

# Risk of urogenital infections in non-diabetic patients treated with sodium glucose transporter 2 (SGLT2) inhibitors. Systematic review and meta-analysis

Rawa Bapir <sup>1, 16</sup>, Kamran Hassan Bhatti <sup>2, 16</sup>, Ahmed Eliwa <sup>3, 16</sup>, Herney Andrés García-Perdomo <sup>4, 16</sup>, Nazim Gherabi <sup>5, 16</sup>, Derek Hennessey <sup>6, 16</sup>, Vittorio Magri <sup>7, 16</sup>, Panagiotis Mourmouris <sup>8, 16</sup>, Adama Ouattara <sup>9, 16</sup>, Gianpaolo Perletti <sup>10, 16</sup>, Joseph Philipraj <sup>11, 16</sup>, Konstantinos Stamatou <sup>12, 16</sup>, Musliu Adetola Tolani <sup>13, 16</sup>, Lazaros Tzelvas <sup>8, 16</sup>, Stefan D. Anker <sup>14</sup>, Alberto Trinchieri <sup>15, 16</sup>, Noor Buchholz <sup>16</sup>

<sup>1</sup> Smart Health Tower, Sulaymaniyah, Kurdistan region, Iraq;

<sup>2</sup> Urology Department, HMC, Hamad Medical Corporation, Qatar;

<sup>3</sup> Department of Urology, Zagazig University, Zagazig, Sharkia, Egypt;

<sup>4</sup> Universidad del Valle, Cali, Colombia;

<sup>5</sup> Faculty of Medicine Algiers 1, Algiers, Algeria;

<sup>6</sup> Department of Urology, Mercy University Hospital, Cork, Ireland;

<sup>7</sup> Urology Unit, ASST Fatebenefratelli Sacco, Milan, Italy;

<sup>8</sup> 2<sup>nd</sup> Department of Urology, National and Kapodistrian University of Athens, Sismanoglio Hospital, Athens, Greece;

<sup>9</sup> Division of Urology, Souro Sanou University Teaching Hospital, Bobo-Dioulasso, Burkina Faso;

<sup>10</sup> Department of Biotechnology and Life Sciences, Section of Medical and Surgical Sciences, University of Insubria, Varese, Italy;

<sup>11</sup> Department of Urology, Mahatma Gandhi Medical College and Research Institute, Sri Balaji Vidyapeeth, Puducherry, India;

<sup>12</sup> Department of Urology, Tzaneio General Hospital, 18536 Piraeus, Greece;

<sup>13</sup> Division of Urology, Department of Surgery, Ahmadu Bello University/Ahmadu Bello University Teaching Hospital, Zaria, Kaduna State, Nigeria;

<sup>14</sup> Department of Cardiology and BCRT (Campus CVK), Charité Universitätsmedizin Berlin, Germany;

<sup>15</sup> Urology School, University of Milan, Milan, Italy;

<sup>16</sup> U-merge Ltd. (Urology for emerging countries), London-Athens-Dubai\*.

Authors 1-16 have equally contributed to the paper and share first authorship.

\* U-merge Ltd. (Urology for Emerging Countries) is an academic urological platform dedicated to facilitate knowledge transfer in urology on all levels from developed to emerging countries. U-merge Ltd. is registered with the Companies House in London/ UK. [www.U-merge.com](http://www.U-merge.com)

## Supplementary Table 1.

Data extracted from the included studies (PICO Tables).

Authors, year	Population	Intervention	Outcomes
Anker 2021  EMPEROR-Preserved	5988 patients with class II-IV heart failure and an ejection fraction of more than 40%  with or without diabetes	Empagliflozin (10 mg once daily) or placebo in addition to usual therapy  empagliflozin (n = 2996) placebo (n = 2989) median of 26.2 months	Empagliflozin versus placebo Patients with any adverse event 2574 (85.9) vs 2585 (86.5) Patients with any serious adverse event 1436 (47.9) vs 1543 (51.6) Urinary tract infections 297 (9.9) vs 243 (8.1) Complicated urinary tract infections 57 (1.9) vs 45 (1.5) Genital infections 67 (2.2) vs 22 (0.7)  Complicated genital infections 8 (0.3) vs 8 (0.3)

