

Efficacy and Safety of Immunotherapy for Cervical Cancer—A Systematic Review of Clinical Trials

Mona W. Schmidt ^{1,2,*}, Marco J. Battista ¹, Marcus Schmidt ¹, Monique Garcia ^{2,3}, Timo Siepmann ^{2,4}, Annette Hasenburg ¹ and Katharina Anic ¹

¹ Department of Gynecology and Obstetrics, University Medical Centre Mainz, Langenbeckstraße 1, 55131 Mainz, Germany; marco.battista@unimedizin-mainz.de (M.J.B.); marcus.schmidt@unimedizin-mainz.de (M.S.); annette.hasenburg@unimedizin-mainz.de (A.H.); katharina.anic@unimedizin-mainz.de (K.A.)

² Division of Health Care Sciences Center for Clinical Research and Management Education Dresden, Dresden International University, 01067 Dresden, Germany; med.moniquegarcia@gmail.com (M.G.); timo.siepmann@uniklinikum-dresden.de (T.S.)

³ Department of Medicine, Pontificia Universidade Católica de Minas Gerais (PUC MG), 32604-115 Betim, Brazil

⁴ Department of Neurology, University Hospital Carl Gustav Carus, Technische Universität Dresden, 01307 Dresden, Germany

* Correspondence: mona.schmidt@unimedizin-mainz.de; Tel.: +49-6131-17-0

Appendix A

Search strategies_

Ovid (Medline)

1. Immunotherapy/ or exp Antineoplastic Agents, Immunological/ or exp Antibodies, Monoclonal, Humanized/ or Immunization/ or Immunotherapy, adoptive/ or Immunotherapy, Active/ or Receptors, Chimeric Antigen/ or Lymphocytes, Tumor-Infiltrating/ or immune checkpoint inhibitors/ or (immunotherap* or immuni#ation* or vaccine-therap* or rna-manipulation* or ((monoclonal or immunological) adj3 antibod* adj3 antineoplastic*) or (Adalimumab or Alemtuzumab or Basiliximab or Certolizumab Pegol or Daclizumab or Ipilimumab or Natalizumab or Nivolumab or Omalizumab or Palivizumab or Ustekinumab or Pembrolizumab or Atezolizumab) or ((checkpoint or pd-1 or pd-l1 or programmed or ctla-4 or cytotoxic-t-lymphocyte) adj3 inhibit*) or ((Tumor or tumour) adj3 (infiltrating or derived) adj3 (cell or lymphocyte*)) or ((chimeric or t-cell) adj3 (receptor* or immunoreceptor*)) or (car-t-cell adj3 therap*).ab,ti.
2. exp uterine cervical neoplasms/ or (cervi* adj3 (cancer* or carcinom* or neoplas*)).ab,ti.
3. 1 and 2

Web of Science

4. TS=(immunotherap* OR immune?ation* OR vaccine-therap* OR rna-manipulation*)
5. TS=(((monoclonal OR immunological) NEAR/3 (antibod*)) NEAR/3 (antineoplastic*))
6. TS=(Adalimumab or Alemtuzumab or Basiliximab or Certolizumab Pegol or Daclizumab or Ipilimumab or Natalizumab or Nivolumab or Omalizumab or Palivizumab or Ustekinumab or Pembrolizumab or Atezolizumab)
7. TS=((checkpoint OR pd-1 OR pd-l1 OR programmed OR ctla-4 OR cytotoxic-t-lymphocyte) NEAR/3 (inhibit*))
8. TS=((Tumor OR tumour) NEAR/3 (infiltrating OR derived) NEAR/3 (cell OR lymphocyte*))
9. TS=(((chimeric OR t-cell) NEAR/3 (receptor* OR immunoreceptor*)) OR ((car-t-cell) NEAR/3 (therap*)))
10. TS=((cervi*) NEAR/3 (cancer* OR carcinom* OR neoplas*))
11. ((((((#1) OR #2) OR #3) OR #4) OR #5) OR #6
12. (#8) AND #7

