**Tables**

**Table 1**. The identified number of phrases (Frequency n > 100).

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| **Phrase** | **Total RCTs** |
| marginally significant | 7,735 |
| all but significant | 7,015 |
| a nonsignificant trend | 3,442 |
| failed to reach statistical significance | 2,578 |
| a strong trend | 1,700 |
| nearly significant | 1,391 |
| a clear trend | 1,372 |
| an increasing trend | 1,202 |
| only marginally significant | 1,149 |
| a significant trend | 1,124 |
| potentially significant | 1,104 |
| significant tendency | 1,064 |
| a positive trend | 1,055 |
| a decreasing trend | 962 |
| marginal significance | 887 |
| a slight trend | 885 |
| almost significant | 813 |
| a statistical trend | 811 |
| approaching significance | 796 |
| nominally significant | 740 |
| quite significant | 547 |
| near-significant | 546 |
| an overall trend | 445 |
| likely to be significant | 425 |
| difference was apparent | 409 |
| uncertain significance | 383 |
| did not quite reach statistical significance | 379 |
| a weak trend | 343 |
| marginally statistically significant | 314 |
| tended to be significant | 293 |
| possible significance | 286 |
| not quite significant | 266 |
| a favorable trend | 261 |
| just failed to reach statistical significance | 252 |
| a negative trend | 225 |
| almost reached statistical significance | 219 |
| a possible trend | 218 |
| fell short of significance | 214 |
| not as significant | 204 |
| a small trend | 185 |
| a numerical trend | 184 |
| slightly significant | 182 |
| reached borderline significance | 165 |
| near significance | 156 |
| weakly significant | 147 |
| moderately significant | 146 |
| an apparent trend | 145 |
| barely significant | 135 |
| practically significant | 135 |
| a definite trend | 131 |
| an interesting trend | 129 |
| almost statistically significant | 126 |
| marginally nonsignificant | 101 |
| possibly significant | 100 |
| significantly significant | 100 |
| a marginal trend | 99 |
| close to being significant | 87 |
| just short of significance | 87 |
| fell just short of statistical significance | 77 |
| an obvious trend | 71 |
| tendency toward significance | 66 |
| trending towards significance | 66 |
| a marked trend | 65 |
| a notable trend | 64 |
| at the limit of significance | 62 |
| probably not significant | 62 |
| probably significant | 62 |
| approaches statistical significance | 61 |
| tended toward significance | 59 |
| approached significant | 58 |
| an important trend | 54 |
| marginally insignificant | 53 |
| modestly significant | 53 |
| nearing significance | 49 |
| fairly significant | 47 |
| an observed trend | 46 |
| fell just short of significance | 45 |
| an encouraging trend | 44 |
| not yet significant | 44 |
| not very significant | 42 |
| a borderline significant trend | 40 |
| an unexpected trend | 40 |
| a suggestive trend | 37 |
| a mild trend | 35 |
| a near-significant trend | 34 |
| on the borderline of significance | 31 |
| weak significance | 31 |
| partially significant | 25 |
| strong trend toward significance | 25 |
| approached conventional levels of significance | 24 |
| narrowly missed significance | 24 |
| a strong trend toward significance | 23 |
| not conventionally significant | 22 |
| a pronounced trend | 20 |
| just failed to be significant | 20 |
| tendency toward statistical significance | 20 |
| marginally significant tendency | 19 |
| not highly significant | 19 |
| a slightly increasing trend | 18 |
| an adverse trend | 18 |
| an expected trend | 18 |
| tend to significant | 18 |
| an unfavorable trend | 17 |
| only slightly significant | 17 |
| close to the level of significance | 16 |
| just failed significance | 16 |
| partly significant | 16 |
| barely missed statistical significance | 15 |
| very close to significant | 15 |
| an evident trend | 14 |
| not formally significant | 14 |
| reached near significance | 14 |
| a reliable trend | 13 |
| reasonably significant | 13 |
| on the border of significance | 12 |
| suggestively significant | 12 |
| at the margin of statistical significance | 11 |
| did not quite achieve significance | 11 |
| near to statistical significance | 11 |
| almost insignificant | 10 |
| close to the limit of significance | 10 |
| not fully significant | 10 |
| somewhat significant | 10 |
| a marginal trend toward significance | 9 |
| a statistical trend toward significance | 9 |
| a trend that approached significance | 9 |
| an unexplained trend | 9 |
| just failing to reach statistical significance | 9 |
| not strongly significant | 9 |
| not that significant | 9 |
| slight significance | 9 |
| almost achieved significance | 8 |
| approaching clinical significance | 8 |
| quasi-significant | 8 |
| a worrying trend | 7 |
| almost clinically significant | 7 |
| appeared to be marginally significant | 7 |
| borderline level of statistical significance | 7 |
| not clearly significant | 7 |
| not quite reach the level of significance | 7 |
| not strictly significant | 7 |
| on the margin of significance | 7 |
| on the threshold of significance | 7 |
| trend significance level | 7 |
| very nearly significant | 7 |
