

Supplementary Materials

Supplement to:

Outcome-Specific Efficacy of Different Probiotic Strains and Mixtures in Irritable Bowel Syndrome: A Systematic Review and Network Meta-Analysis

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Text S1. Supplements and alterations of the original protocol.

In order to make our NMA more comprehensive and rigorous, we have made the following additions and alterations based on the original protocol.

1. Literatures were searched from inception until June 1, 2023.
2. Outcomes regarding the change in the Hospital Anxiety and Depression Scale, bowel movement frequency (per week), Bristol stool form scale score were added to this NMA.
3. Data regarding the adverse events for each study were collected.

Text S2. Search Strategy

1. Web of science

#1	(TS=(irritable bowel syndrome)) OR TS=(IBS) and Preprint Citation Index (Exclude – Database)
#2	((TS=(clinical trial)) OR TS=(clinical trials)) OR TS=(random*) OR TS=(random allocation) and Preprint Citation Index (Exclude – Database)
#3	(((((TS=(Probiotic*)) OR TS=(Lactobacillus)) OR TS=(Saccharomyces)) OR TS=(Bacillus)) OR TS=(Bifidobacterium)) OR TS=(Clostridium)) OR TS=(Streptococcus) OR TS=(Enterococcus) and Preprint Citation Index (Exclude – Database)
#4	#3 AND #2 AND #1 and Preprint Citation Index (Exclude – Database)
#5	#4 and Preprint Citation Index (Exclude – Database) Timespan: 1950-01-01 to 2023-06-01 (Publication Date)

2. Pubmed

#1	Search: ((irritable bowel syndrome[Title/Abstract] OR (IBS[Title/Abstract])) OR (irritable bowel syndrome[MeSH Terms])) Sort by: Most Recent
#2	Search: (((((((Probiotic*[Title/Abstract] OR (Probiotic[MeSH Terms])) OR (Lactobacillus[Title/Abstract])) OR (Saccharomyces[Title/Abstract])) OR (Bacillus[Title/Abstract])) OR (Bifidobacterium[Title/Abstract])) OR (Clostridium[Title/Abstract])) OR (Streptococcus[Title/Abstract])) OR (Enterococcus[Title/Abstract])) Sort by: Most Recent
#3	Search: (((((clinical trial[Title/Abstract] OR (clinical trials[MeSH Terms])) OR (clinical trial[Publication Type])) OR (random*[Title/Abstract])) OR (random allocation[MeSH Terms])) OR (therapeutic use[MeSH Subheading])) Sort by: Most Recent
#4	Search: (((irritable bowel syndrome[Title/Abstract] OR (IBS[Title/Abstract])) OR (irritable bowel syndrome[MeSH Terms])) AND (((((((Probiotic*[Title/Abstract] OR (Probiotic[MeSH Terms])) OR (Lactobacillus[Title/Abstract])) OR (Saccharomyces[Title/Abstract])) OR (Bacillus[Title/Abstract])) OR (Bifidobacterium[Title/Abstract])) OR (Clostridium[Title/Abstract])) OR (Streptococcus[Title/Abstract])) OR (Enterococcus[Title/Abstract])) AND (((((clinical trial[Title/Abstract] OR (clinical trials[MeSH Terms])) OR (clinical trial[Publication Type])) OR (random*[Title/Abstract])) OR (random allocation[MeSH Terms])) OR (therapeutic use[MeSH Subheading])) Sort by: Most Recent
#5	Search: (((irritable bowel syndrome[Title/Abstract] OR (IBS[Title/Abstract])) OR (irritable bowel syndrome[MeSH Terms])) AND (((((((Probiotic*[Title/Abstract] OR (Probiotic[MeSH Terms])) OR (Lactobacillus[Title/Abstract])) OR (Saccharomyces[Title/Abstract])) OR (Bacillus[Title/Abstract])) OR (Bifidobacterium[Title/Abstract])) OR (Clostridium[Title/Abstract])) OR (Streptococcus[Title/Abstract])) OR (Enterococcus[Title/Abstract])) AND (((((clinical trial[Title/Abstract] OR (clinical trials[MeSH Terms])) OR (clinical trial[Publication Type])) OR (random*[Title/Abstract])) OR (random allocation[MeSH Terms])) OR (therapeutic use[MeSH Subheading])) Filters: from 1950/1/1 - 2023/6/1 Sort by: Most Recent

3. Cochrane Central Register of Controlled Trials

#1	MeSH descriptor: [Irritable Bowel Syndrome] explode all trees
#2	(irritable bowel syndrome):ti,ab,kw OR (IBS):ti,ab,kw
#3	(probiotic):ti,ab,kw OR (probiotics):ti,ab,kw
#4	(Lactobacillus):ti,ab,kw OR (Saccharomyces):ti,ab,kw OR (Bacillus):ti,ab,kw OR (Bifidobacterium):ti,ab,kw OR (Clostridium):ti,ab,kw
#5	(Streptococcus):ti,ab,kw OR (Enterococcus):ti,ab,kw
#6	#1 OR #2
#7	#3 OR #4 OR #5
#8	#6 AND #7 with Cochrane Library publication date from Jan 1950 to Jun 2023

4. ClinicalTrials.gov

Condition or disease:	irritable bowel syndrome
Study type:	Interventional Studies (Clinical Trials)
Age	Adult (18 - 64) OR Older adult (65+)
Date Range (Primary Completion):	From 01/01/1950 To 06/01/2023
All the rest options were default	

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5. Embase

Sources: Embase, MEDLINE and Preprints

#1	'irritable bowel syndrome':ti,ab,kw OR 'ibs':ti,ab,kw OR 'irritable bowel syndrome'/exp OR 'ibs' OR 'irritable colon'/exp
#2	'probiotic':ti,ab,kw OR 'lactobacillus':ti,ab,kw OR 'saccharomyces':ti,ab,kw OR 'bacillus':ti,ab,kw OR 'bifidobacterium':ti,ab,kw OR 'clostridium':ti,ab,kw OR 'streptococcus':ti,ab,kw OR 'enterococcus':ti,ab,kw OR 'probiotic agent'/exp OR 'probiotics':ti,ab,kw
#3	'clinical trial':ti,ab,kw OR 'clinical trials':ti,ab,kw OR 'random*':ti,ab,kw OR 'clinical trial'/exp
#4	#1 AND #2 AND #3
#5	#4 AND 'randomized controlled trial'/de

Text S3. Data collection process

Two authors (PW Xie and M Luo) independently screened titles and abstracts of the search results. The full-text of remaining articles will be examined based on the defined eligibility criteria. The senior investigator (LS Xiong) conducted a discussion when disagreements occurred. Disagreements will be resolved by consensus. Two authors (XH Deng and JH Fan) used a piloted electronic form to extract data independently. The form was based on the Cochrane Collaboration's Data Collection Form Template. Data extraction includes the following items: RCT information (article title, first author, publication year, trial location, trial design, inclusion and exclusion criteria, composition and dose of probiotics, follow-up period), population characteristics (IBS diagnosis criteria, IBS duration and severity, sample size, gender, mean age or age range, BMI), outcomes of interest. For RCTs reported at different follow-up time, all relevant articles were included in the same group for data extraction. Corresponding authors were requested for original data by e-mail if the data of outcomes did not report in the full-text. Intention-to-treat analyses were used in data collection.

Text S4. References to RCTs included in this network meta-analysis

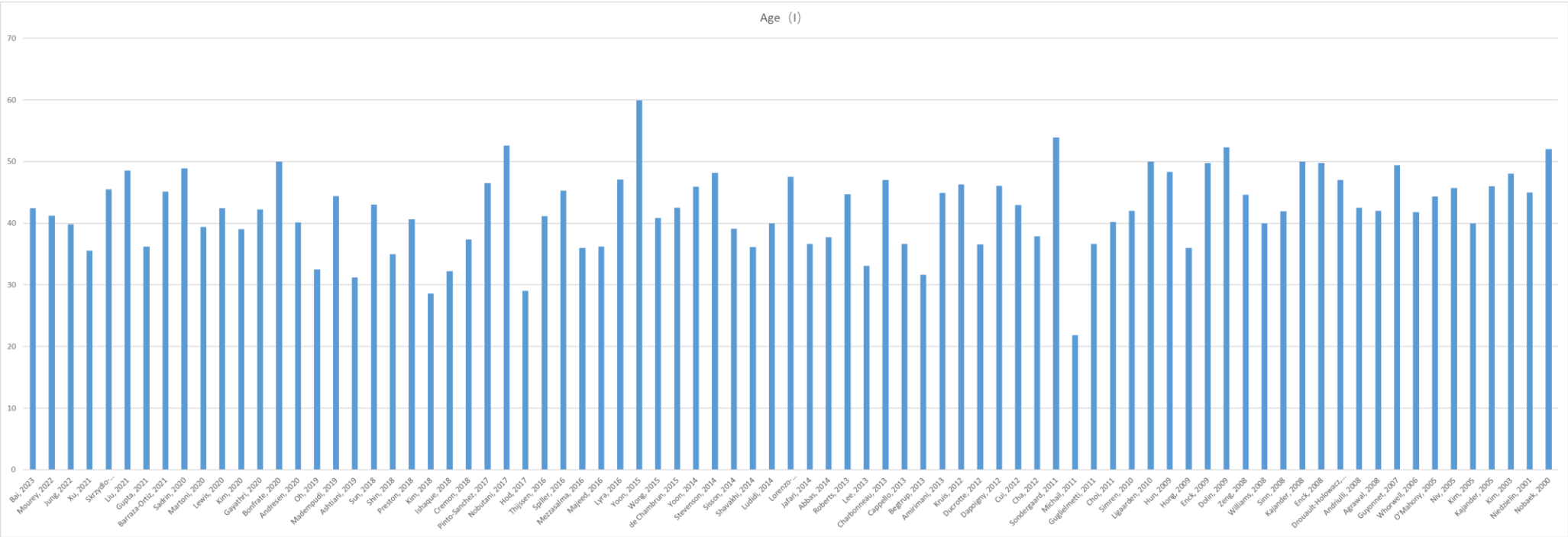
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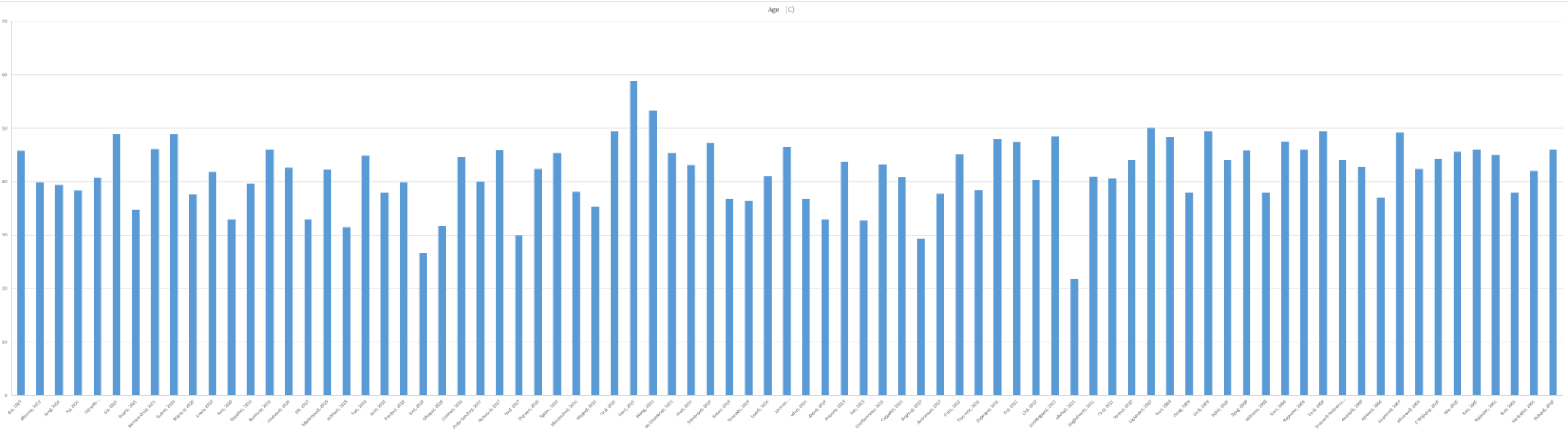
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Figure S1. The distribution of effect modifiers.
1. The mean age of participants in probiotic groups.



2. The mean age of participants in control groups.



3. The proportion of females in included studies.

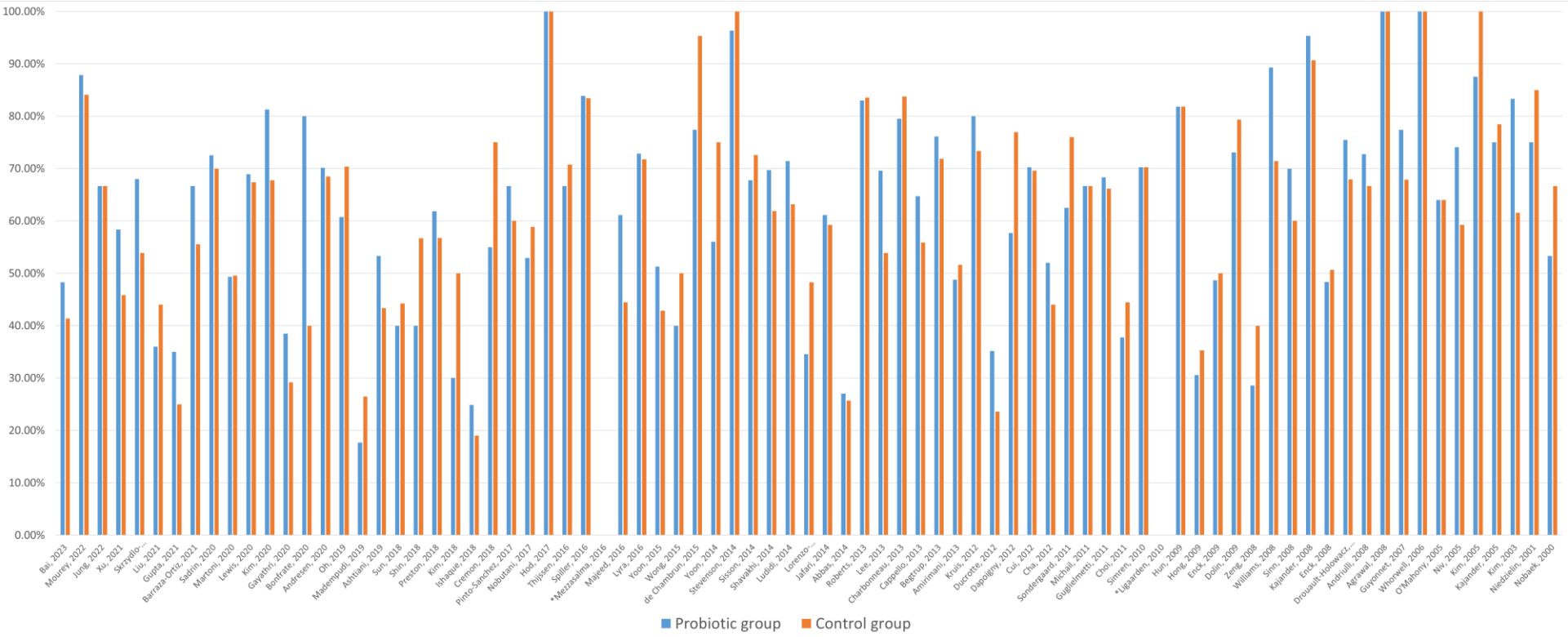
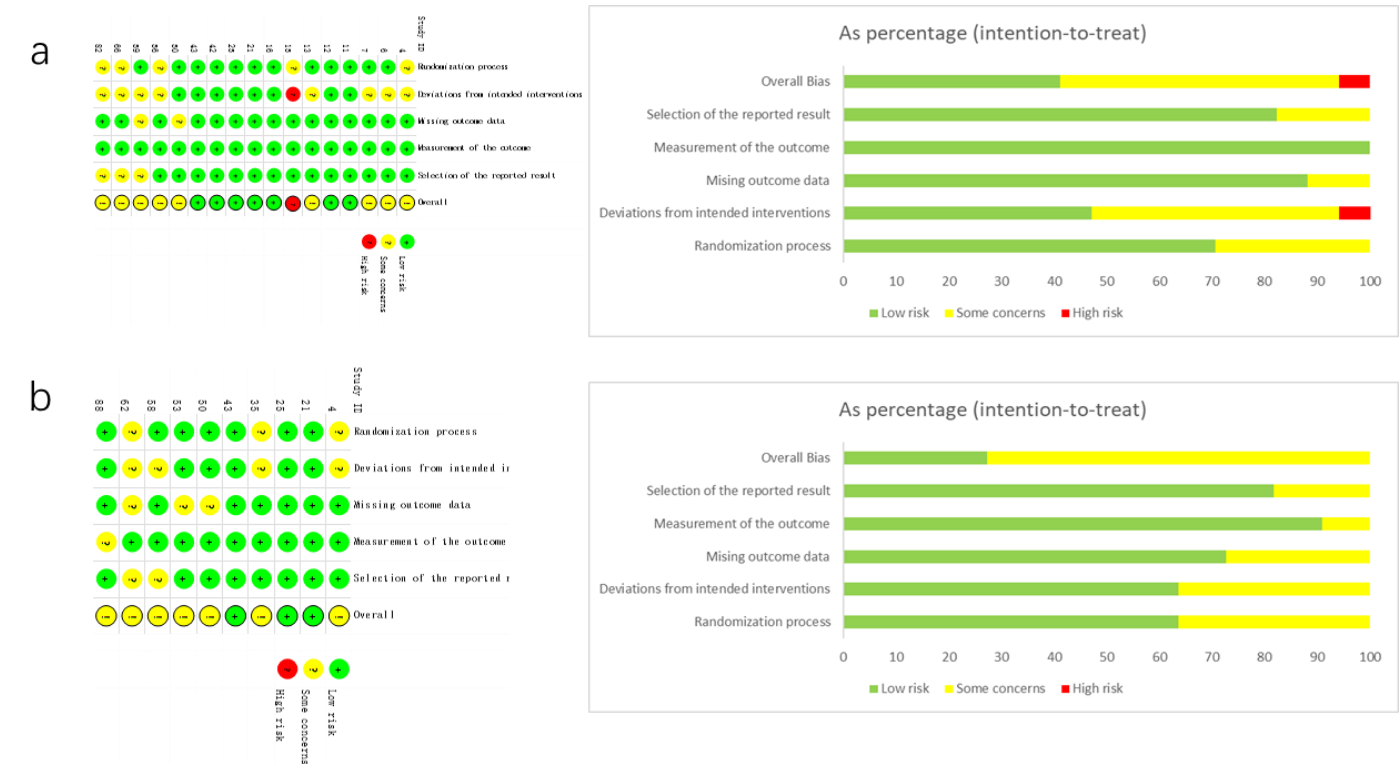


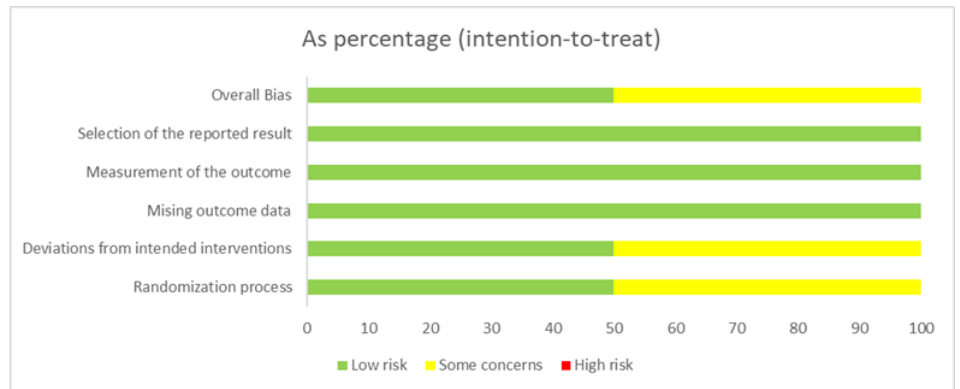
Figure S2. Risk of bias 2 evaluations for each outcome

1. IBS-SSS (a) and IBS-QOL(b)

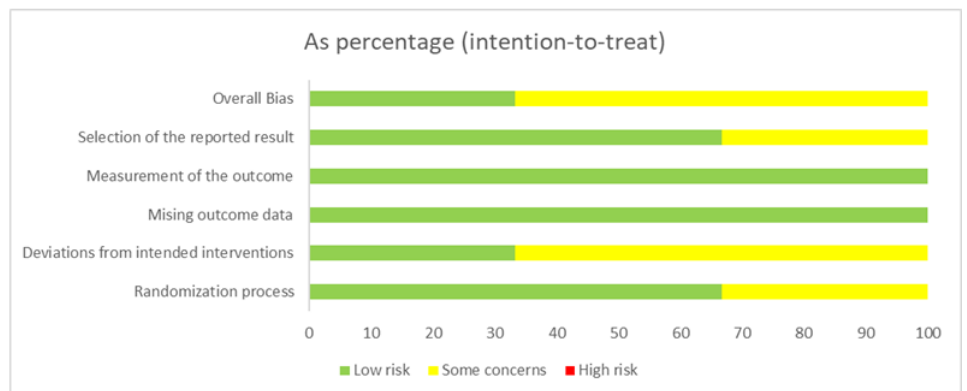
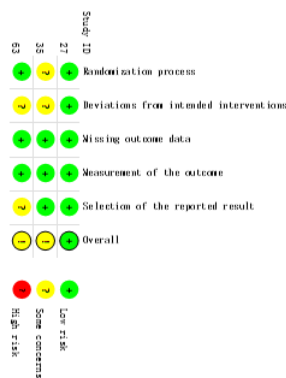


