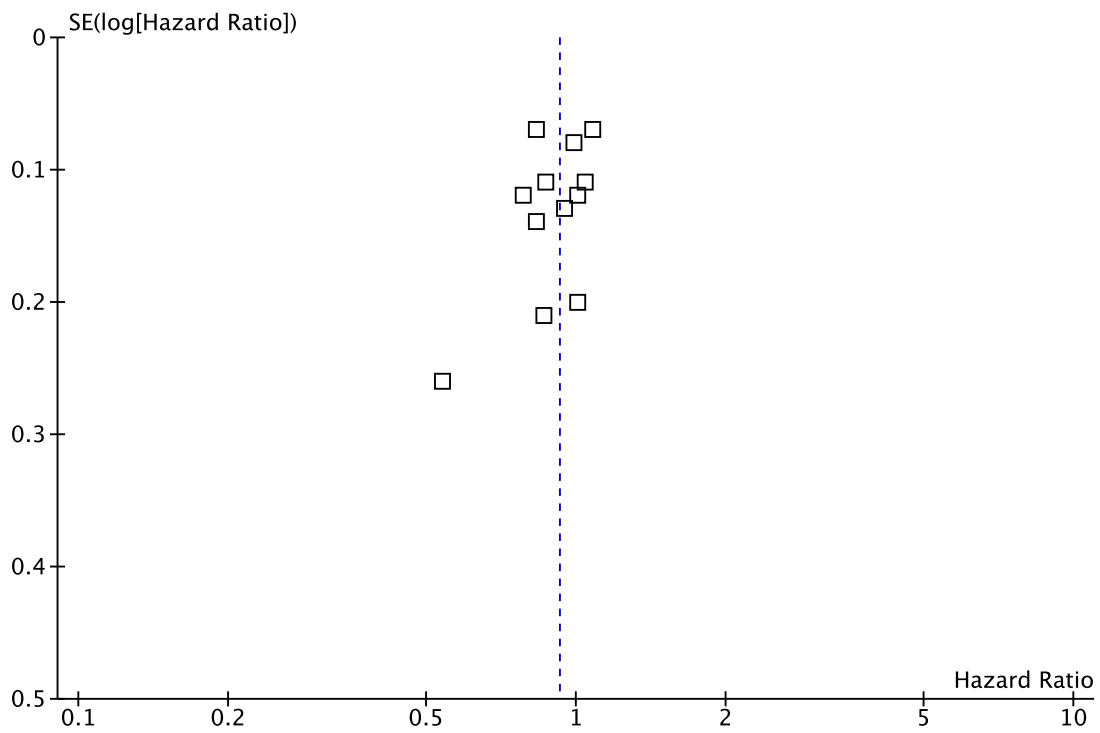


## Evaluation of publication bias

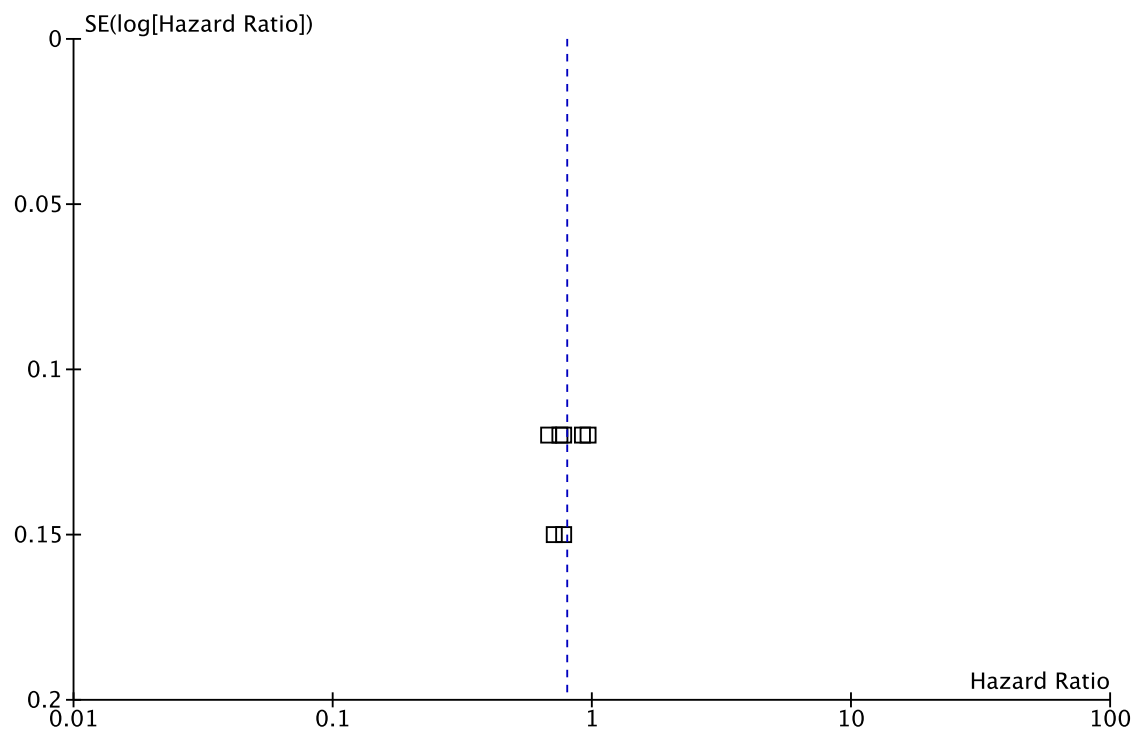
Presence of publication bias was evaluated using Funnel plot analyses.<sup>1,2</sup>

