Cochrane
Effective Practice and Organisation of Care

How to prepare a risk of bias table for reviews that include more than one study design

See also: Suggested risk of bias criteria for EPOC reviews and
Summary assessments of the risk of bias

A risk of bias table that includes both randomised trials (and/or non-randomised trials and/or controlled before-after (CBA) studies) and interrupted time series (ITS) studies would look like the table below in Review Manager 5. All of the risk of bias criteria for both types of studies are there and the ITS ones have "(ITS)".

When the review is published any criteria that are "undear" with no text in the description text box will disappear. So for trials and CBA studies the ITS criteria will not appear in the published review. Similarly, for ITS studies the trial/CBA criteria will not appear.
The automatic summary figures of the risk of bias assessments (in yellow, green and red) cannot be used when this is done. This is because the denominators are incorrect when some criteria are relevant to only a subset of the included studies.

Risk of bias table

Item	Judgment	Description
Adequate sequence generation?	Unclear	
Allocation concealment?	Unclear	
Blinding?	Unclear	
Incomplete outcome data addressed?	Unclear	
Free of selective reporting?	Unclear	
Free of other bias?	Unclear	
Baseline outcomes similar?	Unclear	
Free of contamination?	Unclear	
Baseline characteristics similar?	Unclear	
Intervention independent (ITS)?	Unclear	
Analysed appropriately (ITS)?	Unclear	
Shape of effect pre-specified (ITS)?	Unclear	
Unlikely to affect data collection (ITS)?	Unclear	
Blinding (ITS)?	Unclear	
Incomplete outcome data addressed (ITS)?	Unclear	
Free of selective reporting (ITS)?	Unclear	
Free of other bias (ITS)?	Unclear	

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