13. MeSH descriptor: [Immunotherapy] this term only
14. MeSH descriptor: [Antineoplastic Agents, Immunological] explode all trees
15. MeSH descriptor: [Antibodies, Monoclonal, Humanized] explode all trees
16. MeSH descriptor: [Immunization] this term only
17. MeSH descriptor: [Immunotherapy, Adoptive] this term only
18. MeSH descriptor: [Immunotherapy, Active] this term only
19. MeSH descriptor: [Receptors, Chimeric Antigen] this term only
20. MeSH descriptor: [Lymphocytes, Tumor-Infiltrating] this term only
21. MeSH descriptor: [Immune Checkpoint Inhibitors] this term only
22. (immunotherap*):ti,ab,kw
23. (immuni?ation*):ti,ab,kw
24. (vaccine-therap*):ti,ab,kw
25. (rna-manipulation*):ti,ab,kw
26. ((monoclonal OR immunological) NEAR/3 antibod* NEAR/3 antineoplastic*):ti,ab,kw
27. (Adalimumab or Alemtuzumab or Basiliximab or Certolizumab Pegol or Daclizumab or Ipilimumab or Natalizumab or Nivolumab or Omalizumab or Palivizumab or Ustekinumab or Pembrolizumab or Atezolizumab):ti,ab,kw
28. ((checkpoint OR pd-1 OR pd-l1 OR programmed OR ctla-4 OR cytotoxic-t-lymphocyte) NEAR/3 inhibit*):ti,ab,kw
29. ((Tumor OR tumour) NEAR/3 (infiltrating OR derived) NEAR/3 cell OR lymphocyte*):ti,ab,kw
30. ((chimeric OR t-cell) NEAR/3 (receptor* OR immunoreceptor*)):ti,ab,kw
31. (car-t-cell NEAR/3 therap*):ti,ab,kw
- 32.
33. MeSH descriptor: [Uterine Cervical Neoplasms] explode all trees
34. (cervi* NEAR/3 (cancer* OR carcinom* OR neoplas*)):ti,ab,kw
35. {OR #21-#22}
36. #20 AND #23

Table S1. Overview of unspecific immunomodulating therapies. An overview of unspecific immunomodulating therapies can be found in table S3. However, this cannot be regarded a complete display of existing clinical data on unspecific immunomodulating therapies.

Study/ Author/ Year	Type	Concurrent treatment	Study phase	Number of cervical cancer patients (all patients)	Stage of cervical cancer	Treatment	Survival outcomes	Response rates	Most common adverse events
Wadler et al. 1995 [74]	Interferon α -2b	Prior CHT allowed	II	31	Refractory to conventional treatment Stage I-IV	s.c. 3 times per week	OS= 4.5	ORR=: 10% DCR= 32.3%	No TRD, hematologic toxicities, fevers, chills, fatigue infection, nausea/vomiting, diarrhea, mucositis,

									neurotoxicity, hepatic/pulmonary toxicities, thrombosis
Wadler et al. 1997 [75]	Interferon α + all-trans retinoic acid	-	II	26	R/M (pretreated)	interferon s.c. 3 times per week + all-trans retinoic acid 3 times per day (continuously or day1-3)	OS= 150 days [81-258]	ORR= 0% DCR= 34.6%	No TRD, fatigue, anorexia, fevers, chills, dizziness, headache, nausea, dermatologic toxicities (especially xerosis), mild elevation of liver enzymes, mild respiratory symptoms
Wilailak et al. 2003 [76]	Interferon α -2a 3 MU + 13-cis-retinoic acid	CHT (cisplatin + 5-fluorouracil) + RT	I	8	First line Stage IIIB	RT + CHT q1w + interferon s.c. 3 times per week + 13-cis-retinoic acid daily p.o. for 12 weeks	75% alive with CR at 12-48 months (median 24 months), 25% alive with locoregional or distant disease at 18 and 30 months	CRR= 100%	No TRD, hematologic toxicities, nausea/vomiting, elevated liver enzymes, fever, flue-like syndrome, mucositis, diarrhea, peripheral neuropathy
Look et al. 1998 [77]	Interferon α -A2 + isotretinoin	Prior CHT or RT	II	34	R (unresectable)	Daily isotretinoin p.o. + daily interferon α -A2 s.c. for 4 weeks per course	PFS in 3 patients with SD 2.8-4.6 months	ORR= 3.8% [0.1-19.6] 3 patients with SD	No TRD, grade 3/4 AE with hematological toxicities, nausea/vomiting, elevation of liver enzymes or creatinine, neurological symptoms
Braud et al. 2002 [78]	Interferon α + all-trans retinoic acid or 12-cis retinoic acid	CHT (Cisplatin)	II	33	R/M, (pretreated)				
Lippman et al. 1992 [79]	Interferon α -2A plus 13-cis-retinoic acid		II	26	First line Locally advanced	Daily s.c. interferon α -2a + daily oral 13-cis retinoic acid	Not reported	ORR= 50% DCR= 84.6%	No TRD, dermatitis, conjunctivitiy, fatigue, hypertryglyceridemia
Duenas-Gonzalez et al. 2002 [80]	Leukocyte Interferon γ + cytokines (IRX-2)	Surgery (+ adjuvant RT)	I	10	First line IB1-IIA	Neoadjuvant IRX-2, Daily injection of IRX-2 for 10 days + surgery 21d post IRX-2 (+ RT if indicated)	80% disease free at 29-31 months, 1 recurrence at 27 months	Response evaluated during surgery ORR= 50%	No TRD, no AE attributed to cytokine treatment
Wadler et al. 2004 [81]	Interleukin-12		II	34	M/R or inoperable (pretreated)	IL-12 i.v. daily for 5 days q3w	OS= 6.5 [5.8-11.5]	ORR= 3% DCR= 23%	No TRD, hematologic and hepatic toxicities, fever, infection, neurological toxicities, edema, arthralgia/myalgia, fatigue, stomatitis, nausea/vomiting,

