

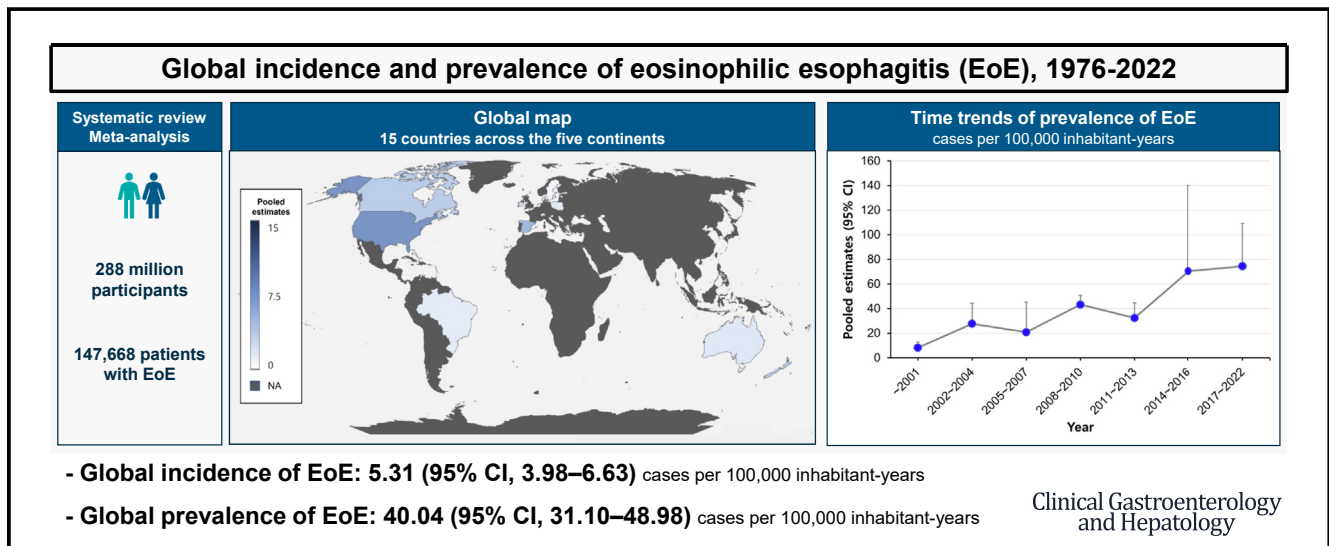
# ESOPHAGUS

## Global Incidence and Prevalence of Eosinophilic Esophagitis, 1976–2022: A Systematic Review and Meta-analysis



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### BACKGROUND AND AIMS:

Owing to 2018 expanded diagnostic criteria for eosinophilic esophagitis (EoE) and thus a possible increase in diagnosis, previous studies on the global incidence and prevalence of EoE may need to be updated. We aimed to describe global, regional, and national trends in the

**Abbreviations used in this paper:** CI, confidence interval; EoE, eosinophilic esophagitis; GERD, gastroesophageal reflux disease; PPI, proton pump inhibitor; HPF, high-power field; HICs, high-income countries; LMICs, low- or middle-income countries; OR, odds ratio.

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incidence and prevalence of EoE from 1976 to 2022 and analyze their associations with geographic, demographic, and social factors through a systematic review.

#### METHODS:

We searched the PubMed/MEDLINE, Embase, CINAHL, Google Scholar, and Cochrane databases from their inception dates to December 20, 2022, for studies that reported the incidence or prevalence of EoE in the general population. We calculated the global incidence and prevalence of EoE using pooled estimates with 95% confidence intervals (CIs) and performed subgroup analysis based on age, sex, race, geographical area, World Bank income group, and diagnostic criteria of EoE.

#### RESULTS:

Forty studies met the eligibility criteria, including over 288 million participants and 147,668 patients with EoE from 15 countries across the five continents. The global pooled incidence and prevalence of EoE were 5.31 cases per 100,000 inhabitant-years (95% CI, 3.98–6.63; number of studies, 27; sample population, 42,191,506) and 40.04 cases per 100,000 inhabitant-years (95% CI, 31.10–48.98; number of studies, 20; sample population, 30,467,177), respectively. The pooled incidence of EoE was higher in high-income countries (vs low- or middle-income countries), males, and North America (vs Europe and Asia). The global prevalence of EoE followed a similar pattern. The pooled prevalence of EoE gradually increased from 1976 to 2022 (1976–2001; 8.18; 95% CI, 3.67–12.69 vs 2017–2022; 74.42; 95% CI, 39.66–109.19 cases per 100,000 inhabitant-years).

#### CONCLUSIONS:

The incidence and prevalence of EoE have increased substantially and vary widely across the world. Further research is needed to evaluate the incidence and prevalence of EoE in Asia, South America, and Africa.

*Keywords:* Eosinophilic Esophagitis; Global Trend; Incidence; Prevalence; Systematic Review and Meta-analysis.

Eosinophilic esophagitis (EoE) is a chronic allergen/immune-mediated disease characterized by symptoms of esophageal dysfunction and eosinophilic infiltration of the esophageal mucosa in the absence of secondary causes of eosinophilia.<sup>1</sup> Typical symptoms vary according to the patient's age,<sup>1</sup> and current guidelines suggest that EoE should be diagnosed when symptoms of esophageal dysfunction are concurrent with  $\geq 15$  eosinophils/high-power field (HPF) on endoscopic biopsy. However, there is a lack of awareness regarding the disease, and many patients have already reported complications, mainly associated with esophageal dysfunction or fibrosis, in their first medical evaluation.<sup>2</sup>

Previous studies have found that the incidence of EoE is increasing faster than the increase in biopsy or disease awareness.<sup>3,4</sup> Although the most recent systematic review was published in 2019, including 29 studies on EoE,<sup>5</sup> it did not investigate national and regional differences. Furthermore, as the diagnostic criteria have been updated recently, the results of this study may not reflect the real-world incidence and prevalence of EoE according to the new consensus.

In the context of the increasing incidence and prevalence of EoE and consequently increasing social burden worldwide, a systematic review and meta-analysis that provides accurate estimates of the incidence and prevalence of EoE is needed. Therefore, this study aimed to identify global, regional, and national trends in the incidence and prevalence of EoE from 1976 to 2022. We conducted a systematic review and meta-analysis of the incidence and prevalence of EoE in the general

population and performed a subgroup analysis based on age, sex, race, geographical area, and diagnostic criteria for EoE.

## Materials and Methods

We performed a systematic review and meta-analysis of previous literature to investigate global and national trends in the incidence and prevalence of EoE in different countries and subgroup analysis by age, sex, race, geographical area, and diagnostic criteria of EoE. This systematic review adhered to the Preferred Reporting Items for Systematic Reviews and Meta-Analyses (PRISMA) guidelines,<sup>6</sup> and the protocol was registered with PROSPERO (registration no. CRD42022342812).

### Search Strategy and Study Selection

We searched PubMed, MEDLINE, Embase, CINAHL, Google Scholar, and Cochrane databases from their inception dates to December 20, 2022, for studies that reported the incidence or prevalence of EoE in all age groups according to the appropriate diagnostic guidelines for EoE. Studies that did not meet the inclusion criteria were also excluded. Studies were required to include participants from the general population or from community-based datasets.

We excluded studies from which it was not possible to calculate the prevalence or incidence accurately. First, biased samples were excluded, such as individuals

attending screening clinic health checkups, employees at an institution, or university students. Second, studies with fewer than 50 participants were excluded. Thus, because there were no interventional studies, we only included general population-based observational studies with larger samples published in English.

The databases were searched using the terms “EoE” or “*eosinophilic esophagitis*,” which were combined using the set operator “AND” with studies identified using the terms “*incidence*,” “*prevalence*,” or “*trend*” as free text terms. A total of 2987 studies were screened, and the titles and abstracts of all selected studies were rescreened for potential suitability. Studies that appeared irrelevant were excluded (Supplementary Table 1 and Supplementary Figure 1). A recursive search was performed using the bibliographies of all eligible papers. Two investigators (JWH and DKY) independently assessed the eligibility of the study, and disagreements were resolved through discussion with a third investigator (SWL).

### Data Extraction and Statistical Analysis

Data were extracted independently by 2 investigators (JWH and DKY) using Microsoft Excel (version 2013). The following data were collected for each study: first author, publication year, country, diagnosis criteria used to define EoE, study design (retrospective and prospective), study duration, total number of subjects providing data, number of subjects with EoE, age group (children and adults), sex, and race of subjects. All studies were evaluated for risk of bias, as assessed by Hoy et al.<sup>7</sup> Nine risk items were evaluated, and a study was considered to have a low risk of bias if 3 or fewer items were applicable, and a high risk of bias when seven or more items were applicable. Five studies were evaluated as having a high overall risk of bias and excluded from the analysis.

We considered all studies using the diagnostic criteria for EoE without researcher validation, such as code-based studies ( $k = 40$ ), and strict studies using the diagnostic criteria for EoE with researcher validation ( $k = 30$ ). We performed extensive subgroup analyses stratified by country, sex, age group, geographical area, diagnostic criteria of EoE (ie, those provided by either the 2007,<sup>8</sup> 2011,<sup>9</sup> or 2018<sup>1</sup> guidelines), and data source. Furthermore, we compared subgroup differences in EoE incidence and prevalence using the mean difference with 95% confidence intervals (CIs).

High-income countries (HICs) and low- or middle-income countries (LMICs) were divided based on the World Bank 2020.<sup>10</sup> In this study, the HICs included Australia, Canada, Denmark, Ireland, the Netherlands, New Zealand, Poland, Slovenia, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, and the United States, whereas the LMICs included Brazil, China, and Serbia. The diagnostic criteria for EoE have changed over time (the 2007,<sup>8</sup> 2011,<sup>9</sup> and 2018<sup>1</sup> guidelines). The 2007 consensus definition of EoE

## What You Need to Know

### Background

Although the most recent systematic review on the prevalence of eosinophilic esophagitis (EoE) was published in 2019, including 29 studies on EoE, it did not investigate national and regional differences. In addition, diagnostic criteria for EoE have been updated recently. The real-world incidence and prevalence of EoE according to a new consensus are not known.

### Findings

The global pooled incidence and prevalence of EoE were 5.31 cases per 100,000 inhabitant-years (95% confidence interval, 3.98–6.63) and 40.04 cases per 100,000 inhabitant-years (95% confidence interval, 31.10–48.98), respectively. The pooled prevalence and incidence of EoE were higher in high-income countries, males, and North America. The pooled prevalence and incidence of EoE have increased from 1976 to 2022.

### Implications for patient care

This emphasizes the need to increase the diagnostic method's sensitivity and develop well-established EoE treatment guidelines. The significant variation in the incidence and prevalence of EoE worldwide underscores the importance of the genetic, ethnic, and cultural differences in EoE.

is based on its clinical symptoms of esophageal dysfunction, biopsy findings ( $\geq 15$  eosinophils/HPF), and exclusion of other disorders associated with similar clinical, histological, or endoscopic features, especially pathologic gastroesophageal reflux disease (GERD).<sup>8</sup> The 2011 consensus of EoE is the inclusion of the word chronic, the term immune or antigen-driven, and the term proton pump inhibitor-responsive esophageal eosinophilia.<sup>9</sup> The 2018 guidelines for the definition of EoE include symptoms of esophageal dysfunction, biopsy findings ( $\geq 15$  eosinophils/HPF), and no other significant causes of symptoms or esophageal eosinophilia with the removal of proton pump inhibitor (PPI) trial requirement.<sup>1</sup>

A random-effects model was used to combine the proportion of subjects with EoE in each study to determine the global pooled incidence and prevalence of EoE. Heterogeneity was assessed using the  $I^2$  statistic,<sup>11</sup> which describes the degree of inconsistency among studies. A value of 0% indicated that there was no observed heterogeneity, and higher values indicated increasing heterogeneity. The global incidence and prevalence of EoE were compared using pooled estimates with 95% CIs. The Egger test and funnel plots were used to assess the publication bias. The 95% prediction interval was used to make our main results robust for the summary of estimates and to assess the

**Table 1.** Characteristics of Previous Studies Assessing Incidence and/or Prevalence for EoE Included in Our Systematic Review

| First author, publication year             | Country       | Setting    | Diagnosis criteria <sup>b</sup> | Study design             | Period    | Age of patients   | Total sample           | Patients with EoE                           |
|--|---------------|------------|---------------------------------|--------------------------|-----------|---|------------------------|---|
| Noel RJ et al, 2004                        | US            | Population | Before 2007 consensus           | Retrospective            | 2000–2003 | Children  | 2,397,589 <sup>a</sup> | 103   |
| Straumann A et al, 2005                    | Switzerland   | Population | Before 2007 consensus           | Retrospective            | 1989–2004 | Adults  | 100,000                | 23  |
| Cherian S et al, 2006                      | Australia     | Population | Before 2007 consensus           | Retrospective            | 1995–2004 | Children  | 3,198,653 <sup>a</sup> | 285   |
| Gill R, et al, 2007                        | US            | Population | Before 2007 consensus           | Retrospective            | 1995–2004 | Children  | 600,000                | 44  |
| Prasad GA et al, 2009                      | US            | Population | After 2007 consensus            | Retrospective            | 1976–2005 | Adults and children   | 120,000                | 55 adults and 23 children                   |
| Dalby K et al, 2010                        | Denmark       | Population | After 2007 consensus            | Prospective              | 2005–2007 | Children  | 256,164                | 6   |
| Hruz P et al, 2011                         | Switzerland   | Population | After updated consensus 2011    | Prospective              | 1989–2009 | Adults and children   | 90,000                 | 43 adults and 3 children                    |
| O'Donnell S et al, 2011                    | Ireland       | Population | After 2007 consensus            | Retrospective            | 2000–2008 | Adults and children   | 350,000                | 7 adults and 6 children                     |
| Van Rhijn BD et al, 2013                   | Netherlands   | Population | After updated consensus 2011    | Retrospective            | 1996–2010 | Adults and children   | 16,615,394             | 538 adults and 136 children                 |
| Syed AA et al, 2012/Stewart MJ et al, 2013 | Canada        | Population | After updated consensus 2011    | Retrospective            | 2004–2008 | Adults and children   | 1,250,000              | 338 adults and 83 children                  |
| Arias A et al, 2013                        | Spain         | Population | After updated consensus 2011    | Retrospective            | 2005–2011 | Adults (>16 years)  | 89,642                 | 40  |
| Prakash R et al, 2013                      | US            | Population | NA                              | Retrospective            | 2010–2013 | Adults and children   | 14,360,300             | 4680  |
| Dellon ES et al, 2014                      | US            | Population | After updated consensus 2011    | Retrospective            | 2009–2011 | Adults and children   | 11,569,217             | 4700 adults and 1813 children               |
| Ally MR et al, 2014                        | US (military) | Military   | After updated consensus 2011    | Retrospective (ICD code) | 2008–2009 | Adults (>20 years) and children (<20 years)                         | 10,180,515             | 987   |
| Ma X et al, 2015                           | China         | Population | After updated consensus 2011    | Prospective              | NA        | Adults (>18 years)  | 3600                   | 4   |
| Dellon ES et al, 2015                      | Denmark       | Population | After updated consensus 2011    | Retrospective            | 1997–2012 | Adults and children   | 5,528,985 <sup>a</sup> | 844   |
| Maradey-Romero C et al, 2015               | US            | Population | After updated consensus 2011    | Retrospective            | 2011–2014 | Adults (18–65 years), children (<18 years), and elderly (>65 years) | 9,559,570              | 3360 adults, 1120 children, and 360 elderly |
| Homan M et al, 2015                        | Slovenia      | Population | After updated consensus 2011    | Retrospective            | 2005–2012 | Children (<18 years)  | NA                     | 25  |
| Kim S et al, 2015                          | USA           | Population | After updated consensus 2011    | Retrospective (ICD code) | 2008–2013 | Adults (>18 years) and children (<18 years)                         | 3,486,069              | 1344 adults and 217 children                |

Table 1. Continued

| First author, publication year      | Country     | Setting    | Diagnosis criteria <sup>b</sup> | Study design             | Period    | Age of patients   | Total sample | Patients with EoE                          |
|-------------------------------------|-------------|------------|---------------------------------|--------------------------|-----------|---|--------------|--|
| Giriens B et al, 2015               | Switzerland | Population | After updated consensus 2011    | Retrospective            | 1993–2013 | Adults and children   | 743,317      | 167 adult and 12 children                  |
| Mansoor E et al, 2016               | US          | Population | After updated consensus 2011    | Retrospective            | 2010–2015 | Adults (18–65 years), children (<18 years), and elderly (>65 years) | 30,301,440   | 5840 adult, 1250 children, and 750 elderly |
| Warner MJ et al, 2017               | Netherlands | Population | After updated consensus 2011    | Retrospective            | 1996–2016 | Adults (>18 years) and children (<18 years)                         | 16,291,146   | 1796 adult and 365 children                |
| Molina-Infante J et al, 2018        | Spain       | Population | After 2018 guidelines           | Prospective              | 2007–2016 | Adults (>16 years)  | 169,403      | 137  |
| Goncalves LO et al, 2018            | Brazil      | Population | After 2018 guidelines           | Retrospective            | 2004–2014 | Children (0–14 years)   | 253,706      | 63   |
| La Orden Izquierdo E et al, 2018    | Spain       | Population | After 2018 guidelines           | Retrospective            | 2002–2013 | Children (<15 years)  | 485,355      | 254  |
| Robson J et al, 2018                | US          | Population | After 2018 guidelines           | Retrospective            | 2011–2016 | Children (<18 years)  | 895,205      | 1060                                       |
| Hommeida S et al, 2018              | US          | Population | After updated consensus 2011    | Retrospective            | 2005–2015 | Children (<18 years)  | NA           | 73   |
| Syed A et al, 2017                  | US          | Population | After updated consensus 2011    | Retrospective (ICD code) | 2009–2013 | Adults  | 27,183,310   | 5370                                       |
| Arias A et al, 2019                 | Spain       | Population | After 2018 guidelines           | Prospective              | 2006–2017 | Adults and children   | 104,737      | 98 adult and 19 children                   |
| Ristic N et al, 2019                | Serbia      | Population | After 2018 guidelines           | Retrospective            | 2010–2017 | Children (<18 years)  | 410,095      | 35   |
| Limketkai BN et al, 2019            | US          | Population | After 2018 guidelines           | Prospective              | 2009–2016 | Adults (>18 years) and children (<18 years)                         | 134,013,536  | 102,048                                    |
| Weerasekera K et al, 2019           | New Zealand | Population | After updated consensus 2011    | Retrospective            | 2011–2015 | Adults (>16 years) and children (<16 years)                         | 471,315      | 152  |
| McGowan EC et al, 2020              | US          | Population | After updated consensus 2011    | Retrospective (ICD code) | 2012      | Children (<17 years)  | 18,452,886   | 4836                                       |
| Zdanowicz K et al, 2020             | Poland      | Population | After 2018 guidelines           | Retrospective            | 2013–2018 | Children (<18 years)  | NA           | 36   |
| Rooij WE et al, 2020                | Netherlands | Population | After 2018 guidelines           | Retrospective            | 1995–2019 | Adults (>18 years) and children (<18 years)                         | 16,390,837   | 3422 adult and 639 children                |
| La Orden Izquierdo E et al, 2021    | Spain       | Population | After 2018 guidelines           | Prospective              | 2014–2016 | Children (<15 years)  | NA           | 148  |
| Melgaard D et al, 2021 <sup>3</sup> | Denmark     | Population | After 2018 guidelines           | Retrospective            | 2008–2017 | Adults  | 580,000      | 236  |

**Table 1.** Continued

| First author, publication year | Country | Setting    | Diagnosis criteria <sup>a</sup> | Study design  | Period    | Age of patients                             | Total sample | Patients with EoE |
|--------------------------------|---------|------------|---------------------------------|---------------|-----------|---|--------------|-------------------|
| Garber et al, 2022             | Sweden  | Population | After 2018 guidelines           | Retrospective | 2004–2015 | Adults (>18 years) and children (<18 years) | 9,672,131    | 1422              |
| Allin et al, 2022              | Denmark | Population | After 2018 guidelines           | Retrospective | 2008–2018 | Adults (>18 years) and children (<18 years) | 5,606,705    | 4011              |

EoE, Eosinophilic esophagitis; NA, not available; US, United States.

<sup>a</sup>Calculated and estimated from the original data provided in the study.

<sup>b</sup>Guideline definition: The 2007 consensus definition is considered by its related symptoms, biopsy findings (≥15 eosinophils/high-power field), and exclusion of other disorders associated with similar clinical, histological, or endoscopic features; updated 2011 consensus of EoE is inclusion of the word chronic, the term immune or antigen-driven, and the term proton pump inhibitor-responsive esophageal eosinophilia; and 2018 guidelines definition of EoE includes symptoms of esophageal dysfunction, biopsy findings (≥15 eosinophils/high-power field), and no significant other causes of symptoms or esophageal eosinophilia with removal of proton pump inhibitor trial requirements.

uncertainty of our findings using Bayesian statistics.<sup>12</sup> To investigate the impact of time trends, the *P* for the trends was calculated. Microsoft Excel (version 2013) and R software (version 3.1.1; R Foundation) were used to calculate the main results and generate all tables. A 2-sided *P*-value of < .05, was considered significant.

## Results

The search strategy identified 2987 studies. Of these, 180 studies were evaluated, and 136 were excluded due to inappropriate study design, a lack of population-based studies, or a lack of focus on the outcome of EoE. A total of 40 studies met the eligibility criteria (total studies, *k* = 40; researcher-validated studies, *k* = 30) and included a total of 287,974,384 participants and 147,668 patients from 15 countries (Australia, Brazil, Canada, China, Denmark, Ireland, the Netherlands, New Zealand, Poland, Serbia, Slovenia, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, and the United States).<sup>3,13-51</sup> The 30 researcher-validated studies included a total sample of 41,791,440 participants and 12,983 patients from 15 countries (Australia, Brazil, Canada, China, Denmark, Ireland, the Netherlands, New Zealand, Poland, Serbia, Slovenia, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, and the United States).<sup>13-22,24,25,28,29,31,35-40,42-44,46-51</sup> **Supplementary Figure 1** summarizes the results of the search strategy. All studies were performed in a single country. The EoE data of patients from 1976 to 2022 were included; all were population-based studies. Twenty-one studies included both children and adults<sup>3,17,19-21,23-28,30,32,33,38,39,41,44,47,50,51</sup>; 6 studies included only adults<sup>14,22,31,34,37,49</sup>; and 13 studies included only children.<sup>13,15,16,18,29,35,36,40,42,43,45,46,48</sup> The detailed characteristics of all included studies are shown in **Table 1**.

### Global Pooled Incidence of EoE

The global pooled incidence of EoE in the 27 included studies was 5.31 cases per 100,000 inhabitant-years (95% CI, 3.98–6.63; *I*<sup>2</sup> = 99.7%) with a 95% PI of –1.72 to 12.34<sup>13-22,24,28,29,35-37,39,40,42-44,46-51</sup> (**Table 2**). The pooled incidence of EoE was higher in the HIC group<sup>13-22,24,28,29,36,37,39,40,43,44,46-51</sup> than in the LMIC group<sup>35,42</sup> (5.63; 95% CI, 4.24–7.03 vs 1.64; 95% CI, 0.04–3.24 cases per 100,000 inhabitant-years). The incidence studies included Serbia and Brazil as LMICs. The pooled incidence of EoE was higher in males<sup>17,22,25,37-39,47,48,50</sup> than in females<sup>17,22,25,37-39,47,48,50</sup> (9.38; 95% CI, 7.49–11.28 vs 2.83; 95% CI, 2.05–3.62 per 100,000 inhabitant-years). The odds ratio (OR) for EoE in male compared with female was 3.94 (95% CI, 2.78–5.59). The pooled incidence of EoE was higher in adults<sup>14,22,37,39,44,47,49,50</sup> compared with children<sup>13,15,16,18,29,35,36,39,40,42-44,46-48,50</sup> (7.20; 95% CI, 4.84–9.56 vs 4.95; 95% CI, 3.91–5.98 cases per 100,000 inhabitant-years) (**Supplementary Tables 12 and 13**). The

OR for EoE in adults compared with children was 1.45 (95% CI, 0.97–2.17). However, when sorted by sex and age group, the pooled incidence of EoE was highest in male children<sup>39,40</sup> (18.88; 95% CI, 15.31–22.44), followed by male adults<sup>22,37,39</sup> (13.36; 95% CI, 10.90–15.81), and lowest in female adults<sup>22,37,39</sup> (2.22; 95% CI, 0.17–4.26). The pooled incidence of EoE was higher in North America<sup>13,16,17,21,24,36,43</sup> than in Europe<sup>14,18–20,22,28,29,37,39,40,42,46–51</sup> or Oceania<sup>15,44</sup> (10.02; 95% CI, 6.53–13.52 vs 4.16; 95% CI, 2.47–5.86 or 4.99; 95% CI, 1.22–8.76 cases per 100,000 inhabitant-years, respectively). In addition, the pooled incidence of EoE was lower in researcher validation cases studies<sup>13–22,24,28,29,35–37,39,40,42–44,46–51</sup> compared with code-based studies<sup>3,23,26,27,30,32–34,41</sup> (5.31; 95% CI, 3.98–6.63 vs 9.53; 95% CI, 6.69–12.38 per 100,000 inhabitant-years) (Supplementary Table 2).

The national pooled incidence of EoE in individual countries is shown in Supplementary Tables 4, 5, and Figure 1 (A). The incidence of EoE tends to increase with time. The incidence was 0.31 (95% CI, 0.19–0.42) cases per 100,000 inhabitant-years before the year 2001,<sup>13–15,17,19,25,47</sup> 0.79 (95% CI, 0.55–1.03) during the years 2002 to 2004,<sup>13–17,19,28,35,38,40,47</sup> 1.53 (95% CI, 1.15–1.91) during 2005 to 2007,<sup>18–21,24,28,29,35–37,39,40,47,51</sup> 4.10 (95% CI, 2.66–5.55) during 2008 to 2010,<sup>19,22,25,28,29,35,37,39,40,42,50,51</sup> 6.95 (95% CI, 5.60–8.30) during 2011 to 2013,<sup>28,29,35–37,39,40,42–44,46,49–51</sup> 8.42 (95% CI, 7.23–9.61) during 2014 to 2016,<sup>36–39,42–44,46,48,49,51</sup> and 6.81 (95% CI, 2.32–11.31) during 2017 to 2022.<sup>39,42,46,47,50</sup> The pooled incidence was highest in 2014 to 2016. Details of the characteristics of the time trends in pooled EoE incidence are provided in Supplementary Tables 8 and 9. The time trends in the incidence of EoE showed a significant increase in our systematic review ( $P_{\text{trend}} = .002$ ) (Figure 2 and Supplementary Figures 2 and 3). In addition, temporal trends in the incidence rates of EoE within the longitudinal cohort studies included in our systematic review are presented in Figure 3. These global prevalence patterns of EoE in cohort studies followed similar patterns.

### Global Pooled Prevalence of EoE

The global pooled prevalence of EoE in the 20 included studies was 40.04 cases per 100,000 inhabitant-years (95% CI, 31.10–48.98;  $I^2 = 99.6\%$ ), with a 95% PI of –1.86 to 81.94<sup>13–19,21,22,24,28,31,35,37,39,40,42,43,47,50</sup> (Table 3). The pooled prevalence of EoE was higher in HICs<sup>13–19,21,22,24,28,37,39,40,43,47,50</sup> than in LMICs<sup>31,35,42</sup> (45.05; 95% CI, 34.97–55.12 vs. 14.17; 95% CI, 1.73–26.61 cases per 100,000 inhabitant-years, respectively). Prevalence studies have shown that LMICs include Serbia, China, and Brazil. The pooled prevalence of EoE was higher in males<sup>17,22,37,39,50</sup> than in females<sup>17,22,37,39,50</sup> (111.09; 95% CI, 84.70–137.47 vs 32.83; 95% CI, 14.16–51.50 cases per 100,000 inhabitant-years). The OR for EoE in males compared with females was 3.38 (95%

CI, 1.69–6.74). The pooled prevalence of EoE was higher in adults<sup>14,22,31,37,39</sup> than in children<sup>13,15,16,18,35,39,40,42,43,50</sup> (52.95; 95% CI, 21.95–83.96 vs 32.90; 95% CI, 22.69–43.12 per 100,000 inhabitant-years) (Supplementary Tables 14 and 15). The OR for EoE in adults compared with children was 1.60 (95% CI, 0.77–3.39). However, when sorted by sex and age group, the pooled prevalence of EoE was highest in male children<sup>39</sup> (172.00; 95% CI, 96.30–283.50), followed by male adults<sup>22,37,39</sup> (131.40; 95% CI, 78.34–184.47 cases per 100,000 inhabitant-years), and lowest in female adults<sup>22,37,39</sup> (23.01; 95% CI, –1.08 to 47.09 cases per 100,000 inhabitant-years). The pooled prevalence of EoE was higher in North America<sup>13,16,17,21,24,43</sup> compared with Europe<sup>14,18,19,22,28,37,39,40,42,47,50</sup> (50.99; 95% CI, 18.95–83.03 vs 42.49; 95% CI, 29.04–55.93 cases per 100,000 inhabitant-years) (Supplementary Table 3).

The national pooled prevalence of EoE in individual countries is shown in Supplementary Tables 6 and 7 and Figure 1 (B). The prevalence of EoE has also increased over time. Before the year 2001:<sup>19</sup> 8.18; 95% CI, 3.67–12.69 cases per 100,000 inhabitant-years; 2002 to 2004:<sup>13,14,16,17,19</sup> 27.64; 95% CI, 11.04–44.23; 2005 to 2007:<sup>18,19,21,24</sup> 20.74; 95% CI, –3.85 to 45.32; 2008 to 2010:<sup>19,22</sup> 43.27; 95% CI, 35.92–50.61; 2011 to 2013:<sup>28,40,50</sup> 32.36; 95% CI, 20.24–44.49; 2014 to 2016:<sup>31,37,43</sup> 70.44; 95% CI, 0.74–140.14; and 2017 to 2022:<sup>39,47,50</sup> 74.42; 95% CI, 39.66–109.19. The pooled prevalence was the highest in 2017 to 2022. Details of the characteristics of the time trends in the pooled prevalence of EoE are provided in Supplementary Tables 10 and 11 and Figure 2. The time trends in the prevalence of EoE showed a significant increase in our systematic review ( $P_{\text{trend}} = .004$ ) (Figure 2 and Supplementary Figures 2 and 3).

**Publication Bias Assessment.** Funnel plots were evaluated for asymmetry and were found to be at low risk of publication bias (Egger test:  $P = .181$  for the overall incidence of EoE and  $P = .168$  for the overall prevalence of EoE). However, funnel plots showed asymmetry in some subgroup analyses of the incidence and prevalence of EoE, indicating evidence of publication bias. Details of the funnel plots for the incidence and prevalence of EoE studies are provided in Supplementary Figures 4 through 70.

Forty-five studies were evaluated to determine the risk of bias. Five studies were evaluated as having a high risk of bias and excluded from the analysis.<sup>52–56</sup> Eight studies were evaluated as having a moderate risk of bias,<sup>23,24,26–28,30,34,45</sup> and 32 studies were evaluated as having a low risk of bias.<sup>3,13–20,22,25,29,31–44,46–51</sup> The questions used to evaluate the risk in most studies were “Was the study’s target population a close representation of the national population in relation to relevant variables?” (which corresponds to 28 studies<sup>13–22,24,27,28,30,31,36,37,39,40,42–44,46,48,49,52,53,56</sup>); “Was some form of random selection used to select the sample or was a census undertaken?” (24 studies<sup>3,20,21,23,24,26,32,33,38,41,42,44–56</sup>); and “Was the study

**Table 2.** Global Pooled Incidence of EoE Included in Our Systematic Review (Researcher-validated Studies)

|  | Number of studies | Number of participants | Pooled estimates (95% CI) <sup>a</sup> | 95% prediction interval | I <sup>2</sup> , % | P value for I <sup>2</sup> | Egger P value |
|--|-------------------|------------------------|--|-------------------------|--------------------|----------------------------|---------------|
| Overall incidence                        | 27                | 42,191,506             | 5.31 (3.98–6.63)                       | –1.72 to 12.34          | 99.7               | < .0001                    | .181          |
| Income                                   |                   |                        |  |                         |                    |                            |               |
| HICs                                     | 26                | 41,527,705             | 5.63 (4.24–7.03)                       | –1.51 to 12.77          | 99.7               | < .0001                    | .259          |
| LMICs                                    | 2                 | 663,801                | 1.64 (0.04–3.24)                       | NA                      | 95.4               | < .0001                    | NA            |
| Gender                                   |                   |                        |  |                         |                    |                            |               |
| Male                                     | 12                | 6,197,870              | 9.38 (7.49–11.28)                      | 2.38–16.38              | 98.3               | < .0001                    | .003          |
| Female                                   | 12                | 6,265,280              | 2.83 (2.05–3.62)                       | 0.04–5.62               | 96.0               | < .0001                    | .012          |
| Age group                                |                   |                        |  |                         |                    |                            |               |
| Children                                 | 18                | 7,482,819              | 4.95 (3.91–5.98)                       | 0.77–9.14               | 97.7               | < .0001                    | .001          |
| Adults                                   | 9                 | 4,433,903              | 7.20 (4.84–9.56)                       | –1.67 to 16.07          | 99.7               | < .0001                    | .778          |
| Gender and age group                     |                   |                        |  |                         |                    |                            |               |
| Male children                            | 3                 | 507,807                | 18.88 (15.31–22.44)                    | –4.20 to 41.96          | <0.0001            | .781                       | .032          |
| Female children                          | 3                 | 482,621                | 8.71 (4.69–12.72)                      | –35.39 to 52.82         | 62.5               | .07                        | .424          |
| Male adults                              | 3                 | 127,632                | 13.36 (10.90–15.81)                    | –10.88 to 37.60         | 43.7               | .169                       | .789          |
| Female adults                            | 3                 | 131,680                | 2.22 (0.17–4.26)                       | –23.17 to 27.61         | 90.2               | < .0001                    | .259          |
| Geographical areas                       |                   |                        |  |                         |                    |                            |               |
| North America                            | 8                 | 2,564,963              | 10.02 (6.53–13.52)                     | –1.21 to 21.25          | 98.9               | < .0001                    | .054          |
| Europe                                   | 17                | 35,702,869             | 4.16 (2.47–5.86)                       | –3.54 to 11.86          | 99.8               | < .0001                    | .139          |
| Oceania                                  | 2                 | 3,669,968              | 4.99 (1.22–8.76)                       | NA                      | 97.6               | < .0001                    | NA            |
| Diagnostic criteria for EoE <sup>a</sup> |                   |                        |  |                         |                    |                            |               |
| Before 2007 consensus                    | 4                 | 3,598,411              | 3.67 (1.57–5.77)                       | –6.26 to 13.60          | 98.4               | < .0001                    | .421          |
| After 2007 consensus                     | 3                 | 726,164                | 2.36 (1.61–3.11)                       | –4.50 to 9.22           | 26.1               | .258                       | .882          |
| After updated consensus 2011             | 10                | 18,935,420             | 4.96 (2.19–7.73)                       | –4.62 to 14.54          | 99.9               | < .0001                    | .484          |
| After 2018 guidelines                    | 12                | 34,822,591             | 6.32 (4.81–7.83)                       | 0.31–12.33              | 98.9               | < .0001                    | < .001        |

CI, Confidence interval; EoE, eosinophilic esophagitis; HICs, high-income countries; LMICs, low- or middle-income countries (Serbia and Brazil); NA, not available. <sup>a</sup>Guideline definition: The 2007 consensus definition is based on its-related symptoms, biopsy findings ( $\geq 15$  eosinophils/high-power field), and exclusion of other disorders associated with similar clinical, histological, or endoscopic features; updated 2011 consensus of EoE is inclusion of the word chronic, the term immune or antigen driven, and the term proton pump inhibitor-responsive esophageal eosinophilia; and 2018 guidelines definition of EoE includes symptoms of esophageal dysfunction, biopsy findings ( $\geq 15$  eosinophils/ high-power field), and no significant other causes of symptoms or esophageal eosinophilia with removal of proton pump inhibitor trial requirement.

instrument that measured the parameter of interest shown to have reliability and validity?" (19 studies<sup>21,23-28,30-34,38,41,45,53-56</sup>). Details of the risk of bias for the prevalence studies are provided in [Supplementary Table 16](#).

## Discussion

### Findings From Our Study

This systematic review and meta-analysis collected data from 1976 to 2022 and reports the incidence and prevalence of EoE in 40 studies with a total sample size of 287,974,384 participants and 147,668 patients. The global pooled incidence of EoE was 5.31 cases per 100,000 inhabitant-years, and the global pooled prevalence was 40.04 cases per 100,000 inhabitant-years. The pooled prevalence and incidence of EoE were higher in HICs, males, and North America. The pooled prevalence of EoE gradually increased from 1976 to 2022 (1976–2001: 8.18; 95% CI, 3.67–12.69 vs 2017–2022: 74.42; 95% CI, 39.66–109.19 cases per 100,000

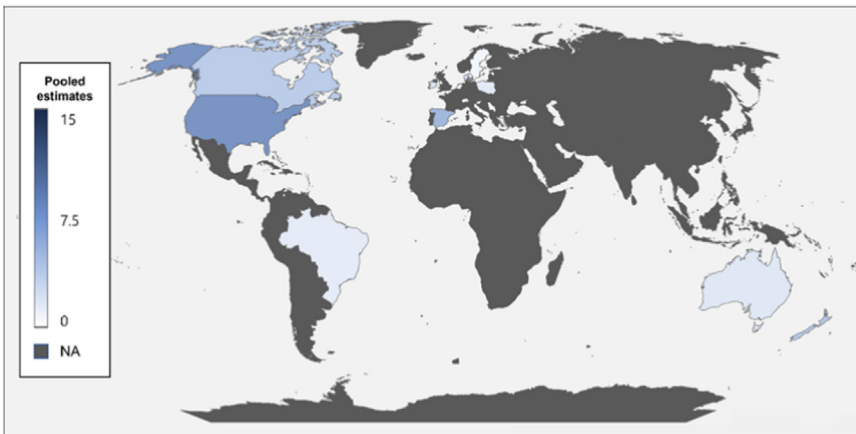
inhabitant-years). The incidence and prevalence of EoE vary widely by region, which may be a consequence of underdiagnosis. In particular, in LMICs, the prevalence of EoE in the general population has not been studied, and the rate of endoscopy and doctors' disease awareness is probably low, leading to underdiagnosis.<sup>45,57</sup> To determine the incidence and prevalence of EoE in unanalyzed LMICs, it is necessary to raise awareness of EoE globally.

### Comparison With Previous Studies

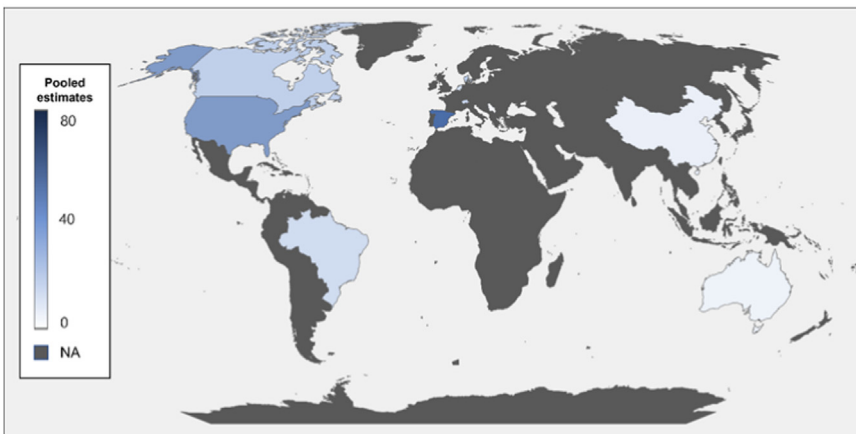
Several reviews have evaluated the incidence and prevalence of EoEs in the general population. The most recent systematic review was published in 2019, which analyzed 29 studies on EoE.<sup>5</sup> According to the study, the overall incidence of EoE was 4.4 cases per 100,000 inhabitant-years, and the overall prevalence of EoE was 34.2 cases per 100,000 inhabitant-years, which is similar to our study. By region, North America showed a higher incidence and prevalence than Europe, which is consistent with our results. However, some studies were excluded because the electronic medical database was



A



B



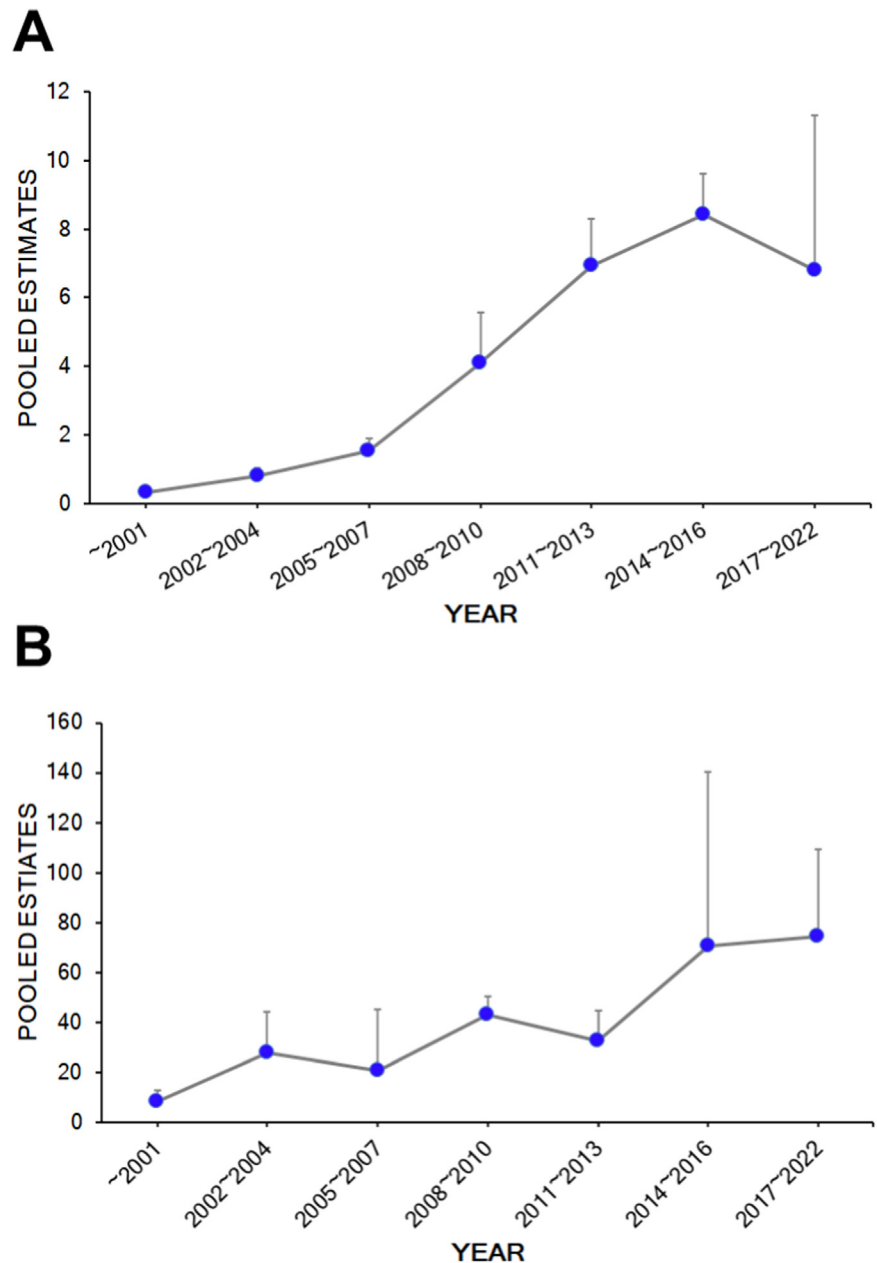
**Figure 1.** Global incidence (A) and prevalence (B) of EoE, 1976 to 2022. Pooled estimates, cases per 100,000 inhabitant-years.

not sufficiently included in their review; therefore, only 29 studies were included. In addition, since the new EoE diagnostic criteria were proposed in 2018 and the study was published in 2019, the ability to assess the incidence and prevalence of EoE after the 2018 diagnostic criteria was updated and expanded is limited. In addition, there were no data on sex, age, or racial comparisons, and only data from Western countries were included in the analysis. Other studies have analyzed the incidence and prevalence of EoE by country only,<sup>5</sup> not by looking at global or regional trends in EoE. This emphasizes the need for research that reflects the latest trends, such as those observed in our study.

