**ANNEX 2**. **Radial plot for small study bias.** The radial plots display point estimates (y-axis) with different standard errors (x-axis). According to Galbraith et al 1990, if there is no small-study effects, individual studies are expected to scatter randomly around the regression line through the origin. Radial plots were specifically calculated for the whole of data (**Panel a**); for the case-control studies (**Panel b**), and for cross sectional studies (**Panel c**), including only laboratory-based studies (**Panel d**). In all cases, estimated were substantially scattered on the both sides of the regression lines, suggesting no significant small study effect.

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| --- | --- |
|  |  |
| a) | b) |
|  |  |
| c) | d) |