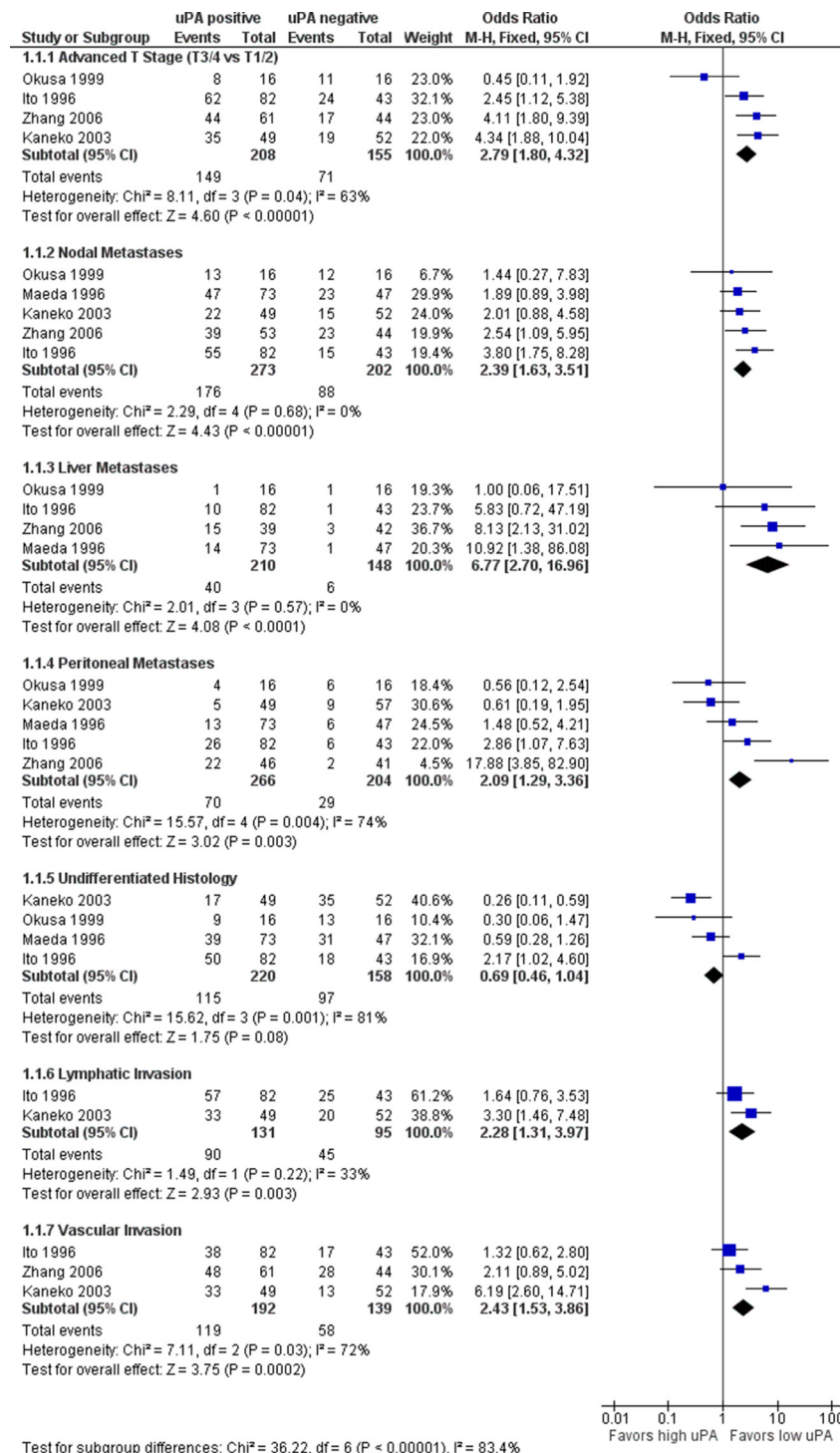
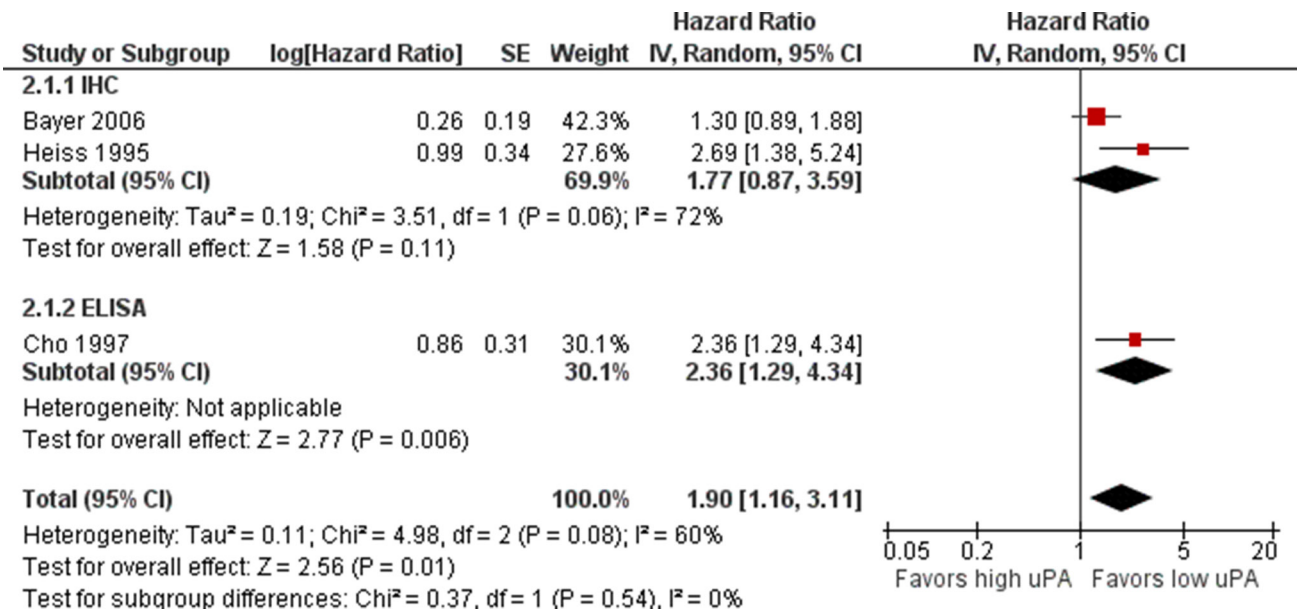