2. HADS-total score (a), HADS-anxiety (b), and HADS-depression (c)

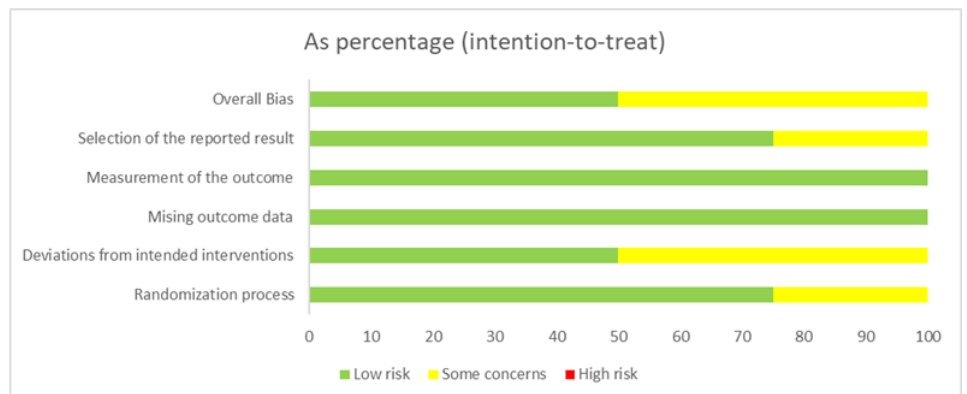
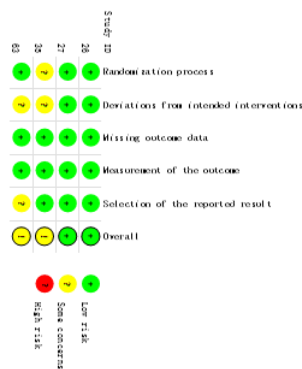
a



b



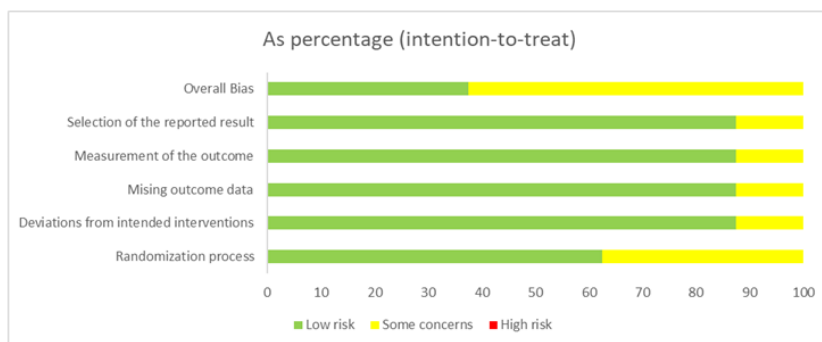
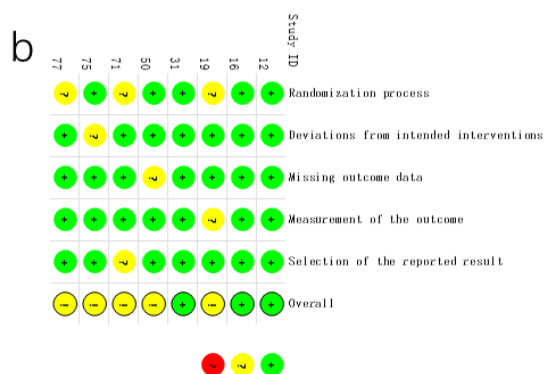
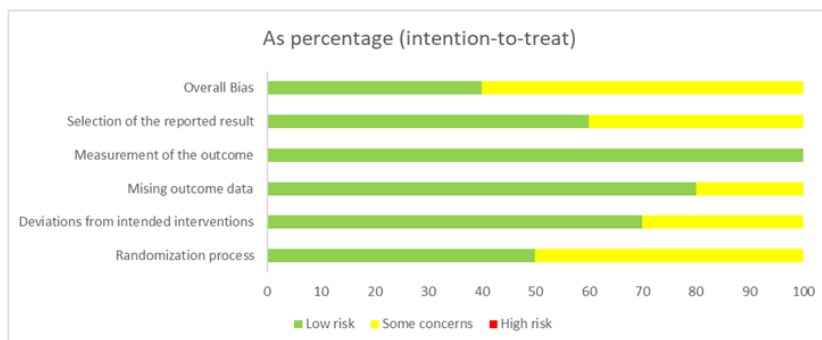
c



3. Abdominal pain score (a) and abdominal bloating score (b)



4. Bowel movement frequency in IBS-D (a) and IBS-C (b)



5. Bristol stool form scale in IBS-D (a) and IBS-C (b)

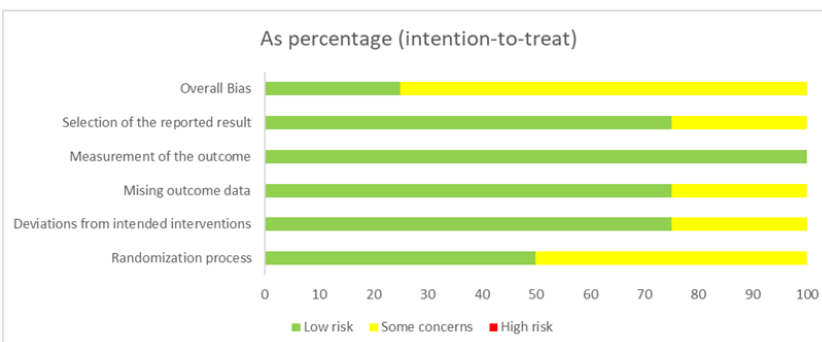
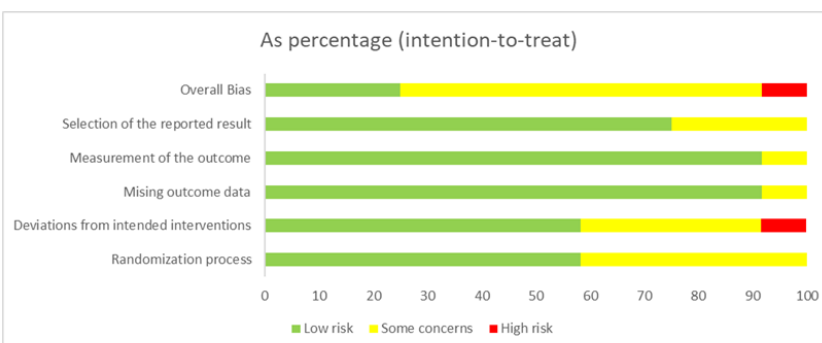
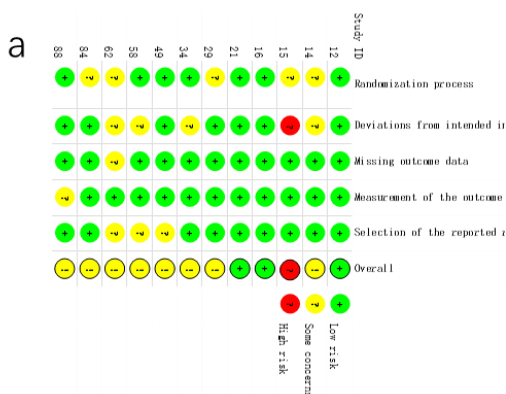
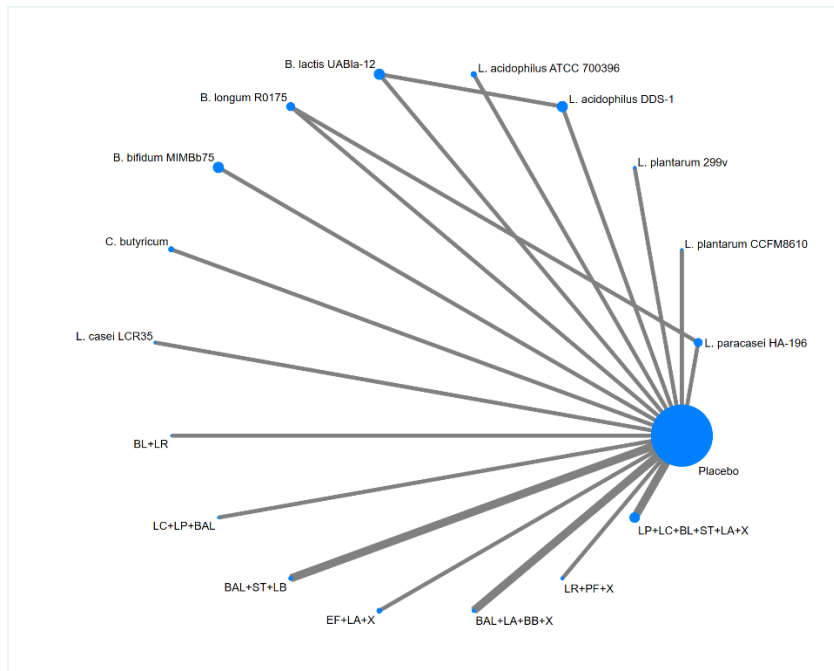


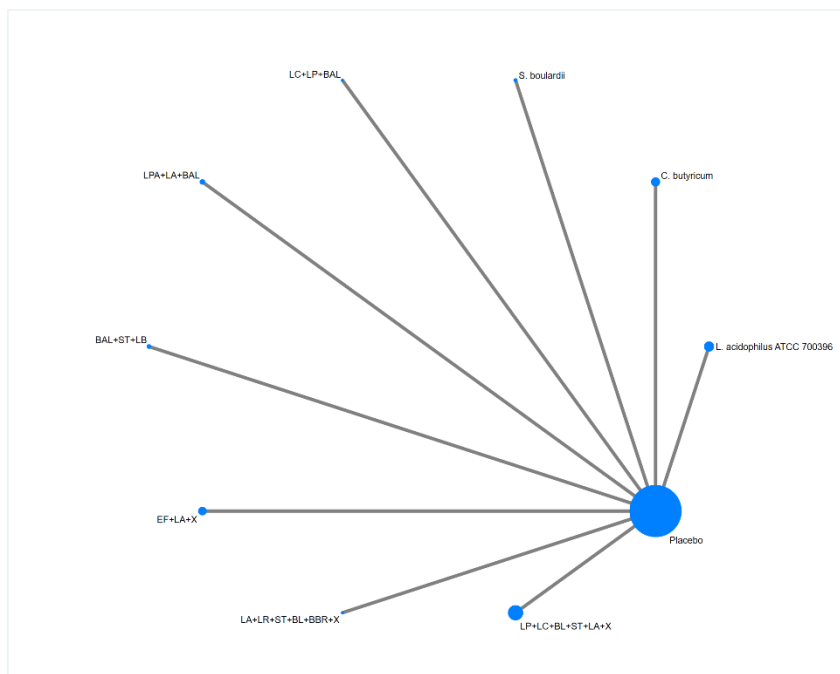
Figure S3. Network plots

Different probiotics are represented by nodes. The size of each node is proportional to the number of patients. The width of the edges represents the number of RCTs.

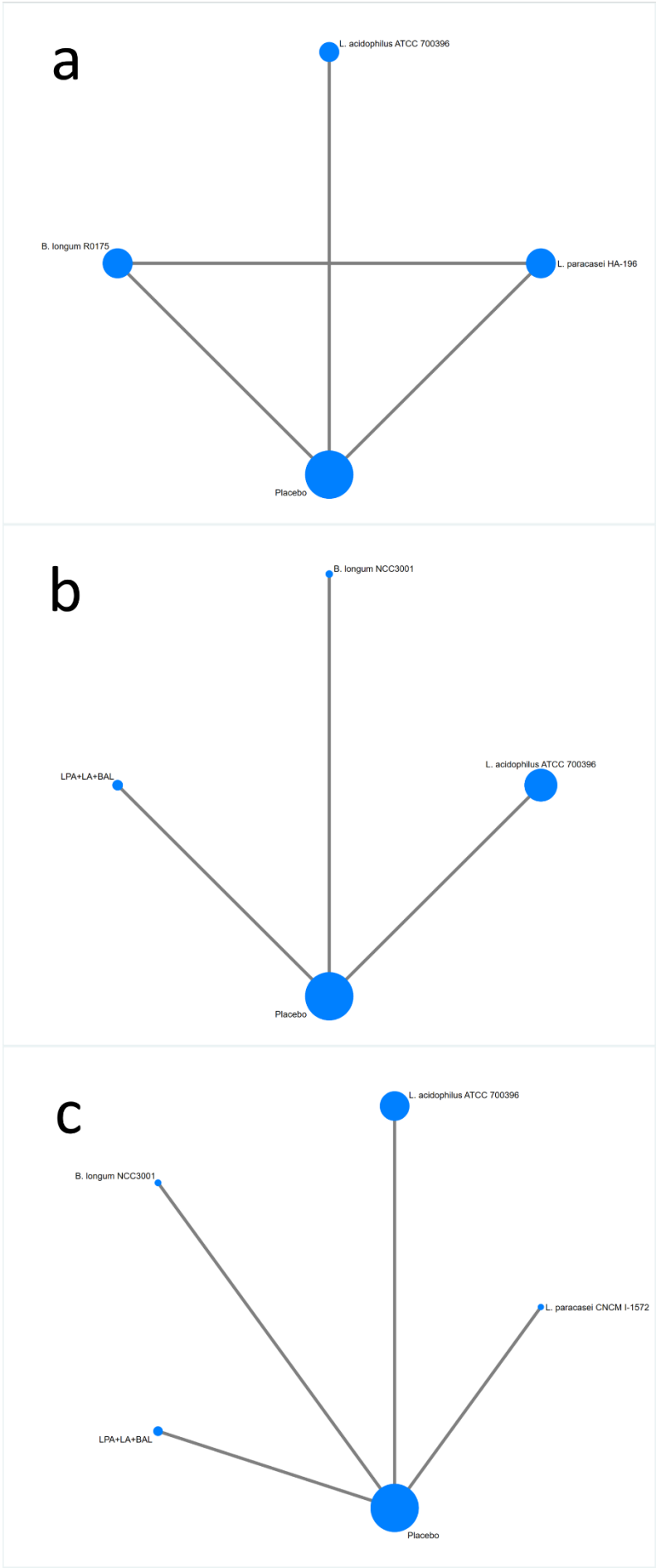
1. IBS-SSS



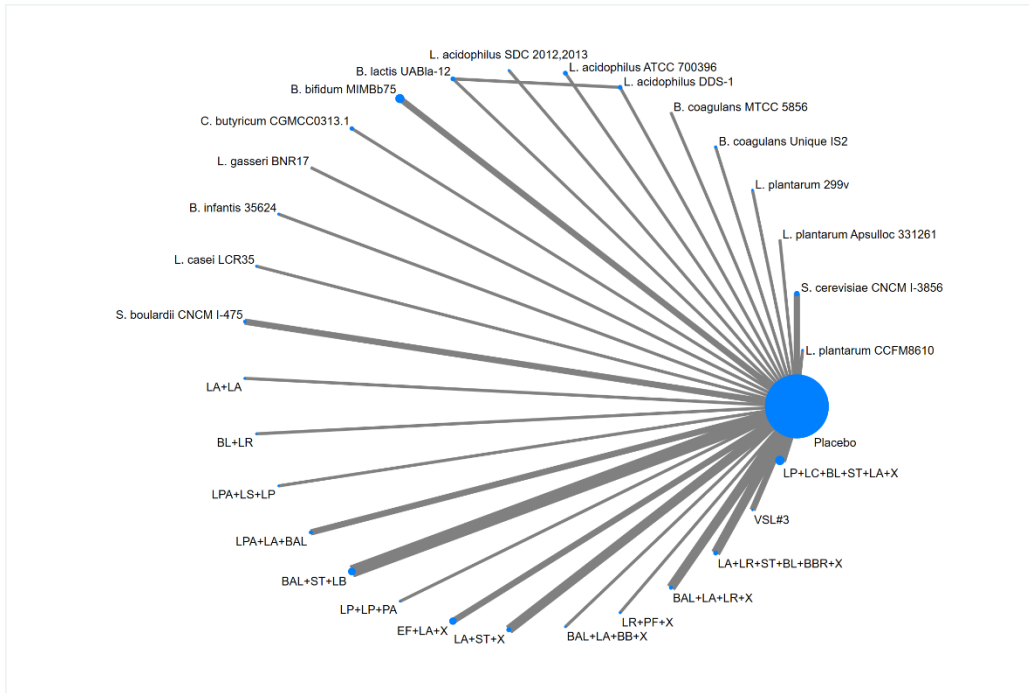
2. IBS-QOL



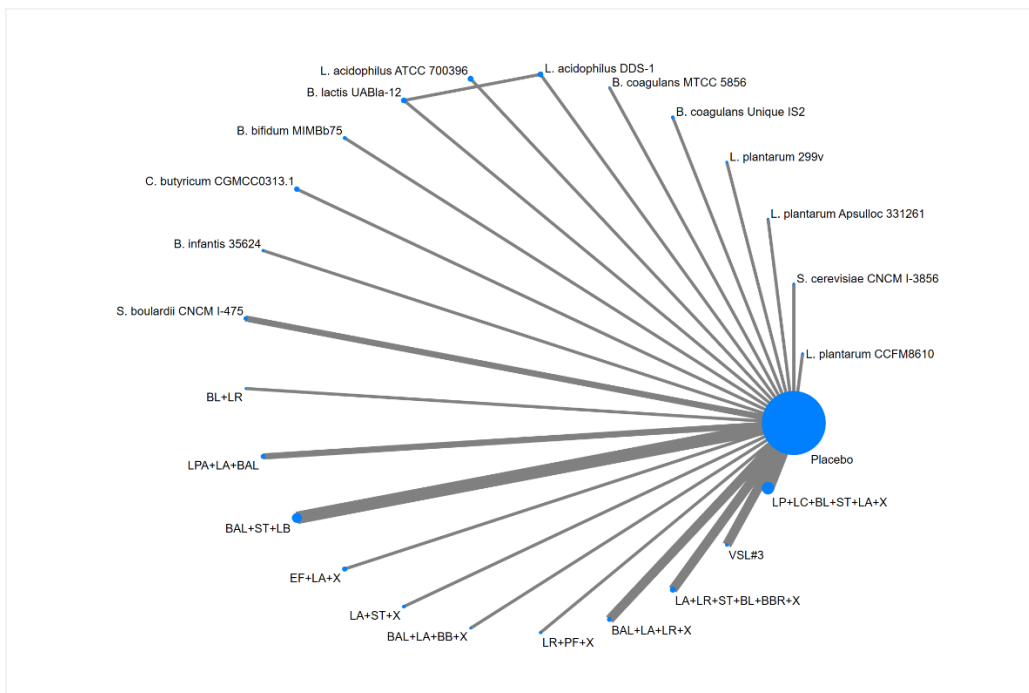
3. HADS-total score (a), HADS-anxiety (b), and HADS-depression (c)



