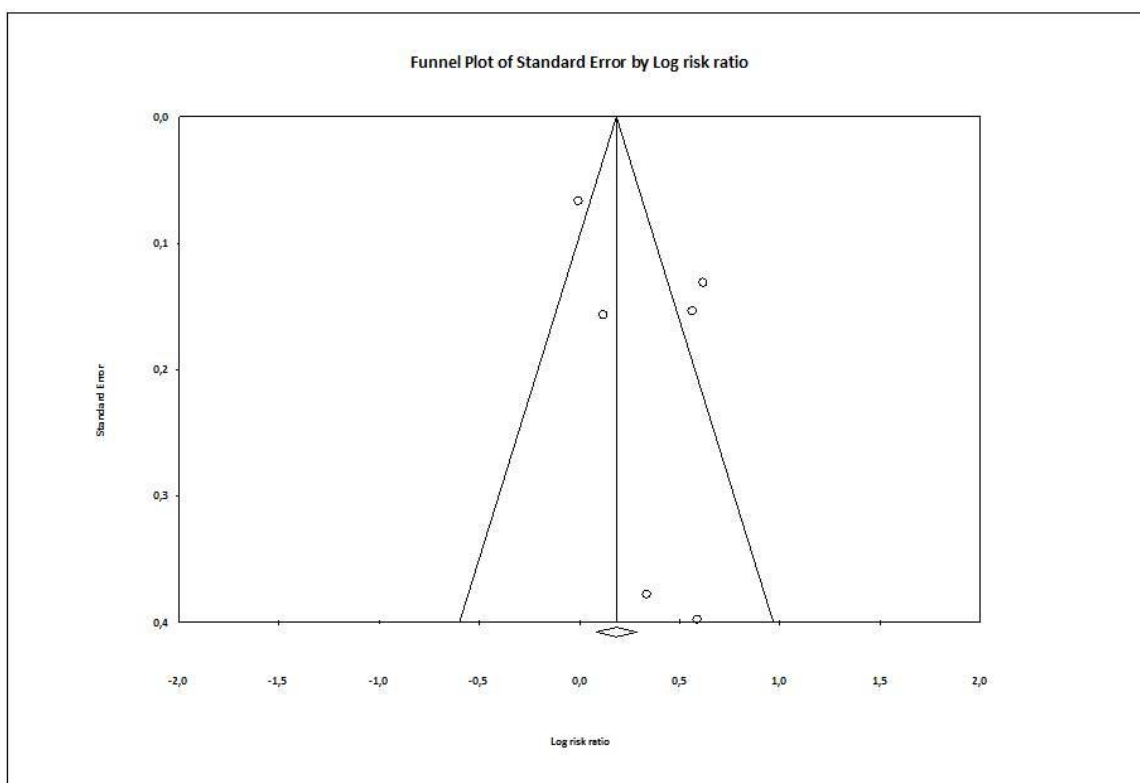


EMBASE	'Rheumatoid arthritis' AND ('Methotrexate' OR 'antirheumatic agent') AND ('randomized controlled trial(topic)' OR 'controlled clinical trial ' AND ('tumor necrosis factor alpha' OR 'biological product' OR 'adalimumab' OR "Infliximab" OR "Golimumab" OR "Certolizumab Pegol" OR "Etanercept") AND ('treatment outcome' OR 'disease activity')
PUBMED (species:humans) (Article type:clinical trial)	("Rheumatoid arthritis"[Mesh] OR "Rheumatoid arthritis"[tiab]) AND (Methotrexate[Mesh] OR MTX OR Methotrexate[tiab]) AND ((Adalimumab[Supplementary Concept] OR ADA OR Adalimumab) OR (Golimumab [Supplementary Concept]) OR ("Certolizumab pegol" [Supplementary Concept] OR Certolizumab) OR (Etanercept) OR (Infliximab [Supplementary Concept] OR IFX) OR ("tumor necrosis factor alpha" OR "monoclonal antibody" OR "biologic agent"[mesh] OR "biologic agent"))
COCHRANE CENTRAL REGISTER OF CONTROLLED TRIALS	("Rheumatoid arthritis") AND (Methotrexate OR MTX) AND (Adalimumab OR ADA OR "tumor necrosis factor alpha" OR "biologic agent" OR Golimumab OR "certolizumab pegol" OR Certolizumab OR Etanercept OR Infliximab OR IFX)
Clinicaltrials.gov (limited by completed studies with results)	<i>"Early Rheumatoid Arthritis"</i>

Supplementary Table 1. Search terms used in the databases.

Study, year of publication	Randomized	Reported appropriate randomization procedure	Double-blinded	Reported appropriate double-blinding method	Reasons for withdrawals and drop outs described	Score
<i>T20,2004</i>	1	1	1	1	1	5
<i>BeST,2005</i>	1	1	0	0	1	3
<i>GUEPARD,2009</i>	1	1	0	0	1	3
<i>HIT HARD,2012</i>	1	1	1	1	1	5
<i>OPERA,2014</i>	1	1	1	1	1	5
<i>OPTIMA,2014</i>	1	1	1	1	1	5

Supplementary Table 2. Summary of the quality evaluation by Jadad scale.



Supplementary Table 3. Funnel plot for studies included in the meta-analysis.