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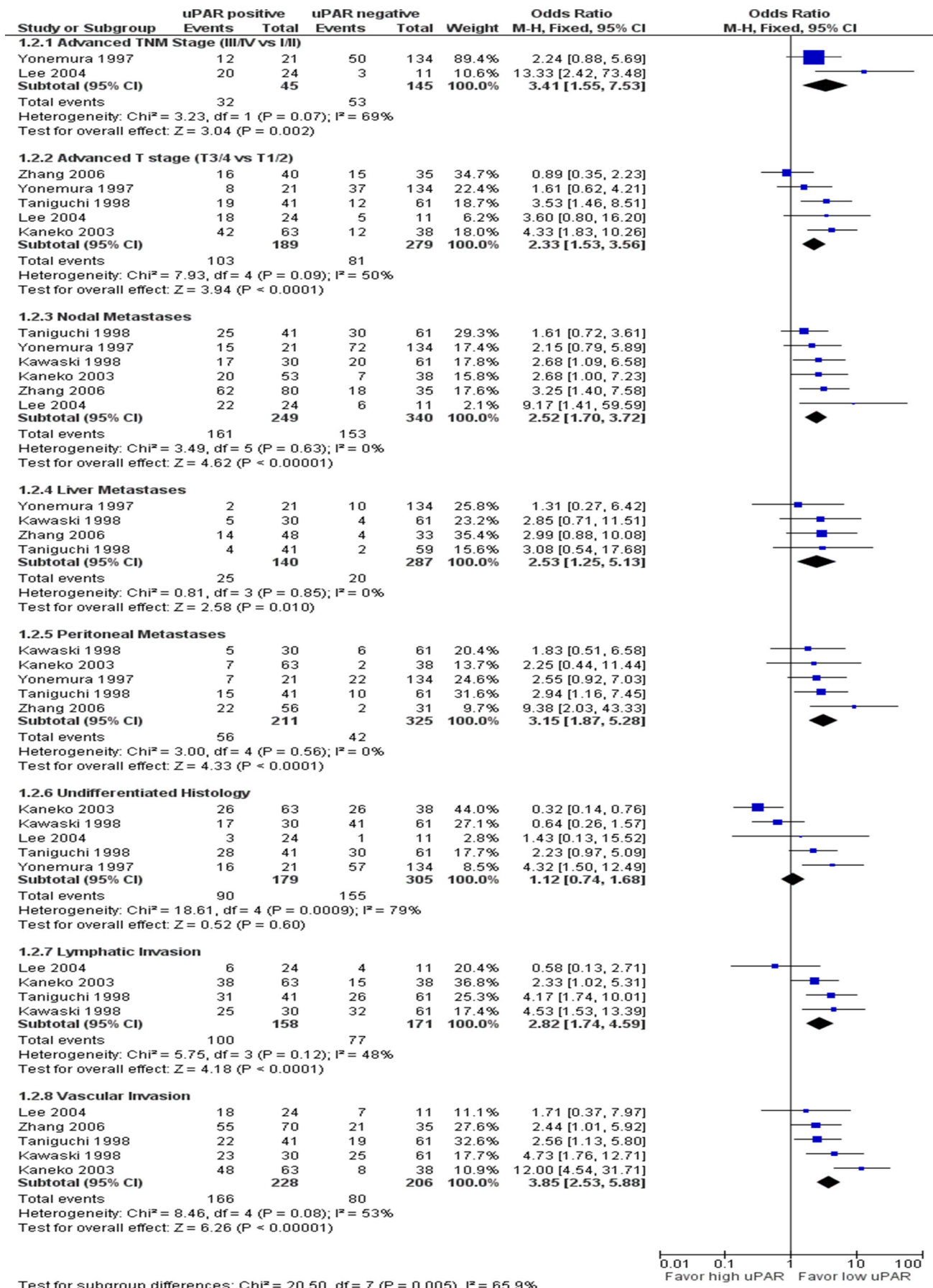
Supplementary Materials



