

SUPPLEMENTARY DATA

Overview of systematic reviews and meta-analysis published in Portuguese Medical journals: time trends and critical appraisal.

Luísa Prada MD, Ana Prada PhD, Miguel Marques Antunes MD, Ricardo Fernandes MD PhD, João Costa MD PhD, Joaquim J. Ferreira MD PhD, Daniel Caldeira MD PhD

Corresponding author:

Professor. Daniel Caldeira MD PhD

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Supplementary data 1 - Methodological quality assessment

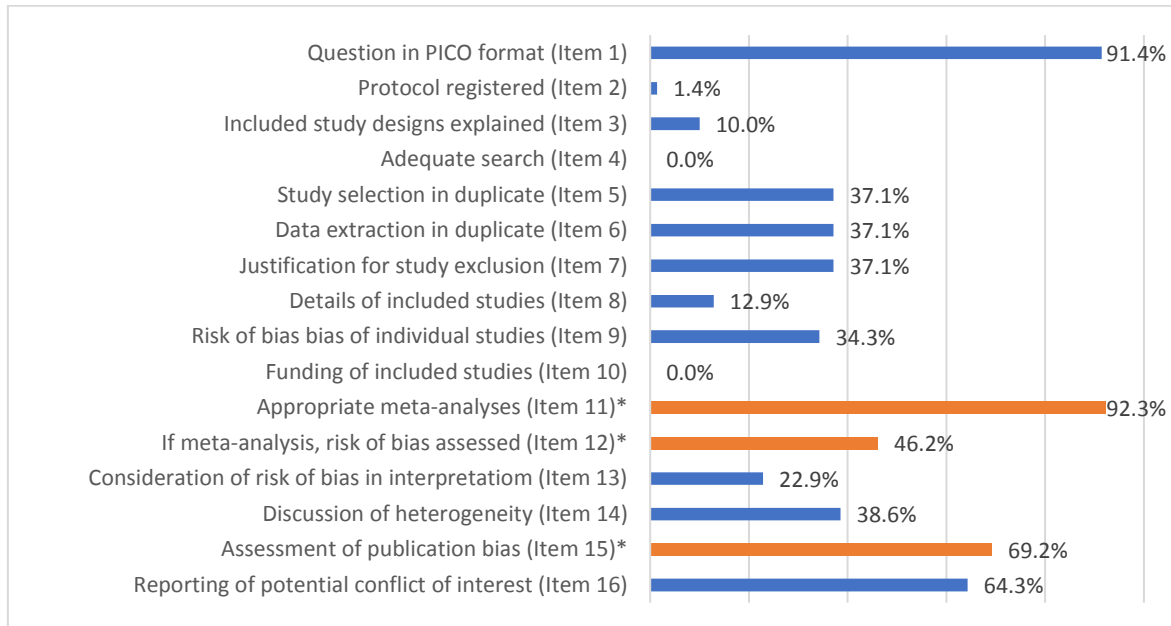
AMSTAR II checklist aims to evaluate systematic reviews and appraises 16 domains (for detail, visit https://amstar.ca/Amstar_Checklist.php). The possible answers for these domains include: “Yes”, “Partial Yes”, “No” or “No meta-analysis conducted”. If the item was answered correctly and well-documented, the judgment was “Yes”; if the item was answered correctly with limited evidence, the answer was “Partial Yes”; if no information was provided to rate the item, the judgment was “No”. Seven of the 16 domains are critical, including prior protocol, comprehensive literature search, justification of excluding studies, assessment of RoB for individual studies, appropriate meta-analytic methods, consideration of RoB in results and impact of publication bias (items 2, 4, 7, 9, 11, 13 and 15). Item 11 and 15 are only assessed if a meta-analysis was performed. Based on weaknesses in critical domains, the overall confidence in the results of SRs and MA can be divided into: as “High” (none/one non-critical weakness), “Moderate” (>1 non-critical weakness), “Low” (one critical flaw) and “Critically Low” (>1 critical flaw).