										pulmonary and cardiac toxicities
Cappello et al. 1984 [82]	BCG	Surgery	I	45	First line therapy Stage I and II	BCG injections into the portio 21 days prior to surgery RT ± C. parvum 4mg/m ² day 5 and 10 post surgery, then q2w (q4w for 1 year after RT)	Not reported	Not reported	No <i>TRD</i> , few slightly enlarged lymphnodes	
DiSaia et al. 1986 [83]	Corynebacterium parvum	RT	III (RCT)	28	First line therapy Stage IIB-IVA	Neoadjuvant C. parvum injections 10 days prior to surgery	Relapse rate localized tumors: 5% (C. parvum) vs 29% (control); p<0.05	Not reported	Related to C. parvum injections: No <i>TRD</i> , chills, fever, lymphopenia, malaise, diarrhea, nausea/vomiting	
Mignot et al. 1981 [84]	Corynebacterium parvum	Surgery (+ adjuvant RT)	RCT	58	First line therapy	Relapse free interval 13 months ±6.1 (C. parvum) vs 6.5 ±3.9 months (control)	Not reported	No <i>TRD</i> , minor <i>AE</i> including discomfort, fever		
Gall et al. 1978* [85]	Corynebacterium parvum	RT	I	8 (53)	Stage III	RT ± Corynebacterium parvum 4mg/m ² day 5 and 10 post surgery, then q2w (q4w for 1 year after RT)	Not reported	Not reported	Overall cohort: No <i>TRD</i> , chills, fever, short-term hypo/hypertension, nausea/vomiting, malaise, diarrhea, minor chest pain, headaches, apprehension, cyanosis, leg cramps	
Ahn et al. 2004* [86]	Agaricus blazei Murill Kyowa (ABMK) (mushroom abstract)	CHT (carboplatin + etoposide or taxol)	I (RCT)	61 (100)	First line therapy	CHT q3w+ daily p.o. ABMK or placebo	Not reported	Not reported	Improvement of overall physical and emotional conditions	
Kikkawa et al. 1993 [87]	OK-432 Streptococcal preparation)	Surgery ± RT	II (RCT)	177	First line Ib and II	Surgery + RT if indicated ± i.d. OK-432 q2d for 5 increasing doses, then q2w for up to 2 years	OS= No significant difference between groups 5y disease free rate= 89% OK-432 group vs 94% control 5y disease free rate for stage II patients= 89%	Not reported	Not reported	