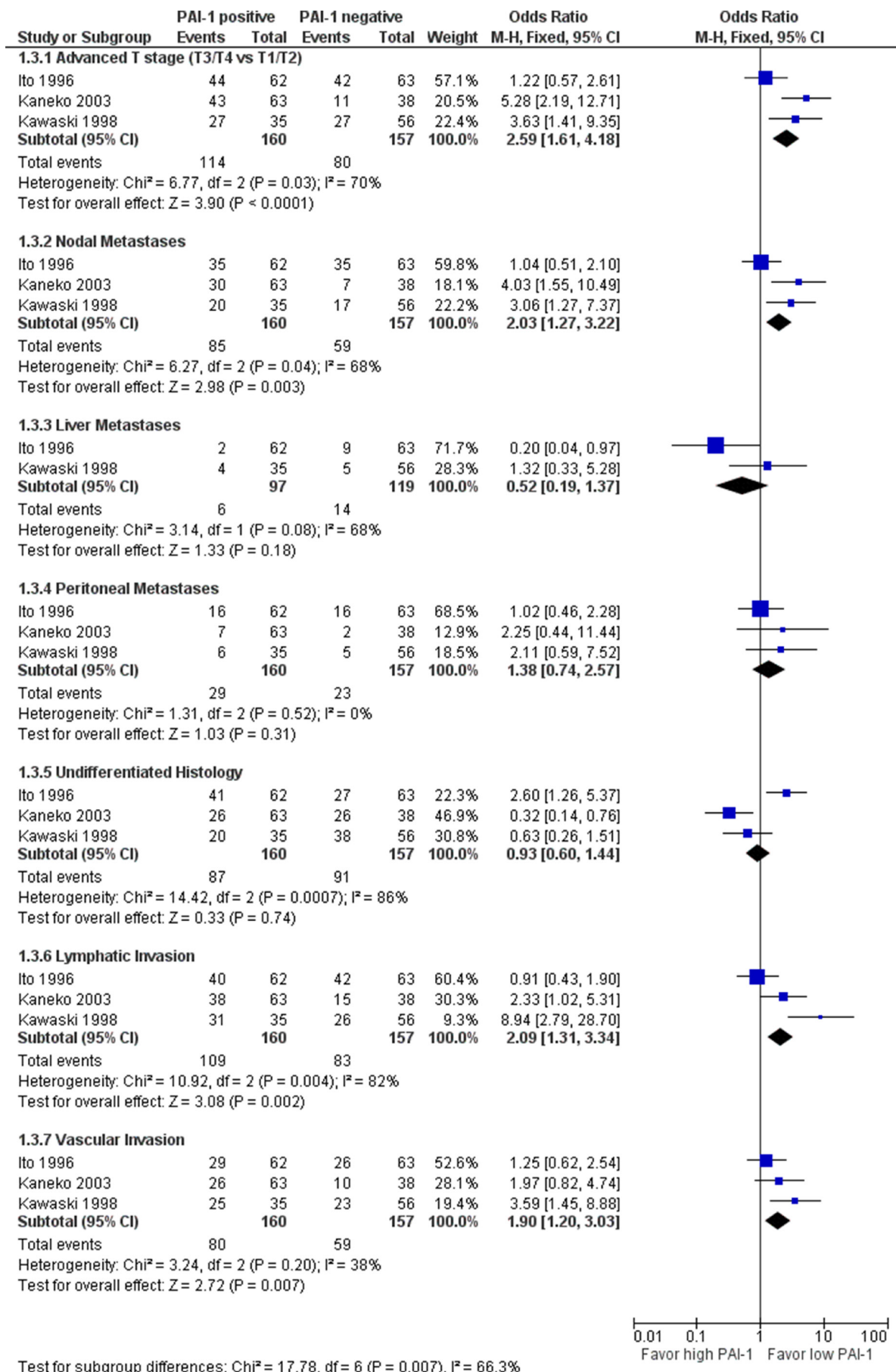
Supplementary Figure 1: Pooled estimate of odds ratio (OR) for uPA expression and clinicopathological factors.