#### *Possible Explanation of Our Results*

In our study, the incidence and prevalence of EoE increased by 27.2 and 9.1 times, respectively, compared with those before the 2000s. In the 2000s, it was reported that the incidence of EoE increased by 40% or 5 times, over 4 years,<sup>13,21</sup> and by 27 times over 10 years.<sup>17</sup> Therefore, the incidence and prevalence of EoE have continued to increase, likely for several reasons. First,

there were effects due to changes in EoE diagnostic criteria. The 2007 criteria required more than 15 eosinophils/HPF in the esophageal biopsy and the absence of pathologic GERD. However, the 2011 updated consensus included the term PPI-responsive esophageal eosinophilia, which indicates a potential disease phenotype. According to the 2018 guidelines, patients responding to PPI therapy were part of the EoE continuum, and EoE and GERD co-existed. Therefore, patients with EoE may have been underestimated by excluding those with response to PPIs, or GERD. Second, several studies have shown a relationship between early life exposure and EoE. The use of antibiotics during the first year of life,<sup>58</sup> admission to the neonatal intensive care unit,<sup>59</sup> maternal fever,<sup>60</sup> cesarean delivery,<sup>58</sup> and preterm labor<sup>60</sup> substantially increased the risk of developing EoE, whereas breastfeeding and having a pet at home decreased the risk of EoE.<sup>59,60</sup> In addition, studies have shown that *Helicobacter pylori* and EoE are strongly negatively correlated,<sup>61</sup> and PPI and EoE are positively correlated.<sup>58,62</sup> Advances in medicine have led to the increased use of antibiotics and PPI during the first year of life, an increased number of preterm infants

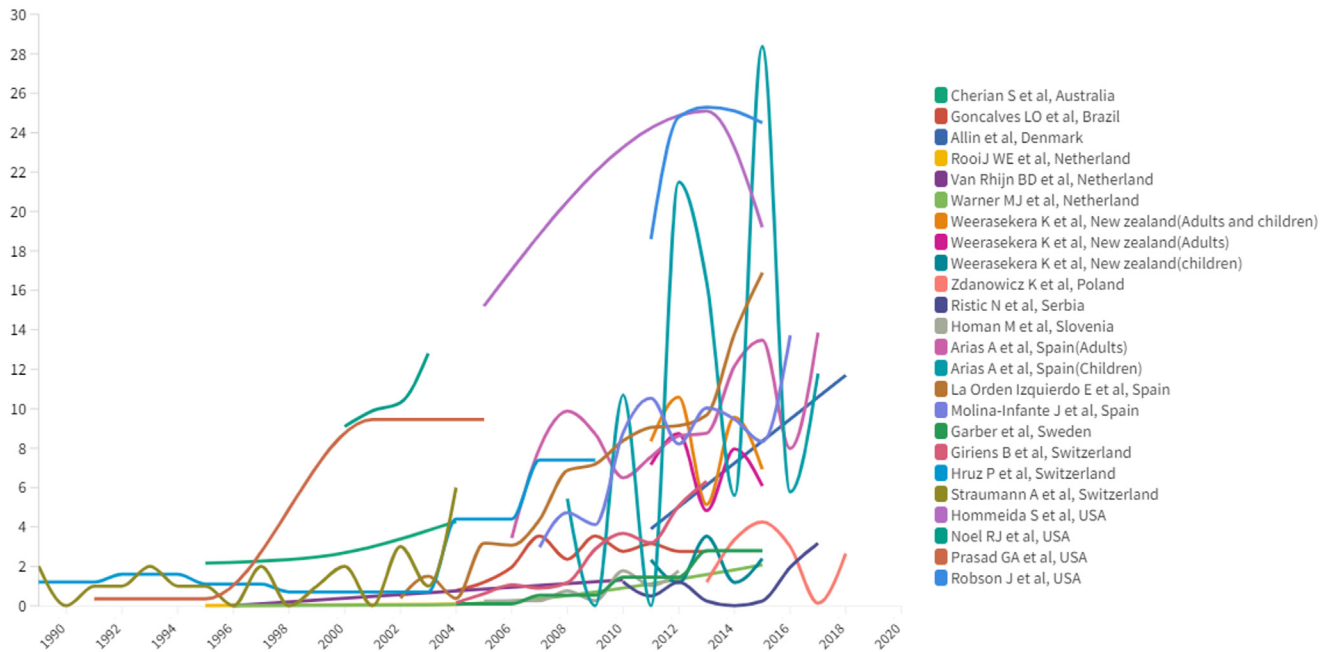


**Figure 2.** Time trends of incidence (A) and prevalence (B) of EoE, 1976 to 2022. Pooled estimates, cases per 100,000 inhabitant-years.

and neonatal intensive care unit admissions, and a reduced incidence of *Helicobacter pylori* infection. These factors may have contributed to the increased incidence of EoEs. Third, since endoscopy has become common in the diagnosis of gastrointestinal diseases, and because EoE diagnosis is based on patient symptoms and endoscopic biopsy, this has led to an increase in disease awareness and increased incidence and prevalence of EoE.<sup>5</sup> Fourth, it may be associated with an increased prevalence of immune-mediated diseases. The prevalence of atopic and allergic diseases is increasing.<sup>4</sup> Studies on the genetic etiology of EoE have been actively conducted, including the confirmation of significant genetic sharing between EoE and other immune-mediated diseases,<sup>63</sup> and the risk of EoE incidence increased with a history of atopy or food allergy.<sup>64</sup>

Therefore, the increase in the prevalence of immune-mediated diseases such as EoE, atopy, and allergies may be interconnected and a global phenomenon.

There are several possible reasons for the differences in the incidence and prevalence of EoE between regions and countries. Each country or region has different sociocultural factors, degrees of perception of symptoms, dietary patterns, and environmental factors.<sup>55,65</sup> In particular, health care services differ from country to country, and, in the case of EoE,<sup>66</sup> because endoscopic biopsy is essential for diagnosis, the incidence may differ. In addition, the higher incidence and prevalence of EoE in HICs than in LMICs may be due to the differences in food allergies, allergic diseases, and atopic diseases.<sup>67</sup> LMICs have a lower incidence and prevalence of allergic diseases. With improved hygiene



**Figure 3.** Temporal trends of incidence rates of EoE included in our systematic review.

and sanitation conditions, allergic diseases are more likely to appear.<sup>68</sup>

### Strengths and Limitations

This study has several limitations. First, there is a lack of representation outside the United States and Europe in the incidence and prevalence of EoE. Here, we investigated the incidence and prevalence of EoE in the general population. North America and Europe were mainly included in the study; there was no literature available regarding South America, Asia, and Africa, except for Brazil and China. Therefore, it is difficult to clarify the regional differences in the incidence or prevalence of EoE. To address this, we attempted to express regional differences by presenting an analysis by country and race as much as possible. Second, for the diagnosis of EoE, endoscopic biopsy and patient symptoms are essential. As endoscopy has become more common, the incidence of EoE has inevitably increased. In addition, the symptoms of EoE may differ according to race,<sup>69,70</sup> and the difference in the rate of endoscopy based on the symptoms may appear as a racial difference. Moreover, in countries where endoscopy is difficult, the incidence of EoE can be misrepresented as being low. Further studies using a reliable noninvasive diagnostic method are needed to clearly identify regional and racial differences in EoE. However, the current study investigated the incidence and prevalence of EoE according to guidelines that require an invasive diagnostic method. Third, there was significant heterogeneity between the studies in our analysis; therefore, the results should be interpreted with caution. The possible reasons for this heterogeneity include the characteristics of prevalence

studies, multiple changes in the diagnostic criteria for EoE, differences in biopsy protocols, differences in endoscopic operators, demographic or cultural differences between study populations, and the fact that EoE is diagnosed only with endoscopy.<sup>71</sup> In addition, the incidence and prevalence of EoE have increased significantly as the diagnostic criteria for EoE have been revised. Meta-analysis studies with increased incidence and prevalence of diseases have shown higher heterogeneity.<sup>72,73</sup> In addition, EoE is diagnosed only through endoscopy procedures, and therefore, the estimates of the incidence and prevalence of EoE are mainly dependent on the rate at which endoscopies are performed in a country and region. Therefore, regional differences appeared regardless of the actual prevalence of EoE, particularly in countries or regions with poor access to health care facilities. However, our summary data may be useful for understanding the incidence and prevalence of EoE from a global perspective despite the heterogeneity between studies. Fourth, only the studies published in English were included in the analysis. The diversity of our analysis may have been reduced by excluding foreign-language studies. Fifth, some pooled estimates or 95% prediction intervals estimated as negative values in Tables 2 and 3 are considered to have sparse data bias.<sup>74</sup> Therefore, caution should be exercised when interpreting these results. Sixth, we did not perform a meta-regression analysis. Since there was a significant degree of heterogeneity between studies in our analysis, we should speculate the reason for the variance and perform meta-regression to explain it. However, the number of studies was insufficient to perform a meta-regression analysis. Therefore, we attempted to explain heterogeneity through various subgroup analyses.

**Table 3.** Global Pooled Prevalence of EoE Included in Our Systematic Review (Researcher-validated Studies)

|  | Number of studies | Number of participants | Pooled estimates (95% CI) <sup>a</sup> | 95% prediction interval | I <sup>2</sup> , % | P value for I <sup>2</sup> | Egger P value |
|--|-------------------|------------------------|--|-------------------------|--------------------|----------------------------|---------------|
| Overall prevalence                       | 20                | 30,467,177             | 40.04 (31.10–48.98)                    | –1.86 to 81.94          | 99.6               | < .0001                    | .168          |
| Income                                   |                   |                        |  |                         |                    |                            |               |
| HICs                                     | 16                | 29,799,776             | 45.05 (34.97–55.12)                    | 0.61–89.49              | 99.6               | < .0001                    | .133          |
| LMICs                                    | 3                 | 667,401                | 14.17 (1.73–26.61)                     | –141.26 to 169.60       | 93.0               | < .0001                    | .506          |
| Gender                                   |                   |                        |  |                         |                    |                            |               |
| Male                                     | 6                 | 2,917,196              | 111.09 (84.70–137.47)                  | 23.82–198.36            | 88.8               | < .0001                    | .620          |
| Female                                   | 6                 | 2,965,248              | 32.83 (14.16–51.50)                    | –32.33 to 97.99         | 96.4               | < .0001                    | .619          |
| Age group                                |                   |                        |  |                         |                    |                            |               |
| Children                                 | 10                | 6,992,753              | 32.90 (22.69–43.12)                    | –5.16 to 70.96          | 99.3               | < .0001                    | .034          |
| Adults                                   | 5                 | 452,686                | 52.95 (21.95–83.96)                    | –68.12 to 174.02        | 96.6               | < .0001                    | .047          |
| Gender and age group                     |                   |                        |  |                         |                    |                            |               |
| Male children                            | 1                 | 8,721                  | 172.00 (96.30–283.50)                  | NA                      | NA                 | NA                         | NA            |
| Female children                          | 1                 | 8,263                  | 48.41 (13.20–123.90)                   | NA                      | NA                 | NA                         | NA            |
| Male adults                              | 3                 | 126,684                | 131.40 (78.34–184.47)                  | –525.91 to 788.71       | 89.2               | < .0001                    | .513          |
| Female adults                            | 3                 | 130,971                | 23.01 (–1.08–47.09)                    | –278.95 to 324.97       | 92.4               | < .0001                    | .270          |
| Geographical areas                       |                   |                        |  |                         |                    |                            |               |
| North America                            | 5                 | 2,564,963              | 50.99 (18.95–83.03)                    | –75.86 to 177.84        | 99.6               | < .0001                    | .155          |
| Europe                                   | 11                | 24,356,255             | 42.49 (29.04–55.93)                    | –10.17 to 95.15         | 99.6               | < .0001                    | .436          |
| Diagnostic criteria for EoE <sup>a</sup> |                   |                        |  |                         |                    |                            |               |
| Before 2007 consensus                    | 4                 | 3,598,411              | 18.41 (11.05–25.78)                    | –15.36 to 52.18         | 95.8               | < .0001                    | .227          |
| After 2007 consensus                     | 2                 | 376,164                | 27.79 (–22.87–78.45)                   | NA                      | 98.6               | < .0001                    | NA            |
| After updated consensus 2011             | 6                 | 18,467,705             | 27.64 (17.16–38.11)                    | –10.06 to 65.34         | 97.9               | < .0001                    | .068          |
| After 2018 guidelines                    | 8                 | 24,316,043             | 60.20 (39.94–80.45)                    | –14.74 to 135.14        | 99.7               | < .0001                    | .190          |

CI, Confidence interval; EoE, eosinophilic esophagitis; HICs, high-income countries; LMICs, low- or middle-income countries (Serbia, China, and Brazil); NA, not available.

<sup>a</sup>Guideline definition: The 2007 consensus definition is based on its related symptoms, biopsy findings ( $\geq 15$  eosinophils/high-power field), and exclusion of other disorders associated with similar clinical, histological, or endoscopic features; updated 2011 consensus of EoE is inclusion of the word chronic, the term immune or antigen driven, and the term proton pump inhibitor-responsive esophageal eosinophilia; and 2018 guidelines definition of EoE includes symptoms of esophageal dysfunction, biopsy findings ( $\geq 15$  eosinophils/ high-power field), and no significant other causes of symptoms or esophageal eosinophilia with removal of proton pump inhibitor trial requirement.

Finally, EoE risk factors and the association between EoE and other atopic diseases were not examined. Studies have reported the risk factors for EoE,<sup>75</sup> and studies on its association with other atopic or allergic diseases have also been reported.<sup>76</sup> Further research is needed to determine the correlation between the incidence and prevalence of allergic diseases, including EoE, atopic disorders, and food allergies.

Despite these limitations, this study had several strengths. To identify all studies on EoE, we searched for studies using a number of literature databases. In addition, the incidence and prevalence after revision of the EoE diagnostic criteria were analyzed to determine trends according to the diagnostic criteria. Compared with a previous study conducted in 2019,<sup>5</sup> the incidence and prevalence of EoE were analyzed according to sex, age, race, and country. Based on this, the incidence and prevalence of EoE have been presented as world maps for the first time. We assessed for case validation of all studies included in the research, and overall incidence, overall prevalence, and subgroup analysis of EoE were conducted only with researcher validation cases studies.

In addition, the subgroup analysis by researcher validation cases studies showed a lower incidence of EoE than code-based studies (5.31; 95% CI, 3.98–6.63 vs 9.53; 95% CI, 6.69–12.38 per 100,000 inhabitant-years), suggesting a code-based approach leads to an overestimation of incidence of EoE. By suggesting the prediction interval for EoE, sophisticated statistical techniques can be used to study the incidence and prevalence of EoE in the future. Finally, only studies involving the general EoE population were included in the analysis.

## Conclusion

In conclusion, our study demonstrated the incidence and prevalence of EoE according to sex, age, race, geographical region, and diagnostic criteria. Our results showed that the incidence and prevalence of EoE are continuously increasing, indicating that EoE may become a global health burden in the future. This emphasizes the need to increase the sensitivity of the diagnostic method

and to develop well-established EoE treatment guidelines. Further research is needed in Asia, South America, and Africa to evaluate the incidence and prevalence of EoE in these regions. Finally, the significant variation in the incidence and prevalence of EoE worldwide underscores the importance of genetic, ethnic, and cultural differences in EoE.

## Supplementary Material

Note: To access the supplementary material accompanying this article, visit the online version of *Clinical Gastroenterology and Hepatology* at [www.cghjournal.org](http://www.cghjournal.org), and at <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.cgh.2023.06.005>.

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Nikolaos G. Papadopoulos (Supervision: Lead)

#### Conflicts of interest

The authors disclose no conflicts.

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## Supplementary Results

A total of 40 studies met the eligibility criteria.

### *Global Pooled Prevalence of Eosinophilic Esophagitis*

In total, 4 studies used the diagnostic criteria of eosinophilic esophagitis (EoE) prior to the 2007 consensus, 2 studies used the 2007 consensus, 6 studies used the updated consensus 2011, and 8 studies used the 2018 guidelines. Overall, there was a trend of increasing the prevalence of EoE according to the diagnostic criteria for EoE: 18.41 (95% confidence interval [CI], 11.05–25.78) cases per 100,000 inhabitant-years before the 2007 consensus, 27.79 (95% CI, –22.87 to 78.45) after the 2007 consensus, 27.64 (95% CI, 17.16–38.11) after the updated consensus of 2011, and 60.20 (95% CI, 39.94–80.45) after the 2018 guidelines.

### *Global Pooled Incidence of EoE*

In total, 4 studies used the diagnostic criteria of EoE prior to the 2007 consensus, 3 studies used the 2007 consensus, 10 studies used the updated consensus 2011, and 12 studies used the 2018 guidelines. Overall, there was a trend of increasing the incidence of EoE according to the diagnostic criteria for EoE: 3.67 (95% CI, 1.57–5.77) cases per 100,000 inhabitant-years before the 2007 consensus, 2.36 (95% CI, 1.61–3.11) after the 2007 consensus, 4.96 (95% CI, 2.19–7.73) after the updated consensus of 2011, and 6.32 (95% CI, 4.81–7.83) after the 2018 guidelines.

### *National Pooled Incidence of EoE*

Most of the nationwide studies were conducted in North America and Europe. No studies have been conducted in Africa or Asia, and only 1 study was conducted in South America. The national pooled incidence of EoE in the individual countries is shown in [Supplementary Table 4](#) and [Figure 1 \(A\)](#). The highest incidence of EoE occurred in the United States (10.76; 95% CI, 6.87–14.65) and the lowest in Slovenia (0.79; 95% CI, 0.51–1.16).

### *Time Trends in Pooled Incidence of EoE*

A total of 139 subgroup studies reported the incidence of EoE over time, divided into 3-year intervals.

### *National Pooled Prevalence of EoE*

Similar to incidence studies, most studies evaluating the national prevalence have been conducted in North America or Europe. No studies were conducted in Africa, and only 1 study was conducted in South America and Asia. The highest prevalence of EoE was observed in Spain (71.45 cases per 100,000 inhabitant-years; 95% CI, 47.18–95.72) and the lowest in Serbia (6.83 cases per 100,000 inhabitant-years; 95% CI, 4.96–9.52).

### *Time Trends in Pooled Prevalence of EoE*

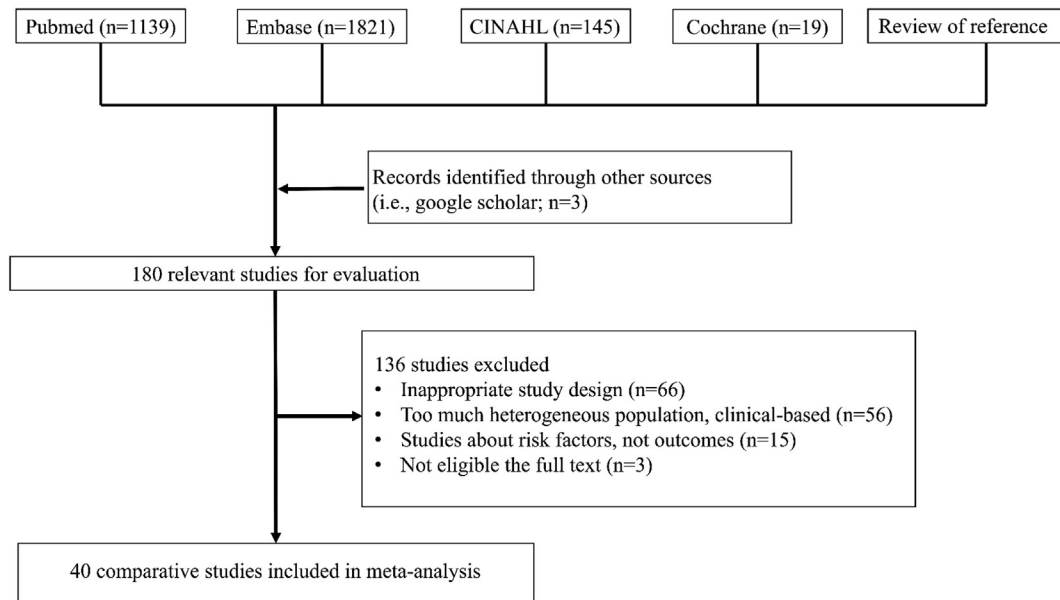
There were 24 subgroup studies which reported the prevalence of EoE over time, divided into 3-year intervals.

## Supplementary discussion

### *Policy Implication*

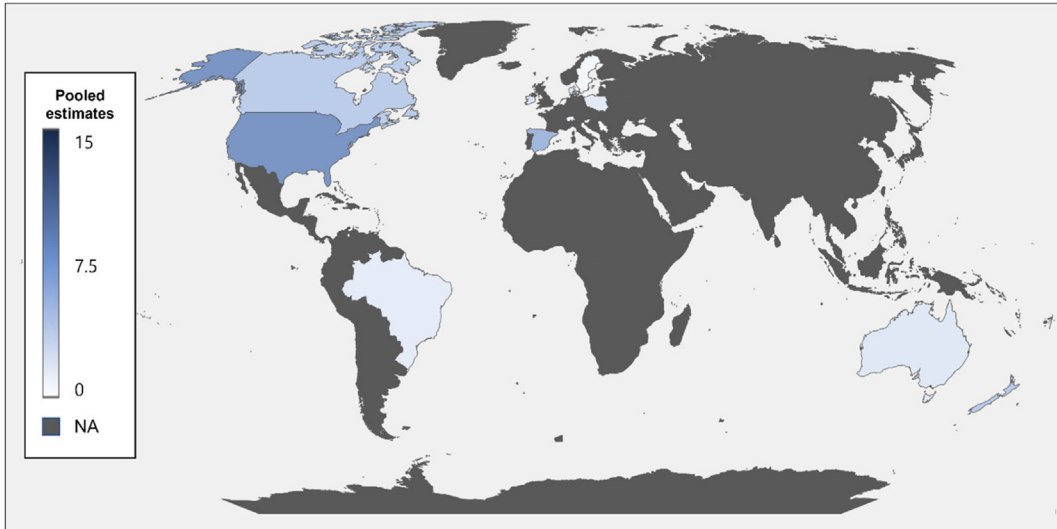
Our study showed that the incidence and prevalence of EoE has been increasing gradually, which deteriorates the quality of life of patients and serves as a health burden worldwide. Although diagnostic delays in EoE have decreased in recent years, EoE remains unrecognized, and complications are common in patients who receive their first medical evaluation. In addition, since disease spectrums have been widely reported, such as EoE being classified into several endotypes, raising disease awareness and sensitivity of the diagnostic method should be considered. To this end, it is necessary to conduct observational research on the incidence and prevalence of EoE in developing countries, where the prevalence of EoE has not been studied. In addition, there is a need to raise awareness of EoE among doctors. Moreover, since endoscopic diagnosis is essential for EoE, the endoscopic implementation rate of this region should also be increased. It is also necessary to develop noninvasive reliable diagnostic biomarkers. There may be limitations to increasing the implementation rate of endoscopes in developing countries, and complications can occur considerably due to the prolonged delay in diagnosing EoE with endoscopy alone. Currently, studies on eosinophil-associated proteins are being actively conducted, and studies on non-endoscopic minimally invasive tests are underway.



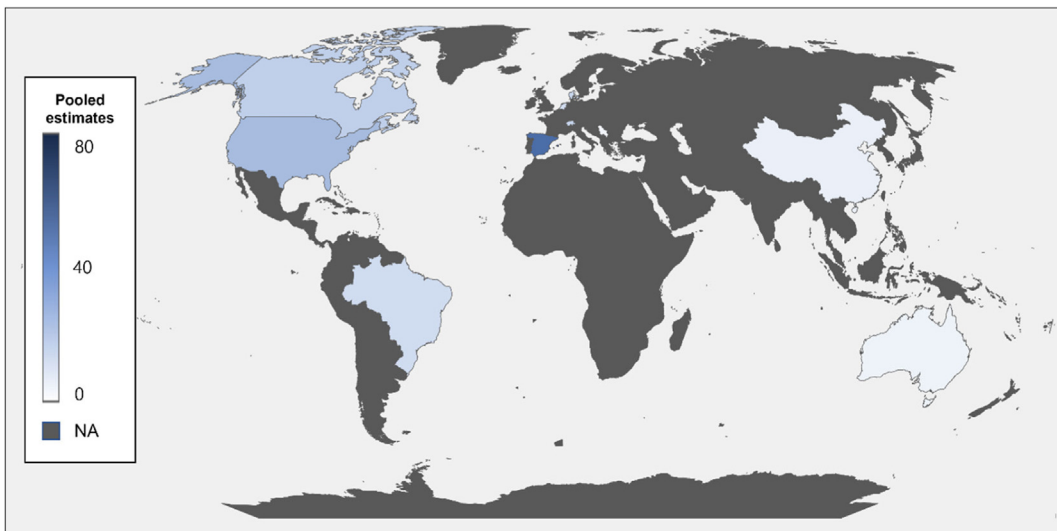


**Supplementary Figure 1.** Flow diagram of study selection.

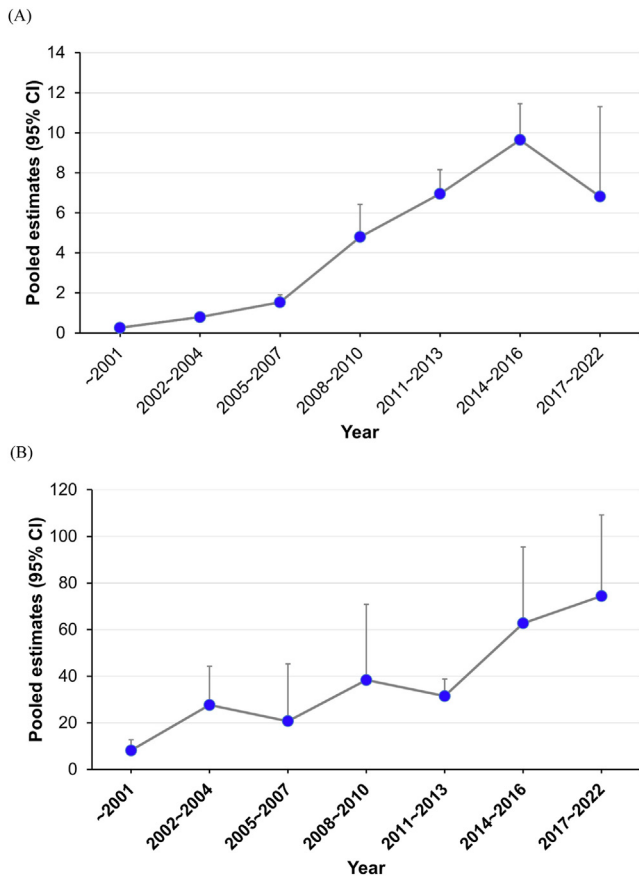
(A)



(B)

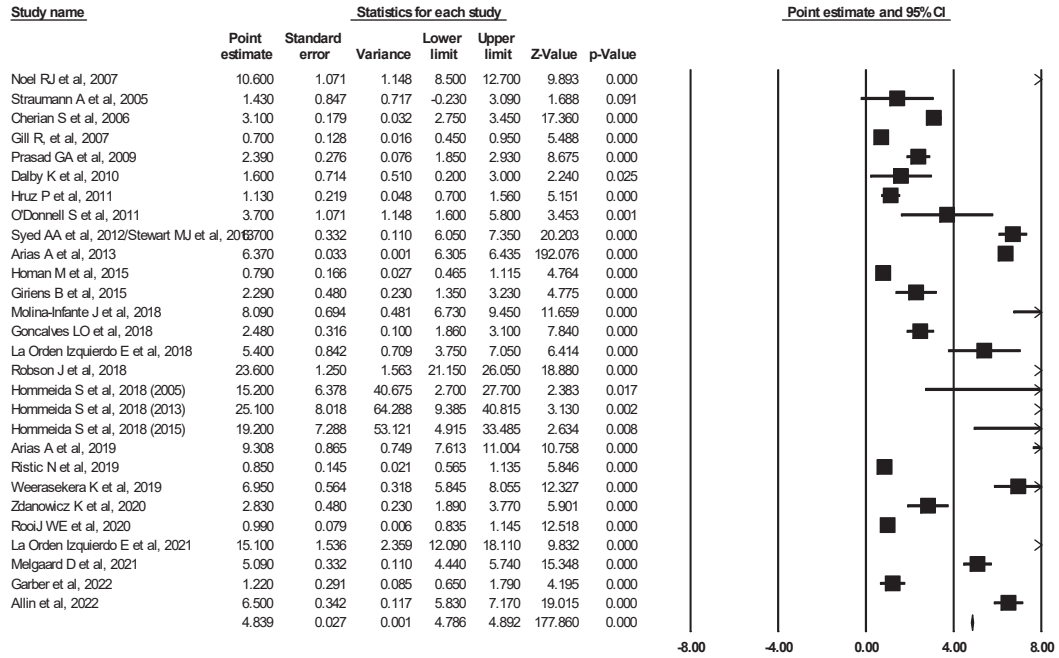


**Supplementary Figure 2.** Global incidence (A) and prevalence (B) of EoE, 1976 to 2022. Pooled estimates, cases per 100,000 inhabitant-years (total study).

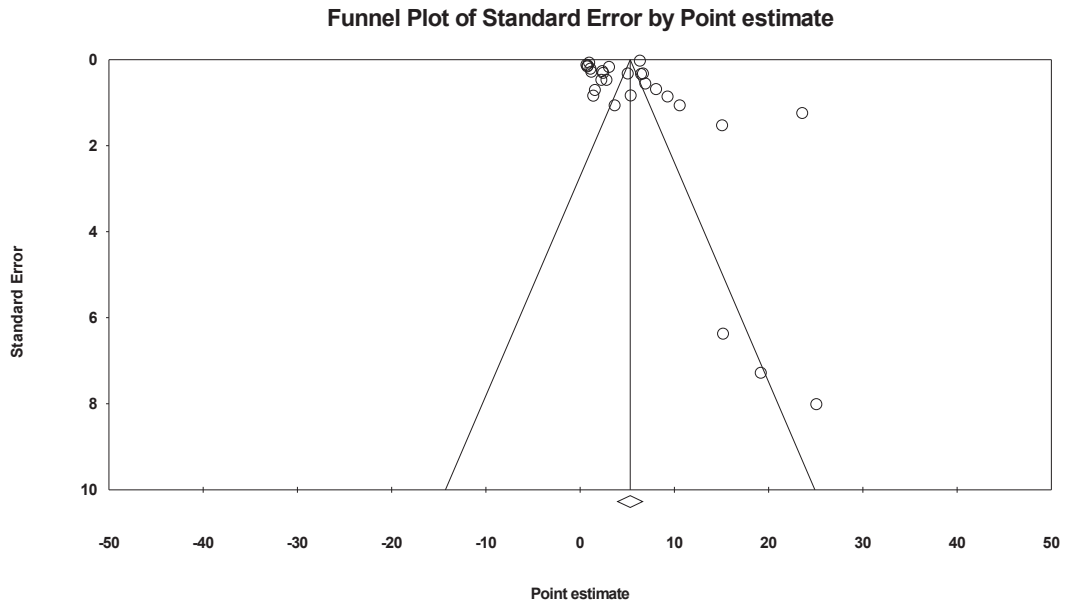


**Supplementary Figure 3.** Time trends of incidence (A) and prevalence (B) of EoE, 1976 to 2022. Pooled estimates, cases per 100,000 inhabitant-years (total study).

1) Forest plot

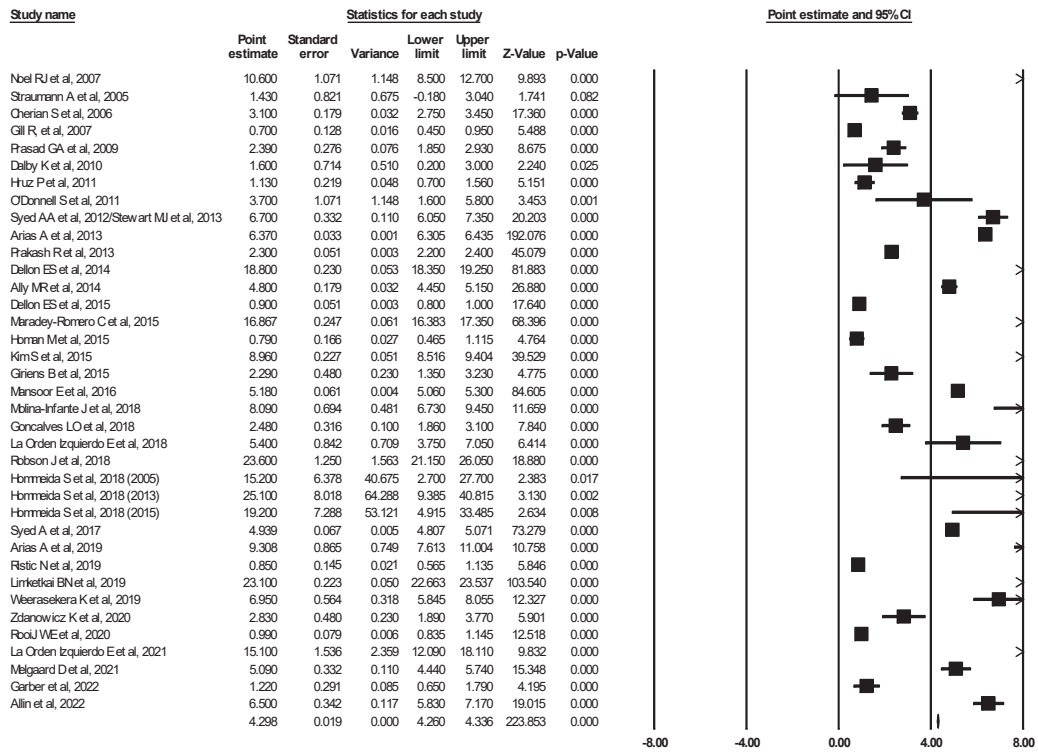


2) Funnel Plot

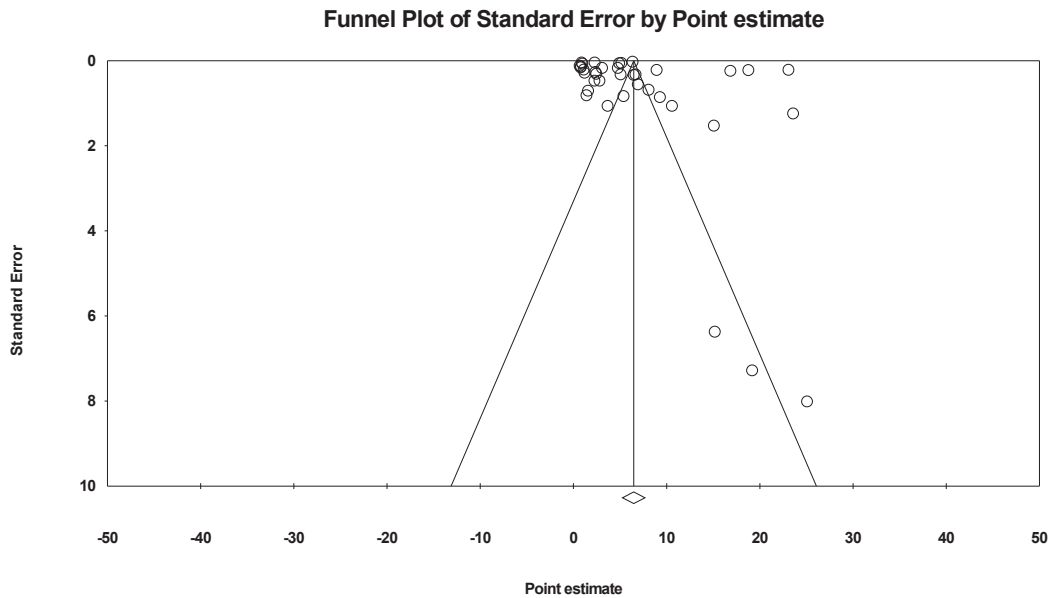


**Supplementary Figure 4.** Overall incidence of EoE included in our systematic review (researcher-validated studies). (A) Forest plot; (B) Funnel plot.

1) Forest plot

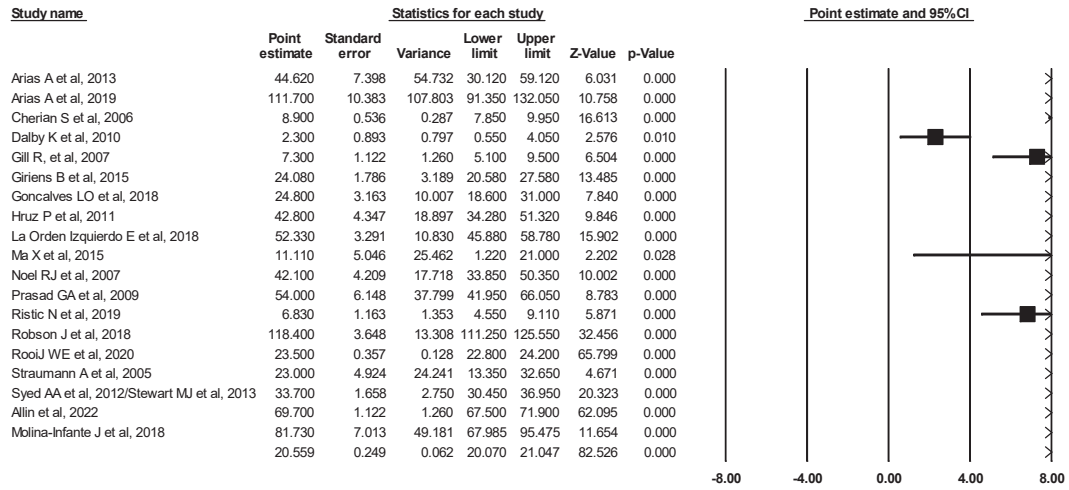


2) Funnel plot

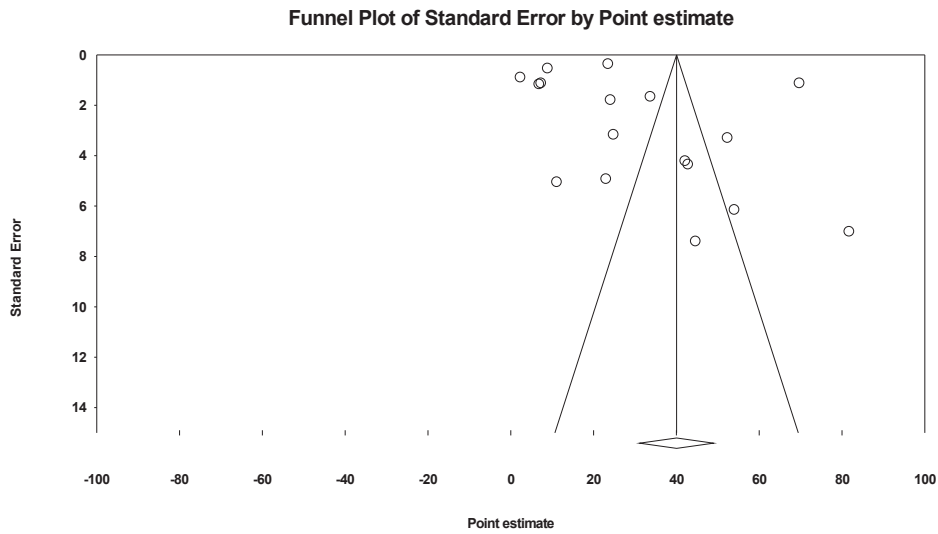


**Supplementary Figure 5.** Overall incidence of EoE included in our systematic review (total study). (A) Forest plot; (B) Funnel plot.

1) Forest plot

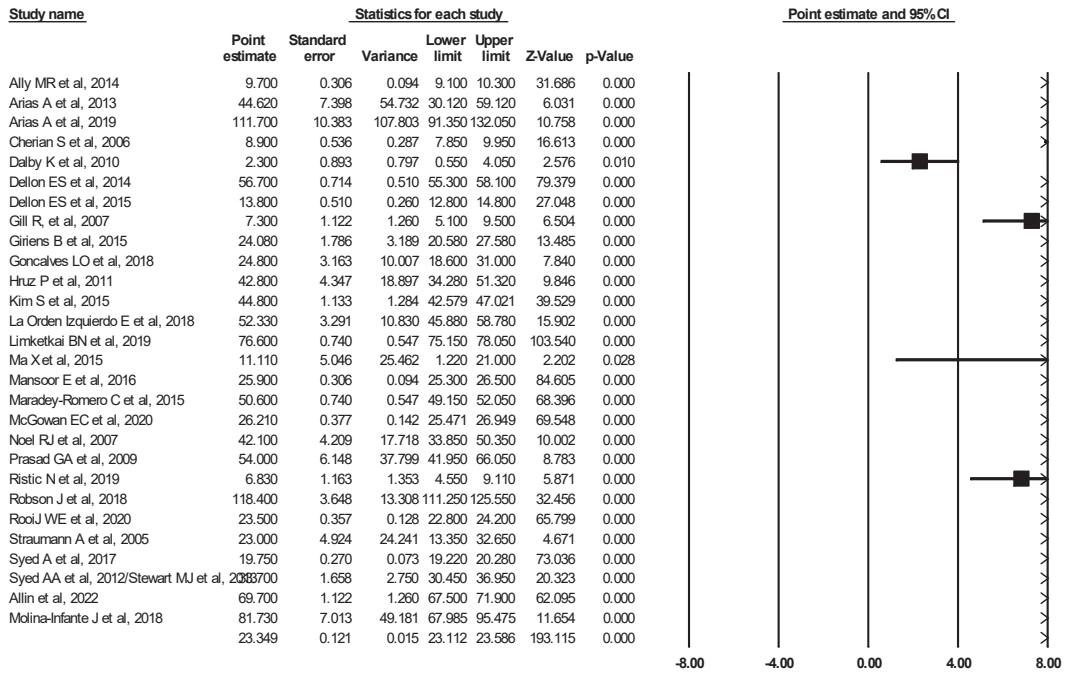


2) Funnel plot

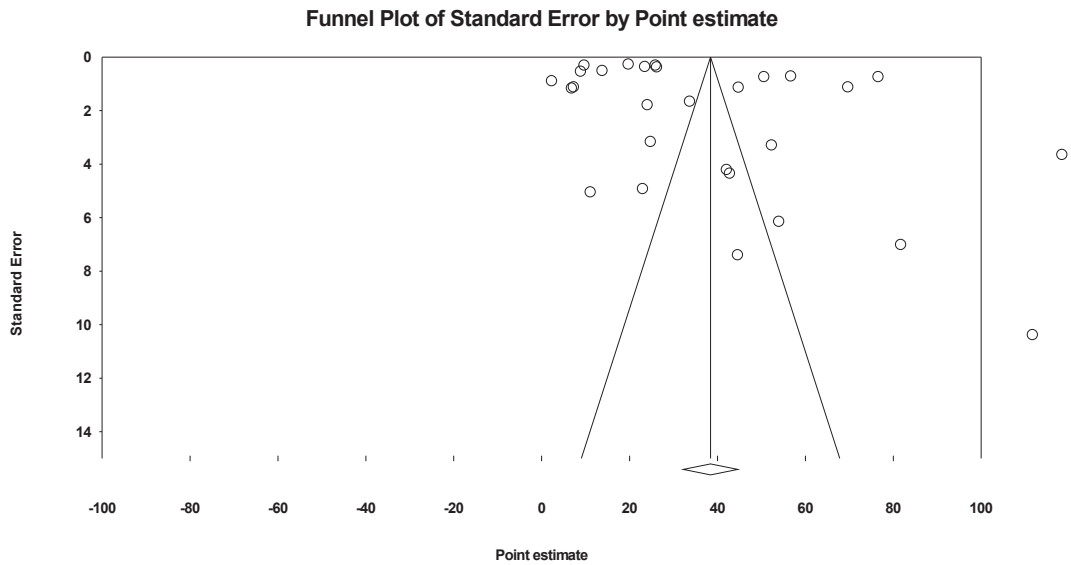


**Supplementary Figure 6.** Overall prevalence of EoE included in our systematic review (researcher-validated studies). (A) Forest plot; (B) Funnel plot.

1) Forest plot

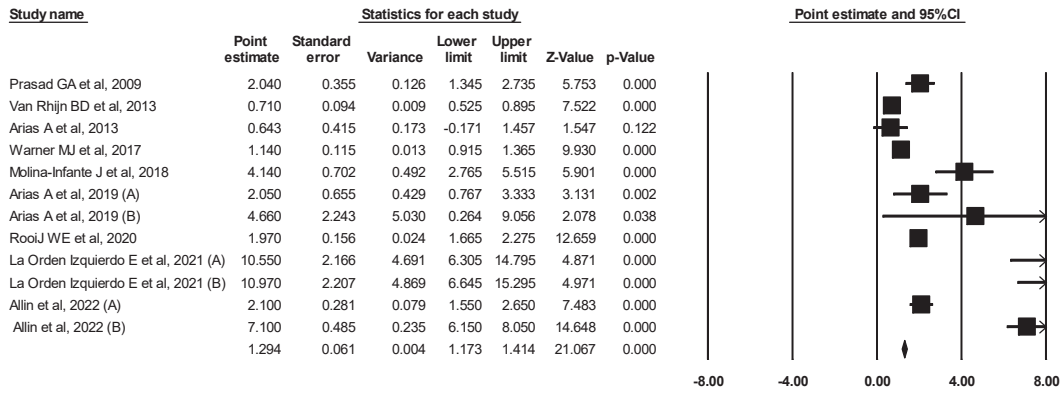


2) Funnel plot

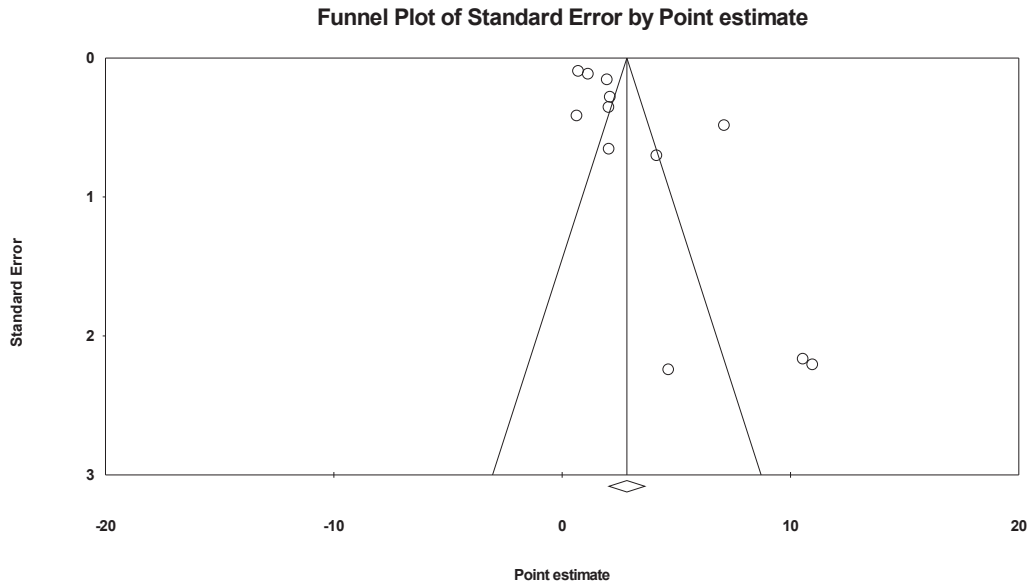


**Supplementary Figure 7.** Overall prevalence of EoE included in our systematic review (total study). (A) Forest plot; (B) Funnel plot.

