

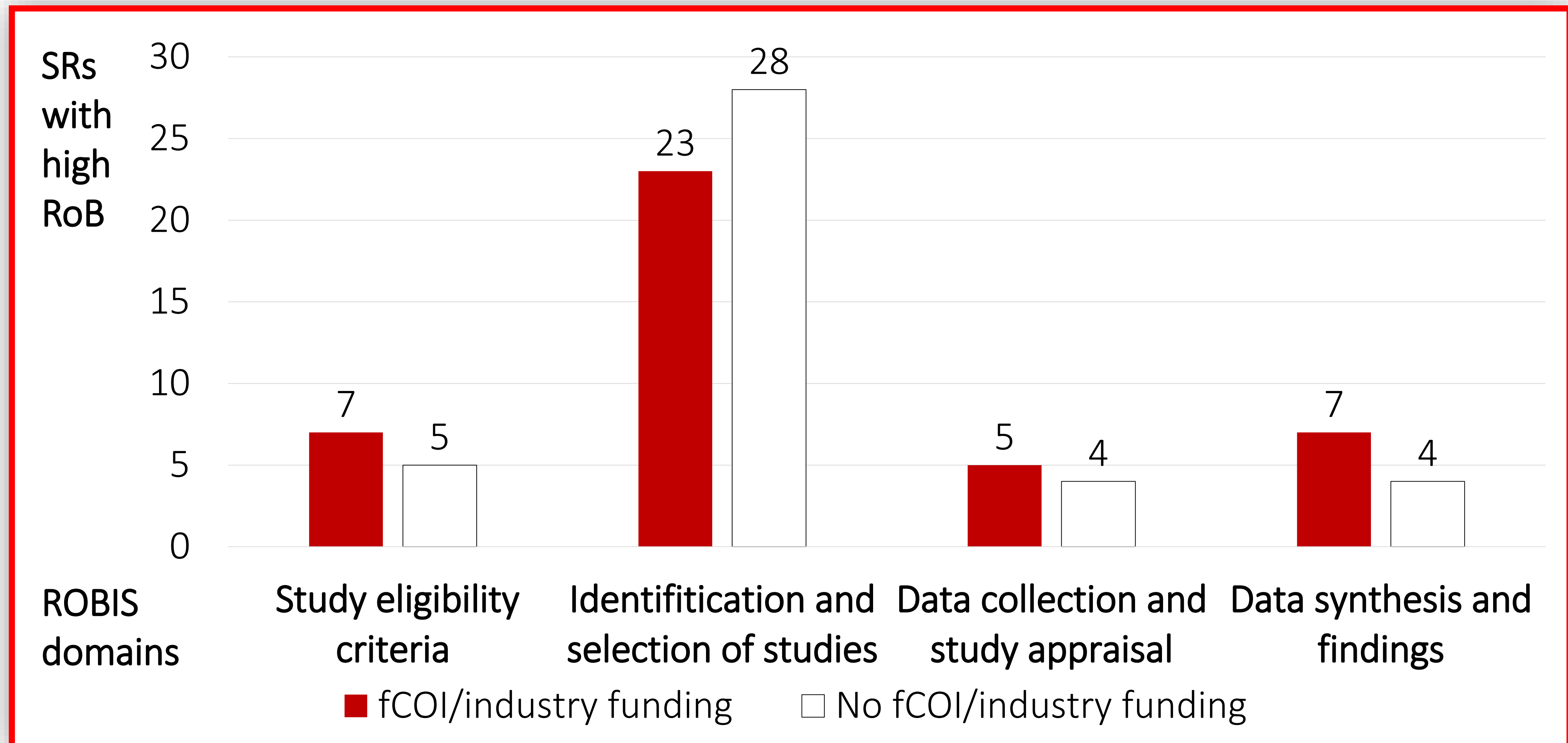
# Conflicts of interest in systematic reviews were not associated with risk of bias