<p>Supplementary information from <a href="https://www.g-ba.de/bewertungsverfahren/nutzenbewertung/810/">https://www.g-ba.de/bewertungsverfahren/nutzenbewertung/810/</a></p>			<p>Empagliflozin versus placebo</p> <p>Diabetic UTI 148/1465 vs 131/1471 Complicated UTI 29/1465 vs 25/1471 Genital infections 37/1465 vs 14/1471 Complicated genital infections</p> <p>Non-diabetic UTI 149/1531 vs 112/1518 Complicated UTI 28/1531 vs 20/1518 Genital infections 30/1531 vs 8/1518 Complicated genital infections</p>
<p>Abraham 2021</p> <p>EMPERIAL-Reduced</p> <p>EMPERIAL-Preserved</p>	<p>HF patients with reduced EF (HFrEF) (&lt; 40%, n = 312) EMPerIAL-Reduced</p> <p>or preserved EF (&gt; 40%, n = 315) EMPerIAL-Preserved</p> <p>evaluating the effect on exercise ability and patient reported outcomes</p> <p>in patients with and without T2D</p>	<p>Empagliflozin 10 mg placebo</p> <p>for 12 weeks</p>	<p>Empagliflozin 10 mg versus placebo</p> <p>Diabetics Complicated urinary tract infections 2/173 vs 1/175 Genital infections 2/173 vs 1/175</p> <p>Non diabetics Complicated urinary tract infections 0/136 vs 1/136 Genital infections 1/136 vs 0/136</p>
<p>Bays 2014</p>	<p>Overweight and obese subjects (body mass index [BMI] &gt; 27 and &gt; 50 kg/m<sup>2</sup>)</p> <p>376 subjects without diabetes mellitus</p>	<p>Canagliflozin 50, 100, or 300 mg or placebo once day</p> <p>12 weeks</p>	<p>Canagliflozin 50+100+300 versus placebo</p> <p>Urinary tract infections 10/98+7/93+8/96 vs 6/89 Vulvovaginal mycotic infections 8/98+5/93+14/96 vs 1/89 Genital mycotic infection - men 0/12+ 0/17+1/10 vs 0/14 Genital mycotic infection - women 12/86+ 10/76+19/86 vs 3/75</p>
<p>Cherney 2020</p> <p>DIAMOND</p>	<p>53 adult patients (aged 18-75 years, mean 51+/-13)</p> <p>32% women</p> <p>chronic kidney disease, without a diagnosis of diabetes</p> <p>24-h urinary protein &gt; 500 mg and &lt;= 3500 mg eGFR) at least 25 mL/min</p>	<p>Dapagliflozin then placebo (n = 27)</p> <p>placebo then dapagliflozin (n = 26)</p> <p>6 wks</p> <p>Cross-over</p>	<p>Dapagliflozin vs placebo</p> <p>Urinary tract infection 1/53 vs 0/52</p> <p>Genital infection 1/53 vs 0/52</p>

