Supplementary Materials

Supplementary Table 1. Search details

Query	Results (18 Feb 2024)
PubMed	
#1 ("Rheumatoid Arthritis*"[tiab] OR "Arthritis, Rheumatoid"[Mesh] OR ("Rheumatoid"[tiab] AND "Arthritis"[tiab]))	171,264
#2 ("gal-3"[tiab] OR "gal"[tiab] OR "gal 3"[tiab] OR "galectin-3"[tiab] OR "galectin 3"[tiab] OR "galectin*"[tiab] OR "LGALS"[tiab] OR "S-type lectin"[tiab] OR "Galactose binding lectin"[tiab] OR "galectins"[MeSH])	31,641
#4 #1 AND #2	202
SCOPUS	
#1 (TITLE-ABS-KEY("Rheumatoid Arthritis*" OR ("Rheumatoid" AND "Arthritis")))	235,490
#2 (TITLE-ABS-KEY("gal") OR TITLE-ABS-KEY("gal-3") OR TITLE-ABS-KEY("gal 3") OR TITLE-ABS-KEY("galectin 3") OR TITLE-ABS-KEY("galectin-3") OR TITLE-ABS-KEY("galectin*") OR TITLE-ABS-KEY("LGALS") OR TITLE-ABS-KEY("S-type lectin") OR TITLE-ABS-KEY("Galactose binding lectin"))	47,934
#4 #1 AND #2	313
Web of Science	
#1 (TS="Rheumatoid Arthritis*" OR TS=("Rheumatoid" AND "Arthritis"))	207,534
#2 (TS=("gal") OR TS=("gal-3") OR TS=("gal 3") OR TS=("galectin 3") OR TS=("galectin-3") OR TS=("galectin*") OR TS=("LGALS") OR TS=("S-type lectin") OR TS=("Galactose binding lectin"))	42,733
#3 #1 AND #2	326
Embase	
#1 'rheumatoid arthritis'/exp OR 'rheumatoid arthritis'	286,506
#2 ((("gal"):ti,ab,kw OR ("gal 3"):ti,ab,kw OR ("gal-3"):ti,ab,kw OR ("galectin-3"):ti,ab,kw OR ("galectin 3"):ti,ab,kw OR ("galectin*"):ti,ab,kw OR ("LGALS"):ti,ab,kw OR ("S-type lectin"):ti,ab,kw OR ("Galactose binding lectin"):ti,ab,kw)	39,456
#3 #1 AND #2	327
Total Records	1168
Total Records after Removing Duplicates	626

| Study	Total	Experimental Mean	SD	Total	Control Mean	SD	Standardised Mean Difference	SMD	95%-CI	Weight
Gruszewska et al. 2020	82	19.81	9.5800	30	9.85	1.8900		1.19	[0.75; 1.64]	14.6%
Ohshima et al. 2003	20	62.71	56.6400	20	20.36	5.5800		1.03	[0.37; 1.70]	9.5%
Anyfanti et al. 2023	24	6.68	5.2800	24	4.60	3.7000		0.45	[-0.12; 1.02]	11.3%
Issa et al. 2017	160	4.37	1.8700	119	3.87	1.3500		0.30	[0.06; 0.54]	21.6%
Anyfanti et al. 2019	85	20.48	17.8700	39	9.03	4.6200		0.76	[0.37; 1.15]	16.4%
Lee et al. 2007	20	10.24	1.2900	50	7.59	0.4800		3.30	[2.53; 4.06]	0.0%
Issa et al. (substudy 1) 2015	21	5.99	2.5700	14	4.51	1.9600		0.62	[-0.08; 1.31]	9.0%
Issa et al. (substudy 2) 2015	20	5.22	2.3100	14	4.00	1.7200		0.57	[-0.13; 1.27]	8.9%
Andonian et al. 2018	24	8.80	3.5000	12	6.89	1.9000		0.61	[-0.10; 1.32]	8.7%
Overall effect	**456**			**322**				**0.67**	**[0.42; 0.93]**	**100.0%**
Prediction interval									**[-0.02; 1.36]**	
Heterogeneity: I^2 = 54% [0%; 79%], p = 0.03										

