



Colposcopic Biopsy

CWE Redman

UACCP-EFC Advanced Course



Colposcopic activities

Diagnosis

Selection for biopsy

Selection for treatment

Nomenclature



Punch



(Simple) Loop



1 cm



Extended Loop



2 cm

Biopsy considerations

Accuracy

Damage

Therapeutics

Effectiveness

Biopsy summary

Punch

Loop

Extended

Treatment

X

✓

✓

Damage

+/-

+

++

Accuracy

+/-

✓

✓

Effectiveness

?

✓

✓

Biopsy summary

Punch

Loop

Extended

Treatment

X

✓

✓

Damage

+/-

+

++

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X

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+/-

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++

Accuracy

+/-

✓

✓

Effectiveness

?

✓

✓

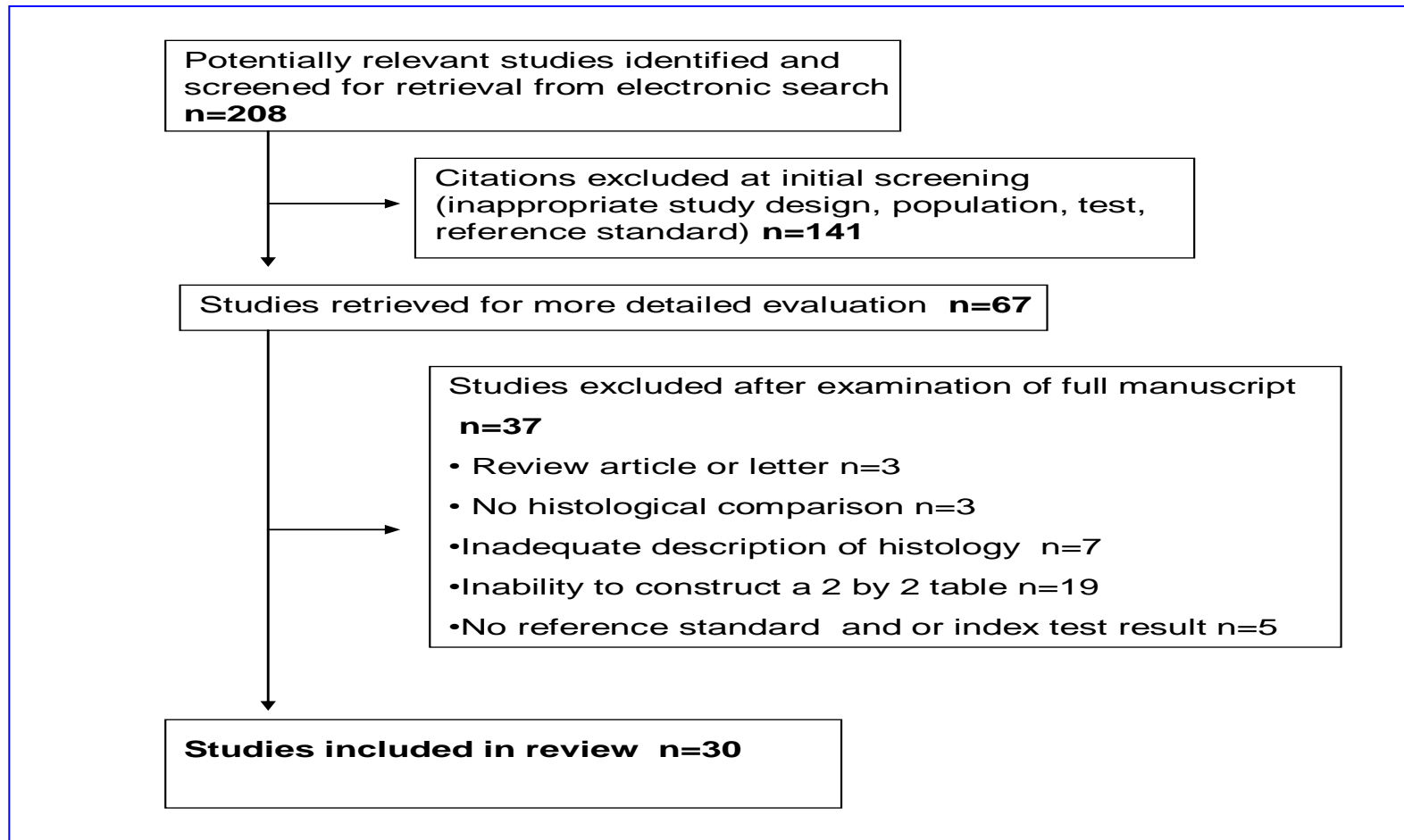
How accurate are punch biopsies?