							OK-432 group vs. 68% control group (p>0.05)		
							Stage II cancer= 60m recurrence free rates: 68.6% (OK-432) vs 50.7 (control) p<0.05 60m survival rate= 72.4% (OK-432) vs 56.5% (p=0.07)		
Noda et al. 1989 [88]	OK-432 (streptoco ccal preparatio n)	RT (±surgery)	II/III? (RCT)	382	First line I-IV	RT ± surgery ± i.d. OK-432 q2d for 5 increasing doses, then q2w for up to 2 years	Stage III cancer 60m recurrence free rates= 36- 7% (OK-432) vs 35.6% (control) (p<0.05) 60m survival rates= 44.7 (OK- 432) vs 40.2% (control) p>0.05	Not reported	Not reported
							Sig. prolonged survival time in patients undergoing surgery for stage II cancer with OK-432		
Okamura et al. 1989 [89]	OK-432 (streptoco ccal preparatio n)	Unclear	(RCT)	387	Primary cervical cancer, stratified by previous surgery	OK-432 vs unknown control treatment	Recurrence free rates= 12m 84.7% (OK-432) vs 4.7%(control) 24m= 75.9% vs 71.8% 36m= 71.9% vs 58.6% (p<0.05) Difference not sig. in stage III subgroup	Not reported	Not reported
Kucera et al. 1982 [90]	Vitamin A	RT	I/II (RCT)	42	First line Inoperable stage III	RT ± vitamin A palmitate p.o.5 days/week during the first 4 weeks of RT	1yPFS= 76.2% (vitamin A group) vs 61.2%	Not reported	Vitamin A related AE : dermatitis, stomatitis
Mallmann et al. 1989* [91]	Thymopentin	Surgery or RT depending on stage		34 (74)	First line Stage I-IV	Surgery or RT depending on stage ± thymopentin 100mg/die for 2 weeks, then 100mg 3x/week for 4 weeks	Cervical carcinoma: reported only in graphs, no statistical analysis performed, graphically no great differences	Not reported	Not reported

Noda et al. 1992 [92]	Sizofiran	RT	II? (RCT)	292	First line Stage II-III	RT± i.m. sizofiran 40mg initially, then 20mg/week until 1 week post RT	Not reported	CRR = 83% (77.5-88.5; sizofiran) vs 69.6% (59.6- 79.5; control), p<0.05	No TRD , no SAE , mild injection site reactions, rash, nausea/vomiting, increased liver enzymes
Okamura et al. 1989 [89]	Sizofiran	RT	RCT		First line, Stage II-III	RT± i.m. sizofiran 40mg once or twice per week	Reported as graphs, Sig. longer time to recurrence overall as well as stage II patients, not in stage III with sizofiran 6 months survival curves sig different overall and in stage II patients with sizofiran	Not reported	Not reported
Noda et al. 2006A [93]	Z-100 (extract of mycobacterium tuberculosis strain Aoyama B)	RT	II (RCT)	116	First line Stage IIIB	RT+ s.c. Z-100 twice per week during RT followed by q1w (3 different doses tested)	5y OS = 40µg: 47.4% [30.6-64.2] 20µg: 59.6% [43.8-75.4%] 2µg: 59.2% [42.7- 75.7] P=0.598	ORR = 83.6% ORR at 40µg= 94.3% ORR at 20µg= 84.6% ORR at 2µg= 72.2% P=0.006	No TRD , no SAE ; fever, injection site reactions, rash, elevated liver enzymes, headache
Noda et al. 2006B [94]	Z-100 (extract of mycobacterium tuberculosis strain Aoyama B)	RT (+ CHT if indicated)	III (RCT)	221	First line Stage IIIB	RT+ s.c. Z-100 twice per week during RT followed by q2w (2 different doses tested)	PFS = 0.2µg: 80 months [39-NR] 40µg: 30 months [19-not reported] OS = 0.2µg NR [57- NR] 40µg: 44 months [38-62], p<0.05 5y OS = 0.2µg: 58.2% [48.7-67.7] 40µg: 41.5% [31.7-51.3], p<0.05 HR = 0.67 [0.46- 0.98]	ORR = 0.2µg: 93.5% 40µg: 91.5%, p>0.05	No TRD , no sig. differences between grade 3/4 AE both groups, musculo- skeletal disorders, gastrointestinal disorders, urinary system disorders, general disorders, respiratory issues, cardiovascular disorders
Sugiyama et al. 2014 [95]	Z-100 (extract of mycobacterium tuberculosis strain	RT (+CHT if indicated)	III (RCT)	249	First line Stage IIB-IVA	RT + Z-100 0.2µg vs placebo twice per week during RT, then q2w	Trial stopped prematurely due to high survival rates	ORR = 99% (Z- 100) vs 99% (placebo), CRR = 68.3% (Z-100) vs 54.5% (placebo)	No TRD , similar AE between both groups, leukopenia higher in placebo group, constipation/diarrhea, nauseas/vomiting,