Supplementary Figure 1. Forest plot for the meta-analysis of Gal-3 levels in patients with RA vs. healthy controls after removal of outlier studies
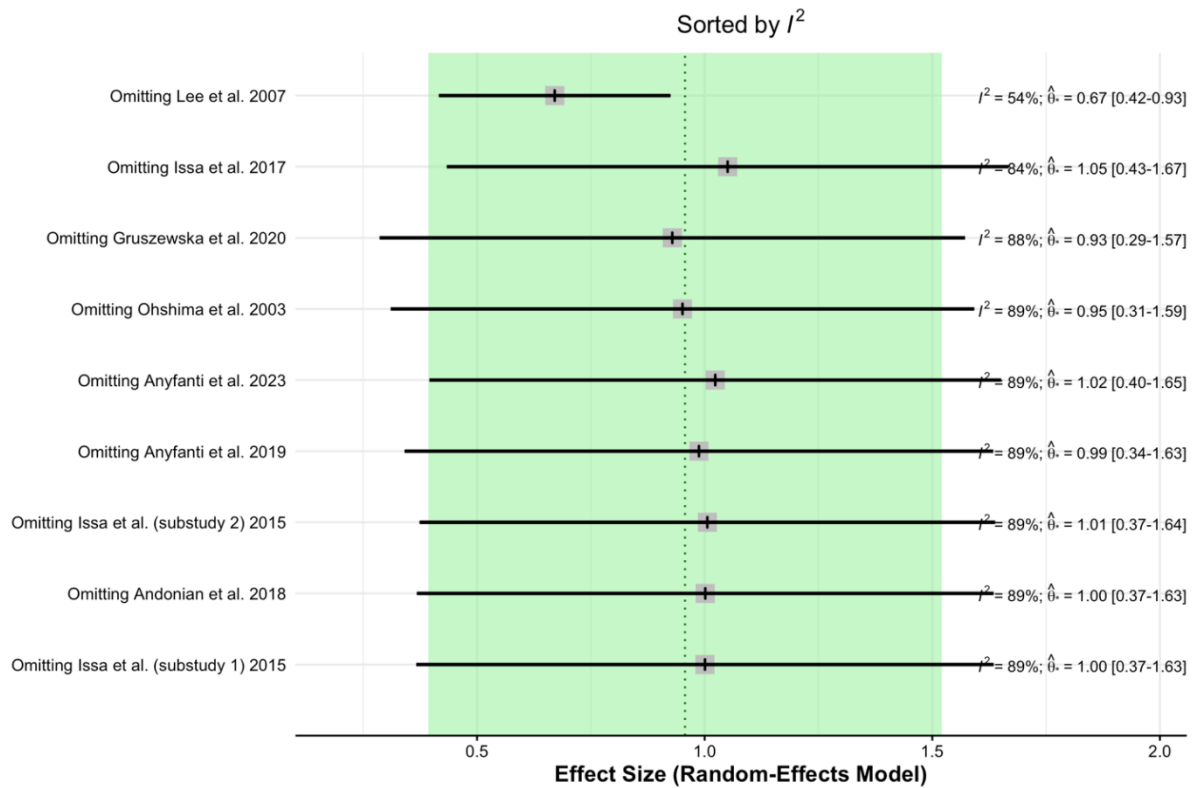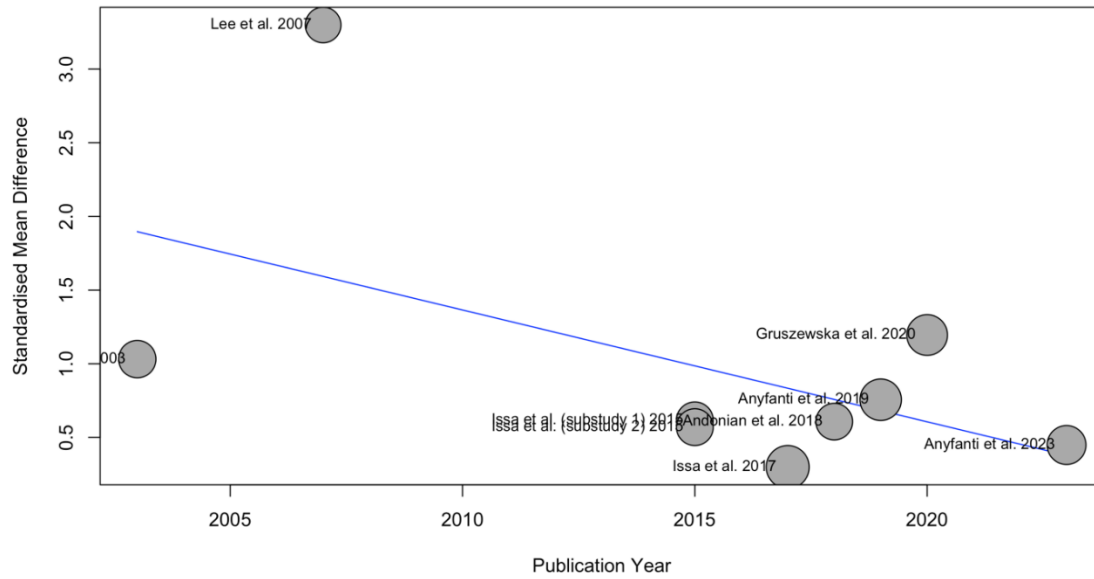

