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Antiplatelet agents for preventing pre-eclampsia and its complications (Review)

Duley L, Meher S, Hunter KE, Seidler AL, Askie LM

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[Intervention Review]

Antiplatelet agents for preventing pre-eclampsia and its complications

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ABSTRACT

Background

Pre-eclampsia is associated with deficient intravascular production of prostacyclin, a vasodilator, and excessive production of thromboxane, a vasoconstrictor and stimulant of platelet aggregation. These observations led to the hypotheses that antiplatelet agents, low-dose aspirin in particular, might prevent or delay development of pre-eclampsia.

Objectives

To assess the effectiveness and safety of antiplatelet agents, such as aspirin and dipyridamole, when given to women at risk of developing pre-eclampsia.

Search methods

For this update, we searched Cochrane Pregnancy and Childbirth's Trials Register, [ClinicalTrials.gov](https://www.clinicaltrials.gov), the WHO International Clinical Trials Registry Platform (ICTRP) (30 March 2018), and reference lists of retrieved studies. We updated the search in September 2019 and added the results to the awaiting classification section of the review.

Selection criteria

All randomised trials comparing antiplatelet agents with either placebo or no antiplatelet agent were included. Studies only published in abstract format were eligible for inclusion if sufficient information was available. We would have included cluster-randomised trials in the analyses along with individually-randomised trials, if any had been identified in our search strategy. Quasi-random studies were excluded. Participants were pregnant women at risk of developing pre-eclampsia. Interventions were administration of an antiplatelet agent (such as low-dose aspirin or dipyridamole), comparisons were either placebo or no antiplatelet.

Data collection and analysis

Two review authors assessed trials for inclusion and extracted data independently. For binary outcomes, we calculated risk ratio (RR) and its 95% confidence interval (CI), on an intention-to-treat basis. For this update we incorporated individual participant data (IPD) from trials with this available, alongside aggregate data (AD) from trials where it was not, in order to enable reliable subgroup analyses and inclusion of two key new outcomes. We assessed risk of bias for included studies and created a 'Summary of findings' table using GRADE.

Main results

Seventy-seven trials (40,249 women, and their babies) were included, although three trials (relating to 233 women) did not contribute data to the meta-analysis. Nine of the trials contributing data were large (> 1000 women recruited), accounting for 80% of women recruited. Although the trials took place in a wide range of countries, all of the nine large trials involved only women in high-income and/or upper middle-income countries. IPD were available for 36 trials (34,514 women), including all but one of the large trials. Low-dose aspirin alone

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was the intervention in all the large trials, and most trials overall. Dose in the large trials was 50 mg (1 trial, 1106 women), 60 mg (5 trials, 22,322 women), 75mg (1 trial, 3697 women) 100 mg (1 trial, 3294 women) and 150 mg (1 trial, 1776 women). Most studies were either low risk of bias or unclear risk of bias; and the large trials were all low risk of bias.

Antiplatelet agents versus placebo/no treatment

The use of antiplatelet agents reduced the risk of **proteinuric pre-eclampsia** by 18% (36,716 women, 60 trials, RR 0.82, 95% CI 0.77 to 0.88; high-quality evidence), number needed to treat for one woman to benefit (NNTB) 61 (95% CI 45 to 92). There was a small (9%) reduction in the RR for **preterm birth <37 weeks** (35,212 women, 47 trials; RR 0.91, 95% CI 0.87 to 0.95, high-quality evidence), NNTB 61 (95% CI 42 to 114), and a 14% reduction in **fetal deaths, neonatal deaths or death before hospital discharge** (35,391 babies, 52 trials; RR 0.85, 95% CI 0.76 to 0.95; high-quality evidence), NNTB 197 (95% CI 115 to 681). Antiplatelet agents slightly reduced the risk of **small-for-gestational age** babies (35,761 babies, 50 trials; RR 0.84, 95% CI 0.76 to 0.92; high-quality evidence), NNTB 146 (95% CI 90 to 386), and **pregnancies with serious adverse outcome** (a composite outcome including maternal death, baby death, pre-eclampsia, small-for-gestational age, and preterm birth) (RR 0.90, 95% CI 0.85 to 0.96; 17,382 women; 13 trials, high-quality evidence), NNTB 54 (95% CI 34 to 132). Antiplatelet agents probably slightly increase **postpartum haemorrhage > 500 mL** (23,769 women, 19 trials; RR 1.06, 95% CI 1.00 to 1.12; moderate-quality evidence due to clinical heterogeneity), and they probably marginally increase the risk of **placental abruption**, although for this outcome the evidence was downgraded due to a wide confidence interval including the possibility of no effect (30,775 women; 29 trials; RR 1.21, 95% CI 0.95 to 1.54; moderate-quality evidence).

Data from two large trials which assessed children at aged 18 months (including results from over 5000 children), did not identify clear differences in development between the two groups.

Authors' conclusions

Administering low-dose aspirin to pregnant women led to small-to-moderate benefits, including reductions in pre-eclampsia (16 fewer per 1000 women treated), preterm birth (16 fewer per 1000 treated), the baby being born small-for-gestational age (seven fewer per 1000 treated) and fetal or neonatal death (five fewer per 1000 treated). Overall, administering antiplatelet agents to 1000 women led to 20 fewer pregnancies with serious adverse outcomes. The quality of evidence for all these outcomes was high. Aspirin probably slightly increased the risk of postpartum haemorrhage of more than 500 mL, however, the quality of evidence for this outcome was downgraded to moderate, due to concerns of clinical heterogeneity in measurements of blood loss. Antiplatelet agents probably marginally increase placental abruption, but the quality of the evidence was downgraded to moderate due to low event numbers and thus wide 95% CI.

Overall, antiplatelet agents improved outcomes, and at these doses appear to be safe. Identifying women who are most likely to respond to low-dose aspirin would improve targeting of treatment. As almost all the women in this review were recruited to the trials after 12 weeks' gestation, it is unclear whether starting treatment before 12 weeks' would have additional benefits without any increase in adverse effects. While there was some indication that higher doses of aspirin would be more effective, further studies would be warranted to examine this.

PLAIN LANGUAGE SUMMARY

Antiplatelet agents for preventing pre-eclampsia and its complications

We set out to assess the ability of antiplatelet agents, such as aspirin and dipyridamole, to prevent women from developing pre-eclampsia during pregnancy and to improve health outcomes for them and their babies. We also wanted to find out whether these medicines had any undesirable effects for the mother or baby.

What is the question?

Do low doses of aspirin help to prevent pre-eclampsia, and reduce the number of preterm births before 37 weeks, small-for-gestational-age babies, infant deaths and other unwanted effects?

Why is this important?

Pre-eclampsia is a condition experienced by some women during pregnancy and is evident as high blood pressure and protein in the urine. This condition can lead to serious complications for the mother and her baby (in fact, it is one of the leading causes of illness and death in pregnancy). The mother's placenta may not be functioning properly, which limits the blood supply to the unborn baby so that it is at risk of poor growth and being born early as a result of preterm labour, or needing to be delivered early. Pre-eclampsia affects the platelets in the women's blood so that they are more ready to clump and cause the blood to clot. Antiplatelet drugs like aspirin prevent blood clotting and have a role in preventing pre-eclampsia and its complications.

What evidence did we find?

We searched for randomised controlled trials in March 2018. Our review includes 77 trials, involving 40,249 women and their babies, although it wasn't possible to include results from three of these trials (233 women). We included information about the results for women and babies in two different formats: 36 trials (34,514 women) reported 'individual participant data' (IPD), where we received information about each of the individuals involved; all the other trials reported 'aggregate data' (AD), where each study reports the average information

about the individuals involved in the study. By using IPD, we could conduct very thorough and accurate analyses; and by combining both the AD and the IPD, we could include all the available information on this question.

Nine of the trials included more than 1000 women, and all of these large trials were at low risk of bias. Low-dose aspirin alone was the intervention in all the large trials, and most trials overall. Almost all the women were recruited to the trials after 12 weeks' gestation. Most women were at risk of developing pre-eclampsia, and the trials included women with normal blood pressure, existing long-term high blood pressure or pregnancy-induced high blood pressure. High-quality evidence showed that the use of antiplatelet agents reduced the risk of pre-eclampsia by 18%, or less than one sixth (36,716 women, 60 trials). This meant that 61 women had to be treated with an antiplatelet drug for one woman to benefit by avoiding pre-eclampsia. The risk of preterm birth was reduced by 9% (35,212 women, 47 trials) and the number of infant deaths before or around the time of birth was reduced by 15% (35,391 women, 52 trials). Antiplatelet agents reduced the risk of small-for-gestational-age babies (35,761 mothers, 50 trials) and pregnancies with serious adverse outcomes (17,382 mothers; 13 trials). Moderate-quality evidence showed that only slightly more women lost more than 500 mL of blood immediately after birth, termed postpartum haemorrhage (23,769 mothers, 19 trials), indicating that aspirin is safe. Doses of aspirin less than 75 mg appear to be safe. Higher doses might be better, but we do not know whether they increase adverse effects.

What does this mean?

Low doses of aspirin slightly reduce the risk of pre-eclampsia and its complications. As most women in this review were in trials evaluating low-dose aspirin, the reassurance about the safety of aspirin may not apply to higher doses or other antiplatelet agents. Further research should aim to identify women who are most likely to respond to low-dose aspirin treatment. While it is possible that higher doses of aspirin may be more effective, further studies are needed to determine whether higher doses are both more effective and safe for women and babies.

SUMMARY OF FINDINGS

Summary of findings for the main comparison.

Antiplatelet agents compared with no antiplatelet agents/placebo for pre-eclampsia prevention

Patient or population: pregnant women *considered to be at risk of developing pre-eclampsia*

Settings: maternity hospitals, recruitment usually in ante natal clinics

Intervention: *any antiplatelet agent (such as low-dose aspirin or dipyridamole)*

Comparison: *no treatment with antiplatelet agents/placebo*

Outcomes	Illustrative comparative risks* (95% CI)		Relative effect (95% CI)	No of Participants (studies)	Quality of the evidence (GRADE)	Comments
	Assumed risk	Corresponding risk				
	Placebo/no antiplatelet	Antiplatelet agents				
Proteinuric pre-eclampsia	92 per 1000	16 fewer per 1000 (22 fewer to 11 fewer)	RR 0.82 (0.77 to 0.88)	36,716 (60 trials)	⊕⊕⊕⊕ high	
Any reported infant death (fetal, neonatal, or before hospital discharge)	33 per 1000	5 fewer per 1000 (9 fewer to 1 fewer)	RR 0.85 (0.76 to 0.95)	35,391 (52 trials)	⊕⊕⊕⊕ high	
Preterm birth (before 37 weeks' gestation)	175 per 1000	16 fewer per 1000 (23 fewer to 9 fewer)	RR 0.91 (0.87 to 0.95)	35,212 (47 trials)	⊕⊕⊕⊕ high	
Small-for-gestational age	47 per 1000	7 fewer per 1000 (11 fewer to 3 fewer)	RR 0.84 (0.76 to 0.92)	35,761 (50 trials)	⊕⊕⊕⊕ high	
Pregnancy with serious adverse outcome (composite including maternal death, baby death, pre-eclampsia, small-for-gestational age, preterm birth) - only trials with individual participant data	197 per 1000	20 fewer per 1000 (30 fewer to 8 fewer)	RR 0.90 (0.85 to 0.96)	17,382 (13 trials)	⊕⊕⊕⊕ high	
Postpartum haemorrhage > 500 mL	143 per 1000	9 more per 1000	RR 1.06	23,769	⊕⊕⊕○ moderate^a	

		(0 fewer to 19 more)	(1.00 to 1.12)	(19 trials)	
Placental abruption	7 per 1000	2 more per 1000	RR 1.21	30,775	⊕⊕⊕○ moderate^b
		(0 fewer to 4 more)	(0.95 to 1.54)	(29 trials)	

*The basis for the **assumed risk** (e.g. the median control group risk across studies) is provided in footnotes. The **corresponding risk** (and its 95% confidence interval) is based on the assumed risk in the comparison group and the **relative effect** of the intervention (and its 95% CI).

CI: Confidence interval; **RR:** Risk Ratio

GRADE Working Group grades of evidence

High quality: Further research is very unlikely to change our confidence in the estimate of effect.

Moderate quality: Further research is likely to have an important impact on our confidence in the estimate of effect and may change the estimate.

Low quality: Further research is very likely to have an important impact on our confidence in the estimate of effect and is likely to change the estimate.

Very low quality: We are very uncertain about the estimate.

a. Although this effect estimate did not meet our threshold for statistical heterogeneity (threshold $i^2 = 40\%$), we downgraded due to concerns about clinical heterogeneity between trials in methods for measurement of blood loss (-1).

b. Wide confidence interval including appreciable harm for antiplatelet agents and crossing line of no effect (-1).