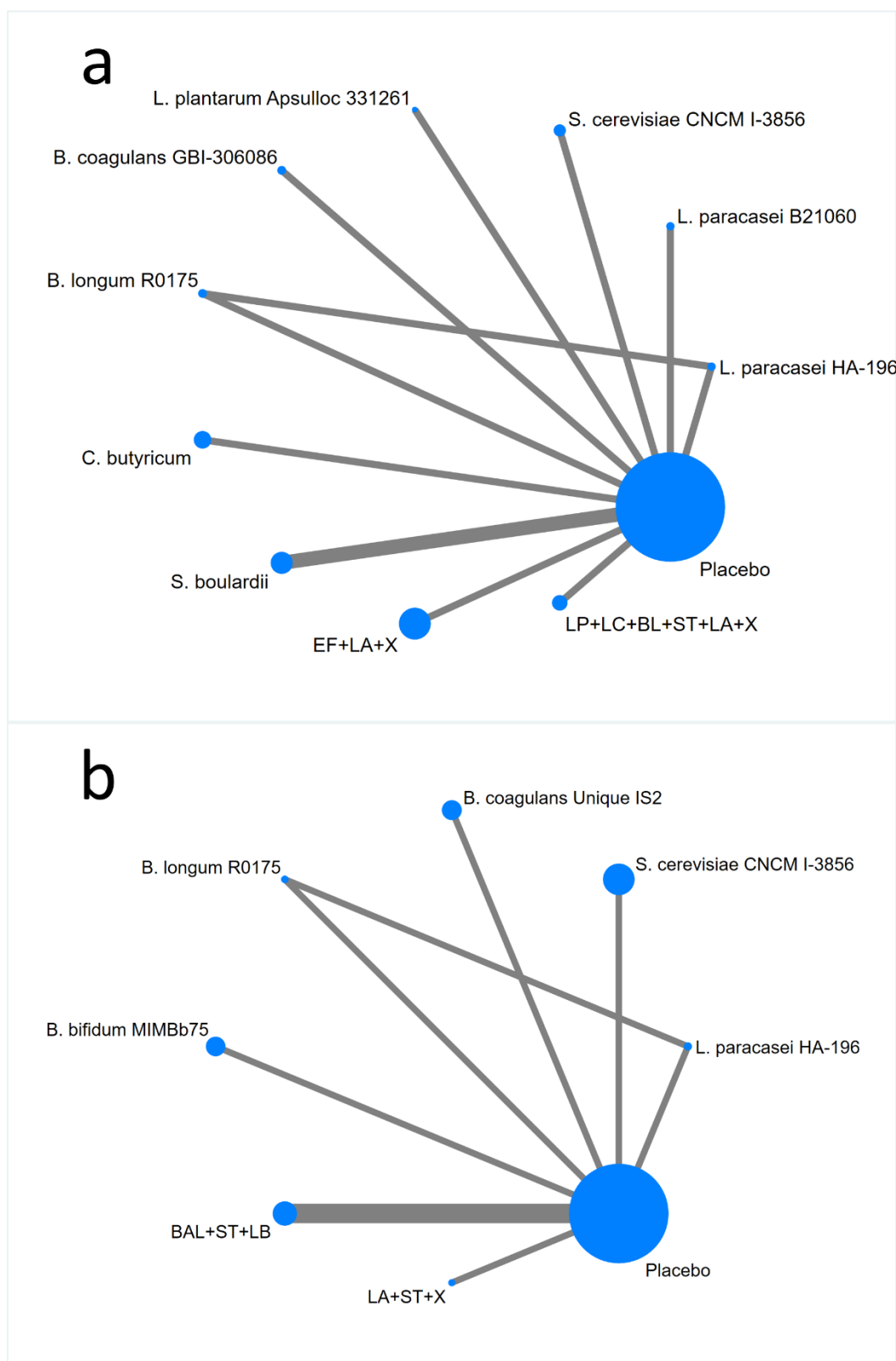
4. Abdominal pain score



5. Abdominal bloating score



6. Bowel movement frequency (per week) in IBS-D (a) and IBS-C (b).



7. Bristol stool form scale in IBS-D (a) and IBS-C (b)

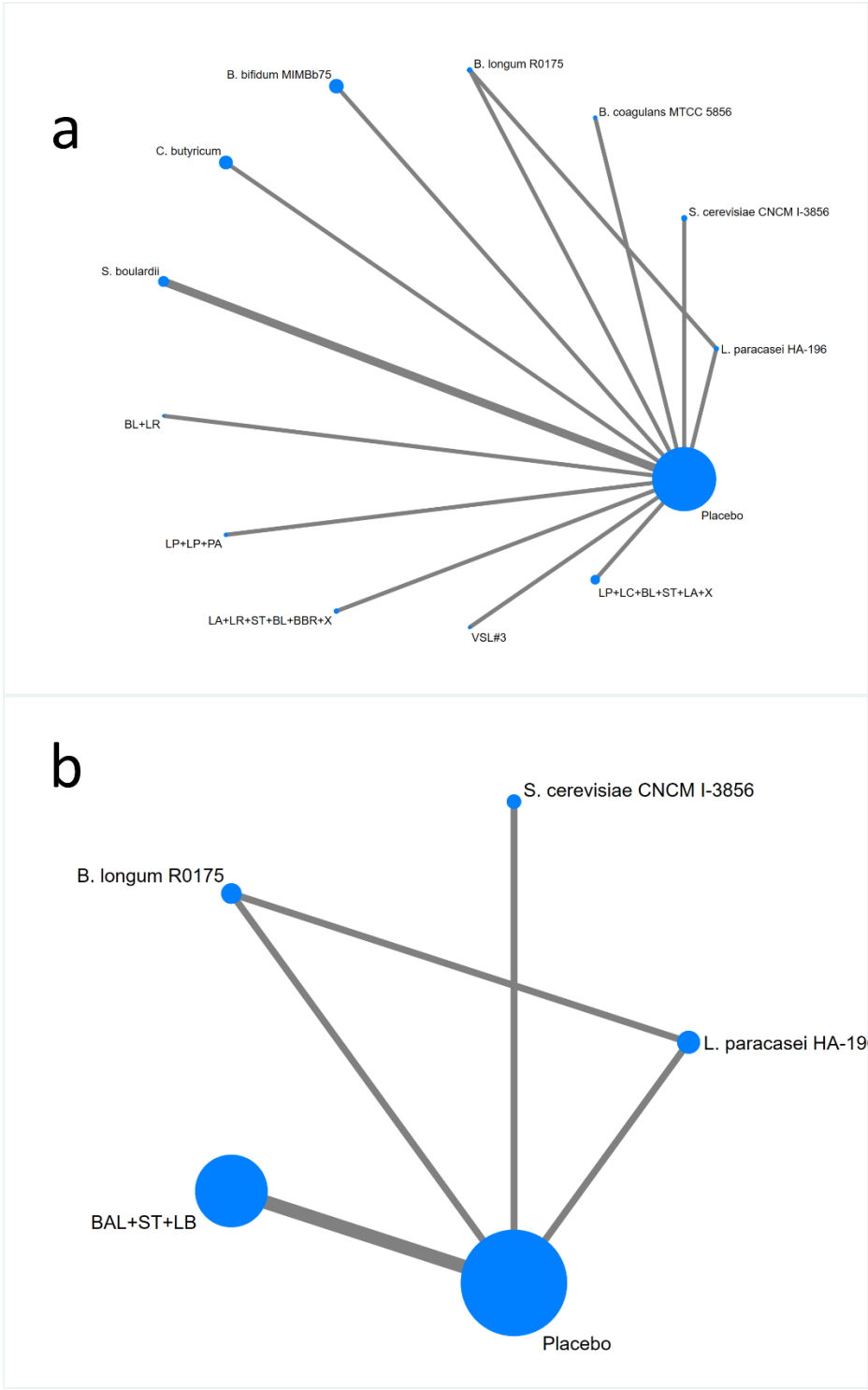
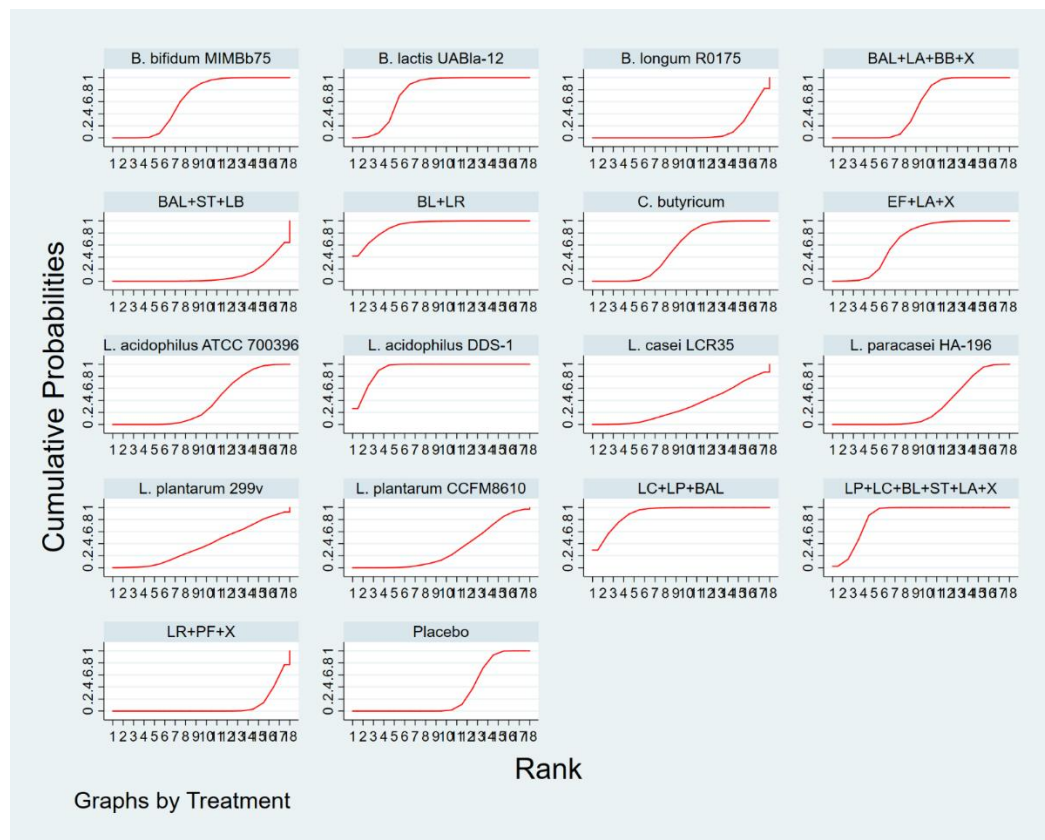


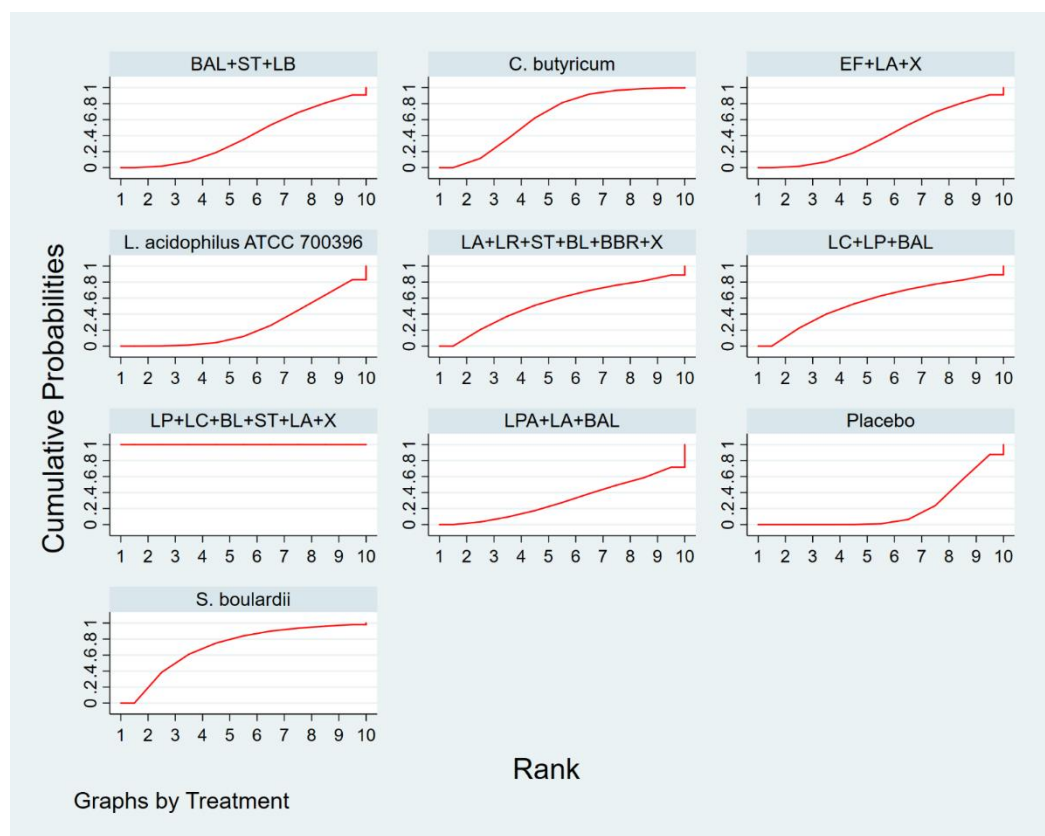
Figure S4. Cumulative Ranking Curves for each Outcome

IBS-SSS, IBS Symptom Severity Scale; IBS-QOL, IBS-Quality of Life Measure; HADS, the Hospital Anxiety and Depression Scale.

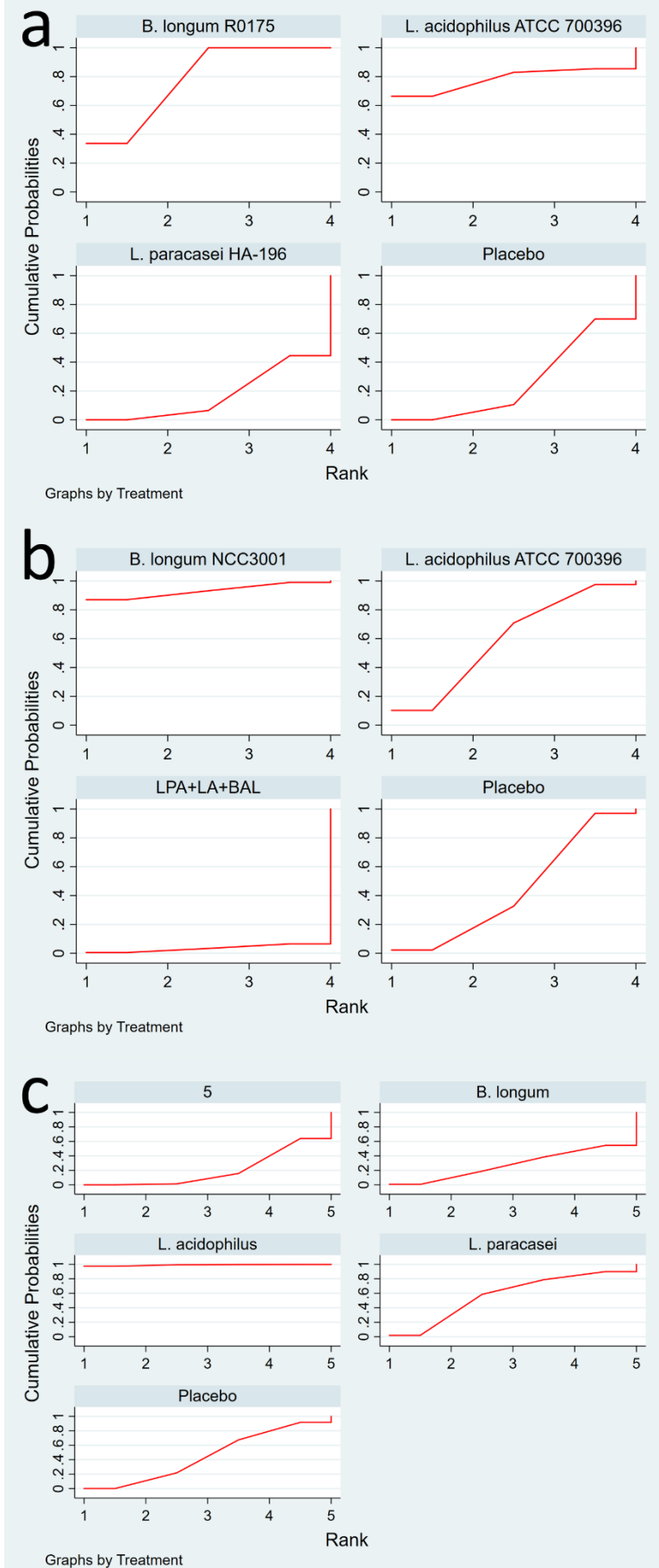
1. IBS-SSS



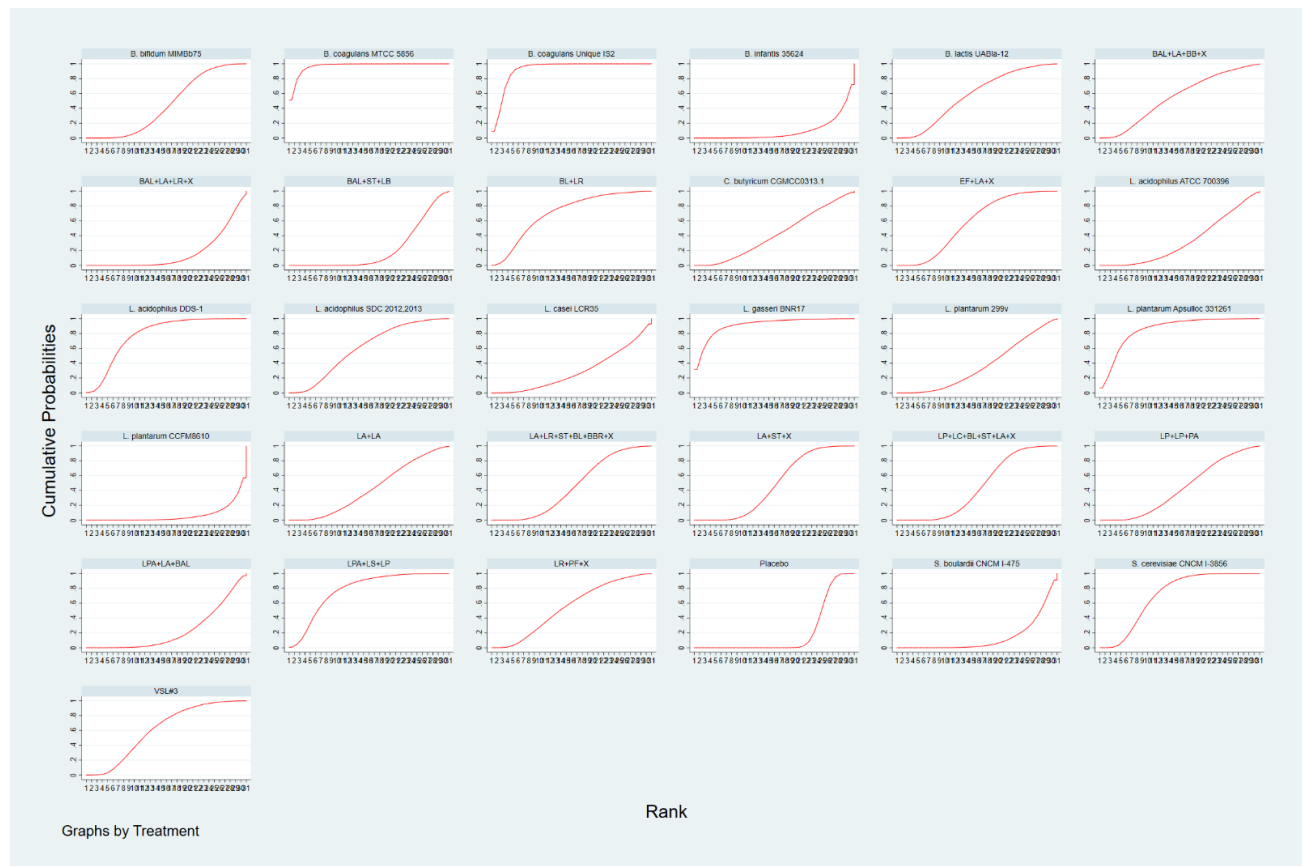
2. IBS-QOL



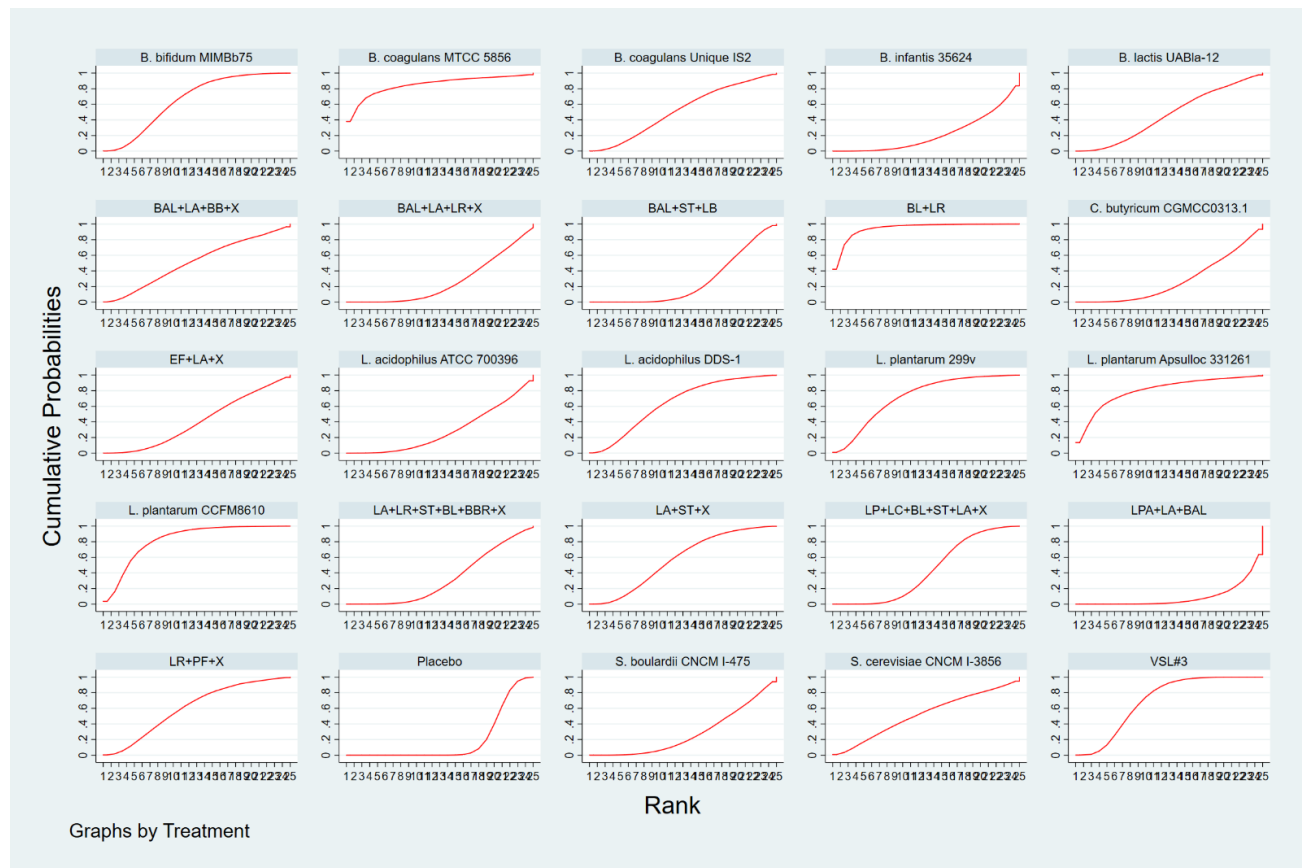
3. HADS-total score (a), HADS-anxiety (b), and HADS-depression (c)



