
Appendix 4: Funnel plot for outcome of mortality in trials of mechanical ventilation in the prone v. supine position for acute hypoxemic respiratory failure. Each point represents 1 trial; the dashed vertical line is the overall estimated risk ratio (RR) assuming a fixed-effects model. Statistical tests were nonsignificant ($p = 0.53$ for Begg rank correlation test and $p = 0.14$ for the modified Macaskill regression test); however, these tests are underpowered because of the small number of trials. Given that the meta-analysis of published trials showed no benefit for prone positioning, any additional unpublished small trials showing excess mortality in the prone group would only move the pooled estimate for mortality even closer to no effect.

