**NMA on PTSD**

**Appendix 3**

Risk of bias tool

We followed the recommended approach for assessing risk of bias in studies included in Cochrane reviews. It is a two-part tool, addressing the six specific domains (namely sequence generation, allocation concealment, blinding, incomplete outcome data, selective outcome reporting and ‘other issues’). Two of the items (adequacy of sequence generation and allocation concealment) assess the strength of the randomization process in preventing selection bias in the assignment of participants to interventions; the third item (blinding) assesses the influence of performance bias on the study results and the fourth the likelihood of incomplete outcome data, which raise the possibility of bias in effect estimates. The fifth item assesses selective reporting, the tendency to preferentially report statistically significant outcomes (this item requires a comparison of published data with trial protocols, when such are available). The final item refers to other sources of bias that are relevant in certain circumstances, such as, for example, sponsorship bias.

Each domain includes one or more specific entries in a ‘Risk of bias’ table. Within each entry, the first part of the tool involves describing what was reported to have happened in the study. The second part of the tool involves assigning a judgement relating to the risk of bias for that entry. This is achieved by answering a pre-specified question about the adequacy of the study in relation to the entry, such that a judgement of ‘Yes’ indicates low risk of bias, ‘No’ indicates high risk of bias, and ‘Unclear’ indicates unclear or unknown risk of bias.

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| **Domain** | **Description** | **Review authors’ judgement** |
| **Sequence generation.** | Describe the method used to generate the allocation sequence in sufficient detail to allow an assessment of whether it should produce comparable groups. | *Was the allocation sequence adequately generated?* |
| **Allocation concealment.** | Describe the method used to conceal the allocation sequence in sufficient detail to determine whether intervention allocations could have been foreseen in advance of, or during, enrolment. | *Was allocation adequately concealed?* |
| **Blinding of participants, personnel and outcome assessors** | Describe all measures used, if any, to blind study participants and personnel from knowledge of which intervention a participant received. Provide any information relating to whether the intended blinding was effective. | *Was knowledge of the allocated intervention adequately prevented during the study?* |
| **Incomplete outcome data** *Assessments should be made for each main outcome (or class of outcomes).* | Describe the completeness of outcome data for each main outcome, including attrition and exclusions from the analysis. State whether attrition and exclusions were reported, the numbers in each intervention group (compared with total randomized participants), reasons for attrition/exclusions where reported, and any re-inclusions in analyses performed by the review authors. | *Were incomplete outcome data adequately addressed?* |
| **Selective outcome reporting.** | State how the possibility of selective outcome reporting was examined by the review authors, and what was found. | *Are reports of the study free of suggestion of selective outcome reporting?* |
| **Other sources of bias.** | State any important concerns about bias not addressed in the other domains in the tool. | *Was the study apparently free of other problems that could put it at a high risk of bias?* |

* Risk of bias graph: it is a plot of the distribution of judgments (Yes, Unclear and No) across studies for each risk of bias item.





* Risk of bias summary: it is a summary table of review authors' judgments for each risk of bias item for each study.

