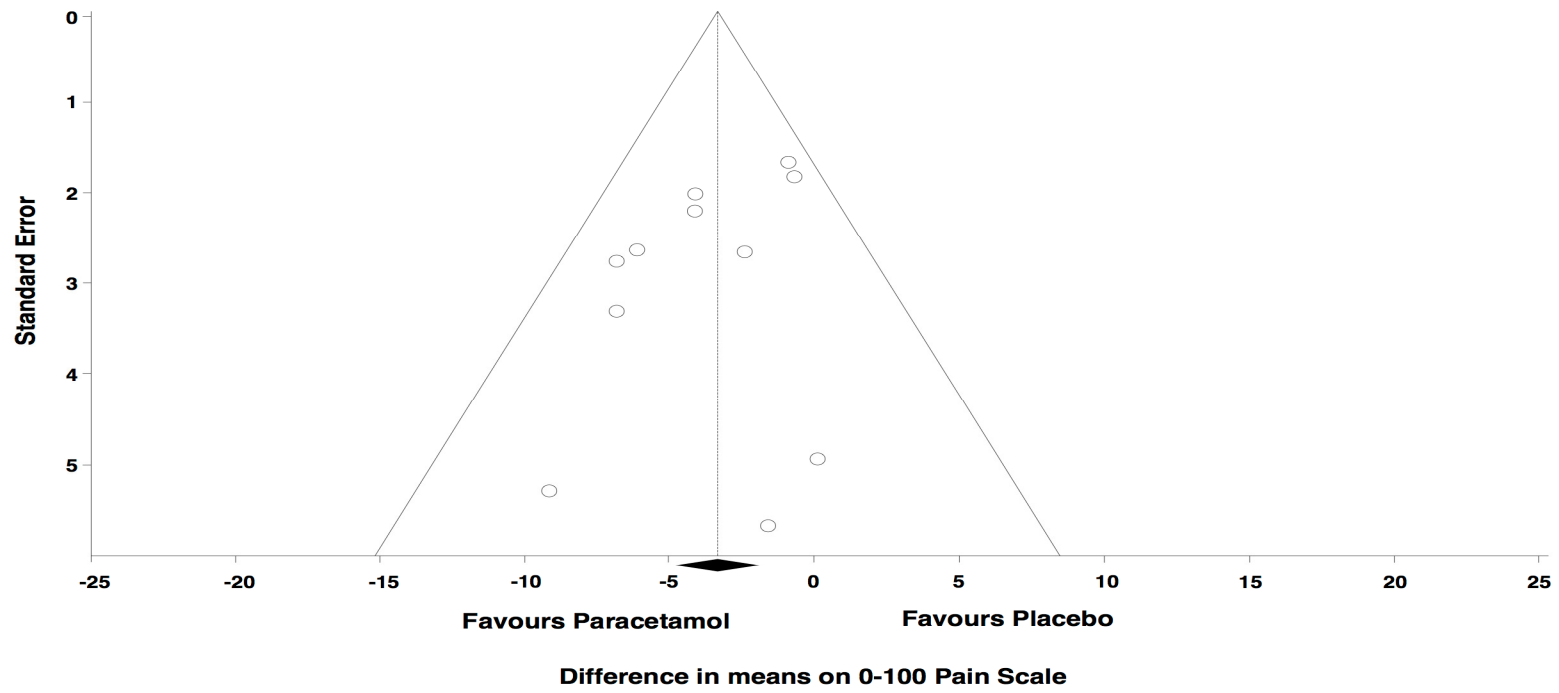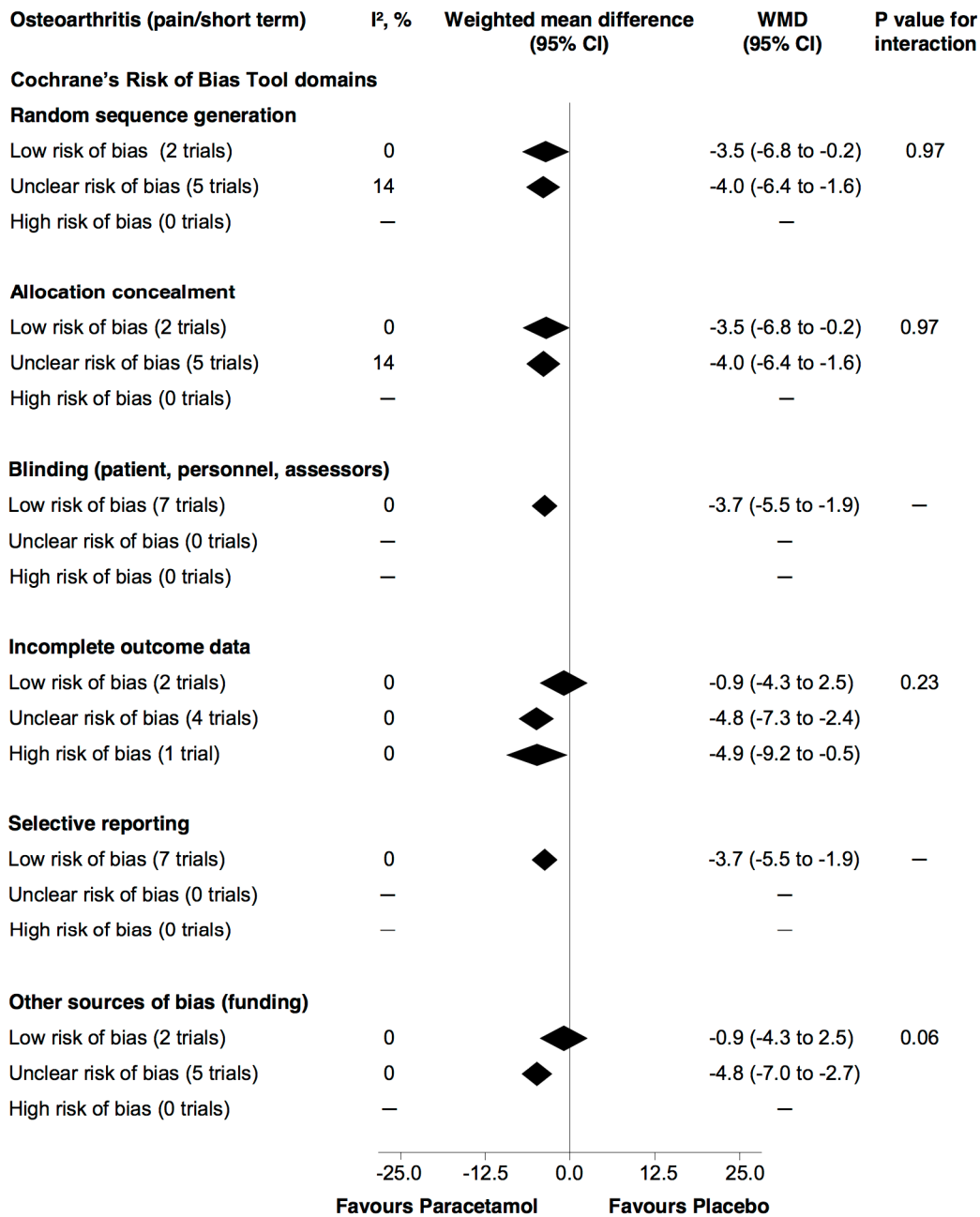**Appendix 2: Supplementary figures A-C [posted as supplied by author]**