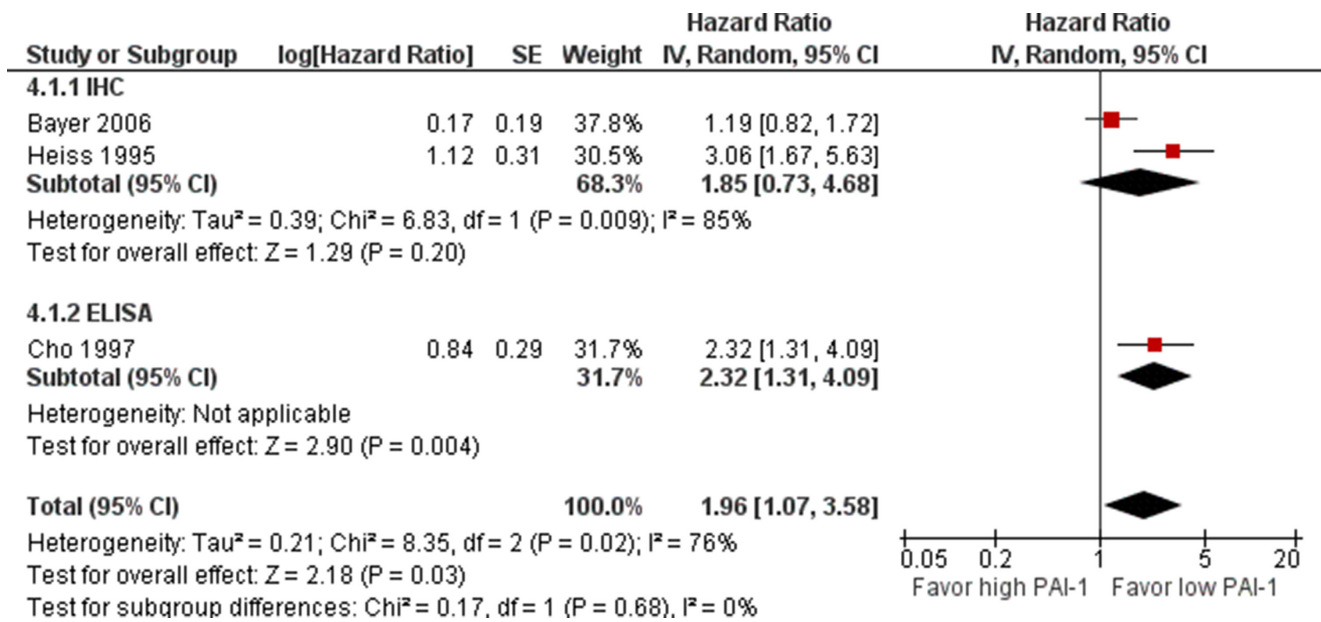
Supplementary Figure 2: Pooled estimate of hazard ratio (HR) for uPA expression and recurrence free survival (RFS).