We identified 70 individual systematic reviews from a total of 75 citations: one systematic review ⁽¹⁻³⁾ had three parts and another had four parts ⁽⁴⁻⁷⁾.

AMSTAR II appraisal:

- 45 SRs (64,3%) were rated as “Critically Low quality”⁽¹⁻⁵⁰⁾;
- 9 SRs (12,9%) were rated as “Low quality”⁽⁵¹⁻⁵⁹⁾;
- 15 SRs (21,4%) were rated as “Moderate quality”⁽⁶⁰⁻⁷⁴⁾;
- 1 SR (1,4%) was rated as “High quality”⁽⁷⁵⁾.

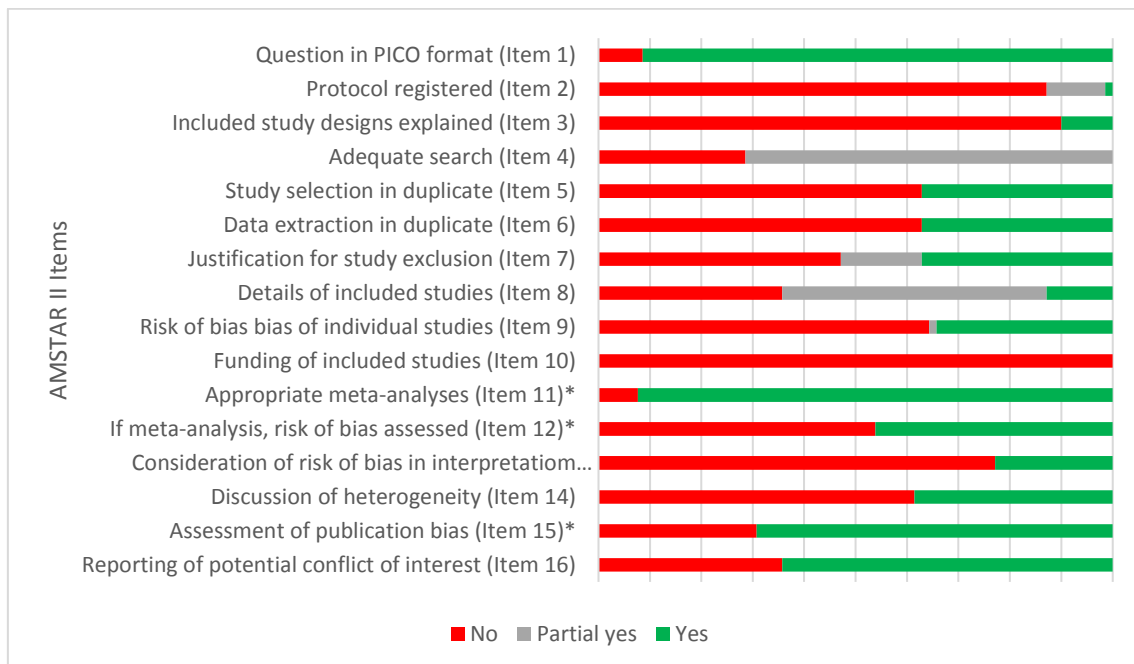
Supplementary figure 1 - Proportion of studies meeting AMSTAR-2 criteria



Proportion of studies meeting AMSTAR-2 criteria (n = 70).