Supplementary Figure 2. Sensitivity analysis by leave-one-out method

Funnel Plot (Trim & Fill Method)
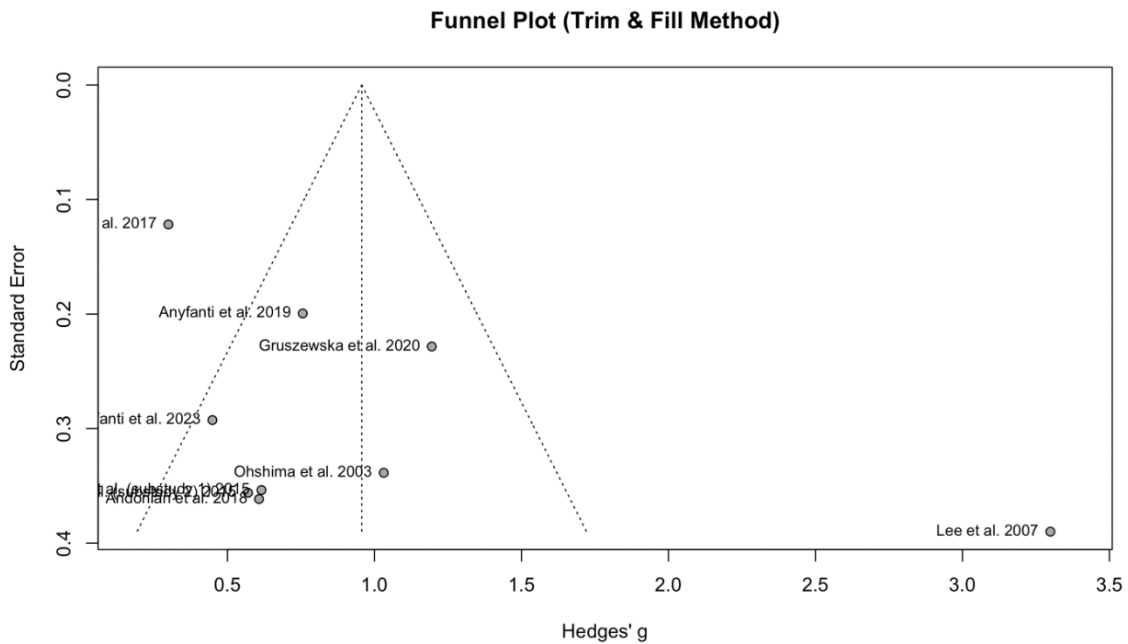
**Supplementary Figure 3. Funnel plot by trim-and-fill method for the assessment of publication bias**
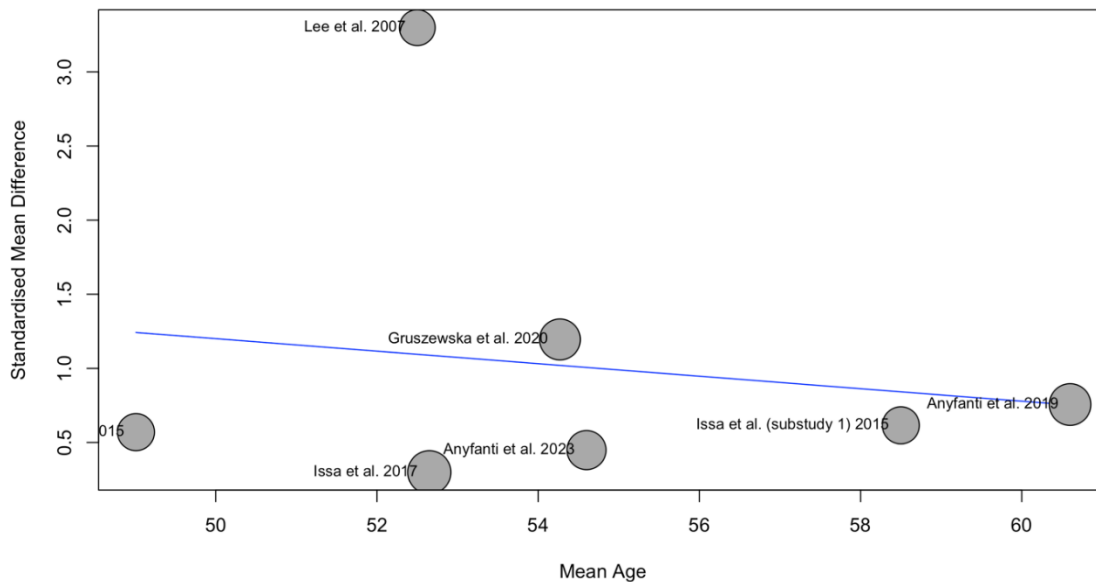
Supplementary Figure 4. Bubble plot for meta-regression of the mean age in the meta-analysis of Gal-3 levels in patients with RA vs. healthy controls