BACKGROUND

Description of the condition

Pre-eclampsia is defined as high blood pressure (hypertension) associated with proteinuria (protein in the urine) (Gifford 2000). It occurs in the second half of pregnancy and complicates between 2% to 8% of pregnancies (Ananth 2013; Auger 2016; Thornton 2013; WHO 1988). Pre-eclampsia can also affect other maternal organs, leading to problems in liver, kidneys and brain, and to abnormalities of the clotting system (Mol 2016). As the placenta is also involved, there are increased risks for the baby (Mol 2016). The most common are poor growth due to inadequate blood supply through the damaged placenta, and the problems of prematurity (related either to the spontaneous onset of preterm labour or to early delivery to protect the mother or the fetus) (Saigal 2008). Pre-eclampsia is discussed in more detail in the generic protocol of interventions for preventing pre-eclampsia (Meher 2005).

High blood pressure is common during pregnancy, and around 10% of women will have their blood pressure recorded as above normal at some point before delivery (NICE 2010). For women who develop raised blood pressure but have no proteinuria or any other complication, pregnancy outcome is similar to that for women who have normal blood pressure. Raised blood pressure alone occurring for the first time during pregnancy is known as gestational hypertension, or pregnancy-induced hypertension (Tranquilli 2014). One of the difficulties in caring for women with gestational hypertension is that it is so common, and there is no reliable way of predicting who will progress to more severe disease. Therefore, very large numbers of these women are admitted to hospital or to day-care units for assessment, or receive antenatal care designed for high-risk women. Women with gestational hypertension or mild pre-eclampsia usually feel well. It is only when blood pressure is very high (greater than 160 mmHg systolic or greater than 110 mmHg diastolic) or they develop symptoms of severe pre-eclampsia, such as headache, epigastric pain or visual disturbances, that they may feel unwell.

Although the outcome following pre-eclampsia or eclampsia (the rare occurrence of seizures superimposed on pre-eclampsia) is good for most women, particularly in high-income settings, these conditions remain major causes of maternal mortality (Say 2014). A quarter of a million women die each year of pregnancy-related causes, and 99% of these deaths occur in low- and middle-income countries (Mahler 1987; Rosenfield 1985; WHO 2014). An estimated 9% to 26% of the maternal deaths in low- and middle-income countries are associated with hypertensive disorders of pregnancy (Duley 1992a; WHO 2006), as are 18% of the direct obstetric deaths in the UK (CMACE UK 2011). Perinatal mortality is also increased (Ananth 1995; Dept of Health 1996). There is little good quality information about morbidity for either mother or baby, but it is likely that this too is high.

Description of the intervention

Antiplatelet drugs act by decreasing platelet aggregation and inhibiting thrombus formation. The most common antiplatelet agent is aspirin, which is also known as acetylsalicylic acid. It is widely available without prescription, usually as 300 mg tablets, and used as an anti-inflammatory drug for minor aches and pains, and to reduce fever. Aspirin has its antiplatelet effect by inhibiting the production of thromboxane, which under normal

circumstances binds platelet molecules together to create a patch over damage to the wall of blood vessels (ACOG 2018). Low-dose aspirin (usually 75 mg) is used for long-term therapy to help prevent heart attacks, strokes and blood clots (thrombosis) in people at high risk. It is also used after heart attacks, to prevent another happening.

Aspirin does have side effects. When taken at higher doses and for prolonged periods (in doses up to 300 mg, for more than five years), it can lead to gastrointestinal and cerebral bleeding (De Berardis 2012). However, as aspirin for prevention of pre-eclampsia is prescribed at the lower end of this range of doses, and for limited duration, these more serious problems are unlikely.

How the intervention might work

Pre-eclampsia is a complex condition, and the initial cause is faulty implantation of the placenta early in pregnancy (Uzan 2011). The primary problem is thought to be deficient trophoblast invasion of the spiral arteries in the uterus during the second trimester, leading to underperfusion of the circulation between uterus and placenta, with consequent reduction in blood flow through the placenta (placental ischaemia) (Redman 1991; Uzan 2011). The resulting placental damage is thought to lead to release of factors into the maternal circulation, which are responsible for the maternal syndrome (Roberts 2009). Activation of platelets and the clotting system may occur early in the course of the disease, before clinical symptoms develop (Janes 1995; Redman 1978). Deficient intravascular production of prostacyclin, a vasodilator, with excessive production of thromboxane, a platelet-derived vasoconstrictor and stimulant of platelet aggregation (Bussolino 1980) have also been demonstrated to occur in pre-eclampsia.

These observations led to the hypotheses that antiplatelet agents, and low-dose aspirin in particular, might prevent or delay the development of pre-eclampsia and that, for women who already have the disorder, the risk of adverse events might be reduced (Dekker 1993). A further hypothesis is that the effect of antiplatelets may be different if treatment is started before placental implantation is complete (CLASP 1994). If this hypothesis were correct, the greatest benefit should be seen in women who started treatment before 16 weeks' gestation, with the effect attenuating with later onset of treatment (Askie 2007; Bujold 2010; PARIS 2005). Similarly, it remains unclear as to the most appropriate dose of antiplatelet therapy for the prevention of pre-eclampsia in order to maximise benefits whilst minimising harms (Uzan 1998). Many of the large trials have evaluated 60 mg or 75 mg, whilst some trials have used the higher dose of 100 mg or 150 mg. It has been suggested that low doses of aspirin (< 75 mg) may selectively inhibit the cyclo-oxygenase pathway in platelet production but not in vessel wall endothelium, thereby diminishing the synthesis of thromboxane but not of prostacyclin. A higher dose may inhibit both thromboxane and prostacyclin, thereby neutralising the effect of the intervention (Masotti 1979). However, there is also limited evidence from randomised trials that a higher dose of aspirin (75 mg or higher) may effect a greater reduction in the risk of pre-eclampsia (Duley 2007).

Why it is important to do this review

The hypothesis that antiplatelet drugs, low-dose aspirin in particular, might prevent pre-eclampsia and its complications was first tested in several small randomised trials which reported

striking benefits in terms of reducing the risk of hypertension and proteinuria (Dekker 1993). The trials were too small to provide reliable information about other more substantive outcomes, such as perinatal mortality, although there were anecdotal reports of women exposed to aspirin which suggested promising benefits. In addition, there was no information about the potential hazards of this therapy, such as a possible increased risk of bleeding for both the woman and her baby, and possible adverse effects on infant and child development. The promising results of these early trials of low-dose aspirin led to several large trials being conducted in various parts of the world. Before these results became available, however, the use of low-dose aspirin had already become relatively widespread for women considered to be at increased risk of pre-eclampsia. When the large trials were published, they led to widespread disappointment that low-dose aspirin was not effective for prevention of pre-eclampsia (Barth 1998; Beilin 1994; Darling 1998). It was only when all trials were combined in a systematic review that it became clear that there were indeed modest reductions in the risk of pre-eclampsia and some of its consequences associated with the use of antiplatelet agents (Duley 2001; Knight 2000a). None of the large trials had been powered to detect such modest effects, and so the differences only achieved statistical significance when combined within the meta-analysis.

Over 35,000 pregnant women have been entered into randomised trials evaluating low-dose aspirin. In the past, several systematic reviews have attempted to summarise these results (Collins 1995; Duley 2001; Imperiale 1991; Leitich 1997; Rey 1996; Sanchez-Ramos 1994; Sharts-Engel 1992), although none of these remain up to date. The previous update of this review concluded antiplatelet agents, largely low-dose aspirin, have moderate benefits when used for prevention of pre-eclampsia and its consequences; and that further information is required to assess which women are most likely to benefit, when treatment is best started, and at what dose (Duley 2007).

Recent systematic reviews published elsewhere have focused on specific subgroups of women, for example based either on risk factors for development of pre-eclampsia (Coomarasamy 2001; Coomarasamy 2003; Rossi 2011; Ruano 2005; Trivedi 2011) or gestation at randomisation when antiplatelet therapy is started (Bujold 2010; Roberge 2013). Nevertheless, there is reasonable agreement that low-dose aspirin appears to be safe, at least in the short term, and that it reduces the risk of pre-eclampsia for a broad range of women. However, as the risk of pre-eclampsia reduces the number of women who need to be treated to prevent one case of pre-eclampsia grows. So whilst the public health benefits may be clear, it is less certain whether there is worthwhile benefit for individual women at low-to-moderate risk of developing pre-eclampsia (Askie 2007; Roberts 2007). Several issues remain controversial. These include whether dose, type of preparation, or starting treatment early in pregnancy are factors that substantially influence effectiveness. Also, there is concern about potential for publication bias, due to enthusiasm for the use of low-dose aspirin, which may have led to speedy publication of small positive trials in high-profile journals, with small negative trials taking far longer to appear, and then doing so only in more obscure publications (Broughton Pipkin 1996; Knight 2000a).

Since the last update of this Cochrane Review, the PARIS individual participant data (IPD) meta-analysis of trials evaluating antiplatelet drugs for prevention of pre-eclampsia and its complications has

been published (Askie 2007). Overall, 63 trials were identified as potentially eligible (with 38,026 women). Data were obtained from 36 studies (34,288 women, 90% of randomised women). Of these, 31 trials recruited women for primary prevention of pre-eclampsia (32,217 women and 32,819 babies). IPD from these 31 studies have been incorporated into this update. The methods used for the PARIS review (PARIS 2005) have been added to the methods for this updated Cochrane Review.

A wide variety of other interventions have been suggested for possible prevention of pre-eclampsia. Other Cochrane Reviews cover calcium supplementation (Hofmeyr 2018), magnesium supplementation (Makrides 2014), protein intake and nutritional advice (Ota 2015), salt intake (Duley 1999b), omega-3 fatty acid additions (Middleton 2018) and antioxidants (Rumbold 2008). Although some of these interventions are promising, to date only aspirin and calcium have been shown to have clinically worthwhile benefits in prevention of pre-eclampsia and its complications (Meads 2008).

The aims of this review are (i) to identify as many of both the published and unpublished antiplatelet trials as possible and (ii) to estimate the benefits and hazards of antiplatelet agents when used for the prevention of pre-eclampsia.

OBJECTIVES

To assess the effectiveness and safety of antiplatelet agents, such as aspirin and dipyridamole, when given to women at risk of developing pre-eclampsia.

METHODS

Criteria for considering studies for this review

Types of studies

All randomised trials comparing antiplatelet agents with either placebo or no antiplatelet agent during pregnancy. Studies only published in abstract format were eligible for inclusion if sufficient information was available. Cluster-randomised controlled trials were eligible (but none were identified). Quasi-random studies were excluded.

Types of participants

Pregnant women considered to be at risk of developing pre-eclampsia. This included women with normal blood pressure and those with chronic hypertension, as well as women with pregnancy-induced or gestational hypertension.

For studies where IPD were available, individual women were classified into risk categories based on the criteria in the PARIS protocol (Askie 2007). They were classified as low risk if they had any one of the following risk factors: primiparity, family history of pre-eclampsia, age greater than 40 years, or multiple pregnancy. Women were classified as moderate risk if they had any two of the previous risk factors. Women were classified as high risk if they had any one of the following risk factors: diabetes, chronic hypertension, renal disease, autoimmune disease, gestational hypertension, positive uterine artery Doppler, previous pre-eclampsia or previous fetal/neonatal death associated with pre-eclampsia. Women with no identifiable risk factor in the available IPD were grouped with the low-risk women. Hence for studies

where IPD were available, data from one trial could appear in more than one 'maternal risk' category and in more than one 'gestational age at randomisation' category, as individual women within each trial could be classified into different risk and gestational age subgroups.

For studies where aggregate data (AD) only were available, inclusion criteria were used to group women into low, moderate, high or unclassified risk according to the same criteria outlined above, so that categorisation was consistent with IPD analyses. Women in a particular trial could be placed in one category only (unless appropriate subgroup data were available from the trial publication), as IPD were not available.

Types of interventions

Comparisons of any antiplatelet agent (such as low-dose aspirin or dipyridamole) with either placebo or no antiplatelet agent. This was regardless of dose and duration of therapy or mode of administration, and irrespective of whether in combination with another agent.

Types of outcome measures

For trials with IPD, outcomes were defined using the [PARIS 2005](#) definitions. For trials with only AD available, the trialists' own outcome definitions were used.

Primary outcomes

For the women

- Pre-eclampsia (as reported by the trialist)

For the children

- Death (fetal, neonatal, or before hospital discharge)
- Preterm birth (all birth before 37 weeks)
- Small-for-gestational age (preferably using below the third centile of birthweight for gestational age, but otherwise the most extreme centile available)

Secondary outcomes

For the women

- Gestational hypertension (new hypertension with onset after 20 weeks' gestation)
- Death (secondary outcome as likely to be a rare event in the trials)
- Elective delivery (induction of labour or elective caesarean section)
- Caesarean section (emergency plus elective)

Bleeding episodes

- Abruptio of the placenta
- Antepartum haemorrhage
- Postpartum haemorrhage
- Complications of epidural anaesthesia
- Need for blood transfusion

Measures of serious maternal morbidity

- Eclampsia
- Liver failure

- Renal failure
- Disseminated intravascular coagulation

Rare adverse events

- Temporary blindness
- Major psychiatric disorders

For the children

- Bleeding episodes (such as intraventricular haemorrhage)
- Infant and child development (such as cerebral palsy, cognitive delay, deafness, and blindness, as defined by the trialist)

For the pregnancy (as defined in the PARIS protocol)

- Serious adverse outcome (pregnancy where the woman dies or develops pre-eclampsia, or the baby is preterm, small-for-gestational age, or dies before discharge from hospital)

Use of health service resources

For the woman

- Antenatal hospital admission
- Visits to day care units
- Use of intensive care
- Ventilation
- Dialysis

For the children

- Admission to special care/intensive care nursery
- Duration of mechanical ventilation
- Length of stay in hospital
- Development and special needs after discharge

Search methods for identification of studies

Electronic searches

For this update, we searched Cochrane Pregnancy and Childbirth's Trials Register by contacting their Information Specialist (30 March 2018). We carried out an updated search in September 2019 and added 27 new trial reports to [Studies awaiting classification](#).

