

Table 1. Characteristics of reported subgroup analyses and claimed subgroup effects.

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| Number of trials reporting of subgroup analyses | 130 |
| Total number of subgroup analyses per trial, median, mean (range) | 5, 8 (1–45) |
| Total number of subgroup analyses that are most likely conducted, median, mean (range) | 6; 11 (1–112) |
| Number of trials that specified at least one subgroup analysis a priori | 56 (43.1%) |
| Number of trials that used test of interaction for at least one analysis | 56 (43.1%) |
| Number of trials reporting subgroup analyses for a primary outcome | 100 (76.9%) |
| Number of trials that claim a subgroup effect | 55 |
| Number of subgroup claims per trial, median (range) | 1 (1–12) |
| The highest strength of subgroup claim in trials | |
| Claim of a strong subgroup effect | 24 (42.9%) |
| Claim of a likely subgroup effect | 19 (33.9%) |
| Suggestion of a possible subgroup effect | 12 (23.2%) |
| Number of trials claiming subgroup effects for a primary outcome | 41 (73.21%) |

| Table 2. Factors associated with reporting versus not reporting of subgroup analyses. | | | | |
|--|------------------------------|--------------------------|--------------------------------|----------------------------|
| Study characteristics | OR (95% CI) (univariable) | P value (univariable) | OR (95% CI) (multivariable) | p-value (multivariable) |
| High impact vs. other journals | 4.87 (2.94–8.07) | <0.001 | 3.02 (1.60–5.70) | 0.001 |
| Medical vs. surgical trials | 2.67 (1.49–4.88) | 0.001 | 2.13 (1.11–4.12) | 0.023 |
| Sample size per arm (quartile) | | <0.001 | | 0.11 |
| <30 | Referent group | | | |
| 30–99 | 1.72 (0.82–3.62) | 0.15 | 1.31 (0.59–2.91) | 0.50 |
| 100–316 | 5.50 (2.63–11.47) | <0.001 | 3.03 (1.32–6.93) | 0.009 |
| 317 or larger | 6.21 (2.96–13.02) | <0.001 | 2.33 (0.94–5.78) | 0.068 |
| Not-significant vs. significant primary outcome | | 0.13* | | 0.025* |
| Trials funded by private-for-profit organizations | 2.08 (0.94–4.59) | | 2.93 (1.22–7.20) | |
| Trials funded by other sources | 0.95 (0.50–1.80) | | 0.79 (0.38–1.64) | |

*p-value for the test of interaction between significance of main effect with source of funding.