Neoadjuvant therapy vs. surgery alone:

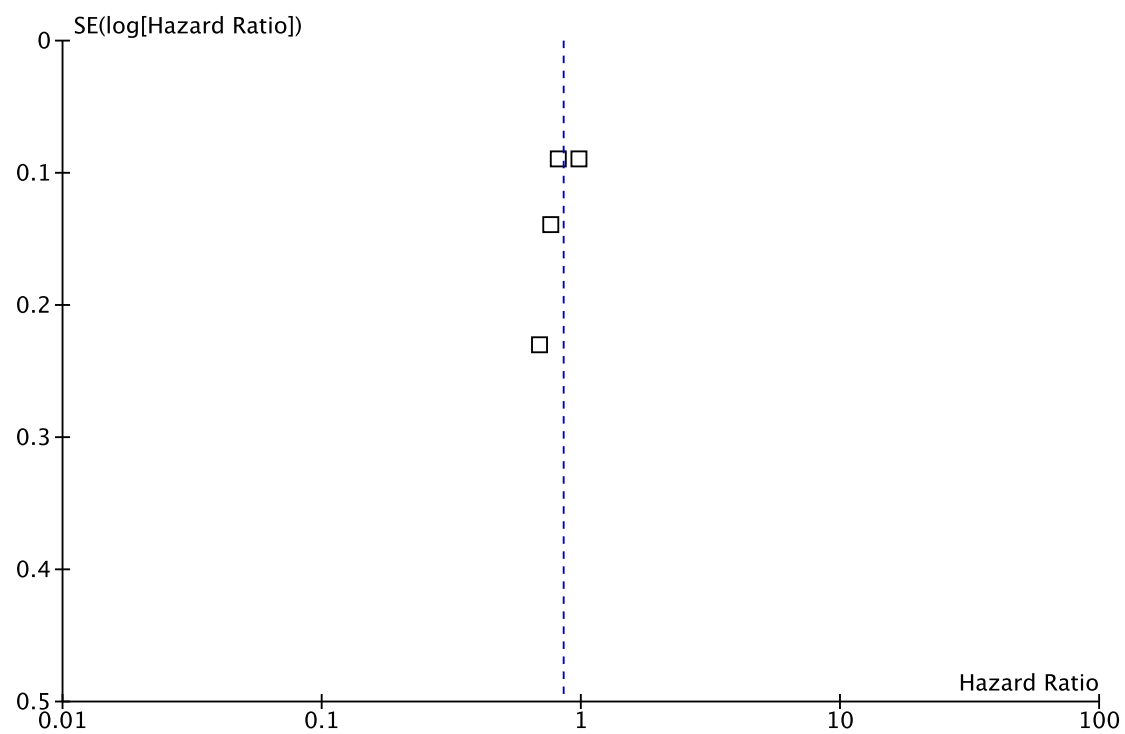
*Overall survival*



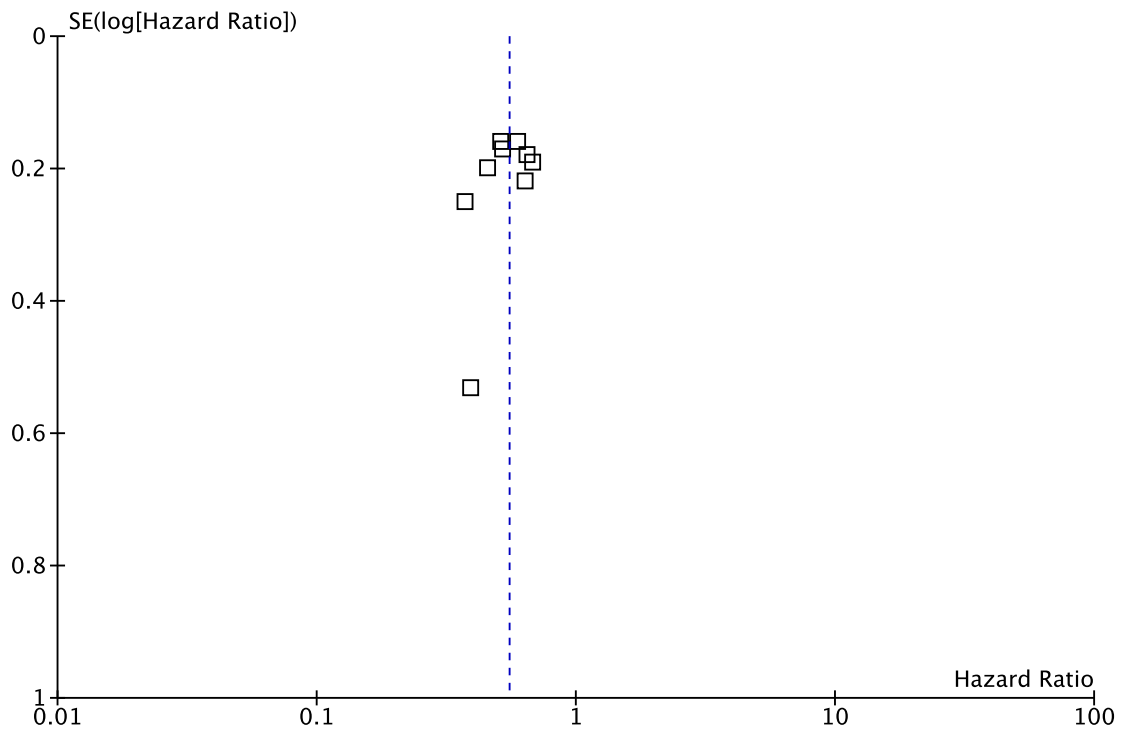