The Register is a database containing over 25,000 reports of controlled trials in the field of pregnancy and childbirth. It represents over 30 years of searching. For full current search methods used to populate Pregnancy and Childbirth's Trials Register including the detailed search strategies for CENTRAL, MEDLINE, Embase and CINAHL; the list of handsearched journals and conference proceedings, and the list of journals reviewed via the current awareness service, please follow this [link](#)

Briefly, Cochrane Pregnancy and Childbirth's Trials Register is maintained by their Information Specialist and contains trials identified from:

- monthly searches of the Cochrane Central Register of Controlled Trials (CENTRAL);
- weekly searches of MEDLINE (Ovid);
- weekly searches of Embase (Ovid);
- monthly searches of CINAHL (EBSCO);

- handsearches of 30 journals and the proceedings of major conferences;
- weekly current awareness alerts for a further 44 journals plus monthly BioMed Central email alerts.

Search results are screened by two people and the full text of all relevant trial reports identified through the searching activities described above is reviewed. Based on the intervention described, each trial report is assigned a number that corresponds to a specific Pregnancy and Childbirth review topic (or topics), and is then added to the Register. The Information Specialist searches the Register for each review using this topic number rather than keywords. This results in a more specific search set that has been fully accounted for in the relevant review sections ([Included studies](#); [Excluded studies](#); [Studies awaiting classification](#); [Ongoing studies](#)).

In addition, we searched [ClinicalTrials.gov](#) and the WHO International Clinical Trials Registry Platform (ICTRP) for unpublished, planned and ongoing trial reports (30 March 2018) using the search methods detailed in [Appendix 1](#).

Searching other resources

We asked trialists in the PARIS Collaboratio if they knew of any further studies.

We searched the reference lists of retrieved studies.

We did not apply any language or date restrictions

Data collection and analysis

For the methods used when assessing the trials identified in the previous version of this review, see [Duley 2007](#).

For this update we used the following methods when assessing the reports identified by the updated search.

Selection of studies

At least two review authors independently assessed for inclusion each of the potential studies that we identified as a result of the search strategy. We resolved any disagreement through discussion or, if required, we consulted a third review author.

Data extraction and management

We designed a form to extract data. For eligible studies, at least two review authors extracted the data using the agreed form. We resolved discrepancies through discussion or, if required, we consulted a third review author. We entered data into Review Manager software ([RevMan 2014](#)) and checked for accuracy.

When information regarding any of the above was unclear, we attempted to contact authors of the original reports to provide further details.

For this update we combined aggregate data (AD) with individual participant data (IPD). Meta-analyses based on IPD allow more powerful and uniformly consistent analyses, whilst allowing better characterisation of subgroups and outcomes, compared to those based on AD ([Riley 2010](#); [Tudur Smith 2016](#)). We included both AD and IPD in this update in order to combine all available information. The use of IPD supported more detailed and accurate analyses. It enabled us to classify participants by specific characteristics,

supporting analyses subgrouped by maternal risk of developing pre-eclampsia, and also provided new data on key outcomes. Combining IPD with AD meant that it was possible to bring together all eligible trials even where IPD was unavailable.

IPD from trials within the PARIS Collaboration were collected according to the methods described in the [Askie 2007](#) paper as follows. Data to be collected were agreed after extensive consultation within the PARIS Collaborative Group. Anonymised data for each of the pre-specified variables were requested for each woman randomised. Data were supplied in a variety of formats, re-coded as necessary, and were checked for internal consistency, consistency with published reports, and for missing items. Information about the trials, e.g. randomisation method and antiplatelet dose, were cross-checked with published reports, trial protocols, and data collection sheets. Quality and integrity of the randomisation processes were assessed by reviewing the chronological randomisation sequence and pattern of assignment, as well as the balance of baseline characteristics across treatment groups (taking into account stratification factors). Inconsistencies or missing data were discussed with relevant trialists and corrected when necessary. Finalised data for each study were verified with the relevant trialists before being combined into the final PARIS dataset.

Where IPD were available from the PARIS dataset, these were extracted for use in the review, using the subgroup classifications and outcome definitions defined in this review.

Assessment of risk of bias in included studies

Two review authors independently assessed risk of bias for each study using the criteria outlined in the *Cochrane Handbook for Systematic Reviews of Interventions* ([Higgins 2011](#)). We resolved any disagreement by discussion or by involving a third assessor.

During the collection of IPD for the PARIS Collaboration, additional information was sought from the authors of the studies included in this Collaboration to further clarify the 'Risk of bias' assessments. Additional information gained during this process (that was not available from the published data alone) is referred to as the 'PARIS assessment' in the text and tables of this review.

(1) Random sequence generation (checking for possible selection bias)

We described for each included study the method used to generate the allocation sequence in sufficient detail to allow an assessment of whether it should produce comparable groups.

We assessed the method as:

- low risk of bias (any truly random process, e.g. random number table; computer random number generator);
- high risk of bias (any non-random process, e.g. odd or even date of birth; hospital or clinic record number);
- unclear risk of bias.

(2) Allocation concealment (checking for possible selection bias)

We described for each included study the method used to conceal allocation to interventions prior to assignment and assessed whether intervention allocation could have been foreseen in advance of, or during recruitment, or changed after assignment.

We assessed the methods as:

- low risk of bias (e.g. telephone or central randomisation; consecutively numbered sealed opaque envelopes);
- high risk of bias (open random allocation; unsealed or non-opaque envelopes, alternation; date of birth);
- unclear risk of bias.

(3) Blinding of participants, personnel and outcome assessment (checking for possible performance and detection bias)

We described for each included study the methods used, if any, to blind study participants, personnel and outcome assessors from knowledge of which intervention a participant received. We considered that studies were at low risk of bias if they were blinded, or if we judged that the lack of blinding would be unlikely to affect results. We assessed blinding separately for different outcomes or classes of outcomes.

We assessed the methods as low, high or unclear risk of bias.

(4) Incomplete outcome data (checking for possible attrition bias due to the amount, nature and handling of incomplete outcome data)

We described for each included study, and for each outcome or class of outcomes, the completeness of data including attrition and exclusions from the analysis. We stated whether attrition and exclusions were reported and the numbers included in the analysis at each stage (compared with the total randomised participants), reasons for attrition or exclusion where reported, and whether missing data were balanced across groups or were related to outcomes. Where sufficient information was reported, or could be supplied by the trial authors, we re-included missing data in the analyses which we undertook.

We assessed methods as:

- low risk of bias (e.g. no missing outcome data; missing outcome data balanced across groups);
- high risk of bias (e.g. numbers or reasons for missing data imbalanced across groups; 'as treated' analysis done with substantial departure of intervention received from that assigned at randomisation);
- unclear risk of bias.

(5) Selective reporting (checking for reporting bias)

We described for each included study how we investigated the possibility of selective outcome reporting bias and what we found.

We assessed the methods as:

- low risk of bias (where it is clear that all of the study's pre-specified outcomes and all expected outcomes of interest to the review have been reported);
- high risk of bias (where not all the study's pre-specified outcomes have been reported; one or more reported primary outcomes were not pre-specified; outcomes of interest are reported incompletely and so cannot be used; study fails to include results of a key outcome that would have been expected to have been reported);
- unclear risk of bias.

(6) Other bias (checking for bias due to problems not covered by (1) to (5) above)

We described for each included study any important concerns we had about other possible sources of bias.

We assessed whether each study was free of other problems that could put it at risk of bias:

- low risk of other bias;
- high risk of other bias;
- unclear whether there is risk of other bias.

(7) Overall risk of bias

We made explicit judgements about whether studies were at high risk of bias, according to the criteria given in the *Handbook* (Higgins 2011). With reference to (1) to (6) above, we assessed the likely magnitude and direction of the bias and whether we considered it was likely to impact on the findings. We explored the impact of the level of bias through undertaking sensitivity analyses - see [Sensitivity analysis](#).

Assessment of the quality of the evidence using the GRADE approach

For this update, we evaluated the quality of the evidence comparing antiplatelet agents with placebo/no antiplatelet for the outcomes proteinuric pre-eclampsia, fetal or neonatal death, preterm birth, small-for-gestational-age, pregnancy with serious adverse outcome, postpartum haemorrhage, and placental abruption using the GRADE approach as outlined in the [GRADE handbook](#). The GRADE approach uses five considerations (trial limitations, consistency of effect, imprecision, indirectness and publication bias) to assess the quality of the body of evidence for specific outcomes. The evidence can be downgraded from 'high quality' by one level for serious (or by two levels for very serious) limitations, depending on assessments for risk of bias, indirectness of evidence, inconsistency, imprecision of effect estimates or publication bias.

'Summary of findings' table

We used [GRADEpro](#) Guideline Development Tool to import data from Review Manager 5.3 ([RevMan 2014](#)) in order to create a 'Summary of findings' table for the maternal and child outcomes listed above that were evaluated with the GRADE approach. The 'Summary of findings' table presents summaries of the intervention effect and measures of quality according to the GRADE approach.

Measures of treatment effect

Dichotomous data

For dichotomous data, we presented results as summary risk ratio with 95% confidence intervals.

Continuous data

For continuous data, we used the mean difference as outcomes were measured in the same way between trials. We planned to use the standardised mean difference to combine trials that measured the same outcome, but used different methods.

Unit of analysis issues

Cluster-randomised trials

We would have included cluster-randomised trials in the analyses along with individually-randomised trials, if any had been identified in our search strategy. If we had found any we would have adjusted their sample sizes using the methods described in the *Handbook* [Section 16.3.4] using an estimate of the intracluster correlation co-efficient (ICC) derived from the trial (if possible), from a similar trial or from a study of a similar population. If we had used ICCs from other sources, we would have reported this and conducted sensitivity analyses to investigate the effect of variation in the ICC. If we had identified cluster-randomised trials and individually-randomised trials, we planned to synthesise the relevant information. We would have considered it reasonable to combine the results from both if there was little heterogeneity between the study designs and an interaction between the effect of intervention and the choice of randomisation unit was considered to be unlikely.

We would also have acknowledged heterogeneity in the randomisation unit and performed a subgroup analysis to investigate the effects of the randomisation unit.

Cross-over trials and other unit of analysis issues

As a cross-over design is not a valid study design for this review, we planned to exclude these studies. If we identified trials with more than two treatment groups, we planned to include them. For studies comparing two different antiplatelet regimens with placebo or no treatment, we planned to combine data for the two antiplatelet groups. For trials with three or more arms, we planned to combine data where possible, but split the arms by subgroup where necessary (e.g. trials administering different doses to different arms were split when analysing subgroups by dose). Each intervention arm was then compared to the full control group within its subgroup. This was the case for two trials with a total of 367 women ([EPREDA 1991](#); [S Africa 1988](#)).

The mother was the unit of analysis with an event being any baby having an event (e.g. any baby being small-for-gestational age) in case of multiple pregnancies.

Dealing with missing data

For included studies, we noted levels of attrition. Where more than 20% of participants were lost to follow-up, the study was excluded. For individual outcomes where more than 20% of data were missing, the trials were excluded from the meta-analysis for that particular outcome. We explored the impact of including studies with high levels of missing data in the overall assessment of treatment effect by using sensitivity analysis. We included data for long-term follow-up of women and children where losses to follow-up were greater than 20%, providing that substantive bias between the groups was unlikely. We documented completeness of follow-up for these studies alongside any results.

For all outcomes, we carried out analyses, as far as possible, on an intention-to-treat basis, i.e. we attempted to include all participants randomised to each group in the analyses, and all participants were analysed in the group to which they were allocated, regardless of whether or not they received the allocated intervention. The denominator for each outcome in each trial was

the number randomised minus any participants whose outcomes were known to be missing.

Assessment of heterogeneity

We assessed statistical heterogeneity in each meta-analysis using the T^2 , I^2 and Chi^2 statistics. We regarded heterogeneity as substantial if an I^2 was greater than 40% and either a T^2 was greater than zero or there was a low P value (less than 0.10) in the Chi^2 test for heterogeneity.

