Supplementary Table1. Search strategy utilised in PubMed database for the inclusion of studies into analysis
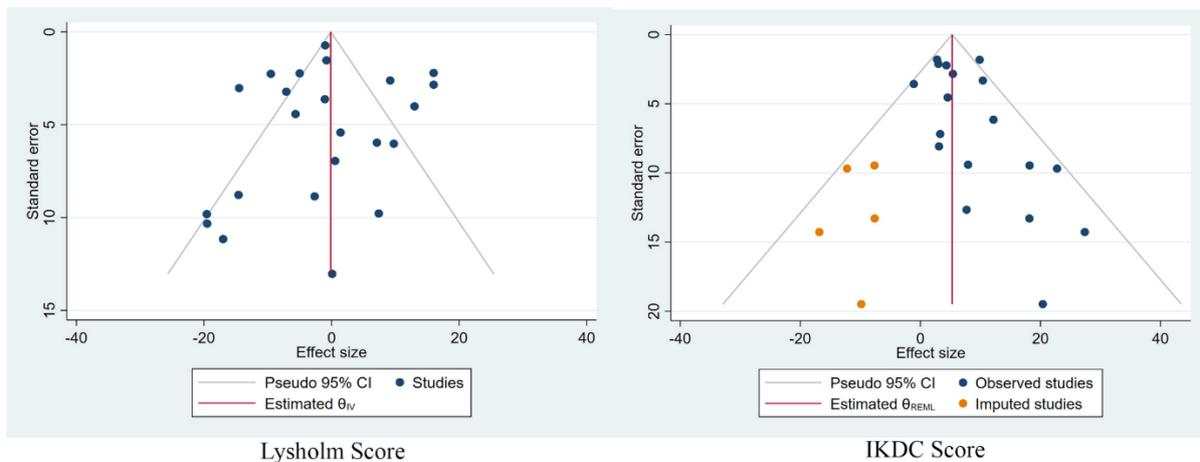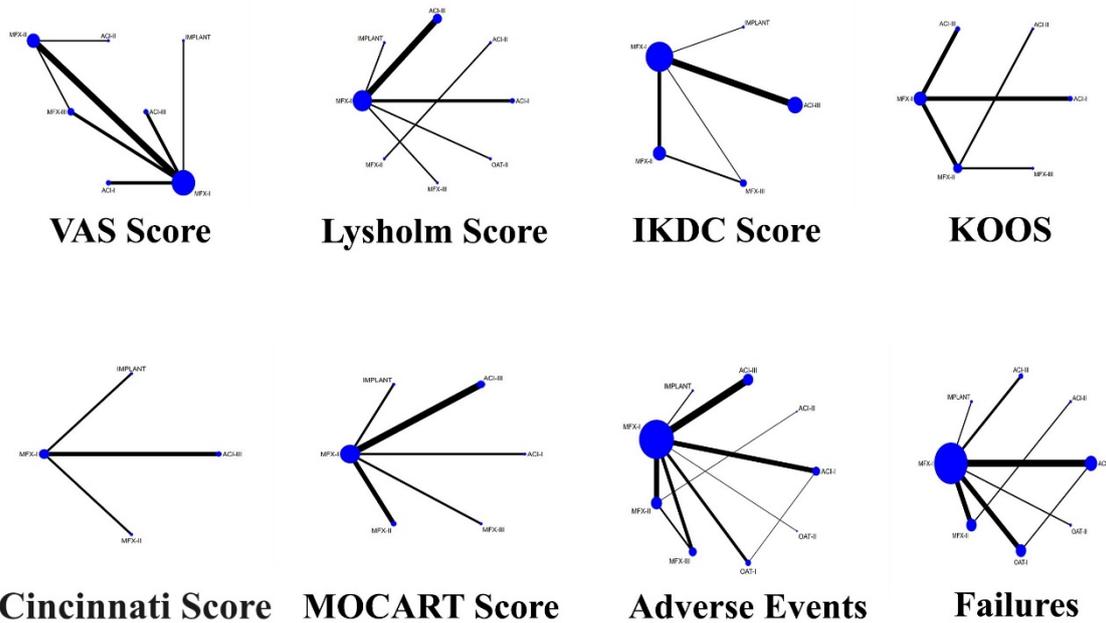
Search Topic	#	Search Terms
Population: *Human subjects with cartilage injury*	#1	("cartilage"[Mesh]) OR (cartilage injury[All Fields]) OR (cartilage defect[All Fields])
Intervention: *Microfracture, ACI, MACI, OATS, PRP, Cellular therapy, MSCs, Implants*	#2	("chondrocyte"[Mesh]) OR ("cartilage"[Mesh]) OR ("bone marrow transplantation"[Mesh]) OR ("stem cell transplantation"[Mesh]) OR ("cell- and tissue-based therapy"[Mesh]) OR ("mesenchymal stem cells"[Mesh]) OR ("stem cell therapy"[All Fields]) OR ("cellular therapy"[All Fields]) OR ("stem cell therapy"[All Fields]) OR ("mesenchymal stem cell therapy"[All Fields]) OR ("microfracture"[All Fields])
	#3	("ACI"[All Fields]) OR ("MACI"[All Fields]) OR ("OATS"[All Fields]) OR ("mosaicplasty"[All Fields]) OR ("hydrogel"[All Fields]) OR ("PRP"[All Fields]) OR ("platelet-rich plasma"[All Fields]) OR ("autologous chondrocyte transplantation"[All Fields]) OR ("osteochondral autograft transfer system"[All Fields]) OR ("implant"[All Fields]) OR ("microfracture"[All Fields])
	#4	#2 OR #3
	#5	#1 AND #4
Study design: *Randomized controlled trials*	#6	("clinical trial"[All Fields]) OR ("clinical trials as topic"[MeSH Terms]) OR ("clinical trials"[All Fields]) OR ("randomized controlled trial"[All Fields]) OR ("randomized controlled trials as topic"[MeSH Terms]) OR ("randomized controlled trial"[pt]) OR ("controlled clinical trial"[pt]) OR ("randomized"[tiab]) OR ("randomly"[tiab]) OR ("trial"[ti]) OR ("randomised controlled trial"[All Fields]) OR ("randomized controlled trial"[pt]) OR ("prospective studies"[MeSH Terms]) OR ("prospective studies"[All Fields])