<p>Herrington 2023 EMPA-KIDNEY</p>	<p>DM2 6609 (46%)</p>		<p>Empagliflozin (N=3304) Placebo (N=3305) Serious urinary tract infection 52/3304 (1.6%) 54/3305 (1.6%)  Serious genital infection 1/3304 (&lt; 0.1%) 1/3305 (&lt; 0.1%)</p>
<p>Hollander 2017</p>	<p>obese or overweight without type 2 diabetes patients (n = 335, aged 18-65 years, BMI 30 to to &lt; 50 kg/m<sup>2</sup> or BMI &gt; 27 to &lt; 50 with hypertension and/or dyslipidemia</p>	<p>Placebo (n = 82) canagliflozin 300 mg (n = 84) phenetermin 15 mg (n = 85) canagliflozin+phenetermin (n = 83)  orally once daily</p>	<p>Canagliflozin vs phentermine vs canagliflozin+phentermin Genital mycotic infections - Women 7/84 vs 0/85 vs 5/83 vs 0/82 Genital mycotic infections - Men 0/84 vs 0/85 vs 0/83 vs 0/82 Urinary tract infections 4/84 vs 1/85 vs 2/83 vs 0/82</p>
<p>Lundkvist 2016 (Diabetes Ob Metab)</p>	<p>50 obese adults without diabetes (aged 18-70 years; body mass index 30-45 kg/m<sup>2</sup>)</p>	<p>Dapagliflozin 10 mg once daily plus subcutaneous long-acting exenatide 2 mg once weekly (n = 25) placebo (n = 24)</p>	<p>Urinary tract infections 2/25 vs 1/24 Acute pyelonephritis 1/25 vs 0/24 Urinary tract infection 0/25 vs 1/24 Fungal urinary tract infection 1/25 vs 0/24 Genital infections 1/25 vs 0/24 Vaginal infection 1/25 vs 0/24</p>
<p>McMurray 2019 DAPA-HF</p>	<p>Patients with New York Heart Association class II, III, or IV heart failure and an ejection fraction of 40% or less N = 4744</p>	<p>Dapagliflozin N = 2373  Placebo N = 2371  Diabetes 993 (41.8) 990 (41.8)</p>	<p>Dapagliflozin (n = 2368) vs placebo (n = 2368) Urinary tract infection 11/2368 vs 17/2368 Urosepsis 4/2368 vs 7/2368 Pyelonephritis acute 2 vs 0 Pyelocystitis 1 vs 0 Pyelonephritis 1 vs 1 Cystitis 0 vs 1 Renal abscess 0 vs 1 Urinary tract infection Staphylococcal 0 vs 1 Balanoposthitis 0 vs 1 Fournier 0 vs 1</p>



<p>Packer 2020</p> <p>EMPEROR reduced</p>	<p>3730 patients with class II, III, or IV heart failure and an ejection fraction of 40% or less</p> <p>EMPEROR reduced with and without DM2</p>	<p>Empagliflozin (10 mg once daily) placebo</p> <p>in addition to recommended therapy</p> <p>Diabetes mellitus</p> <p>927 (49.8) vs 929 (49.8)</p>	<p>Empagliflozin (n=1863) vs Placebo (n=1863)</p> <p>Urinary tract infections 91/1863 vs 83/1863</p> <p>Complicated urinary tract infections 19/1863 vs 15/1863</p> <p>Genital infections 31/1863 vs 12/1863</p> <p>Complicated genital infections 6/1863 vs 5/1863 (0.3)</p>
<p>Supplementary information from Anker SD et al Circulation 2021; 143:337-349</p>			<p>Empagliflozin vs placebo</p> <p>Diabetics</p> <p>Urinary tract infections 52/927 vs 49/926</p> <p>Genital infections 18/927 vs 4/926</p> <p>Non diabetics</p> <p>Urinary tract infection 39/936 vs 34/937</p> <p>Genital infections 13/936 vs 8/937</p>
<p>Reis 2022</p>	<p>40 adult non-diabetic HF patients with a left ventricular ejection fraction (LVEF) &lt; 50%</p>	<p>Dapagliflozin 10 mg vs HF medication 20+20 6 months</p>	<p>Dapagliflozin 10 mg vs controls</p> <p>Urinary tract infection 1/20 vs 0/20</p>
<p>Solomon 2022</p> <p>DELIVER</p>	<p>N = 6236</p> <p>N = 3150 (50%) Preserved Ejection Fraction Heart Failure</p>	<p>Dapagliflozin 10 mg (n = 3126) Placebo (n = 3127)</p>	<p>Dapagliflozin vs Placebo</p> <p>Urinary tract infection 30/3126 vs 32/3127</p> <p>Discontinuation due to urinary tract infection 11/3126 vs 6/3127</p>