Aoyama B)							5yOS= 75.7% (Z-100) vs 65.8%, p=0.07 OS in stage III patients sign. prolonged with Z-100 (HR 0.51 [0.28-0.94])		dermatitis, cystitis, headache, anorexia, fatigue, radiation-associated pain, anemia
								ORR= 100% in both groups post RT, sig. quicker response in LC9018 group	
Okawa et al. 1989 [96]	LC9018 (prepared from Lactobacillus casei)	RT	II (RCT)	61	First line Stage IIB or III	RT± i.d. or s.c. LC9018 once or twice per week	3yOS= 73.1% (LC9018) vs 60.9% (control), p>0.05	CR= 69.2% (LC9018) vs 56.5% (control), p>0.05	No TRD, fever, local injection site reactions, anorexia, diarrhea
								CR by administration route: 88.2% (i.d.) vs 33.3% (s.c.), p<0.05	
							4y recurrence rate=		
Okawa et al. 1993 [97]	LC9018 (Prepared from Lactobacillus casei)	RT	III (RCT)	213	First line Stage IIIB	RT± i.d. LC9018 once or twice per week during RT, then once per week or month for two years	33.5% (LC9018) vs 51.5% (control), p<0.05 4yOS= 69.2% (LC9018) vs 46.2% (control), p<0.05	ORR= 92.6% (LC9018) vs 89.7% (control), p=0.094 CRR= 53.7% (LC9018) vs 42.1% (control)	Injection site reaction, mild fever (LC9018), diarrhea, anorexia, less neutropenia in the LC9018 group, liver enzyme elevations, anemia

AE: Adverse events; CHT: chemotherapy; CRR: complete response rate; DCR: disease control rate; HR= hazard ratio, i.d.: intra-dermally; i.v.: intravenously; ORR: objective response rate; OS: overall survival; p.o.: per os; PFS: progression-free survival; RCT: randomized controlled trial; RT= radiotherapy, s.c.: subcutaneously; SAE: serious adverse events; TRD: treatment-related deaths, Xy OS: X-year overall survival

	Risk of bias domains					
	D1	D2	D3	D4	D5	Overall
Study						
Basu et al. 2018	⊖	⊕	⊗	⊕	⊕	⊗
Chen et al. 2015	⊖	⊖	⊗	⊖	⊕	⊗
Colombo et al. 2021	⊕	⊕	⊕	⊕	⊕	⊕
Duska et al. 2020*	⊖	⊕	⊕	⊗	⊕	⊗
Freedman et al. 1989	⊕	⊕	⊕	⊗	⊖	⊗
Li et al. 2019	⊗	⊖	⊕	⊕	⊖	⊗
Ramanathan et al. 2014*	⊖	⊕	⊕	⊗	⊖	⊗

Domains:
D1: Bias arising from the randomization process.
D2: Bias due to deviations from intended intervention.
D3: Bias due to missing outcome data.
D4: Bias in measurement of the outcome.
D5: Bias in selection of the reported result.

Judgement
⊗ High
⊖ Some concerns
⊕ Low

Figure S1. Risk of bias assessment of included randomized controlled trials – Individual trial judgements. * Trials were assessed for safety.

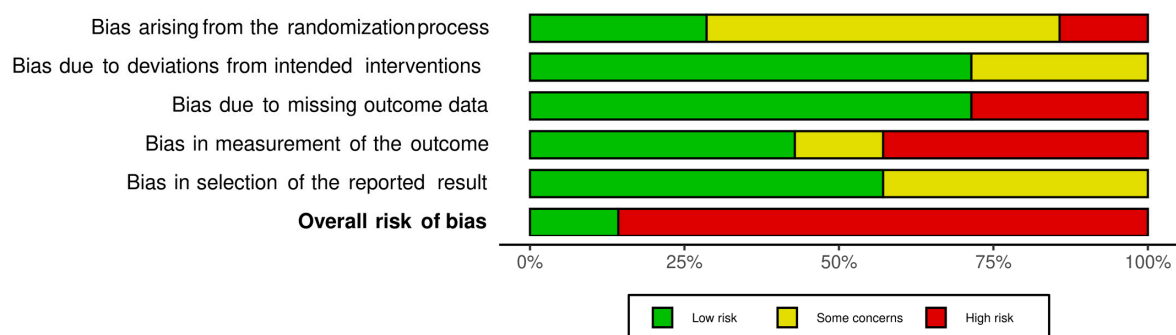


Figure S2. Risk of bias assessment of included randomized controlled trials – Collective risk of bias assessments.

