

**Appendix 1 (as supplied by the authors):** Risk of bias for studies included in the systematic review (for reference details, see the reference list in the main article)

Study	Parallel cohorts	Preference design	Same setting	Selection bias	Detection bias	Exclusion bias
Akaza et al. 1995	Yes	No	Yes	Likely	Unclear	None
Amar et al. 1997	Yes	No	Yes	Unlikely	Likely	None
Andersson et al. 2003	Yes	No	Yes	Likely	Unlikely	Likely
Antman et al. 1985	Yes	No	Yes	Likely	Unclear	None
Ashok et al. 2002	Yes	Yes	Yes	Unlikely	Unlikely	Likely
Bain et al. 2001	Yes	Yes	Yes	Unlikely	Unlikely	None
Bakker et al. 2000	Yes	No	Yes	Unlikely	Unlikely	Likely
Balmukhanov et al. 1989	Yes	No	Yes	Unlikely	Unlikely	None
Bannister et al. 2001	Yes	No	Yes	Unlikely	Unlikely	None
Bedi et al. 2000	Yes	Yes	Yes	Unlikely	Unlikely	Likely
Bell and Palma 2000	Yes	No	Unclear	Likely	Unclear	Likely
Bhattacharya et al. 1998	Yes	No	Yes	Unlikely	Unlikely	Unclear
Biasoli et al. 2008	Yes	No	Yes	Likely	Likely	Likely
Biederman et al. 1985	Yes	No	Yes	Unlikely	Unlikely	Likely
Bijker et al. 2002	Yes	No	Yes	Unlikely	Likely	Likely
Blichert-Toft et al. 1988	Yes	No	No	Unlikely	Unclear	Unlikely
Blumenthal et al. 1997	Yes	No	No	Unlikely	Unlikely	Likely
Boesen et al. 2007	Yes	No	Yes	Likely	Unlikely	Likely
Boezaart et al. 1998	Yes	Yes	Yes	Likely	Unlikely	None
Brinkhaus et al. 2008	Yes	No	Yes	Likely	Unlikely	Likely
Caplan and Buchanan 1984	Yes	No	No	Likely	Unlikely	None
CASS 1984	Yes	No	Unclear	Likely	Likely	Likely
Chauhan et al. 1992	Yes	No	Yes	Unlikely	Unlikely	None
Chesebro et al. 1983	No	No	Unclear	Unlikely	Unlikely	None
Chilvers et al. 2001	Yes	No	Yes	Unlikely	Unlikely	Likely
Claggett et al. 1984	Yes	No	Unclear	Unlikely	Unlikely	Likely
Clapp et al. 1989	Yes	No	Yes	Likely	Unclear	None
Clemens et al. 1992	Yes	No	Yes	Unlikely	Unclear	Unclear
Cooper et al. 1997	Yes	Yes	Yes	Likely	Unclear	None
Cowchock et al. 1992	Yes	No	Unclear	Likely	Unclear	None
Creutzig et al. 1993	Yes	Yes	Unclear	Unlikely	Unlikely	None
Dahan et al. 1986	Yes	No	Unclear	Likely	Unclear	None
Dalal et al. 2007	Yes	Yes	Unclear	Unlikely	Unlikely	Likely
Decensi et al. 2003	Yes	No	Yes	Unlikely	Unclear	Likely
Detre et al. 1999	No	No	Yes	Likely	Likely	None
Eberhardt et al. 1996	Yes	No	Yes	Unlikely	Unlikely	Likely
Edsmyr et al. 1978	Yes	No	Unclear	Likely	Unlikely	None
Ekstein et al. 2002	Yes	No	No	Unlikely	Likely	Likely
Emery et al. 2003	Yes	Yes	Yes	Unlikely	Unlikely	Likely
Euler et al. 2005	Yes	No	Yes	Unlikely	Unlikely	None
Feit et al. 2000	Yes	No	No	Likely	Likely	Likely
Forbes and Collins 2000	Yes	No	Yes	Unlikely	Unlikely	None
Franz et al. 1995	Yes	No	Yes	Unlikely	Likely	Likely
Gall et al. 2007	Yes	Yes	Yes	Unlikely	Unlikely	Likely
Girón et al. 2010	Yes	No	Yes	Unlikely	Likely	Likely
Goodkin et al. 1987	Yes	No	No	Unlikely	Unlikely	Unclear
Gossop et al. 1986	Yes	Yes	Yes	Unlikely	Unclear	None
Grant et al. 2008	Yes	Yes	Yes	Likely	Unlikely	Likely
Gunn et al. 2000	Yes	No	Yes	Likely	Unlikely	None
Helsing et al. 1998	Yes	No	Yes	Unlikely	Unlikely	Unclear
Henriksson and Edhaq 1986	Yes	No	Yes	Likely	Unlikely	None
Heuss et al. 2004	Yes	No	Yes	Unlikely	Unlikely	None
Hoh et al. 1998	Yes	No	No	Unlikely	Unlikely	Likely
Howard et al. 2009	Yes	Yes	Yes	Unlikely	Unlikely	Likely
Howie et al. 1997	Yes	Yes	Yes	Unlikely	Unclear	Likely
Jena et al. 2008	Yes	No	No	Unlikely	Unlikely	Likely
Jensen et al. 2003	Yes	Yes	Yes	Unlikely	Unlikely	Likely