Supplementary Figure 5. Bubble plot for meta-regression of the publication year in the meta-analysis of Gal-3 levels in patients with RA vs. healthy controls
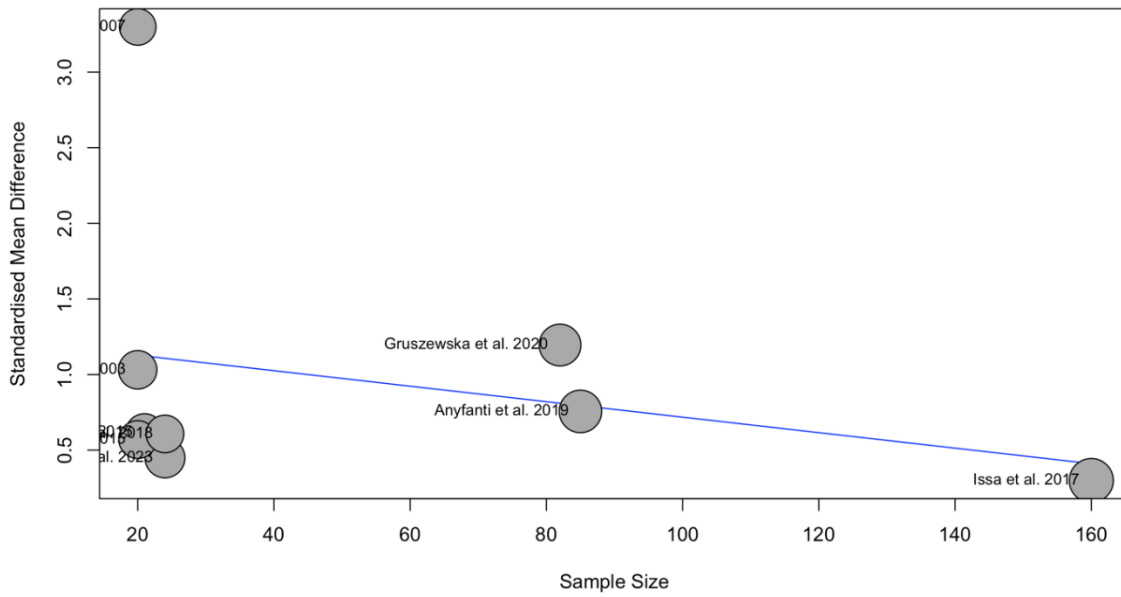
Supplementary Figure 6. Bubble plot for meta-regression of the sample size in the meta-analysis of Gal-3 levels in patients with RA vs. healthy controls
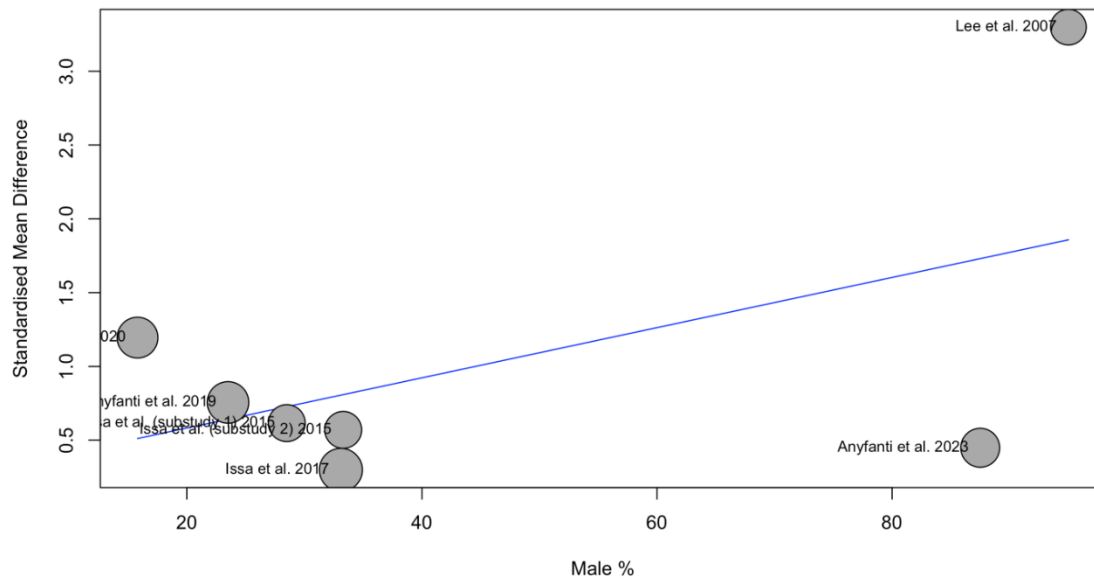
Supplementary Figure 7. Bubble plot for meta-regression of the male percentage in the meta-analysis of Gal-3 levels in patients with RA vs. healthy controls