Assessment of reporting biases

For outcomes with 10 or more studies contributing events in the meta-analysis, we investigated reporting biases (such as publication bias) using funnel plots. We assessed funnel plot asymmetry visually. If asymmetry was suggested by a visual assessment, we performed exploratory analyses to investigate it, including exploration of any apparent differences between results from IPD and AD in the funnel plots.

Data synthesis

Data were synthesised using a two-stage approach which involved calculating treatment effect estimates for both the individual participant and aggregate data separately, and then combining these for an overall effect estimate when appropriate. Individual participant and aggregate data were further subgrouped according to maternal risk, gestational age at trial entry, aspirin dosage and use of placebo (see section below). When the definition of the outcomes varied too strongly across types of data (individual participant versus aggregate), they were analysed separately. For some outcomes, only IPD were available, while for others, only AD were available.

We carried out statistical analysis using the Review Manager software ([RevMan 2014](#)). We used fixed-effect meta-analysis for combining data where it was reasonable to assume that studies were estimating the same underlying treatment effect: i.e. where trials were examining the same intervention, and the trials' populations and methods were judged sufficiently similar.

In future updates, If there is clinical heterogeneity sufficient to expect that the underlying treatment effects differ between trials, or if substantial statistical heterogeneity is detected, we will use random-effects meta-analysis to produce an overall summary if an average treatment effect across trials is considered clinically meaningful. The random-effects summary will be treated as the average range of possible treatment effects and we will discuss the clinical implications of treatment effects differing between trials. If the average treatment effect is not clinically meaningful, we will not combine trials. If we use random-effects analyses, the results will be presented as the average treatment effect with 95% confidence intervals, and the estimates of T^2 and I^2 .

Subgroup analysis and investigation of heterogeneity

If we identified substantial heterogeneity, we planned to investigate it using subgroup analyses and sensitivity analyses. We considered whether an overall summary was meaningful, and if it was, used random-effects analysis to produce it.

We planned to carry out the following subgroup analyses:

- maternal risk of pre-eclampsia at trial entry (as defined under types of participant): low risk; moderate risk; or high risk;
- gestation at trial entry: before 20 weeks' gestation; at or after 20 weeks' gestation; unclear or unspecified;
- type of antiplatelet agent: low-dose aspirin alone; all other types of antiplatelet agent and low-dose aspirin combined with other antiplatelet agents;
- by dose of aspirin: less than 75 mg; greater than or equal to 75 mg; dose not known;
- by type of control group intervention: placebo; no placebo.

Subgroup analyses were restricted to the primary outcomes.

Since we had IPD and AD for most outcomes that were entered as separate subgroups, interaction tests available with RevMan (RevMan 2014) were not meaningful for the subgroups and were therefore not reported and interpreted. Instead, we visually inspected the forest plots to assess differences between subgroups. Furthermore, we conducted additional analyses for the most

relevant outcomes (proteinuric pre-eclampsia, fetal or neonatal death, preterm birth, small-for-gestational age), in which we combined IPD and AD to perform interaction tests available with RevMan (RevMan 2014) to test for maternal risk subgroup differences (Analysis 1.5; Analysis 1.6; Analysis 1.7; Analysis 1.8). Results of these subgroup analyses were reported quoting the Chi² statistic and P value, and the interaction test I² value.

Sensitivity analysis

We planned sensitivity analyses (restricted to the primary outcomes) excluding studies with high risk of bias in three or more 'Risk of bias' domains. Since this was not the case for any of the studies, no sensitivity analyses were performed.

RESULTS

Description of studies

Results of the search

See: [Figure 1](#).

Figure 1. Study flow diagram.

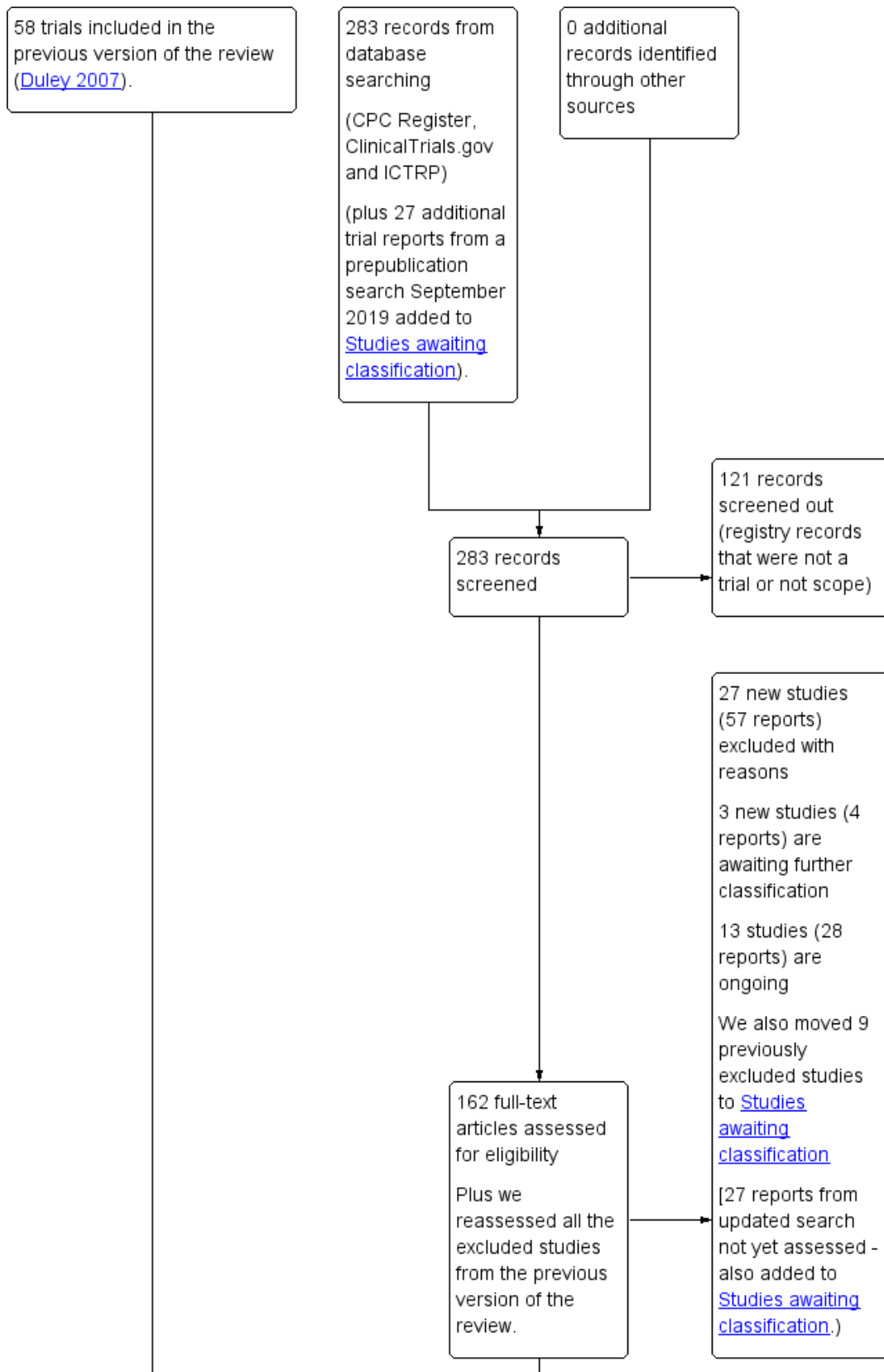
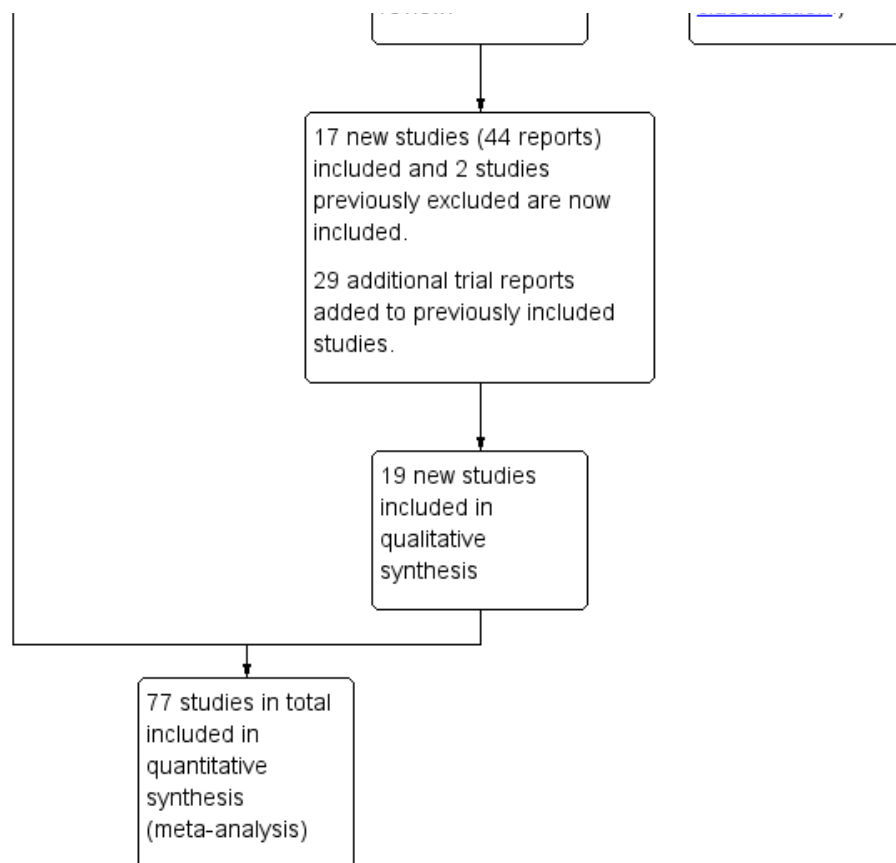


Figure 1. (Continued)



We assessed 160 new trial reports (146 from the new search and 16 that were awaiting classification in the previous version of the review (Duley 2007)). We also reassessed the previously excluded studies. We included two previously excluded studies (India 1991; Pergar 1987), and moved nine studies previously excluded to *Studies awaiting classification* as if further information became available they could potentially be included (Netherlands 1991; Netherlands/UK 1994; Slovenia 1992; Slovenia 1994; South Africa 1986; Switzerland 2000; Uganda 1992; USA 1988a; USA 1990).

Of the 160 reports, we included 17 new studies (42 reports) and excluded 27 studies (57 reports). A further 29 reports were additional publications for studies already included in the review. We added three new studies (four reports) to *Studies awaiting classification* and 13 studies (28 reports) are ongoing.

We carried out an updated search in September 2019 and added 27 new trial reports to *Studies awaiting classification* for consideration at the next update.

Included studies

There were 77 randomised trials involving 40,586 women included in this review.

For the PARIS IPD review, the search was last updated in December 2005. At that time 63 trials (with 38,026 women) were eligible

for inclusion (Askie 2007). Of these, we were unable to trace the investigators for seven trials, one trialist declined to participate, data were confirmed as lost or non-retrievable for 17 trials, and although available, were not supplied for two small trials. Ultimately, data were therefore available from 36 trials and 34,288 women (90% of randomised women at that time). Of these, 31 trials recruited women in a primary prevention setting (total 32,217 women and 32,819 babies).

Details for each trial are in the *Characteristics of included studies* table.

Methods

All included studies were randomised trials. Overall, methodological quality of these trials was good, with around half the trials having low risk of bias and relatively few having high risk of bias for any assessment (Figure 2). The nine large trials (over 1000 women) were all high quality (Figure 3). For sequence generation, all trials were low or unclear risk of bias (Figure 4). Similarly, for concealment of allocation almost all studies were either low or unclear risk of bias, with all the large trials low risk, and only two small trials (India 2017, Tanzania 1995) high risk. High risk of bias was most common for blinding (performance and detection bias), which was usually associated with the trials with no placebo.

Figure 2. 'Risk of bias' graph: review authors' judgements about each risk of bias item presented as percentages across all included studies.