Accuracy of colposcopic-directed punch biopsies: a systematic review and meta-analysis

M Underwood et al

Br J Obstet Gynaecol 2012; 119:1293-1301

Identifying the literature



Framing the Question

Population: Women undergoing colposcopy

Index test: Punch biopsy

Reference test: LLETZ, cone or hysterectomy

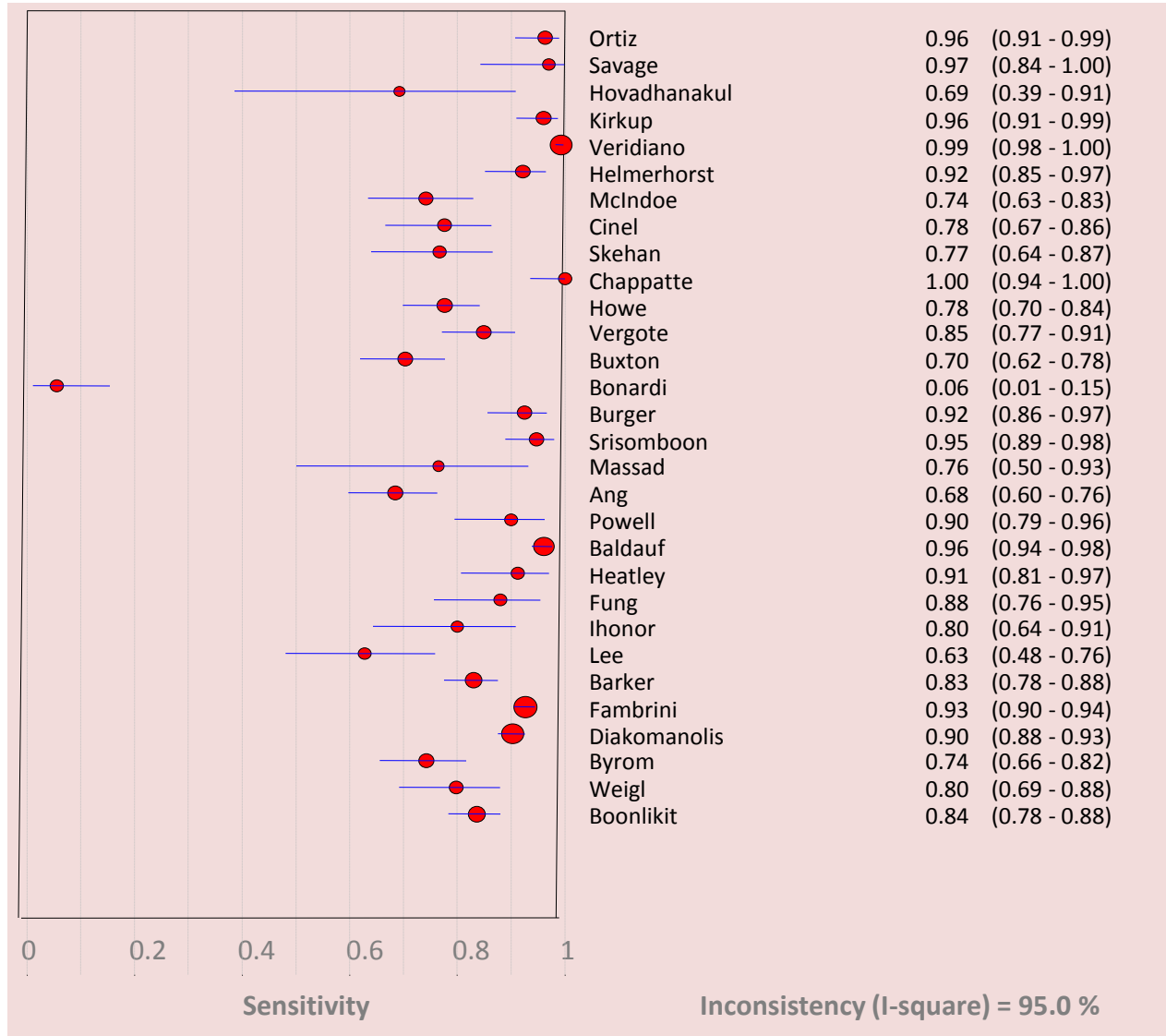
Results

- Thirty-two papers
- 7,873 paired punch/definitive histology results
- Pooled sensitivity 91.3% (95% CI 85.3-94.9%)
- Specificity was 24.6% (95% CI 16.0-35.9%)
- Tests for heterogeneity were significant
- In most studies, the majority had positive punch biopsies.

