

**Supplementary Table III.** Results of the risk of bias assessment of the included studies using the revised Cochrane risk-of-bias 2 tool (A) and Newcastle-Ottawa scale (B)

Author, yr	Bias arising from the randomization process	Bias due to deviations from intended interventions	Bias due to missing outcome data	Bias due to measurement of the outcome	Bias in selection of the reported result	Overall bias
Cunha <i>et al</i> <sup>12</sup> , 2008	Low	Low	Medium	Low	Low	Medium
Bagshawe <i>et al</i> <sup>26</sup> , 1989	High	Medium	Medium	Low	Low	High
Stanley <i>et al</i> <sup>30</sup> , 1981	High	Medium	Medium	Low	Low	High
Bechelli <i>et al</i> <sup>27</sup> , 1973	High	Medium	Medium	Low	Low	High
Sharma <i>et al</i> <sup>29</sup> , 2005	Low	Low	Medium	Low	Low	Medium
Convit <i>et al</i> <sup>28</sup> , 1992	High	Medium	Medium	Low	Low	High
Karonga prevention trial group <sup>13</sup> , 1996	High	Medium	Medium	Low	Low	High
Truoc <i>et al</i> <sup>31</sup> , 2001	Low	Low	Medium	Low	Low	Medium
Zaheer <i>et al</i> <sup>32</sup> , 1992	High	Medium	Medium	Low	Low	High
Narang <i>et al</i> <sup>33</sup> , 2004	Low	Low	Medium	Medium	Low	Medium
Majumder <i>et al</i> <sup>34</sup> , 2000	Low	Low	Medium	Medium	Low	Medium
De Sarkar <i>et al</i> <sup>35</sup> , 2001	Low	Low	Medium	Medium	Low	Medium