Additional file 5: Main characteristics of included manuscript cohort studies

Study	Methods	Main findings
Olson et al 2002[69]	Cohort study of 745 manuscripts of controlled trials submitted to JAMA from 02/1996-08/1999. Outcome classification: 1. Statistically significant ($p<0.05$) for the primary outcome 2. Statistically non-significant 3. Unclear	Proportion of studies with different results: - 51.4% (n=383) with significant results - 45.7% (n=341) with non-significant results - 2.8% (n=21) with unclear results. Acceptance rate: - 20.4% (78/383) for significant results - 15.0% (51/341) for non-significant results - 19.0% (4/21) for unclear results. Logistic regression analysis: significant vs non-significant results OR=1.30 (95% CI 0.87 to 1.96)
Lee et al 2006[66]	Cohort study of 1107 manuscripts of original research (including qualitative research, excluding single case reports) submitted to BMJ, Lancet and Annals of Internal Medicine between 01-03/2003 and between 11/2003-02/2004. Outcome classification: 1. Statistically significant ($p<0.05$) for the primary outcome 2. Non-significant	Proportion of different statistical results: - 86.8% (n=718) with significant results - 13.2% (n=109) with non-significant results Acceptance rate: - 4.9% (35/718) for significant results - 6.4% (7/109) for non-significant results. Multivariate analysis: OR=0.83 (95% CI 0.34 to 1.96).
Lynch et al 2007[67]	Cohort study of 209 manuscripts of original research on hip or knee arthroplasty submitted to The Journal of Bone and Joint Surgery (American Volume) between 01/2004-06/2005. Outcome classification: 1. Positive or favourable or significant 2. Negative or nonsupportive or no difference 3. Not analyzable - unclear	Proportion of studies with different results: - 70.8% (n=148) with positive results - 23.4% (n=49) with negative results - 5.7% (n=12) with unclear results. Acceptance rate: - 30..4% (45/148) for positive results - 36.7% (18/49) for negative results - 8.3% (1/12) for unclear results. Difference in publication rate between positive and negative outcomes was not statistically significant ($p=0.41$).
Okike et al 2008 [68]	Cohort study of 855 manuscripts as scientific articles submitted to the Journal of Bone and Joint Surgery (American Version) between 01/2004-06/2005. Outcome classification: 1. Positive – favoured experimental item 2. Negative – favoured existing standard of care over the experimental item 3. Neutral – no difference 4. Not applicable	Proportion of studies with different results: - 72.5% (n=620) with positive results - 12.3% (n=105) with negative results - 15.2% (n=130) with neutral results. Acceptance rate: - 21.3% (132/620) for positive results - 21.0% (22/105) for negative findings - 24.6% (32/130) for neutral results Multivariate analysis: positive vs nonpositive OR=0.92 (95% CI 0.62 to 1.35).