<p>Wheeler 2021</p> <p>DAPA-CKD</p>	<p>4304 participants</p> <p>urinary albumin-to-creatinine ratio of 200–5000 mg/g</p> <p>eGFR) 25–75 mL/min per 1.73m<sup>2</sup></p>	<p>Dapagliflozin 10 mg once daily N = 2152</p> <p>placebo N = 2152</p> <p>Patients with DM dapagliflozin n = 1453 placebo n = 1450</p> <p>Patients without DM dapagliflozin n = 696 placebo n = 699</p> <p>Median follow up 2·4 years (IQR 2·0–2·7)</p>	<p>Any SAE of urinary tract infection DM 23/1453 vs 14/1450 no DM 26/696 vs 4/699</p> <p>Urinary tract infection DM 17/1453 vs 10/1450 No DM 3/696 vs 3/690</p> <p>Pyelonephritis acute DM 2/1453 vs 1/1450 no DM 3/696 vs 0/699</p> <p>Cystitis DM 1/1453 vs 2/1450 No DM 0/696 vs 0/699</p> <p>Escherichia urinary tract infection DM 1/1453 vs 0/1450 No DM 0/696 vs 0/699</p> <p>Pyonephrosis DM 1/1453 vs 0/1450 No DM 0/696 vs 0/699</p> <p>Urinary tract infection bacterial DM 1/1453 vs 0/1450 No DM 0/696 vs 0/699</p> <p>Urogenital infection bacterial DM 1/1453 vs 0/1450 No DM 0/696 vs 0/699</p> <p>Pyelonephritis DM 0/1453 vs 1/1450 No DM 1/696 vs 1/699</p> <p>Any SAE of genital infection DM 3/1453 vs 0/1450 No DM 0/696 vs 0/699</p> <p>Balanoposthitis DM 1/1453 vs 0/1450 No DM 0/696 vs 0/699</p> <p>Urogenital infection bacterial DM 1/1453 vs 0/1450 No DM 0/696 vs 0/699</p> <p>Vulval cellulitis DM 1/1453 vs 0/1450 No DM 0/696 vs 0/699</p>
-------------------------------------	--	---	--

## REFERENCES

1. Anker SD, Butler J, Filippatos G, et al. EMPEROR-Preserved Trial Investigators. Empagliflozin in Heart Failure with a Preserved Ejection Fraction. *N Engl J Med.* 2021; 385:1451-1461.
2. Abraham WT, Lindenfeld J, Ponikowski P, et al. Effect of empagliflozin on exercise ability and symptoms in heart failure patients with reduced and preserved ejection fraction, with and without type 2 diabetes. *Eur Heart J.* 2021; 42:700-710.
3. Bays HE, Weinstein R, Law G, Canovatchel W. Canagliflozin: effects in overweight and obese subjects without diabetes mellitus. *Obesity (Silver Spring).* 2014; 22:1042-9.
4. Cherney DZI, Dekkers CCJ, Barbour SJ, et al. DIAMOND investigators. Effects of the SGLT2 inhibitor dapagliflozin on proteinuria in non-diabetic patients with chronic kidney disease (DIAMOND): a randomised, double-blind, crossover trial. *Lancet Diabetes Endocrinol.* 2020; 8:582-593.
5. The EMPA-KIDNEY Collaborative Group; Herrington WG, Staplin N, Wanner C, et al. Empagliflozin in Patients with Chronic Kidney Disease. *N Engl J Med.* 2023; 388:117-127.
6. Hollander P, Bays HE, Rosenstock J, et al. Coadministration of Canagliflozin and Phentermine for Weight Management in Overweight and Obese Individuals Without Diabetes: A Randomized Clinical Trial. *Diabetes Care.* 2017; 40:632-639.
7. Lundkvist P, Pereira MJ, Katsogiannos P, et al. Dapagliflozin once daily plus exenatide once weekly in obese adults without diabetes: Sustained reductions in body weight, glycaemia and blood pressure over 1 year. *Diabetes Obes Metab.* 2017;19:1276-1288.

