Supplementary Material 2. Publication bias tests: Begg rank correlation

Publication bias test:

Rank correlation test for funnel plot asymmetry	
Kendall's tau	*p*
0.6190	0.0690

The moderate Kendall's tau value (0.6190) suggests some asymmetry in the funnel plot, which could indicate publication bias. However, the *p*-value (0.0690) is not quite significant at the 0.05 level, suggesting that the evidence for publication bias is not strong enough to be conclusive. It indicates a trend towards asymmetry, but it does not definitively confirm the presence of publication bias.