*Disease-specific survival*



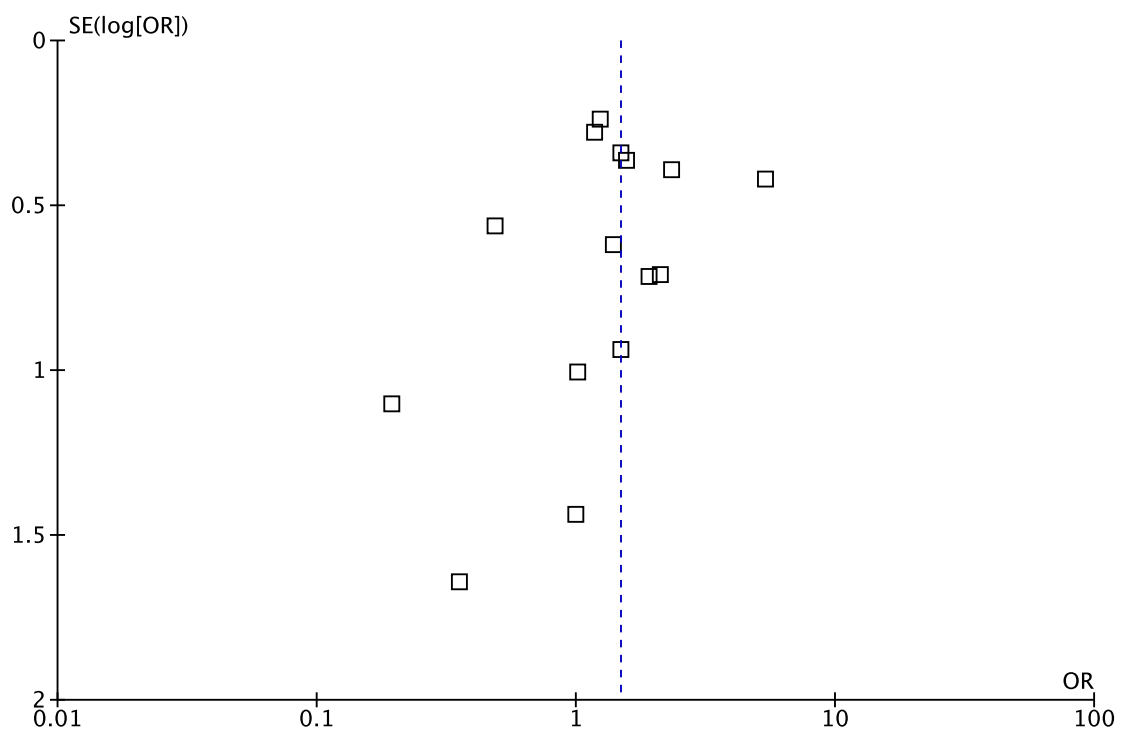
*Disease-free survival*