1) Forest plot



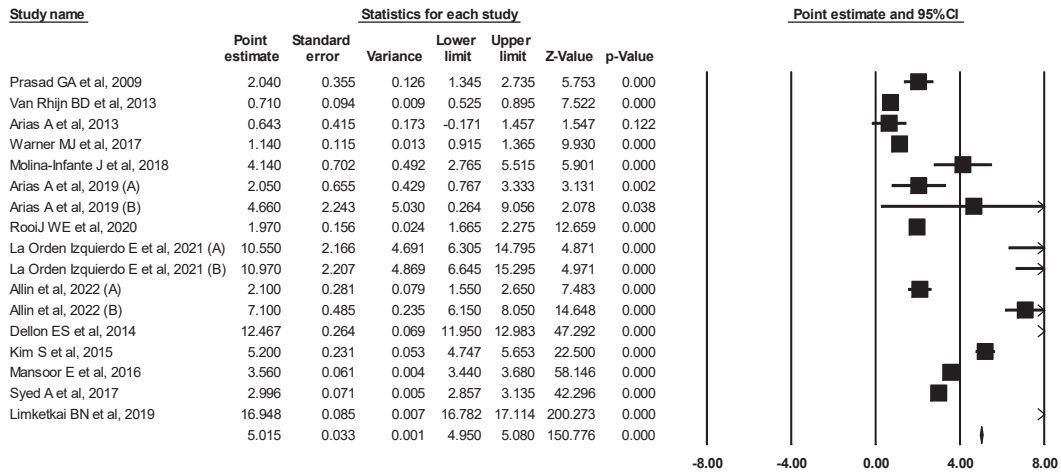
2) Funnel plot



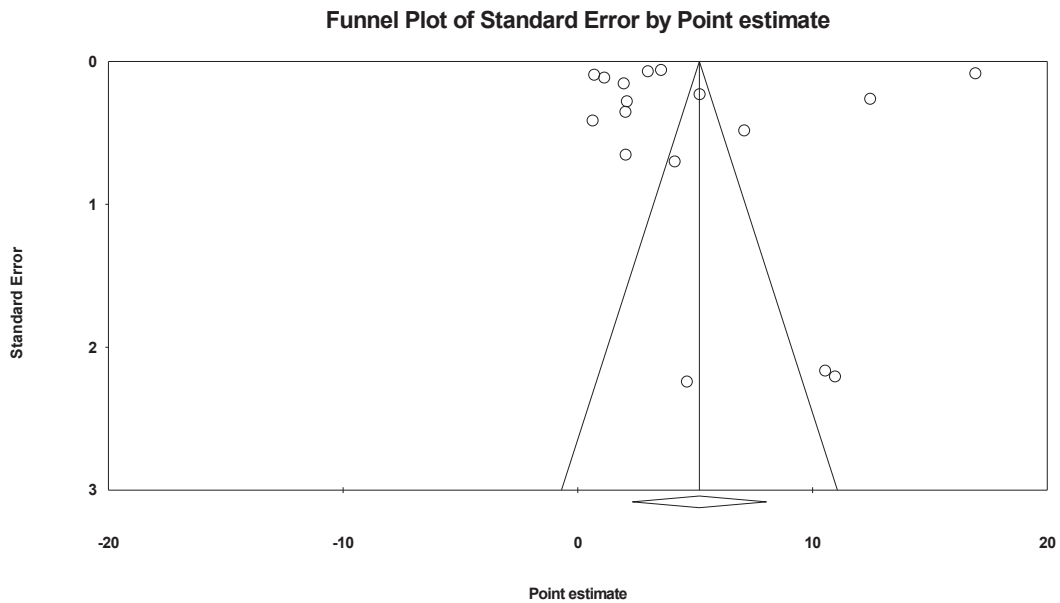
**Supplementary Figure 8.** Female incidence of EoE included in our systematic review (researcher-validated studies). (A) Forest plot; (B) Funnel plot.



1) Forest plot

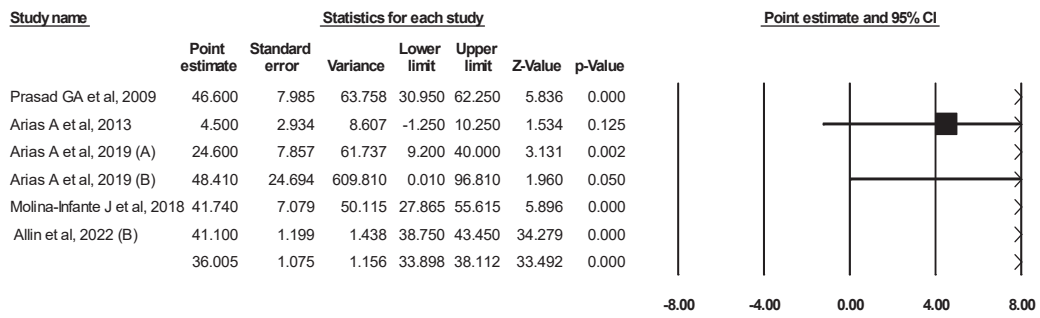


2) Funnel plot

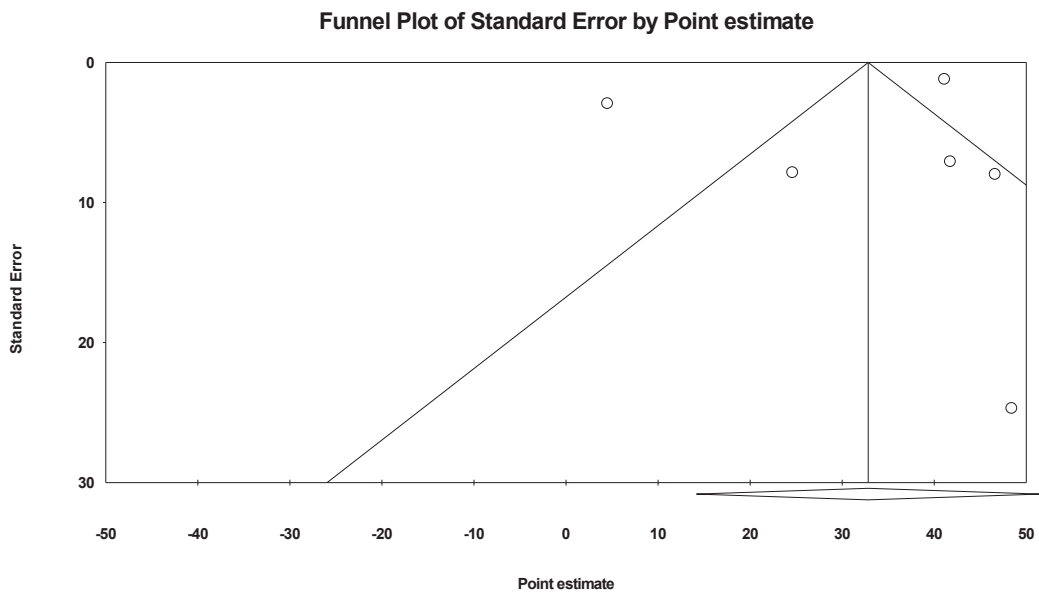


**Supplementary Figure 9.** Female incidence of EoE included in our systematic review (total study). (A) Forest plot; (B) Funnel plot.

1) Forest plot

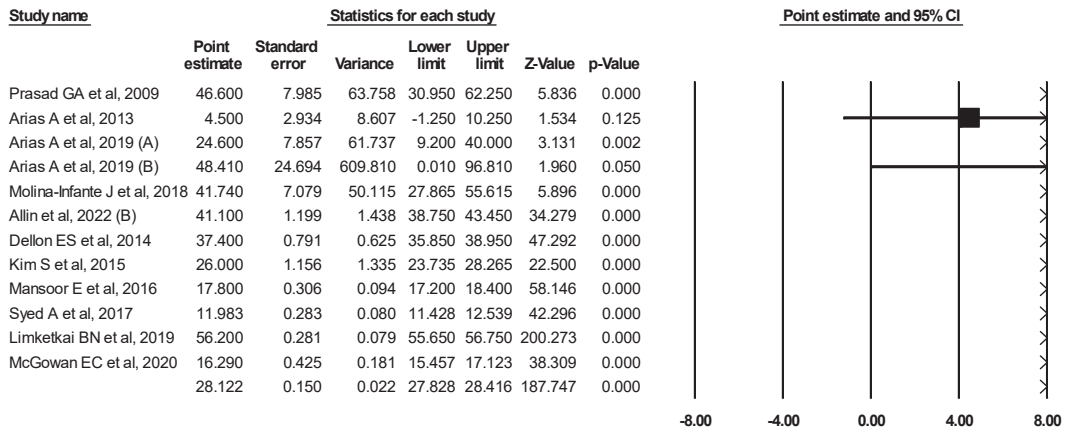


2) Funnel plot

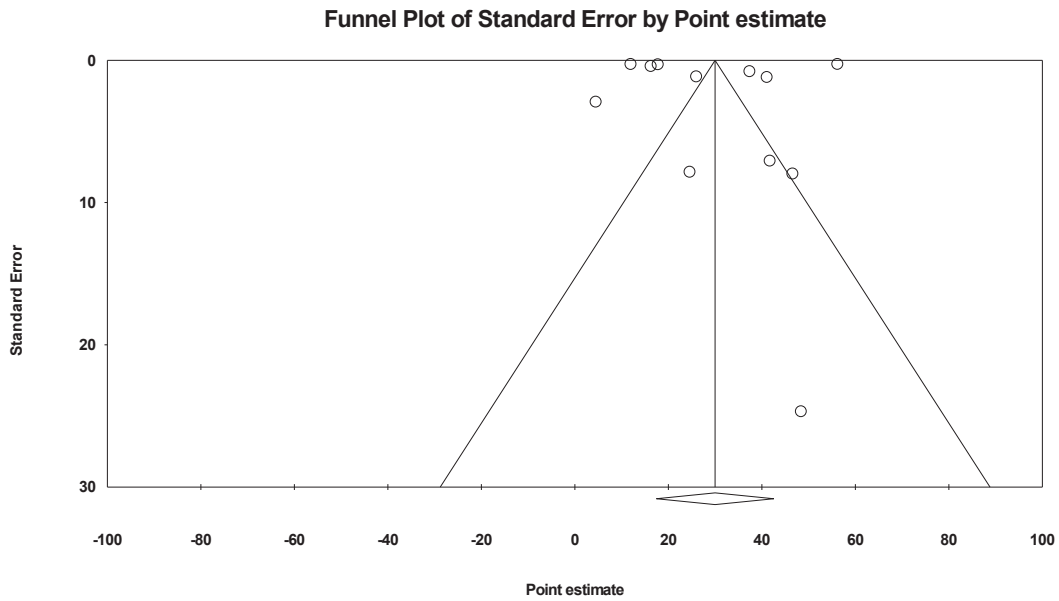


**Supplementary Figure 10.** Female prevalence of EoE included in our systematic review (researcher-validated studies). (A) Forest plot; (B) Funnel plot.

1) Forest plot

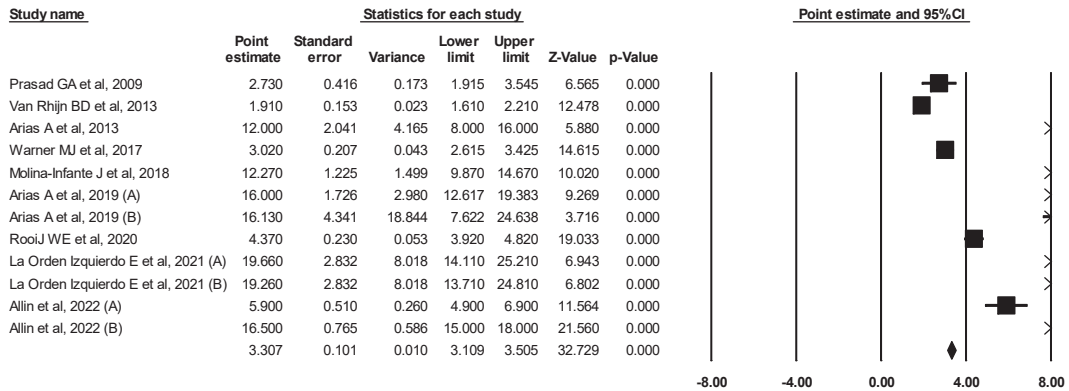


2) Funnel plot

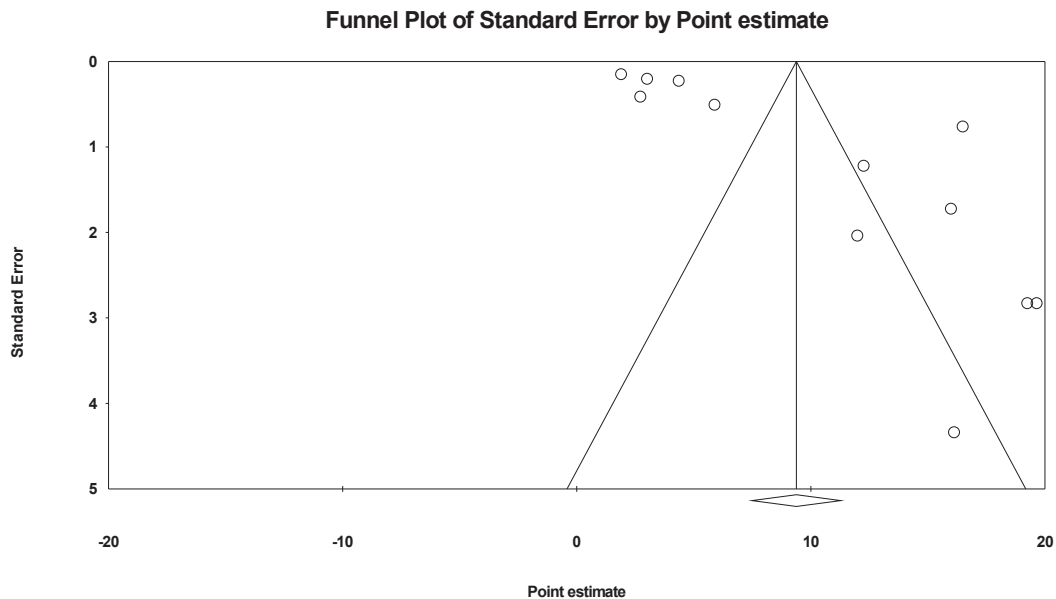


**Supplementary Figure 11.** Female prevalence of eosinophilic esophagitis included in our systematic review (total study). (A) Forest plot; (B) Funnel plot.

1) Forest plot

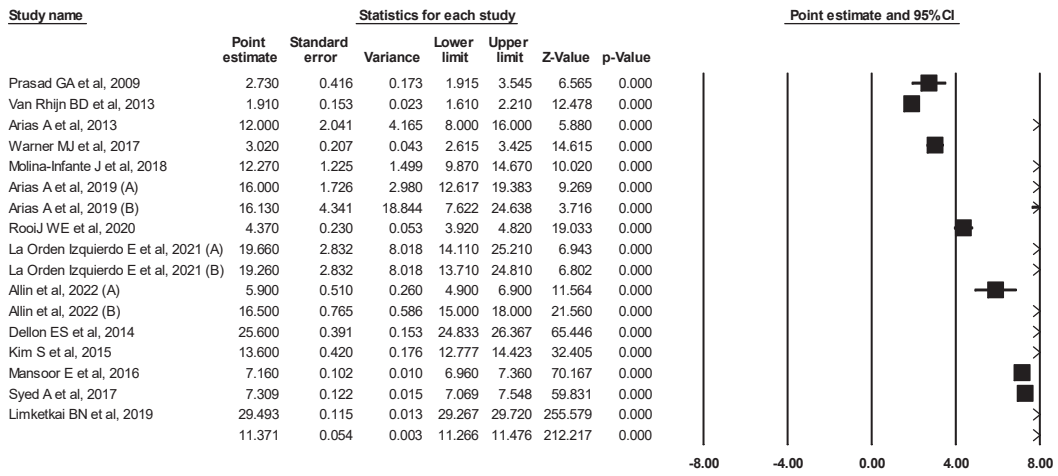


2) Funnel plot

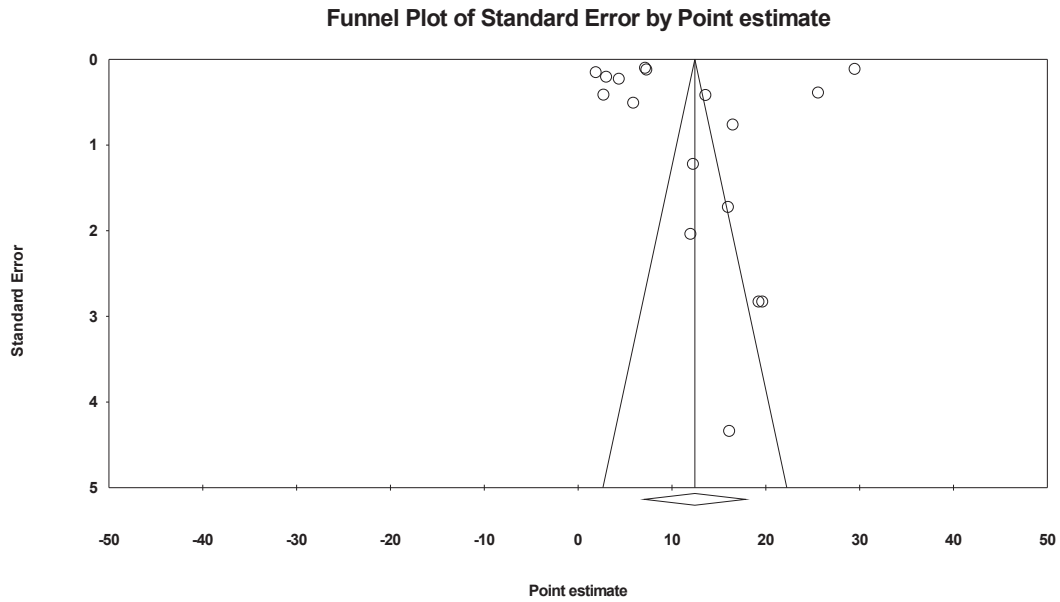


**Supplementary Figure 12.** Male incidence of EoE included in our systematic review (researcher-validated studies). (A) Forest plot; (B) Funnel plot.

1) Forest plot

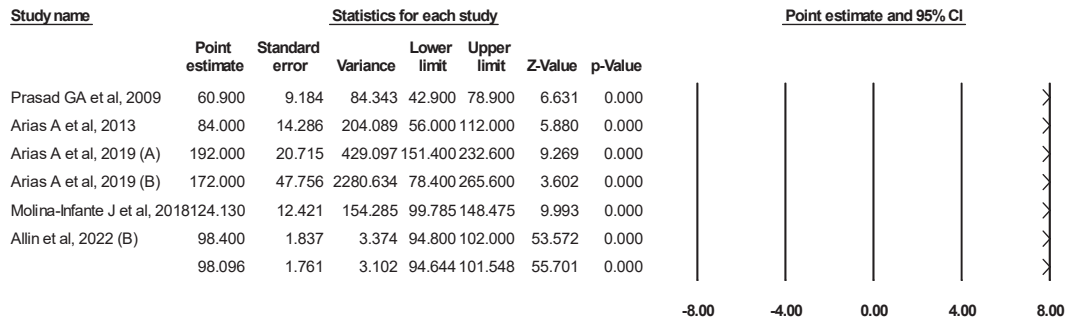


2) Funnel plot

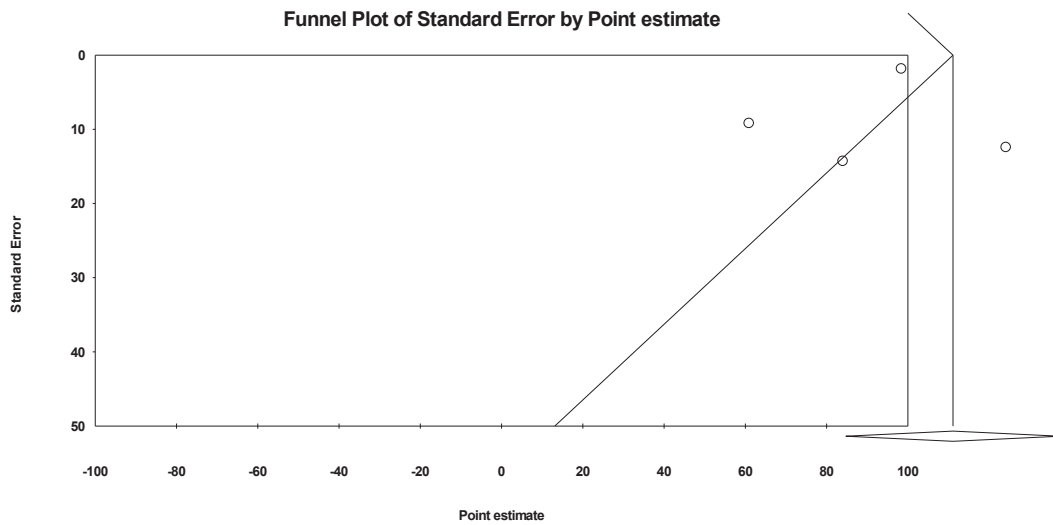


**Supplementary Figure 13.** Male incidence of EoE included in our systematic review (total study). (A) Forest plot; (B) Funnel plot.

1) Forest plot

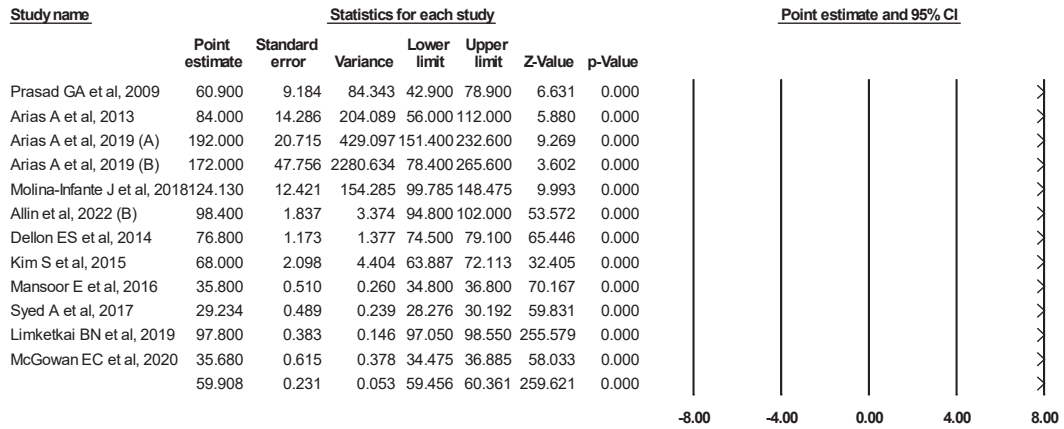


2) Funnel plot

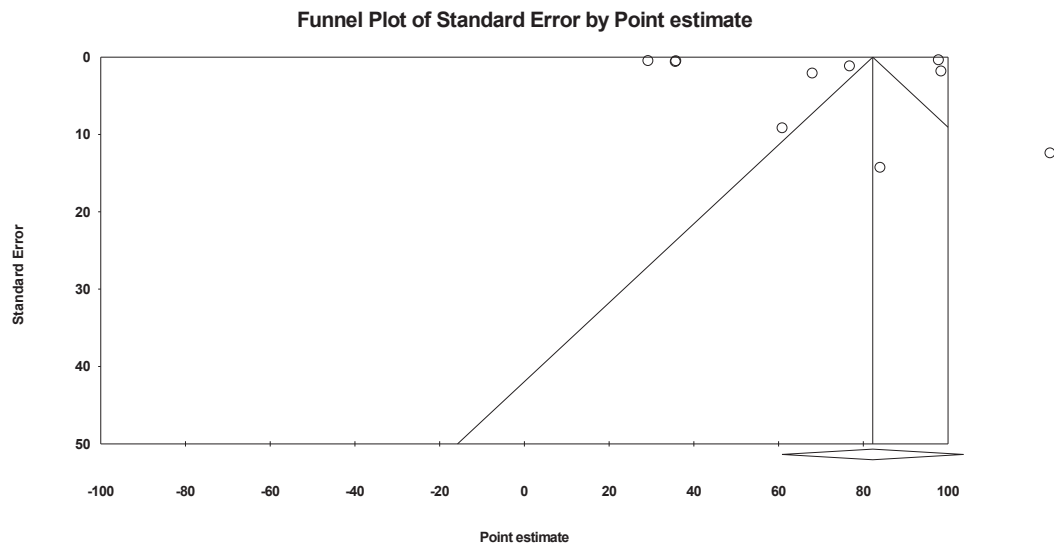


**Supplementary Figure 14.** Male prevalence of EoE included in our systematic review (researcher-validated studies). (A) Forest plot; (B) Funnel plot.

1) Forest plot

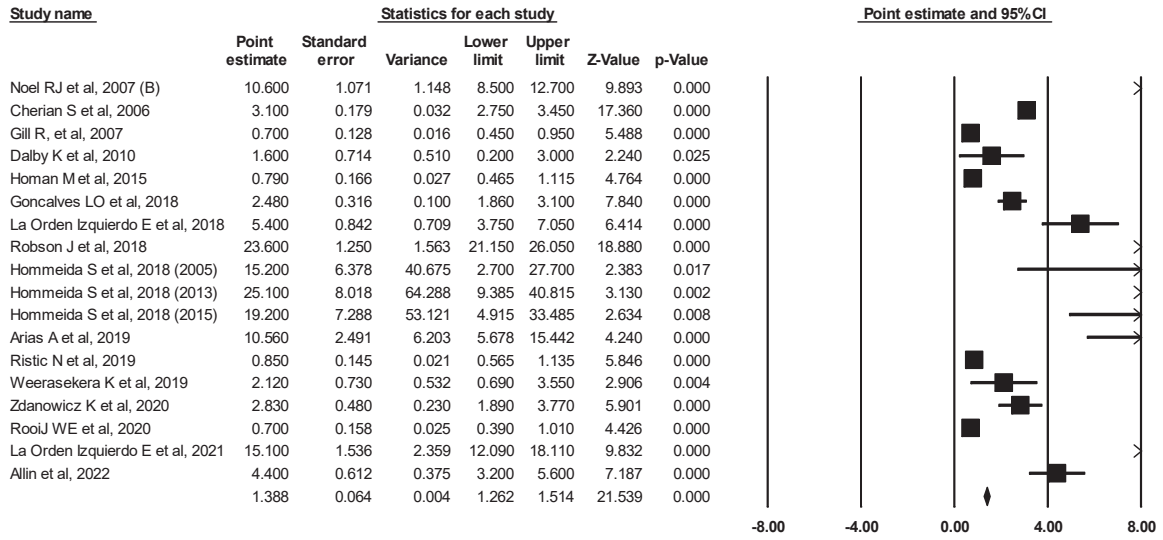


2) Funnel plot

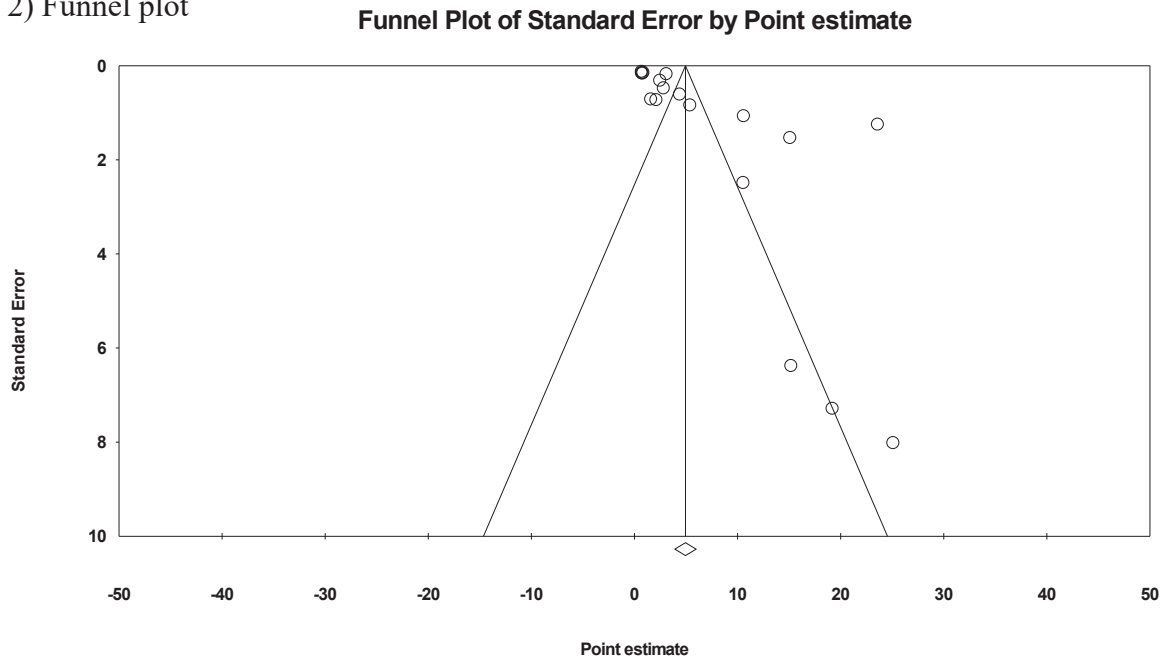


**Supplementary Figure 15.** Male prevalence of EoE included in our systematic review (total study). (A) Forest plot; (B) Funnel plot.

1) Forest plot



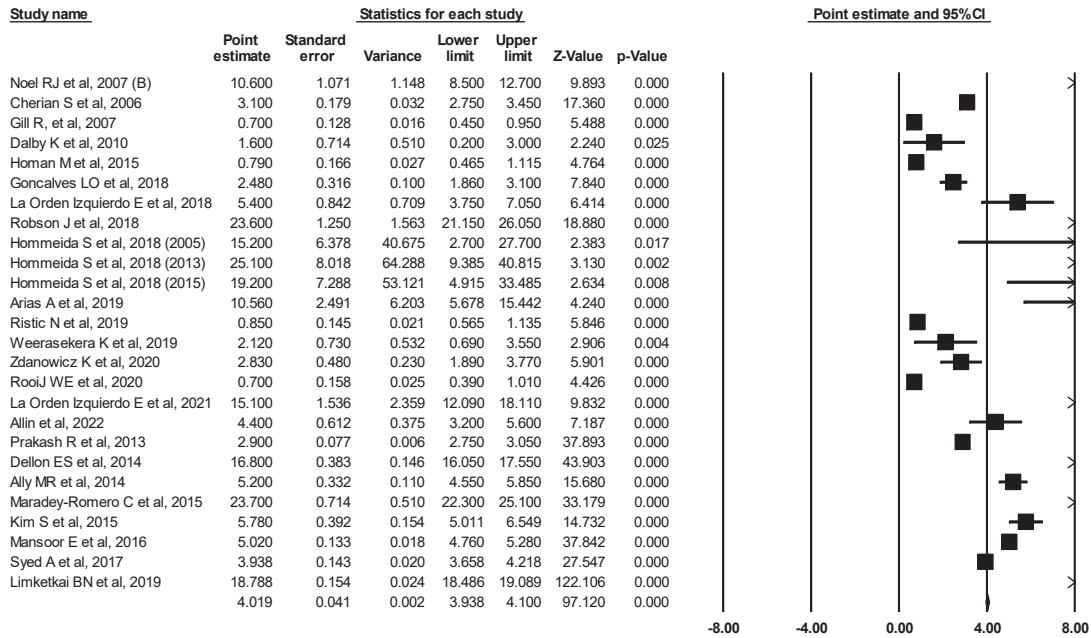
2) Funnel plot



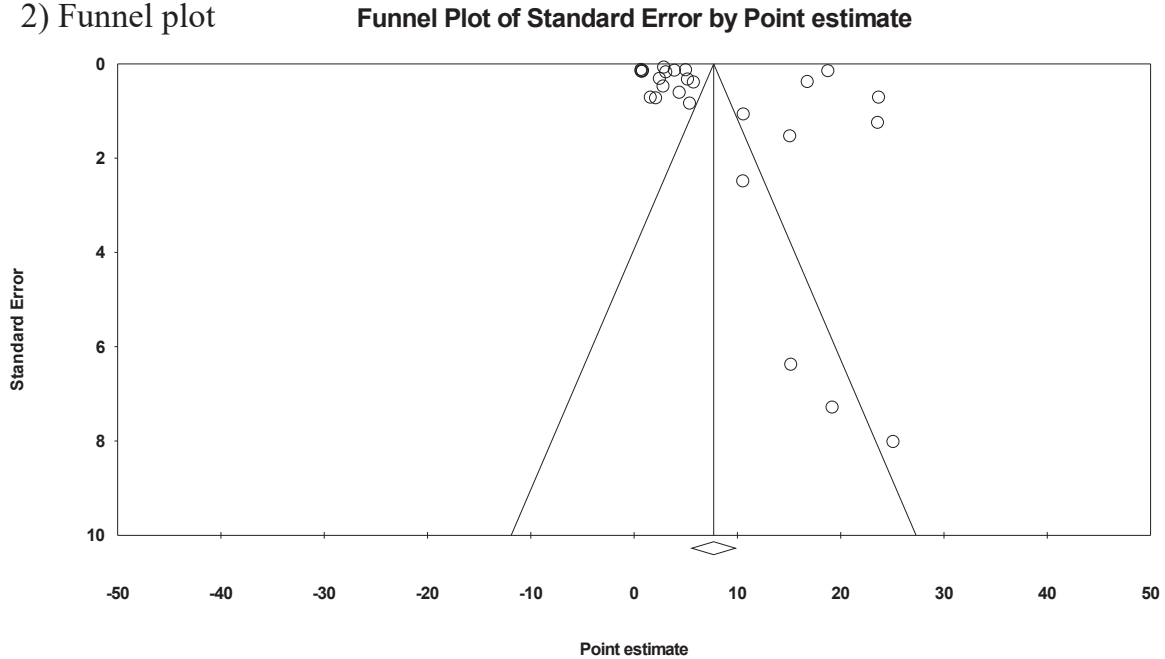
**Supplementary Figure 16.** Children incidence of EoE included in our systematic review (researcher-validated studies). (A) Forest plot; (B) Funnel plot.



1) Forest plot

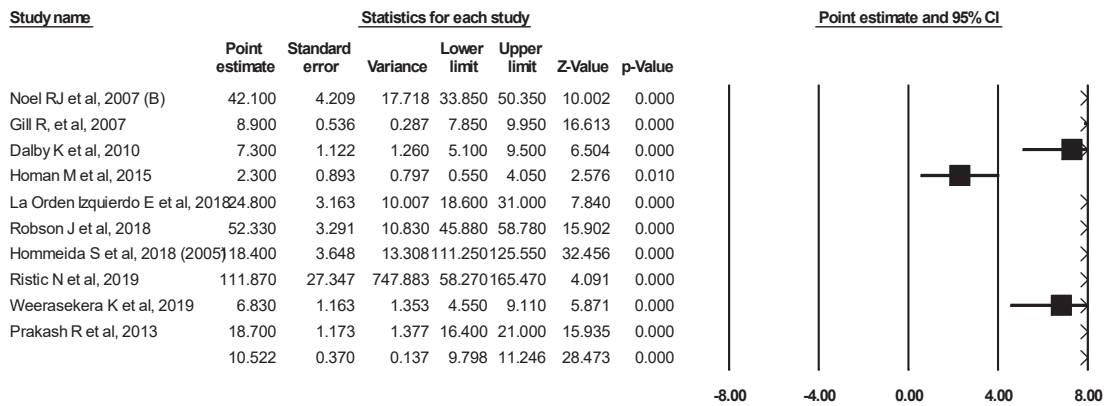


2) Funnel plot

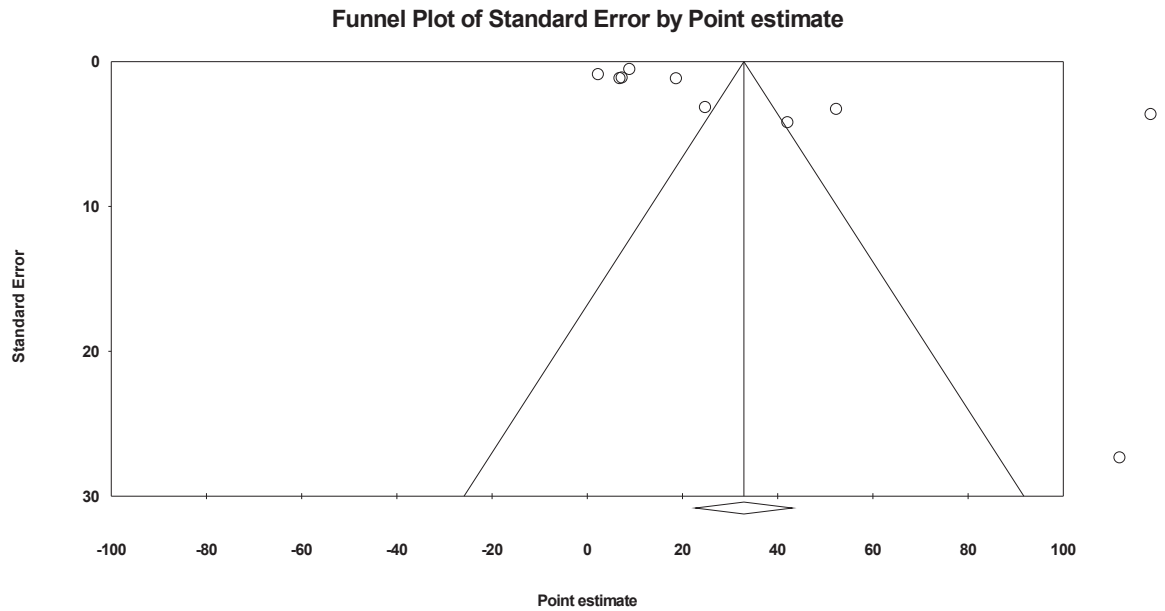


**Supplementary Figure 17.** Children incidence of EoE included in our systematic review (total study). (A) Forest plot; (B) Funnel plot.

1) Forest plot

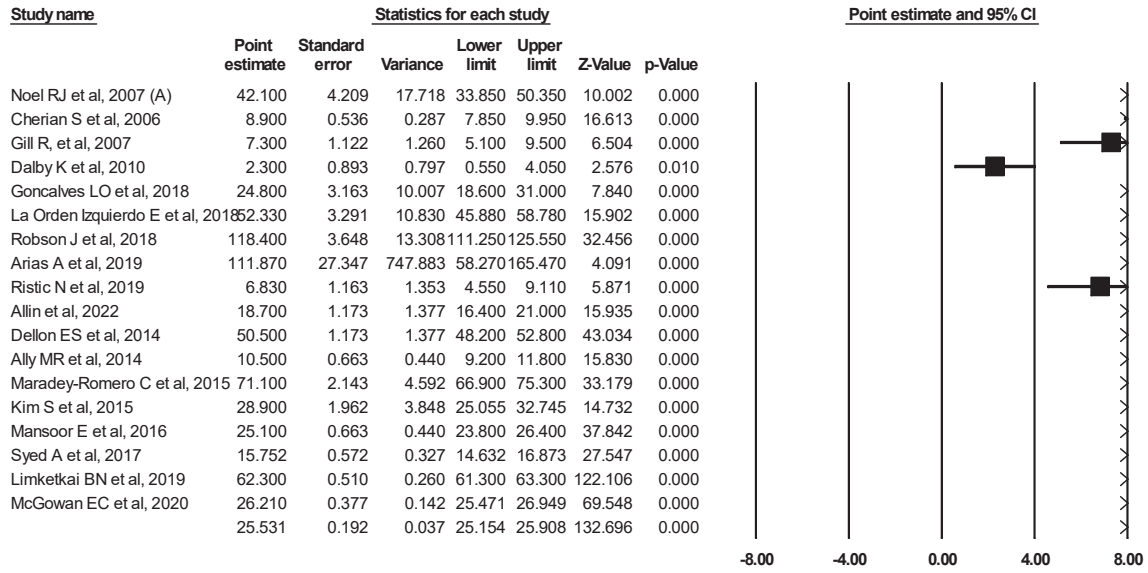


2) Funnel plot

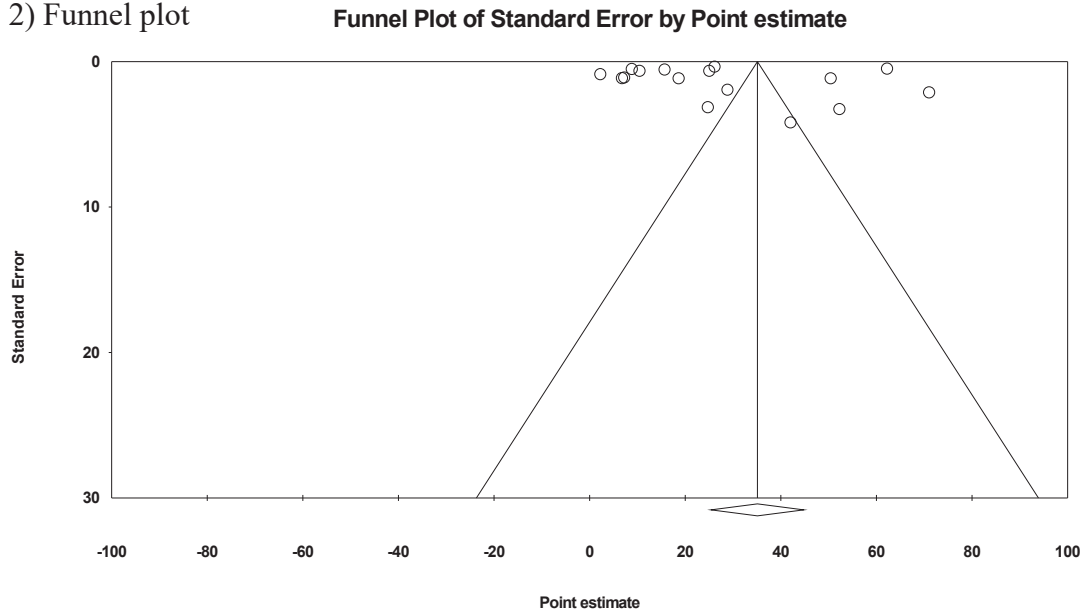


**Supplementary Figure 18.** Children prevalence of EoE included in our systematic review (researcher-validated studies). (A) Forest plot; (B) Funnel plot.