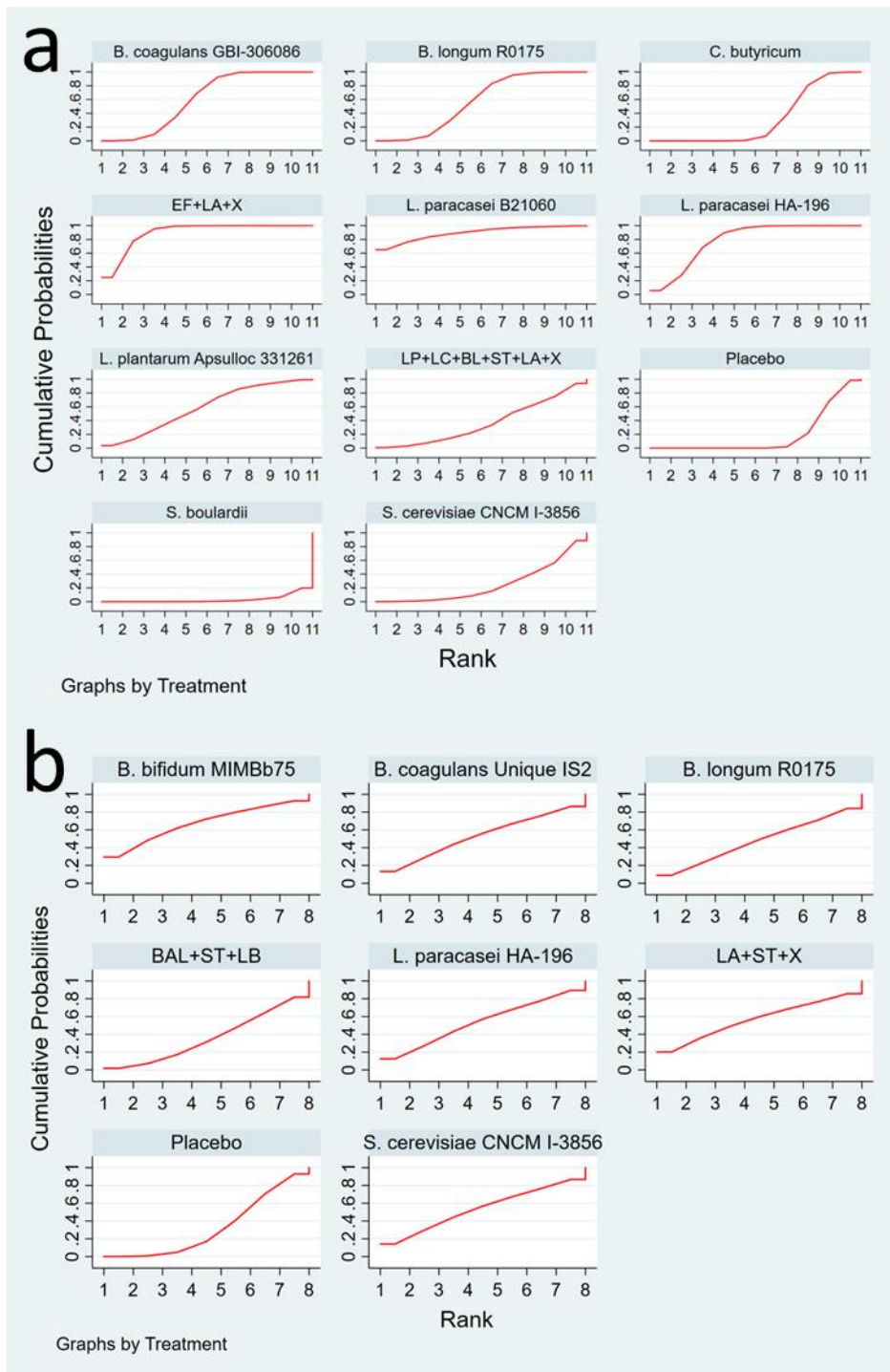
4. Abdominal pain score



5. Abdominal bloating score



6. Bowel movement frequency (per week) in IBS-D (a) and IBS-D (b)



7. Bristol stool form scale in IBS-D (a) and IBS-C (b)

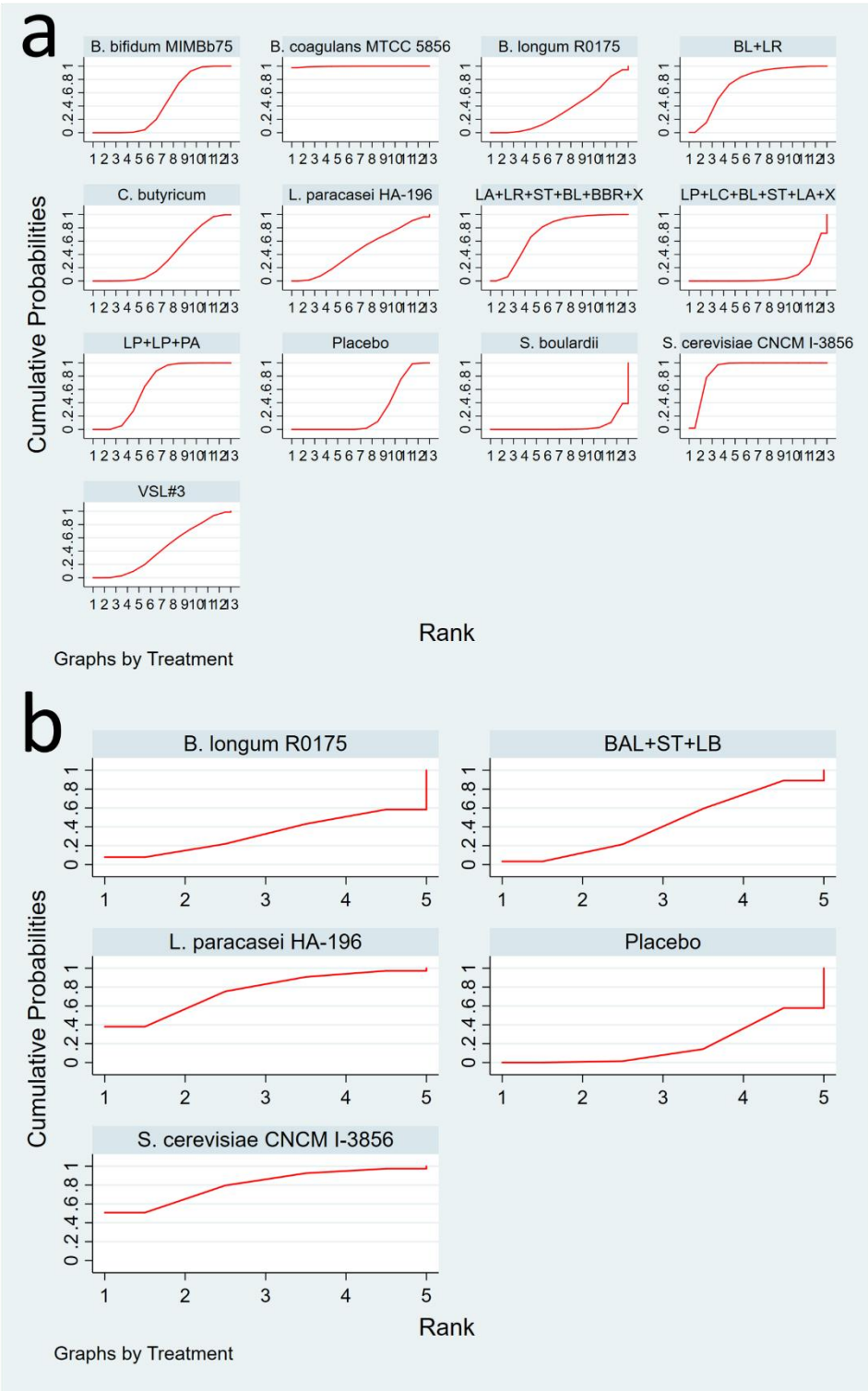
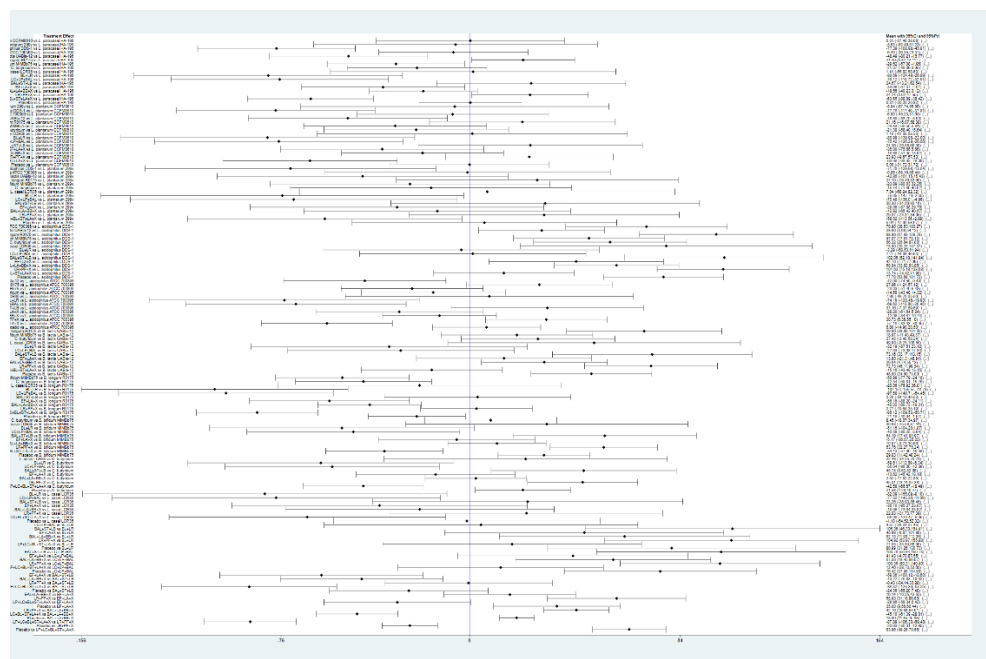


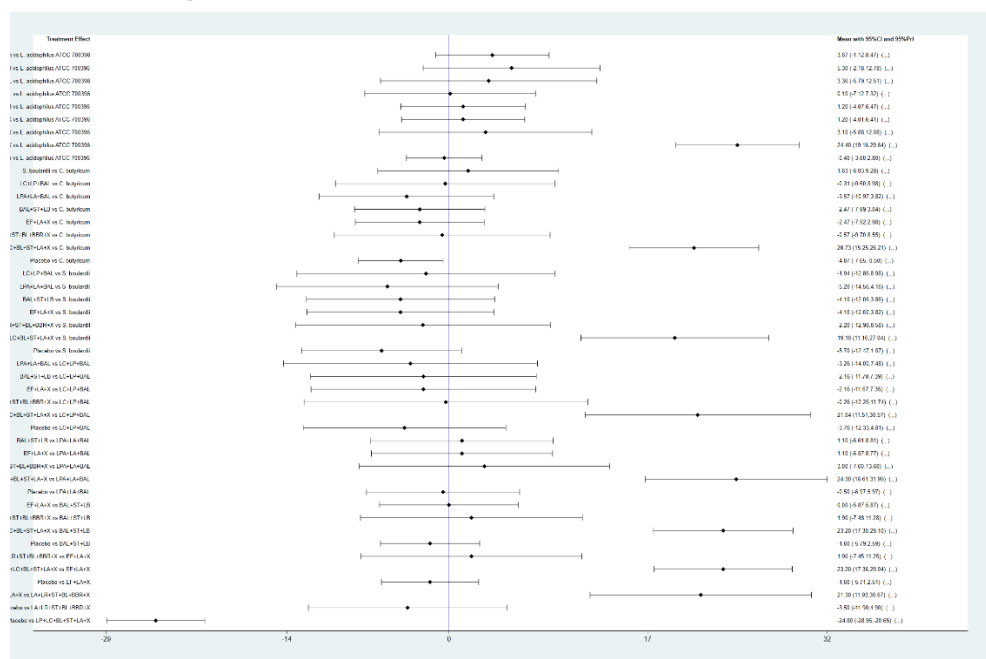
Figure S5. Predictive interval plots for each pair of interventions.

Effects were calculated as standardized mean difference and 95% confidence intervals (CI, black horizontal lines); red extensions represent predictive intervals (PrI). IBS-SSS, IBS Symptom Severity Scale; IBS-QOL, IBS-Quality of Life Measure; HADS, the Hospital Anxiety and Depression Scale.

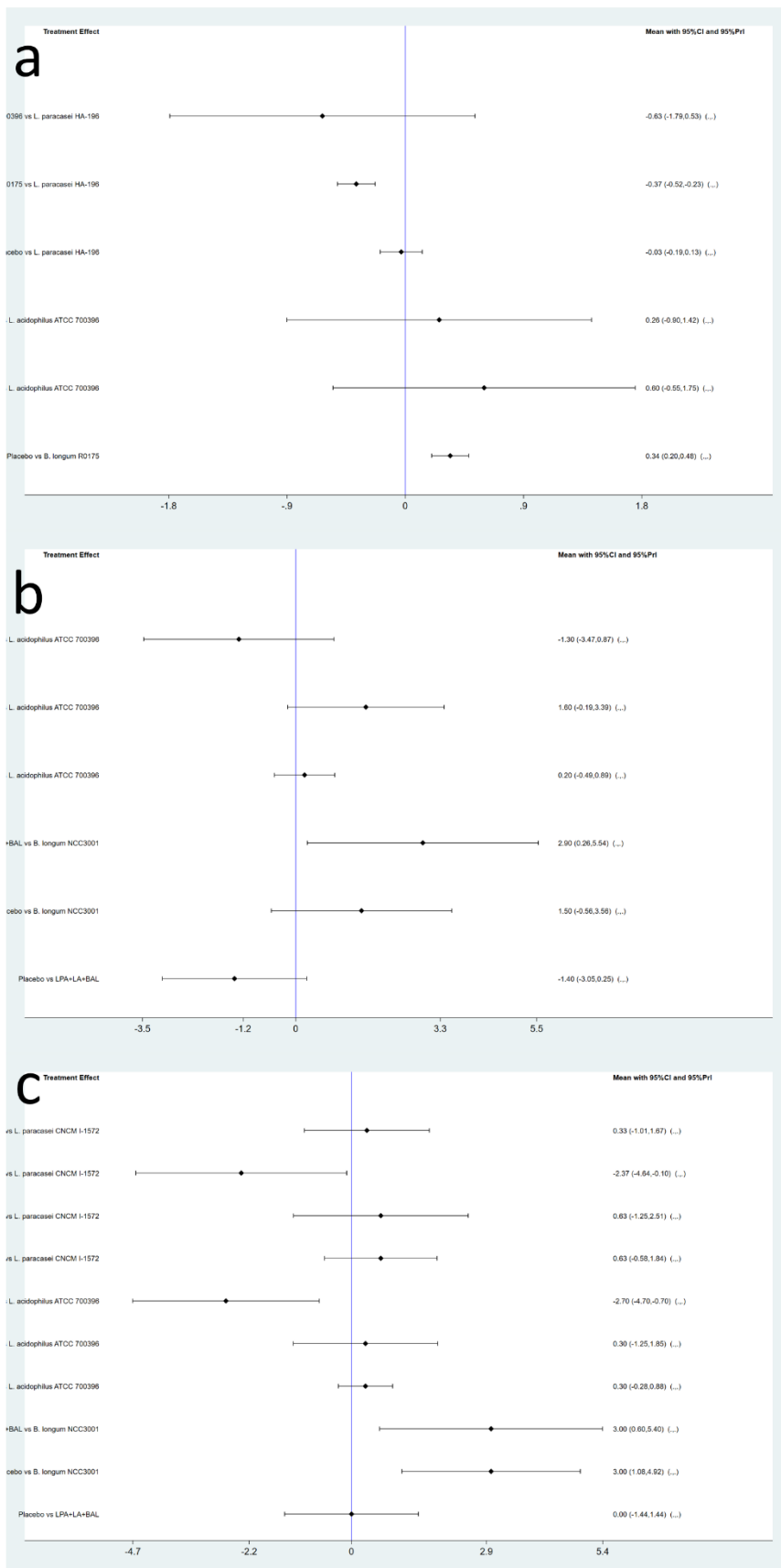
1. IBS-SSS



2. IBS-QOL



3. HADS-total score (a), HADS-anxiety (b), and HADS-depression (c)

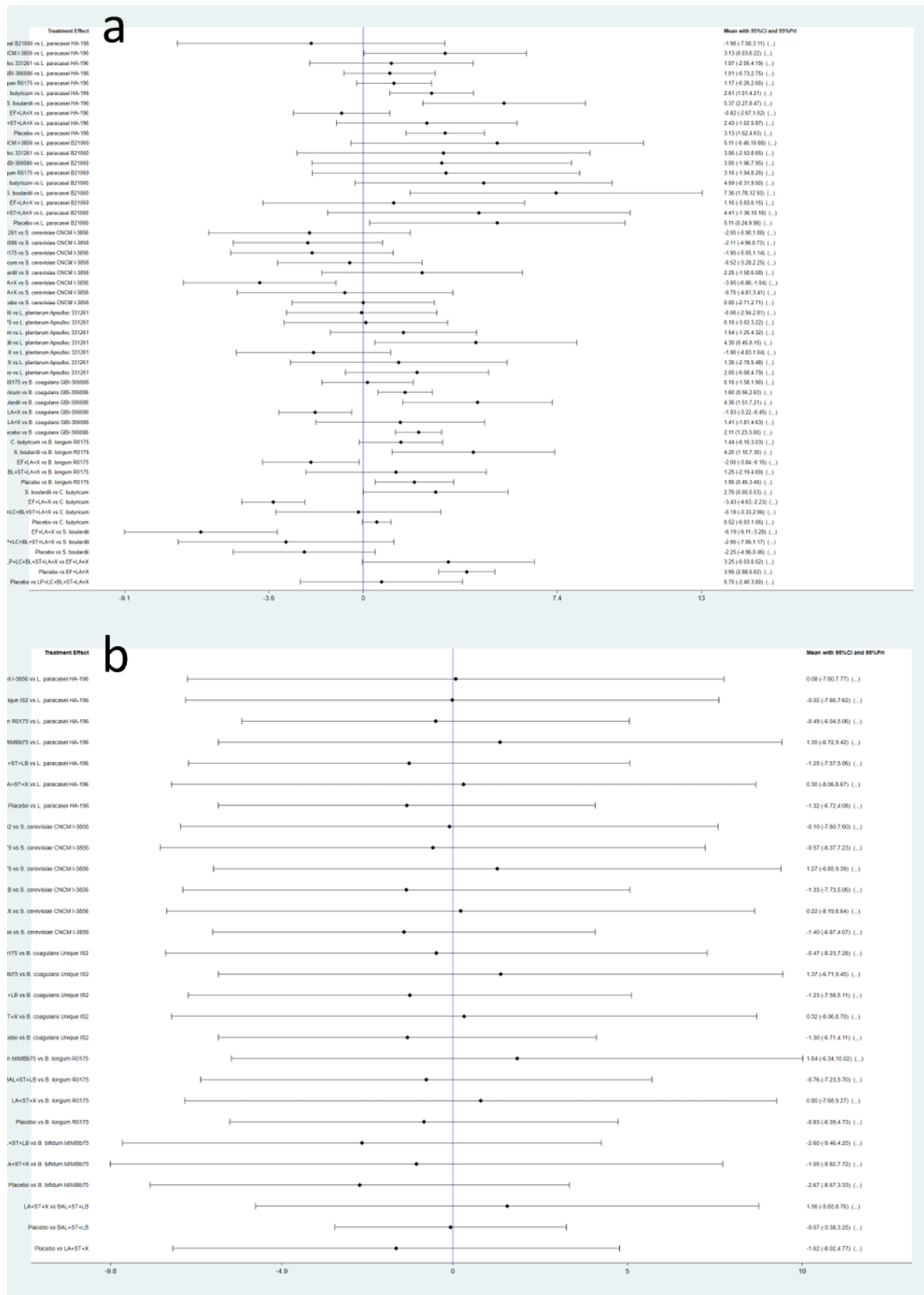


4. Abdominal pain score

[illegible]

9

6. Bowel movement frequency (per week) in IBS-D (a) and IBS-C (b).



7. Bristol stool form scale in IBS-D (a) and IBS-C (b)

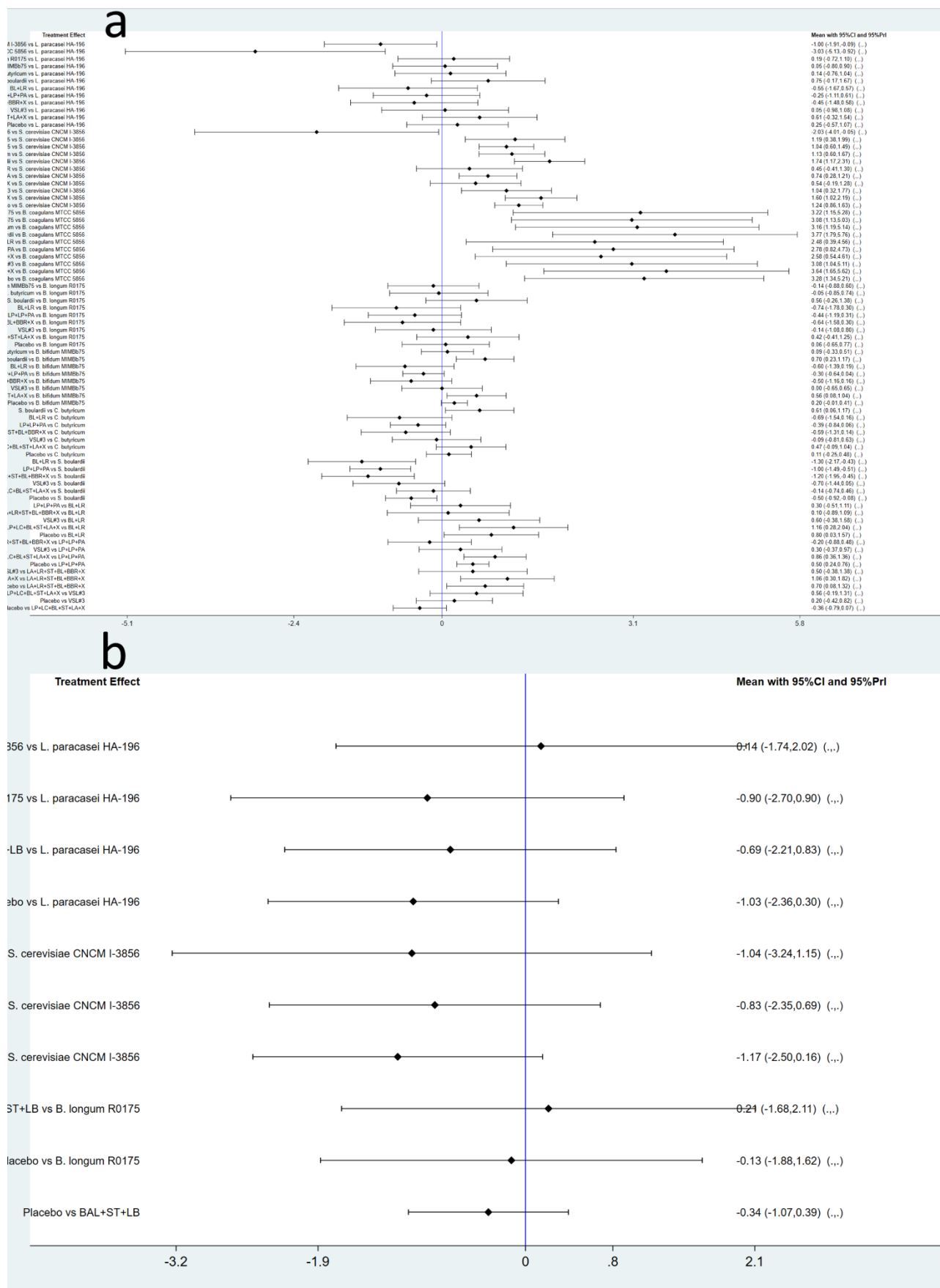
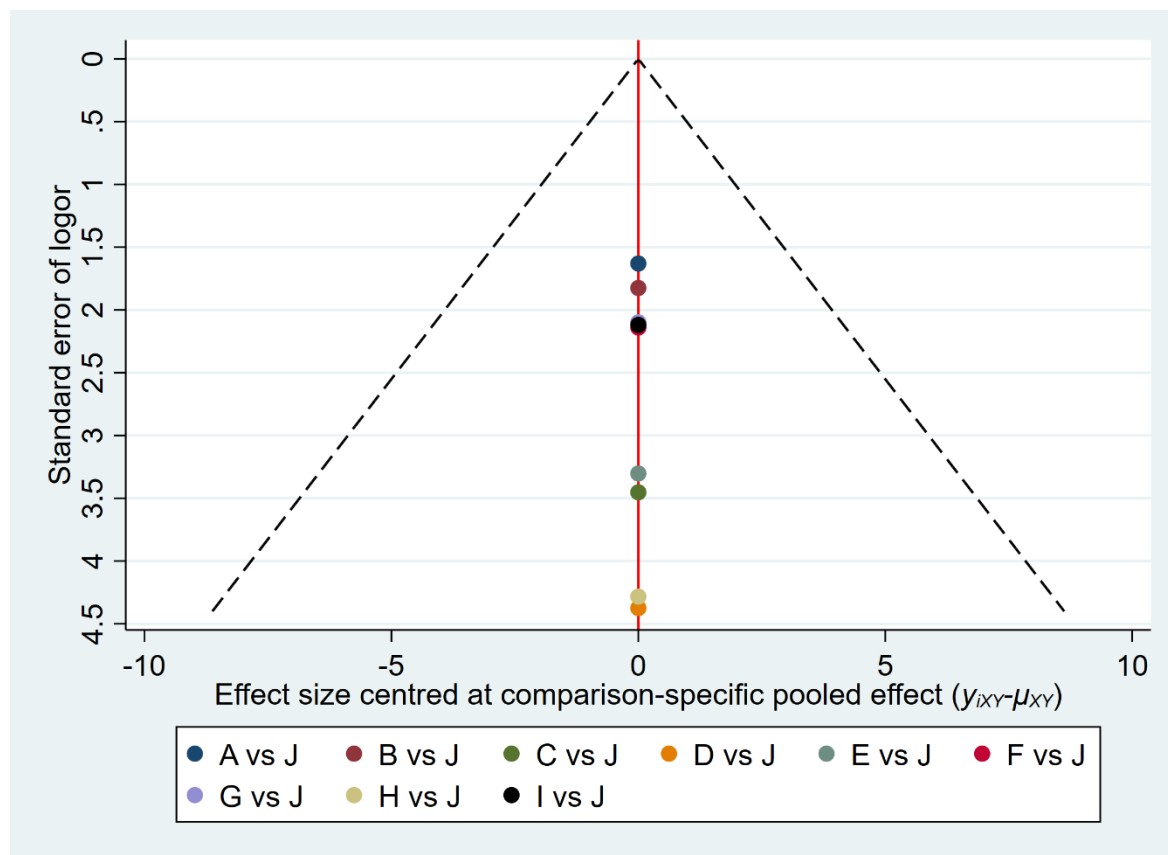