Study	Risk of bias						
	D1	D2	D3	D4	D5	D6	Overall
Borysiewicz et al. 1996*	+	+	+	+	+	+	+
Choi et al. 2020	+	+	+	+	+	+	+
Chung et al. 2019	+	+	+	+	+	+	+
Doran et al. 2019	+	+	+	+	+	+	+
Ferrara et al. 2003	+	+	+	+	+	+	+
Frenel et al. 2017	+	+	+	+	+	+	+
Friedman et al. 2020	+	+	+	+	+	+	+
Frumovitz et al. 2020	+	+	+	+	+	+	+
Hasan et al. 2020	+	+	+	+	+	+	+
Hasegawa et al. 2018	+	+	+	+	+	+	+
Huh et al. 2020	+	+	+	+	+	+	+
Hui et al. 1997	+	+	+	+	+	+	+
Jung et al. 2019	+	+	+	+	+	+	+
Kentler et al. 2008*	+	+	+	+	+	+	+
Lan et al. 2020	+	+	+	+	+	+	+
Lhereux et al. 2019	+	+	+	+	+	+	+
Lu et al. 2017	+	+	+	+	+	+	+
Maciag et al. 2009	+	+	+	+	+	+	+
Mayadev et al. 2019	+	+	+	+	+	+	+
Melief et al. 2020	+	+	+	+	+	+	+
Nagarsheth et al. 2021	+	+	+	+	+	+	+
Naumann et al. 2019	+	+	+	+	+	+	+
O'Malley et al. 2021	+	+	+	+	+	+	+
Qiao et al. 2019	+	+	+	+	+	+	+
Rahma et al. 2014	+	+	+	+	+	+	+
Reuschenbach et al. 2016	+	+	+	+	+	+	+
Rischin et al. 2020	+	+	+	+	+	+	+
Santin et al. 2006	+	+	+	+	+	+	+
Santin et al. 2008	+	+	+	+	+	+	+
Santin et al. 2020	+	+	+	+	+	+	+
Steller et al. 1998	+	+	+	+	+	+	+
Stevanovic et al. 2015	+	+	+	+	+	+	+
Stevanovic et al. 2019	+	+	+	+	+	+	+
Strauss et al. 2020	+	+	+	+	+	+	+
Takeuchi et al. 2020	+	+	+	+	+	+	+
Tamura et al. 2019	+	+	+	+	+	+	+
Tinker et al. 2019	+	+	+	+	+	+	+
Tsuda et al. 2004	+	+	+	+	+	+	+
Van Driel et al. 1999	+	+	+	+	+	+	+
Van Poelgeest et al. 2013	+	+	+	+	+	+	+
Welters et al. 2008*	+	+	+	+	+	+	+
Welters et al. 2016*	+	+	+	+	+	+	+
Yin et al. 2020	+	+	+	+	+	+	+
Youn et al. 2020	+	+	+	+	+	+	+

D1: Confounding
D2: Classification of Interventions
D3: Bias due to deviations of intended intervention
D4: Missing outcome data
D5: Measurement of outcomes
D6: Selection of reported results

Judgement
+ High
+ Unclear
+ Low

Figure S3. Risk of bias assessment of included single arm cohort trials – Individual trial judgements.
* Trials were assessed for safety.

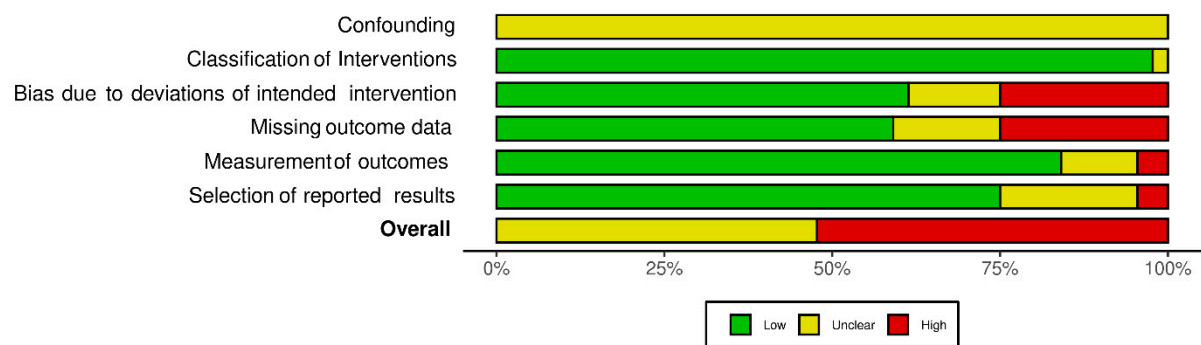


Figure S4. Risk of bias assessment of included single arm cohort trials – Collective risk of bias assessments.