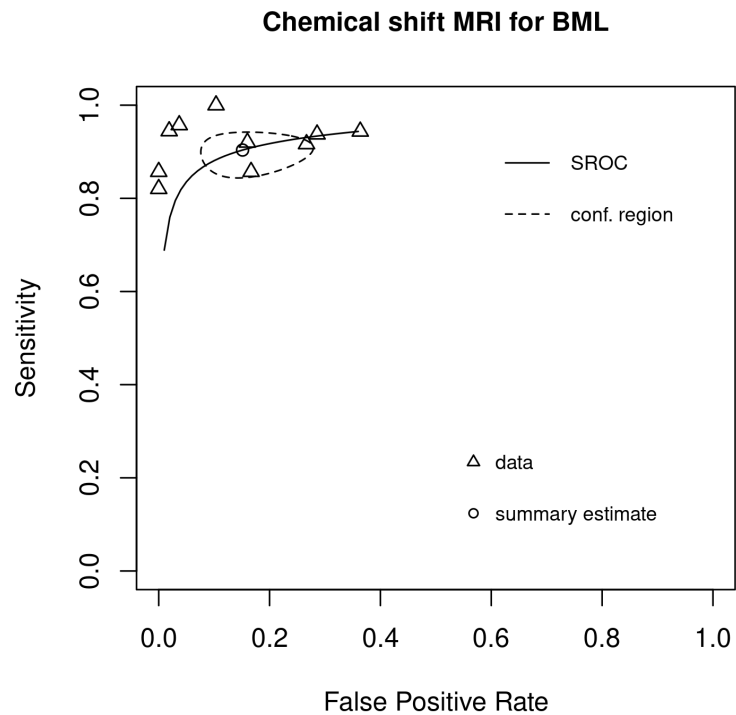**Forest plots for review question: How effective are radiological imaging techniques in the diagnosis of spinal metastases, direct malignant infiltration of the spine or associated spinal cord compression?**

This section includes forest plots only for outcomes that are meta-analysed. Outcomes from single studies are not presented here; the quality assessment for such outcomes is provided in the GRADE profiles in appendix F.

Figure 2: Chemical shift MRI for differential diagnosis of malignant and non-malignant vertebral bone marrow lesions

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BML: bone marrow lesions; SROC: summary receiver operating characteristic curve

Figure 3: Chemical shift MRI for differential diagnosis of malignant and non-malignant vertebral compression fractures
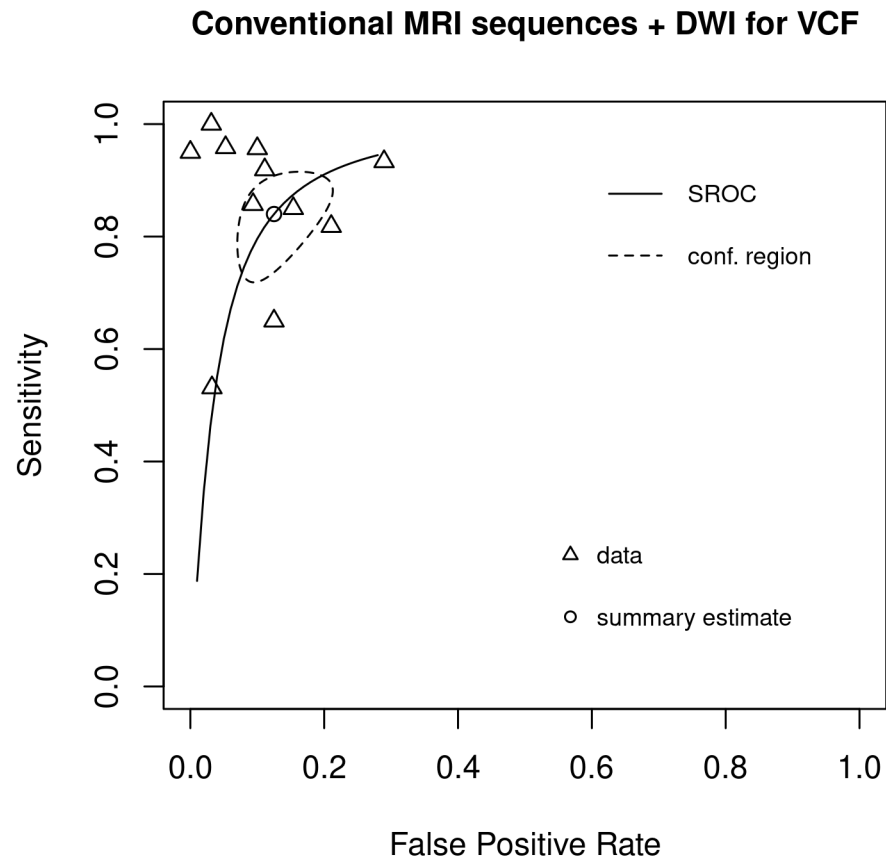