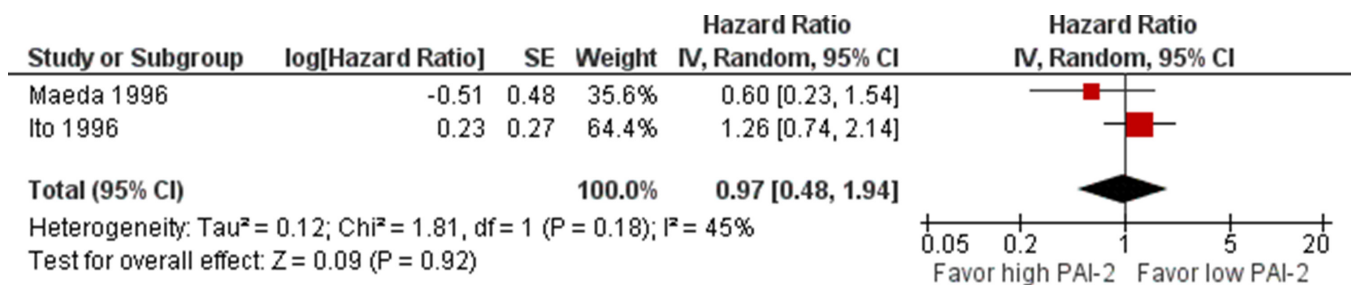
Supplementary Figure 3: Pooled estimate of odds ratio (OR) for uPAR expression and clinicopathological factors.



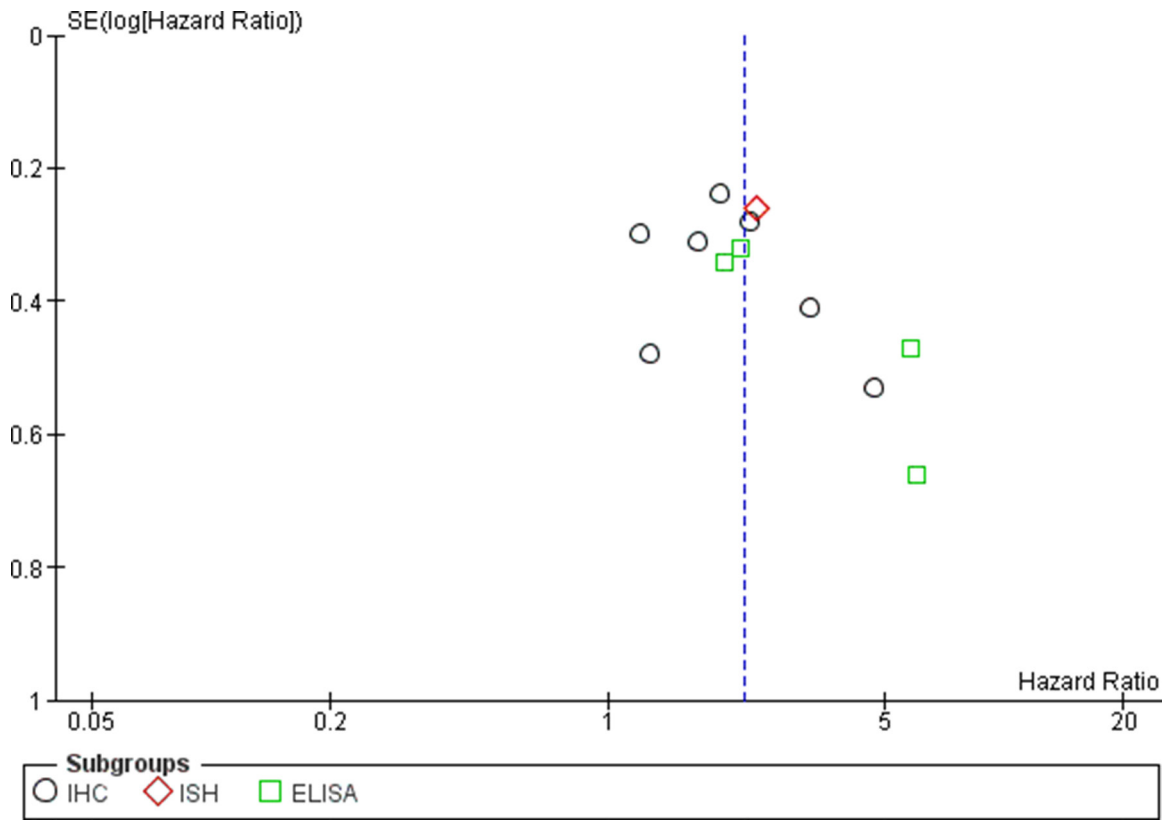
Supplementary Figure 4: Pooled estimate of odds ratio (OR) for PAI-1 expression and clinicopathological factors.