Figure A Funnel plot. Plot of effect size between paracetamol and placebo versus their respective standard error. Each circle represents one trial.

Fig B Secondary exploratory analysis of aspects of individual risk of bias domains on pooled osteoarthritis short-term pain estimates. WMD=Weighted mean difference, CI=Confidence interval.

Osteoarthritis (pain/short term)	I^2, %	Weighted mean difference (95% CI)	WMD (95% CI)	P value for interaction
Cochrane's Risk of Bias Tool domains				
Random sequence generation				
Low risk of bias (2 trials)	0		-3.5 (-6.8 to -0.2)	0.97
Unclear risk of bias (5 trials)	14		-4.0 (-6.4 to -1.6)	
High risk of bias (0 trials)	—		—	
Allocation concealment				
Low risk of bias (2 trials)	0		-3.5 (-6.8 to -0.2)	0.97
Unclear risk of bias (5 trials)	14		-4.0 (-6.4 to -1.6)	
High risk of bias (0 trials)	—		—	
Blinding (patient, personnel, assessors)				
Low risk of bias (7 trials)	0		-3.7 (-5.5 to -1.9)	—
Unclear risk of bias (0 trials)	—		—	
High risk of bias (0 trials)	—		—	
Incomplete outcome data				
Low risk of bias (2 trials)	0		-0.9 (-4.3 to 2.5)	0.23
Unclear risk of bias (4 trials)	0		-4.8 (-7.3 to -2.4)	
High risk of bias (1 trial)	0		-4.9 (-9.2 to -0.5)	
Selective reporting				
Low risk of bias (7 trials)	0		-3.7 (-5.5 to -1.9)	—
Unclear risk of bias (0 trials)	—		—	
High risk of bias (0 trials)	—		—	
Other sources of bias (funding)				
Low risk of bias (2 trials)	0		-0.9 (-4.3 to 2.5)	0.06
Unclear risk of bias (5 trials)	0		-4.8 (-7.0 to -2.7)	
High risk of bias (0 trials)	—		—	

-25.0   -12.5   0.0   12.5   25.0

Favours Paracetamol   **Favours Placebo**

Fig C Extended funnel plots showing the predicted consequences of a further trial on the meta-analysis of the effects of paracetamol compared to placebo for spinal pain and osteoarthritis.