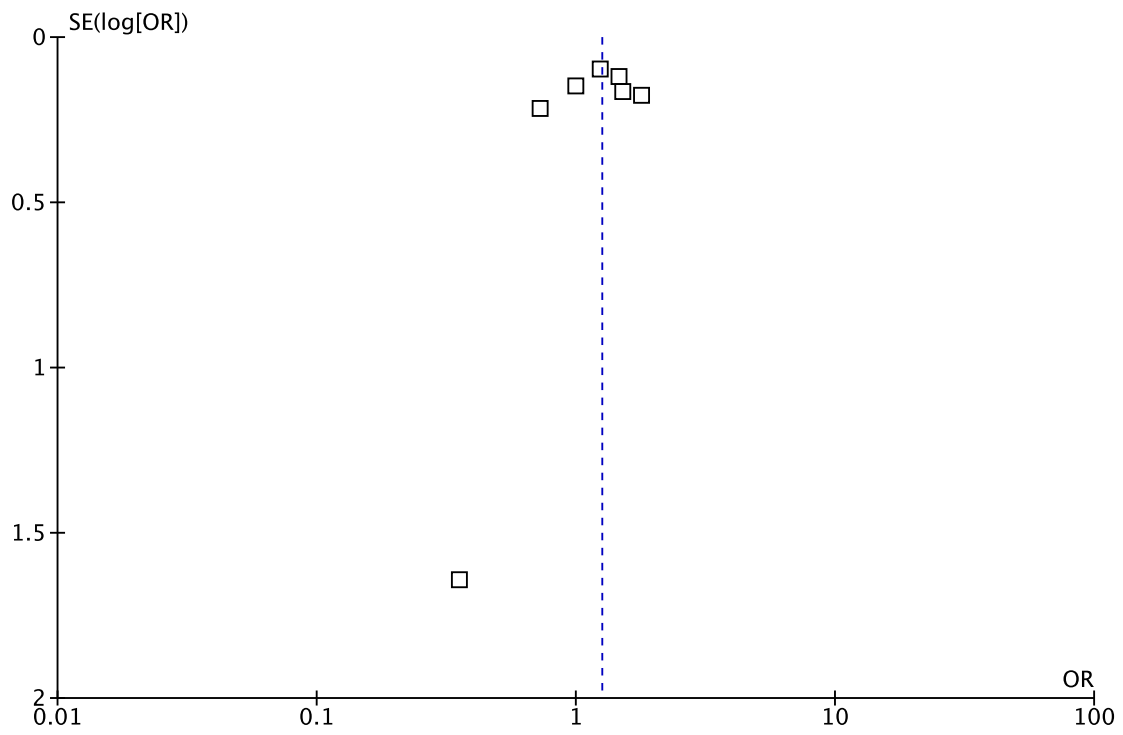
*Local recurrence-free survival*



*Perioperative mortality*

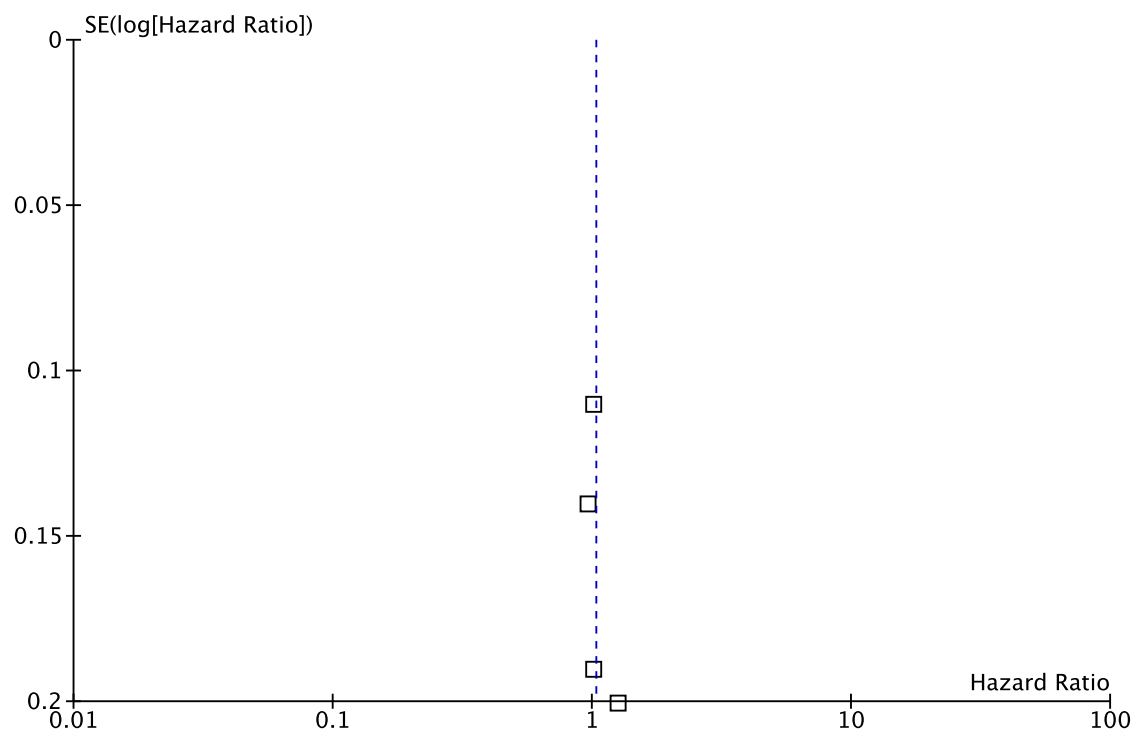