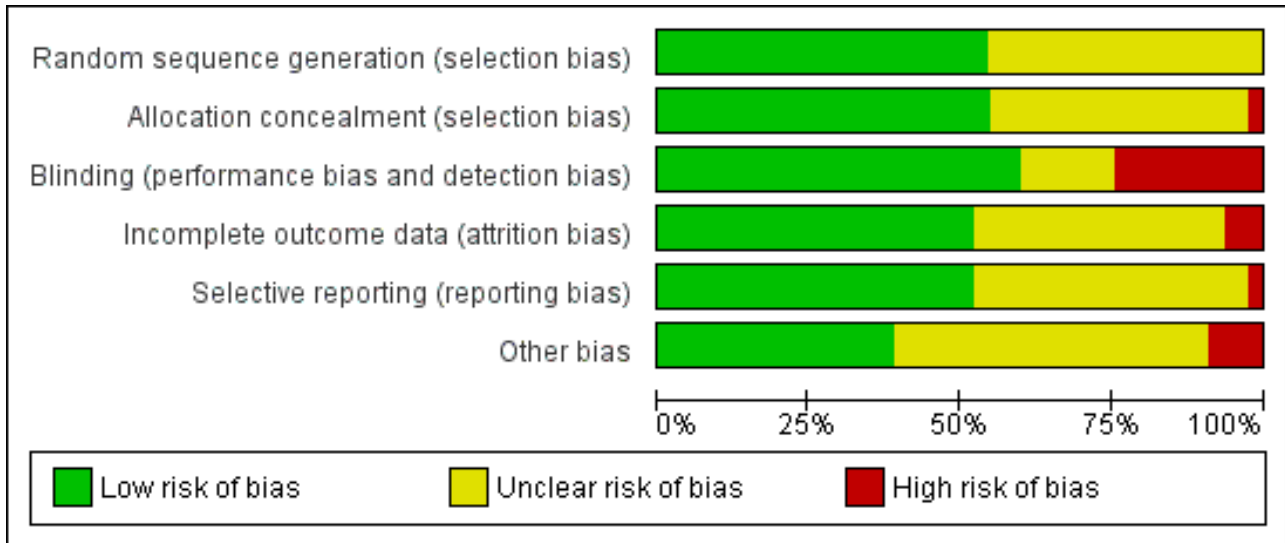


Figure 3. 'Risk of bias' graph for the nine large trials: review authors' judgements about each risk of bias item presented as percentages across all studies.

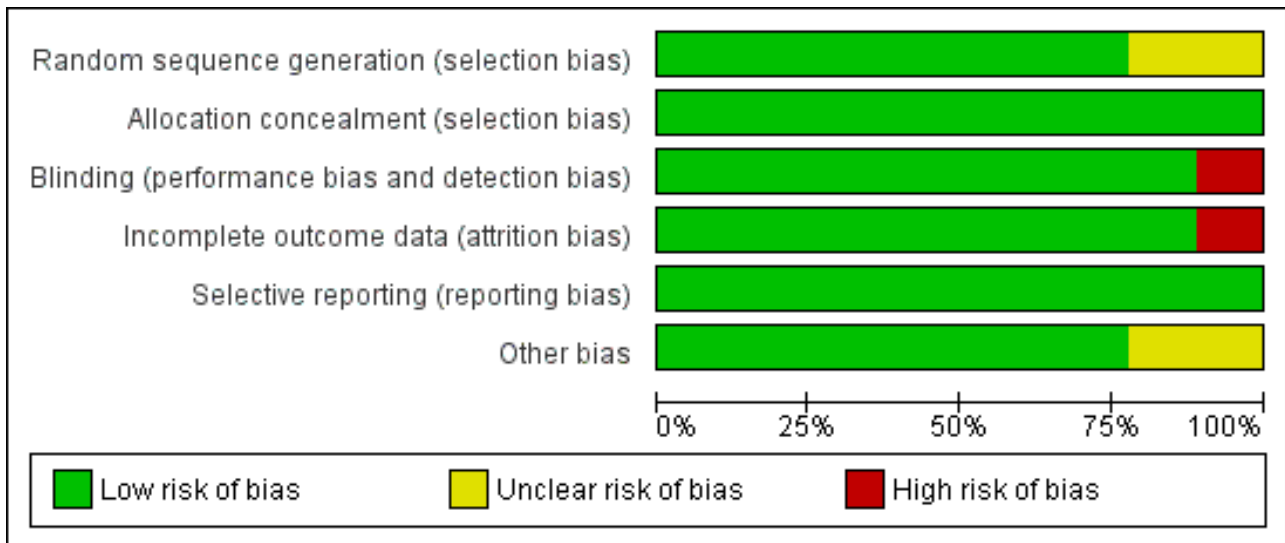


Figure 4. Risk of bias, summary: review authors' judgements about each risk of bias item for each included study.

	Random sequence generation (selection bias)	Allocation concealment (selection bias)	Blinding (performance bias and detection bias)	Incomplete outcome data (attrition bias)	Selective reporting (reporting bias)	Other bias
Algeria 2011	?	?	-	+	+	?
ASPRE 2017	+	+	+	+	+	+
Australia 1988	+	+	+	?	?	?
Australia 1993	+	+	?	?	?	+
Australia 1995	+	+	+	?	?	-
Australia 1995a	+	+	-	+	+	-
Australia 1996	+	+	+	?	-	?
Australia 1996a	+	+	+	+	?	?
Australia 1997	+	+	+	+	+	?
Austria 1992	+	+	+	?	+	?
Barbados 1998	+	+	+	+	+	+
Brazil 1992a	?	?	?	+	?	?
Brazil 1996	+	+	+	+	+	+
Brazil 2006	?	?	+	?	?	?
Canada 2017	?	?	+	?	?	?
China 1996	+	+	+	?	?	+
China 1996a	?	?	-	?	?	?
China 1999	+	+	+	+	+	+
CLASP 1994	+	+	+	+	+	+
Colorado 1993	?	?	+	?	?	-
Egypt 2005	+	+	-	+	+	+
EPREDA 1991	+	+	+	?	+	+

Figure 4. (Continued)

EPREDA 1991	+	+	+	?	+	+
ERASME 2003	+	+	+	+	+	+
Finland 1993	?	+	+	+	+	+
Finland 1997	+	+	-	?	+	?
Finland 1997a	?	?	+	?	?	?
Finland 2002	?	+	+	+	+	+
Finland 2013	+	+	+	?	-	+
France 1985	?	?	-	+	+	+
France 1990	?	?	-	?	?	+
Germany 1995	?	?	+	+	+	?
Germany 2000	+	+	+	?	+	?
India 1991	?	+	?	?	?	?
India 1993	?	?	-	?	?	?
India 1994	+	+	-	?	+	+
India 1999	?	?	?	+	?	?
India 2017	+	-	-	-	?	?
Iran 1992	?	?	+	+	+	?
Iran 2006	?	?	?	+	?	?
Iran 2010	?	?	-	?	?	?
Iran 2012	+	?	-	+	+	?
Iran 2014a	+	+	-	-	+	?
Israel 1989	+	?	+	?	+	-
Israel 1990	?	?	+	?	?	+
Israel 1994	?	?	+	+	+	-
Italy 1989	?	?	-	+	?	+
Italy 1993	?	+	-	-	+	+
Italy 1999	?	?	?	+	?	?
Italy 2004	+	+	-	+	?	-
Jamaica 1998	+	+	+	?	+	?
Japan 1999	?	?	?	?	?	?
Korea 1997	?	?	?	?	?	?

Figure 4. (Continued)

Korea 1997	?	?	?	?	?	?
Netherlands 1986	?	?	+	+	?	+
Netherlands 1989	?	?	+	+	+	?
Netherlands 1991 a	?	?	?	+	+	+
Netherlands 2009	+	+	+	-	?	?
Pergar 1987	?	?	+	?	?	?
Romania 2018	?	?	?	+	?	-
Russia 1993	+	+	-	+	+	+
S Africa 1988	+	?	?	+	+	+
Spain 1997	+	+	+	?	+	?
Spain 1999	?	?	?	?	?	?
Spain 2003	+	+	+	?	+	?
Spain 2017	+	+	+	-	?	+
Tanzania 1995	+	-	+	+	?	+
UK+others 2003	+	+	+	+	+	+
UK 1990	+	+	+	+	+	+
UK 1992	+	+	+	+	+	?
UK 1992b	?	?	-	?	?	?
UK 1995	+	+	+	+	+	+
USA 1993	+	+	+	+	+	?
USA 1993a	?	+	+	+	+	?
USA 1994	+	?	+	?	?	?
USA 1997	?	?	-	+	?	?
USA 1998	+	+	+	+	+	+
Venezuela 2000	?	+	+	?	?	?
Zimbabwe 1998	+	+	+	+	+	+

Sample size

Data were reported for less than 50 women in 19 trials, 50 to 99 women in 17 trials, for 100 to 999 women in 32 trials, and over 1000 women in nine trials. Sample size for the nine large trials (> 1000 women) ranged from 1009 (Brazil 1996) to 9364 women (CLASP 1994). The total sample size for these nine studies was 32,195 women, hence 79% of the women randomised to the trials included in this review were recruited to these nine studies (ASP

2017; Barbados 1998; Brazil 1996; CLASP 1994; ERASME 2003; Italy 1993; Jamaica 1998; USA 1993a; USA 1998).

Settings

These trials were largely conducted at maternity hospitals, or maternity units within hospitals. Recruitment was usually at antenatal clinics. Trials were conducted in 27 countries. While the majority (66 trials) were conducted in one country, there were five international trials that recruited in more than one country. Of

these, two were large trials including over 1000 women (ASPRE 2017, CLASP 1994). Most trials were conducted in high-resource settings, but some single-centre and multicentre trials recruited women in middle- and low-resource settings. There were nine large trials in total: six of these took place in high-income countries (ASPRE 2017; Barbados 1998; ERASME 2003; Italy 1993; USA 1993a; USA 1998); two took place in upper-middle income countries (Brazil 1996; Jamaica 1998), and one took place in centres in both high- and upper-middle income countries (CLASP 1994) (economies defined as per World Bank 2018).

The most common recruitment countries were Australia (eight trials), the USA (seven trials), the UK (seven trials), France (five trials), the Netherlands (five trials), Israel (five trials), Italy (five trials), India (five trials), Finland (five trials), Iran (five trials) and Spain (four trials).

Eight trials were published between 1985 and 1989, 48 between 1990 and 1999, 11 between 2000 and 2009, and 10 between 2010 and 2018.

Participants

There was a wide range in incidence of pre-eclampsia between women in different trials (2% to 60% in the placebo arm) and, in many studies, between low-risk and high-risk women in the same trial. Most trials were primary prevention studies, and so recruited women without gestational hypertension who were at risk of developing pre-eclampsia. Early small trials published in the 1980s and early 1990s recruited women at high risk of pre-eclampsia. The subsequent large trials primarily recruited women across the range of low, moderate or high risk of pre-eclampsia. IPD data were available for eight of these nine large studies, allowing individual women in each trial to be analysed in the appropriate risk category. In three large trials almost all the women were at low or moderate risk, with just one high-risk woman in USA 1993a, 176 (5% of 3,697) in Barbados 1998, and 246 (7% of 3294) in ERASME 2003. In Italy 1993 just over one quarter (324/1106, 29%) of women were high risk, and in Jamaica 1998 just under a half. Two thirds of women were high risk in Brazil 1996 (636/1009, 63%) and CLASP 1994 (6036/9364, 64%), as were three quarters of those in USA 1998 (1882/2539, 74%). For one recently published large trial, IPD data were not available (ASPRE 2017). This trial aimed to recruit women at high risk for preterm pre-eclampsia (which they defined as delivery with pre-eclampsia before 37 weeks' gestation), and risk status for the women at trial entry was assessed using an algorithm that combined maternal factors, mean arterial pressure, uterine artery pulsatility index and maternal serum pregnancy-associated plasma protein-A and placental growth factor.

A small number of trials were secondary prevention studies, and so recruited women who already had gestational hypertension and/or intrauterine growth restriction at trial entry (Australia 1988; Australia 1995; Germany 2000; India 1993; India 1994; India 1999; Israel 1990). Four of the early trials were both primary and secondary prevention studies, and so recruited women with or without gestation hypertension and/or intrauterine growth restriction (Brazil 1996; CLASP 1994; India 1991; Italy 1993).

Interventions and comparisons

Interventions varied as to dose of aspirin, gestation at commencement, and use of other treatments. In most trials, aspirin alone was compared with placebo or no treatment. Aspirin alone

was the intervention for all nine large trials. The dose was 50 mg in one trial (Italy 1993), 60 mg in five (Brazil 1996; CLASP 1994; Jamaica 1998; USA 1993a; USA 1998), 100 mg in one (ERASME 2003) and 150 mg in one (ASPRE 2017). Eight of these large trials used placebo for the control group, and for one (Italy 1993) no treatment was the control intervention. Of the smaller trials using an intervention that was not aspirin alone, five used a combination of aspirin and dipyridamole or dipyridamole alone versus control (EPREDA 1991; France 1985; France 1990; Russia 1993; S Africa 1988), one small trial used heparin and dipyridamole versus control (Australia 1995a), another combined aspirin with vitamins C and E and fish oil (Venezuela 2000), another compared ozagrel hydrochloride with placebo (Japan 1999), and one compared trapidil with placebo (Germany 1995). Most trials used some form of placebo. One small trial compared different duration of aspirin treatment (to 32 weeks or 36 weeks) with placebo (Romania 2018); the two intervention groups are combined in this review.

Outcomes

Most trials reported data for the main outcomes pre-eclampsia, preterm delivery, perinatal death and the infant being small-for-gestational age. Our secondary outcomes were often not reported by the included studies.

Excluded studies

Overall, 77 studies were excluded from the review. The reasons for exclusion for each trial are listed in the [Characteristics of excluded studies](#) table.