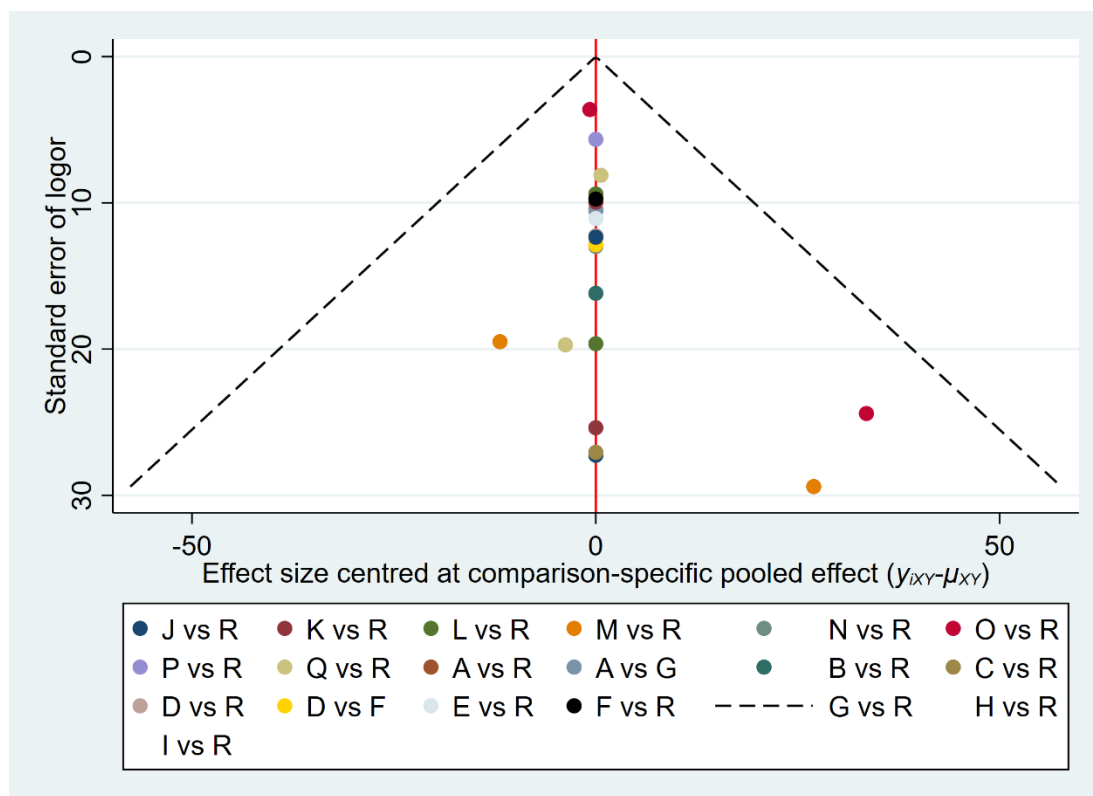
Figure S6. Funnel plots for each outcome

IBS-SSS, IBS Symptom Severity Scale; IBS-QOL, IBS-Quality of Life Measure; HADS, the Hospital Anxiety and Depression Scale.

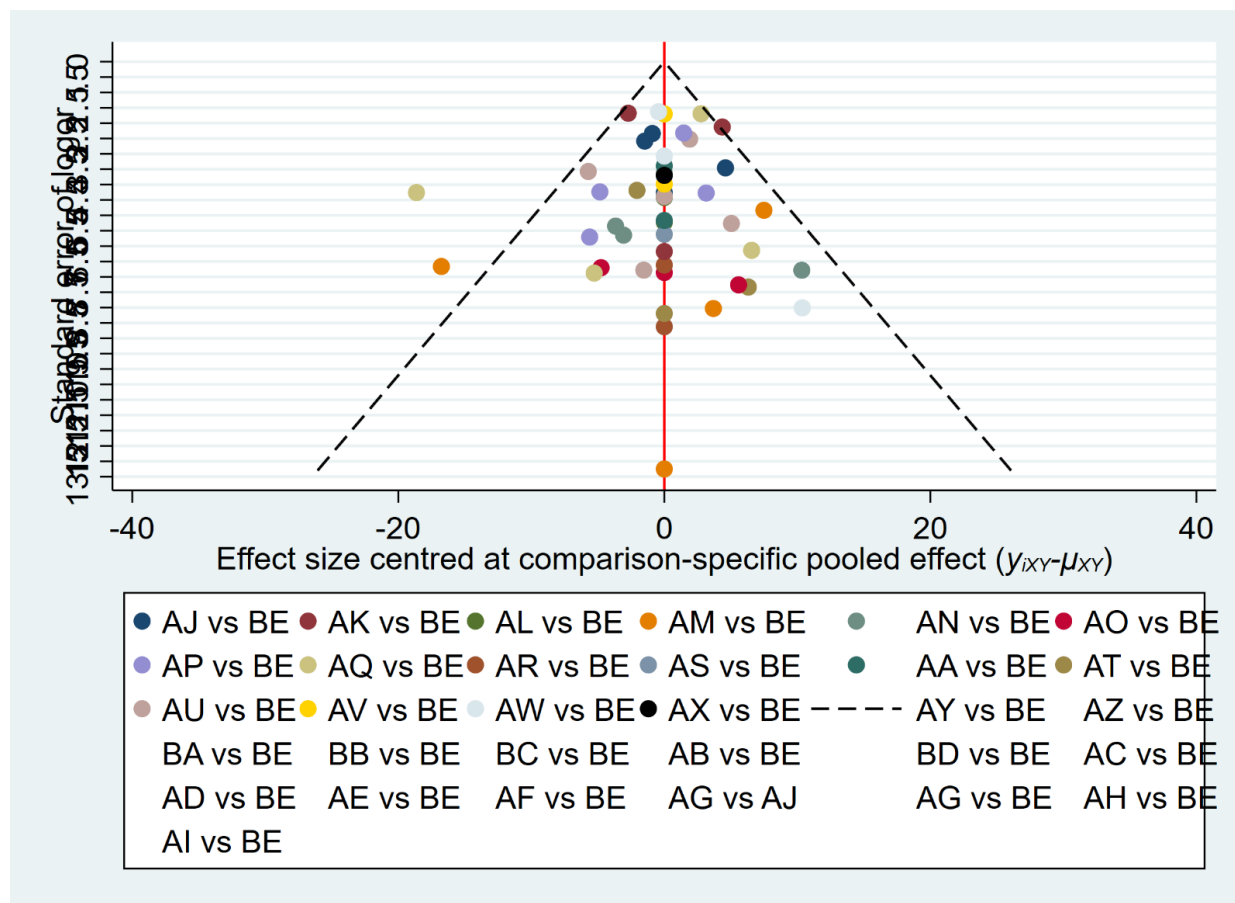
1. IBS-SSS



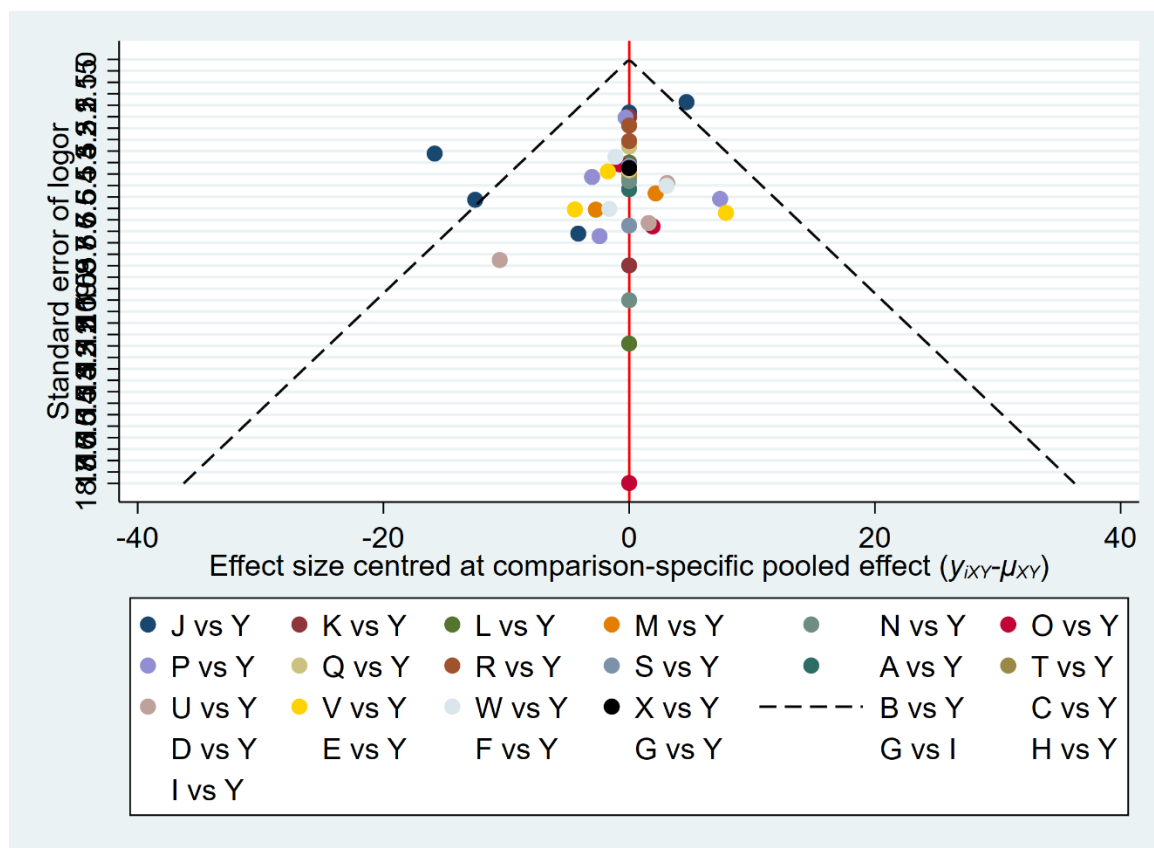
2. IBS-QOL



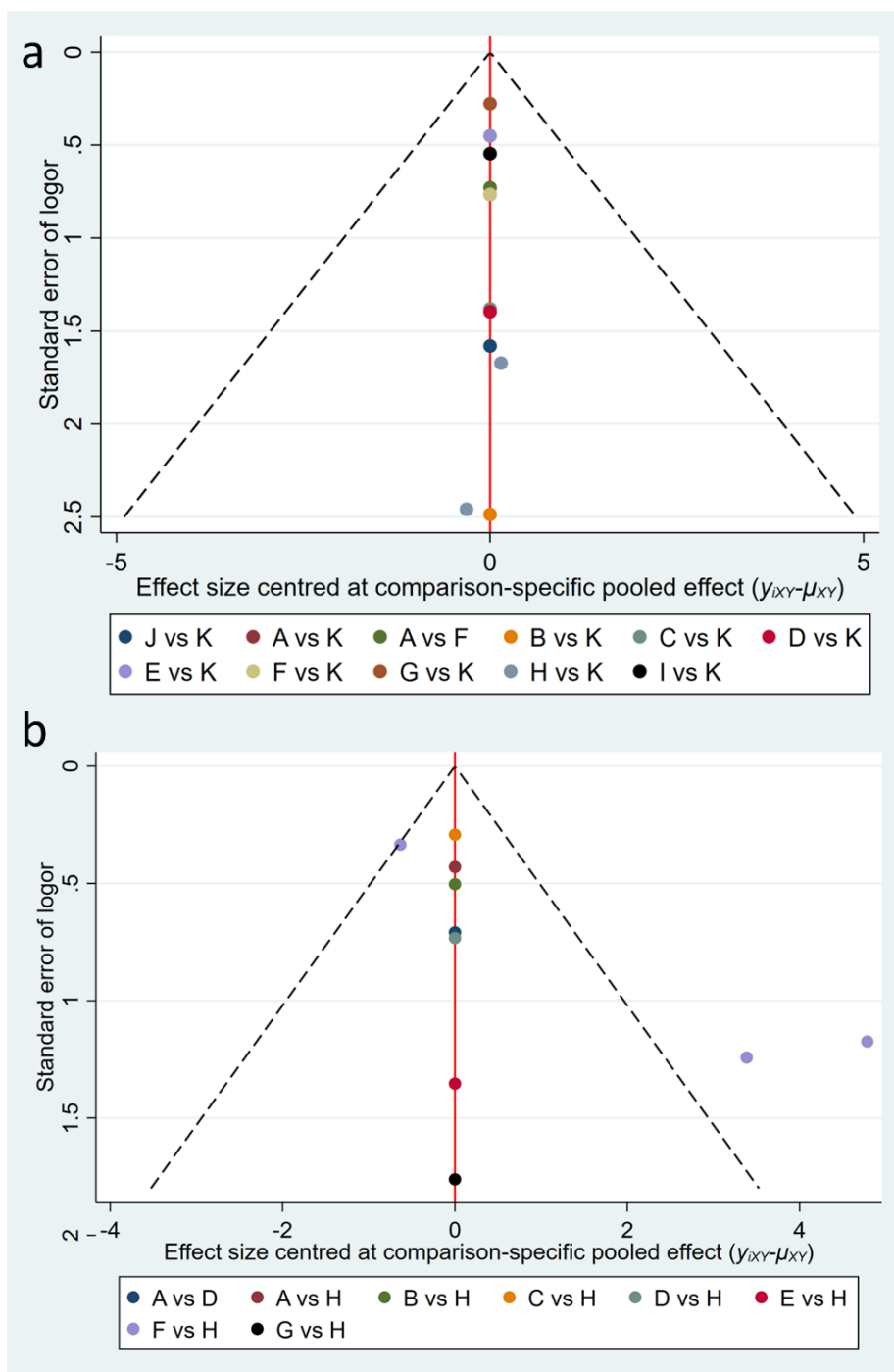
3. Abdominal pain score



4. Abdominal bloating score



5. Bowel movement frequency in IBS-D (a) and IBS-C (b)



6. Bristol stool form scale IBS-D (a) and IBS-C (b)

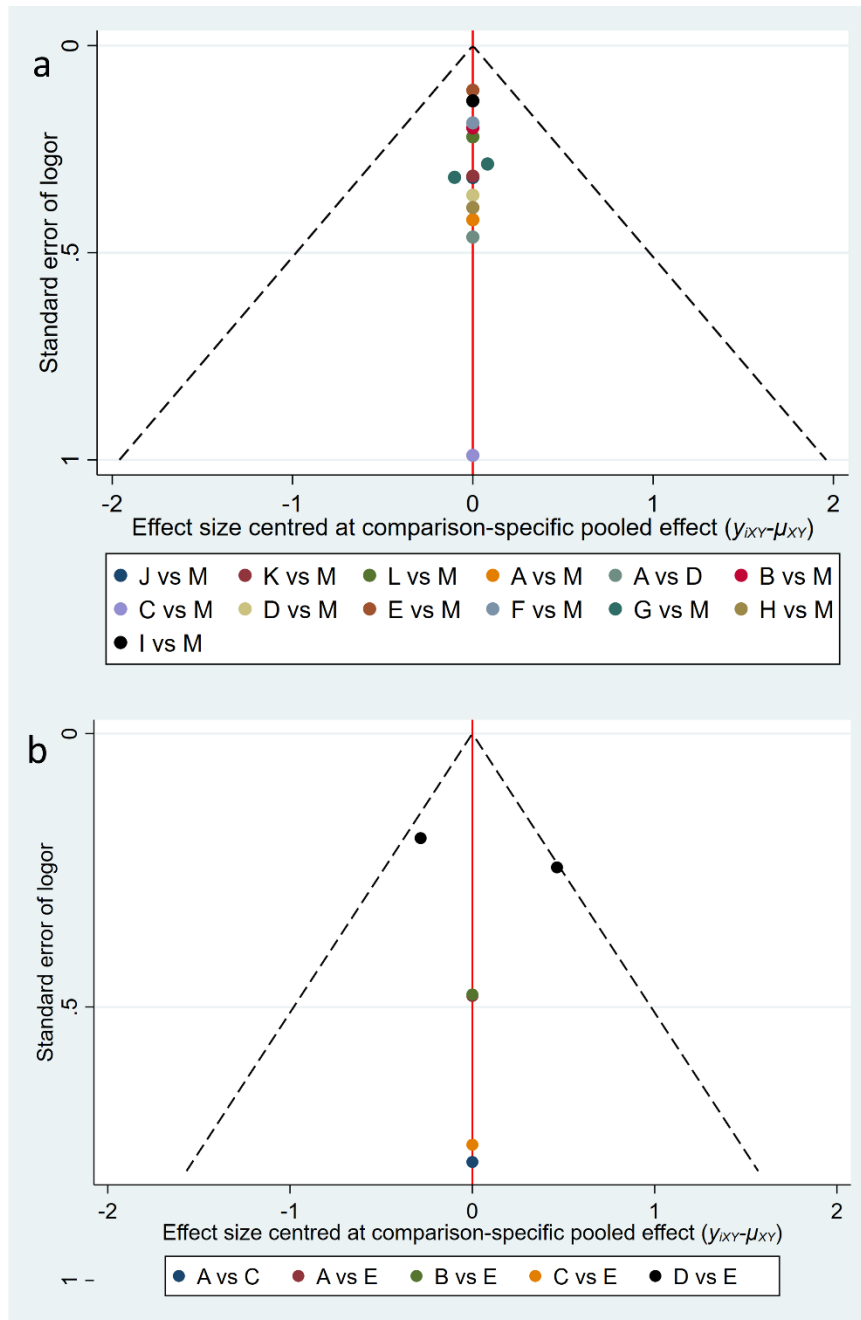


Table S1. Characteristics of Included Randomized Controlled Trials (1).