1) Forest plot

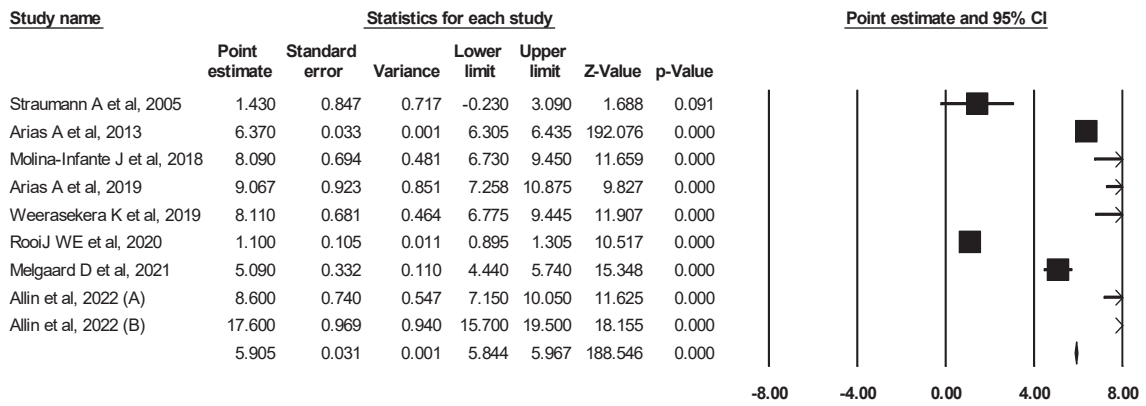


2) Funnel plot

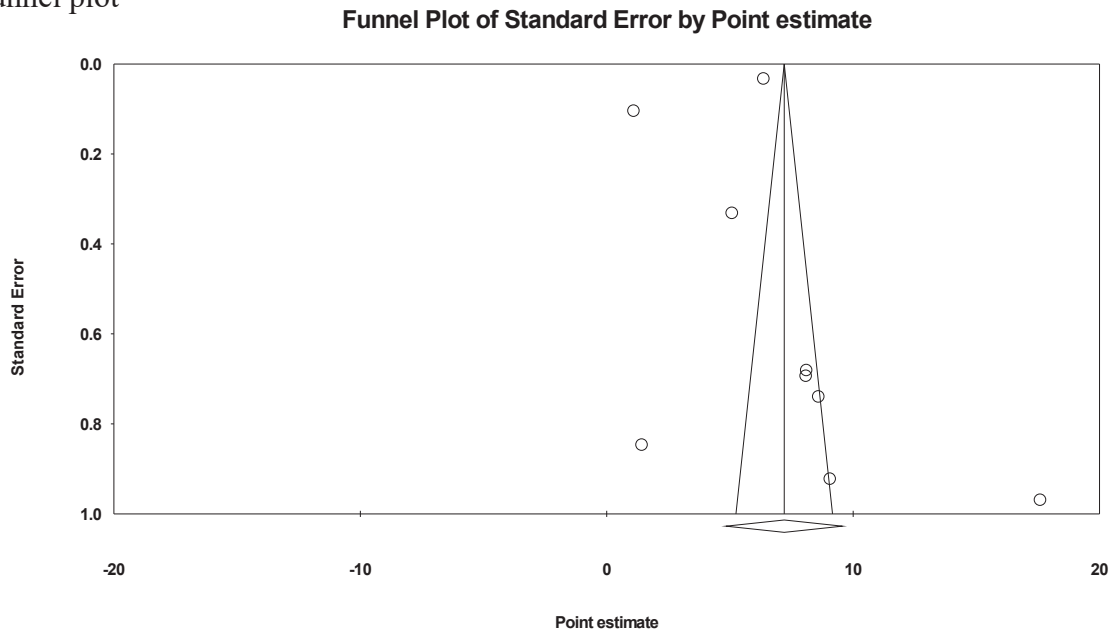


**Supplementary Figure 19.** Children prevalence of EoE included in our systematic review (total study). (A) Forest plot; (B) Funnel plot.

1) Forest plot

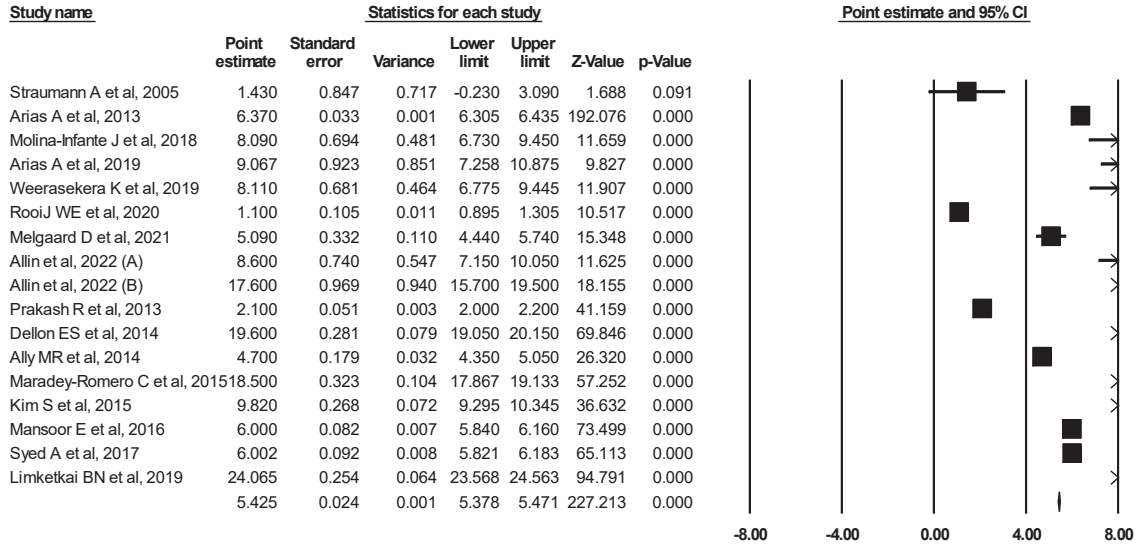


2) Funnel plot

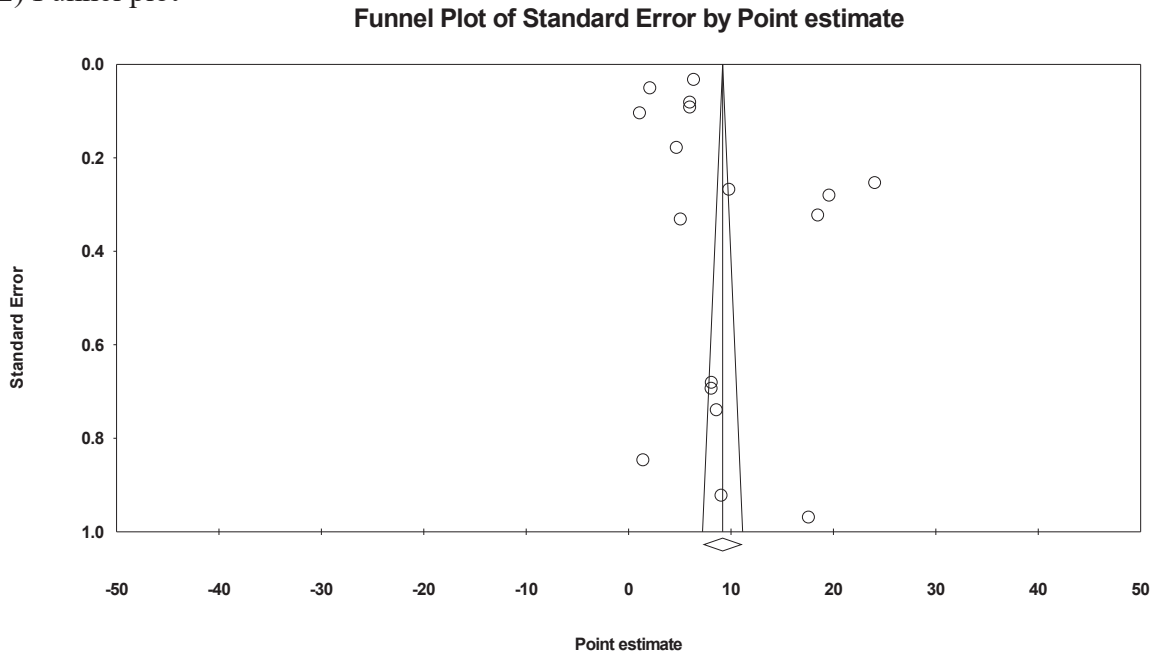


**Supplementary Figure 20.** Adults incidence of EoE included in our systematic review (researcher-validated studies). (A) Forest plot; (B) Funnel plot.

1) Forest plot

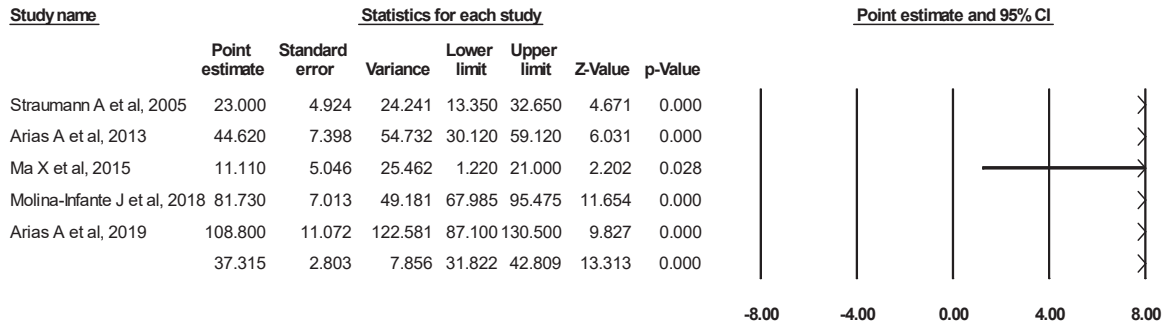


2) Funnel plot

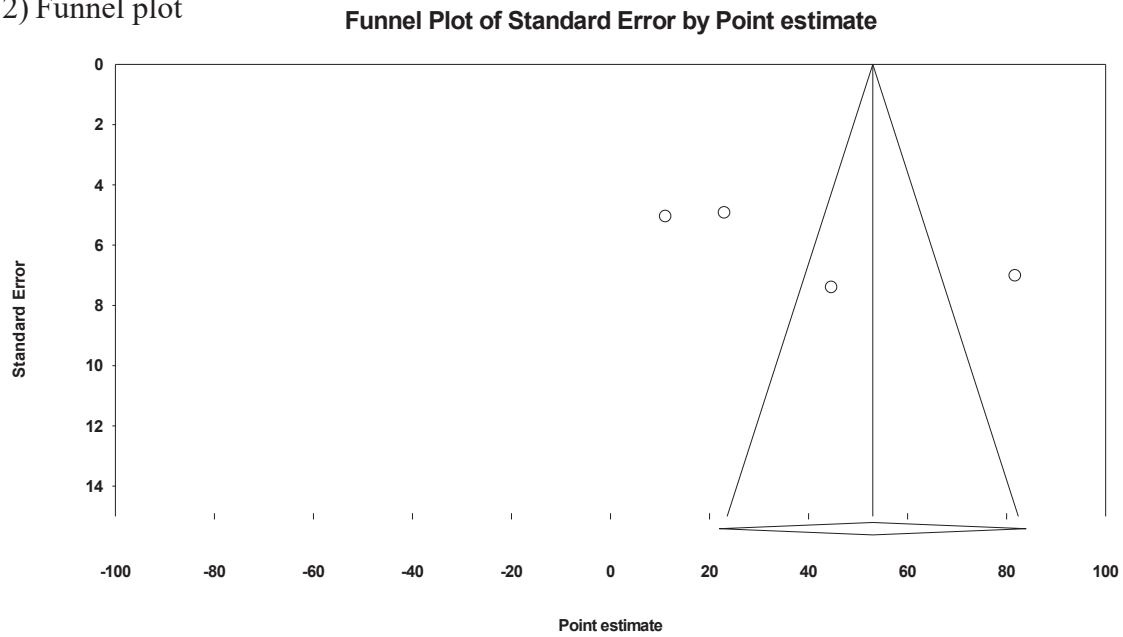


**Supplementary Figure 21.** Adults incidence of EoE included in our systematic review (total study). (A) Forest plot; (B) Funnel plot.

### 1) Forest plot

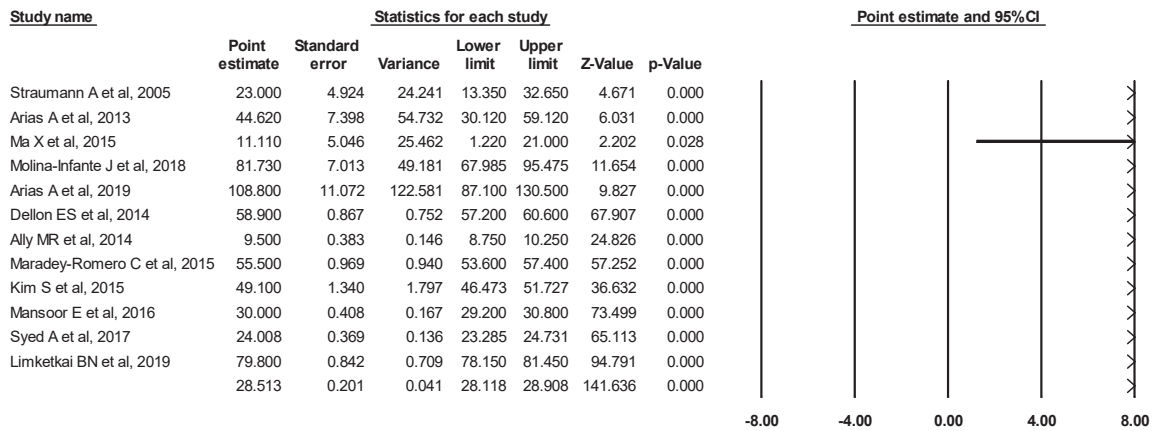


### 2) Funnel plot

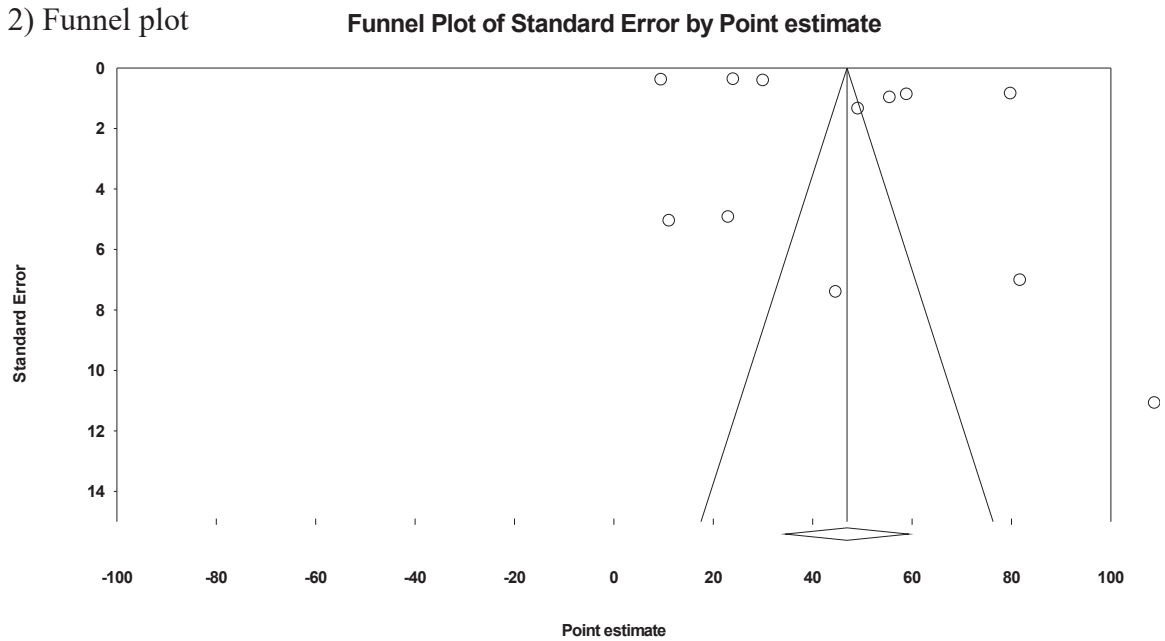


**Supplementary Figure 22.** Adults prevalence of EoE included in our systematic review (researcher-validated studies). (A) Forest plot; (B) Funnel plot.

1) Forest plot

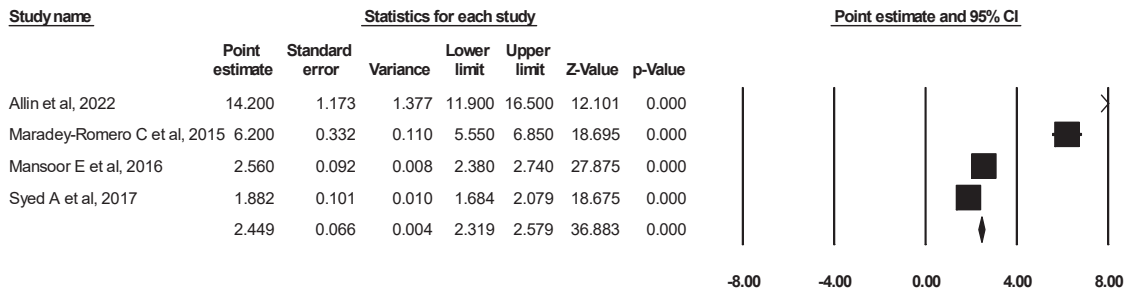


2) Funnel plot

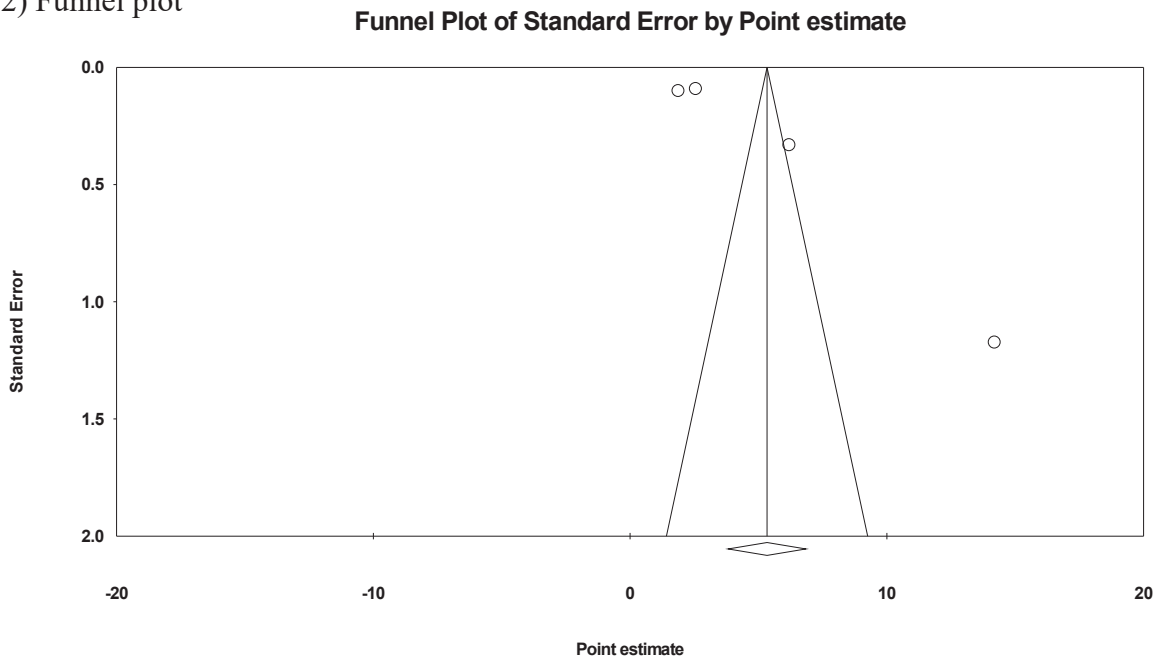


**Supplementary Figure 23.** Adults prevalence of EoE included in our systematic review (total study). (A) Forest plot; (B) Funnel plot.

1) Forset plot



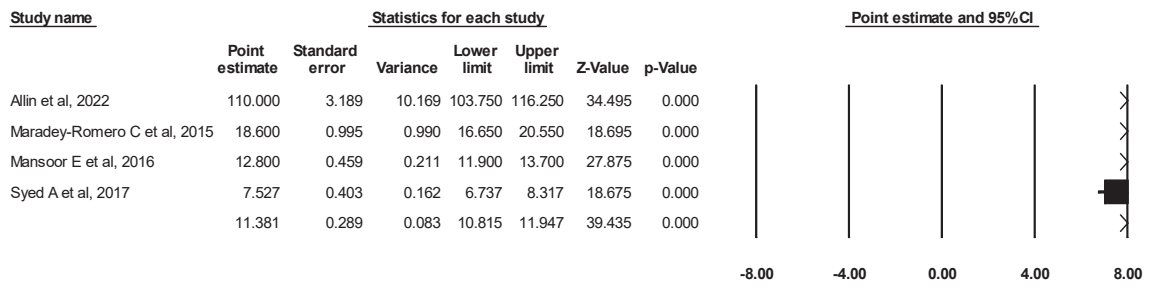
2) Funnel plot



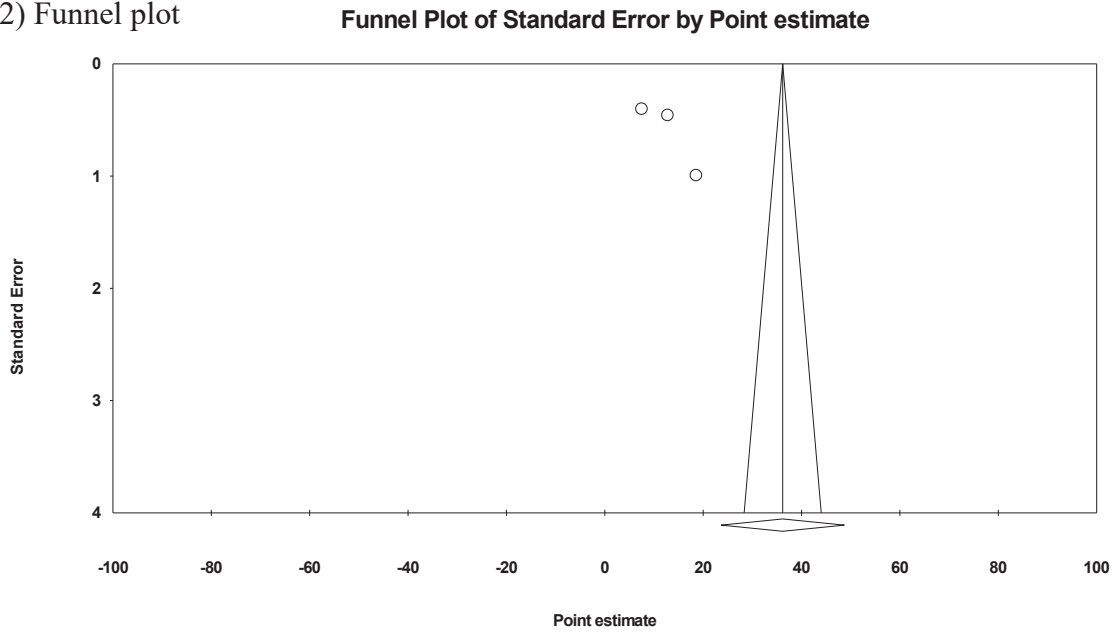
**Supplementary Figure 24.** Elderly incidence of EoE included in our systematic review (total study). (A) Forest plot; (B) Funnel plot.



1) Forest plot

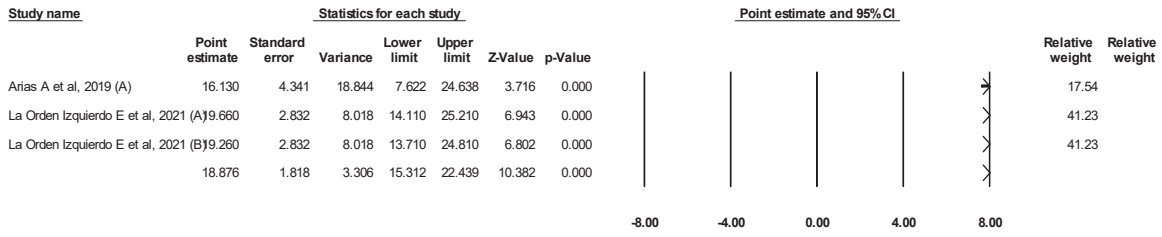


2) Funnel plot

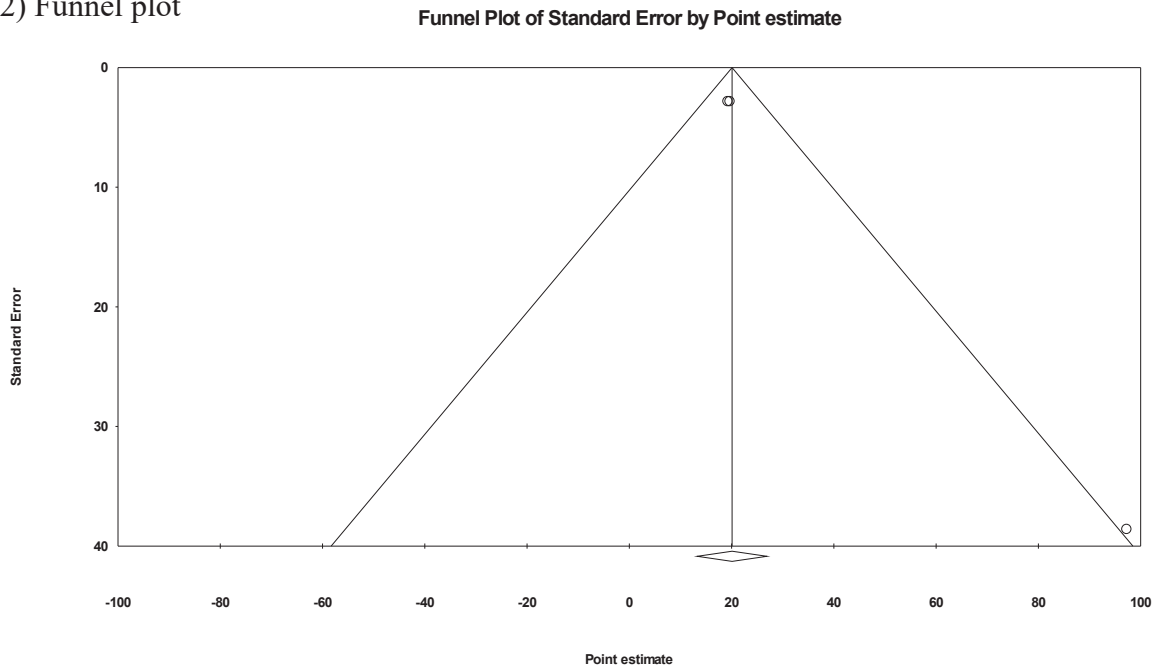


**Supplementary Figure 25.** Elderly prevalence of EoE included in our systematic review (total study). (A) Forest plot; (B) Funnel plot.

1) Forest plot

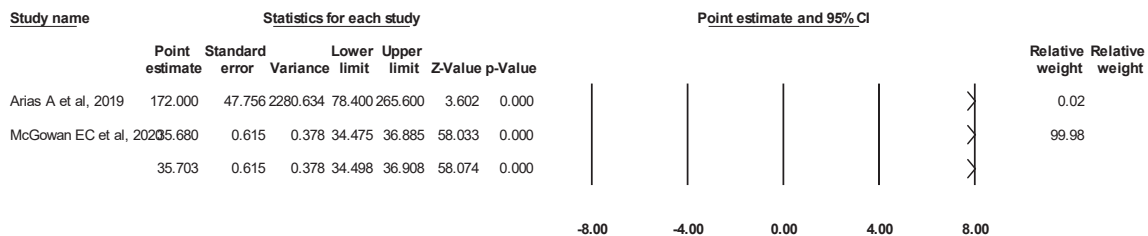


2) Funnel plot



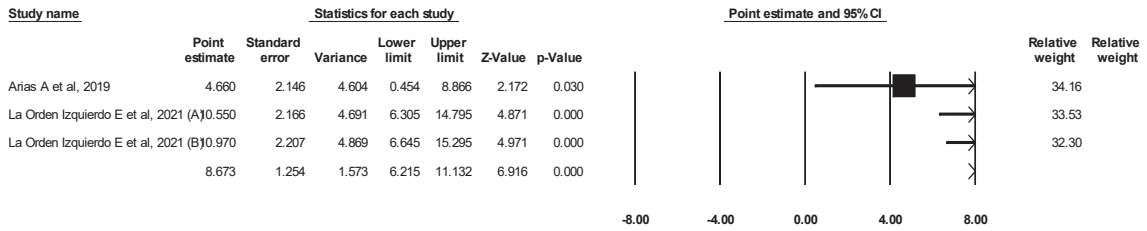
**Supplementary Figure 26.** Male children incidence of EoE included in our systematic review (total study). (A) Forest plot; (B) Funnel plot.

1) Forest plot

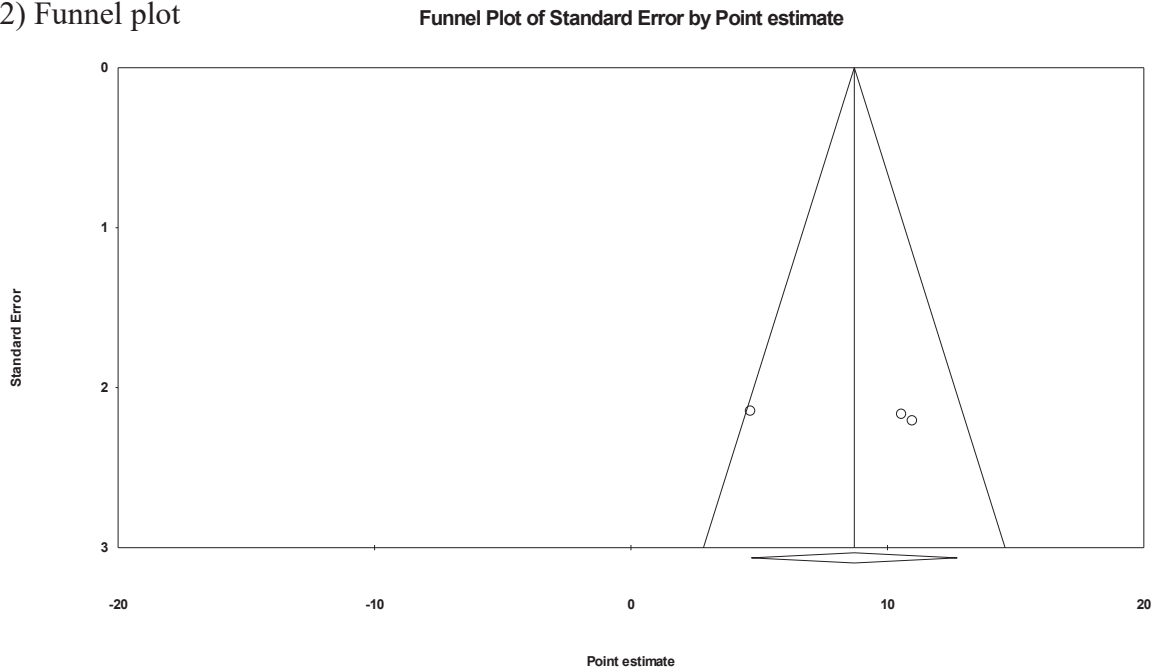


**Supplementary Figure 27.** Male children prevalence of EoE included in our systematic review (total study). (A) Forest plot; (B) Funnel plot.

1) Forest plot

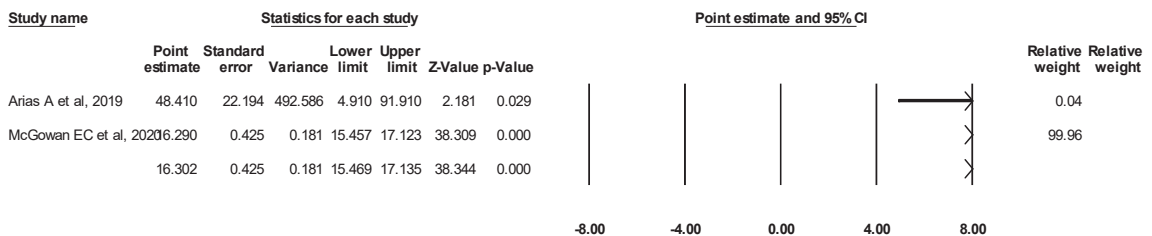


2) Funnel plot



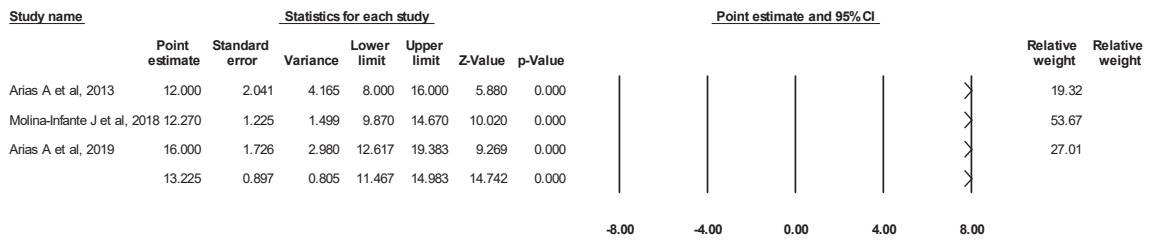
**Supplementary Figure.28.** Female children incidence of EoE included in our systematic review (total study). (A) Forest plot; (B) Funnel plot.

1) Forest plot

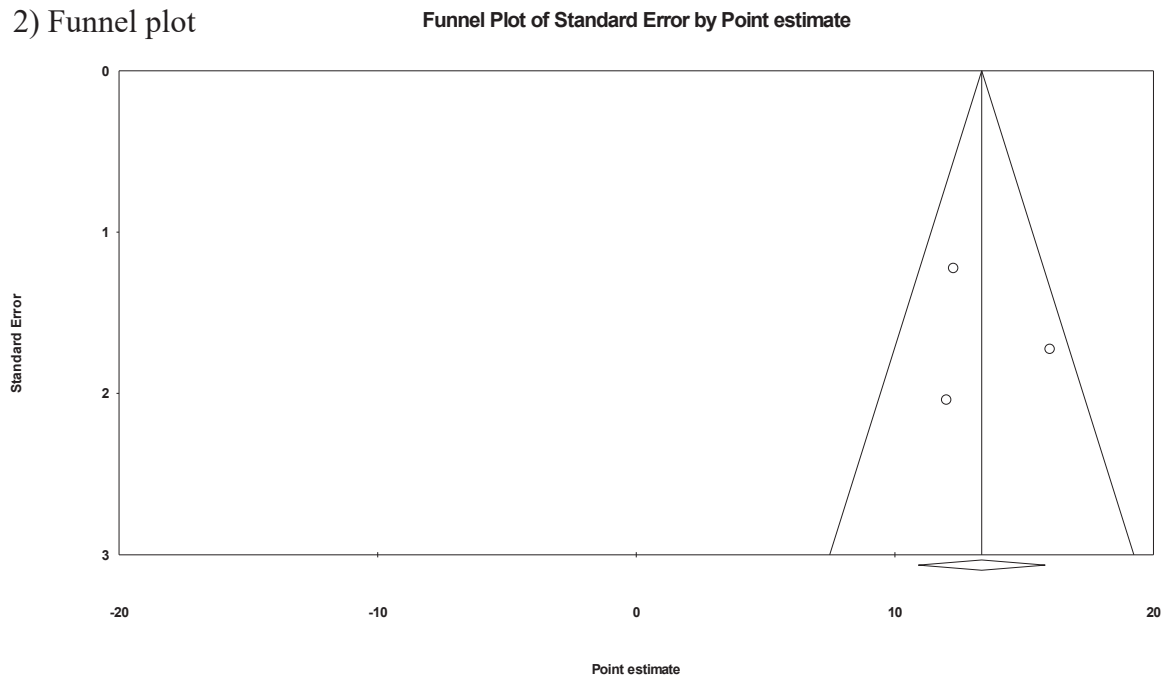


**Supplementary Figure 29.** Female children prevalence of EoE included in our systematic review (total study). (A) Forest plot; (B) Funnel plot.

### 1) Forest plot

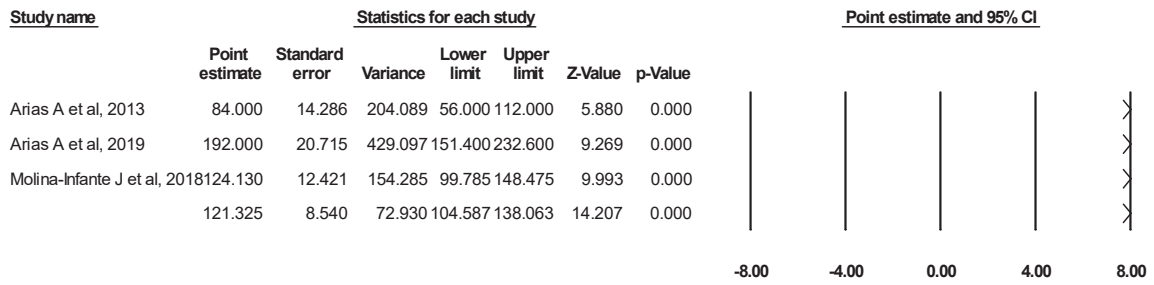


### 2) Funnel plot

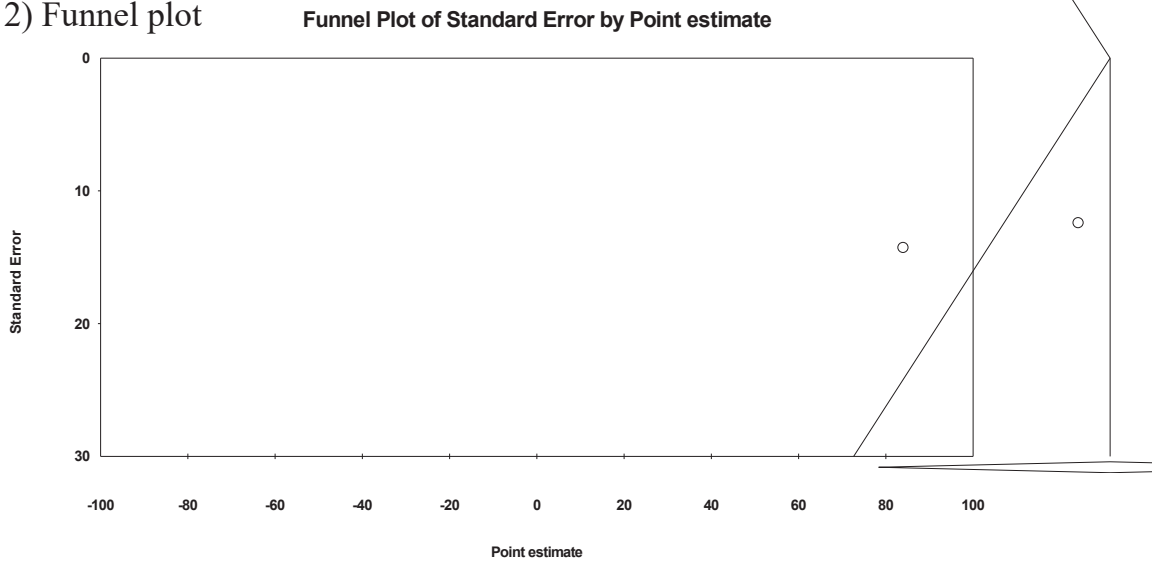


**Supplementary Figure 30.** Male adults incidence of EoE included in our systematic review (total study). (A) Forest plot; (B) Funnel plot.

### 1) Forest plot

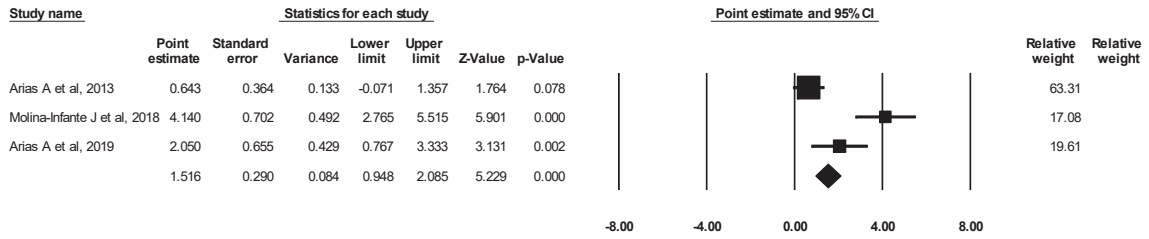


### 2) Funnel plot

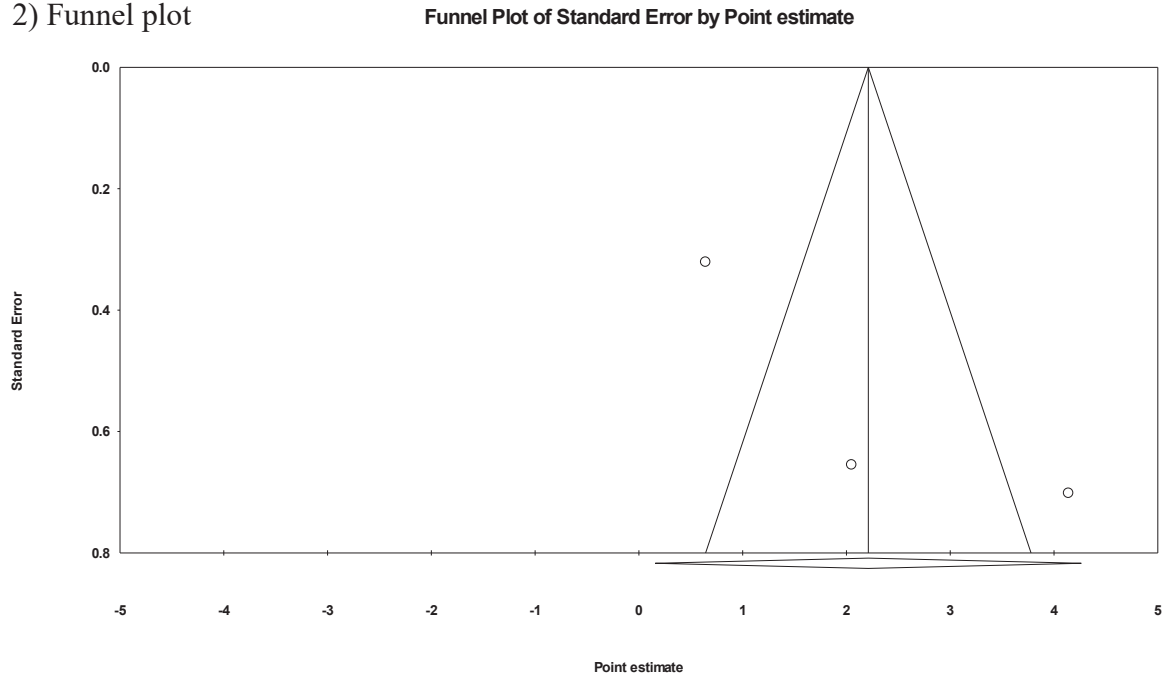


**Supplementary Figure 31.** Male adults prevalence of EoE included in our systematic review (total study). (A) Forest plot; (B) Funnel plot.

1) Forest plot

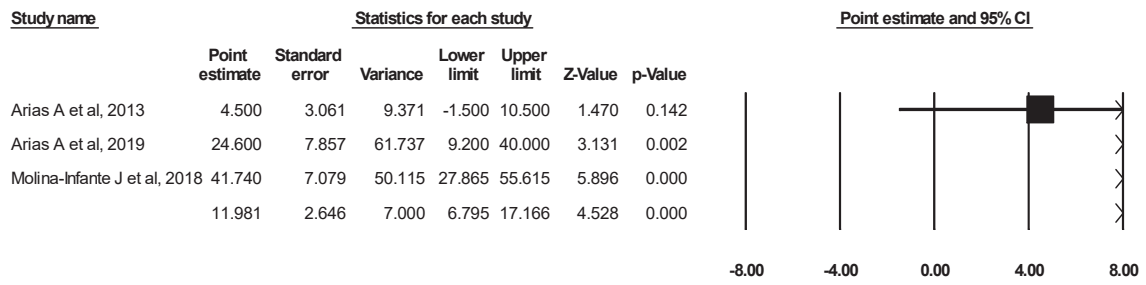


2) Funnel plot

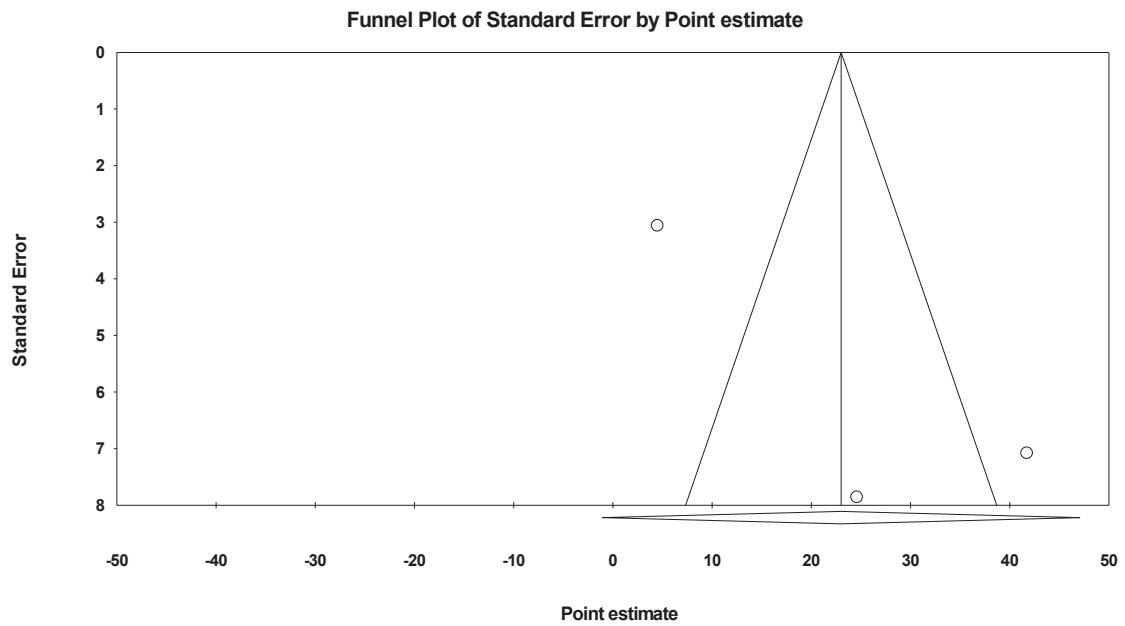


**Supplementary Figure 32.** Female adults incidence of EoE included in our systematic review (total study). (A) Forest plot; (B) Funnel plot.