| almost attained significance | 6 |
| equivocal significance | 6 |
| possibly statistically significant | 6 |
| probably not statistically significant | 6 |
| scarcely significant | 6 |
| suggestive of statistical significance | 6 |
| weakly statistically significant | 6 |
| a weak trend toward significance | 5 |
| at the edge of significance | 5 |
| just marginally significant | 5 |
| nearly significant tendency | 5 |
| questionably significant | 5 |
| slightly insignificant | 5 |
| a trend close to significance | 4 |
| almost approached significance | 4 |
| bordered on significant | 4 |
| borderline significant trends | 4 |
| indeterminate significance | 4 |
| just borderline significant | 4 |
| just missing significance | 4 |
| on the cusp of significance | 4 |
| on the edge of significance | 4 |
| partial significance | 4 |
| trending towards significant | 4 |
| a distinct trend toward significance | 3 |
| a slight trend toward significance | 3 |
| an associative trend | 3 |
| an elevated trend | 3 |
| an established trend | 3 |
| approached our criterion of significance | 3 |
| approximately significant | 3 |
| arguably significant | 3 |
| better trends of improvement | 3 |
| bordered on being significant | 3 |
| closely significant | 3 |
| did not quite reach conventional levels of statistical significance | 3 |
| effectively significant | 3 |
| fell slightly short of significance | 3 |
| felt short of significance | 3 |
| just missed being statistically significant | 3 |
| not significant by conventional standards | 3 |
| on the verge of significance | 3 |
| verging on significance | 3 |
| virtually significant | 3 |
| a nonsignificant trend toward significance | 2 |
| a numerical increasing trend | 2 |
| a robust trend toward significance | 2 |
| almost significant tendency | 2 |
| approaching but not reaching significance | 2 |
| approaching conventional statistical significance | 2 |
| at the margin of significance | 2 |
| did not quite reach a statistically significant level | 2 |
| fairly close to significance | 2 |
| fell narrowly short of significance | 2 |
| indicative significance | 2 |
| just beyond significance | 2 |
| just escaped significance | 2 |
| just shy of significance | 2 |
| leaning towards significance | 2 |
| narrowly failed significance | 2 |
| nearly reached a significant level | 2 |
| trend bordering on statistical significance | 2 |
| trend in the direction of significance | 2 |
| weakened significance | 2 |
| a certain trend toward significance | 1 |
| a favourable statistical trend | 1 |
| a little significant | 1 |
| a possible trend toward significance | 1 |
| a substantial trend toward significance | 1 |
| a trend significance level | 1 |
| a very slight trend toward significance | 1 |
| almost became significant | 1 |
| almost but not quite significant | 1 |
| approached but fell short of significance | 1 |
| approaching borderline significance | 1 |
| approaching conventional significance levels | 1 |
| approaching marginal significance | 1 |
| approaching, but not reaching, significance | 1 |
| approximating significance | 1 |
| at the limits of significance | 1 |
| at the verge of significance | 1 |
| barely escaped statistical significance | 1 |
| barely insignificant | 1 |
| barely not statistically significant | 1 |
| bordered on being statistically significant | 1 |
| borderline conventional significance | 1 |
| close to the margin of statistical significance | 1 |
| closely not significant | 1 |
| essentially significant | 1 |
| failed to reach significance on this occasion | 1 |
| fell barely short of significance | 1 |
| fell only marginally short of significance | 1 |
| in the verge of significance | 1 |
| just barely failed to reach significance | 1 |
| just fails to reach conventional levels of statistical significance | 1 |
| just outside the bounds of significance | 1 |
| just outside the level of significance | 1 |
| just over the limits of statistical significance | 1 |
| narrowly escaped significance | 1 |
| narrowly missed the significance level | 1 |
| near nominal significance | 1 |
| near-marginal significance | 1 |
| nearly reaching the level of significance | 1 |
| not completely significant | 1 |
| not entirely significant | 1 |
| not especially significant | 1 |
| not globally significant | 1 |
| not markedly significant | 1 |
| not non-significant | 1 |
| not overly significant | 1 |
| not unequivocally significant | 1 |
| only just missed significance at the 5% level | 1 |
| only slightly missed the level of significance | 1 |
| only slightly missed the significance level | 1 |
| rather marginal significance | 1 |
| significant to some degree | 1 |
| slight evidence of significance | 1 |
| slightly missed being of statistical significance | 1 |
| slightly missed statistical significance | 1 |
| slightly not significant | 1 |
| slightly outside the range of significance | 1 |
| technically not significant | 1 |
| tended to approach significance | 1 |
| verged on being significant | 1 |
| very closely brushed the limit of statistical significance | 1 |
| very narrowly missed significance | 1 |
| very slightly significant | 1 |