

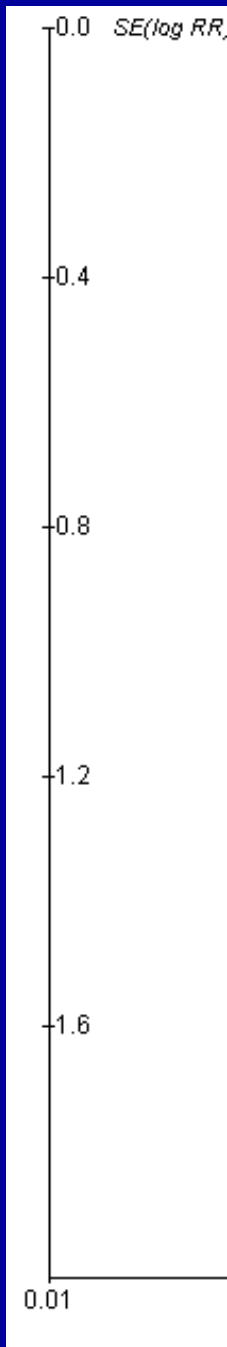
Funnel plot

File View Help

Review: Colloids versus crystalloids for fluid resuscitation in critically ill patients
Comparison: 01 colloid vs crystalloid (add-on colloid)
Outcome: 01 deaths



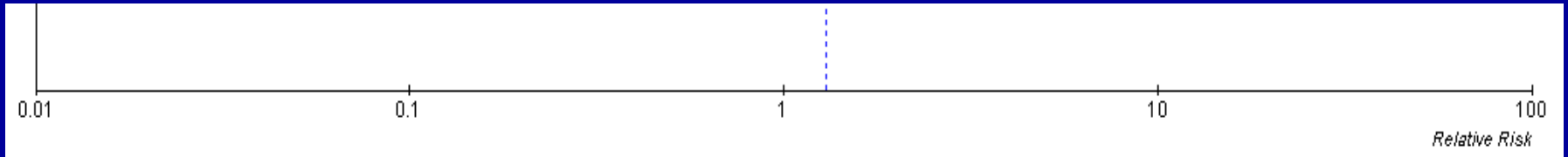
There should be a label telling you what the comparison is



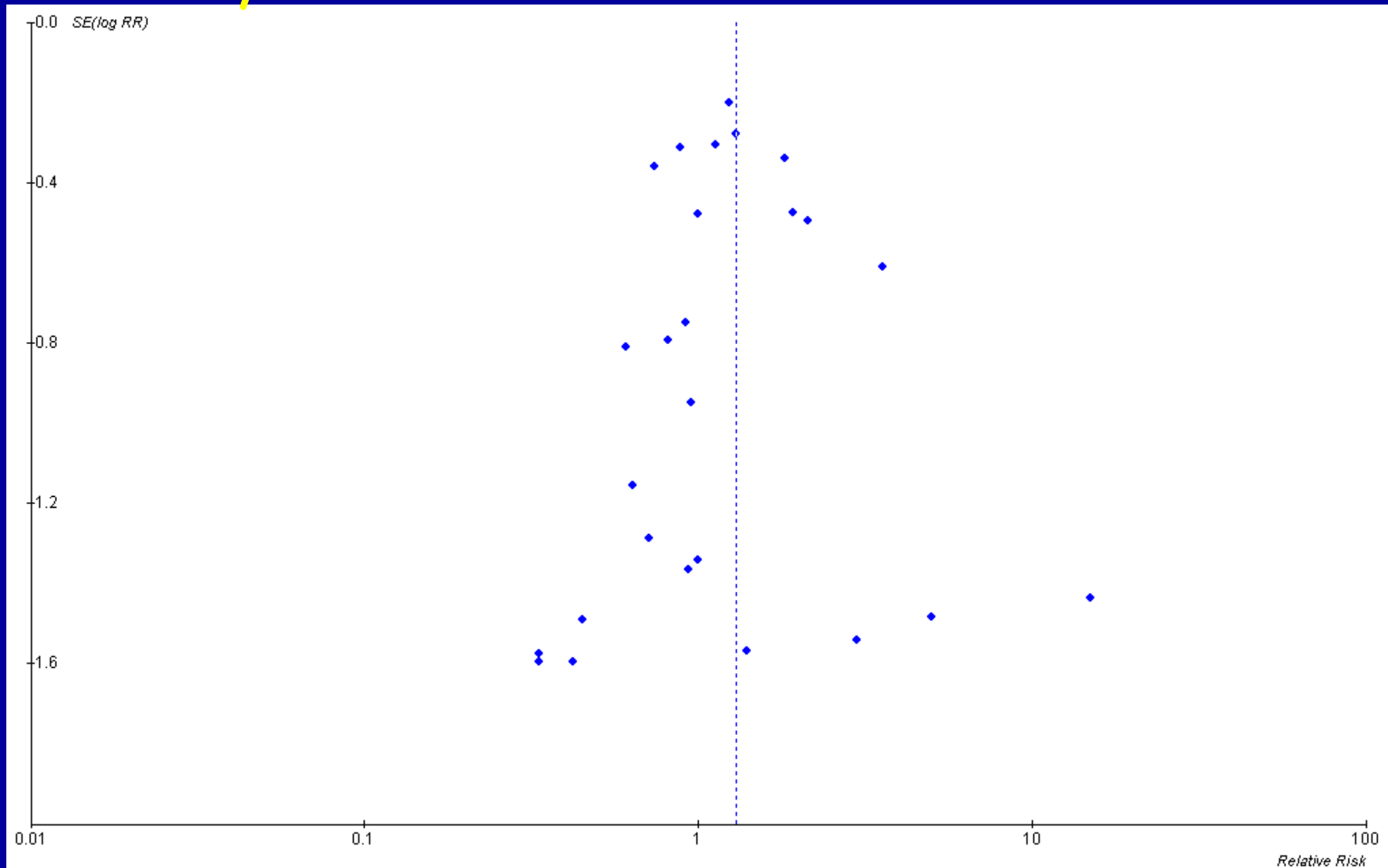
The vertical axis is some measure of the precision of the estimate of the treatment effect. So the smaller the confidence interval, the more precise the study, and the further up the study is placed.

Here, the measure of precision is the standard error of the log RR. Elsewhere, you may see sample size or weight used.

The horizontal axis measures the treatment effect - here it is the relative risk, on a log scale so that the distance from 0.1 to 1 is the same as from 1 to 10



The point estimate from each study is then plotted, and a vertical line added (this line isn't added in all packages) where the pooled estimate from the meta-analysis lies



We would expect less precise studies (with fewer participants and events) to be more affected by the play of chance, and so more widely scattered about the pooled estimate.

As studies get bigger with more events, we expect them to be closer to the pooled estimate. Overall, this should produce a triangular shape, or inverted funnel (depending on how the axes are plotted)