1) Forest plot

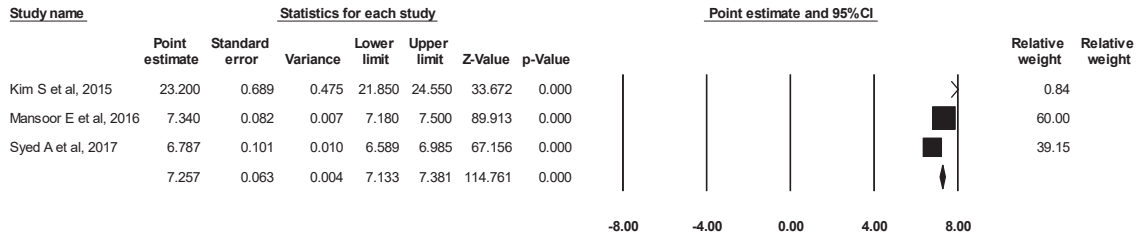


2) Funnel plot

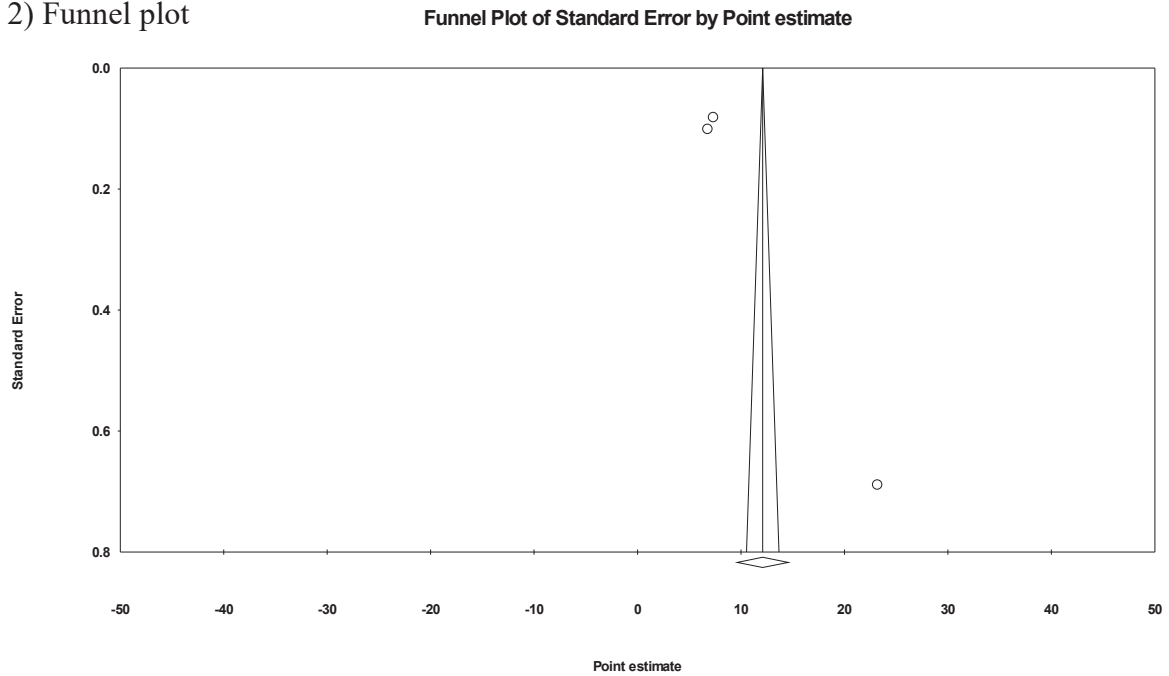


**Supplementary Figure 33.** Female adults prevalence of EoE included in our systematic review (total study). (A) Forest plot; (B) Funnel plot.

### 1) Forest plot



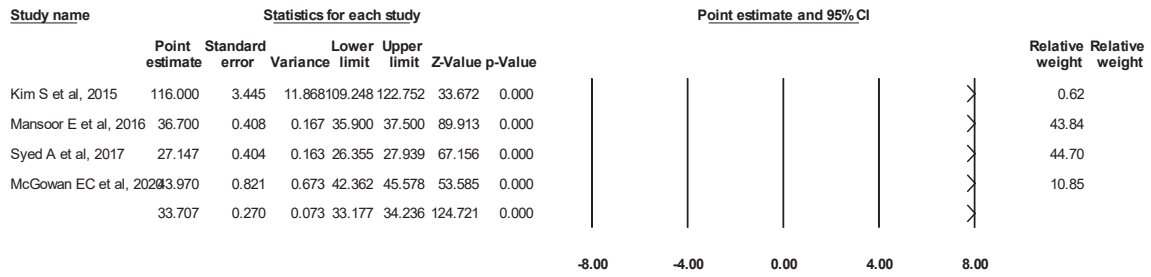
### 2) Funnel plot



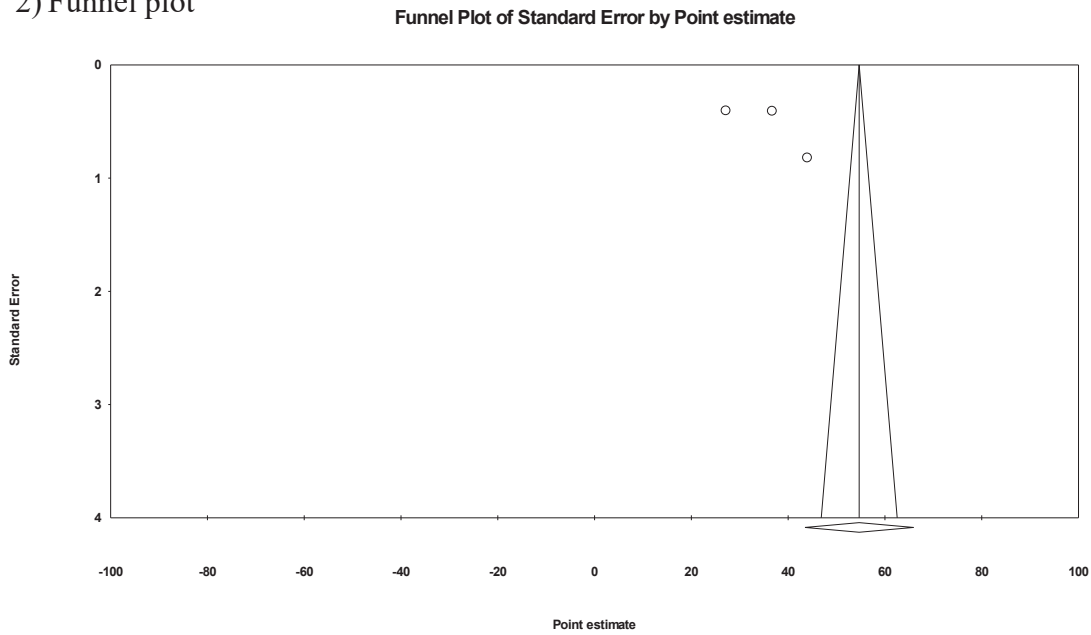
**Supplementary Figure 34.** White incidence of EoE included in our systematic review (total study). (A) Forest plot; (B) Funnel plot.



1) Forest plot

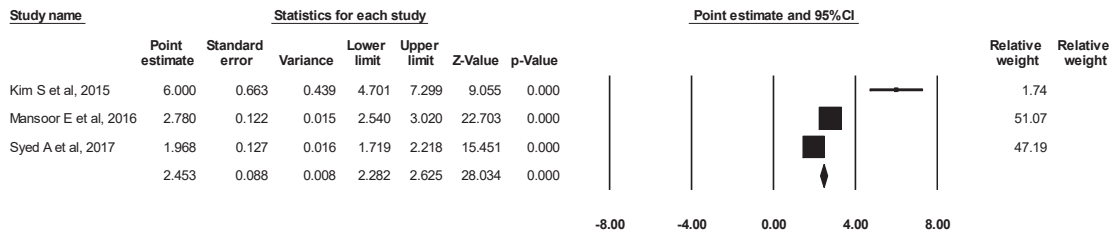


2) Funnel plot

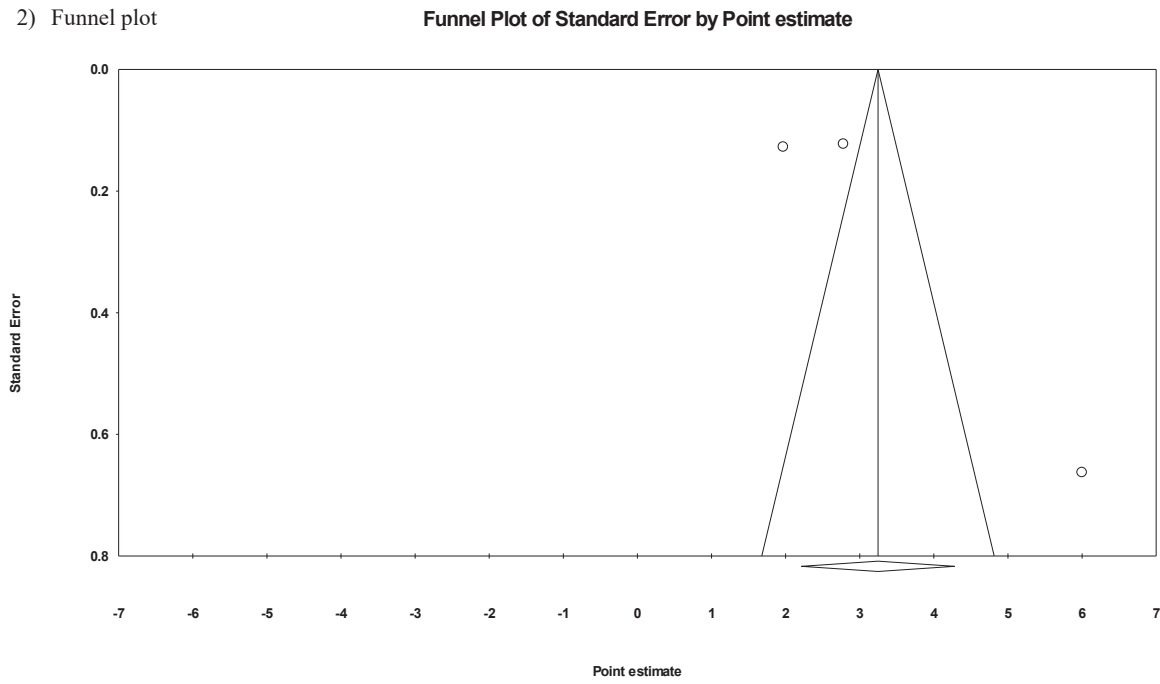


**Supplementary Figure 35.** White prevalence of EoE included in our systematic review (total study). (A) Forest plot; (B) Funnel plot.

1) Forest plot

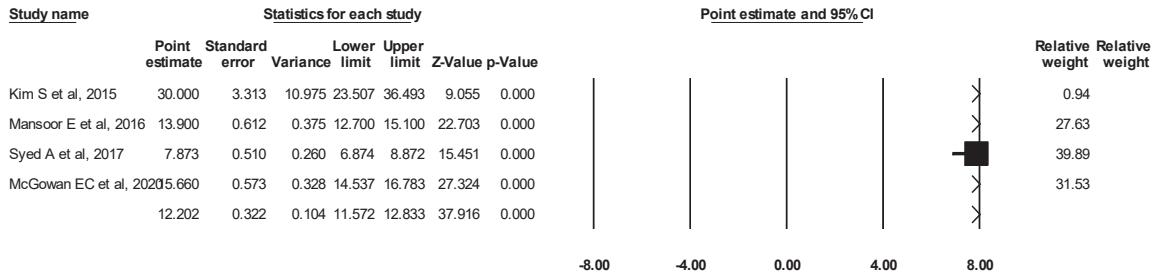


2) Funnel plot

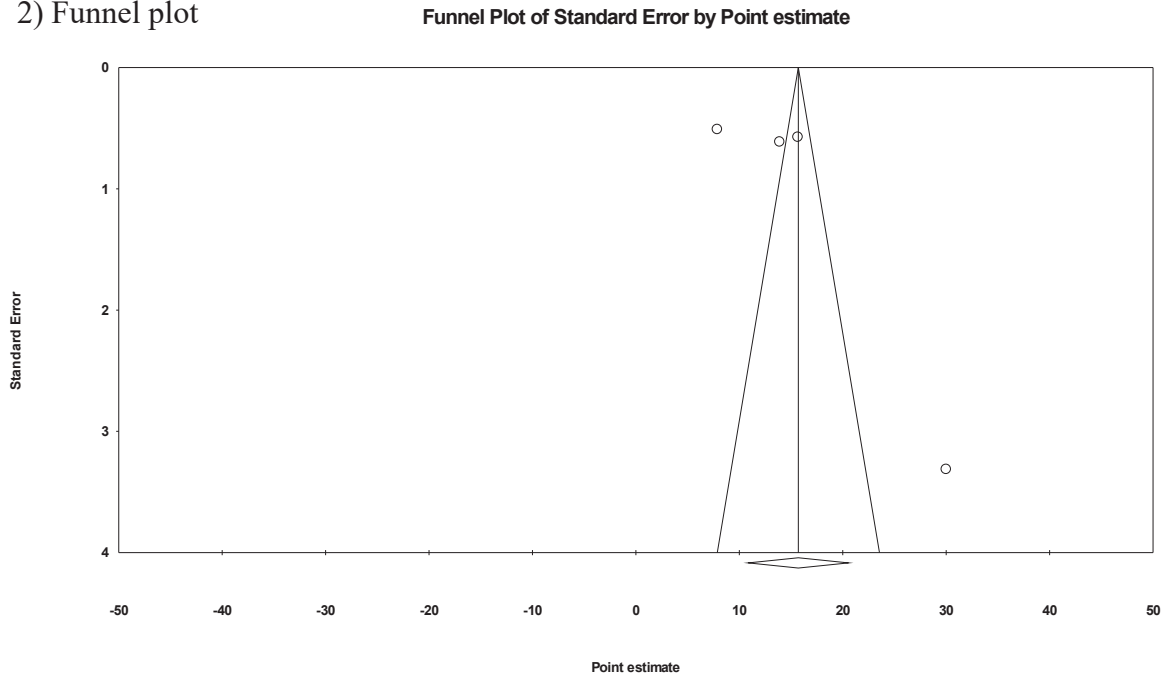


**Supplementary Figure 36.** Black incidence of EoE included in our systematic review (total study). (A) Forest plot; (B) Funnel plot.

1) Forest plot

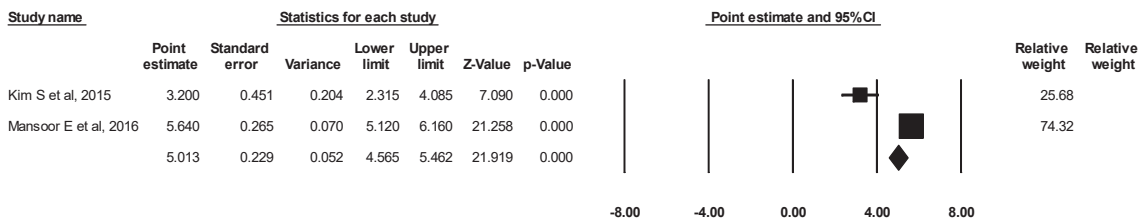


2) Funnel plot



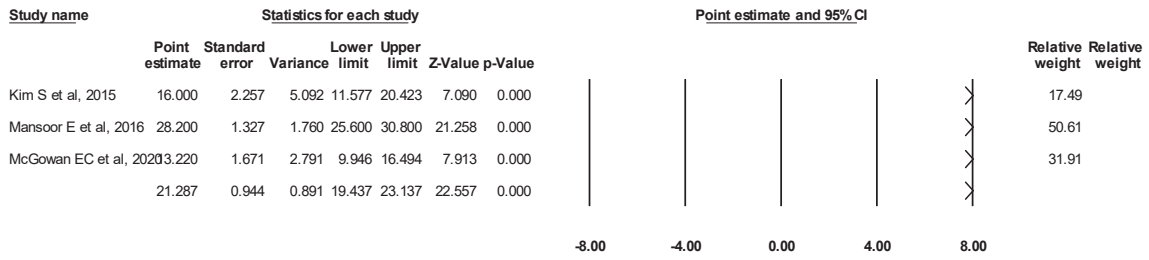
**Supplementary Figure 37.** Black prevalence of EoE included in our systematic review (total study). (A) Forest plot; (B) Funnel plot.

1) Forest plot

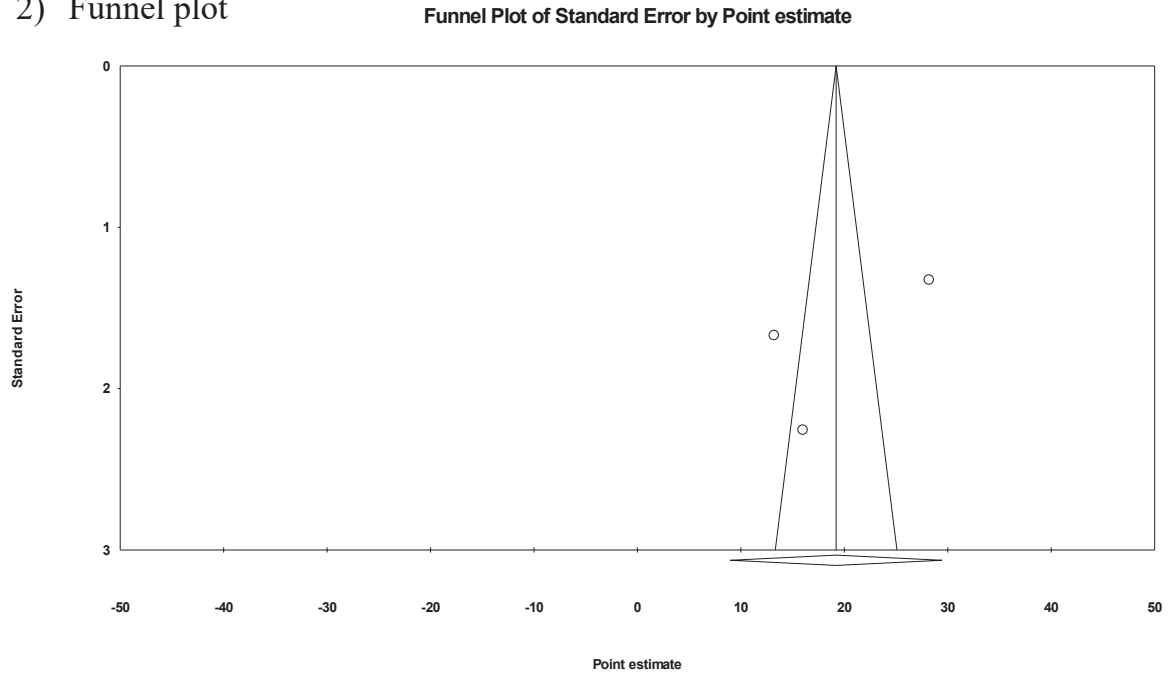


**Supplementary Figure 38.** Asian incidence of EoE included in our systematic review (total study). (A) Forest plot; (B) Funnel plot.

### 1) Forest plot

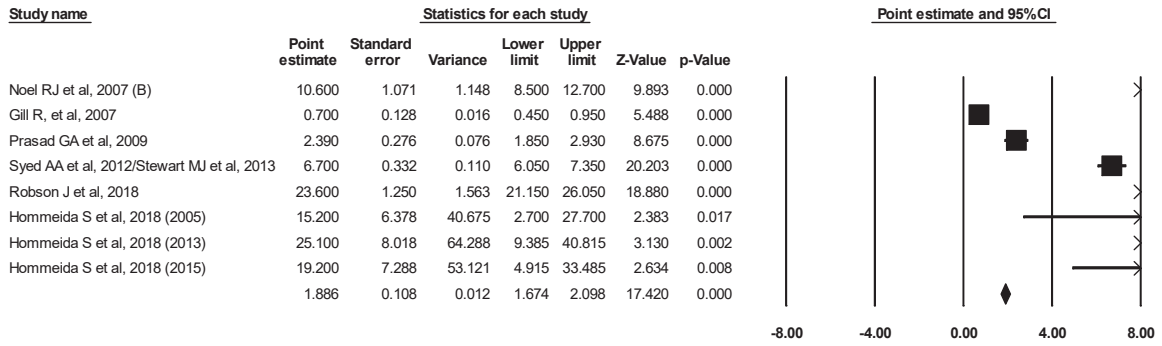


### 2) Funnel plot

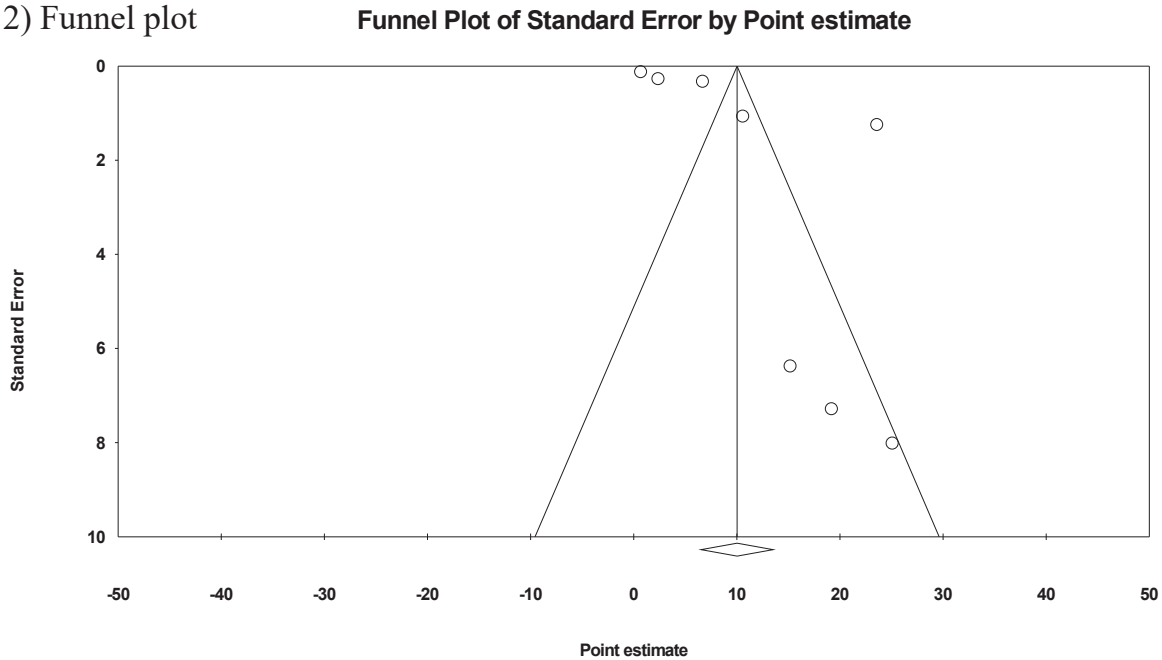


**Supplementary Figure 39.** Asian prevalence of EoE included in our systematic review (total study). (A) Forest plot; (B) Funnel plot.

1) Forest plot

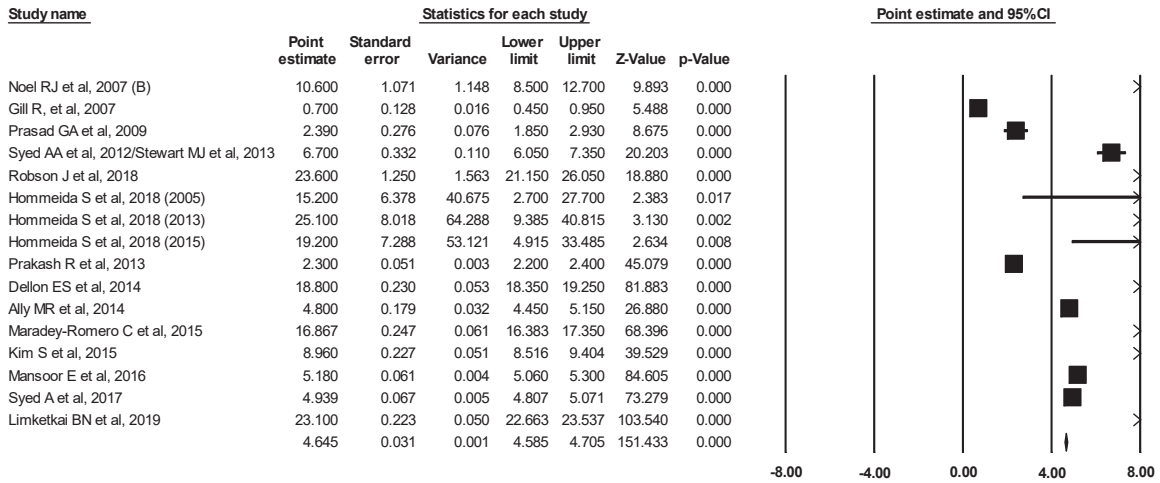


2) Funnel plot

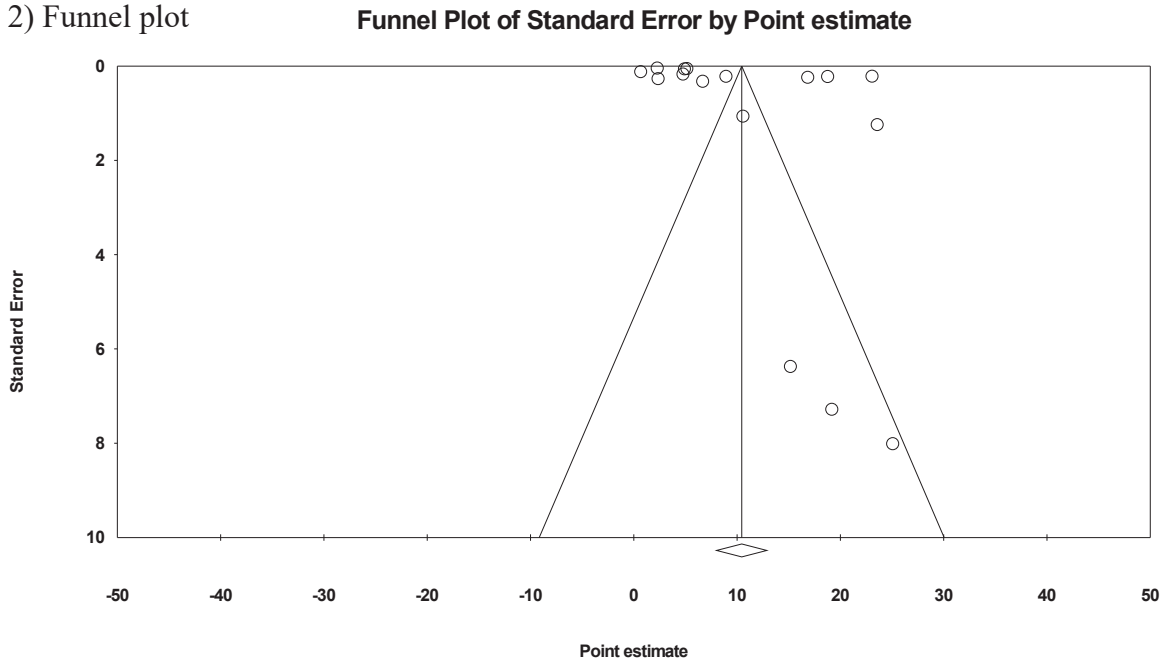


**Supplementary Figure 40.** North America incidence of EoE included in our systematic review (researcher-validated studies). (A) Forest plot; (B) Funnel plot.

1) Forest plot

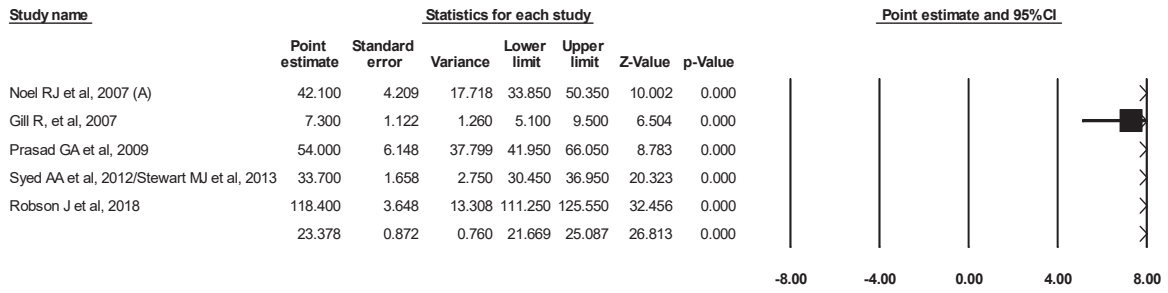


2) Funnel plot

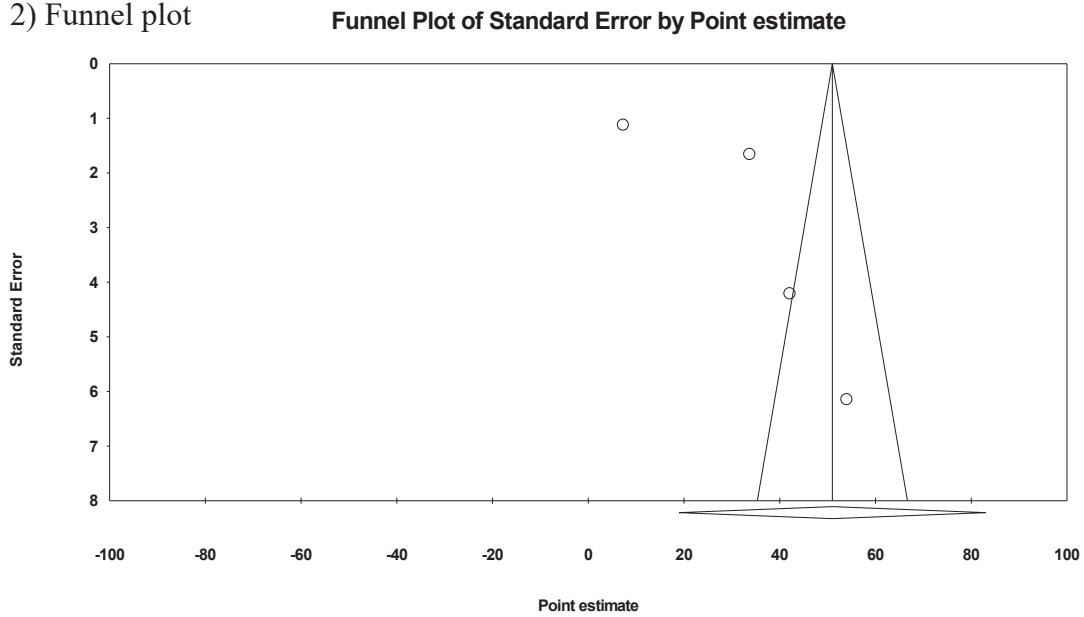


**Supplementary Figure 41.** North America incidence of EoE included in our systematic review (total study). (A) Forest plot; (B) Funnel plot.

1) Forest plot

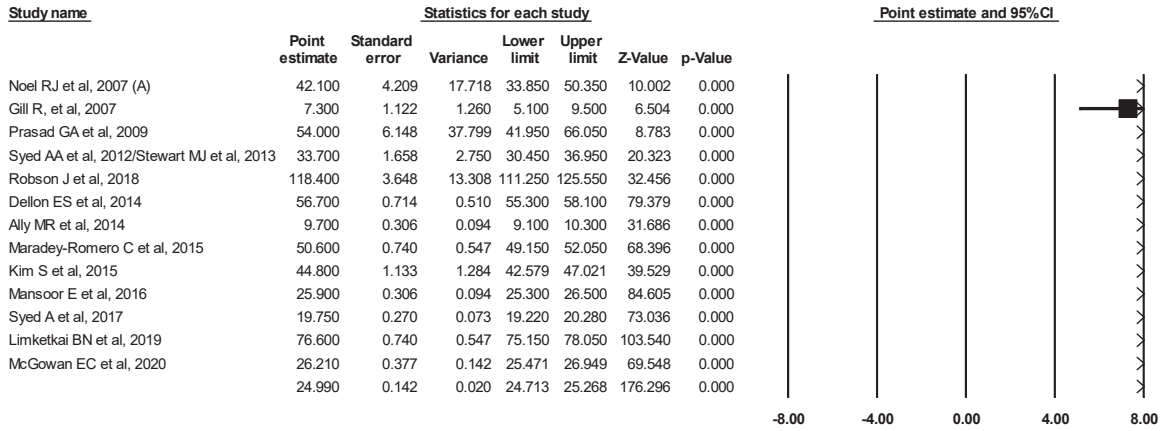


2) Funnel plot

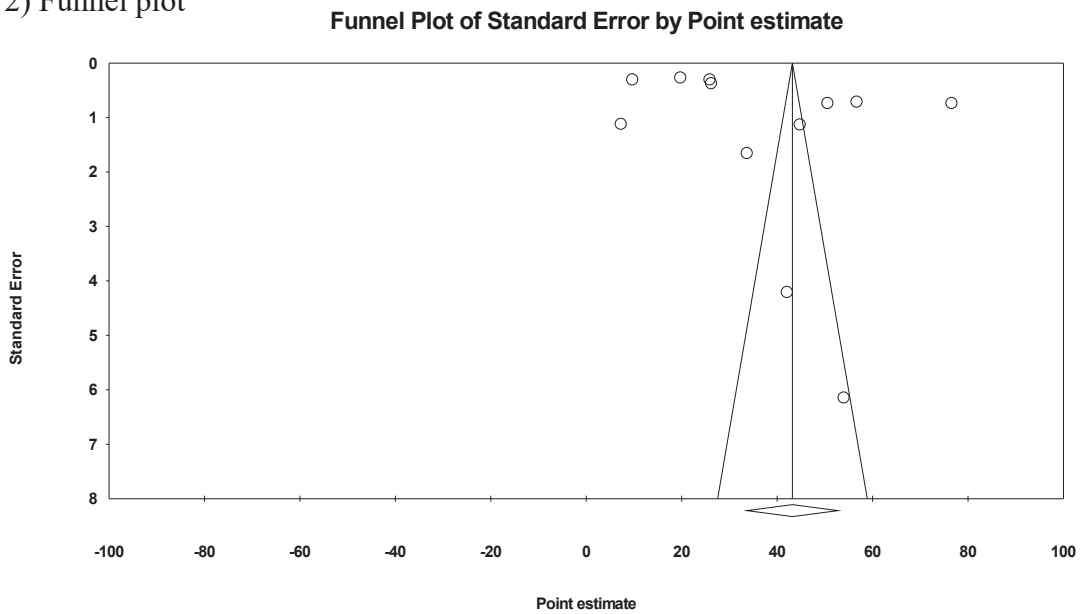


**Supplementary Figure 42.** North America prevalence of EoE included in our systematic review (researcher-validated studies). (A) Forest plot; (B) Funnel plot.

1) Forest plot



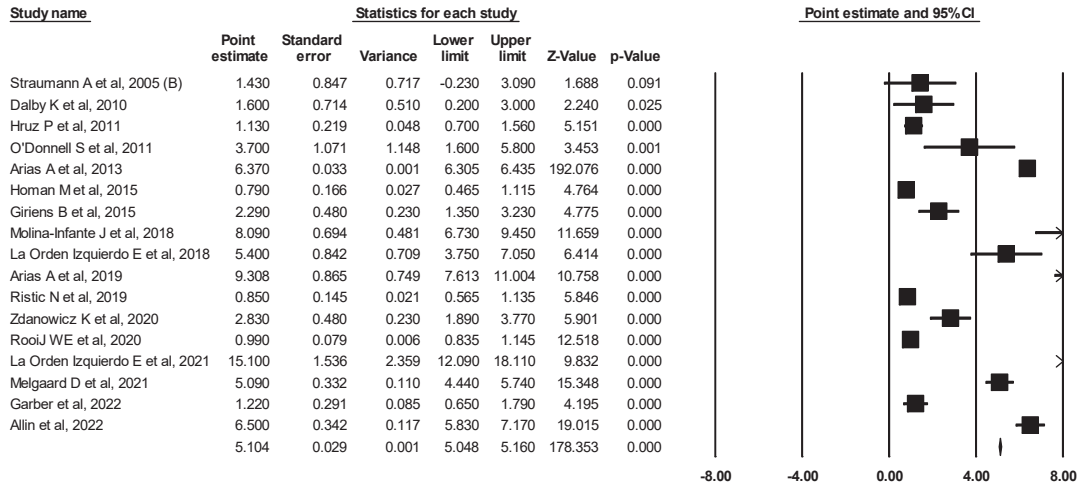
2) Funnel plot



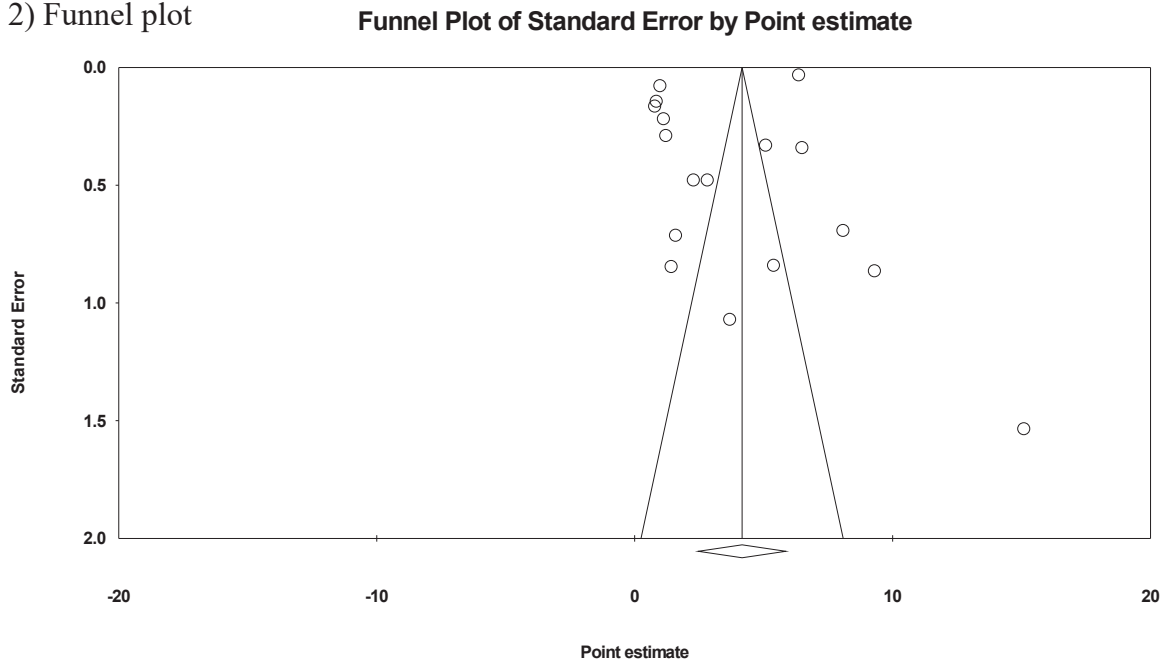
**Supplementary Figure 43.** North America prevalence of EoE included in our systematic review (total study). (A) Forest plot; (B) Funnel plot.



1) Forest plot

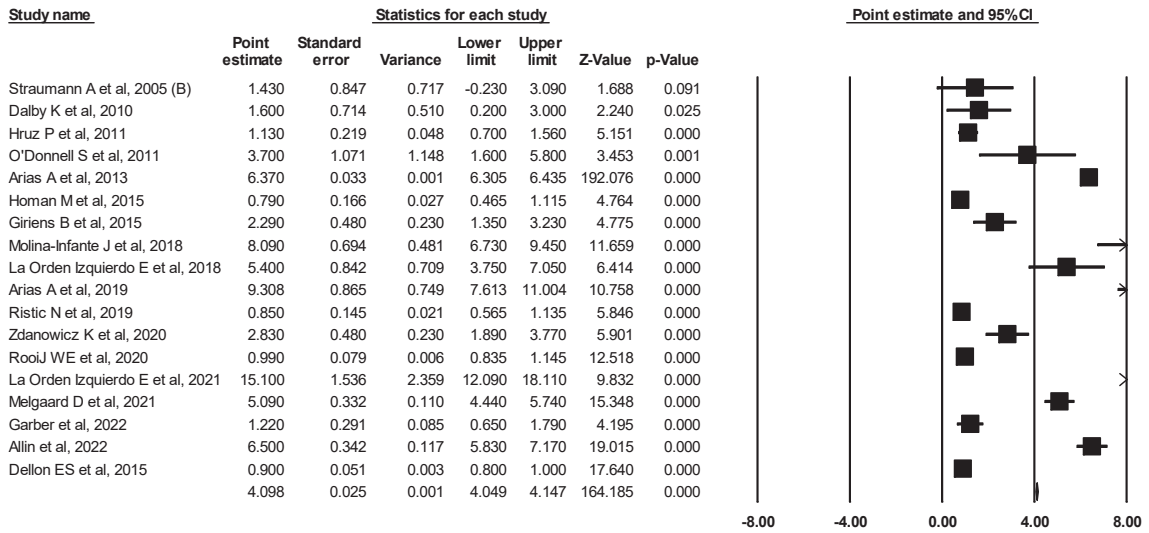


2) Funnel plot

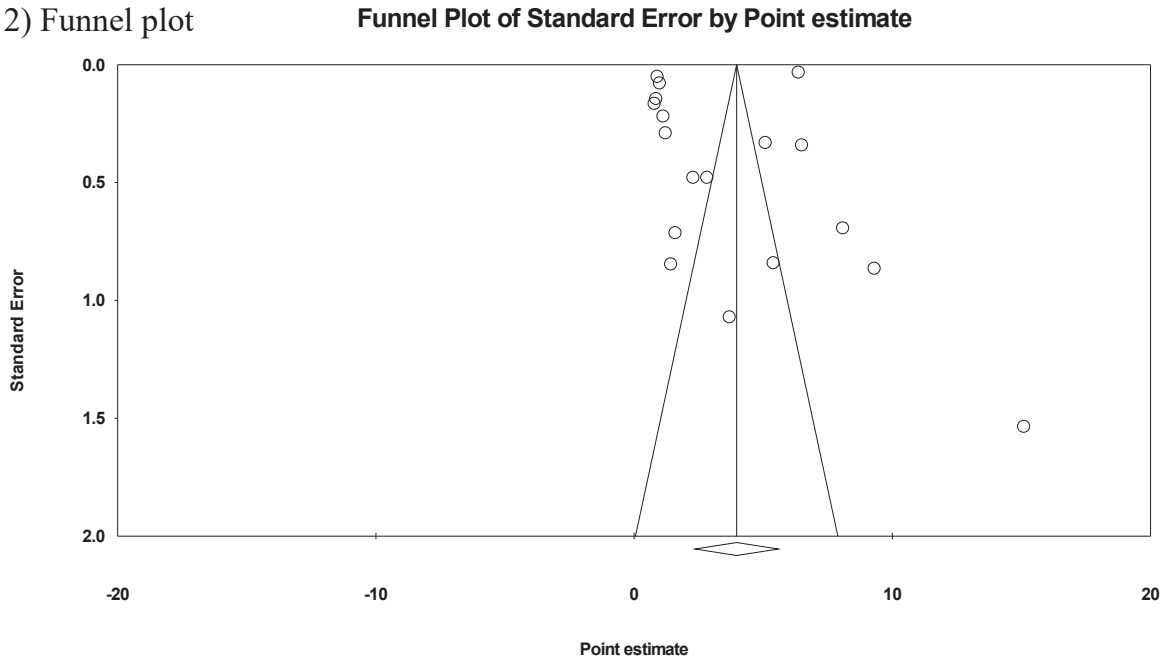


**Supplementary Figure 44.** Europe incidence of EoE included in our systematic review (researcher-validated studies). (A) Forest plot; (B) Funnel plot.