## Conflicts of Interest and Risk of Bias in Systematic Reviews on Interventions for 6 Common Diagnoses in Primary Care

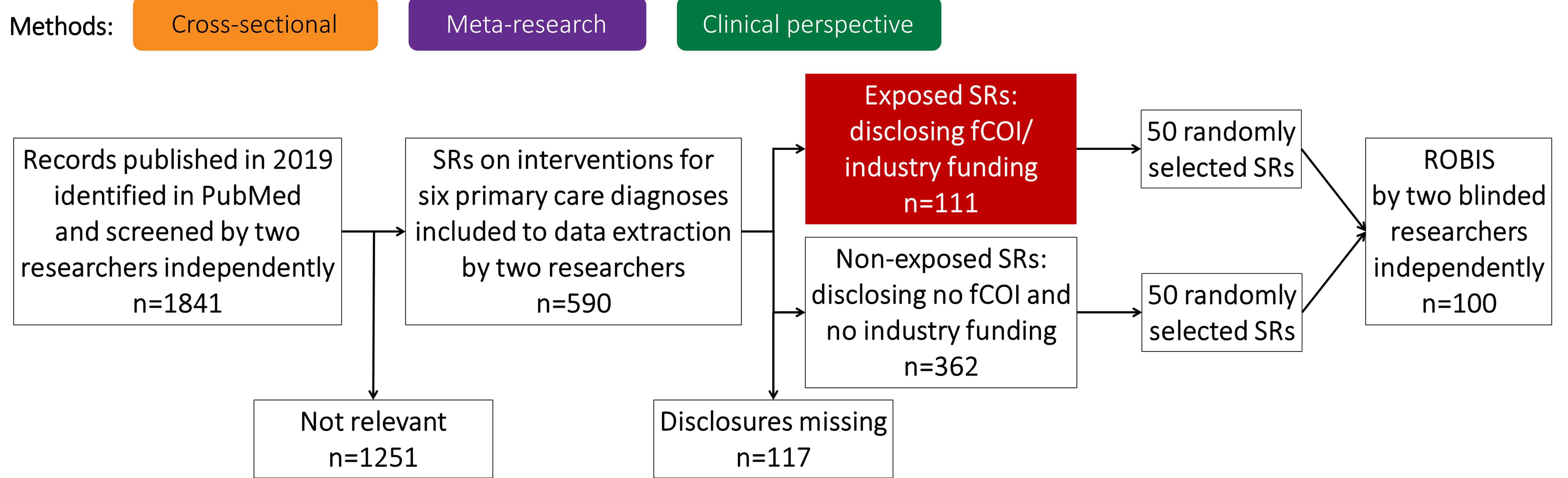
Marek Czajkowski, Alexandra Snellman, Louise Olsson

**Background:** The association between risk of bias (RoB) and financial relations with industry, i.e. self-reported financial conflicts of interest (fCOI) or funding from industry, in systematic reviews (SRs) on primary care interventions, is not well known.

SRs published in 2019	N=590
<b>Diagnosis</b>	
T2DM	161 (27)
COPD	61 (10)
Hypertension	77 (13)
Dementia	83 (14)
Depression	84 (14)
Osteoarthritis	124 (21)
<b>Intervention</b>	
Pharmacological	189 (32)
Invasive procedure	86 (15)
Psychological, social, nursing	101 (17)
Physio-, occupational therapy	93 (16)
Dietary	70 (12)
Alternative, complementary	22 (4)
Multiple comparisons	29 (5)



**Results:** In a random sample of 100 SRs published in 2019 and using ROBIS for assessment, a high RoB was found in 42/50 (84%) SRs declaring fCOI and/or funding from industry and in 41/50 (82%) SRs with no such exposure ( $p=0.8$ ). There was no difference in the distribution of domains decisive for a high RoB between SRs with and without fCOI/industry funding.



**Limitations:** A novel "early stop" algorithm of the ROBIS tool was developed to assess RoB in numerous SRs within a reasonable timeframe.