Supplementary Figure 5: Pooled estimate of hazard ratio (HR) for PAI-1 expression and recurrence free survival (RFS).



Supplementary Figure 6: Pooled estimate of hazard ratio (HR) for PAI-2 expression and overall survival (OS).



Supplementary Figure 7: Funnel plot of uPA studies.

Supplementary Table 1: Characteristics of included studies

	Study (year)	Pt No.	Primary location (TNM stage)	Analysis Method	uPA component	Expression Rate (%)
1	Allott (2012) ³⁰	39	Oesophageal (ND)	RT-PCR	PAI-1	50
2	Alpizar Alpizar (2012) ¹¹	95	Gastric (I–IV)	IHC	uPAR	90
3	Beyer (2006) ²²	104	Gastric (I–IV)	IHC	uPA	91
					uPAR	88
					PAI-1	90
4	Cho (1997) ²⁷	160	Gastric (I–IV)	ELISA	uPA	28
					PAI-1	33
5	Ganesh (1996) ²⁹	50	Gastric (I–IV)	ELISA	uPAR	42
					PAI-1	11
6	Heiss (1995) ⁴²	203	Gastric (I–IV)	IHC	uPA	75
					uPAR	69
					PAI-1	71
7	Ito (1996) ³¹	125	Gastric (ND)	IHC	uPA	66
					PAI-1	50
					PAI-2	52
8	Kaneko (2003) ³²	101	Gastric (ND)	IHC	uPA	23
					uPAR	33
					PAI-1	37
9	Kawasaki (1998) ¹²	91	Gastric (I – IV)	IHC	uPAR	33 (IHC)
				ISH		20 (ISH)
					PAI-1	39 (IHC)
						29 (ISH)
10	Lærum (2012) ⁷	66	Oesophageal, GOJ, Gastric (I–IV)	IHC	uPAR	90*
11	Lee (2004) ³³	35	Gastric (I–IV)	RT-PCR	uPAR	63
12	Luebke (2006) ⁴¹	105	Gastric (I–IV)	IHC	uPA	84
					PAI-1	93
13	Maeda (1996) ⁴⁷	120	Gastric (I – IV)	IHC	uPA	61
					PAI-2	63
14	Murata (1998) ³⁵	26	Gastric (IV)	IHC	uPA	42
15	Nekarda (1994) ⁴⁸	76	Gastric (I – IV)	ELISA	uPA	51
					PAI-1	41
16	Nekarda (1998) ²⁸	38	Oesophageal (I-IV)	ELISA	uPA	34
					PAI-1	32
17	Okusa (1999) ³⁶	71	Gastric (I–IV)	ELISA	uPA	50
18	Plebani (1997) ³⁷	20	Gastric (I–IV)	ELISA	uPA	65
					uPAR	65
					PAI-1	75
19	Sakakibara (2006) ³⁸	79	Gastric (I–IV)	RT-PCR	PAI-1	58
20	Taniguchi (1998) ³⁹	102	Gastric (ND)	IHC	uPAR	40
21	Yonemura (1997) ¹³	155	Gastric (I–IV)	IHC	uPAR	14
22	Zhang (2006) ⁴⁰	105	Gastric (ND)	ISH	uPA	58
					uPAR	67

Pt No – number of patients; uPA – urokinase plasminogen activator; uPAR - urokinase plasminogen activator receptor; PAI-1 – plasminogen activator receptor 1; PAI-2 - plasminogen activator receptor 2; IHC – immunohistochemistry, RT-PCT - reverse transcription polymerase chain reaction; ISH – in-situ hybridisation; ELISA - enzyme-linked immunosorbent assay; GOJ – gastro-oesophageal junction.

*expression at invasive front