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Kane 1988	Yes	No	Unclear	Likely	Unlikely	None
Karande et al. 1999	Yes	No	Yes	Unlikely	Unlikely	Likely
Kayser et al. 2008	Yes	Yes	Yes	Unlikely	Unlikely	None
Kendrick et al. 2001	Yes	Yes	Yes	Likely	Unclear	Likely
Kieler et al. 1998	Yes	No	Yes	Unlikely	Unlikely	Likely
King et al. 2000	Yes	Yes	Yes	Likely	Unlikely	Likely
Kirke et al. 1992	Yes	No	Unclear	Unlikely	Unlikely	Likely
Koch-Henriksen et al. 2006	Yes	No	Yes	Unlikely	Unlikely	Likely
Lansky and Vance 1983	Yes	No	Yes	Unlikely	Likely	None
Lichtenberg et al. 2008	Yes	No	Unclear	Unlikely	Likely	None
Lidbrink et al. 1995	Yes	No	Unclear	Unlikely	Unclear	None
Link et al. 1991	Yes	No	Yes	Unlikely	Unlikely	None
Liu et al. 2009	Yes	No	Yes	Unlikely	Unlikely	None
Lock et al. 2010	Yes	Yes	Yes	Likely	Unlikely	Likely
Loeffler et al. 1995	Yes	No	Yes	Unlikely	Unclear	None
Luby et al. 2002	Yes	No	Yes	Unlikely	Unlikely	None
Macdonald et al. 2007	Yes	No	Yes	Unlikely	Unlikely	Likely
MacLennan et al. 1985	Yes	No	Yes	Likely	Unclear	None
MacMillan et al. 1986	Yes	No	Unclear	Likely	Likely	Likely
Mahon et al. 1996	Yes	No	Yes	Likely	Unlikely	None
Mahon et al. 1999	Yes	No	Yes	Unlikely	Unlikely	Likely
Marcinczyk et al. 1997	Yes	No	Yes	Unlikely	Unclear	None
Martin et al. 1994	Yes	No	Yes	Unlikely	Likely	None
Martínez-Amenos et al. 1990	Yes	No	Yes	Likely	Unlikely	None
Masood et al. 2002	Yes	No	Yes	Likely	Likely	None
Matilla et al. 2003	Yes	No	Yes	Unlikely	Unlikely	Likely
Mayo Group 1992	Yes	No	Unclear	Unlikely	Unlikely	None
McCaughey et al. 1998	Yes	No	Yes	Unlikely	Unlikely	Likely
McKay et al. 1998	Yes	No	Yes	Likely	Unlikely	Likely
McKay et al. 1995	Yes	Yes	Yes	Likely	Unlikely	Likely
Melchart et al. 2002	Yes	Yes	Yes	Unlikely	Unlikely	Likely
Moertel et al. 1984	Yes	No	Unclear	Unlikely	Unclear	None
Mori et al. 2006	Yes	Yes	Yes	Unlikely	Unlikely	Likely
Morrison et al. 2002	Yes	No	Yes	Likely	Unlikely	None
Nagel et al. 1998	Yes	Yes	Yes	Unlikely	Unlikely	None
Neldam et al. 1986	Yes	No	Yes	Unlikely	Unlikely	None
Nicolaides et al. 1994	Yes	Yes	Yes	Unlikely	Unlikely	Likely
Ogden et al. 2004	Yes	No	Unclear	Unlikely	Unlikely	Likely
Palmon et al. 1996	No	No	Yes	Likely	Unclear	None
Panagopoulou et al. 2009	Yes	No	Yes	Unlikely	Unlikely	None
Paradise et al. 1984	Yes	Yes	Yes	Unlikely	Unlikely	Likely
Petersen et al. 2007	Yes	No	Yes	Likely	Unlikely	Likely
Raistrick et al. 2005	Yes	Yes	Yes	Unlikely	Unlikely	Likely
Reddihough et al. 1998	Yes	No	Yes	Unlikely	Unlikely	Likely
Rigg et al. 2000	Yes	No	Yes	Unlikely	Unlikely	None
Rorbye et al. 2005	Yes	Yes	Yes	Likely	Unlikely	Likely
Rosen et al. 1987	Yes	No	Yes	Likely	Unlikely	None
Salisbury et al. 2002	Yes	No	Yes	Unlikely	Unlikely	Likely
Sesso et al. 2002	Yes	No	Unclear	Likely	Unlikely	None
Shain et al. 1989	Yes	Yes	Yes	Likely	Unlikely	Likely
Smith and Arnesen 1990	Yes	No	Yes	Likely	Unclear	None
Smuts et al. 2003	Yes	No	Yes	Unlikely	Likely	None
Stecksén-Blicks et al. 2008	Yes	No	Yes	Unlikely	Unclear	Likely
Stern et al. 2003	Yes	No	Yes	Unlikely	Unclear	None
Stith et al. 2004	Yes	No	No	Likely	Unlikely	Likely
Stockton and Mengersen 2009	Yes	Yes	Yes	Likely	Unlikely	Likely
Strandberg et al. 1995	Yes	No	Yes	Unlikely	Likely	Likely
Suherman et al. 1999	Yes	No	Unclear	Unlikely	Unlikely	Likely
Sullivan et al. 1982	Yes	No	Unclear	Unlikely	Unlikely	Likely
Sundar et al. 2008	No	No	Yes	Likely	Unlikely	None
Taddio et al. 2006	No	No	Yes	Unlikely	Unlikely	Likely
Tanai et al. 2009	Yes	No	Yes	Unlikely	Unlikely	None