Study and Publication years	Location	Diagnostic Criteria	IBS Subtype	Interventi- on time		Dose (CFU/day)	Sample size (I)	Sample size(C)
				(W)	Probiotic used			
Bai, 2022	China	Rome IV	D	4	a multi-strain preparation (4)	1.395×10^7	145	145
Mourey, 2022	France	Rome IV	C	8	<i>S. cerevisiae</i> I-3856	8×10^9	230	226
Jung, 2022	Korea	Rome IV	D	4	<i>L. plantarum</i> Apsulloc 331261 (GTB1TM)	1×10^{10}	18	9
Xu, 2021	China	Rome III	All	4	a multi-strain preparation (3)	1×10^{10}	24	24
Skrzydło-Radomanska, 2021	Poland	Rome III	D	8	a multi-strain preparation (10)	5×10^9	25	26
Liu, 2021	China	Rome III	D	8	<i>L. plantarum</i> CCFM8610	1×10^{10}	25	25
Gupta, 2021	India	Rome IV	All	80 days	<i>B. coagulans</i> LBSC (DSM17654)	6×10^9	20	20
Barraza-Ortiz, 2021	Mexico	Rome IV	D, M	6	a multi-strain preparation (3)	3×10^9	18	18
Sadrin, 2020	France	Rome III	All	8	a multi-strain preparation (2)	1×10^{10}	40	40
Martoni, 2020	India	Rome IV	All	6	<i>L. acidophilus</i> DDS-1	1×10^{10}	111	109
					<i>B. lactis</i> UABla-12	1×10^{10}	110	
Lewis, 2020	Canada	Rome III	All	8	<i>L. paracasei</i> HA-196	1×10^{10}	95	95
					<i>B. longum</i> R0175	1×10^{10}	95	
Kim, 2020	Korea	Rome II	D	8	a multi-strain preparation (5)	1.5×10^{10}	32	31
Gayathri, 2020	India	Rome III	All	8	<i>S. cerevisiae</i> CNCM I-3856	4×10^9	52	48
Bonfrate, 2020	Italy	Rome IV	All	4	a multi-strain preparation (2)	5×10^9	15	15
Andresen, 2020	Germany	Rome III	All	8	<i>B. bifidum</i> MIMBb75 (SYN-HI-001)	1×10^9 bacteria/day	221	222
Oh, 2019	Korea	Rome III	D, M, U	4	a multi-strain preparation (3)	1×10^9	28	27
Madempudi, 2019	India	Rome III	C	8	<i>B. coagulans</i> Unique IS2	2×10^9	68	68
Ashtiani, 2019	Iran	Rome II	All	4	a multi-strain preparation (7)	2×10^9	30	30
Sun, 2018	China	Rome III	D	4	<i>C. butyricum</i>	5.67×10^7	105	95
Shin, 2018	Korea	Rome III	D	8	<i>L. gasseri</i> BNR17	1×10^{10}	30	30
Preston, 2018	USA	Rome III	All	12	a multi-strain preparation (3)	1×10^{11}	76	37
Kim, 2018	Korea	subjective symptoms of IBS	All	4	<i>L. gasseri</i> BNR17	1×10^{10}	10	12
Ishaque, 2018	Bangladesh	Rome III	D	16	a multi-strain preparation (14)	8×10^9	181	179
Cremon, 2018	Italy	Rome III	All	8	<i>L. paracasei</i> CNCM I-1572	4.8×10^{10} bacteria/day	20	20
Pinto-Sanchez, 2017	Canada	Rome III	D, M	6	<i>B. longum</i> NCC3001	1×10^{10}	18	20
Nobutani, 2017	Japan	Rome III	All	4	<i>L. gasseri</i> CP2305	1.3×10^8	17	17
Hod, 2017	Israel	Rome III	D	8	a multi-strain preparation (11)	2.5×10^{10}	54	53
Thijssen, 2016	Netherlands	Rome II	All	8	<i>L. casei</i> Shirota	1.3×10^{10}	39	41
Spiller, 2016	France	Rome III	All	12	<i>S. cerevisiae</i> CNCM I-3856	8×10^9	192	187
Mezzasalma, 2016	Italy	Rome III	C	60 days	a multi-strain preparation (2)	4×10^9	53	52
					a multi-strain preparation (3)	6×10^9	52	
Majeed, 2016	India	Rome III	D	90 days	<i>B. coagulans</i> MTCC 5856	2×10^9	18	18

						spore/day		
Lyra, 2016	Finland	Rome III	All	12	<i>L. acidophilus</i> NCFM (ATCC 700396)	1×10^9	129	131
Yoon, 2015	Korea	Rome III	All	4	a multi-strain preparation (6)	1×10^{10}	39	42
						bacteria/day		
Wong, 2015	Singapore	Rome III	All	6	a multi-strain preparation (8)	9×10^{11}	20	22
						bacteria/day		
de Chambrun, 2015	France	Rome III	All	8	<i>S. cerevisiae</i> CNCM I-3856	4×10^9	93	86
Yoon, 2014	Korea	Rome III	All	4	a multi-strain preparation (6)	1×10^{10}	25	24
						viable cells		
Stevenson, 2014	South Africa	Rome II	All	8	<i>L. plantarum</i> 299V	10×10^9	54	27
Sisson, 2014	UK	Rome III	All	12	a multi-strain preparation (4)	$2 \times 10^8/(KG*day)$	124	62
Shavakhi, 2014	Iran	Rome III	All	2	a multi-strain preparation (7)	2×10^8	66	63
Ludidi, 2014	Netherlands	Rome III	All	6	a multi-strain preparation (6)	5×10^9	21	19
Lorenzo-Zuniga, 2014	Spain	Rome III	D	6	a multi-strain preparation (3)	$3-6 \times 10^9$	55	29
Jafari, 2014	Iran	Rome III	All	4	a multi-strain preparation (4)	8×10^9	54	54
Abbas, 2014	Pakistan	Rome III	D	6	<i>S. boulardii</i>	NA	37	35
Roberts, 2013	UK	Rome III	C, M	12	a multi-strain preparation (4)	2.74×10^{10}	88	91
Lee, 2013	Korea	Rome III	All	6	a multi-strain preparation (5)	2.6×10^{10}	46	39
Charbonneau, 2013	Ireland	Rome II	All	8	<i>B. infantis</i> 35624	1×10^9	39	37
Cappello, 2013	Italy	Rome III	All	4	a multi-strain preparation (9)	3.8×10^{10}	34	34
Begtrup, 2013	Denmark	Rome III	All	24	a multi-strain preparation (3)	5.2×10^{10}	67	64
Amirimani, 2013	Iran	Rome III	All	4	<i>L. reuteri</i>	1×10^8	41	31
Kruis, 2012	Germany	Rome II	All	12	<i>E. coli</i> Nissle 1917	$5-50 \times 10^9$	60	60
Ducrotte, 2012	India	Rome III	All	4	<i>L. plantarum</i> 299v (DSM 9843)	1×10^{10}	108	106
Dapoigny, 2012	France	Rome III	All	4	<i>L. casei rhamnosus</i> LCR35	6×10^8	26	26
Cui, 2012	China	Rome III	All	4	a multi-strain preparation (2)	NA	37	23
Cha, 2012	Korea	Rome III	D	8	a multi-strain preparation (7)	1×10^{10}	25	25
						cells/day		
Sondergaard, 2011	Danish, Sweden	Rome II	All	8	a multi-strain preparation (5)	7.5×10^{10}	32	25
Michail, 2011	USA	Rome III	D	24	a multi-strain preparation (8)	9×10^{11}	15	9
						bacteria/day		
Guglielmetti, 2011	Germany	Rome III	All	4	<i>B. bifidum</i> MIMBb75	1×10^9	60	62
Choi, 2011	Korea	Rome II	D, M	4	<i>S. boulardii</i>	8×10^{11}	45	45
						bacteria/day		
Simren, 2010	Sweden	Rome II	All	8	a multi-strain preparation (3)	2×10^{10}	37	37
Ligaarden, 2010	Norway	Rome II	All	3	<i>L. plantarum</i> MF1298	1×10^{10}	10	9
Hun, 2009	USA	Rome II	D	8	<i>B. coagulans</i> GBI-30, 6086	8×10^8	22	22
Hong, 2009	Korea	Rome III	All	8	a multi-strain preparation (4)	4×10^{10}	36	34
Enck, 2009	Germany	primary care criteria	All	8	<i>E. coli</i> (DSM 17252)	$6.75-13.5 \times 10^7$	148	150
Dolin, 2009	USA	Rome III	D	8	<i>B. coagulans</i> GBI-30, 6086	2.0×10^9	26	29
Zeng, 2008	China	Rome II	D	4	a multi-strain preparation (4)	5.2×10^{10}	14	15
Williams, 2008	UK	Rome II	All	8	a multi-strain preparation (4)	2.5×10^{10}	28	28

Sinn, 2008	Korea	Rome III	All	4	<i>L. acidophilus</i> -SDC 2012, 2013	2.9×10^9	20	20
Kajander, 2008	Finland	Rome II	All	20	a multi-strain preparation (4)	1.2×10^9	43	43
Enck, 2008	Germany	primary care criteria	All	8	a multi-strain preparation (2)	9.27×10^7	149	148
Drouault- Holowacz, 2008	France	Rome II	All	4	a multi-strain preparation (3)	1×10^{10}	53	53
Andriulli, 2008	Italy	Rome II	All	12	<i>L. paracasei</i> strain B21060	1×10^{10}	132	135
Agrawal, 2008	France	Rome III	C	4	a multi-strain preparation (3)	2.74×10^{10}	17	17
Guyonnet, 2007	France	Rome II	C	6	a multi-strain preparation (3)	2.74×10^{10}	137	137
Whorwell, 2006	UK	Rome II	All	4	<i>B. infantis</i> 35624	1×10^{10}	90	92
O'Mahony, 2005	Ireland	Rome II	All	8	a multi-strain preparation (2)	1×10^{10}	50	25
						bacteria/day		
Niv, 2005	Israel	Rome II	All	22	<i>L. reuteri</i> ATCC 55730	2×10^8	27	27
Kim, 2005	USA	Rome II	All	4	a multi-strain preparation (8)	4.5×10^{11}	24	24
						bacteria/day		
Kajander, 2005	Finland	Rome I	All	24	a multi-strain preparation (4)	8.9×10^9	52	51
Kim, 2003	USA	Rome II	D	8	a multi-strain preparation (8)	4.5×10^{11}	12	13
Niedzielin, 2001	Poland	Manning criteria	All	4	<i>L. plantarum</i> 299V	2×10^{10}	20	20
Nobaek, 2000	USA	Rome I	All	4	<i>L. plantarum</i> DSM 9843	5×10^7	30	30

IBS subtype: D, IBS with predominant diarrhea; C, IBS with predominant constipation. W, week; CFU, colony-forming unit; I, intervention group; C, control group.

Lactobacillus paracasei, *L. paracasei*; *Saccharomyces cerevisiae*, *S. cerevisiae*; *Lactiplantibacillus plantarum* (*Lactobacillus plantarum*), *L. plantarum*; *Bacillus coagulans*, *B. coagulans*; *Lactobacillus acidophilus*, *L. acidophilus*; *Bifidobacterium animalis* subsp. *lactis*, *B. lactis*; *Bifidobacterium longum*, *B. longum*; *Bifidobacterium bifidum*, *B. bifidum*; *Clostridium butyricum*, *C. butyricum*; *Lactobacillus gasseri*, *L. gasseri*; *Bacillus clausii*, *B. clausii*; *Lactobacillus rhamnosus*, *L. rhamnosus*; *Bifidobacterium infantis*, *B. infantis*; *Lactobacillus casei*, *L. casei*; *Saccharomyces boulardii*, *S. boulardii*; *Escherichia coli*, *E. coli*; *Lactobacillus reuteri*, *L. reuteri*.

Table S2. Characteristics of Included Randomized Controlled Trials (2)

Authors	Public- ation years	Sample size (I)	No. of female	Age	BMI	Sample size(C)	No. of female	Age	BMI
Bai	2023	145	70	42.41 (11.92)	23.10 (3.14)	145	60	45.74 (12.40)	23.69 (2.75)
Mourey	2022	230	202	41.2 ± 13.96	NA	226	190	39.9 ± 14.56	NA
Jung	2022	18	12	39.84 (6.44)	24.00 (3.44)	9	6	39.38 (3.16)	24.40 (3.84)
Xu	2021	24	14	35.58±13.28	NA	24	11	38.29±15.84	NA
Skrzydło- Radomanska	2021	25	17	45.5 ± 11.1	26.5 ± 4.7	26	14	40.7 ± 14.4	25.2 ± 4.2
Liu	2021	25	9	48.57 ± 11.14	25.14 ± 4.14	25	11	48.95 ± 9.38	25.42 ± 4.50
Gupta	2021	20	7	36.20±9.81	23.37±3.23	20	5	34.80±11.06	24.03±2.99
Barraza-Ortiz	2021	18	12	45.1±9.2	26.8±5.2	18	10	46.1±5.2	24.6±3.4
Sadrin	2020	40	29	48.9 ± 8.4	NA	40	28	48.9 ± 8.0	NA
Martoni	2020	111	58	39.41 (11.80)	24.09 (4.34)	109	54	37.61 (10.12)	24.10 (4.06)
		110	51	41.60 (11.11)	23.78 (3.98)			NA	NA
Lewis	2020	95	67	42.42 ± 12.30	NA	95	64	41.84 ± 16.14	NA
		95	64	42.31 ± 16.88	NA			NA	NA
Kim	2020	32	26	39 (23 – 73)	NA	31	21	33 (22 - 58)	NA
Gayathri	2020	52	20	42.25 ± 15.44	NA	48	14	39.60 ± 12.79	NA
Bonfrate	2020	15	12	50 ± 11	24.3 ± 6.2	15	6	46 ± 10	23.8 ± 5.4
Andresen	2020	221	155	40.1 (12.8)	24.5 (5.3)	222	152	42.6 (13.8)	24.7 (5.0)
Oh	2019	28	17	32.5 (26.5–39.0)	22.2 (19.9–23.6)	27	19	33.0(28.0–44.5)	20.7 (18.3–22.3)
Madempudi	2019	68	12	44.4(20-60)	NA	68	18	42.3 (20-60)	NA
Ashtiani	2019	30	16	31.2 ± 12.3	NA	30	13	31.44 ± 7.6	NA
Sun	2018	105	42	43.00 (12.45)	NA	95	42	44.91 (13.01)	NA
Shin	2018	30	12	35.0 (32.0, 40.5)	23.9 (21.6-27.6)	30	17	38.0 (30.0- 46.0)	22.9 (20.1, 27.9)
Preston	2018	76	47	40.6±13.4	NA	37	21	39.9 14.0	NA
Kim	2018	10	3	28.6 ± 2.4	24.9 ± 0.5	12	6	26.7 ± 2.3	25.5 ± 0.6
Ishaque et al.	2018	181	45	32.2 ± 10.1	NA	179	34	31.7 ± 9.7	NA
Cremon et al	2018	20	11	37.35 ± 11.25	NA	20	15	44.55 ± 12.98	NA
Pinto-Sanchez	2017	18	12	46.5 (30–58)	NA	20	12	40.0 (26–57)	NA
Nobutani	2017	17	9	52.6 ± 20.1	NA	17	10	45.9±19.5	NA
Hod	2017	54	54	29.0(25.0-45.0)	22.1(19.9-25.4)	53	53	30.0, 24.0- 42.0	22.5(19.5-24.8)
Thijssen	2016	39	26	41.1 ± 14.8	NA	41	29	42.4 ± 13.5	NA
Spiller	2016	192	161	45.3 (15.7)	NA	187	156	45.4 (14.1)	NA
Mezzasalma	2016	53	NA	36.0±11.9	NA	52	NA	38.1±13.5	NA
		52	NA	38.0±12.1	NA			NA	NA
Majeed	2016	18	11	36.2 ± 11.07	24.6 ± 3.14	18	8	35.4 ± 10.75	24.1 ± 3.98
Lyra	2016	129	94	47.1 ± 13.3	24.7 ± 3.7	131	94	49.4 ± 12.9	24.9 ± 3.7
Yoon	2015	39	20	59.9 ± 11.1	NA	42	18	58.8 ± 13.3	NA
Wong	2015	20	8	40.86 (3.51)	NA	22	11	53.35 (4.15)	NA
de Chambrun	2015	93	72	42.5 ± 12.5	NA	86	82	45.4 ± 14	NA
Yoon	2014	25	14	45.9 ± 13.7	NA	24	18	43.1 ± 15.1	NA
Stevenson	2014	54	52	48.15 ± 13.48	28.83 ± 7.12	27	27	47.27 ± 12.15	28.88 ± 7.74

Sisson	2014	124	84	39·1 (10·5)	NA	62	45	36·8 (10·8)	NA
Shavakhi	2014	66	46	36·1±7·9	NA	63	39	36·4±10·5	NA
Ludidi	2014	21	15	40·0±2·2	25·8±1·1	19	12	41·1±4·2	25·1±0·9
Lorenzo-Zuniga	2014	55	19	47·5±13·1	24·7±3·9	29	14	46·5±13·1	26·4±5·2
Jafari	2014	54	33	36·6±12·1	NA	54	32	36·8±11·0	NA
Abbas	2014	37	10	37·7±11·6	NA	35	9	33·0±12·0	NA
Roberts	2013	88	73	44·66 (11·98)	26·75 (4·03)	91	76	43·71 (12·76)	25·85 (3·61)
Lee	2013	46	32	33·1±7·6	NA	39	21	32·7±7·8	NA
Charbonneau	2013	39	31	47·0±1·96	NA	37	31	43·2±2·01	NA
Cappello	2013	34	22	36·6±2·2	NA	34	19	40·8±2·2	NA
Begtrup	2013	67	51	31·63 (10·05)	24·68 (4·60)	64	46	29·38 (8·64)	24·42(3·64)
Amirimani	2013	41	20	44·9±13·0	NA	31	16	37·7±10·5	NA
Kruis	2012	60	48	46·3±12·1	NA	60	44	45·1±12·7	NA
Ducrotte	2012	108	38	36·53±12·08	NA	106	25	38·40±13·13	NA
Dapoigny	2012	26	15	46·1±11·3	23·4±4·9	26	20	48·0±10·8	24·5±4·0
Cui	2012	37	26	42·92±15·09	22·08±3·23	23	16	47·45±15·36	20·77±2·65
Cha	2012	25	13	37·9±12·4	23·03±3·31	25	11	40·3±11·2	22·93±2·88
Sondergaard	2011	32	20	53·9 (29–67)	24·7, 3·4	25	19	48·5 (29–67)	24·8, 4·3
Michail	2011	15	10	21·8±17	NA	9	6	21·8±17	NA
Guglielmetti	2011	60	41	36·65±12·42	24·60±5·19	62	41	40·98±12·80	24·02±4·45
Choi	2011	45	17	40·2±13·1	NA	45	20	40·6±12·9	NA
Simren	2010	37	26	42±15	NA	37	26	44±16	NA
Ligaarden	2010	10	NA	50 (11)	2·4 (3)	9	NA	50 (11)	2·4 (3)
Hun	2009	22	18	48·3 (23–70)	NA	22	18	48·36 (23–70)	NA
Hong	2009	36	11	36±2	NA	34	12	38±3	NA
Enck	2009	148	72	49·8 (19–70)	24·4 (17·2–37·6)	150	75	49·4 (18–76)	24·0 (17·1–33·2)
Dolin	2009	26	19	52·3±11·1	NA	29	23	44·0±17·9	NA
Zeng	2008	14	4	44·6±12·4	NA	15	6	45·8±9·2	NA
Williams	2008	28	25	40 (12)	NA	28	20	38 (11)	NA
Sinn	2008	20	14	41·9±14·4	21·9±3·6	20	12	47·5±11·0	22·4±2·2
Kajander	2008	43	41	50 (13)	25·5 (3·4)	43	39	46 (13)	26·8 (5·4)
Enck	2008	149	72	49·8 (19–70)	24·4 (17·2–37·6)	148	75	49·4 (18–76)	24·0 (17·1–33·2)
Drouault-Holowacz	2008	53	40	47±14	NA	53	36	44±14	NA
Andriulli	2008	132	96	42·5 (12·93)	NA	135	90	42·8 (12·10)	NA
Agrawal	2008	17	17	42 (24, 69)	25·0 (20·3, 29·6)	17	17	37 (20, 59)	25·0 (20·3–29·6)
Guyonnet	2007	137	106	49·4 (11·4)	NA	137	93	49·2 (11·4)	NA
Whorwell	2006	90	90	41·8 (1·10)	NA	92	92	42·4 (1·09)	NA
O'Mahony	2005	50	32	44·3	NA	25	16	44·3(18-73)	NA
Niv	2005	27	20	45·7±14·2	NA	27	16	45·6±16·1	NA
Kim	2005	24	21	40±3	NA	24	24	46+3	NA
Kajander	2005	52	39	46 (23–65)	25·7(16·9–36·6)	51	40	45 (21–65)	24·4(16·3–39·3)
Kim	2003	12	10	48±5·7	NA	13	8	38±3·4	NA
Niedzielin	2001	20	15	45±18	23·3±4·5	20	17	42±15	24·1±2·7

Nobaek	2000	30	16	52(24-78)	NA	30	20	46(21-66)	NA
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I, intervention group; C, control group; BMI, body mass index.

Values are reported as mean \pm standard deviation, mean \pm standard error, median (range), or median (interquartile range)

Table S3 Critical results of pairwise meta-analysis

MD, mean difference; SMD, standardized mean difference; CI, confidence intervals; L95%CI, 95% confidence lower limit; U95% CI, 95% confidence upper limit;

1. IBS-SSS

Treatment	number of studies	MD	[95% Conf. Interval]		% Weight	Heterogeneity statistic	degrees of freedom	P	I-squared**	Tau-squared	z	p(Z)
L. paracasei HA-196	1	-0.3	-20.822	20.222	5.72	0	0	.	0%	0	0.03	0.977
L. plantarum CCFM8610	1	0	-31.719	31.719	4.96	0	0	.	0%	0	0	1
L. plantarum 299v	1	-5.94	-58.975	47.095	3.52	0	0	.	0%	0	0.22	0.826
L. acidophilus DDS-1	1	-77.7	-101.717	-53.683	5.5	0	0	.	0%	0	6.34	0
L. acidophilus ATCC 700396	1	-6.8	-28.503	14.903	5.65	0	0	.	0%	0	0.61	0.539
B. lactis UABla-12	1	-48.8	-72.999	-24.601	5.49	0	0	.	0%	0	3.95	0
B. longum R0175	1	21.16	1.673	40.647	5.79	0	0	.	0%	0	2.13	0.033
B. bifidum MIMBb75	1	-29.83	-48.237	-11.423	5.85	0	0	.	0%	0	3.18	0.001
C. butyricum CGMCC0313.1	1	-21.38	-40.466	-2.294	5.81	0	0	.	0%	0	2.2	0.028
L. casei LCR35	1	1.1	-52.324	54.524	3.49	0	0	.	0%	0	0.04	0.968
BL+LR	1	-81	-130.739	-31.261	3.72	0	0	.	0%	0	3.19	0.001
LC+LP+BAL	1	-76.427	-114.905	-37.949	4.48	0	0	.	0%	0	3.89	0
BAL+ST+LB	2	23.037	-13.008	59.082	7.75	1.21	1	0.271	17.50%	132.0778	1.25	0.21
EF+LA+X	1	-35	-60.44	-9.56	5.4	0	0	.	0%	0	2.7	0.007
BAL+LA+BB+X	2	-26.745	-55.87	2.379	10.18	1.93	1	0.165	48.10%	281.9875	1.8	0.072
LR+pf+X	1	23.93	12.849	35.011	6.21	0	0	.	0%	0	4.23	0
LP+LC+BL+ST+LA+X	2	-63.963	-78.664	-49.262	10.46	0.04	1	0.836	0.00%	0	8.53	0

2. IBS-QOL

Study	number of studies	MD	[95% Conf. Interval]		% Weight	Heterogeneity statistic	degrees of freedom	P	I-squared**	Tau-squared	Z	p(Z)
L. paracasei HA-196	1	0.4	-2.795	3.595	12.01	0	0	.	.%	0	0.25	0.806
C. butyricum CGMCC0313.1	1	4.073	0.496	7.65	11.89	0	0	.	.%	0	2.23	0.026
S. boulardii CNCM I-475	1	5.7	-1.067	12.467	10.63	0	0	.	.%	0	1.65	0.099
LC+LP+BAL	1	3.76	-4.814	12.334	9.75	0	0	.	.%	0	0.86	0.39
LPA+LA+BAL	1	0.5	-5.973	6.973	10.76	0	0	.	.%	0	0.15	0.88
BAL+ST+LB	1	1.6	-2.594	5.794	11.69	0	0	.	.%	0	0.75	0.455
EF+LA+X	1	1.6	-2.513	5.713	11.72	0	0	.	.%	0	0.76	0.446
LA+LR+ST+BL+bbr+X	1	3.5	-4.895	11.895	9.84	0	0	.	.%	0	0.82	0.414
LP+LC+BL+ST+LA+X	1	24.8	20.647	28.953	11.71	0	0	.	.%	0	11.7	0