* items that did not apply to all studies (only meta-analysis) and the denominator is different (n = 13)

Supplementary figure 2 - Assessment of the individual items of AMSTAR II



Overall AMSTAR-II items (n=70)

* items that did not apply to all studies (only meta-analysis) and the denominator is different (n = 13)

Supplementary table 1 – Search Strategy

#	Searches using PubMed database
1	meta-analysis [Title/Abstract] OR meta-analyses [Title/Abstract] OR “systematic review” [Title/Abstract] OR “systematic reviews” [Title/Abstract]
2	"Acta medica portuguesa"[Jour] OR "Acta reumatologica portuguesa"[Jour] OR "Revista portuguesa de pneumologia"[Jour] OR “Pulmonology” [Jour] OR "Revista portuguesa de cirurgia cardio-toracica e vascular : orgao oficial da Sociedade Portuguesa de Cirurgia Cardio-Toracica e Vascular"[Jour] OR "Acta reumatologica portuguesa"[Jour] OR "Revista portuguesa de cardiologia : orgao oficial da Sociedade Portuguesa de Cardiologia = Portuguese journal of cardiology : an official journal of the Portuguese Society of Cardiology"[Jour]
3	#1 AND #2

Supplementary table 2- Country of the first author's institution

First author's country	n (%)
Portugal	53 (75,7)
Brazil	13 (18,6)
China	1 (1,4)
Spain	1 (1,4)
Italy	1 (1,4)
Kosovo	1 (1,4)
Total	70 (100,0)

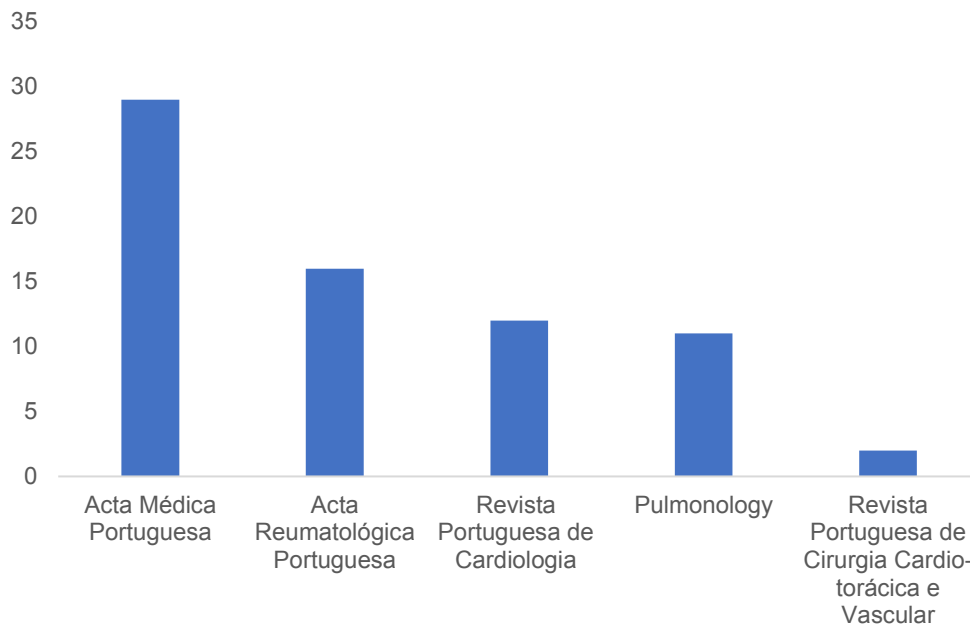
Supplementary table 3- Country Region of the Institution of the Portuguese systematic reviews' first authors

Region of Portugal from the institution of the first author	n (%)
North	26 (49,1)
Lisbon and Tagus Valley	21 (39,6)
Center	6 (11,3)
Alentejo	0 (0)
Algarve	0 (0)
Azores	0 (0)
Madeira	0 (0)
Total	53 (100,0)

Supplementary table 4- Type of reviews according to Munn *et al.*⁽⁷⁶⁾ criteria and overall methodological quality score

AMSTAR II score	Effectiveness/Efficacy n (%)	Others n (%)
High quality review	1 (1,4)	0 (0,0)
Moderate quality review	10 (14,3)	5 (7,1)
Low quality review	5 (7,1)	4 (5,7)
Critically Low quality review	12 (17,1)	33 (47,1)
Total	28 (40,0)	42 (60,0)

Supplementary table 6 - Distribution of the included systematic reviews according to the journal of publication



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