# Multimedia Appendix 4: Risk of Bias for Cluster RCT

| Study ID | Recruitment bias | Baseline imbalance | Loss of clusters | Incorrect analysis | Comparability with individual trials |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Vivekananda-Schmidt 2005 (Newcastle) | Low | low | Unclear | Low | Unclear |
| | Recruitment of participants were carried out before randomization of clusters. It was mentioned in Figure 5 of the study. | No baseline difference was reported | Loss of cluster was not reported. | Analysis was carried out using a hierarchical linear regression with 2 levels (cluster level and student level). "Cluster" was entered as a random variable to account for the variance between individual clusters. | Comparison between cRCT and RCT could not be made due to heterogeneity in the specialization of participants and interventions. |
| Vivekananda-Schmidt 2005a (London) | Low | low | Unclear | Low | Unclear |
| | Recruitment of participants were carried out before randomization of clusters. It was mentioned in Figure 5 of the study. | No baseline difference was reported. | Loss of cluster was not reported. | Analysis was carried out using a hierarchical linear regression with 2 levels (cluster level and student level). "Cluster" was entered as a random variable to account for the variance between individual clusters. | Comparison between cRCT and RCT could not be made due to heterogeneity in the specialization of participants and interventions. |
| Nola 2005 | Unclear | Unclear | High | Unclear | Unclear |
| | 48 of the class of 225 students (20%) randomly enrolled in the computer-based teaching program and the remaining 80% of students of the same class were enrolled in the traditional teaching program used at the Zagreb University School of Medicine. Moreover, the author didn't report about cluster-randomization of the participants even though it mentioned the students were randomized in groups. | Baseline differences were not reported in this study. | Missing outcomes for individuals within clusters may lead to a risk of bias in cRCT. | No sufficient information to make judgement. | Comparison between cRCT and RCT could not be made due to heterogeneity in the specialization of participants and interventions. |

*Footnotes*

RCT = Randomized controlled trial, cRCT = cluster RCT