8. McMurray JJV, Solomon SD, Inzucchi SE, et al. DAPA-HF Trial Committees and Investigators. Dapagliflozin in Patients with Heart Failure and Reduced Ejection Fraction. *N Engl J Med.* 2019; 381:1995-2008.
9. Packer M, Anker SD, Butler J, et al. EMPEROR-Reduced Trial Investigators. Cardiovascular and Renal Outcomes with Empagliflozin in Heart Failure. *N Engl J Med.* 2020; 383:1413-1424.
10. Reis J, Teixeira AR, Gonçalves AV, et al. Dapagliflozin Impact on the Exercise Capacity of Non-Diabetic Heart Failure with Reduced Ejection Fraction Patients. *J Clin Med.* 2022;11:2935.
11. Solomon SD, McMurray JJV, Claggett B, et al. DELIVER Trial Committees and Investigators. Dapagliflozin in Heart Failure with Mildly Reduced or Preserved Ejection Fraction. *N Engl J Med.* 2022; 387:1089-1098.
12. Heerspink HJL, Stefánsson BV, Correa-Rotter R, et al. DAPA-CKD Trial Committees and Investigators. Effects of dapagliflozin on major adverse kidney and cardiovascular events in patients with diabetic and non-diabetic chronic kidney disease: a prespecified analysis from the DAPA-CKD trial. *Lancet Diabetes Endocrinol.* 2021; 9:22-31.
13. Nutzenbewertungsverfahren zum Wirkstoff Empagliflozin (Neues Anwendungsgebiet: chronische Herzinsuffizienz mit linksventrikulärer Ejektionsfraktion LVEF > 40%) <https://www.g-ba.de/bewertungsverfahren/nutzenbewertung/810/>
14. Anker SD, Butler J, Filippatos G, et al. Effect of Empagliflozin on Cardiovascular and Renal Outcomes in Patients With Heart Failure by Baseline Diabetes Status: Results From the EMPEROR-Reduced Trial. *Circulation.* 2021; 143:337-349.

**RISK OF BIAS**

**Supplementary Figure 1.**

Risk of Bias (RoB) 2 assessment of risk of bias in randomised control trials presented. The values at the right of the no-effect bar show higher odds of infection in diabetic patients.

	D1: Randomisation process	D2: Deviations from the intended	D3: Missing outcome	D4: Measurement of the outcome.	D5: Selection of the reported result	D6: Overall
<b>Abraham 2021</b>						
<b>Anker 2021</b>						
<b>Bays 2014</b>						
<b>Cherney 2020</b>						
<b>Herrington 2023</b>						
<b>Hollander 2017</b>						
<b>Lundkvist 2017</b>						
<b>McMurray 2019</b>						
<b>Packer 2020</b>						
<b>Reis 2022</b>						
<b>Solomon 2022</b>						
<b>Wheeler 2021</b>						

D1: Randomisation process.  
 D2: Deviations from the intended interventions.  
 D3: Missing outcome data.  
 D4: Measurement of the outcome.  
 D5: Selection of the reported result

<b>No concerns</b>	
<b>Slight concerns</b>	
<b>High concerns</b>	

**REFERENCES**

1. Sterne JAC, Savovic J, Page MJ, et al. RoB 2: a revised tool for assessing risk of bias in randomised trials. *BMJ* 2019;366:l4898.
2. Lundh A, Gøtzsche PC. Recommendations by Cochrane Review Groups for assessment of the risk of bias in studies. *BMC Med Res Methodol* 2008;8:22.

Tools to assess study quality were tailored to study design. The risk of bias in randomised control trials was assessed using the Risk of Bias (RoB) 2 assessment tool as prescribed by the Cochrane Methods 1,2. Data is shown in table S2 (Supplementary Table 2). Study quality was independently assessed by two reviewers (DH and HP) against pre-defined criteria. Disagreements were resolved by discussion. Risk of bias was not used to exclude studies. We anticipated identifying too few studies to assess publication bias.

## **COMMENTS**

*Abraham* - Slight differences between the two groups. Domain 1 slight concerns.

*Anker* - No concerns

*Bays* - No concerns

*Cherney* - No concerns

*Herrington* - No concerns

*Hollander* - Single blinded study. Domain 1 slight concerns. Small sample sizes.

*Lundquist* - No concerns

*McMurray* - No concerns

*Packer* - No concerns

*Reis* - Not blinded. I am not sure the allocation sequence concealed until participants were enrolled and assigned to interventions also carers and people delivering the interventions were aware of participants' assigned intervention during the trial.

