

# **Background and Aims**

- events (AEs) in the placebo arm of randomised controlled trials (RCTs)
- This meta-analysis aims to estimate the magnitude of the nocebo response in the trials of analgesics for pain following third molar (M3) removal.

RCTs of analgesics following M3 removal



### Methods

Search Strategy

A systematic search for relevant keywords was performed in Pubmed, Scopus, Cochrane Central Register of Controlled Trials, EMBASE, and Web of Science. Outcome

The proportion of patients with AEs  $\geq 1$  were pooled. Risk differences (RDs) between patients in the placebo and active arm were also calculated (Random effects model).

# Nocebo response in Dentistry: A systematic review and meta-analysis

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• A way of investigating the nocebo phenomenon is to look at the proportion of adverse



in the placebo arm (nocebo response!)

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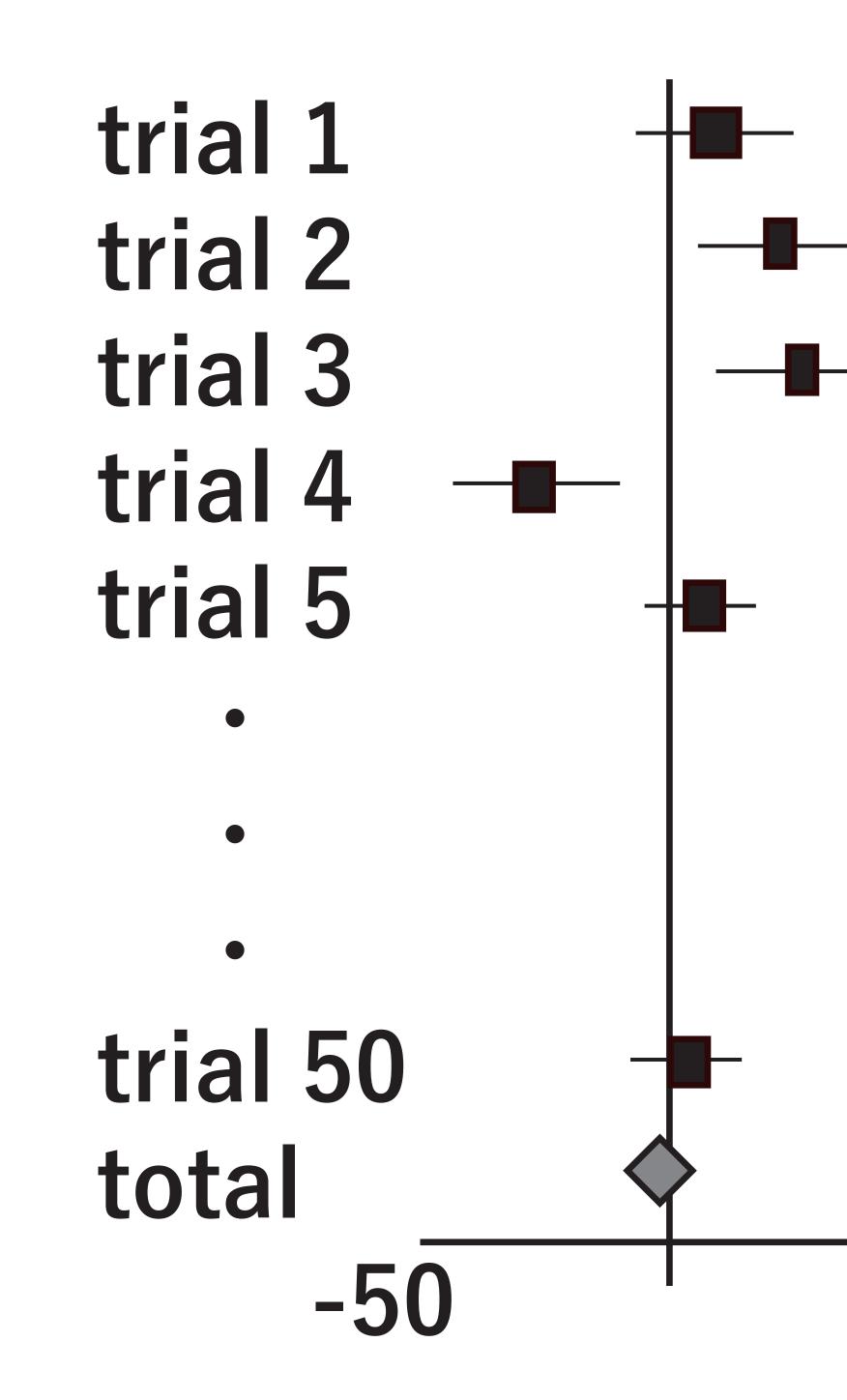
#### Results Pooled rate

50 RCTs of 47 identified articles were included.

## Placebo

22.8 % (21.1, 24.5) 20.6 % (19.8, 21.5)

#### <u>Risk differences (RDs)</u>



### Conclusions

These results show that patients in the placebo arm reported AEs to the same extent as patients receiving active treatment, suggesting that most AEs in analgesics following M3 surgery may be attributed to the nocebo phenomenon.

#### \*The review protocol was registered with PROSPERO (CRD42021242203)

#### Active

R	<b>RDs</b> (%)	) 95 % CI
	12.3	(-2.8, 27.4)
_	21.0	(4.3, 37.7)
	29.4	(12.9, 45.9)
	-26.3	(-42.3, -10.4)
	7.6	(-3.6, 18.7)
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	•	
	•	
	2.4	(-6.6, 11.4)
1	-0.84	(-4.1, 2.4)
50		