Chemical shift MRI for VCF
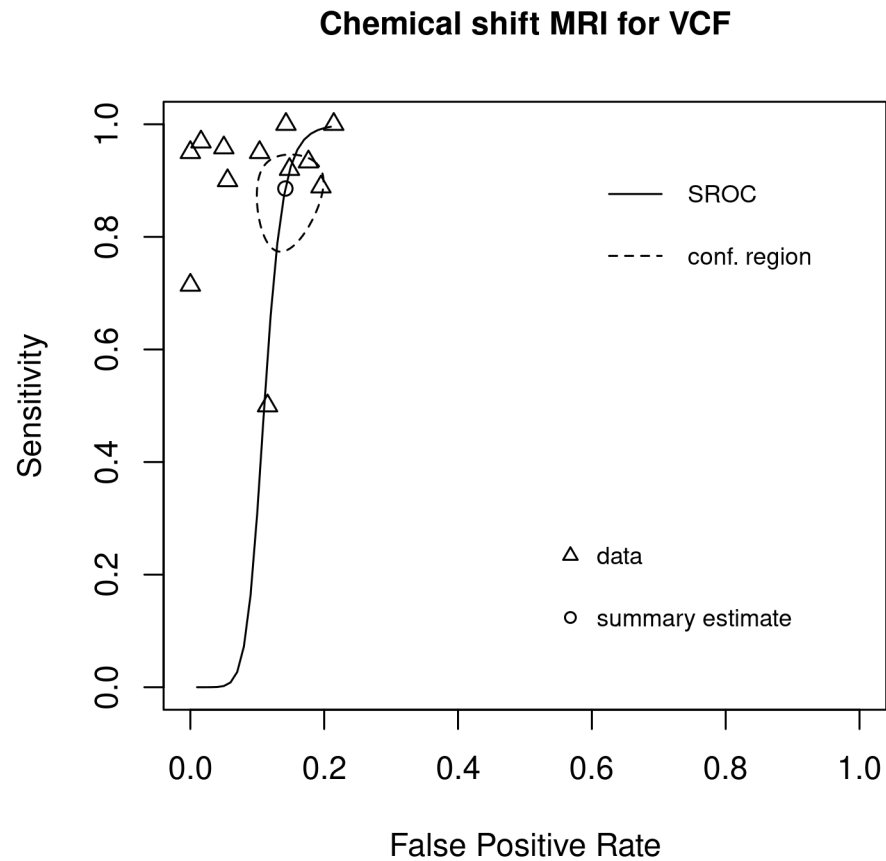
SROC: summary receiver operating characteristic curve; VCF: vertebral compression fractures

Figure 4: Conventional MRI sequences plus contrast enhanced MRI for differential diagnosis of malignant and non-malignant vertebral compression fractures

Conventional MRI sequences + CE for VCF
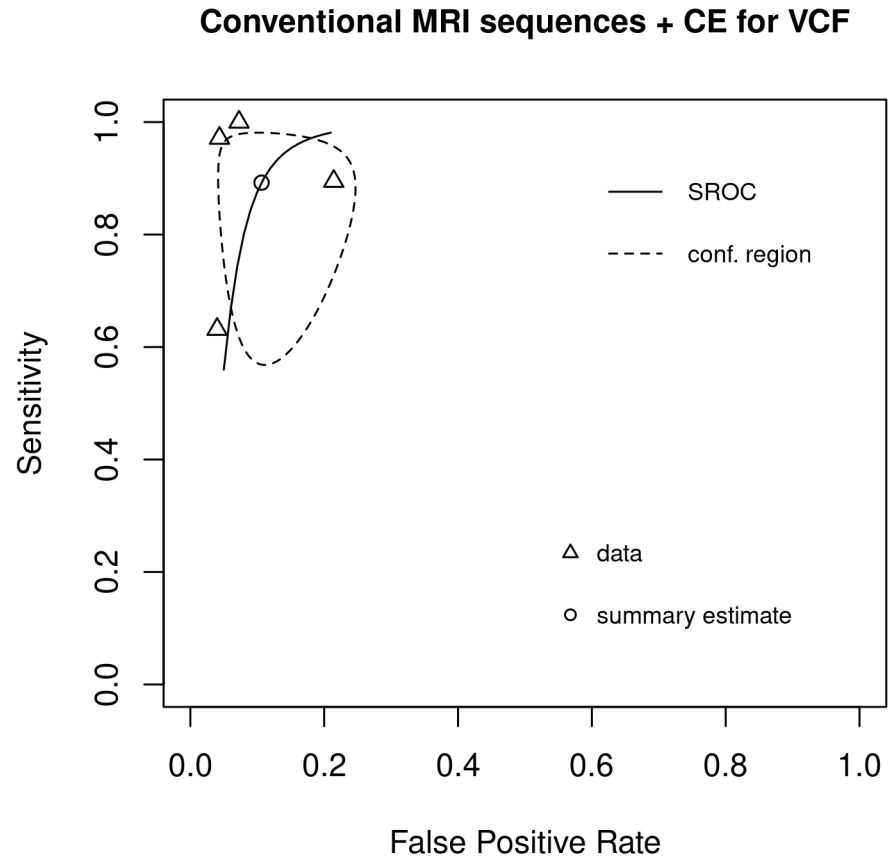
CE: contrast enhanced; SROC: summary receiver operating characteristic curve; VCF: vertebral compression fractures

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Figure 5: Conventional MRI sequences plus diffusion weighted imaging for differential diagnosis of malignant and non-malignant vertebral compression fractures
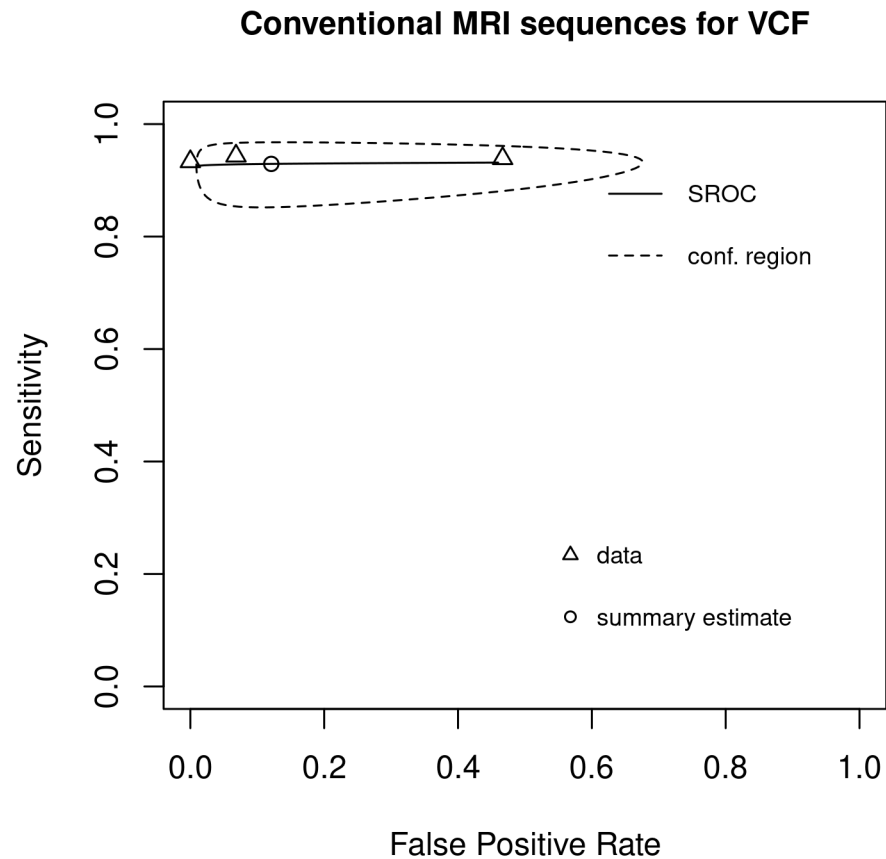
Conventional MRI sequences + DWI for VCF

DWI: diffusion weighted imaging; SROC: summary receiver operating characteristic curve; VCF: vertebral compression fractures

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Figure 6: Conventional MRI sequences for differential diagnosis of malignant and non-malignant vertebral compression fractures

Conventional MRI sequences for VCF

SROC: summary receiver operating characteristic curve; VCF: vertebral compression fractures

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