

Article title: The Impact of Rural Clinical Placements on Medical Students' Career Choices: A Systematic Review

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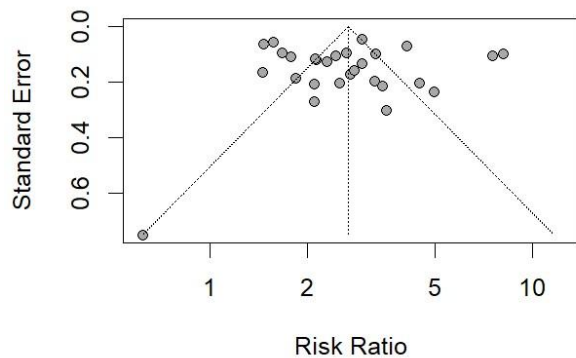
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Supplementary file 3. Funnel Plot for Evaluating Publication Bias



The funnel plot shows moderate asymmetry, with small studies reporting larger effect sizes more often represented than small studies reporting weaker or null effects. This pattern may suggest the presence of a publication bias or small-study effect. However, given the high heterogeneity observed across studies ($I^2 = 94.9\%$), asymmetry must be interpreted with caution, as heterogeneity alone can generate funnel plot distortion. While a publication bias cannot be entirely excluded, it does not invalidate the overall signal but may indicate that the pooled estimate is slightly overestimated.