Reasons for exclusion were: 31 studies were excluded because they were not randomised trials, or because allocation was quasi-random or unclear (Argentina 1994; Brazil 1992; Brazil 1995; China 2016; China 2017; East Germany 1988; Egypt 1998; India 1986; India 1997; India 1998; India 2002; India 2002a; Iran 2014; Italy 1990; Italy 1990a; Italy 1991; Italy 1994; Italy 2002; Japan 1989; Libya 2000; Pakistan 1994; Poland 1996; Poland 1999; Slovenia 1998; Thailand 1996; Trinidad 1998; Tunisia 1989; Turkey 1994; USA 1990; Vietnam 2017; West Germany 1977). One study was a cross-over design (Egypt 1991). For 10 studies, the trial was not addressing the question of prevention of pre-eclampsia (for example studies were of prevention of miscarriage, women were recruited before pregnancy, or women were not at risk of pre-eclampsia at recruitment) (Egypt 2017; ERASME 2003a; Finland 2007; France 2001; Iran 2016; Iran 2017; Italy 2009; Sweden 2017; USA 1989; USA 2013). Ten studies were not trials evaluating antiplatelet drugs versus placebo or no treatment (Canada 2015; India 2011; Ireland 1995; Israel 2006; Italy 2005; Italy 2006; Panama 2014; Russia 1997; Tunisia 1990; USA 1993b). Twelve studies did not report any relevant clinical outcomes (Australia 1989a; China 1991; East Germany 1986; Ecuador 1998; Finland 1993a; Germany 1986; Ireland 2014; New Zealand 1990; UK 1992a; UK 1993; USA 1993c; USA 1996). For another 13 studies, there were other concerns about risk of bias (Australia 1989; Brazil 1996a; Colombia 1996; India 2001; Iran 2002; Iran 2013; Italy 1988; New Zealand 1998; New Zealand 2000; Spain + others 2000; UK 1994; UK 2000; USA 2012).

Risk of bias in included studies

Details for each trial are in the [Characteristics of included studies](#) table. There is variation in study quality, although overall most studies were either low risk of bias or unclear risk of bias (Figure 2; Figure 4). The studies with unclear risk of bias are mostly the

smaller trials, with the nine large studies (more than 1000 women) having low risk of bias (Figure 3; Figure 5). Of the nine large trials, six were low risk of bias for all domains (Figure 5). One study (USA 1993a), was deemed at unclear risk of selection bias because there was no information about the method of randomisation, and also at unclear risk of 'other bias' due to concerns that the baseline characteristics of the enrolled population may have been

unrepresentative of the general population; another (Italy 1993) did not use a placebo, and was also assessed as high risk of bias for blinding of the assessment of outcome and for attrition bias (there was higher loss to follow-up in the no treatment arm); the third (Jamaica 1998) was unclear risk of 'other' bias, as significantly fewer women taking aspirin complied with their treatment than those taking placebo (63% versus 68%).

Figure 5. 'Risk of bias' summary for the nine large trials: review authors' judgements about each risk of bias item for each study

	Random sequence generation (selection bias)	Allocation concealment (selection bias)	Blinding (performance bias and detection bias)	Incomplete outcome data (attrition bias)	Selective reporting (reporting bias)	Other bias
ASPREE 2017	+	+	+	+	+	+
Barbados 1998	+	+	+	+	+	+
Brazil 1996	+	+	+	+	+	+
CLASP 1994	+	+	+	+	+	+
ERASME 2003	+	+	+	+	+	+
Italy 1993	?	+	-	-	+	+
Jamaica 1998	+	+	+	+	+	?
USA 1993a	?	+	+	+	+	?
USA 1998	+	+	+	+	+	+

Overall, the nine large (more than 1000 women) trials were low risk of bias and together recruited 32,195 women (80% of women in the review). Most women in the review were therefore recruited to studies with low risk of bias. The AD studies had smaller samples sizes, and many had unclear risk of bias.

Allocation

Seven of the nine large studies (> 1000 women) were low risk for both selection bias domains (Figure 5). For two of the large studies, risk of bias for sequence generation was unclear; in one (Italy 1993), the same randomisation sheets were used in error for several centres in the early stages of the trial, and for the other (USA 1993a),

the method for sequence generation is not stated. No included studies were high risk of bias for sequence generation. All nine large trials were low risk of bias for concealment of allocation. Only two studies were high risk for concealment of allocation ([India 2017](#); [Tanzania 1995](#)). For the smaller studies, it was unclear whether sequence generation was adequate for 33 of them, and whether concealment of the allocation at trial entry was adequate for 33 of them.

Blinding

In the majority of trials, including eight of the nine large trials, participants, clinicians and research personnel were blinded to the treatment, and the risk of bias in this domain was low. Only one of the larger trials ([Italy 1993](#)) and 18 of the smaller trials did not blind adequately. In most cases this was because they did not use a placebo, and none of the trials without a placebo attempted to blind assessment of the outcome; these trials were high risk for both performance bias and detection bias.

Incomplete outcome data

Overall, 40 trials were low risk of attrition bias, whilst for 32 trials risk of this bias was unclear, and five were at high risk of attrition bias. Of the nine large trials, eight were low risk ([Figure 5](#)). For one large trial risk of attrition bias was high ([Italy 1993](#)), as there was a higher loss to follow-up in the no treatment arm in this study (which did not use a placebo). For four small trials risk of bias for incomplete outcome data was also high ([India 2017](#); [Iran 2014a](#); [Netherlands 2009](#); [Spain 2017](#)), largely due to imbalanced losses to follow-up between groups.

Selective reporting

Overall, 40 trials were low risk of bias for selective reporting, and for 35 this risk was unclear. Risk of reporting bias was low for all nine large trials ([Figure 5](#)). Risk of reporting bias was high for two trials; [Finland 2013](#) as reported different outcomes in the registration document than in the paper, and [Australia 1996](#) did not report data on the primary outcome of perinatal death. Risk of reporting bias was unclear for 35 small trials where the expected outcomes were not reported, outcomes additional to those pre-specified were reported, or there was insufficient information to judge in the absence of a protocol.

Other potential sources of bias

In total, 30 trials were low risk of other potential sources of bias, and for 40 this risk was unclear. Of the large trials, seven were at low risk of other potential biases, and two were at unclear risk: for one ([Jamaica 1998](#)), this was due to slight imbalances in

two baseline characteristics and the fact that fewer women taking aspirin complied with their treatment than those taking placebo; for the other ([USA 1993a](#)), there was an imbalance in systolic blood pressure at trial entry, and concern that the trial population was not representative of the general population of women ([Figure 5](#)). There were seven small trials that had high risk of other potential sources of bias. Five trials stopped early, three due to results from interim analyses ([Australia 1995](#); [Australia 1995a](#); [Israel 1989](#)), and two because of slow recruitment ([Colorado 1993](#); [Italy 2004](#)). Two trials were high risk of bias because of differences in baseline characteristics ([Israel 1994](#); [Romania 2018](#)).

Effects of interventions

See: [Summary of findings for the main comparison](#)

Overall, 77 trials involving 40,249 women and their babies are included in this review. Of these trials, 31 individual patient data (IPD) trials plus 38 aggregate data (AD trials) included primary prevention (prevention of pre-eclampsia for women without gestational hypertension or intrauterine growth restriction at trial entry) only; and five IPD trials plus three AD trials included secondary prevention (prevention of pre-eclampsia treatment for women who already have gestational hypertension, and/or intrauterine growth restriction at trial entry) only; and four trials, all IPD ([Brazil 1996](#); [CLASP 1994](#); [India 1991](#); [Italy 1993](#)), included both primary prevention and secondary prevention arms. Where possible, data have been presented in the appropriate comparison. AD trials were largely for primary prevention; a small proportion included secondary prevention women who could not be separated out, therefore data for all women have been included under primary prevention.

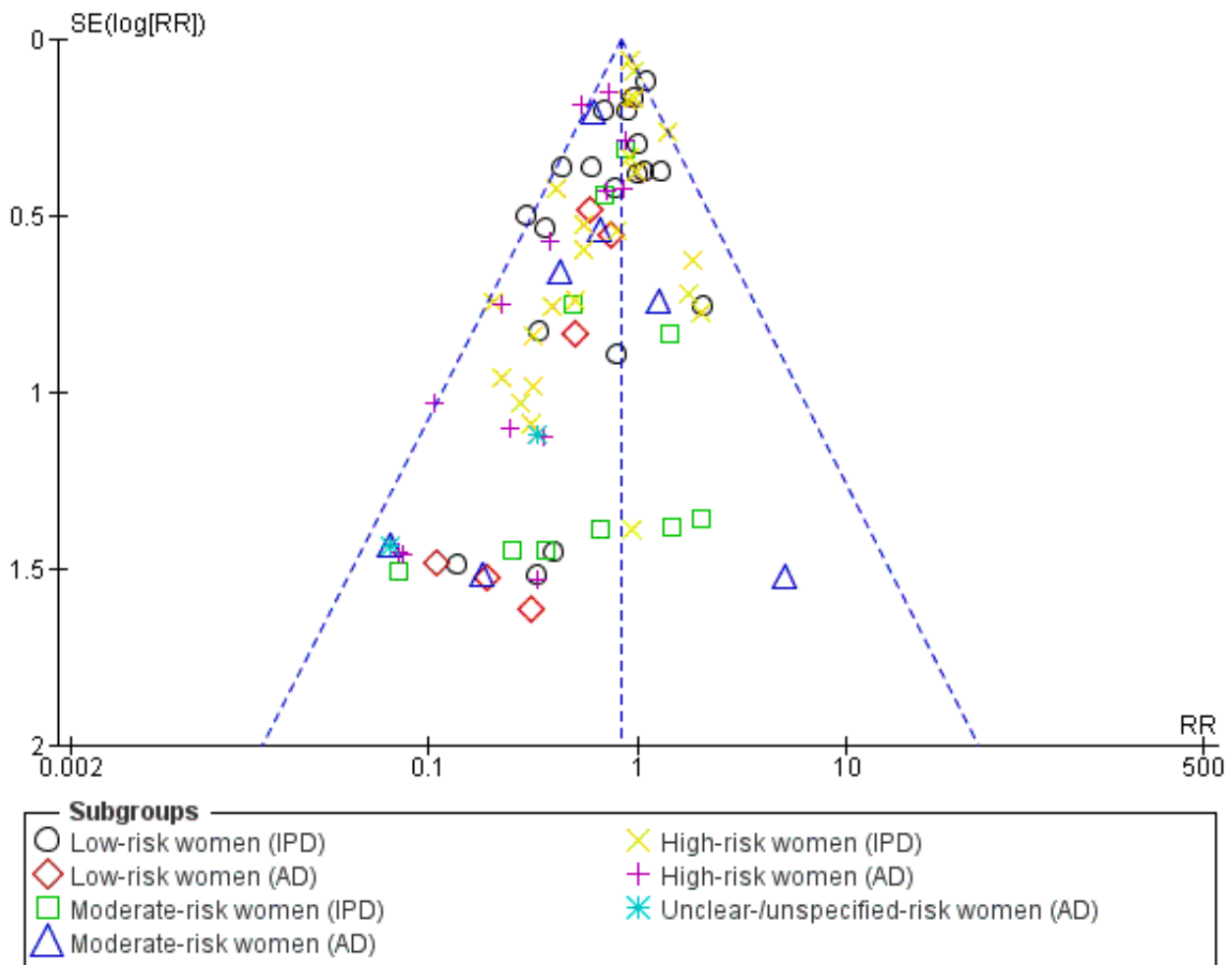
Antiplatelet agents versus placebo or no treatment for the primary prevention of pre-eclampsia and its complications

Primary outcomes

Proteinuric pre-eclampsia

Overall there was an 18% reduction in the risk of pre-eclampsia associated with the use of antiplatelet agents (36,716 women, 60 trials; risk ratio (RR) 0.82, 95% confidence interval (CI) 0.77 to 0.88; assumed risk with placebo/no treatment 92 per 1000 women; corresponding risk with antiplatelet agents 16 fewer per 1000, 95% CI 22 fewer to 11 fewer; high-quality evidence) ([Summary of findings for the main comparison](#) and [Analysis 1.1](#); [Figure 6](#)). The risk difference (RD) was -1.66% (95% CI -2.23% to -1.09%), with the number needed to treat for one woman to benefit by avoiding pre-eclampsia (NNTB) being 61 women (95% CI 45 to 92).

Figure 6. Funnel plot of comparison: 1 Antiplatelet agents versus placebo/no antiplatelet for primary prevention (primary outcomes, subgroups by maternal risk), outcome: 1.1 Pre-eclampsia (IPD vs AD).