1) Forest plot

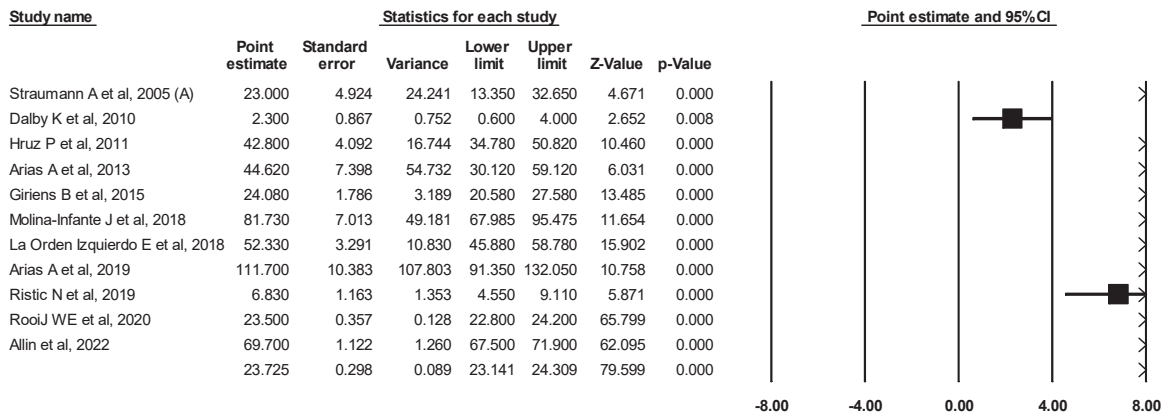


2) Funnel plot

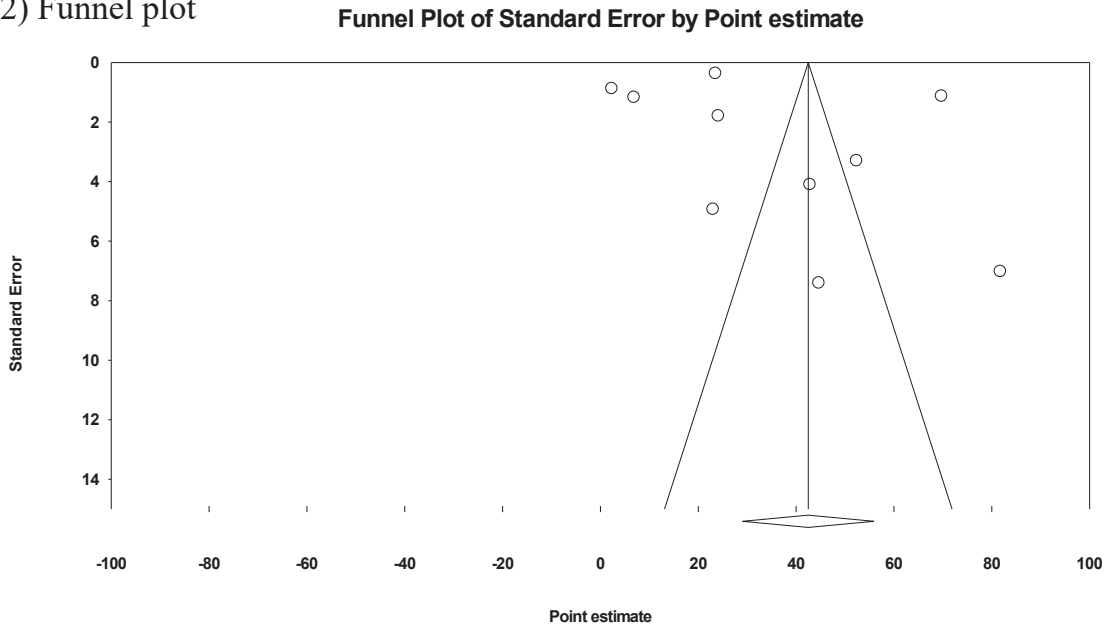


**Supplementary Figure 45.** Europe incidence of EoE included in our systematic review (total study). (A) Forest plot; (B) Funnel plot.

### 1) Forest plot

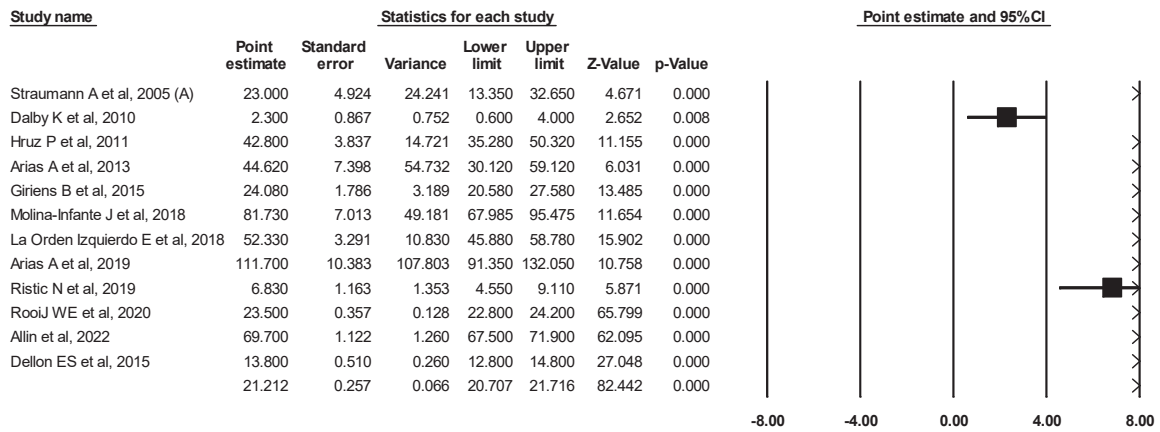


### 2) Funnel plot



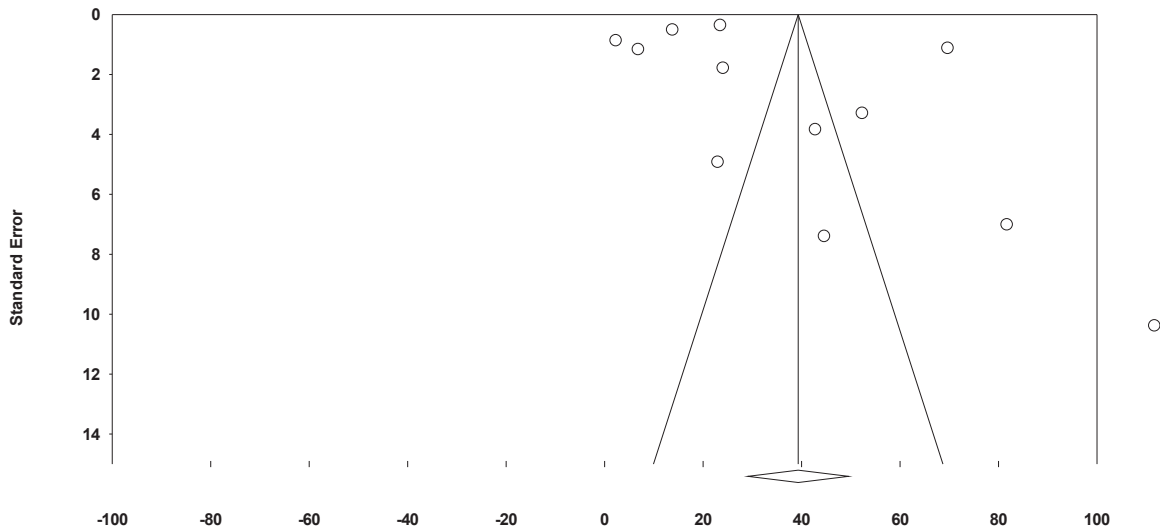
**Supplementary Figure 46.** Europe prevalence of EoE included in our systematic review (researcher-validated studies). (A) Forest plot; (B) Funnel plot.

1) Forest plot



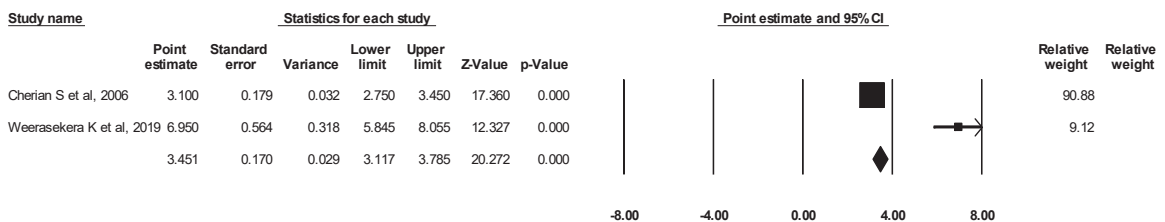
2) Funnel plot

Funnel Plot of Standard Error by Point estimate



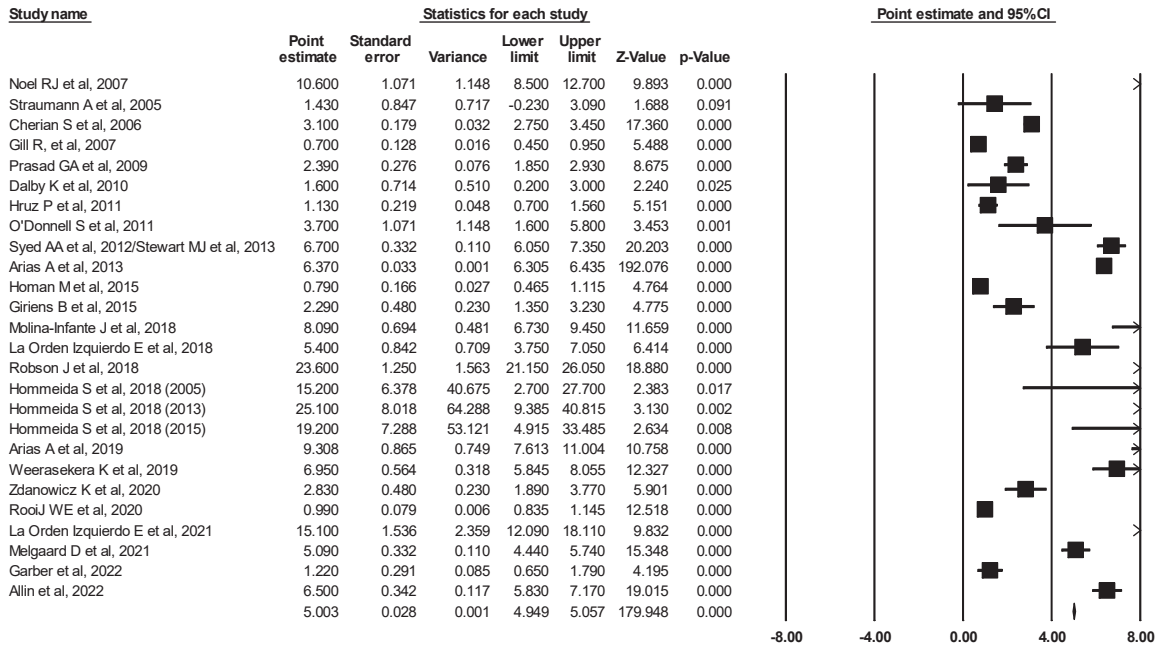
Supplementary Figure 47. Europe prevalence of EoE included in our systematic review (total study). (A) Forest plot; (B) Funnel plot.

1) Forest plot

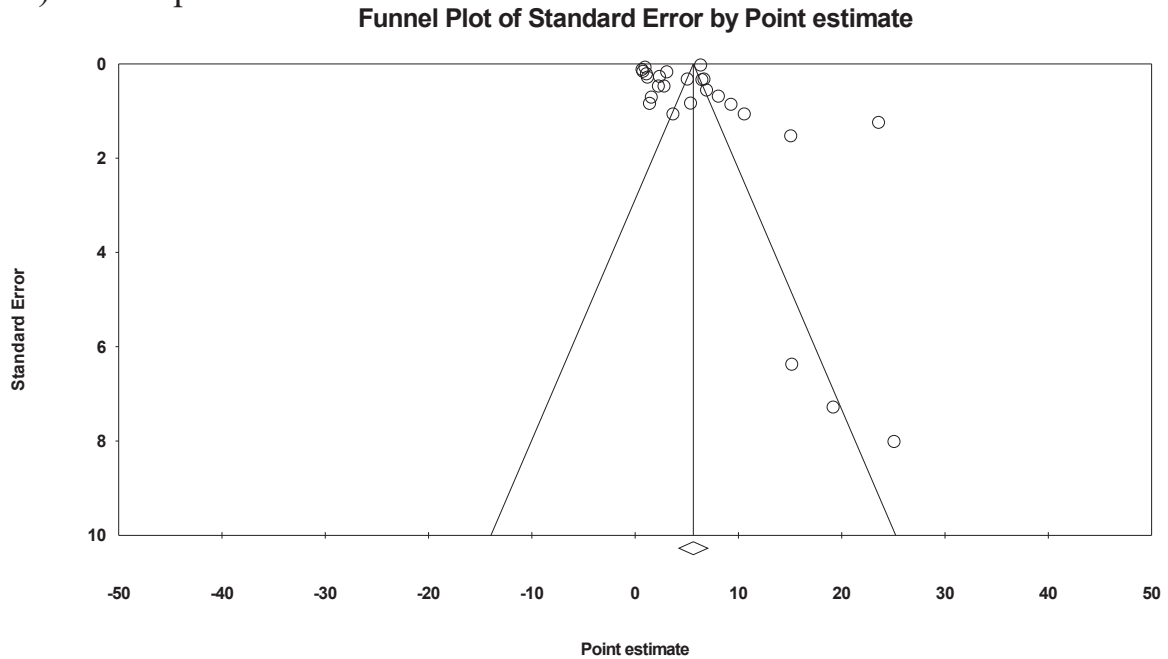


Supplementary Figure 48. Oceania incidence of EoE included in our systematic review (total study). (A) Forest plot; (B) Funnel plot.

### 1) Forest plot

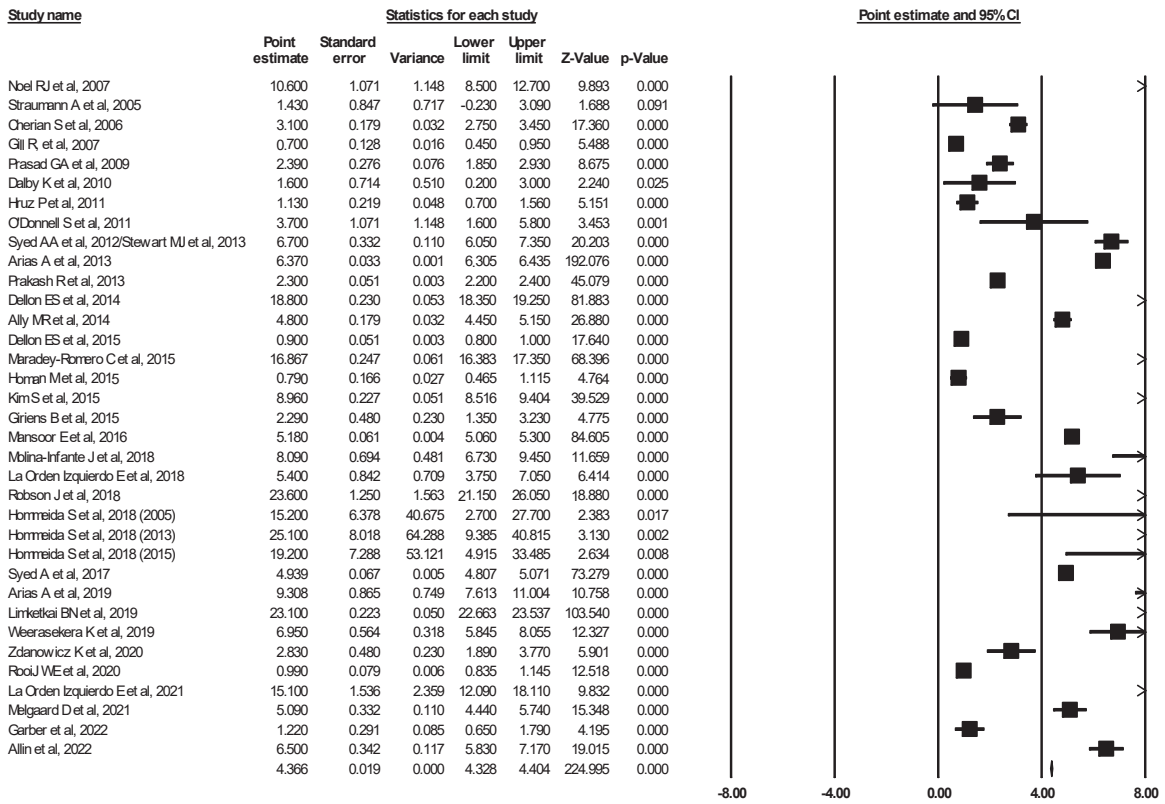


### 2) Funnel plot

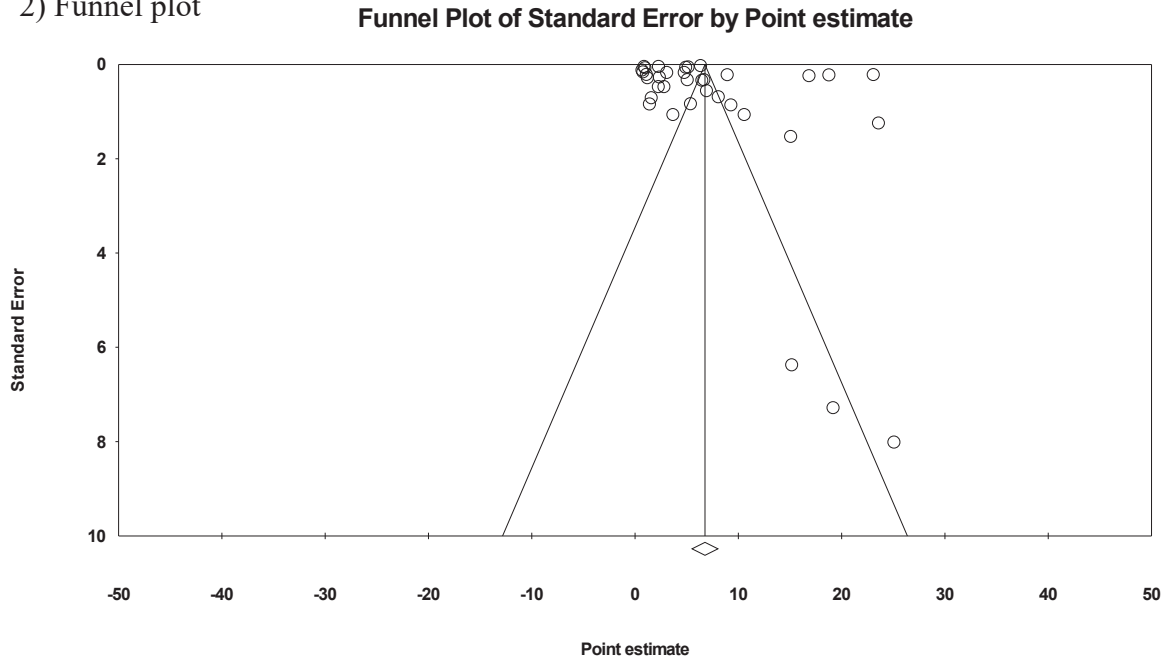


**Supplementary Figure 49.** High-income countries incidence of EoE included in our systematic review (researcher-validated studies). (A) Forest plot; (B) Funnel plot.

1) Forest plot

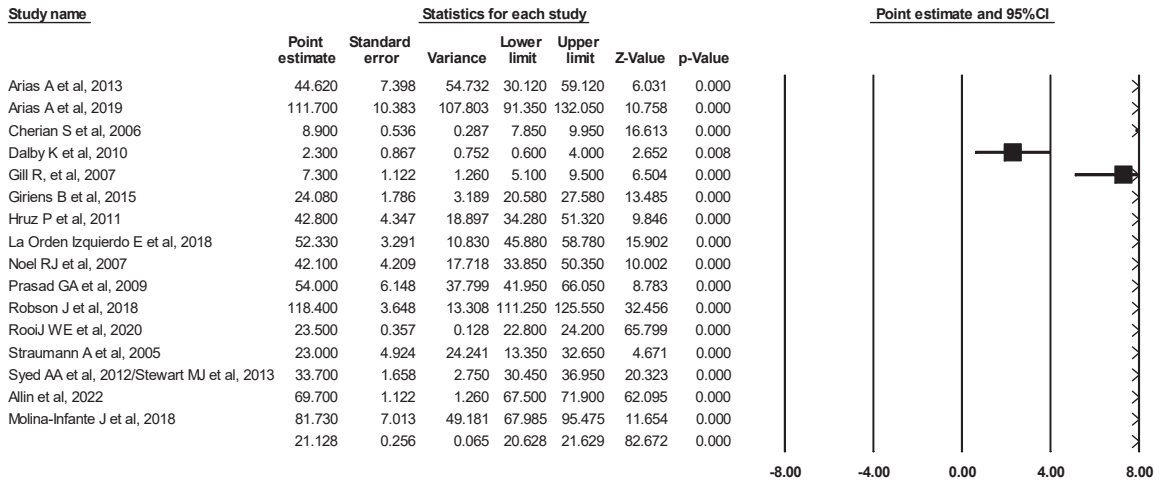


2) Funnel plot

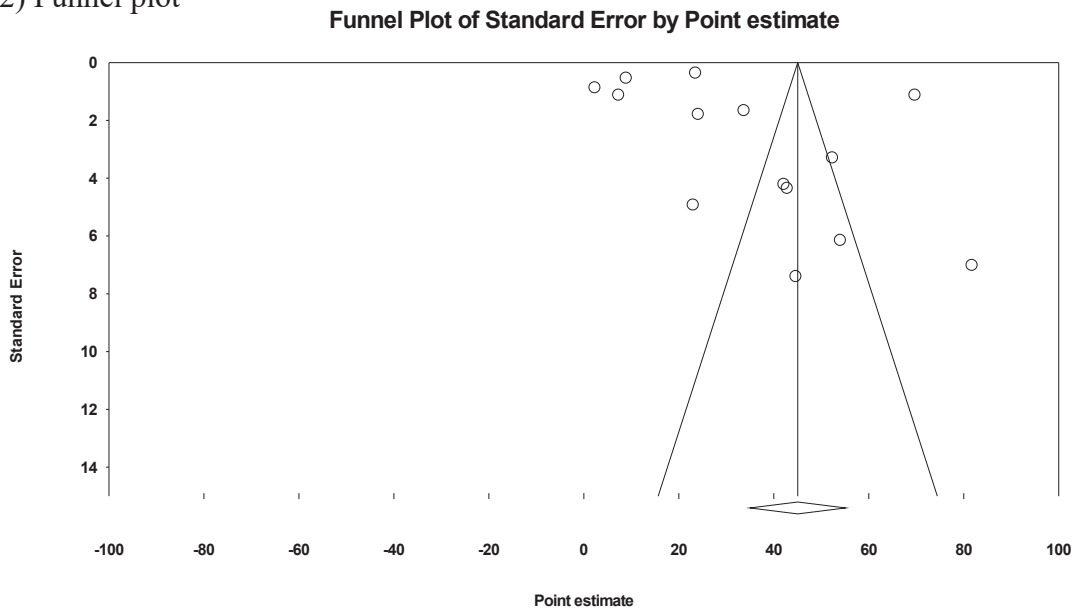


**Supplementary Figure 50.** High-income countries incidence of EoE included in our systematic review (total study). (A) Forest plot; (B) Funnel plot.

1) Forest plot

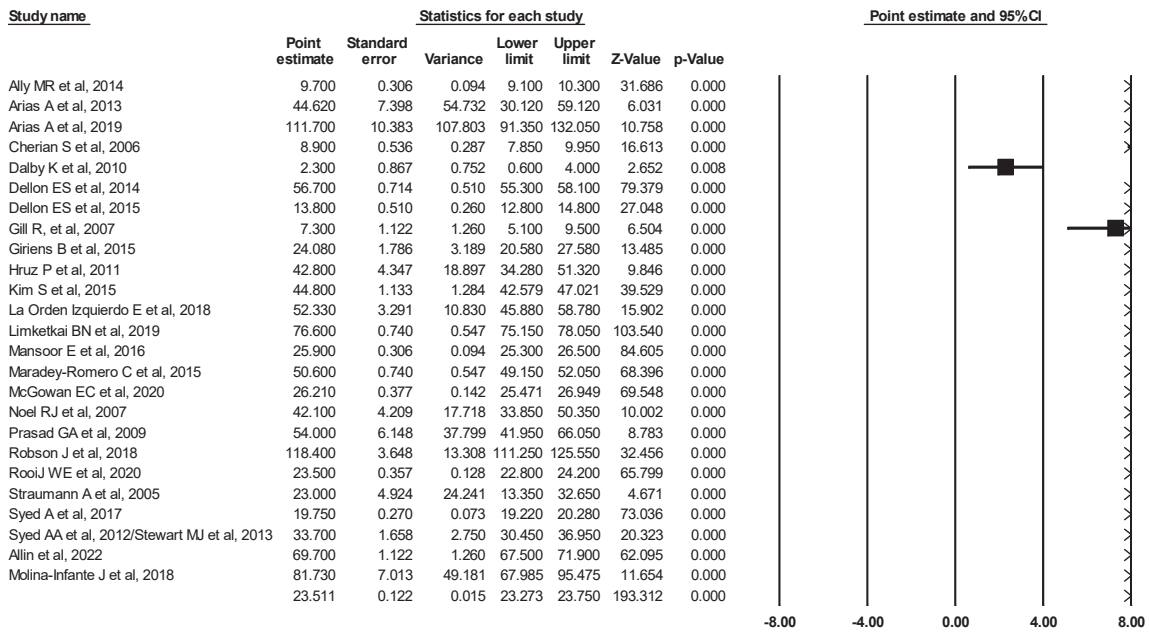


2) Funnel plot



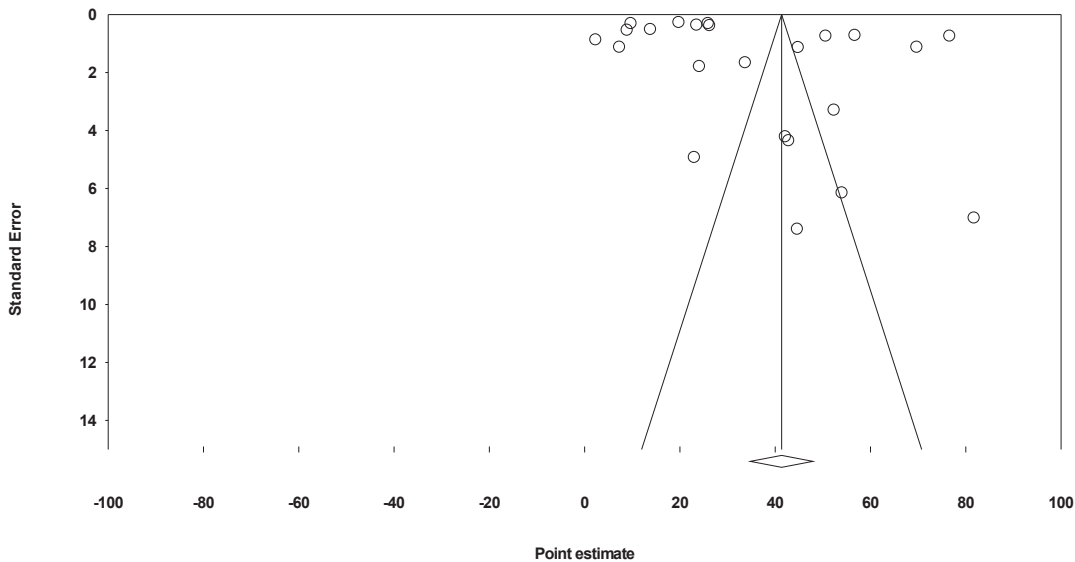
**Supplementary Figure 51.** High-income countries prevalence of EoE included in our systematic review (researcher-validated studies). (A) Forest plot; (B) Funnel plot.

1) Forest plot



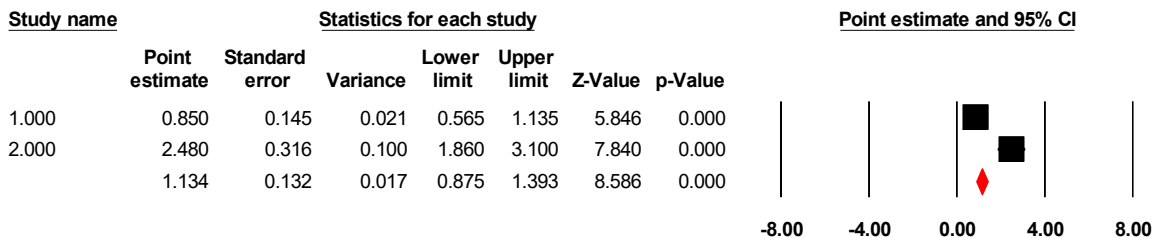
2) Funnel plot

Funnel Plot of Standard Error by Point estimate



Supplementary Figure 52. High-income countries prevalence of EoE included in our systematic review (total study). (A) Forest plot; (B) Funnel plot.

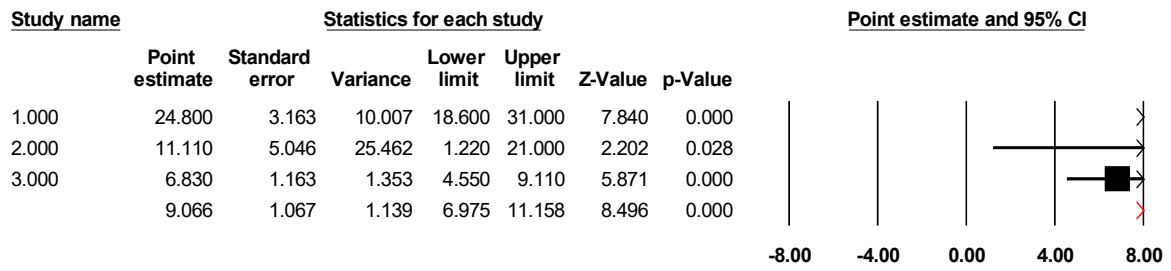
1) Forest plot



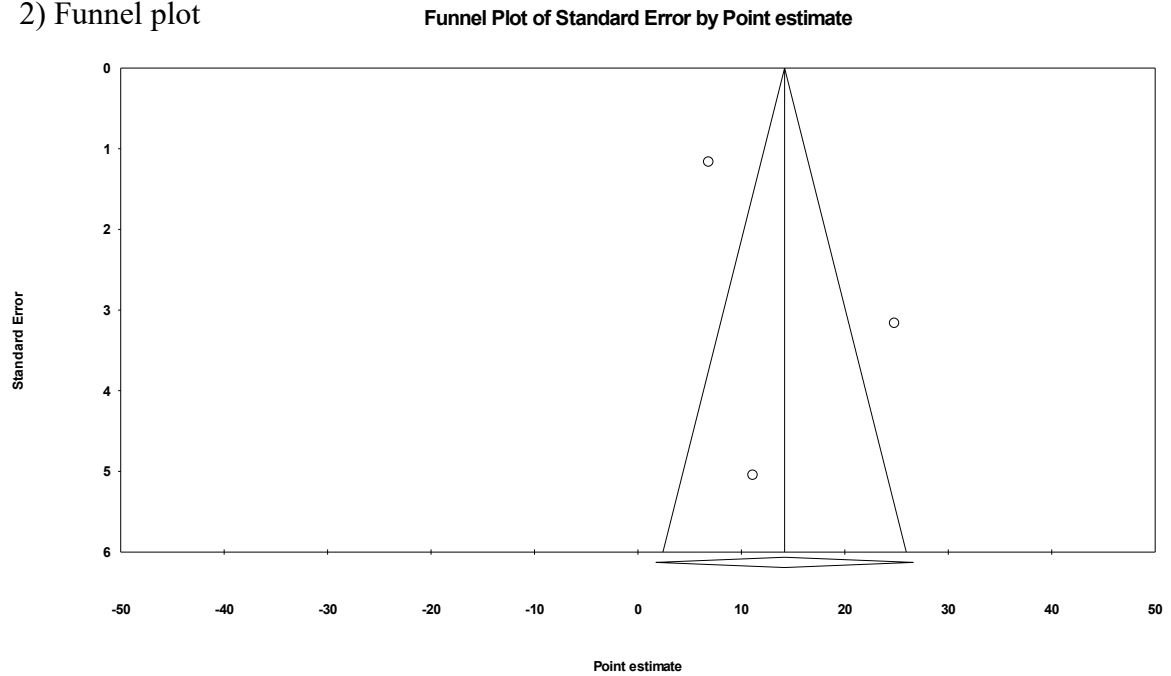
Supplementary Figure 53. Low- or middle-income countries incidence of EoE included in our systematic review (total study). (A) Forest plot; (B) Funnel plot.



1) Forest plot

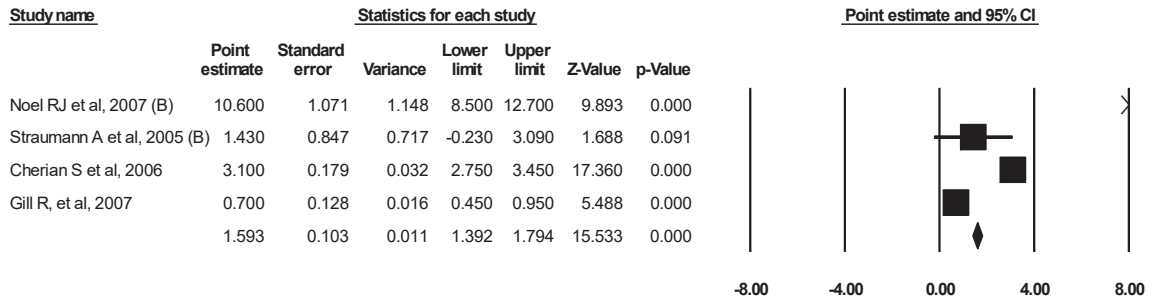


2) Funnel plot

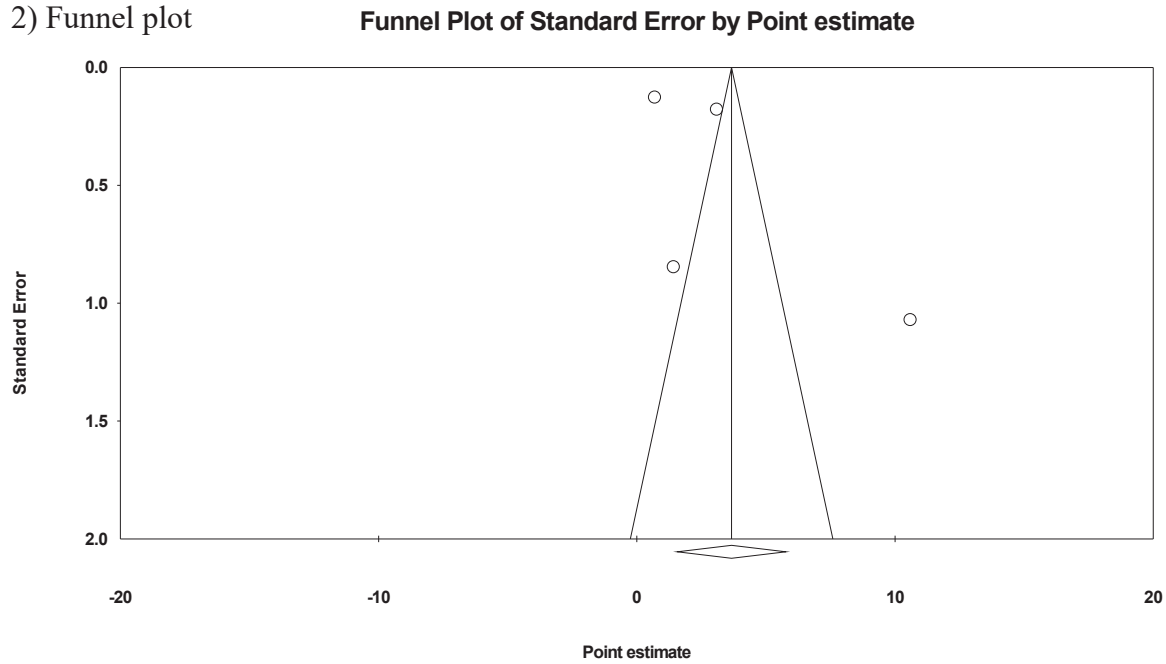


**Supplementary Figure 54.** Low- or middle-income countries prevalence of EoE included in our systematic review (total study). (A) Forest plot; (B) Funnel plot.

1) Forest plot

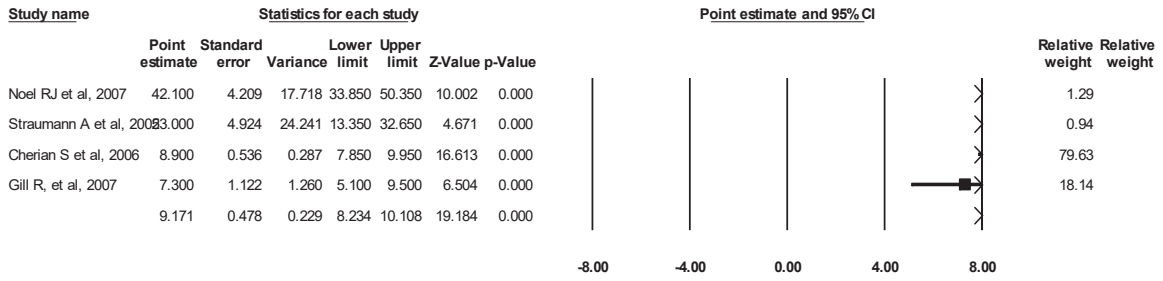


2) Funnel plot

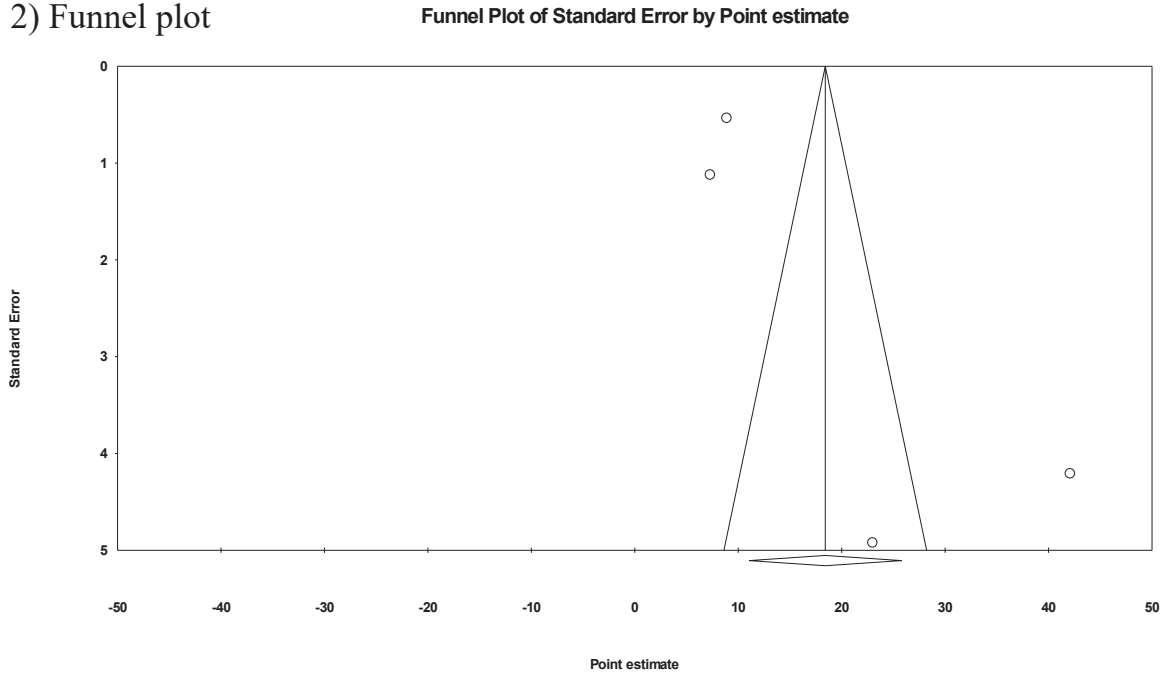


**Supplementary Figure 55.** Before 2007 consensus incidence of EoE included in our systematic review (total study). (A) Forest plot; (B) Funnel plot.

### 1) Forest plot

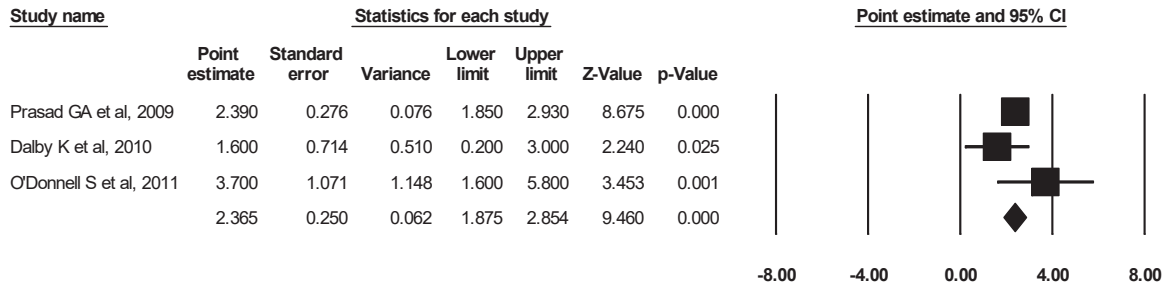


### 2) Funnel plot

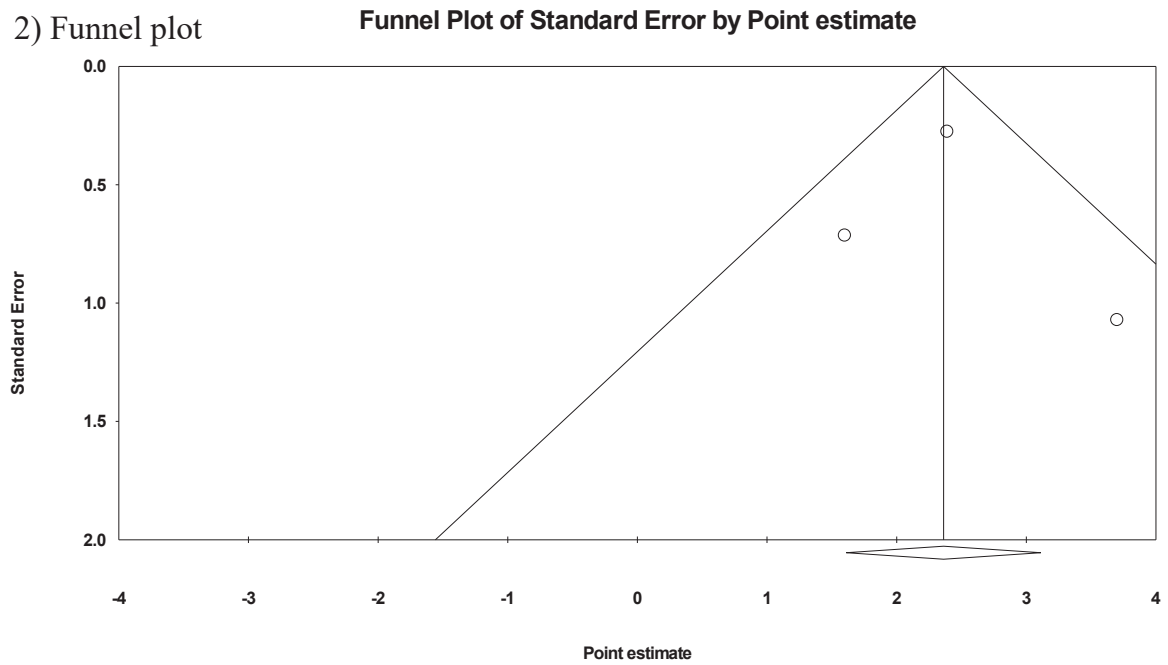


**Supplementary Figure 56.** Before 2007 consensus prevalence of EoE included in our systematic review (total study). (A) Forest plot; (B) Funnel plot.

### 1) Forest plot

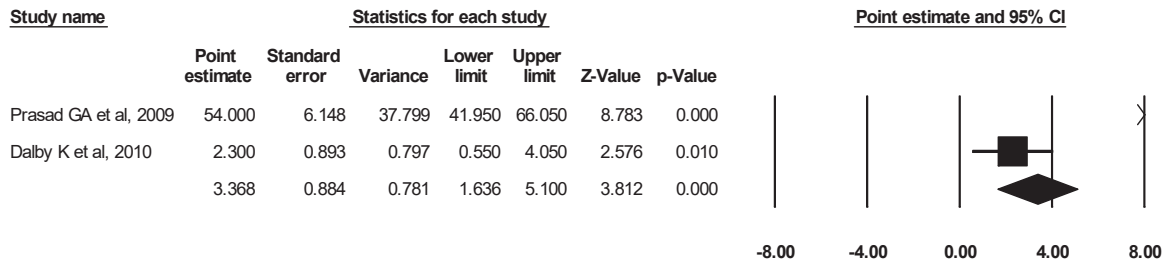


### 2) Funnel plot

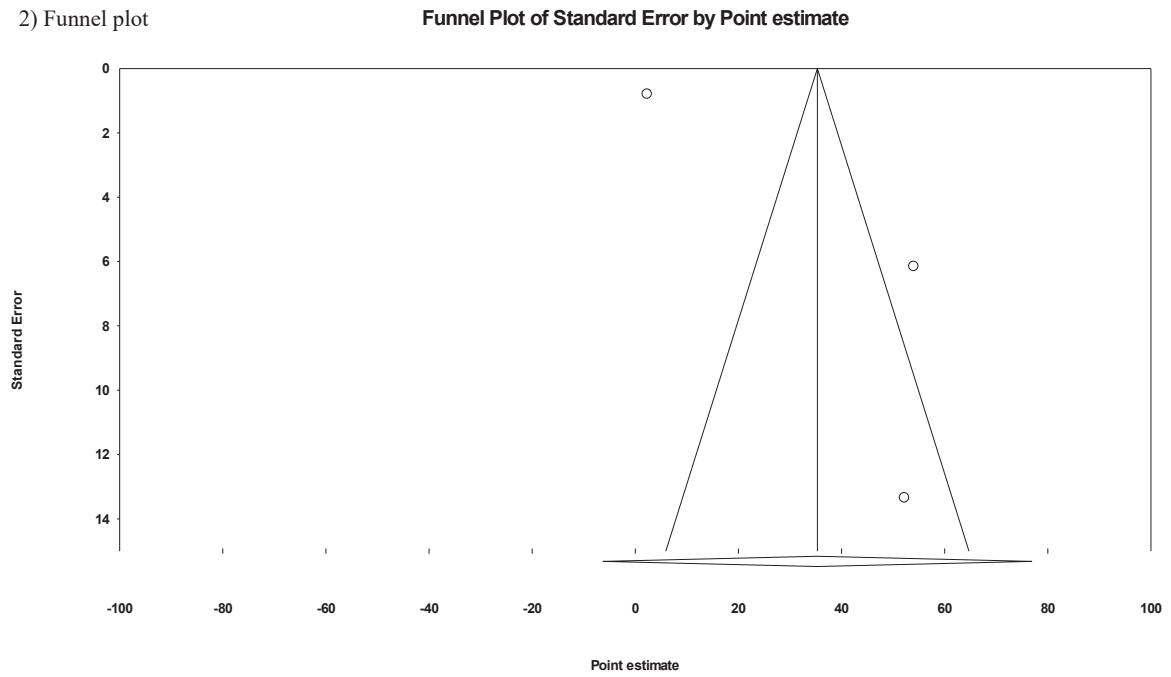


**Supplementary Figure 57.** After 2007 consensus incidence of EoE included in our systematic review (total study). (A) Forest plot; (B) Funnel plot.