- Pooling of the four studies where the excision biopsy was performed immediately after the punch biopsy yielded:
 - Sensitivity of 81.4% (95% CI 77.6-85.1%, heterogeneity $p=0.38$)
 - Specificity of 63.3% (95% CI 49.2-77.4%, heterogeneity $p=0.004$)

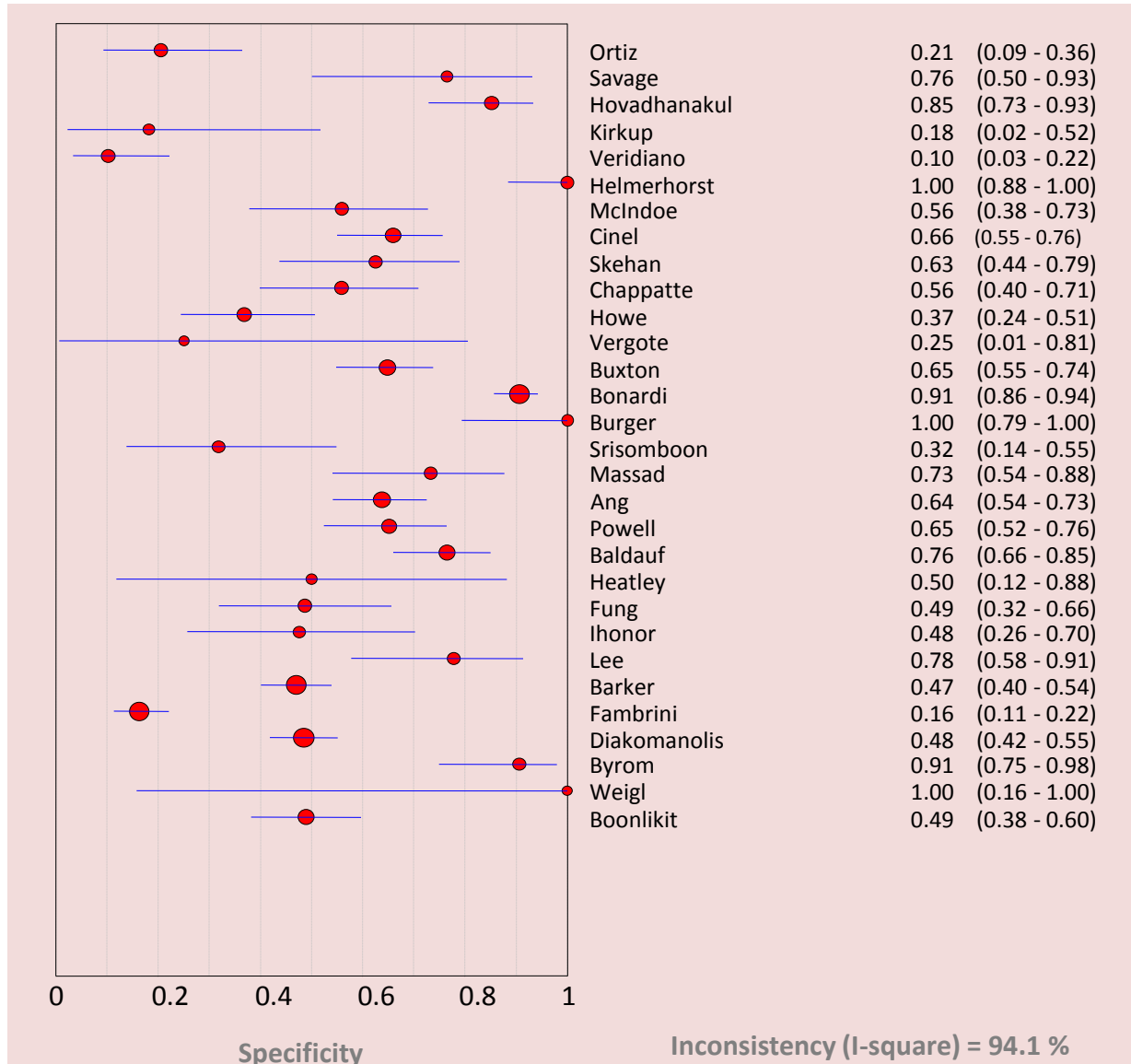
Sensitivity

Sensitivity (95% CI)



Specificity

Specificity (95% CI)



Pooled results

Punch Biopsy	Excision Biopsy CIN2+	
Cutoff	Sensitivity	Specificity
CIN1+	91%	25%
CIN2+	80%	63%

Sensitivity increases with number of biopsies

Number of biopsies

- Single punch biopsy 90%
- 2 punch biopsies 93%
- Multiple biopsies sensitivity \sim 100%

Interpreting the findings

- Small number of studies identified
- Study quality generally poor
- Wide sensitivity / specificity
- Relatively high sensitivity may be due to verification bias