*Salomon* - No concerns

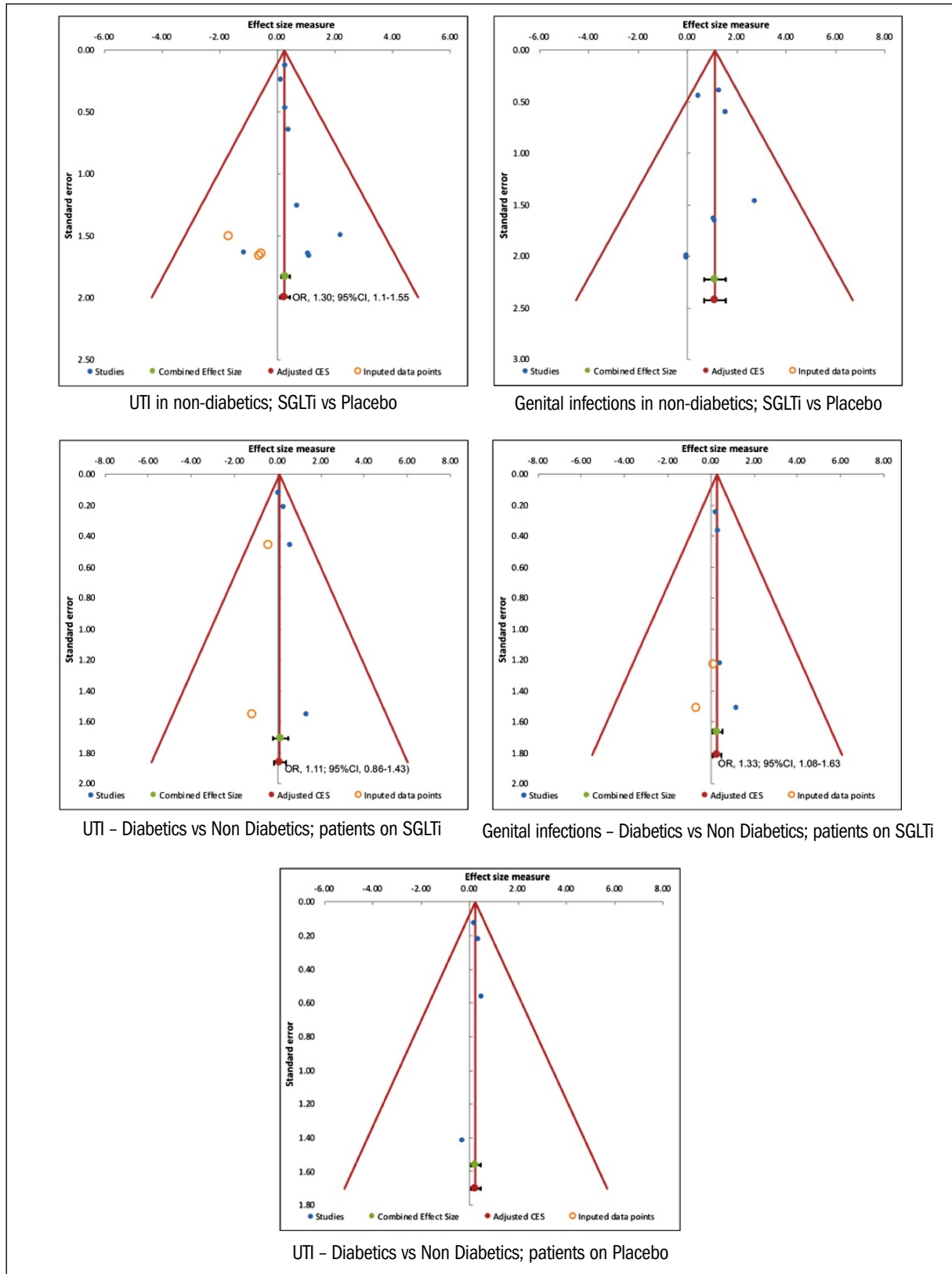
*Wheeler* - No concerns



**FUNNEL PLOTS**

**Supplementary Figure 2.**

Publication bias assessment in pooled analyses including at least 4 trials. The effect size is presented as the logarithm of the odds ratios. If missing studies (open orange circles) are imputed by the “trim-and-fill” analysis, adjusted odds ratios (red dots) and 95% confidence intervals are presented in the plots.