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Tanaka et al. 1994	No	No	Unclear	Unlikely	Unlikely	None
Taplin et al. 1986	Yes	No	Yes	Unlikely	Unlikely	None
Tenenbaum et al. 2002	Yes	No	No	Likely	Likely	None
Toprak et al. 2005	Yes	No	Yes	Unlikely	Unlikely	None
Underwood et al. 2008	Yes	Yes	Yes	Unlikely	Unlikely	Likely
Urban et al. 1999	Yes	No	Yes	Likely	Unlikely	None
Van et al. 2009	Yes	Yes	Yes	Unlikely	Unlikely	Likely
van Bergen et al. 1995	Yes	No	Yes	Likely	Likely	None
Verdonck et al. 1995	Yes	No	Unclear	Likely	Unclear	None
Vind et al. 2009	Yes	No	Unclear	Likely	Likely	Likely
Walker et al. 1986	Yes	No	Yes	Likely	Unclear	Likely
Wallage et al. 2003	Yes	Yes	Yes	Unlikely	Unlikely	Likely
Watzke et al. 2010	Yes	No	Yes	Unlikely	Unlikely	Likely
Welt et al. 1981	Yes	Yes	No	Likely	Unclear	None
West et al. 2005	Yes	No	Yes	Unlikely	Likely	None
Wetzner et al. 1979	Yes	No	Unclear	Likely	Likely	None
Wieringa-de Waard et al. 2002	Yes	Yes	Yes	Likely	Unlikely	Likely
Williford et al. 1993	Yes	No	Unclear	Likely	Likely	Likely
Witt et al. 2006a	Yes	No	Unclear	Likely	Unlikely	Likely
Witt et al. 2006b	Yes	No	Yes	Likely	Unlikely	Likely
Witt et al. 2006c	Yes	No	Yes	Likely	Unlikely	Likely
Witt et al. 2008	Yes	No	Yes	Unlikely	Unlikely	Likely
Woodhouse et al. 1995	Yes	No	Yes	Likely	Unlikely	None
World Health Organization 1988	Yes	Yes	Yes	Likely	Unlikely	Likely
Wyse et al. 1991	Yes	No	Unclear	Likely	Likely	None
Yamamoto et al. 1992	Yes	No	Yes	Likely	Unlikely	None
Yamani et al. 2005	Yes	No	Unclear	Likely	Unlikely	None
Yersin et al. 1996	Yes	No	Yes	Likely	Unlikely	Likely

Note: CASS = Coronary Artery Surgery Study.