

Supplemental Table 1. Methodological quality: authors' judgment about each methodological quality item for each included study

Trial	Random sequence generation	Allocation concealment	Blinding of participants and personnel	Blinding of outcome assessment	Incomplete outcome data	Selective reporting	Other Bias
Hallowell P, 1972 ²⁷	HIGH	UNCLEAR	UNCLEAR	UNCLEAR	LOW	LOW	HIGH
Kaplan JA, 1977 ²⁸	HIGH	UNCLEAR	UNCLEAR	UNCLEAR	LOW	LOW	HIGH
Hurpe JM, 1987 ²⁹	LOW	UNCLEAR	UNCLEAR	UNCLEAR	LOW	LOW	LOW
Dietrich W, 1989 ³⁰	UNCLEAR	UNCLEAR	UNCLEAR	LOW	LOW	LOW	LOW
Boldt J, 1991 ³¹	LOW	UNCLEAR	UNCLEAR	UNCLEAR	LOW	LOW	HIGH
Vedrinne C, 1992 ³²	UNCLEAR	HIGH	HIGH	LOW	LOW	LOW	LOW
Herregods L, 1995 ³³	UNCLEAR	HIGH	HIGH	HIGH	LOW	LOW	HIGH
Triulzi DJ, 1995 ³⁴	LOW	UNCLEAR	UNCLEAR	UNCLEAR	LOW	LOW	HIGH
Helm RE, 1996 ³⁵	UNCLEAR	UNCLEAR	UNCLEAR	UNCLEAR	HIGH	LOW	HIGH
Kochamba GS, 1996 ³⁶	HIGH	UNCLEAR	UNCLEAR	UNCLEAR	LOW	LOW	LOW
Spahn DR, 1996 ³⁷	HIGH	UNCLEAR	UNCLEAR	UNCLEAR	LOW	LOW	LOW
Herregods L, 1997 ³⁸	LOW	UNCLEAR	UNCLEAR	UNCLEAR	LOW	LOW	LOW
Kahraman S, 1997 ³⁹	HIGH	UNCLEAR	UNCLEAR	UNCLEAR	LOW	LOW	HIGH
Nuttall GA, 2000 ⁴⁰	LOW	LOW	LOW	LOW	LOW	LOW	HIGH

Zhang S, 2000 ⁴¹	HIGH	UNCLEAR	UNCLEAR	UNCLEAR	LOW	LOW	HIGH
Casati V, 2002 ⁴²	HIGH	HIGH	HIGH	HIGH	LOW	LOW	HIGH
Höhn L, 2002 ⁴³	LOW	HIGH	HIGH	HIGH	HIGH	LOW	HIGH
McGill N, 2002 ⁴⁴	LOW	HIGH	HIGH	LOW	HIGH	LOW	LOW
Durmus M, 2003 ⁴⁵	LOW	HIGH	HIGH	HIGH	HIGH	LOW	LOW
Casati V, 2004 ⁴⁶	LOW	HIGH	HIGH	UNCLEAR	LOW	LOW	HIGH
Licker M, 2005 ⁴⁷	LOW	LOW	LOW	UNCLEAR	LOW	LOW	LOW
Licker M, 2007 ⁴⁸	LOW	LOW	LOW	UNCLEAR	LOW	LOW	HIGH
Jalali A, 2008 ⁴⁹	LOW	HIGH	UNCLEAR	UNCLEAR	LOW	LOW	HIGH
Ela Y, 2009 ⁵⁰	LOW	LOW	UNCLEAR	UNCLEAR	LOW	LOW	LOW
Mahoori A, 2009 ⁵¹	LOW	UNCLEAR	UNCLEAR	UNCLEAR	LOW	LOW	HIGH
Zisman E, 2010 ⁵²	LOW	UNCLEAR	UNCLEAR	UNCLEAR	LOW	LOW	HIGH
Virmani S, 2010 ⁵³	LOW	UNCLEAR	HIGH	UNCLEAR	LOW	LOW	LOW
Momeni M, 2012 ⁵⁴	LOW	UNCLEAR	LOW	UNCLEAR	LOW	LOW	LOW
Soltanzadeh M, 2012 ⁵⁵	HIGH	UNCLEAR	HIGH	UNCLEAR	LOW	LOW	HIGH

LOW is used when the method is clearly described while UNCLEAR when the authors do not report any approach, and HIGH when there is a poor methodological quality report. For OTHER BIAS we considered: 1) the absence of a specific transfusion protocol; 2) the exclusion of patients with severe complications; 3) unclear study design; 4) demographic differences between study group and control group; 5) small sample size