3. HADS-total score (a), HADS-anxiety (b), and HADS-depression (c)

Treatment	number of studies	MD	[95% Conf. Interval]	% Weight	Heterogeneity statistic	degrees of freedom	P	I-squared**	Tau-squared	Z	p(Z)	
HADS total score												
L. paracasei HA-196	1	0.031	-0.122	0.184	45.83	0	0	.	0.00%	0	0.4	0.691
L. acidophilus ATCC 700396	1	-0.6	-1.75	0.55	7.49	0	0	.	0.00%	0	1.02	0.306
B. longum R0175	1	-0.342	-0.479	-0.205	46.67	0	0	.	0.00%	0	4.89	0
HADS anxiety												
L. acidophilus ATCC 700396	1	-0.2	-0.889	0.489	47.81	0	0	.	0.00%	0	0.57	0.569
B. longum NCC3001	1	-1.5	-3.56	0.56	23.04	0	0	.	0.00%	0	1.43	0.153
LPA+LA+BAL	1	1.4	-0.249	3.049	29.15	0	0	.	0.00%	0	1.66	0.096
HADS depression												
L. paracasei CNCM I-1572	1	-0.63	-1.839	0.579	25.39	0	0	.	0.00%	0	1.02	0.307
L. acidophilus ATCC 700396	1	-0.3	-0.884	0.284	37.48	0	0	.	0.00%	0	1.01	0.314
B. longum NCC3001	1	-3	-4.918	-1.082	15.5	0	0	.	0.00%	0	3.07	0.002

4. Abdominal pain score

treatment	number of studies	SMD	[95% Conf. Interval]	% Weight	Heterogeneity statistic	degrees of freedom	P	I-squared**	Tau-squared	Z	
L. plantarum CCFM8610	1	10	-0.125 20.125	2.01	0	0	.	0	1.94	0.053	
S. cerevisiae CNCM I-3856	3	-15.816	-21.673 -9.959	5.01	1.7	1	19.20%	41.20%	8.1822	5.29	0
L. plantarum Apsulloc 331261	1	-26.6	-43.497 -9.703	1.25	0	0	.	0	3.09	0.002	
L. plantarum 299v	1	-4	-11.147 3.147	2.42	0	0	.	0	1.1	0.273	
B. coagulans Unique IS2	1	-32	-38.648 -25.352	2.49	0	0	.	0	9.43	0	
B. coagulans MTCC 5856	1	-41.8	-57.855 -25.745	1.32	0	0	.	0	5.1	0	
L. acidophilus DDS-1	1	-19.53	-27.337 -11.723	2.33	0	0	.	0	4.9	0	
L. acidophilus ATCC 700396	1	-3	-9.022 3.022	2.57	0	0	.	0	0.98	0.329	
L. acidophilus SDC 2012,2013	1	-12	-19.252 -4.748	2.41	0	0	.	0	3.24	0.001	
B. lactis UABla-12	1	-11.11	-19.466 -2.754	2.25	0	0	.	0	2.61	0.009	
B. bifidum MIMBb75	2	-7.014	-13.939 -0.09	5.68	6.82	1	0.90%	85.30%	21.326	1.99	0.047
C. butyricum CGMCC0313.1	1	-6.05	-16.286 4.186	1.99	0	0	.	0	1.16	0.247	
L. gasseri BNR17	1	-36.1	-62.071 -10.129	0.69	0	0	.	0	2.72	0.006	
B. infantis 35624	1	7.4	-1.192 15.992	2.22	0	0	.	0	1.69	0.091	
L. casei LCR35	1	-1.2	-14.645 12.245	1.59	0	0	.	0	0.17	0.861	
S. boulardii CNCM I-475	2	3.563	-4.871 11.998	4.12	1.51	1	0.219	33.80%	12.9656	0.83	0.408
LA+LA	1	-6.2	-13.269 0.869	2.43	0	0	.	0	1.72	0.086	
BL+LR	1	-17	-29.97 -4.03	1.65	0	0	.	0	2.57	0.01	
LPA+Is+LP	1	-20	-31.005 -8.995	1.89	0	0	.	0	3.56	0	
LPA+LA+BAL	2	1.313	-5.812 8.438	3.76	0.98	1	0.322	0.00%	0	0.36	0.718
BAL+ST+LB	4	-0.588	-5.173 3.997	8.74	4.1	3	25.10%	26.80%	6.0342	0.25	0.801
LP+LP+pa	1	-7	-10.331 -3.669	2.88	0	0	.	0	4.12	0	
EF+LA+X	2	-10.953	-19.947 -1.96	4.25	1.75	1	0.186	42.70%	24.9241	2.39	0.017
LA+ST+X	3	-7.634	-10.875 -4.394	7.92	2.24	2	32.60%	10.90%	0.9214	4.62	0
BAL+LA+BB+X	1	-11.13	-23.238 0.978	1.75	0	0	.	0	1.8	0.072	
LR+pf+X	1	-10.71	-19.369 -2.051	2.21	0	0	.	0	2.42	0.015	
BAL+LA+LR+X	3	2.136	-13.231 17.503	5.09	8.94	2	0.011	77.60%	141.8685	0.27	0.785
LA+LR+ST+BL+bbr+X	3	-7.448	-15.712 0.815	5.45	3.08	2	21.40%	35.20%	18.8069	1.77	0.077
VSL#3	2	-12.794	-22.901 -2.688	3.14	1.1	1	29.50%	8.70%	4.65	2.48	0.013
LP+LC+BL+ST+LA+X	4	-6.742	-18.468 4.984	8.48	23.54	3	0.00%	87.30%	118.7792	1.13	0.26

5. Abdominal bloating score

treatment	number of studies	SMD	[95% Conf. Interval]	% Weight	Heterogeneity statistic	degrees of freedom	P	I-squared**	Tau-squared	p	p(Z)
L. plantarum CCFM8610	1	-20	-31.098	-8.902	2.58	0	0	.	0	3.53	0
S. cerevisiae CNCM I-3856	1	-8.34	-25.955	9.275	1.51	0	0	.	0	0.93	0.353
L. plantarum Apsulloc 331261	1	-22.7	-46.998	1.598	0.94	0	0	.	0	1.83	0.067
L. plantarum 299v	1	-14.79	-24.912	-4.668	2.79	0	0	.	0	2.86	0.004
B. coagulans Unique IS2	1	-8	-18.397	2.397	2.73	0	0	.	0	1.51	0.132
B. coagulans MTCC 5856	1	-30.67	-66.889	5.549	0.47	0	0	.	0	1.66	0.097
L. acidophilus DDS-1	1	-11.73	-20.84	-2.62	3.03	0	0	.	0	2.52	0.012
L. acidophilus ATCC 700396	1	-1.1	-8.081	5.881	3.57	0	0	.	0	0.31	0.757
B. lactis UABla-12	1	-6.43	-15.718	2.858	2.99	0	0	.	0	1.36	0.175
B. bifidum MIMBb75	1	-11.83	-16.371	-7.289	4.18	0	0	.	0	5.11	0
C. butyricum CGMCC0313.1	1	-0.956	-5.864	3.952	4.1	0	0	.	0	0.38	0.703
B. infantis 35624	1	1.4	-7.428	10.228	3.1	0	0	.	0	0.31	0.756
S. boulardii CNCM I-475	2	-1.181	-9.73	7.368	4.73	0.31	1	0.579	0.00%	0	0.27
BL+LR	2	-34	-54.59	-13.41	1.21	0	0	.	0	3.24	0.001
LPA+LA+BAL	2	5.909	-1.69	13.507	5.04	0.1	1	0.757	0.00%	0	1.52
BAL+ST+LB	4	-0.618	-4.645	3.409	11.14	1.94	3	0.586	0.00%	0	0.3
EF+LA+X	1	-4.6	-12.051	2.851	3.45	0	0	.	0	1.21	0.226
LA+ST+X	1	-9.3	-14.955	-3.645	3.91	0	0	.	0	3.22	0.001
BAL+LA+BB+X	1	-8	-22.207	6.207	1.99	0	0	.	0	1.1	0.27
LR+pf+X	1	-10.71	-20.504	-0.916	2.87	0	0	.	0	2.14	0.032
BAL+LA+LR+X	5	-1.911	-9.478	5.657	6.29	1.83	2	0.401	0.00%	0	0.49
LA+LR+ST+BL+bbr+X	3	-2.721	-9.348	3.905	7.32	1.97	2	0.374	0.00%	0	0.8
VSL#3	3	-13.617	-19.48	-7.754	8.1	0.43	2	0.805	0.00%	0	4.55
LP+LC+BL+ST+LA+X	4	-4.49	-16.933	7.953	11.94	25.61	3	0	88.30%	134.8589	0.71

6. Bowel movement frequency (per week) in IBS-D and IBS-D

treatment	number of studies	MD	[95% Conf. Interval]	% Weight	Heterogeneity statistic	degrees of freedom	P	I-squared**	Tau-squared	Z	p(Z)
Bowel movement frequency (per week) in IBS-D											
L. paracasei HA-196	1	-3.127	-4.628	-1.626	11.56	0	.	0%	0	4.08	0
L. paracasei B21060	1	-5.11	-9.983	-0.237	3.78	0	.	0%	0	2.06	0.04
S. cerevisiae CNCM I-3856	1	0	-2.707	2.707	7.78	0	.	0%	0	0	1
L. plantarum Apsulloc 331261	1	-2.05	-4.786	0.686	7.7	0	.	0%	0	1.47	0.142
B. coagulans GBI-30,6086	1	-2.114	-2.996	-1.232	13.46	0	.	0%	0	4.7	0
B. longum R0175	1	-1.953	-3.453	-0.453	11.56	0	.	0%	0	2.55	0.011
C. butyricum CGMCC0313.1	1	-0.516	-1.06	0.028	14.22	0	.	0%	0	1.86	0.063
S. boulardii CNCM I-475	2	2.246	-0.464	4.956	10.23	0.02	1	0.877	0.00%	0	0.104
EF+LA+X	1	-3.948	-5.019	-2.877	12.93	0	.	0%	0	7.23	0
LP+LC+BL+ST+LA+X	1	-0.7	-3.797	2.397	6.79	0	.	0%	0	0.44	0.658
Bowel movement frequency (per week) in IBS-C											
treatment	number of studies	MD	[95% Conf. Interval]	% Weight	Heterogeneity statistic	degrees of freedom	P	I-squared**	Tau-squared	Z	p(Z)
L. paracasei HA-196	1	1.341	0.499	2.183	15.05	0	.	0%	0	3.12	0.002
S. cerevisiae CNCM I-3856	1	1.4	0.413	2.387	14.3	0	.	0%	0	2.78	0.005
B. coagulans Unique IS2	1	1.3	0.728	1.872	16.29	0	.	0%	0	4.45	0
B. longum R0175	1	0.838	-0.599	2.275	11.85	0	.	0%	0	1.14	0.253
B. bifidum MIMBb75	1	2.67	0.017	5.323	6.66	0	.	0%	0	1.97	0.049
BAL+ST+LB	2	0.019	-3.791	3.83	31.19	27.63	2	0	92.80%	10.3662	0.01
LA+ST+X	1	1.624	-1.829	5.077	4.66	0	.	0%	0	0.92	0.357

7. Bristol stool form scale in IBS-D and IBS-C

treatment	number of studies	MD	[95% Conf. Interval]	% Weight	Heterogeneity statistic	degrees of freedom	P	I-squared**	Tau-squared	Z	p(Z)
Bristol stool form scale in IBS-D											
L. paracasei HA-196	1	-0.25	-1.074	0.574	6.05	0	.	0%	0	0.59	0.552
S. cerevisiae CNCM I-3856	1	-1.245	-1.634	-0.856	9.28	0	.	0%	0	6.27	0
B. coagulans MTCC 5856	1	-3.276	-5.215	-1.337	2	0	.	0%	0	3.31	0.001
B. longum R0175	1	-0.06	-0.768	0.648	6.85	0	.	0%	0	0.17	0.868
B. bifidum MIMBb75	1	-0.2	-0.411	0.011	10.4	0	.	0%	0	1.86	0.063
C. butyricum CGMCC0313.1	1	-0.112	-0.478	0.254	9.44	0	.	0%	0	0.6	0.548
S. boulardii CNCM I-475	2	0.499	0.082	0.915	15.45	0.18	0.669	0.00%	0	2.35	0.019
BL+LR	1	-0.8	-1.566	-0.034	6.44	0	.	0%	0	2.05	0.041
LP+LP+pa	1	-0.5	-0.761	-0.239	10.13	0	.	0%	0	3.75	0
LA+LR+ST+BL+bbr+X	1	-0.7	-1.324	-0.076	7.48	0	.	0%	0	2.2	0.028
VSL#3	1	-0.2	-0.817	0.417	7.53	0	.	0%	0	0.63	0.526
LP+LC+BL+ST+LA+X	1	0.36	-0.071	0.791	8.96	0	.	0%	0	1.64	0.102
Bristol stool form scale in IBS-C											
treatment	number of studies	MD	[95% Conf. Interval]	% Weight	Heterogeneity statistic	degrees of freedom	P	I-squared**	Tau-squared	Z	Z(p)
L. paracasei HA-196	1	1.03	0.089	1.971	15.83	0	.	0%	0	2.15	0.032
S. cerevisiae CNCM I-3856	1	1.17	0.235	2.105	15.94	0	.	0%	0	2.45	0.014
B. longum R0175	1	0.13	-1.344	1.604	8.51	0	.	0%	0	0.17	0.863
BAL+ST+LB	2	0.34	-0.393	1.072	59.72	5.8	0.016	82.80%	0.2315	0.91	0.364

League table demonstrating the relative efficacy for each pair of comparisons for abdominal pain score (blue background) and abdominal bloating score (green background). Comparisons should start with longitudinal probiotics and compare with horizontal probiotics. Bold values denote a statistically significant difference.

[illegible]

L. acidophilus ATCC 700396									
-3.67 (-8.47,1.12)	C. butyricum CGMCC0313.1								
-5.30 (-12.78,2.18)	-1.63 (-9.28,6.03)	S. boulardii CNCM I-475							
-3.36 (-12.51,5.79)	0.31 (-8.98,9.60)	1.94 (-8.98,12.86)	LC+LP+BAL						
-0.10 (-7.32,7.12)	3.57 (-3.82,10.97)	5.20 (-4.16,14.56)	3.26 (-7.48,14.00)	LPA+LA+BAL					
-1.20 (-6.47,4.07)	2.47 (-3.04,7.99)	4.10 (-3.86,12.06)	2.16 (-7.39,11.70)	-1.10 (-8.81,6.61)	BAL+ST+LB				
-1.20 (-6.41,4.01)	2.47 (-2.98,7.92)	4.10 (-3.82,12.02)	2.16 (-7.35,11.67)	-1.10 (-8.77,6.57)	0.00 (-5.87,5.87)	EF+LA+X			
-3.10 (-12.08,5.88)	0.57 (-8.55,9.70)	2.20 (-8.58,12.98)	0.26 (-11.74,12.26)	-3.00 (-13.60,7.60)	-1.90 (-11.28,7.48)	-1.90 (-11.25,7.45)	LA+LR+ST+BL+BBR+X		
-24.40 (-29.64,-19.16)	-20.73 (-26.21,-15.25)	-19.10 (-27.04,-11.16)	-21.04 (-30.57,-11.51)	-24.30 (-31.99,-16.61)	-23.20 (-29.10,-17.30)	-23.20 (-29.04,-17.36)	-21.30 (-30.67,-11.93)	LP+LC+BL+ST+LA+X	
0.40 (-2.80,3.60)	4.07 (0.50,7.65)	5.70 (-1.07,12.47)	3.76 (-4.81,12.33)	0.50 (-5.97,6.97)	1.60 (-2.59,5.79)	1.60 (-2.51,5.71)	3.50 (-4.90,11.90)	24.80 (20.65,28.95)	Placebo

3. HADS-total score

L. paracasei HA-196			
0.63 (-0.53,1.79)	L. acidophilus ATCC 700396		
0.37 (0.23,0.52)	-0.26 (-1.42,0.90)	B. longum R0175	
0.03 (-0.13,0.19)	-0.60 (-1.75,0.55)	-0.34 (-0.48,-0.20)	Placebo

4. HADS-anxiety

L. acidophilus ATCC 700396			
1.30 (-0.87,3.47)	B. longum NCC3001		
-1.60 (-3.39,0.19)	-2.90 (-5.54,-0.26)	LPA+LA+BAL	
-0.20 (-0.89,0.49)	-1.50 (-3.56,0.56)	1.40 (-0.25,3.05)	Placebo

5. HADS-depression

L. paracasei CNCM I-1572				
-0.33 (-1.67,1.01)	L. acidophilus ATCC 700396			
2.37 (0.10,4.64)	2.70 (0.70,4.70)	B. longum NCC3001		
-0.63 (-2.51,1.25)	-0.30 (-1.85,1.25)	-3.00 (-5.40,-0.60)	LPA+LA+BAL	
-0.63 (-1.84,0.58)	-0.30 (-0.88,0.28)	-3.00 (-4.92,-1.08)	-0.00 (-1.44,1.44)	Placebo

6. Abdominal pain score

[illegible]

7. Abdominal bloating score

[illegible]

8. Bowel movement frequency (per week) in IBS-D

L. paracasei HA-196													
1.98 (-3.11,7.08)	L. paracasei B21060												
-3.13 (-6.22,-0.03)	-5.11 (-10.68,0.46)	S. cerevisiae CNCM I-3856											
-1.07 (-4.19,2.05)	-3.06 (-8.65,2.53)	2.05 (-1.80,5.90)	L. plantarum Apsulloc 331261										
-1.01 (-2.75,0.73)	-3.00 (-7.95,1.96)	2.11 (-0.73,4.96)	0.06 (-2.81,2.94)	B. coagulans GBI-306086									
-1.17 (-2.60,0.26)	-3.16 (-8.26,1.94)	1.95 (-1.14,5.05)	-0.10 (-3.22,3.02)	-0.16 (-1.90,1.58)	B. longum R0175								
-2.61 (-4.21,-1.01)	-4.59 (-9.50,0.31)	0.52 (-2.25,3.28)	-1.54 (-4.32,1.25)	-1.60 (-2.63,-0.56)	-1.44 (-3.03,0.16)	C. butyricum							
-5.37 (-8.47,-2.27)	-7.36 (-12.93,-1.78)	-2.25 (-6.08,1.58)	-4.30 (-8.15,-0.45)	-4.36 (-7.21,-1.51)	-4.20 (-7.30,-1.10)	-2.76 (-5.53,0.00)	S. boulardii						
0.82 (-1.02,2.67)	-1.16 (-6.15,3.83)	3.95 (1.04,6.86)	1.90 (-1.04,4.83)	1.83 (0.45,3.22)	2.00 (0.15,3.84)	3.43 (2.23,4.63)	6.19 (3.28,9.11)	EF+LA+X					
-2.43 (-5.87,1.02)	-4.41 (-10.18,1.36)	0.70 (-3.41,4.81)	-1.35 (-5.48,2.78)	-1.41 (-4.63,1.81)	-1.25 (-4.69,2.19)	0.18 (-2.96,3.33)	2.95 (-1.17,7.06)	-3.25 (-6.52,0.03)					
-3.13 (-4.63,-1.62)	-5.11 (-9.98,-0.24)	-0.00 (-2.71,2.71)	-2.05 (-4.79,0.68)	-2.11 (-3.00,-1.23)	-1.95 (-3.45,-0.45)	-0.52 (-1.06,0.03)	2.25 (-0.46,4.96)	-3.95 (-5.02,-2.88)	-0.70 (-3.80,2.40)	Placebo			

9. Bowel movement frequency (per week) in IBS-C

L. paracasei HA-196													
-0.08 (-7.77,7.60)	S. cerevisiae CNCM I-3856												
0.02 (-7.62,7.66)	0.10 (-7.60,7.80)	B. coagulans Unique IS2											
0.49 (-5.06,6.04)	0.57 (-7.23,8.37)	0.47 (-7.28,8.23)		B. longum R0175									
-1.35 (-9.42,6.72)	-1.27 (-9.39,6.85)	-1.37 (-9.45,6.71)		-1.84 (-10.02,6.34)	B. bifidum MIMBb75								
1.25 (-5.06,7.57)	1.33 (-5.06,7.73)	1.23 (-5.11,7.58)		0.76 (-5.70,7.23)	2.60 (-4.25,9.46)		BAL+ST+LB						
-0.30 (-8.67,8.06)	-0.22 (-8.64,8.19)	-0.32 (-8.70,8.06)		-0.80 (-9.27,7.68)	1.05 (-7.72,9.82)		-1.56 (-8.76,5.65)	LA+ST+X					
1.32 (-4.08,6.72)	1.40 (-4.07,6.87)	1.30 (-4.11,6.71)		0.83 (-4.73,6.39)	2.67 (-3.33,8.67)		0.07 (-3.25,3.38)	1.62 (-4.77,8.02)	Placebo				

10. Bristol stool form scale in IBS-D

L. paracasei HA-196																	
1.00 (0.09,1.91)	S. cerevisiae CNCM I-3856																
3.03 (0.92,5.13)	2.03 (0.05,4.01)	B. coagulans MTCC 5856															
-0.19 (-1.10,0.72)	-1.19 (-1.99,-0.38)	-3.22 (-5.28,-1.15)	B. longum R0175														
-0.05 (-0.90,0.80)	-1.04 (-1.49,-0.60)	-3.08 (-5.03,-1.13)	0.14 (-0.60,0.88)	B. bifidum MIMBb75													
-0.14 (-1.04,0.76)	-1.13 (-1.67,-0.60)	-3.16 (-5.14,-1.19)	0.05 (-0.74,0.85)	-0.09 (-0.51,0.33)	C. butyricum												
-0.75 (-1.67,0.17)	-1.74 (-2.31,-1.17)	-3.77 (-5.76,-1.79)	-0.56 (-1.38,0.26)	-0.70 (-1.17,-0.23)	-0.61 (-1.17,-0.06)	S. boulardii											
0.55 (-0.57,1.67)	-0.45 (-1.30,0.41)	-2.48 (-4.56,-0.39)	0.74 (-0.30,1.78)	0.60 (-0.19,1.39)	0.69 (-0.16,1.54)	1.30 (0.43,2.17)	BL+LR										
0.25 (-0.61,1.11)	-0.74 (-1.21,-0.28)	-2.78 (-4.73,-0.82)	0.44 (-0.31,1.19)	0.30 (-0.04,0.64)	0.39 (-0.06,0.84)	1.00 (0.51,1.49)	-0.30 (-1.11,0.51)	LP+LP+PA									
0.45 (-0.58,1.48)	-0.54 (-1.28,0.19)	-2.58 (-4.61,-0.54)	0.64 (-0.30,1.58)	0.50 (-0.16,1.16)	0.59 (-0.14,1.31)	1.20 (0.45,1.95)	-0.10 (-1.09,0.89)	0.20 (-0.48,0.88)	LA+LR+ST+BL+BBR+X								
-0.05 (-1.08,0.98)	-1.04 (-1.77,-0.32)	-3.08 (-5.11,-1.04)	0.14 (-0.80,1.08)	0.00 (-0.65,0.65)	0.09 (-0.63,0.81)	0.70 (-0.05,1.44)	-0.60 (-1.58,0.38)	-0.30 (-0.97,0.37)	-0.50 (-1.38,0.38)	VSL#3							
-0.61 (-1.54,0.32)	-1.60 (-2.19,-1.02)	-3.64 (-5.62,-1.65)	-0.42 (-1.25,0.41)	-0.56 (-1.04,-0.08)	-0.47 (-1.04,0.09)	0.14 (-0.46,0.74)	-1.16 (-2.04,-0.28)	-0.86 (-1.36,-0.36)	-1.06 (-1.82,-0.30)	-0.56 (-1.31,0.19)	LP+LC+BL+ST+LA+X						
-0.25 (-1.07,0.57)	-1.24 (-1.63,-0.86)	-3.28 (-5.21,-1.34)	-0.06 (-0.77,0.65)	-0.20 (-0.41,0.01)	-0.11 (-0.48,0.25)	0.50 (0.08,0.92)	-0.80 (-1.57,-0.03)	-0.50 (-0.76,-0.24)	-0.70 (-1.32,-0.08)	-0.20 (-0.82,0.42)	0.36 (-0.07,0.79)	Placebo					