	#7	#5 AND #6
	#8	("biography"[Publication Type] OR "comment"[Publication Type] OR "directory"[Publication Type] OR "editorial"[Publication Type] OR "festschrift"[Publication Type] OR "interview"[Publication Type] OR "lecture"[Publication Type] OR "legal

	case"[Publication Type] OR "legislation"[Publication Type] OR "letter"[Publication Type] OR "news"[Publication Type] OR "newspaper article"[Publication Type] OR "patient education handout"[Publication Type] OR "popular work"[Publication Type] OR "congress"[Publication Type] OR "consensus development conference"[Publication Type] OR "consensus development conference, nih"[Publication Type] OR "practice guideline"[Publication Type] OR "Review"[Publication Type] OR "retrospective studies"[MeSH Terms] OR "retrospective studies"[All Fields] OR "retrospective study"[All Fields])
#9	#7 NOT #8

Lysholm Score   IKDC Score

Supplementary Figure 1 Publication bias assessment with comparison adjusted funnel plot for Lysholm score and adjusted funnel plot for IKDC score of the interventions from the included studies in the network.

Supplementary Figure 2 Network plot of direct evidence in the included trials in the network for VAS score, Lysholm score, IKDC score, KOOS, Cincinnati score, MOCART score, adverse events and failures at 1 year. The size of the nodes and the thickness of edges depend on the number of patients and the number of studies included, respectively.

Supplementary Figure 3 Risk of bias for all the pairwise comparison of the interventions among the included studies assessed with CINeMA approach.