	1994	Yes	Unclear	Unclear*	Yes	Unclear	Yes	Unclear	Unclear	Unclear	Yes	No
15	van Schie et al.	2000	Unclear	Unclear	Unclear	Yes	Unclear	Yes	No	Unclear	Yes	No	Yes
16	Freed et al.	2001	Unclear	Unclear	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Unclear	Yes	Yes	No
17	Lee et al.	2001	Yes	Yes	Unclear	Yes	Unclear	Yes	Unclear	Unclear	Yes	No	No
18	Scolapio et al.	2001	Unclear	Yes	Unclear*	Yes	Unclear	Unclear	Unclear	Unclear	Yes	Yes	Yes
19	Bradley et al.	2002	Unclear	Yes	Yes	Yes	Unclear	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
20	Moseley et al.	2002	Yes	Yes	Yes*	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	No
21	Stone et al.	2002	Unclear	Unclear	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	No
22	Corley et al.	2003	Yes	Yes	Yes*	Yes	Unclear	Yes	Yes	Unclear	Yes	No	No
23	Olanow et al.	2003	Yes	Unclear	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Unclear	Yes	No	Unclear
24	Swank et al.	2003	Yes	Yes	Unclear*	Yes	Unclear	Yes	Unclear	Unclear	Yes	No	Yes
25	Abbott et al.	2004	Yes	Yes	Yes*	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Unclear	Yes	No	No
26	Pauza et al.	2004	Yes	Unclear	Yes	Yes	Unclear	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	No
27	Salem et al.	2004	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Unclear	Yes	Yes	Yes
28	Davys et al.	2005	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Unclear	Unclear	Yes	Unclear	Yes	Yes	Yes
29	Devriere et al.	2005	Yes	Unclear	Yes*	Yes	No	No	Yes	Unclear	Yes	Yes	Unclear
30	Freeman et al.	2005	Unclear	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Unclear	Yes	No	No
31	Jarrell et al.	2005	Yes	Yes	Unclear*	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Unclear	Yes	Yes	Unclear
32	Leon et al.	2005	Unclear	Unclear	Yes	Yes	Unclear	Yes	Yes	Unclear	Yes	Yes	Yes
33	Stuck et al.	2005	Yes	Unclear	Yes	Yes	Unclear	Yes	Yes	Unclear	Yes	No	No
34	Genco et al.	2006	Unclear	Yes	Unclear*	Yes	Unclear	Yes	Unclear	Unclear	Yes	No	Yes
35	Montgomery et al.	2006	Unclear	Yes	Yes*	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Unclear	Yes	Unclear	No
36	Rothstein et al.	2007	Yes	Yes	Yes*	Yes	Unclear	Yes	Yes	Unclear	Yes	Yes	Yes
37	Schwartz et al.	2007	Unclear	Yes	Yes*	Yes	Unclear	Yes	Yes	Unclear	Yes	No	Yes
38	Dowson et al.	2008	Unclear	Yes	Unclear	Yes	Yes	Yes	Unclear	Unclear	Yes	Yes	Yes
39	Friedman et al.	2008	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Unclear	Yes	Yes	Yes
40	Silverberg et al.	2008	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Unclear	Yes	No	Yes
41	Steward et al.	2008	Unclear	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Unclear	Yes	No	Yes
42	Baeck et al.	2009	Unclear	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	Yes	Unclear	Yes	Yes	No
43	Bajbouj et al.	2009	Yes	Unclear	Yes*	Yes	Unclear	Yes	Yes	Unclear	Yes	Yes	Yes
44	Buchbinder et al.	2009	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Unclear	Yes	Yes	No
45	Guyron et al.	2009	Unclear	Yes	Yes	Yes	Unclear	Yes	Yes	Unclear	Yes	No	No
46	Kallmes et al.	2009	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	Yes
47	Shaheen et al.	2009	Yes	Unclear	Unclear*	Yes	Unclear	Yes	Unclear	Unclear	Yes	No	Yes
48	Arts et al.	2012	Unclear	Unclear	Unclear*	Yes	Unclear	Yes	Yes	Unclear	Yes	Yes	Yes
49	Castro et al.	2010	Yes	Unclear	Yes*	Yes	Unclear	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
50	Gillespie et al.	2011	Unclear	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Unclear	Yes	Yes	No
51	Gross et al.	2011	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Unclear	Yes	Yes	Unclear
52	Maurer et al.	2012	Unclear	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Unclear	Yes	Yes	No
53	Thompson et al.	2013	Yes	Yes	Yes*	Yes	Unclear	Yes	Unclear	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes