

Table S1 Clinicopathological features of included studies

Study	High T stage				Positive Lymphnode metastasis				Poor histological grade				High TNM stage			
	High expression		Low expression		High expression		Low expression		High expression		Low expression		High expression		Low expression	
	Events	Total	Events	Total	Events	Total	Events	Total	Events	Total	Events	Total	Events	Total	Events	Total
Cheng-Zhi Xu	12	37	7	36	20	52	6	21	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Detao Tao	8	22	2	22	12	22	4	22	-	-	-	-	10	22	2	22
Feng-lian Yang	-	-	-	-	37	46	21	37	-	-	-	-	35	46	20	37
Ganesan Arunkumar	8	12	35	43	11	12	36	43	4	12	9	43	11	12	36	43
Jie Wu	-	-	-	-	14	25	8	25	7	25	5	25	14	25	6	25
Yan Nie	51	91	26	69	76	91	58	69	68	91	55	69	72	91	42	69
Yansheng Wu	-	-	-	-	26	38	8	38	9	38	3	38	29	38	15	38

Table S2 Newcastle-Ottawa quality assessment scale for cohort studies

Study	Selection	Comparability	Outcome	Total
Cheng-Zhi Xu	★★★★★	★★	★★	8
Dandan Li	★★★★★	★	★★★	8
Detao Tao	★★★★★	★★	★	7
Feng-lian Yang	★★★	★★	★★	7
Ganesan Arunkumar	★★★★★	★	★	6
Jie Wu	★★★★★	★	★★★	8
Madeleine Sassenberg	★★	★	★★	5
Yan Nie	★★★★★	★	★★★	8
Yansheng Wu	★★★★★	★	★★	7

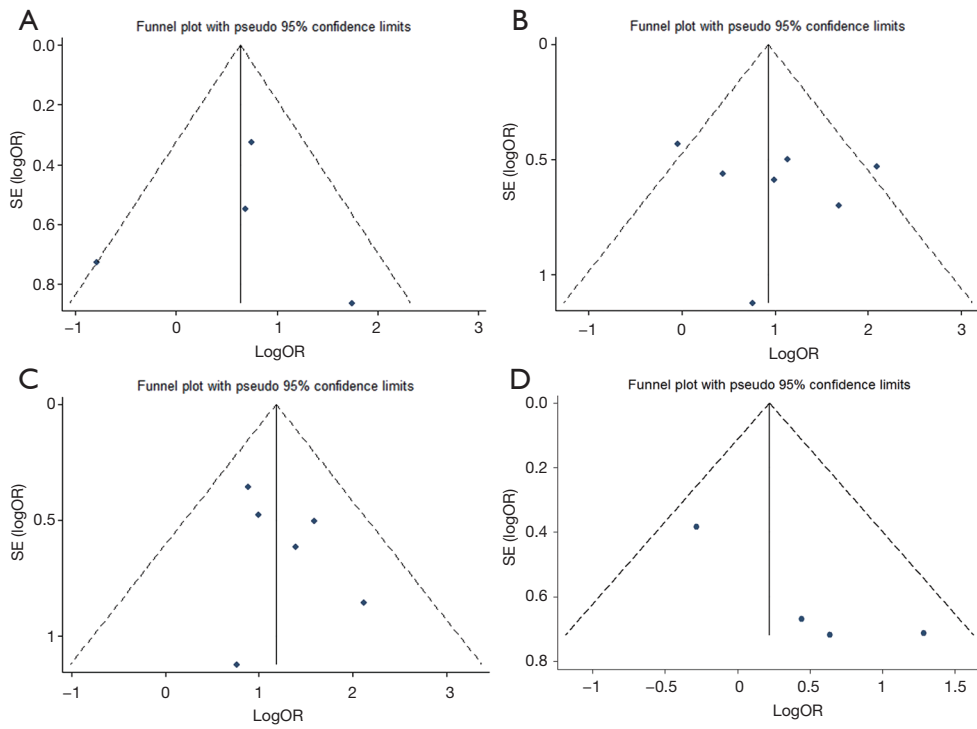


Figure S1 Funnel plot for publication bias tests in high T stage (A), lymph node metastasis (B), high TNM stage (C), and poor histological grades (D). SE, standard error; OR, odds ratio.

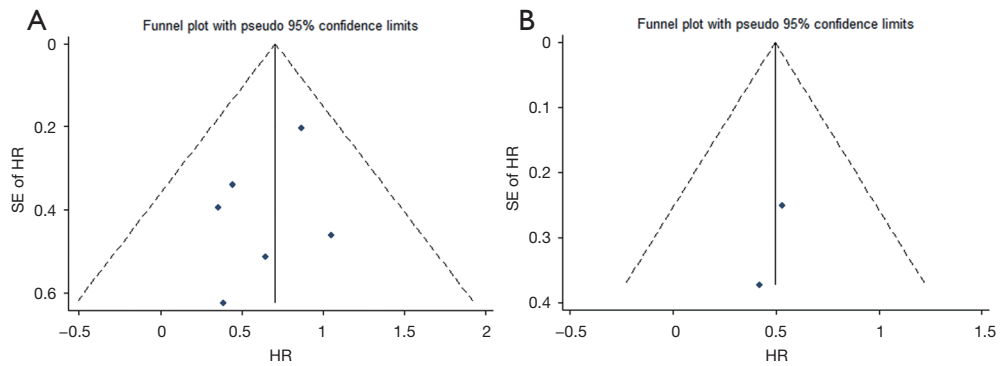


Figure S2 Funnel plot for publication bias tests in OS (A) and DFS (B). DFS, disease-free survival; HR, hazard ratio; OS, overall survival; SE, standard error.