Subgroups by maternal risk

There appear to be no significant differences between the subgroups when participants were subgrouped by maternal risk of pre-eclampsia at trial entry ($\text{Chi}^2 = 8.13$, $\text{df} = 3$ ($P = 0.04$), $I^2 = 63.1\%$; [Analysis 1.5](#)). However, the subgroups were very imbalanced in size making possible subgroup differences hard to assess. For women at low risk, in the 25 trials reporting IPD there was a 12% reduction in pre-eclampsia (20,583 women, 25 trials; RR 0.88, 95% CI 0.77 to 1.00), and in the six trials with AD, although the point estimate suggests a larger reduction, the CI is wide (543 women, 6 trials; RR 0.49, 95% CI 0.27 to 0.89; [Analysis 1.1.2](#)). For the small number of moderate-risk women in trials with IPD, the overall CI was wide and includes 1.00 (708 women, 13 trials; RR 0.71, 95% CI 0.47 to 1.06), whilst in the seven trials with only AD available the reduction in RR appears to more clearly indicate a reduction (708 women, 7 trials; RR 0.59, 95% CI 0.42 to 0.84). For high-risk women, in studies with IPD available there was a reduction in RR (11,076 women, 26 trials; RR 0.90, 95% CI 0.82 to 0.98) that was consistent with the overall effect, whilst for the small studies with only AD available there appears to be a larger risk reduction (3006 women, 13 trials; RR 0.59, 95% CI 0.49 to 0.72).

Subgroups by gestation at randomisation

For women randomised before 20 weeks' gestation, there was a reduction in risk of pre-eclampsia associated with the use of antiplatelet agents in studies with IPD available (18,950 women, 27 trials; RR 0.86, 95% CI 0.78 to 0.95; [Analysis 2.1.1](#)). For women randomised at or after 20 weeks' gestation with IPD available, the results did not clearly indicate a risk reduction (13,173 women, 26 trials; RR 0.93, 95% CI 0.84 to 1.04). However, the CIs overlap, so we are uncertain whether this is suggestive of real differences between the two subgroups. In trials with only AD available, the risk reduction appears to be larger both for women randomised before 20 weeks' gestation (3560 women, 19 trials; RR 0.61, 95% CI 0.51 to 0.73) and for those randomised at or after 20 weeks (7 trials, 515 women; RR 0.26, 95% CI 0.14 to 0.49), when compared with the IPD subgroups. For the AD trials, the CIs do not overlap, suggesting a possible subgroup difference by gestation at randomisation, with the effect being greater for women randomised at or after 20 weeks'. However, the AD should be interpreted with particular caution, as the numbers in each subgroup are relatively small and individual women are not necessarily in the correct subgroup.

The PARIS review protocol included a planned subgroup analysis based on gestation at trial entry: less than 16 weeks, 16 to 19 completed weeks, 20 to 23 completed weeks, 24 to 27 completed weeks, and 28 weeks or more (PARIS 2005). Data for this subgroup analysis are presented here (Figure 7). There are no

clear differences between the subgroups. Due to recent interest in whether earlier administration of antiplatelets before 16 weeks' gestation might be beneficial, the IPD for trial entry before 16 weeks and at or after 16 weeks are presented in Figure 8; there is no clear difference between the subgroups (RR 0.90, 95% CI 0.78 to 1.03 and RR 0.90, 95% CI 0.83 to 0.99, respectively).

Figure 7. Pre-specified subgroup analysis using PARIS IPD

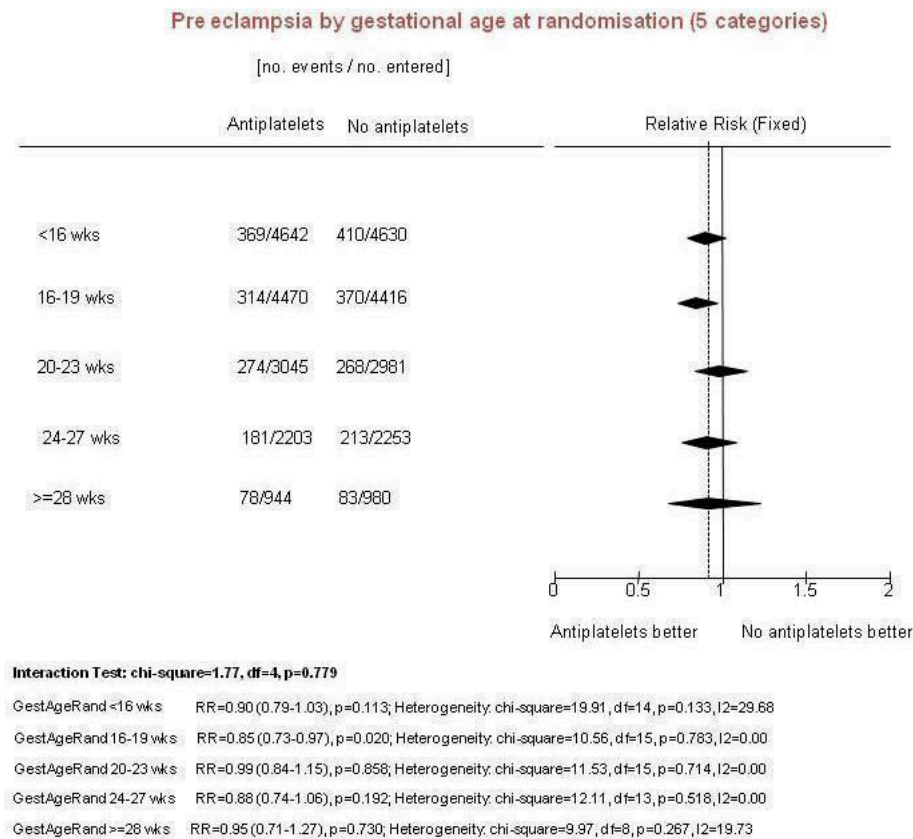
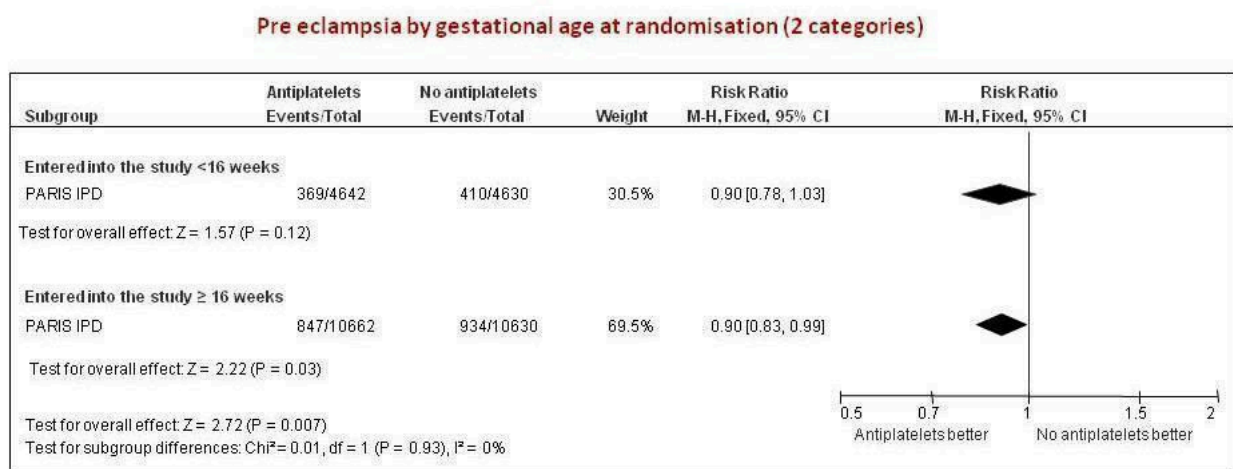


Figure 8. Condensed version of Figure 4 (2 subgroups only) using PARIS IPD



Subgroups by use of placebo

We did not detect likely differences between the subgroups by use of placebo. When assessing subgroup differences by use of placebo, the subgroups were very imbalanced in size for both IPD and AD trials, because in both cases many more women were given a placebo than not. The reduction in risk of pre-eclampsia was similar regardless of whether women were recruited to placebo-controlled trials or not, both in studies with IPD (albeit there was no significant reduction in the fewer and smaller IPD trials that were not placebo controlled) and those with AD ([Analysis 3.1](#)).

Subgroups by dose of aspirin

There was a reduction in the risk of pre-eclampsia for women allocated 75 mg aspirin or more in the IPD trials (9107 women, 16 trials; RR 0.78, 95% CI 0.66 to 0.92), and the point estimate suggested a larger reduction in AD trials (3505 women, 19 trials; RR 0.58, 95% CI 0.49 to 0.70; [Analysis 4.1](#)). For women allocated aspirin < 75 mg, there was a slight reduction in studies with IPD, however the 95% CI includes the possibility of no effect (11 trials, 22,618 women; RR 0.92, 95% CI 0.85 to 1.00), whilst there appeared to be

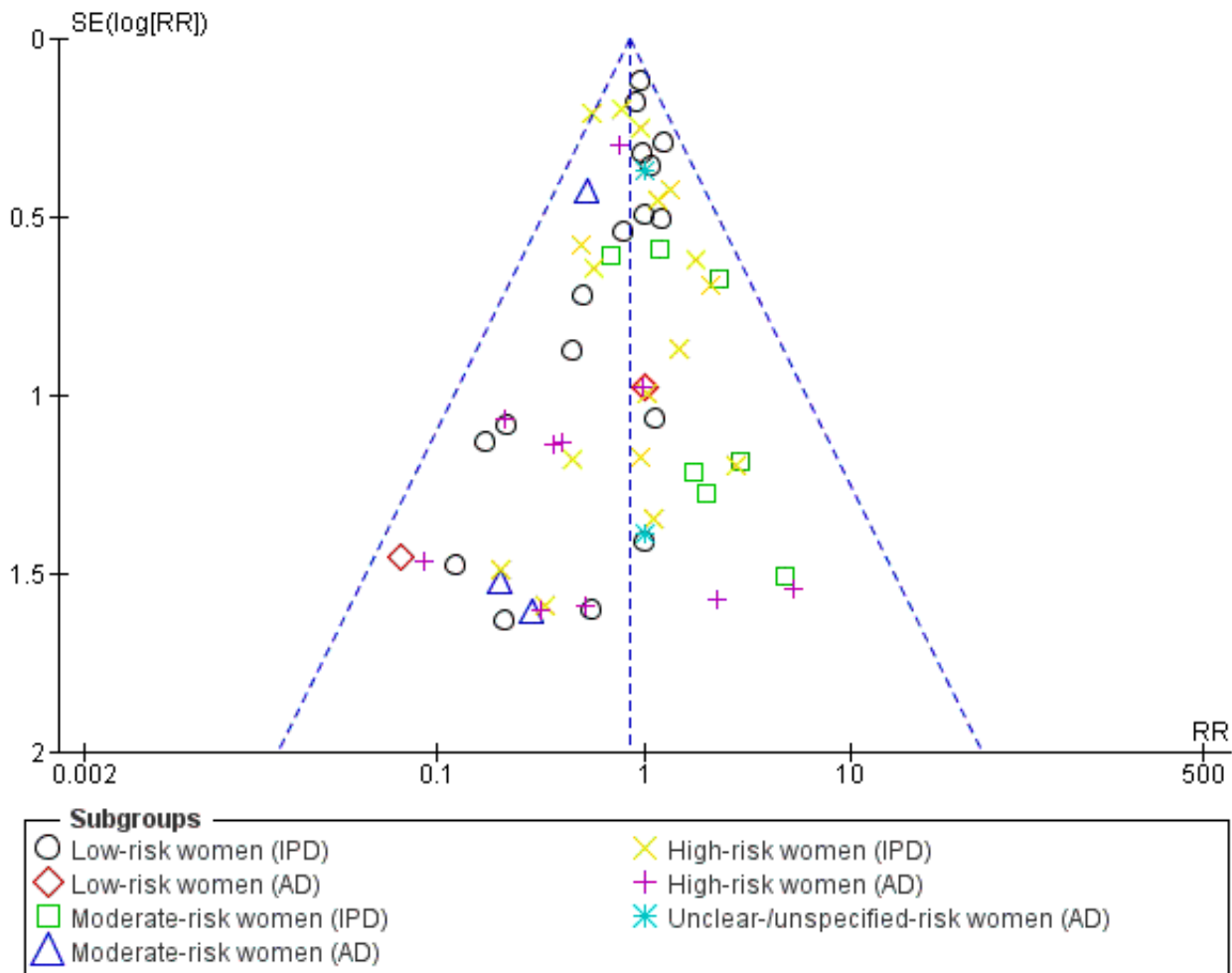
a more marked reduction in studies with only AD (586 women, 6 trials; RR 0.59, 95% CI 0.39 to 0.89).

A few small trials combined aspirin with dipyridamole. In view of the small numbers, we are uncertain about the effect of aspirin with dipyridamole on pre-eclampsia for both IPD studies (218 women, 3 trials; RR 0.55, 95% CI 0.26 to 1.16), and AD studies (248 women, 3 trials; RR 0.18, 95% CI 0.05 to 0.69; [Analysis 4.1](#)).

Any reported death: fetal, neonatal or before hospital discharge

Fifty-two trials (35,391 babies) reported fetal deaths, neonatal deaths or infant deaths. When any reported deaths were analysed together, regardless of when the death occurred, there was a 15% reduction in the risk of a baby death before hospital discharge associated with the use of antiplatelet agents (35,391 women, 52 trials; RR 0.85, 95% CI 0.76 to 0.95; assumed risk with placebo/no treatment 33 per 1000 babies; corresponding risk with antiplatelet agents 5 fewer per 1000, 95% CI 9 fewer to 1 fewer; high-quality evidence) ([Summary of findings for the main comparison and Analysis 1.2](#); [Figure 9](#)). The risk difference is -0.51% (95% CI -0.87% to -0.15%), and NNTB 197 (115 to 681).