1) Forest plot

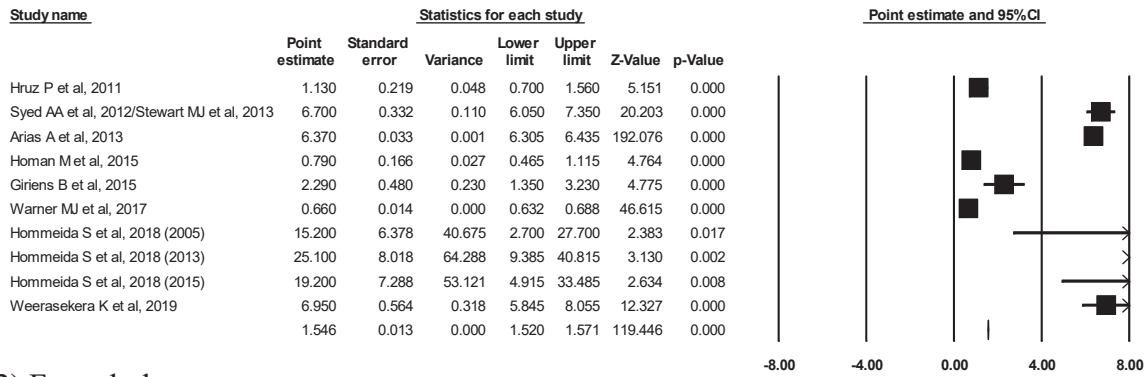


2) Funnel plot

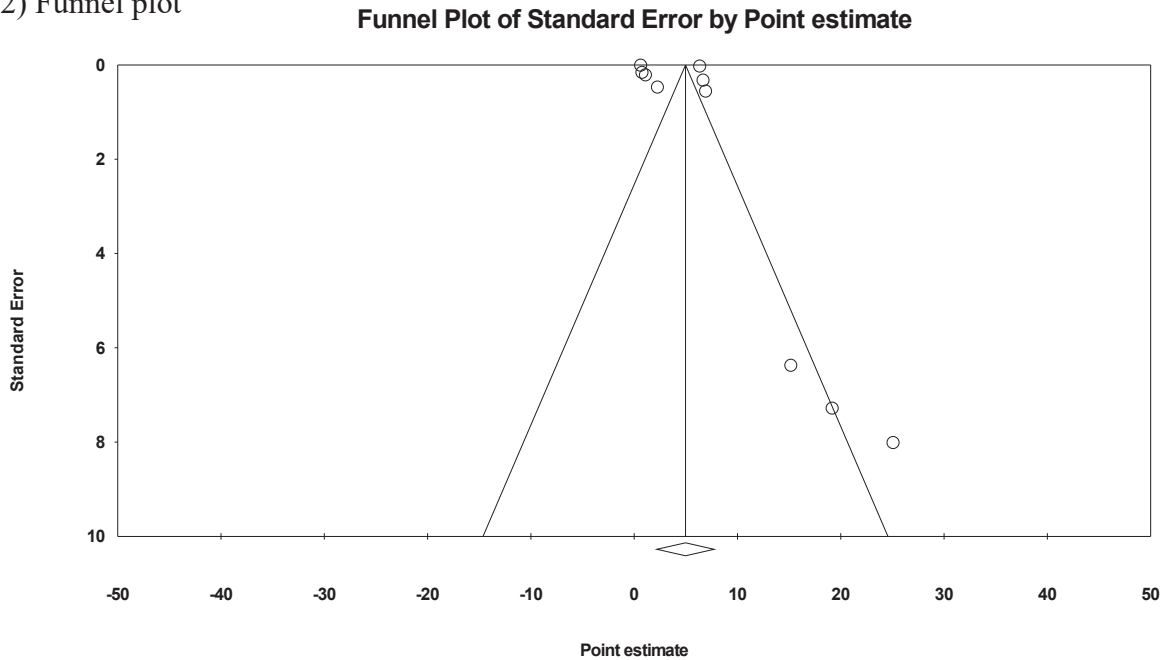


**Supplementary Figure 58.** After 2007 consensus prevalence of EoE included in our systematic review (total study). (A) Forest plot; (B) Funnel plot.

1) Forest plot

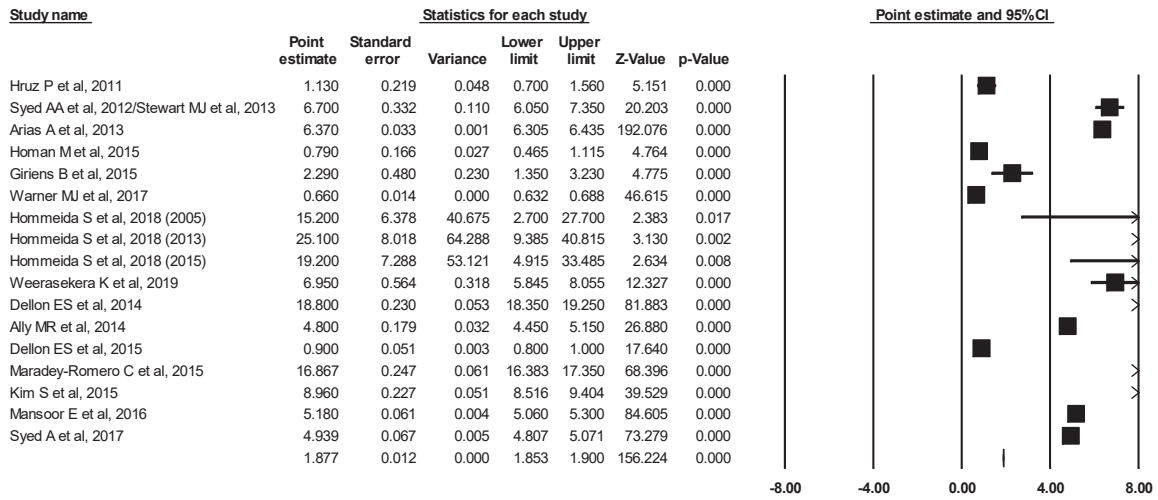


2) Funnel plot

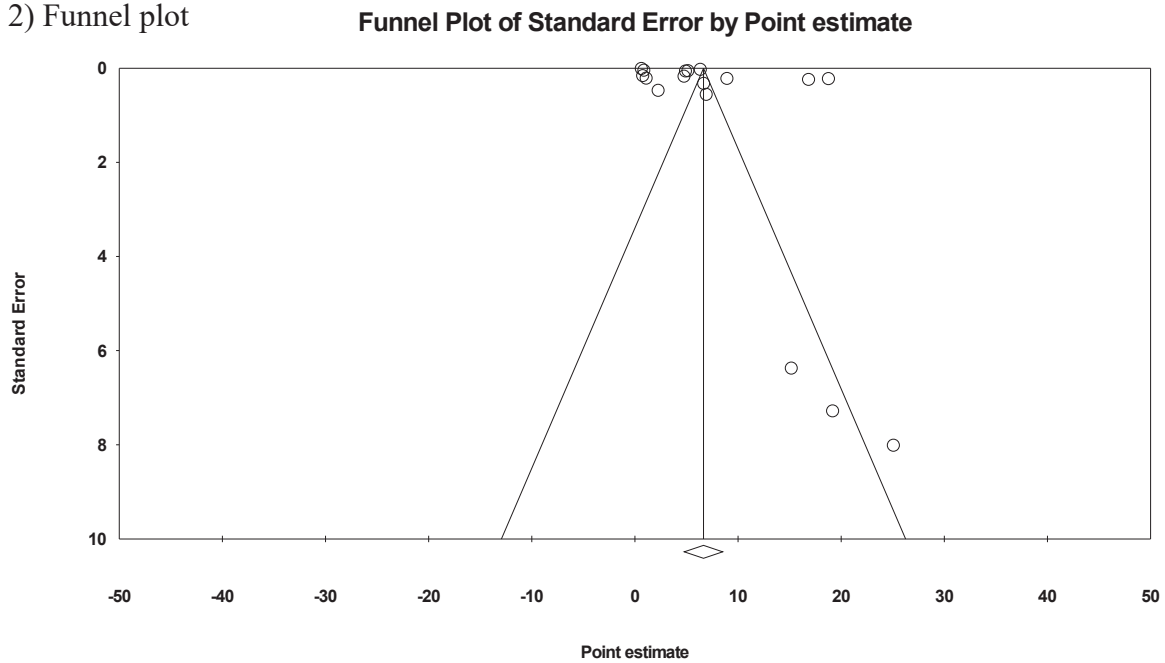


**Supplementary Figure 59.** After 2011 consensus incidence of EoE included in our systematic review (researcher-validated studies). (A) Forest plot; (B) Funnel plot.

1) Fovrest plot

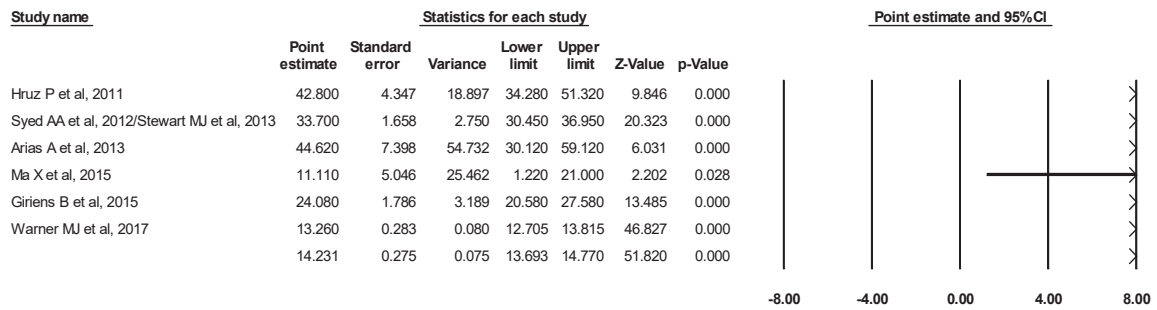


2) Funnel plot

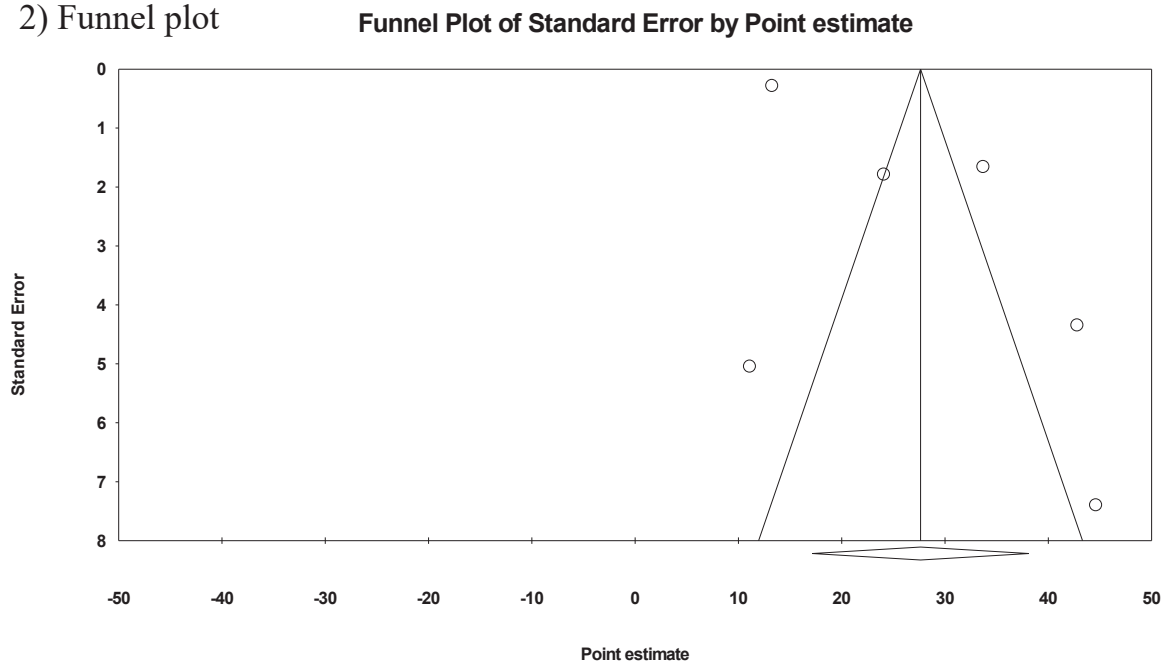


**Supplementary Figure 60.** After 2011 consensus incidence of EoE included in our systematic review (total study). (A) Forest plot; (B) Funnel plot.

### 1) Forest plot



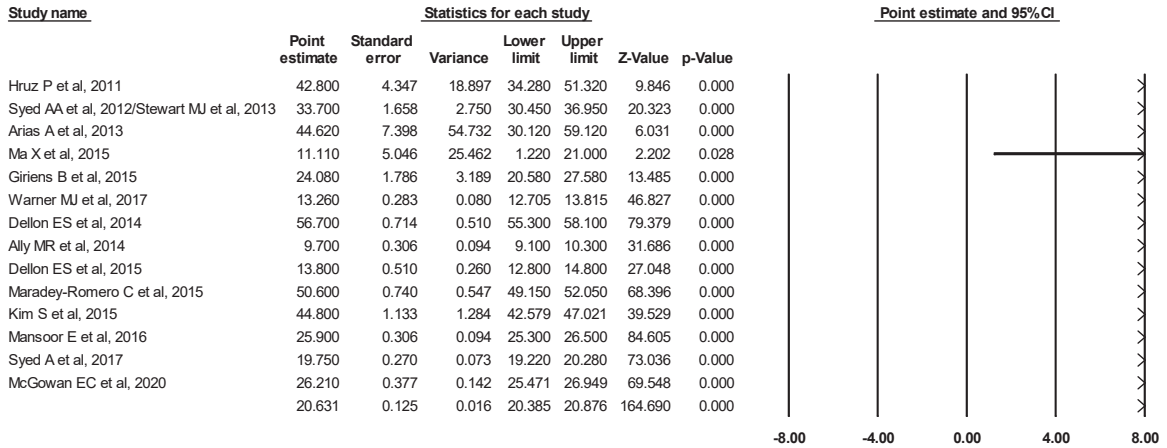
### 2) Funnel plot



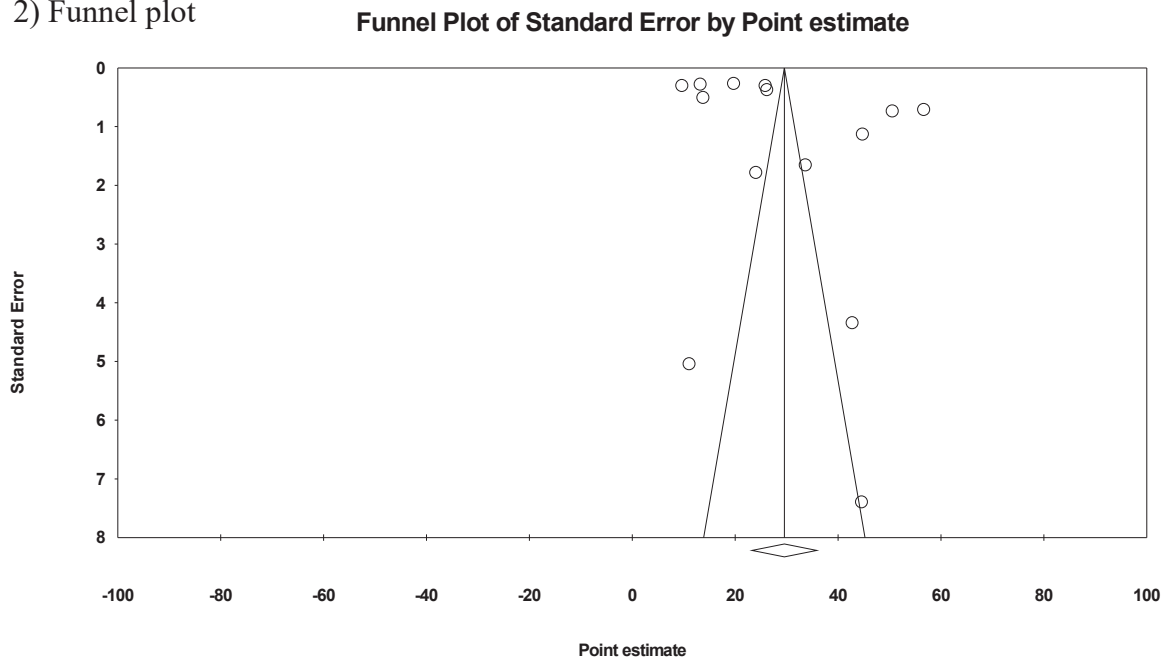
**Supplementary Figure 61.** After 2011 consensus prevalence of EoE included in our systematic review (researcher-validated studies). (A) Forest plot; (B) Funnel plot.



1) Forest plot

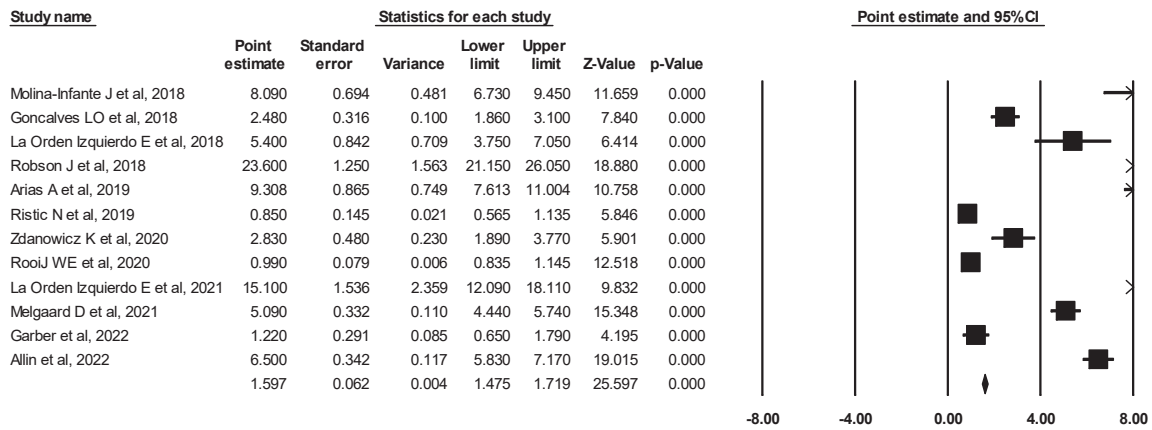


2) Funnel plot

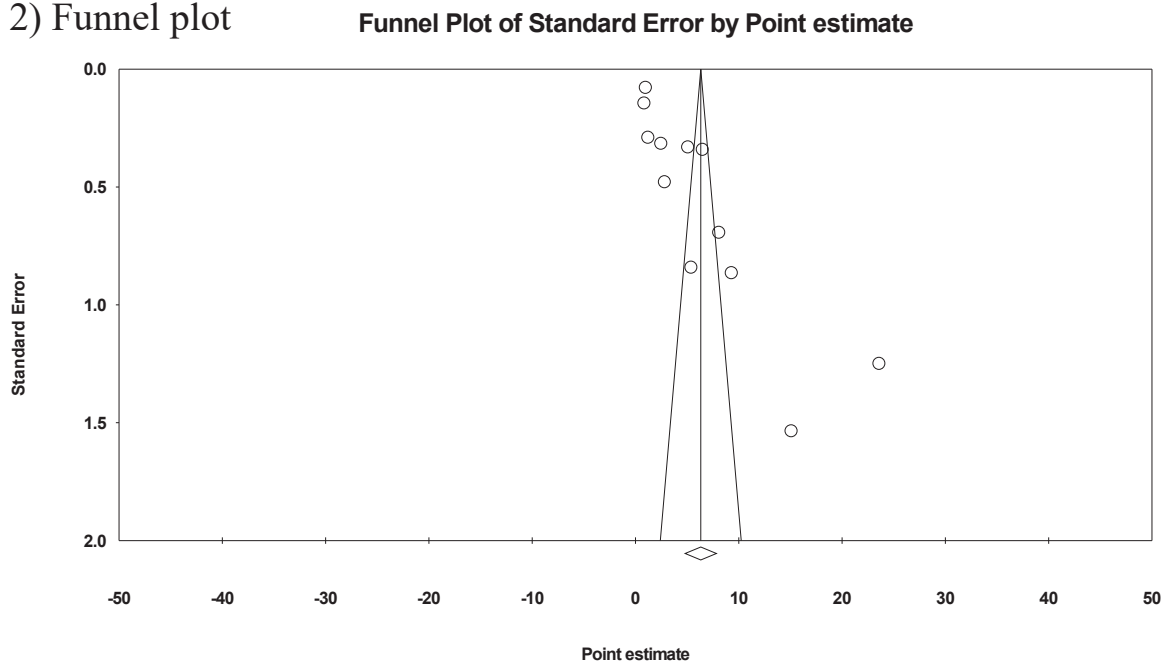


**Supplementary Figure 62.** After 2011 consensus prevalence of EoE included in our systematic review (total study). (A) Forest plot; (B) Funnel plot.

### 1) Forest plot

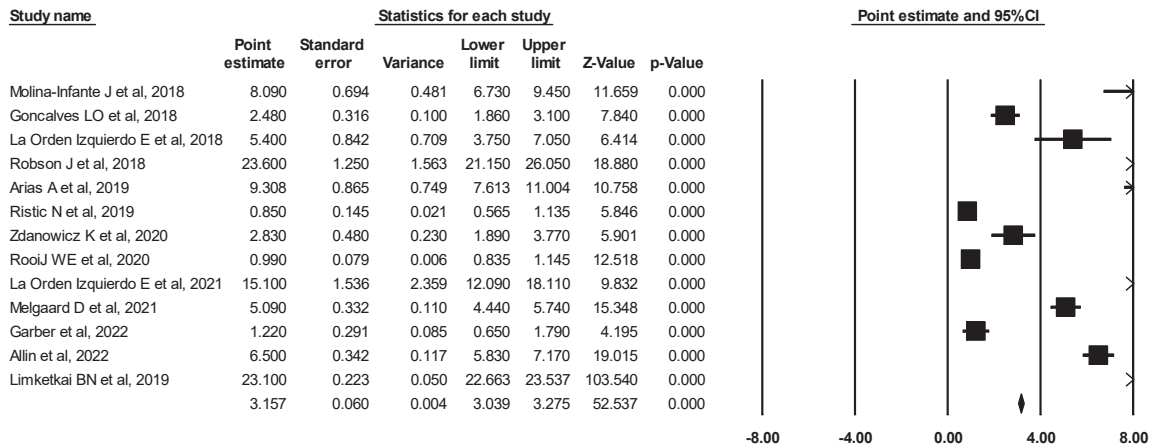


### 2) Funnel plot

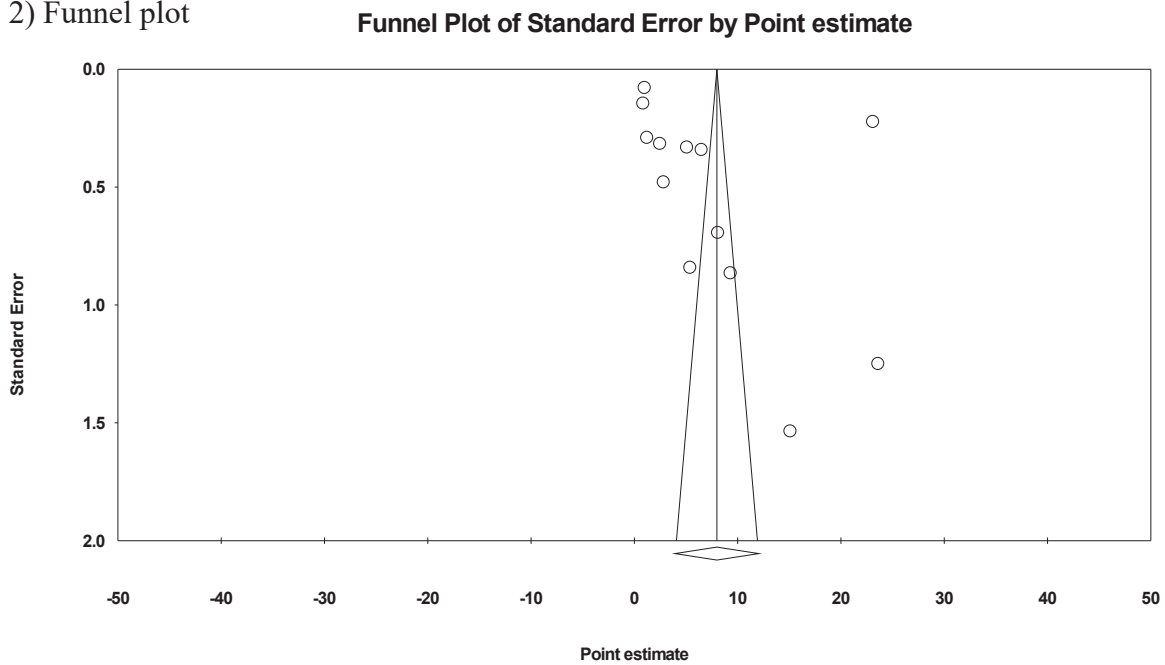


**Supplementary Figure 63.** After 2018 guidelines incidence of EoE included in our systematic review (researcher-validated studies). (A) Forest plot; (B) Funnel plot.

1) Forest plot

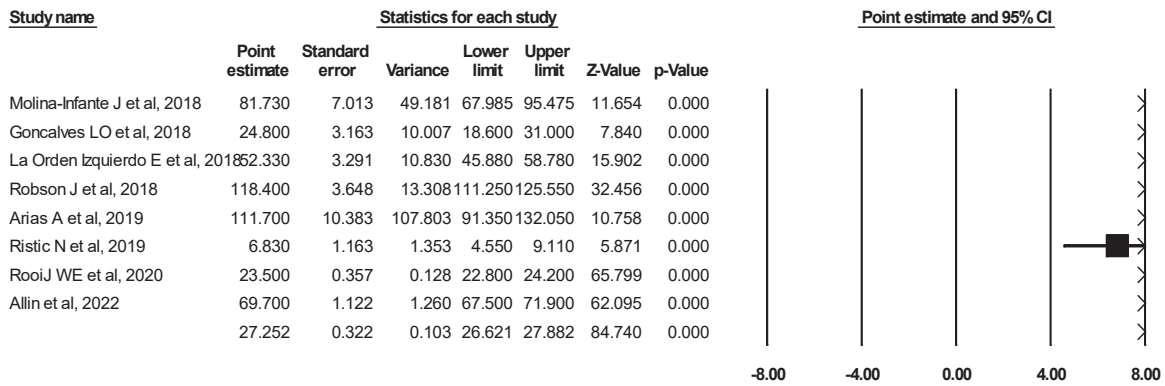


2) Funnel plot

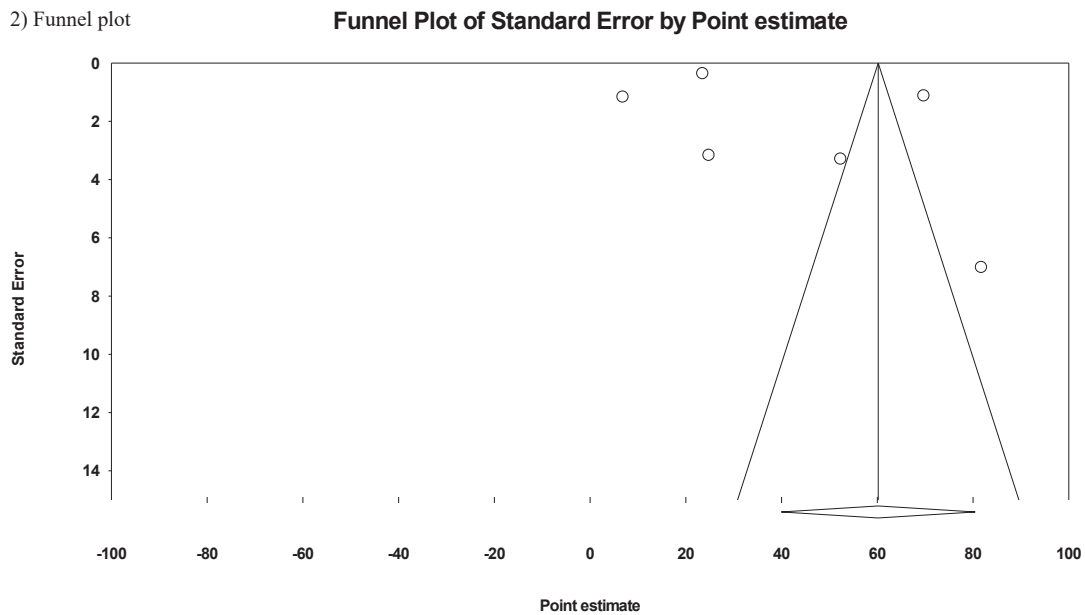


**Supplementary Figure 64.** After 2018 guidelines incidence of EoE included in our systematic review (total study). (A) Forest plot; (B) Funnel plot.

### 1) Forest plot

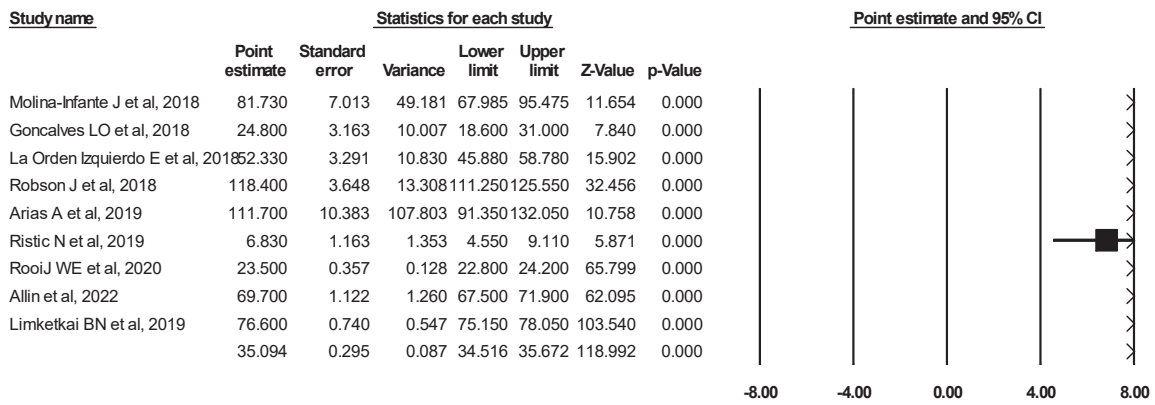


### 2) Funnel plot

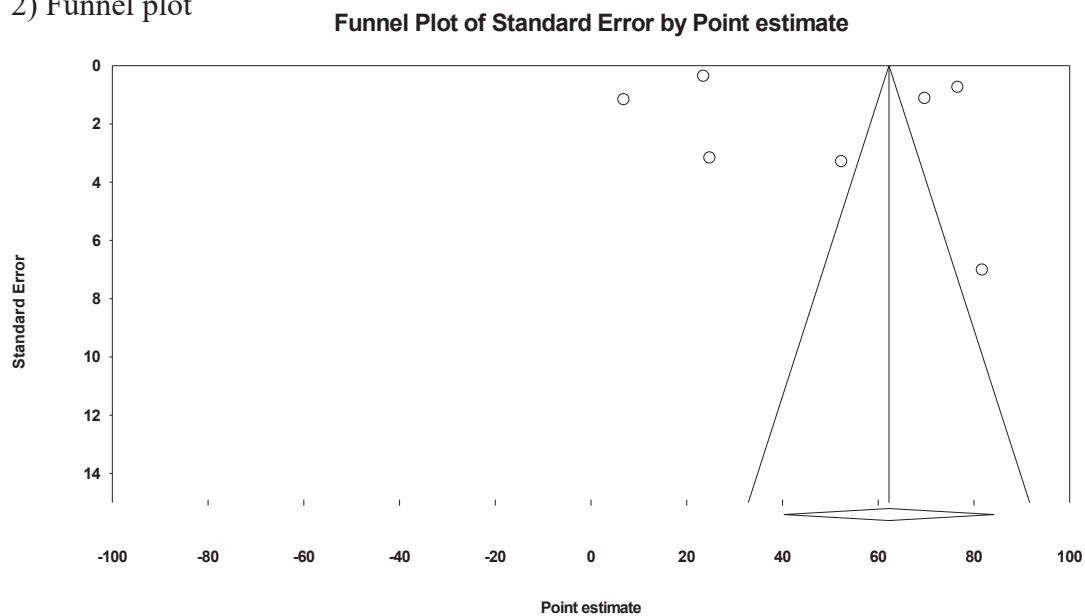


**Supplementary Figure 65.** After 2018 guidelines prevalence of EoE included in our systematic review (researcher-validated studies). (A) Forest plot; (B) Funnel plot.

1) Forest plot

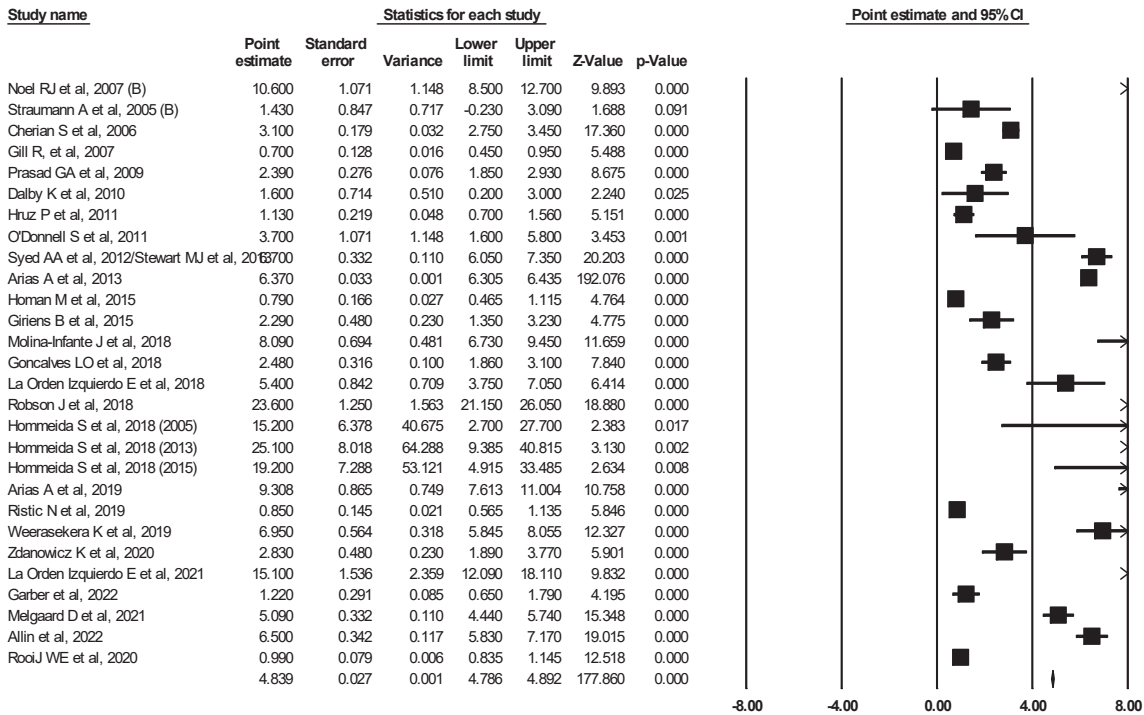


2) Funnel plot

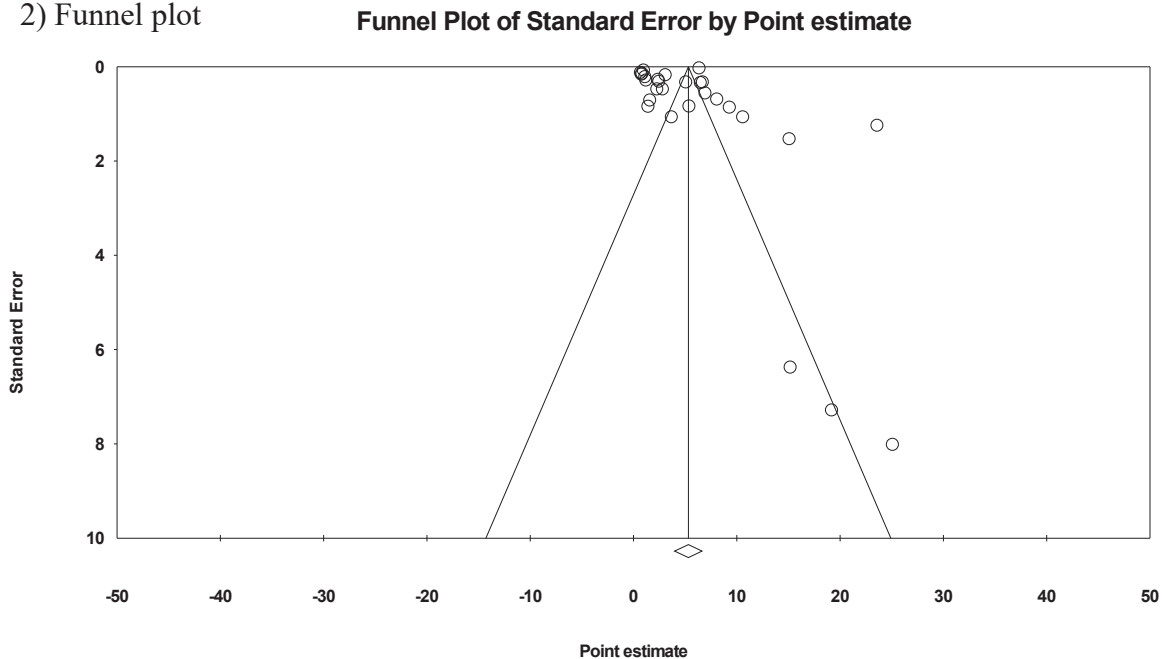


**Supplementary Figure 66.** After 2018 guidelines prevalence of EoE included in our systematic review (total study). (A) Forest plot; (B) Funnel plot.

1) Forest plot

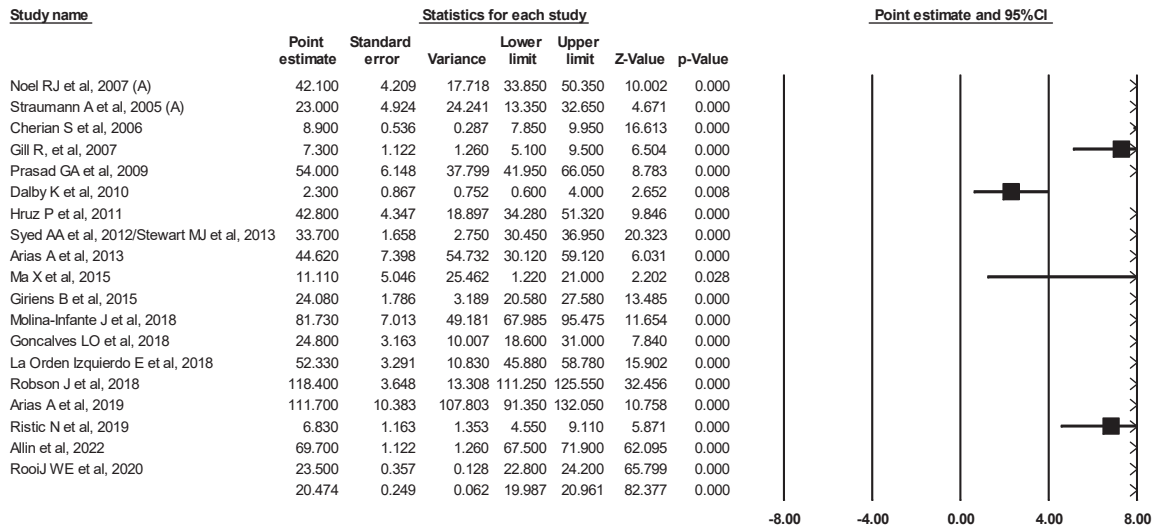


2) Funnel plot

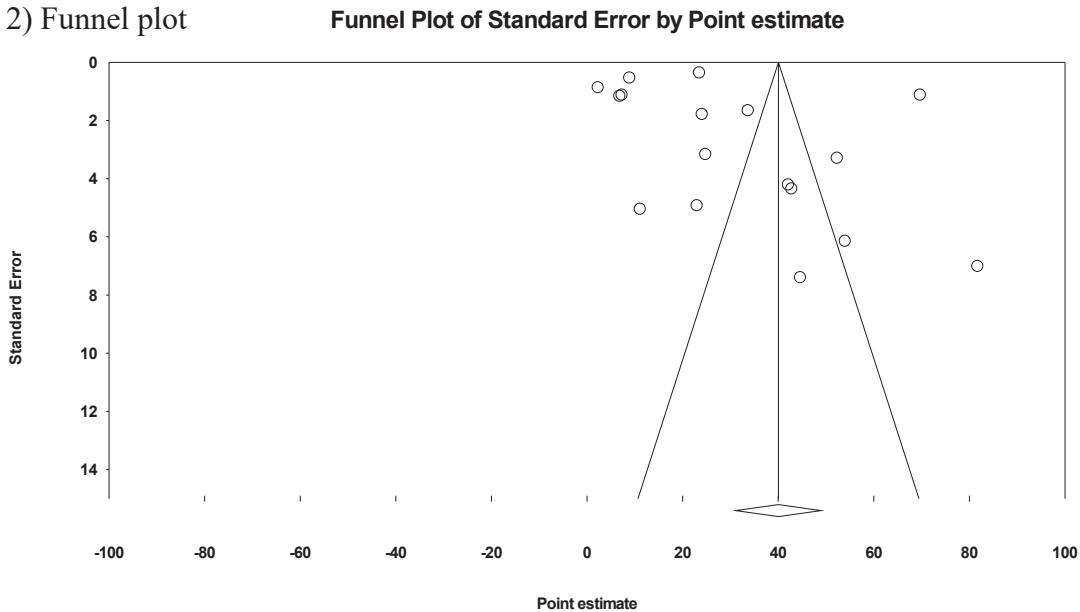


**Supplementary Figure 67.** Researcher-validated incidence of EoE included in our systematic review. (A) Forest plot; (B) Funnel plot.

1) Forest plot

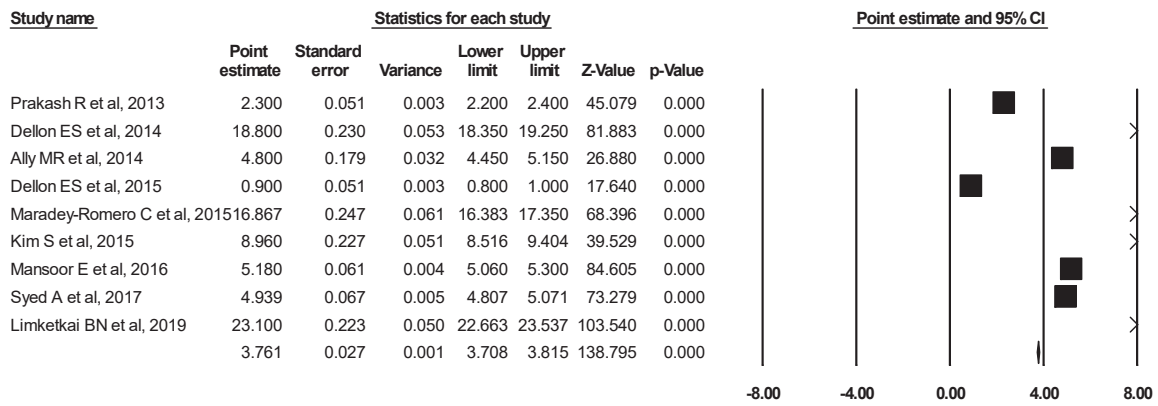


2) Funnel plot

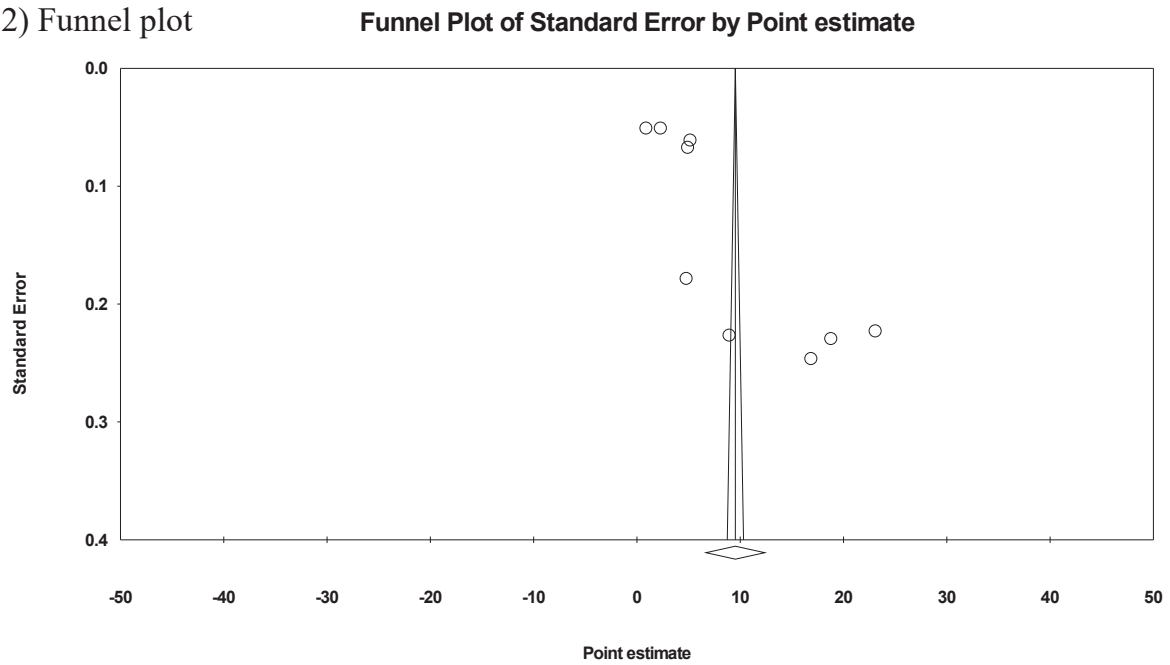


**Supplementary Figure 68.** Researcher-validated prevalence of EoE included in our systematic review. (A) Forest plot; (B) Funnel plot.