## SUMMARY OF FINDINGS

Supplementary Table 2.

Effect of SGLT2 inhibitors or placebo on urogenital infections						
<b>Patient or population:</b> male or female patients with or without diabetes						
<b>Settings:</b> outpatient						
<b>Intervention:</b> SGLT2 inhibitors (SGLT2i)						
<b>Comparison:</b> placebo						
<b>Outcome:</b> onset of urinary tract infections (UTI) or genital infections (GI)						
Endpoint, Comparison, Condition	Illustrative comparative risks (95% CI)		Relative effect (95% CI)	No of Participants (studies or comparisons)	Quality of the evidence (GRADE)	Comments
	Assumed control risk	Corresponding intervention risk				
	Comparison	Intervention				
Urinary tract infections, SGLT2i vs. placebo, non-diabetic subjects	44.41 per 1000	58.21 per 1000 (47.78 to 71.21)	OR 1.33 (1.08 to 1.65)	7326 (9)	⊕⊕⊕⊕ Very low	<i>Reasons for downgrading:</i> - risk of bias - probable publication bias - Indirectness of evidence (Surrogate endpoint)
Genital infections, SGLT2i vs. placebo, non-diabetic subjects	5.34 per 1000	16.42 per 1000 (10.04 to 26.80)	OR 3.11 (1.89 to 5.13)	7326 (9)	⊕⊕⊕⊕ Moderate	<i>Reasons for upgrading:</i> - large magnitude of effect <i>Reasons for downgrading:</i> - risk of bias - Indirectness of evidence (Surrogate endpoint)
Urinary tract infections, diabetic vs. non-diabetic subjects treated with SGLT2i	58.81 per 1000	67.03 per 1000 (55.47 to 80.96)	OR 1.15 (0.94 to 1.41)	7317 (4)	⊕⊕⊕⊕ Low	<i>Reasons for downgrading:</i> - probable publication bias - Indirectness of evidence (Surrogate endpoint)
Genital infections, diabetic vs. non-diabetic subjects treated with SGLT2i	13.33 per 1000	18.05 per 1000 (14.26 to 22.72)	OR 1.36 (1.07 to 1.72)	7317 (4)	⊕⊕⊕⊕ Low	<i>Reasons for downgrading:</i> - probable publication bias - Indirectness of evidence (Surrogate endpoint)
Urinary tract infections, diabetic vs. non-diabetic subjects taking placebo	45.89 per 1000	58.85 per 1000 (47.64 to 72.29)	OR 1.30 (1.04 to 1.62)	7312 (4)	⊕⊕⊕⊕ Moderate	<i>Reasons for downgrading:</i> - Indirectness of evidence (Surrogate endpoint)
Genital infections, diabetic vs. non-diabetic subjects taking placebo	4.86 per 1000	5.49 per 1000 (2.09 to 14.35)	OR 1.13 (0.43 to 2.98)	7312 (4)	⊕⊕⊕⊕ Moderate	<i>Reasons for downgrading:</i> - Indirectness of evidence (Surrogate endpoint)

*The corresponding intervention risk (and its 95% confidence interval) is based on the assumed control risk in the comparison group and the relative effect of the intervention (and its 95% CI). It is calculated from the odds ratio using the formula:  
 $OR \times ACR / [1 - ACR + (OR \times ACR)]$   
 CI: Confidence Interval; OR: Odds Ratio; ACR: Assumed Control Risk*

**GRADE Working Group grades of evidence**  
*High quality: Further research is very unlikely to change our confidence in the estimate of effect.  
 Moderate quality: Further research is likely to have an important impact on our confidence in the estimate of effect and may change the estimate.  
 Low quality: Further research is very likely to have an important impact on our confidence in the estimate of effect and is likely to change the estimate.  
 Very low quality: We are very uncertain about the estimate.*