*Perioperative morbidity*

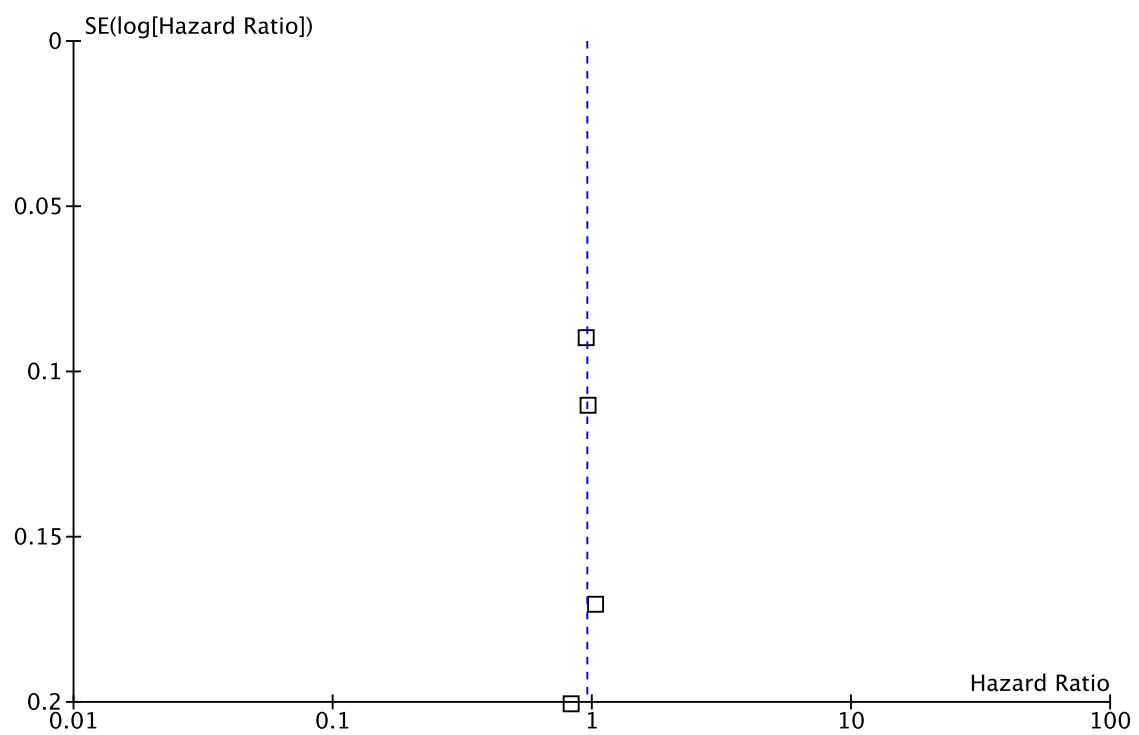


Neoadjuvant chemoradiotherapy vs. neoadjuvant radiotherapy:

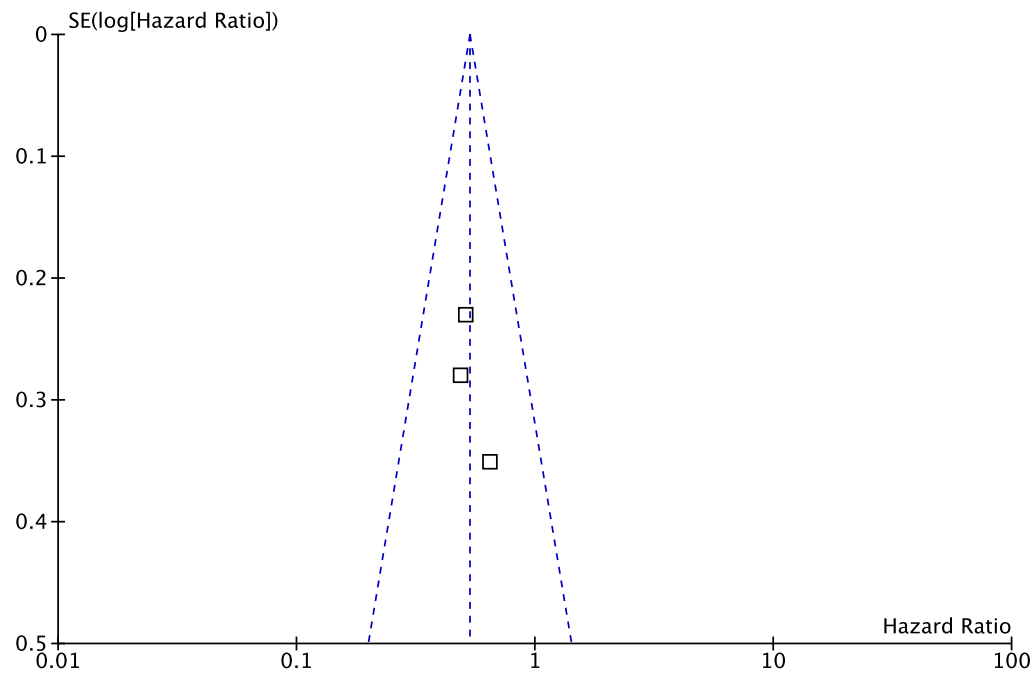
*Overall survival*



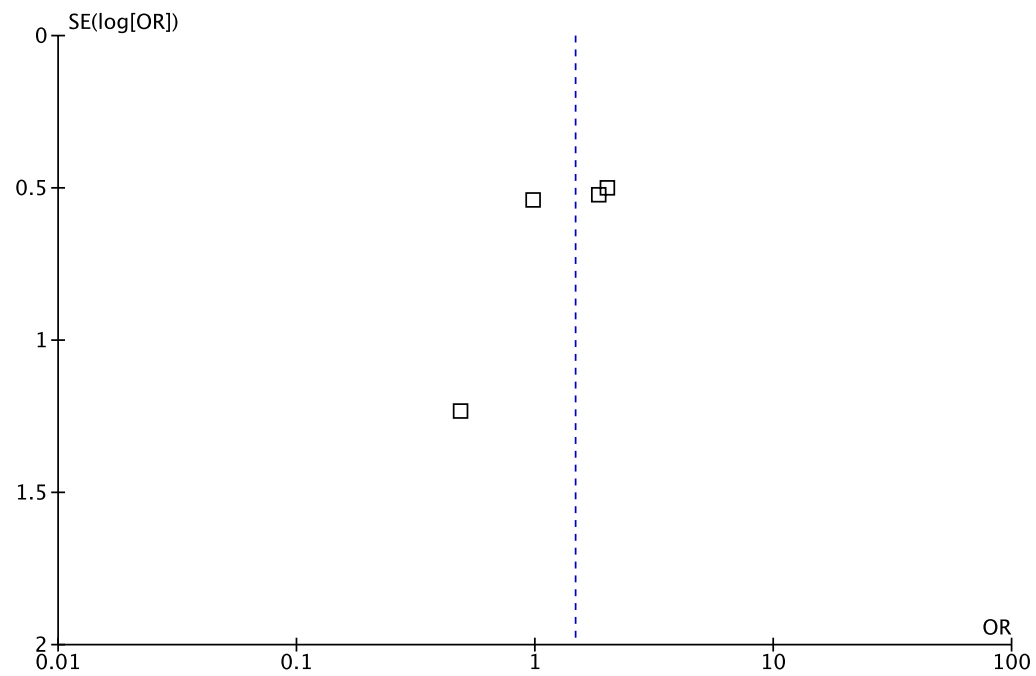
*Disease-free survival*



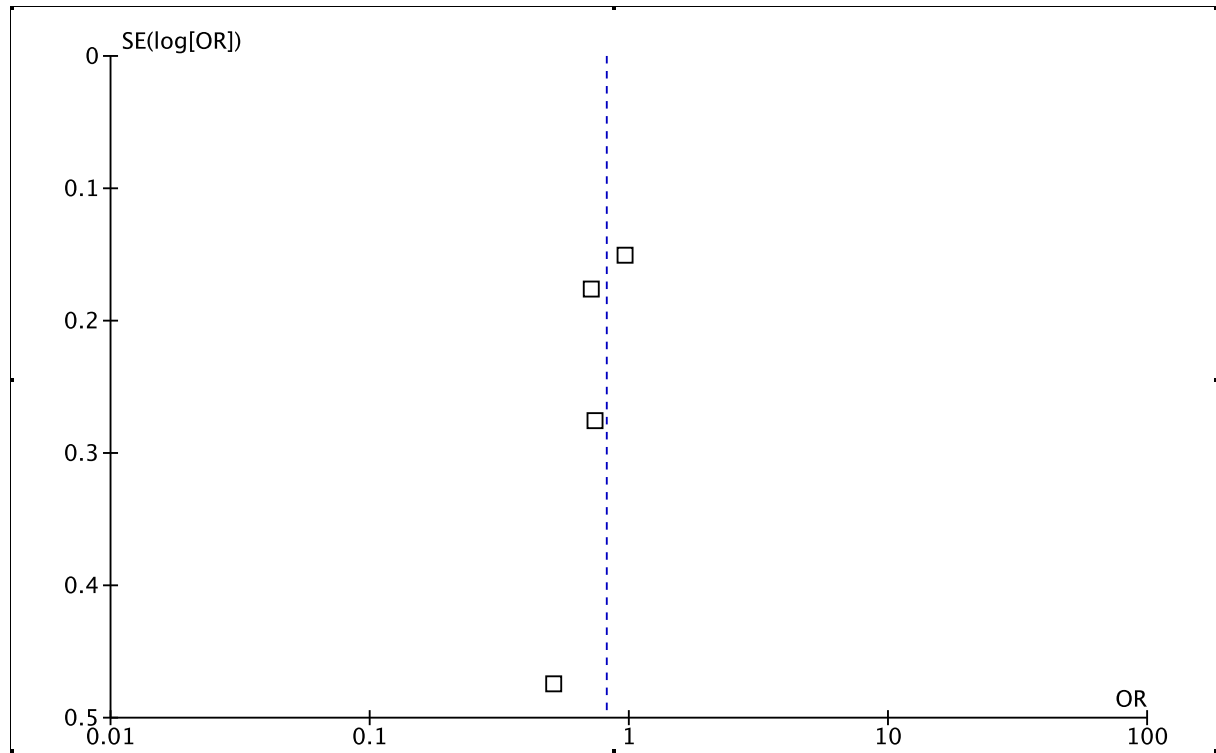
### Local recurrence-free survival



### Perioperative mortality



*Perioperative morbidity*



**References:**

1. Egger M, Davey SG, Schneider M et al. Bias in meta-analysis detected by a simple, graphical test. *BMJ* 1997;315:629-634.
2. Sterne JA, Egger M, Smith GD. Systematic reviews in health care: Investigating and dealing with publication and other biases in meta-analysis. *BMJ* 2001;323:101-105.