### 1) Forest plot



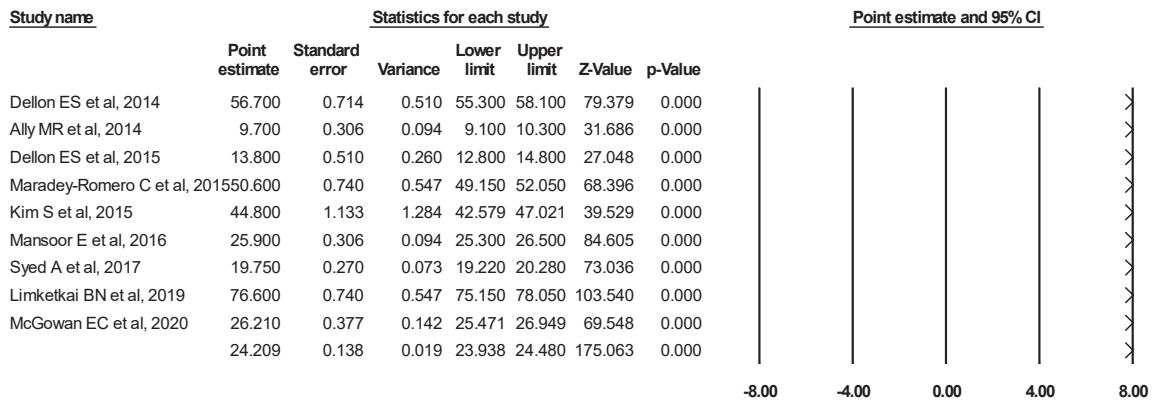
### 2) Funnel plot



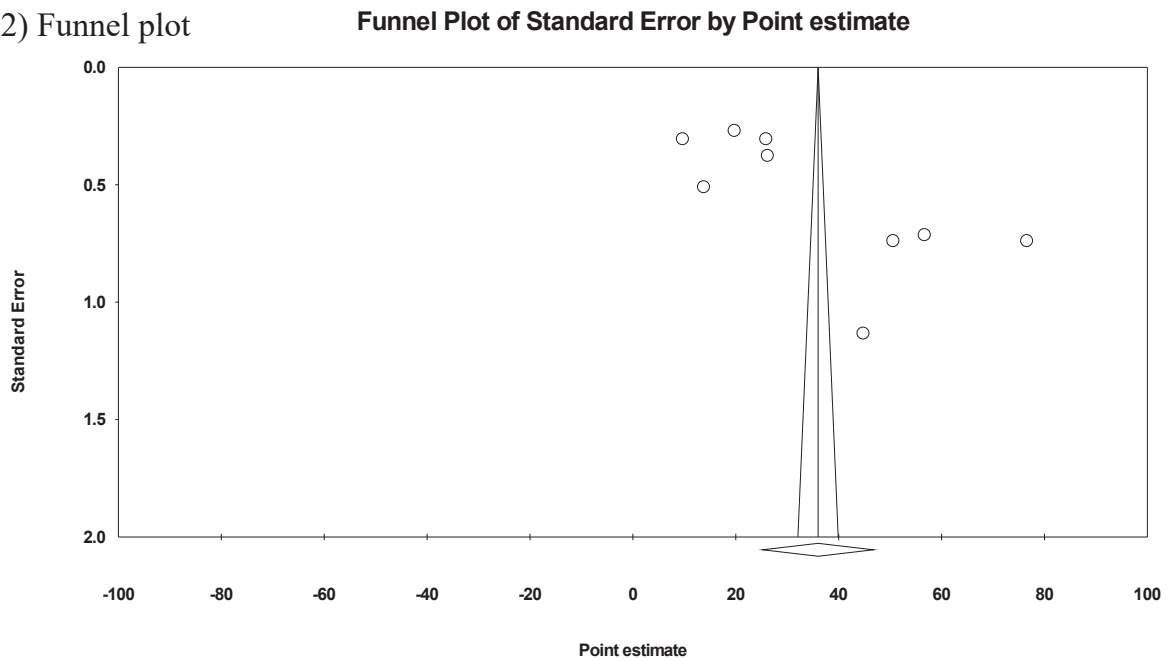
**Supplementary Figure 69.** Code-based incidence of EoE included in our systematic review. (A) Forest plot; (B) Funnel plot.



1) Forest plot



2) Funnel plot



Supplementary Figure 70. Code-based prevalence of EoE included in our systematic review. (A) Forest plot; (B) Funnel plot.

Supplementary Table 1. Eligibility Criteria

Cross-sectional studies

Recruited all age groups (children, adults, and elderly)

Participants recruited from the general population or community

Reported incidence or prevalence of EoE (according to appropriate diagnostic guideline)

Sample size of >50 participants

Published only in English

EoE, Eosinophilic esophagitis.

**Supplementary Table 2.** Global Pooled Incidence of EoE Included in Our Systematic Review (Total Study)

|  | Number of studies | Number of participants | Pooled estimates (95% CI) <sup>a</sup> | 95% prediction interval | I <sup>2</sup> , % | P value for I <sup>2</sup> | Egger P value |
|--|-------------------|------------------------|--|-------------------------|--------------------|----------------------------|---------------|
| Overall incidence                        | 38                | 288,374,448            | 6.46 (5.26–7.68)                       | –0.93 to 13.85          | 99.9               | < .0001                    | .476          |
| Income                                   |                   |                        |  |                         |                    |                            |               |
| HICs                                     | 35                | 287,710,647            | 6.77 (5.52–8.02)                       | –0.67 to 14.21          | 99.9               | < .0001                    | .404          |
| LMICs                                    | 2                 | 663,801                | 1.64 (0.04–3.24)                       | NA                      | 95.4               | < .0001                    | NA            |
| Gender                                   |                   |                        |  |                         |                    |                            |               |
| Male                                     | 17                | 104,285,995            | 12.44 (7.06–17.83)                     | –12.18 to 37.06         | 99.9               | < .0001                    | .872          |
| Female                                   | 17                | 113,908,827            | 5.18 (2.32–8.04)                       | –7.86 to 18.22          | 99.9               | < .0001                    | .954          |
| Age group                                |                   |                        |  |                         |                    |                            |               |
| Children                                 | 26                | 50,282,717             | 7.70 (5.59–9.81)                       | –3.32 to 18.72          | 99.8               | < .0001                    | .272          |
| Adults                                   | 17                | 171,165,275            | 9.18 (7.36–11.00)                      | 0.84 to 17.52           | 99.9               | < .0001                    | .193          |
| Elderly                                  | 4                 | 13,467,465             | 5.33 (3.82–6.85)                       | –1.77 to 12.43          | 98.8               | < .0001                    | .088          |
| Gender and age group                     |                   |                        |  |                         |                    |                            |               |
| Male children                            | 3                 | 507,807                | 18.88 (15.31–22.44)                    | –4.20 to 41.96          | <0.0001            | .781                       | .032          |
| Female children                          | 3                 | 482,621                | 8.71 (4.69–12.72)                      | –35.39 to 52.82         | 62.5               | .07                        | .424          |
| Male adults                              | 3                 | 127,632                | 13.36 (10.90–15.81)                    | –10.88 to 37.60         | 43.7               | .169                       | .789          |
| Female adults                            | 3                 | 131,680                | 2.22 (0.17–4.26)                       | –23.17 to 27.61         | 90.2               | < .0001                    | .259          |
| Race                                     |                   |                        |  |                         |                    |                            |               |
| White patients                           | 3                 | 36,655,102             | 12.1 (9.61–14.56)                      | –19.40 to 43.60         | 99.6               | < .0001                    | .224          |
| Black patients                           | 3                 | 6,769,395              | 3.25 (2.21–4.28)                       | –9.63 to 16.03          | 96.0               | < .0001                    | .471          |
| Asian patients                           | 2                 | 1,883,938              | 4.45 (2.06–6.84)                       | NA                      | 95.4               | < .0001                    | NA            |
| Geographical areas                       |                   |                        |  |                         |                    |                            |               |
| North America                            | 16                | 243,218,920            | 10.44 (8.01–12.87)                     | 0.24 to 20.65           | 99.9               | < .0001                    | .070          |
| Europe                                   | 18                | 29,885,240             | 3.97 (2.36–5.59)                       | –3.52 to 11.46          | 99.9               | < .0001                    | .371          |
| Oceania                                  | 2                 | 3,669,968              | 4.99 (1.22–8.76)                       | NA                      | 97.6               | < .0001                    | NA-           |
| Diagnostic criteria for EoE <sup>a</sup> |                   |                        |  |                         |                    |                            |               |
| Before 2007 consensus                    | 4                 | 3,598,411              | 3.67 (1.57–5.77)                       | –6.26 to 13.60          | 98.4               | < .0001                    | .421          |
| After 2007 consensus                     | 3                 | 726,164                | 2.36 (1.61–3.11)                       | –4.50 to 9.22           | 26.1               | .258                       | .882          |
| After updated consensus 2011             | 17                | 116,744,526            | 6.65 (4.78–8.51)                       | –1.34 to 14.64          | 99.9               | < .0001                    | .055          |
| After 2018 guidelines                    | 13                | 168,836,127            | 7.99 (3.93–12.05)                      | –9.00 to 24.98          | 99.9               | < .0001                    | .192          |
| Data source                              |                   |                        |  |                         |                    |                            |               |
| Researcher validated                     | 29                | 42,191,506             | 5.31 (3.98–6.63)                       | –1.74 to 12.36          | 99.7               | < .0001                    | .181          |
| Code-based                               | 9                 | 246,182,942            | 9.53 (6.69–12.38)                      | –1.32 to 20.38          | 99.9               | < .0001                    | .005          |

CI, Confidence interval; EoE, eosinophilic esophagitis; HICs, high-income countries; LMICs, low- or middle-income countries (Serbia and Brazil); NA, not available.  
<sup>a</sup>Guideline definition: 2007 consensus definition is considered by its-related symptoms, biopsy findings ( $\geq 15$  eosinophils/high-power field), and exclusion of other disorders associated with similar clinical, histological, or endoscopic features; Updated 2011 consensus of EoE is inclusion of the word chronic, the term immune or antigen driven, and the term proton pump inhibitor-responsive esophageal eosinophilia; and 2018 guidelines definition of EoE includes symptoms of esophageal dysfunction, biopsy findings ( $\geq 15$  eosinophils/high-power field), and no significant other causes of symptoms or esophageal eosinophilia with removal of proton pump inhibitor trial requirement.

**Supplementary Table 3.** Global Pooled Prevalence of EoE Included in Our Systematic Review (Total Study)

|                              | Number of studies | Number of participants | Pooled estimates (95% CI) <sup>a</sup> | 95% prediction interval | I <sup>2</sup> , % | P value for I <sup>2</sup> | Egger P value |
|------------------------------|-------------------|------------------------|--|-------------------------|--------------------|----------------------------|---------------|
| Overall prevalence           | 29                | 280,742,705            | 38.43 (32.23–44.62)                    | 4.17 to 72.69           | 99.8               | < .0001                    | .094          |
| Income                       |                   |                        |  |                         |                    |                            |               |
| HICs                         | 25                | 280,075,304            | 41.34 (34.77–47.91)                    | 6.71 to 75.97           | 99.9               | < .0001                    | .064          |
| LMICs                        | 3                 | 667,401                | 14.17 (1.73–26.61)                     | –141.26 to 169.60       | 93.0               | < .0001                    | .506          |
| Gender                       |                   |                        |  |                         |                    |                            |               |
| Male                         | 12                | 110,444,588            | 82.22 (60.80–103.63)                   | –1.38 to 165.82         | 99.9               | < .0001                    | .967          |
| Female                       | 12                | 113,908,827            | 30.00 (17.44–42.55)                    | –19.55 to 79.55         | 99.9               | < .0001                    | .991          |
| Age group                    |                   |                        |  |                         |                    |                            |               |
| Children                     | 18                | 68,245,537             | 35.10 (25.39–44.80)                    | –9.68 to 79.88          | 99.8               | < .0001                    | .710          |
| Adults                       | 12                | 170,588,875            | 46.91 (34.50–59.32)                    | –2.90 to 96.72          | 99.9               | < .0001                    | .167          |
| Elderly                      | 4                 | 13,467,465             | 36.18 (23.65–48.70)                    | –24.89 to 97.25         | 99.7               | < .0001                    | .059          |
| Gender and age group         |                   |                        |  |                         |                    |                            |               |
| Male children                | 2                 | 9,447,988              | 95.48 (–37.11–228.10)                  | NA                      | 87.7               | .004                       | NA            |
| Female children              | 2                 | 9,021,882              | 24.69 (–2.98–52.35)                    | NA                      | 52.2               | .148                       | NA            |
| Male adults                  | 3                 | 126,684                | 131.40 (78.34–184.47)                  | –525.91 to 788.71       | 89.2               | < .0001                    | .513          |
| Female adults                | 3                 | 130,971                | 23.01 (–1.08–47.09)                    | –278.95 to 324.97       | 92.4               | < .0001                    | .270          |
| Race                         |                   |                        |  |                         |                    |                            |               |
| White patients               | 4                 | 43,186,129             | 54.68 (43.48–65.88)                    | 0.22 to 109.14          | 99.7               | < .0001                    | .139          |
| Black patients               | 4                 | 11,545,171             | 15.70 (10.86–20.55)                    | –7.17 to 38.57          | 97.9               | < .0001                    | .437          |
| Asian patients               | 3                 | 2,367,558              | 19.21 (8.98–29.44)                     | –111.50 to 149.92       | 96.4               | < .0001                    | .479          |
| Geographical areas           |                   |                        |  |                         |                    |                            |               |
| North America                | 13                | 247,311,506            | 43.20 (33.65–52.75)                    | 3.40 to 83.00           | 99.9               | < .0001                    | .070          |
| Europe                       | 12                | 29,885,240             | 39.31 (29.10–49.53)                    | –1.38 to 80.00          | 99.6               | < .0001                    | .377          |
| Diagnostic criteria for EoE* |                   |                        |  |                         |                    |                            |               |
| Before 2007 consensus        | 4                 | 3,598,411              | 18.41 (11.05–25.78)                    | –15.36 to 52.18         | 95.8               | < .0001                    | .227          |
| After 2007 consensus         | 2                 | 376,164                | 27.79 (–22.87–78.45)                   | NA                      | 98.6               | < .0001                    | NA            |
| After updated consensus 2011 | 14                | 134,729,697            | 29.56 (23.27–35.85)                    | 3.04 to 56.08           | 99.8               | < .0001                    | .134          |
| After 2018 guidelines        | 9                 | 158,329,579            | 62.25 (40.27–84.22)                    | –20.89 to 145.39        | 99.9               | < .0001                    | .289          |
| Data source                  |                   |                        |  |                         |                    |                            |               |
| Researcher validated         | 20                | 30,377,177             | 40.04 (31.10–48.97)                    | –2.00 to 82.08          | 99.6               | < .0001                    | .167          |
| Code-based                   | 9                 | 250,275,528            | 35.99 (25.21–46.77)                    | –5.12 to 77.10          | 99.9               | < .0001                    | .024          |

CI, Confidence interval; EoE, eosinophilic esophagitis; HICs, high-income countries; LMICs, low- or middle-income countries (Serbia, China, and Brazil); NA, not available.

<sup>a</sup>Guideline definition: 2007 consensus definition is considered by its related symptoms, biopsy findings ( $\geq 15$  eosinophils/high-power field), and exclusion of other disorders associated with similar clinical, histological, or endoscopic features; Updated 2011 consensus of EoE is inclusion of the word chronic, the term immune or antigen driven, and the term proton pump inhibitor-responsive esophageal eosinophilia; and 2018 guidelines definition of EoE includes symptoms of esophageal dysfunction, biopsy findings ( $\geq 15$  eosinophils/high-power field), and no significant other causes of symptoms or esophageal eosinophilia with removal of proton pump inhibitor trial requirement.

**Supplementary Table 4.** National Pooled Incidence of EoE Included in Our Systematic Review (Researcher-validated Studies)

|               | Number of studies | Number of participants | Patients with EoE | Pooled estimates (95% CI) |
|---------------|-------------------|------------------------|-------------------|---------------------------|
| Nation        |                   |                        |                   |                           |
| Australia     | 1                 | 3,198,653              | 285               | 3.10 (2.80–3.50)          |
| Brazil        | 1                 | 253,706                | 63                | 2.48 (1.94–3.18)          |
| Canada        | 1                 | 1,250,000              | 421               | 6.70 (6.10–7.40)          |
| Denmark       | 3                 | 6,442,869              | 4253              | 4.50 (2.38–6.62)          |
| Ireland       | 1                 | 350,000                | 13                | 3.70 (2.20–6.40)          |
| Netherlands   | 1                 | 16,390,837             | 4061              | 0.99 (0.84–1.15)          |
| New Zealand   | 1                 | 471,315                | 152               | 6.95 (5.91–8.12)          |
| Poland        | 1                 | 254,417                | 36                | 2.83 (2.04–3.92)          |
| Serbia        | 1                 | 410,095                | 35                | 0.85 (0.62–1.19)          |
| Slovenia      | 1                 | NA                     | 25                | 0.79 (0.51–1.16)          |
| Spain         | 5                 | 849,137                | 696               | 8.47 (6.45–10.48)         |
| Sweden        | 1                 | 9,672,131              | 1412              | 1.22 (0.65–1.79)          |
| Switzerland   | 3                 | 933,317                | 248               | 1.56 (0.75–2.37)          |
| United States | 7                 | 1,314,963              | 1283              | 10.76 (6.87–14.65)        |

CI, Confidence interval; EoE, eosinophilic esophagitis; NA, not available.

**Supplementary Table 5.** National Pooled Incidence of EoE Included in Our Systematic Review (Total Study)

|               | Number of studies | Number of participants | Patients with EoE | Pooled estimates (95% CI) |
|---------------|-------------------|------------------------|-------------------|---------------------------|
| Nation        |                   |                        |                   |                           |
| Australia     | 1                 | 3,198,653              | 285               | 3.10 (2.80–3.50)          |
| Brazil        | 1                 | 253,706                | 63                | 2.48 (1.94–3.18)          |
| Canada        | 1                 | 1,250,000              | 421               | 6.70 (6.10–7.40)          |
| Denmark       | 4                 | 11,971,854             | 5097              | 3.53 (0.29–6.78)          |
| Ireland       | 1                 | 350,000                | 13                | 3.70 (2.20–6.40)          |
| Netherlands   | 1                 | 16,390,837             | 4061              | 0.99 (0.84–1.15)          |
| New Zealand   | 1                 | 471,315                | 152               | 6.95 (5.91–8.12)          |
| Poland        | 1                 | 254,417                | 36                | 2.83 (2.04–3.92)          |
| Serbia        | 1                 | 410,095                | 35                | 0.85 (0.62–1.19)          |
| Slovenia      | 1                 | NA                     | 25                | 0.79 (0.51–1.16)          |
| Spain         | 5                 | 849,137                | 696               | 8.47 (6.45–10.48)         |
| Sweden        | 1                 | 9,672,131              | 1412              | 1.22 (0.65–1.79)          |
| Switzerland   | 3                 | 933,317                | 248               | 1.56 (0.75–2.37)          |
| United States | 15                | 241,968,922            | 135,124           | 10.74 (8.20–13.28)        |

CI, Confidence interval; EoE, eosinophilic esophagitis; NA, not available.

**Supplementary Table 6.** National Pooled Prevalence of EoE Included in Our Systematic Review (Researcher-validated Studies)

|               | Number of studies | Number of participants | Patients with EoE | Pooled estimates (95% CI) |
|---------------|-------------------|------------------------|-------------------|---------------------------|
| Nation        |                   |                        |                   |                           |
| Australia     | 1                 | 3,198,653              | 285               | 8.90 (7.90–10.00)         |
| Brazil        | 1                 | 253,706                | 63                | 24.80 (19.40–31.80)       |
| Canada        | 1                 | 1,250,000              | 421               | 33.70 (30.60–37.10)       |
| China         | 1                 | 3600                   | 4                 | 11.10 (2.22–22.00)        |
| Denmark       | 3                 | 5,862,869              | 4017              | 36.00 (-30.10–102.05)     |
| Netherland    | 1                 | 16,390,836             | 4061              | 23.50 (22.80–24.20)       |
| Serbia        | 1                 | 410,095                | 35                | 6.83 (4.96–9.52)          |
| Spain         | 4                 | 849,137                | 696               | 71.45 (47.18–95.72)       |
| Switzerland   | 3                 | 933,317                | 248               | 29.91 (17.69–42.13)       |
| United States | 4                 | 1,314,963              | 1283              | 55.41 (-0.64–111.46)      |

CI, Confidence interval; EoE, eosinophilic esophagitis.

**Supplementary Table 7.** National Pooled Prevalence of EoE Included in Our Systematic Review (Total Study)

|               | Number of studies | Number of participants | Patients with EoE | Pooled estimates (95% CI) |
|---------------|-------------------|------------------------|-------------------|---------------------------|
| Nation        |                   |                        |                   |                           |
| Australia     | 1                 | 3,198,653              | 285               | 8.90 (7.90–10.00)         |
| Brazil        | 1                 | 253,706                | 63                | 24.80 (19.40–31.80)       |
| Canada        | 1                 | 1,250,000              | 421               | 33.70 (30.60–37.10)       |
| China         | 1                 | 3600                   | 4                 | 11.10 (2.22–22.00)        |
| Denmark       | 3                 | 11,391,854             | 4861              | 28.59 (-3.70 to 60.88)    |
| Netherland    | 1                 | 16,390,836             | 4061              | 23.50 (22.80–24.20)       |
| Serbia        | 1                 | 410,095                | 35                | 6.83 (4.96–9.52)          |
| Spain         | 4                 | 849,137                | 696               | 71.45 (47.18–95.72)       |
| Switzerland   | 3                 | 933,317                | 248               | 29.91 (17.69–42.13)       |
| United States | 12                | 246,061,506            | 135,278           | 44.00 (34.02–53.99)       |

CI, Confidence interval; EoE, eosinophilic esophagitis.

**Supplementary Table 8.** Time Trends in EoE Pooled Incidence Included in Our Systematic Review (Researcher-validated Studies)

|                                 | Number of studies | Number of participants | Patients with EoE | Pooled estimates (95% CI) | I <sup>2</sup> , % | P value for I <sup>2</sup> |
|---------------------------------|-------------------|------------------------|-------------------|---------------------------|--------------------|----------------------------|
| Time trends, year               |                   |                        |                   |                           |                    |                            |
| <2001                           | 12                | 22,610,944             | 331               | 0.31 (0.19–0.42)          | 94.873             | < .0001                    |
| 2002–2004                       | 14                | 5,530,276              | 255               | 0.79 (0.55–1.03)          | 95.613             | < .0001                    |
| 2005–2007                       | 22                | 5,814,352              | 520               | 1.53 (1.15–1.91)          | 95.681             | < .0001                    |
| 2008–2010                       | 27                | 10,872,251             | 260               | 4.10 (2.66–5.55)          | 99.441             | < .0001                    |
| 2011–2013                       | 33                | 16,884,921             | 1155              | 6.95 (5.60–8.30)          | 96.702             | < .0001                    |
| 2014–2016                       | 25                | 187,479,694            | 110,938           | 8.42 (7.23–9.61)          | 97.114             | < .0001                    |
| 2017–2022                       | 6                 | 23,614,613             | 1235              | 6.81 (2.32–11.31)         | 98.467             | < .0001                    |
| <i>P</i> <sub>trend</sub> value |                   |                        |                   |                           |                    | .002                       |

CI, Confidence interval; EoE, eosinophilic esophagitis.

**Supplementary Table 9.** Time Trends in EoE Pooled Incidence Included in Our Systematic Review (Total Study)

|                                 | Number of studies | Number of participants | Patients with EoE | Pooled estimates (95% CI) |
|---------------------------------|-------------------|------------------------|-------------------|---------------------------|
| Time trends, year               |                   |                        |                   |                           |
| <2001                           | 13                | 28,139,929             | 338               | 0.26 (0.16–0.36)          |
| 2002–2004                       | 14                | 5,530,276              | 255               | 0.79 (0.55–1.03)          |
| 2005–2007                       | 22                | 5,814,352              | 520               | 1.53 (1.15–1.91)          |
| 2008–2010                       | 29                | 32,621,983             | 7760              | 4.79 (3.17–6.42)          |
| 2011–2013                       | 38                | 77,003,155             | 17,606            | 6.95 (5.74–8.15)          |
| 2014–2016                       | 27                | 187,479,694            | 110,938           | 9.64 (7.83–11.45)         |
| 2017–2022                       | 6                 | 23,614,613             | 1235              | 6.81 (2.32–11.31)         |
| <i>P</i> <sub>trend</sub> value |                   |                        |                   | .004                      |

CI, Confidence interval; EoE, eosinophilic esophagitis.

**Supplementary Table 10.** Time Trends in EoE Pooled Prevalence Included in Our Systematic Review (Researcher-validated Studies)

|                                 | Number of studies | Number of participants | Patients with EoE | Pooled estimates (95% CI) | I <sup>2</sup> , % | P value for I <sup>2</sup> |
|---------------------------------|-------------------|------------------------|-------------------|---------------------------|--------------------|----------------------------|
| Time trends, year               |                   |                        |                   |                           |                    |                            |
| <2001                           | 4                 | 90,000                 | 46                | 8.18 (3.67–12.69)         | 52.183             | .099                       |
| 2002–2004                       | 5                 | 399,758                | 85                | 27.64 (11.04–44.23)       | 96.694             | < .001                     |
| 2005–2007                       | 3                 | 1,506,164              | 427               | 20.74 (–3.85 to 45.32)    | 99.315             | < .001                     |
| 2008–2010                       | 2                 | 89,642                 | 40                | 43.27 (35.92–50.61)       | 0.000              | .832                       |
| 2011–2013                       | 3                 | 6,835,377              | 94                | 32.36 (20.24–44.49)       | 97.530             | < .001                     |
| 2014–2016                       | 3                 | 1,066,425              | 360               | 70.44 (0.74–140.14)       | 99.326             | < .001                     |
| 2017–2022                       | 4                 | 22,992,504             | 1216              | 74.42 (39.66–109.19)      | 99.812             | < .001                     |
| <i>P</i> <sub>trend</sub> value |                   |                        |                   |                           |                    | .004                       |

CI, Confidence interval; EoE, eosinophilic esophagitis.

**Supplementary Table 11.** Time Trends in EoE Pooled Prevalence Included in Our Systematic Review (Total Study)

|                                 | Number of studies | Number of participants | Patients with EoE | Pooled estimates (95% CI) |
|---------------------------------|-------------------|------------------------|-------------------|---------------------------|
| Time trends, year               |                   |                        |                   |                           |
| <2001                           | 4                 | 90,000                 | 46                | 8.18 (3.67–12.69)         |
| 2002–2004                       | 5                 | 399,758                | 85                | 27.64 (11.04–44.23)       |
| 2005–2007                       | 3                 | 1,506,164              | 427               | 20.74 (–3.85 to 45.32)    |
| 2008–2010                       | 4                 | 21,839,374             | 7540              | 38.36 (5.91–70.81)        |
| 2011–2013                       | 8                 | 65,439,492             | 16,701            | 31.50 (24.12–38.87)       |
| 2014–2016                       | 5                 | 165,381,401            | 110,248           | 62.70 (29.98–95.41)       |
| 2017–2022                       | 4                 | 22,992,504             | 1216              | 74.42 (39.66–109.19)      |
| <i>P</i> <sub>trend</sub> value |                   |                        |                   | .003                      |

CI, Confidence interval; EoE, eosinophilic esophagitis.

**Supplementary Table 12.** Subgroup Differences in Incidence of EoE (Researcher-validated Studies)

|                   | Number of studies | Group A              | Pooled estimates of group A (95% CI) | Group B    | Pooled estimates of group B (95% CI) | Mean difference between group A and B, % (95% CI) | P-value     |
|-------------------|-------------------|----------------------|--------------------------------------|------------|--------------------------------------|---|-------------|
| Income            | 28                | HICs                 | 5.31 (3.98–6.64)                     | LMICs      | 1.64 (0.04–3.24)                     | <b>3.67 (1.59–5.75)</b>                           | < .001      |
| Gender            | 12                | Male                 | 9.38 (7.49–11.28)                    | Female     | 2.83 (2.05–3.62)                     | <b>6.55 (4.50–8.60)</b>                           | < .001      |
| Age               | 24                | Adults               | 7.20 (4.84–9.56)                     | Children   | 4.95 (3.91–5.98)                     | 2.25 (–0.33 to 4.83)                              | .087        |
| Geographical area | 25                | North America        | 10.02 (6.53–13.52)                   | Europe     | 4.16 (2.47–5.86)                     | <b>5.86 (1.98–9.74)</b>                           | <b>.003</b> |
| Data source       | 37                | Researcher-validated | 5.31 (3.98–6.63)                     | Code-based | 9.53 (6.69–12.38)                    | <b>–4.22 (–7.36 to –1.08)</b>                     | <b>.008</b> |

CI, Confidence interval; EoE, eosinophilic esophagitis; HICs, high-income countries; LMICs, low- or middle-income countries (Serbia, China, and Brazil). Boldface values indicate a significant difference ( $P$ -value < .05).

**Supplementary Table 13.** Subgroup Differences in Incidence of EoE (Total Study)

|                   | Number of studies | Group A              | Pooled estimates of group A (95% CI) | Group B    | Pooled estimates of group B (95% CI) | Mean difference between group A and B, % (95% CI) | P-value     |
|-------------------|-------------------|----------------------|--------------------------------------|------------|--------------------------------------|---|-------------|
| Income            | 37                | HICs                 | 6.77 (5.52–8.02)                     | LMICs      | 1.64 (0.04–3.24)                     | <b>5.13 (3.10–7.16)</b>                           | < .001      |
| Gender            | 17                | Male                 | 12.44 (7.06–17.83)                   | Female     | 5.18 (2.32–8.04)                     | <b>7.26 (1.16–13.36)</b>                          | <b>.020</b> |
| Age               | 30                | Adults               | 9.18 (7.36–11.00)                    | Children   | 7.70 (5.59–9.81)                     | 1.48 (–1.31 to 4.27)                              | .298        |
| Race              | 3                 | White                | 12.1 (9.61–14.56)                    | Black      | 3.25 (2.21–4.28)                     | <b>8.85 (6.17 to 11.53)</b>                       | < .001      |
| Race              | 3                 | White                | 12.1 (9.61–14.56)                    | Asian      | 4.45 (2.06–6.84)                     | <b>7.65 (4.21–11.09)</b>                          | < .001      |
| Geographical area | 34                | North America        | 10.44 (8.01–12.87)                   | Europe     | 3.97 (2.36–5.59)                     | <b>6.47 (3.55–9.39)</b>                           | < .001      |
| Data source       | 37                | Researcher validated | 5.31 (3.98–6.63)                     | Code based | 9.53 (6.69–12.38)                    | <b>–4.22 (–7.36 to –1.08)</b>                     | <b>.008</b> |

CI, Confidence interval; EoE, eosinophilic esophagitis; HICs, high-income countries; LMICs, low- or middle-income countries (Serbia, China, and Brazil). Boldface values indicate a significant difference ( $P$ -value < .05).



**Supplementary Table 14.** Subgroup Differences in Prevalence of EoE (Researcher-validated Studies)

|                   | Number of studies | Group A              | Pooled estimates of group A (95% CI) | Group B    | Pooled estimates of group B (95% CI) | Mean difference between group A and B, % (95% CI) | P-value |
|-------------------|-------------------|----------------------|--------------------------------------|------------|--------------------------------------|---|---------|
| Income            | 19                | HICs                 | 45.05 (34.97–55.12)                  | LMICs      | 14.17 (1.73–26.61)                   | <b>30.88 (14.87–46.89)</b>                        | < .001  |
| Gender            | 6                 | Male                 | 111.09 (84.70–137.47)                | Female     | 32.83 (14.16–51.50)                  | <b>78.26 (45.94–110.58)</b>                       | < .001  |
| Age               | 14                | Adults               | 52.95 (21.95–83.96)                  | Children   | 32.90 (22.69–43.12)                  | 20.05 (–12.59 to 52.69)                           | .229    |
| Geographical area | 16                | North America        | 50.99 (18.95–83.03)                  | Europe     | 42.49 (29.04–55.93)                  | 8.50 (–26.25 to 43.25)                            | .632    |
| Data source       | 29                | Researcher validated | 40.04 (31.10–48.97)                  | Code based | 35.99 (25.21–46.77)                  | 4.05 (–9.95 to 18.05)                             | 0.571   |

CI, Confidence interval; EoE, eosinophilic esophagitis; HICs, high-income countries; LMICs, low- or middle-income countries (Serbia, China, and Brazil). Boldface values indicate a significant difference ( $P$ -value < .05).

**Supplementary Table 15.** Subgroup Differences in Prevalence of EoE (Total Study)

|                   | Number of studies | Group A              | Pooled estimates of group A (95% CI) | Group B    | Pooled estimates of group B (95% CI) | Mean difference between group A and B, % (95% CI) | P-value |
|-------------------|-------------------|----------------------|--------------------------------------|------------|--------------------------------------|---|---------|
| Income            | 28                | HICs                 | 41.34 (34.77–47.91)                  | LMICs      | 14.17 (1.73–26.61)                   | <b>27.17 (13.10–41.24)</b>                        | <0.001  |
| Gender            | 12                | Male                 | 82.22 (60.80–103.63)                 | Female     | 30.00 (17.44–42.55)                  | <b>52.22 (27.40–77.04)</b>                        | <0.001  |
| Age               | 22                | Adults               | 46.91 (34.50–59.32)                  | Children   | 35.10 (25.39–44.80)                  | 11.81 (–3.94 to 27.56)                            | .142    |
| Race              | 4                 | White                | 54.68 (43.48–65.88)                  | Black      | 15.70 (10.86–20.55)                  | <b>38.98 (26.78–51.18)</b>                        | < .001  |
| Race              | 4                 | White                | 54.68 (43.48–65.88)                  | Asian      | 19.21 (8.98–29.44)                   | <b>35.47 (20.30–50.64)</b>                        | < .001  |
| Geographical area | 25                | North America        | 43.20 (33.65–52.75)                  | Europe     | 39.31 (29.10–49.53)                  | 3.89 (–10.09 to 17.87)                            | .586    |
| Data source       | 29                | Researcher-validated | 40.04 (31.10–48.97)                  | Code-based | 35.99 (25.21–46.77)                  | 4.05 (–9.95 to 18.05)                             | .571    |

CI, Confidence interval; EoE, eosinophilic esophagitis; HICs, high-income countries; LMICs, low- or middle-income countries (Serbia, China, and Brazil). Boldface values indicate a significant difference ( $P$ -value < .05).

**Supplementary Table 16.** Quality Assessment Checklist for Prevalence Studies (Adapted From Hoy et al<sup>a</sup>)

| Study                    | Was the study's target population a close representation of the national population in relation to relevant variables (eg, age, sex, occupation)? | Was the sampling frame a true or close representation of the target population? | Was some form of random selection used to select the sample, or was a census undertaken? | Was the likelihood of non-response bias minimal? | Were data collected directly from the subjects (as opposed to a proxy)? | Was an acceptable case definition used in the study? | Was the study instrument that measured the parameter of interest (eg, prevalence of low back pain) shown to have reliability and validity (if necessary)? | Was the same mode of data collection used for all subjects? | Were the numerator(s) and denominator(s) for the parameter of interest appropriate? | Summary on the overall risk of study bias |
|--------------------------|---|---|--|--|---|--|---|---|---|---|
| Noel RJ et al, 2007      | No  | Yes   | Yes  | Yes  | Yes   | Yes  | Yes   | Yes   | Yes   | Low                                       |
| Straumann A et al, 2005  | No  | Yes   | Yes  | Yes  | Yes   | Yes  | Yes   | Yes   | No  | Low                                       |
| Cherian S et al, 2006    | No  | Yes   | Yes  | Yes  | Yes   | Yes  | Yes   | Yes   | Yes   | Low                                       |
| Gill R, et al, 2007      | No  | Yes   | Yes  | Yes  | Yes   | Yes  | Yes   | Yes   | Yes   | Low                                       |
| Prasad GA et al, 2009    | No  | Yes   | Yes  | Yes  | Yes   | Yes  | Yes   | Yes   | Yes   | Low                                       |
| Dalby K et al, 2010      | No  | Yes   | Yes  | Yes  | Yes   | Yes  | Yes   | Yes   | Yes   | Low                                       |
| DeBrosse CW et al, 2010  | No  | No  | No   | No   | Yes   | No   | No  | Yes   | Yes   | High                                      |
| Spergel JM et al, 2011   | Yes   | No  | No   | No   | No  | No   | No  | No  | Yes   | High                                      |
| Hruz P et al, 2011       | No  | Yes   | Yes  | Yes  | Yes   | Yes  | Yes   | Yes   | Yes   | Low                                       |
| O'Donnell S et al, 2011  | No  | No  | No   | Yes  | Yes   | Yes  | Yes   | Yes   | Yes   | Low                                       |
| Van Rhijn BD et al, 2013 | Yes   | Yes   | Yes  | Yes  | Yes   | No   | No  | Yes   | Yes   | Low                                       |
| Syed AA et al, 2012      | No  | Yes   | No   | Yes  | Yes   | Yes  | No  | No  | Yes   | Moderate                                  |
| Stewart MJ et al, 2013   | No  | Yes   | No   | Yes  | Yes   | Yes  | No  | No  | Yes   | Moderate                                  |
| Arias A et al, 2013      | No  | Yes   | Yes  | Yes  | Yes   | Yes  | Yes   | Yes   | Yes   | Low                                       |
| Prakash R et al, 2013    | Yes   | Yes   | No   | Yes  | Yes   | No   | No  | No  | Yes   | Moderate                                  |
| Dellon ES et al, 2014    | Yes   | Yes   | No   | Yes  | Yes   | No   | No  | No  | Yes   | Moderate                                  |
| Ally MR et al, 2014      | No  | Yes   | Yes  | Yes  | No  | No   | No  | Yes   | Yes   | Moderate                                  |
| Ma X et al, 2015         | No  | Yes   | Yes  | No   | Yes   | Yes  | No  | Yes   | Yes   | Low                                       |
| Dellon ES et al, 2015    | Yes   | Yes   | No   | Yes  | Yes   | No   | Yes   | Yes   | Yes   | Low                                       |

Supplementary Table 16. Continued

| Study                            | Was the study's target population a close representation of the national population in relation to relevant variables (eg, age, sex, occupation)? | Was the sampling frame a true or close representation of the target population? | Was some form of random selection used to select the sample, or was a census undertaken? | Was the likelihood of non-response bias minimal? | Were data collected directly from the subjects (as opposed to a proxy)? | Was an acceptable case definition used in the study? | Was the study instrument that measured the parameter of interest (eg, prevalence of low back pain) shown to have reliability and validity (if necessary)? | Was the same mode of data collection used for all subjects? | Were the numerator(s) and denominator(s) for the parameter of interest appropriate? | Summary on the overall risk of study bias |
|----------------------------------|---|---|--|--|---|--|---|---|---|---|
| Maradey-Romero C et al, 2015     | Yes   | Yes   | No   | Yes  | Yes   | Yes  | No  | Yes   | No  | Low                                       |
| Homan M et al, 2015              | Yes   | Yes   | Yes  | No   | Yes   | Yes  | Yes   | Yes   | Yes   | Low                                       |
| Kim S et al, 2015                | No  | Yes   | Yes  | No   | No  | No   | No  | Yes   | No  | Moderate                                  |
| Giriens B et al, 2015            | No  | Yes   | Yes  | No   | No  | Yes  | No  | Yes   | No  | Moderate                                  |
| Mansoor E et al, 2016            | Yes   | Yes   | No   | Yes  | Yes   | Yes  | No  | Yes   | No  | Low                                       |
| Benninger MS et al, 2017         | Yes   | No  | No   | No   | Yes   | No   | No  | No  | Yes   | High                                      |
| Warner MJ et al, 2017            | Yes   | Yes   | No   | Yes  | Yes   | No   | No  | Yes   | Yes   | Low                                       |
| Molina-Infante J et al, 2018     | No  | Yes   | Yes  | Yes  | Yes   | Yes  | Yes   | Yes   | Yes   | Low                                       |
| Goncalves LO et al, 2018         | Yes   | Yes   | Yes  | No   | No  | Yes  | Yes   | Yes   | No  | Low                                       |
| La Orden Izquierdo E et al, 2018 | No  | Yes   | Yes  | Yes  | No  | Yes  | Yes   | Yes   | Yes   | Low                                       |
| Robson J et al, 2018             | No  | Yes   | Yes  | Yes  | Yes   | Yes  | Yes   | Yes   | Yes   | Low                                       |
| Hommeida S et al, 2018           | No  | Yes   | Yes  | No   | Yes   | Yes  | Yes   | Yes   | No  | Low                                       |
| Syed A et al, 2017               | Yes   | Yes   | Yes  | No   | Yes   | Yes  | No  | Yes   | No  | Low                                       |
| Arias A et al, 2019              | No  | Yes   | Yes  | Yes  | Yes   | Yes  | Yes   | Yes   | Yes   | Low                                       |
| Ristic N et al, 2019             | No  | Yes   | No   | Yes  | Yes   | Yes  | Yes   | Yes   | Yes   | Low                                       |
| Limketkai BN et al, 2019         | Yes   | Yes   | No   | Yes  | Yes   | Yes  | No  | Yes   | Yes   | Low                                       |
| Weerasekera K et al, 2019        | No  | Yes   | No   | Yes  | Yes   | Yes  | Yes   | Yes   | Yes   | Low                                       |
| Cianferoni A et al, 2020         | No  | No  | No   | No   | No  | No   | No  | No  | Yes   | High                                      |

Supplementary Table 16. Continued

| Study                            | Was the study's target population a close representation of the national population in relation to relevant variables (eg, age, sex, occupation)? | Was the sampling frame a true or close representation of the target population? | Was some form of random selection used to select the sample, or was a census undertaken? | Was the likelihood of non-response bias minimal? | Were data collected directly from the subjects (as opposed to a proxy)? | Was an acceptable case definition used in the study? | Was the study instrument that measured the parameter of interest (eg, prevalence of low back pain) shown to have reliability and validity (if necessary)? | Was the same mode of data collection used for all subjects? | Were the numerator(s) and denominator(s) for the parameter of interest appropriate? | Summary on the overall risk of study bias |
|----------------------------------|---|---|--|--|---|--|---|---|---|---|
| McGowan EC et al, 2020           | Yes   | Yes   | No   | No   | Yes   | No   | No  | Yes   | Yes   | Moderate                                  |
| Zdanowicz K et al, 2020          | No  | Yes   | No   | No   | Yes   | Yes  | Yes   | Yes   | Yes   | Low                                       |
| Rooij WE et al, 2020             | Yes   | Yes   | No   | No   | Yes   | No   | Yes   | Yes   | Yes   | Low                                       |
| La Orden Izquierdo E et al, 2021 | No  | Yes   | No   | Yes  | Yes   | Yes  | Yes   | Yes   | Yes   | Low                                       |
| Melgaard D et al, 2021           | No  | Yes   | No   | Yes  | Yes   | Yes  | Yes   | Yes   | No  | Low                                       |
| Garber et al, 2022               | Yes   | Yes   | No   | Yes  | Yes   | Yes  | Yes   | Yes   | Yes   | Low                                       |
| Allin et al, 2022                | Yes   | Yes   | No   | Yes  | Yes   | Yes  | Yes   | No  | No  | Low                                       |
| Hollaender et al, 2022           | No  | No  | No   | No   | Yes   | No   | Yes   | No  | No  | High                                      |

<sup>a</sup>Hoy D, Brooks P, Woolf A, et al. Assessing risk of bias in prevalence studies: modification of an existing tool and evidence of interrater agreement. *J Clin Epidemiol* 2012;65:934–939.