11. Bristol stool form scale in IBS-C.

L. paracasei HA-196				
-0.14 (-2.02,1.74)	S. cerevisiae CNCM I-3856			
0.90 (-0.90,2.70)	1.04 (-1.15,3.24)	B. longum R0175		
0.69 (-0.83,2.21)	0.83 (-0.69,2.35)	-0.21 (-2.11,1.68)	BAL+ST+LB	
1.03 (-0.30,2.36)	1.17 (-0.16,2.50)	0.13 (-1.62,1.88)	0.34 (-0.39,1.07)	Placebo

Table S5. The surface under the cumulative ranking curve (SUCRA) values.**1. IBS-SSS**

Treatment	SUCRA
L. acidophilus DDS-1	92.9
BL+LR	91.6
LC+LP+BAL	90.9
LP+LC+BL+ST+LA+X	85.2
B. lactis UABla-12	75.8
EF+LA+X	66.2
B. bifidum MIMBb75	62.6
C. butyricum	54.2
BAL+LA+BB+X	51.8
L. acidophilus ATCC 700396	38.1
L. plantarum 299v	38
L. plantarum CCFM8610	31.4
L. casei LCR35	31.3
L. paracasei HA-196	31.1
Placebo	30.2
B. longum R0175	10.5
BAL+ST+LB	10.1
LR+PF+X	8

2. IBS-QOL

Treatment	SUCRA
LP+LC+BL+ST+LA+X	100
S. boulardii	70.7
C. butyricum	64.2
LC+LP+BAL	55.3
LA+LR+ST+BL+BBR+X	54
EF+LA+X	39.8
BAL+ST+LB	39.7
LPA+LA+BAL	30.7
L. acidophilus ATCC 700396	26.1
Placebo	19.5

3. HADS-total score

Treatment	SUCRA
L. acidophilus ATCC 700396	78.3
B. longum R0175	77.9
Placebo	26.9
L. paracasei HA-196	17

4. HADS-anxiety

Treatment	SUCRA
B. longum NCC3001	93
L. acidophilus ATCC 700396	59.5
Placebo	44
LPA+LA+BAL	3.4

5. HADS-depression

Treatment	SUCRA
B. longum NCC3001	99.1
L. paracasei CNCM I-1572	57.3
L. acidophilus ATCC 700396	45.2
LPA+LA+BAL	28.1
Placebo	20.2

6. Abdominal pain score

Treatment	SUCRA
B. coagulans MTCC 5856	96.9
B. coagulans Unique IS2	92.6
L. gasseri BNR17	91.3
L. plantarum Apsulloc 331261	85.4
L. acidophilus DDS-1	78.2
LPA+LS+LP	77.6
BL+LR	70.8
S. cerevisiae CNCM I-3856	70.5
VSL#3	63
L. acidophilus SDC 2012,2013	60
EF+LA+X	59.6
B. lactis UABla-12	57.5
BAL+LA+BB+X	56.7
LR+PF+X	56.2
LA+ST+X	49.7
LA+LR+ST+BL+BBR+X	47.4
B. bifidum MIMBb75	45.6
LP+LC+BL+ST+LA+X	45.2
LP+LP+PA	45
LA+LA	43
C. butyricum CGMCC0313.1	42.1
L. plantarum 299v	36.4
L. acidophilus ATCC 700396	33.3
L. casei LCR35	29.6
BAL+ST+LB	23.9
LPA+LA+BAL	22.9
Placebo	20.6
BAL+LA+LR+X	18.5
S. boulardii CNCM I-475	13.8
B. infantis 35624	9.7
L. plantarum CCFM8610	6.9

7. Abdominal bloating score

Treatment	SUCRA
BL+LR	94.5
B. coagulans MTCC 5856	85
L. plantarum CCFM8610	82.6
L. plantarum Apsulloc 331261	80.3
L. plantarum 299v	72
VSL#3	72
B. bifidum MIMBb75	65.5
L. acidophilus DDS-1	64.2
LR+PF+X	60.7
LA+ST+X	57.3
S. cerevisiae CNCM I-3856	52.2
B. coagulans Unique IS2	52.2
BAL+LA+BB+X	51.4
B. lactis UABla-12	46.5
LP+LC+BL+ST+LA+X	45.4
EF+LA+X	40.9
LA+LR+ST+BL+BBR+X	35
L. acidophilus ATCC 700396	29
BAL+LA+LR+X	28.5
S. boulardii CNCM I-475	28.2
C. butyricum CGMCC0313.1	28
BAL+ST+LB	26.4
B. infantis 35624	21.7
Placebo	21.3
LPA+LA+BAL	9.2

8. Bowel movement frequency (per week) in IBS-D

Treatment	SUCRA
EF+LA+X	89.7
L. paracasei B21060	89.2
L. paracasei HA-196	78.7
B. coagulans GBI-306086	60.5
L. plantarum Apsulloc 331261	58.7
B. longum R0175	57.1
LP+LC+BL+ST+LA+X	36.5
C. butyricum	32.5
S. cerevisiae CNCM I-3856	24.7
Placebo	19.1
S. boulardii	3.3

9. Bowel movement frequency (per week) in IBS-C

Treatment	SUCRA
B. bifidum MIMBb75	67.3
LA+ST+X	56.5
S. cerevisiae CNCM I-3856	53.7
L. paracasei HA-196	53.6
B. coagulans Unique IS2	53.1
B. longum R0175	47.4
BAL+ST+LB	35.9

10. Bristol stool form scale in IBS-D

Treatment	SUCRA
B. coagulans MTCC 5856	99.6
S. cerevisiae CNCM I-3856	89.7
BL+LR	75
LA+LR+ST+BL+BBR+X	72.2
LP+LP+PA	65.1
L. paracasei HA-196	46.6
B. bifidum MIMBb75	44.9
VSL#3	43.8
C. butyricum	37.5
B. longum R0175	34.5
Placebo	27.2
LP+LC+BL+ST+LA+X	9.5
S. boulardii	4.5

11. Bristol stool form scale in IBS-C

Treatment	SUCRA
L. paracasei HA-196	75.4
S. cerevisiae CNCM I-3856	80.1
B. longum R0175	32.8
BAL+ST+LB	43.3
Placebo	18.4

Table S6 Results of loop specific analysis, node-splitting method and design-by-treatment interaction inconsistency model.

Outcomes	loop specific analysis	node-splitting method	design-by-treatment
			interaction inconsistency model
IBS-SSS	NA (Loops were formed only by multi-arm trial(s) - Consistent by definition)	p>0.05 (all sides)	NA*
IBS-QOL	NA (No loops found)	p>0.05 (all sides)	NA*
HADS-total score	NA (Loops were formed only by multi-arm trial(s) - Consistent by definition)	p>0.05 (all sides)	NA*
HADS-anxiety	NA (No loops found)	p>0.05 (all sides)	NA*
HADS-depression	NA (No loops found)	p>0.05 (all sides)	NA*
Abdominal pain score	NA (Loops were formed only by multi-arm trial(s) - Consistent by definition)	p>0.05 (all sides)	NA*
Abdominal bloating score	NA (Loops were formed only by multi-arm trial(s) - Consistent by definition)	p>0.05 (all sides)	NA*
Bowel movement frequency in IBS-D	NA (Loops were formed only by multi-arm trial(s) - Consistent by definition)	p>0.05 (all sides)	NA*
Bowel movement frequency in IBS-C	NA (Loops were formed only by multi-arm trial(s) - Consistent by definition)	p>0.05 (all sides)	NA*
Bristol stool form scale in IBS-D	NA (Loops were formed only by multi-arm trial(s) - Consistent by definition)	p>0.05 (all sides)	NA*
Bristol stool form scale in IBS-C	NA (Loops were formed only by multi-arm trial(s) - Consistent by definition)	p>0.05 (all sides)	NA*
Straining	NA (No loops found)	p>0.05 (all sides)	NA*
Urgency	NA (No loops found)	p>0.05 (all sides)	NA*

*The design-by-treatment interaction inconsistency model indicated that there is no source of inconsistency.

Table S7. GRADE-based assessment of the quality of evidence for each outcome

1. IBS-SSS

Comparison(vs. placebo)	Confidence	Downgrading due to
L. acidophilus DDS-1	Moderate	Inconsistency
BL+LR	Moderate	Study limitation
LC+LP+BAL	Moderate	Study limitation
LP+LC+BL+ST+LA+X	Moderate	Inconsistency
B. lactis UABla-12	Moderate	Inconsistency
EF+LA+X	Moderate	Study limitation
B. bifidum MIMBb75	High	NA
C. butyricum	High	NA
BAL+LA+BB+X	Moderate	Study limitation
L. acidophilus ATCC 700396	Moderate	Inconsistency
L. plantarum 299v	Moderate	Study limitation
L. plantarum CCFM8610	High	NA
L. casei LCR35	Low	Study limitation; Imprecision
L. paracasei HA-196	High	NA
B. longum R0175	High	NA
BAL+ST+LB	Moderate	Study limitation
LR+PF+X	Low	Study limitation; Imprecision
Ranking	Moderate	Study limitation

2. IBS-QOL

Comparison(vs. placebo)	Confidence	Downgrading due to
LP+LC+BL+ST+LA+X	Moderate	Study limitation
S. boulardii	Moderate	Study limitation
C. butyricum	High	NA
LC+LP+BAL	Moderate	Study limitation
LA+LR+ST+BL+BBR+X	Moderate	Study limitation
EF+LA+X	Moderate	Inconsistency
BAL+ST+LB	Moderate	Study limitation
LPA+LA+BAL	Low	Study limitation; Imprecision
L. acidophilus ATCC 700396	Moderate	Study limitation
Ranking	Moderate	Study limitation

3. HADS-total score

Comparison(vs. placebo)	Confidence	Downgrading due to
L. acidophilus ATCC 700396	Moderate	Study limitation
B. longum R0175	High	NA
L. paracasei HA-196	High	NA
Ranking	Moderate	Study limitation

4. HADS-anxiety

Comparison(vs. placebo)	Confidence	Downgrading due to
B. longum NCC3001	High	NA
L. acidophilus ATCC 700396	Moderate	Study limitation
LPA+LA+BAL	Moderate	Study limitation
Ranking	Moderate	Study limitation

5. HADS-depression

Comparison(vs. placebo)	Confidence	Downgrading due to
B. longum NCC3001	High	NA
L. paracasei CNCM I-1572	High	NA
L. acidophilus ATCC 700396	Moderate	Study limitation
LPA+LA+BAL	Low	Study limitation; Imprecision
Ranking	Low	Study limitation

6. Abdominal pain score

Comparison(vs. placebo)	Confidence	Downgrading due to
B. coagulans MTCC 5856	Moderate	Study limitation
B. coagulans Unique IS2	Moderate	Study limitation
L. gasseri BNR17	Moderate	Study limitation
L. plantarum Apsulloc 331261	Moderate	Study limitation
L. acidophilus DDS-1	Moderate	inconsistency
LPA+LS+LP	Low	Study limitation; inconsistency
BL+LR	Low	Study limitation; inconsistency
S. cerevisiae CNCM I-3856	Moderate	Study limitation
VSL#3	Low	Study limitation; inconsistency
L. acidophilus SDC 20122013	Moderate	inconsistency
EF+LA+X	Moderate	Study limitation
B. lactis UABla-12	High	NA
BAL+LA+BB+X	Low	Study limitation; Imprecision
LR+PF+X	Moderate	Study limitation
LA+ST+X	Moderate	Study limitation
LA+LR+ST+BL+BBR+X	Moderate	Study limitation
B. bifidum MIMBb75	Low	Study limitation
LP+LP+PA	Low	Study limitation; inconsistency
LP+LC+BL+ST+LA+X	Low	Study limitation; inconsistency
LA+LA	Low	Study limitation; inconsistency
C. butyricum	High	NA
L. plantarum 299v	Moderate	Study limitation
L. acidophilus ATCC 700396	Moderate	Inconsistency
L. casei LCR35	Moderate	Study limitation
BAL+ST+LB	Low	Study limitation; inconsistency
LPA+LA+BAL	Low	Study limitation; inconsistency
BAL+LA+LR+X	Moderate	Study limitation
S. boulardii	Low	Study limitation; Imprecision
B. infantis 35624	Low	Study limitation
L. plantarum CCFM8610	Moderate	Study limitation
Ranking	Moderate	Study limitation

7. Abdominal bloating score

Comparison	Confidence	Downgrading due to
BL+LR	Moderate	Study limitation
B. coagulans MTCC 5856	Moderate	Study limitation

L. plantarum CCFM8610	Moderate	Study limitation
L. plantarum Apsulloc 331261	Moderate	Study limitation
VSL#3	Low	Study limitation
L. plantarum 299v	Moderate	Study limitation
B. bifidum MIMBb75	Moderate	Study limitation
L. acidophilus DDS-1	High	NA
LR+PF+X	Moderate	Study limitation
LA+ST+X	Moderate	Study limitation
B. coagulans Unique IS2	Moderate	Study limitation
S. cerevisiae CNCM I-3856	Moderate	Study limitation
BAL+LA+BB+X	Moderate	Study limitation
B. lactis UABla-12	High	NA
LP+LC+BL+ST+LA+X	Low	Study limitation
EF+LA+X	Low	Study limitation; Imprecision
LA+LR+ST+BL+BBR+X	Moderate	Study limitation
L. acidophilus ATCC 700396	High	NA
BAL+LA+LR+X	Moderate	Study limitation
S. boulardii	Low	Study limitation; Imprecision
C. butyricum	Moderate	Study limitation
BAL+ST+LB	Moderate	Study limitation
B. infantis 35624	Low	Study limitation; Imprecision
LPA+LA+BAL	Moderate	Study limitation
Ranking	Moderate	Study limitation

8. Bowel movement frequency (per week) in IBS-D

Comparison	Confidence	Downgrading due to
EF+LA+X	Moderate	Study limitation
L. paracasei B21060	High	NA
L. paracasei HA-196	High	NA
B. coagulans GBI-306086	Moderate	Study limitation
L. plantarum Apsulloc 331261	Moderate	Study limitation
B. longum R0175	High	NA
LP+LC+BL+ST+LA+X	Moderate	Study limitation
C. butyricum	Low	Study limitation; Imprecision
S. cerevisiae CNCM I-3856	High	NA
S. boulardii	Low	Study limitation; Imprecision
Ranking	Moderate	Study limitation

9. Bowel movement frequency (per week) in IBS-C

Comparison	Confidence	Downgrading due to
B. bifidum MIMBb75	High	NA
LA+ST+X	Moderate	Study limitation
S. cerevisiae CNCM I-3856	High	NA
L. paracasei HA-196	High	NA
B. coagulans Unique IS2	Moderate	Study limitation
B. longum R0175	High	NA
BAL+ST+LB	Low	Study limitation; Imprecision
Ranking	Low	Study limitation

10. Bristol stool form scale in IBS-D

Comparison	Confidence	Downgrading due to
B. coagulans MTCC 5856	Low	Inconsistency
S. cerevisiae CNCM I-3856	Low	study limitation; inconsistency
BL+LR	Low	study limitation; inconsistency
LA+LR+ST+BL+BBR+X	Moderate	study limitation
LP+LP+PA	Low	study limitation; inconsistency
L. paracasei HA-196	High	NA
B. bifidum MIMBb75	High	NA
VSL#3	Moderate	study limitation
C. butyricum	High	NA
B. longum R0175	High	NA
LP+LC+BL+ST+LA+X	Moderate	study limitation
S. boulardii	Moderate	study limitation
Ranking	Moderate	Study limitation

11. Bristol stool form scale in IBS-C

Comparison	Confidence	Downgrading due to
L. paracasei HA-196	High	NA
S. cerevisiae CNCM I-3856	Moderate	Study limitation
B. longum R0175	High	NA
BAL+ST+LB	Low	Study limitation; Imprecision
Ranking	High	NA

Table S8. Alterations of gut microbiota abundance.

Study	Probiotic used	Alterations of gut microbiota in probiotic groups
Bai, 2023	B. infantis, L. acidophilus, E. faecalis, and B. cereus	↑Butyricimonas, Pseudobutyrvibrio, Barnesiella, and Sutterella
Jung, 2022	L. plantarum	↑Firmicutes, Lactobacillus ↓Bacteroides
Xu, 2021	L. casei, B. animalis subsp. lactis, and L. plantarum	↑Prevotella (days 28) ↓Prevotella (days 7), Citrobacter, Clostridium, Escherichia
Liu, 2021	L. plantarum	↑Bifidobacterium, Bacteroides, Ruminococcus, Parabacteroides, ↑Butyric acid-producing genera: Anaerostipes, Anaerotruncus, Bifidobacterium, Butyricimonas, and Odoribacter ↓Prevotella, Methanobrevibacter (bloating-related genus)
Lewis, 2020	L. paracasei and B. longum	→ L. paracasei, B. longum or Bifidobacterium
Sun, 2018	C. butyricum	↓Clostridium sensu stricto
Shin, 2018	L. gasseri	↑Actinobacteria, Lactobacillus, Bifidobacterium ↓Proteobacteria, Blautia, fecalibacterium
Cremon, 2018	L. paracasei	↑Lactobacillus, Oscillospira, Parabacteroides, and an unidentified member of the family Barnesiaceae ↓Ruminococcus
Nobutani, 2017	L. gasseri	↓Dorea, Enterococcus and Dialister
Hod, 2017	L. rhamnosus, L. casei, L. paracasei, L. plantarum, L. acidophilus, B. bifidum B. longum, B. breve, B. infantis, S. thermophilus, L. bulgaricus, and L. lactis.	↑Bifidobacterium, Lactobacillus and Streptococcus genera
Mezzasalma, 2016	L. acidophilus, L. reuteri, L. plantarum, L. rhamnosus, B. animalis subsp. Lactis	↑L. acidophilus ↓B. animalis subsp. lactis
Yoon, 2015	B. bifidum, B. lactis, B. longum, L. acidophilus, L. rhamnosus, and S. thermophilus	↑B. bifidum, B. lactis, L. acidophilus, L. rhamnosus → Bacteroidetes and Firmicutes
Yoon, 2014	B. bifidum, B. lactis, B. longum, L. acidophilus, L. rhamnosus, and S. thermophilus	↑B. lactis, L. rhamnosus and S. thermophilus → B. longum, B. bifidum, L. acidophilus, and Escherichia coli subgroup, and Clostridium perfringens and Bacteroides group.
Lee, 2013	L. rhamnosus, B. animalis subsp. lactis, L. casei, L. acidophilus and L. fermentum	↓Clostridium
Charbonneau, 2013	B. infantis	↑B. infantis, Clostridium coccoides-Eubacterium rectale group
Cui, 2012	B. longum and L. acidophilus	↑Bifidobacterium and Lactobacillus
Michail, 2011	B. longum, B. infantis, B. breve, L. acidophilus, L. casei, L. delbrueckii ssp. bulgaricus, L. plantarum, and S. salivarius ssp. thermophilus.	→ No differences noted at the Phylum, Class, Order, Family, or Genus levels.

↑: bacteria with increased abundance; ↓: bacteria with decreased abundance; →: bacteria with no significant change.

Table S9. The alteration of gut microbiota diversity before and after intervention

Study	Probiotic used	α diversity	β diversity
Bai, 2023	<i>B. infantis</i> , <i>L. acidophilus</i> , <i>E. faecalis</i> , and <i>B. cereus</i>	1. No significant changes in α diversity (Chao1, ACE, Shannon, and Simpson)	1. No significant changes in β diversity (measured by Bray Curtis and unweighted UniFrac distance)
Xu, 2021	<i>L. casei</i> , <i>B. animalis</i> subsp. <i>Lactis</i> , and <i>L. plantarum</i>	1. no significant difference was observed in the Shannon index between the control and probiotic groups at the end of the trial 2. the Shannon index increased in the probiotic group (days 7), followed by a slight decline afterwards (days 28)	1. obvious clustering pattern was seen on the PCoA score plots at day 7 and day 28 between two groups.
Liu, 2021	<i>L. plantarum</i>	1. The Simpson index and Shannon index of patients in the <i>L. plantarum</i> CCFM8610 group were significantly higher than those in the placebo group	1. supplementation with probiotics could change the composition of the gut microbiota (PCA)
Sun, 2018	<i>C. butyricum</i>	1. No significant differences were found between baseline and week 4 levels with Chao, Sobs and Shannon index 2. Sobs index showed an increased tendency after treating with CB	1. a significant difference was found at week 4 between two groups (PcoA analysis)
Cremon, 2018	<i>L. paracasei</i>	1. The differences between LCDG and placebo in modulating α diversity were not significant (Chao1, Shannon, and InvSimpson indexes)	1. The differences between LCDG and placebo in modulating β diversity were not significant (PCoA)
Pinto-Sanchez, 2017	<i>B. longum</i>	1. There were no major differences in alpha diversity (Shannon, Chao1, and Observed Species indices) before or after the treatment between the 2 groups.	1. There were no major differences in taxa, compositional distance (Bray-Curtis Principal Coordinate analysis) before or after the treatment between the 2 groups.