Figure 9. Funnel plot of comparison: 1 Antiplatelet agents versus placebo/no antiplatelet for primary prevention (subgrouped by maternal risk), outcome: 1.4 Fetal and neonatal deaths.



Subgroups by maternal risk

This reduction in the RR for baby death was consistent across the subgroups by maternal risk at trial entry ($\text{Chi}^2 = 2.02$, $\text{df} = 3$ ($P = 0.57$), $I^2 = 0\%$; [Analysis 1.6](#)).

Subgroups by gestation at randomisation, use of placebo, and dose of aspirin

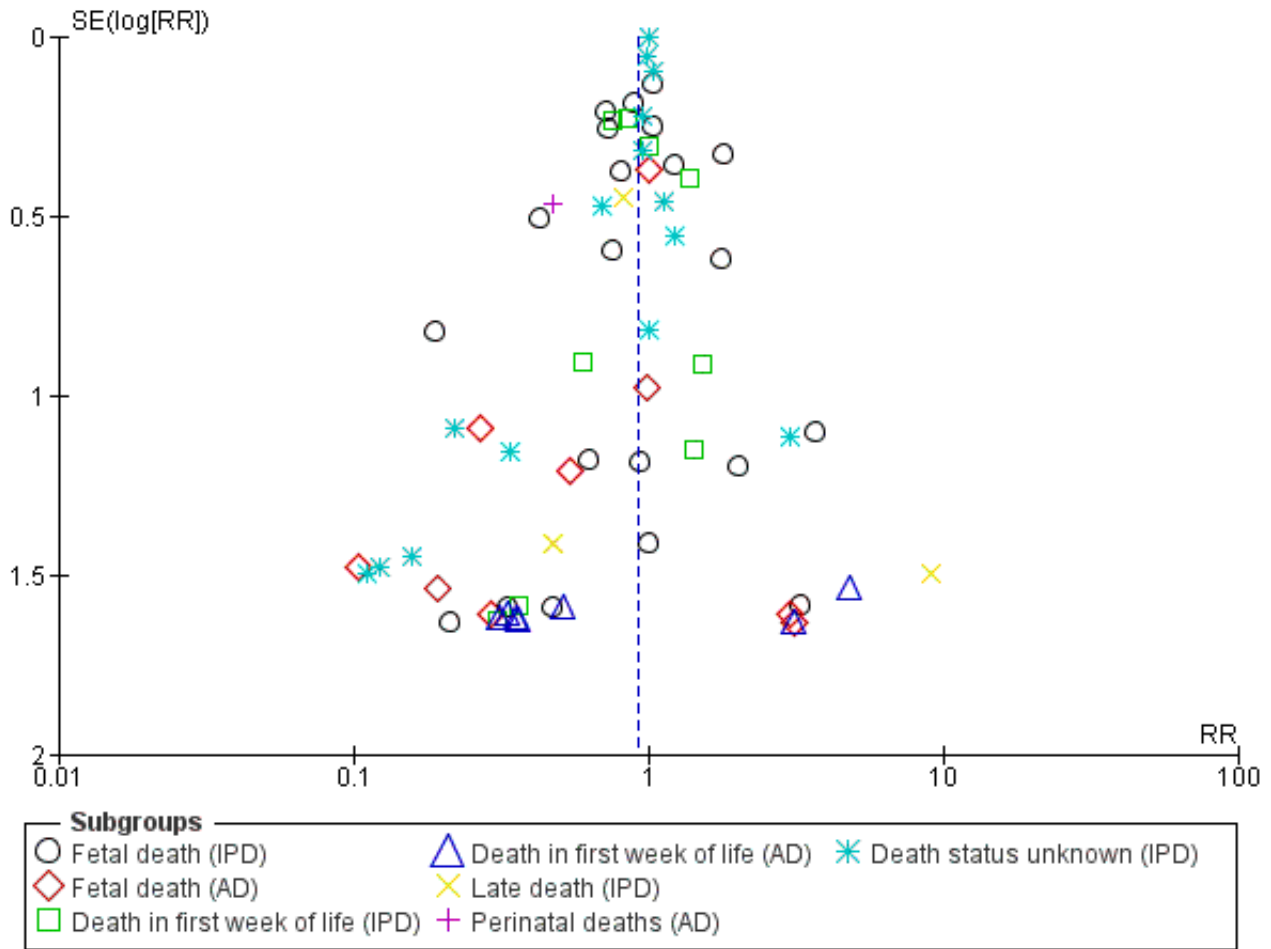
For women randomised before 20 weeks' gestation, aspirin resulted in a reduction in fetal, neonatal, or infant death in both the IPD trials (18,950 babies, 27 trials; RR 0.87, 95% CI 0.75 to 1.02), and the AD trials (2657 babies, 11 trials; RR 0.62, 95% CI 0.44 to 0.88). For those randomised at or after 20 weeks, there was little or no difference between antiplatelet agents and placebo/no treatment for IPD trials (13,173 babies, 26 trials; RR 0.93, 95% CI 0.76 to 1.15), and the findings were unclear for AD trials, probably due to small sample size and few events; (350 babies; 6 trials; RR 0.46, 95% CI 0.11 to 1.98; [Analysis 2.2](#)).

When subgrouped by use of placebo, similar effects were seen in trials with and without placebo control for both IPD and AD. However, the 95% CIs for most subgroups included no effect, probably due to smaller sample sizes and thus wider CIs ([Analysis 3.2](#)).

The results for < 75 mg aspirin alone were consistent across analyses using IPD and AD. For studies using less than 75 mg of aspirin there is probably a small reduction associated with antiplatelet agents, in the IPD trials (27,025 babies, 16 trials; RR 0.89, 0.78, 1.01), and in the AD trials a similar point estimate but wider CI due to the smaller number of babies (720 babies, 10 trials; RR 0.81, 95% CI 0.45 to 1.45). The effect of antiplatelet agents compared with placebo/no treatment where women were given 75 mg or more of aspirin was somewhat unclear for IPD trials (4733 babies, 12 trials; RR 0.94, 95% CI 0.61 to 1.45), while evidence from trials with AD giving women more than 75 mg aspirin suggested a large reduction in fetal or neonatal death for this subgroup (2165 babies, 6 trials; RR 0.51, 95% CI 0.34 to 0.78). In the small studies using 75 mg or more aspirin plus dipyridamole, we are uncertain about the effect on fetal or neonatal death, because of the small sample sizes and low event rates for both IPD (218 babies, 3 trials; RR 0.66, 95% CI 0.21 to 1.80), and AD (256 babies 4 trials; RR 0.90, 95% CI 0.23 to 3.51; [Analysis 4.2](#)).

Classifying deaths by the time of death (fetal, neonatal, infant or childhood death), there appear to be no differences in the risk of death in any of the categories ([Analysis 5.12](#); [Figure 10](#)).

Figure 10. Funnel plot of comparison: 5 Antiplatelet agents versus placebo/no antiplatelet for primary prevention (secondary outcomes), outcome: 5.12 Fetal, neonatal, infant and childhood deaths (subgroups by time of death).

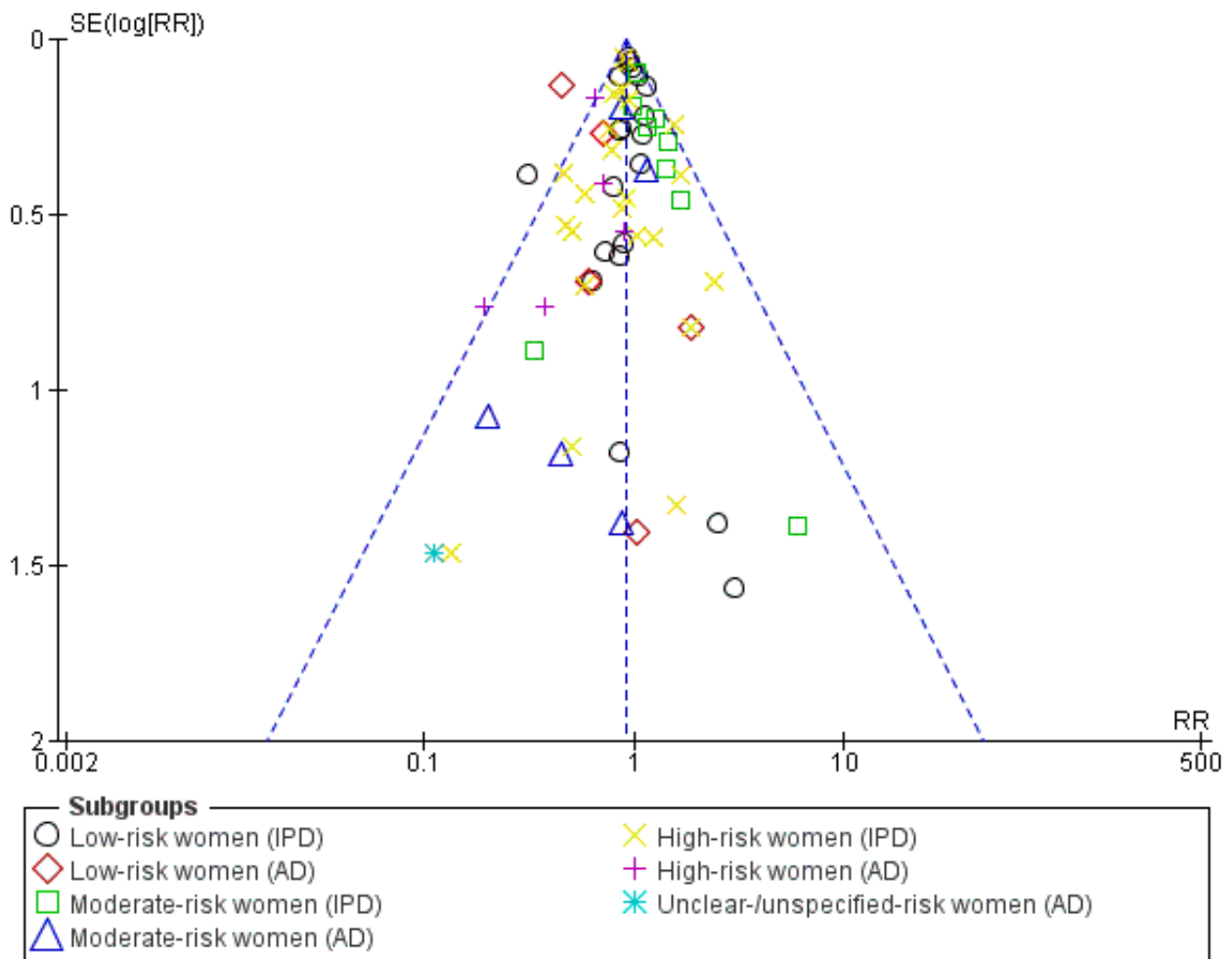


Preterm birth

Overall, in the 47 trials reporting this outcome (35,212 women), there was a small (9%) reduction in the RR for birth before 37 completed weeks (35,212 women, 47 trials; RR 0.91, 95% CI 0.87 to

0.95; assumed risk with placebo/no treatment 175 per 1000 women; corresponding risk with antiplatelet agents 16 fewer per 1000, 95% CI 23 fewer to 9 fewer; high-quality evidence) ([Summary of findings for the main comparison](#) and [Analysis 1.3](#); [Figure 11](#)), with a risk difference of -1.64% (95% CI -2.38% to -0.88%); NNTB 61 (42 to 114).

Figure 11. Funnel plot of comparison: 1 Antiplatelet agents versus placebo/no antiplatelet for primary prevention (primary outcomes, subgroups by maternal risk), outcome: 1.3 Preterm birth (IPD vs AD).



There was evidence to suggest a slight reduction in preterm birth before 34 weeks' gestation amongst women given antiplatelet agents compared with those given placebo/no treatment (32,253 women, 31 trials; RR 0.90, 95% CI 0.83 to 0.97; [Analysis 5.15](#); [Figure 12](#)). The effects were less clear for preterm births before 32 weeks (32,319 women, 31 trials; RR 0.92, 95% CI 0.83 to 1.02; [Analysis 5.16](#); [Figure 13](#)), and before 28 weeks' gestation (32,135 women, 30 trials; RR 0.87, 95% CI 0.74 to 1.01; [Analysis 5.17](#); [Figure 14](#)), both of which included a slight reduction but the CI crossed the line of no effect. We conducted further analysis of evidence on the

effects of antiplatelet agents on preterm birth provided by IPD trials only, analysed in terms of mutually exclusive subgroups by time of preterm birth. However, looking at preterm birth before 28 weeks (32,155 women, 30 trials; RR 0.87, 95% CI 0.74 to 1.01), from 28 to 31 weeks (32,155 women, 30 trials; RR 0.98, 95% CI 0.85 to 1.13), from 32 to 33 weeks (32,155 women, 30 trials; RR 0.84, 95% CI 0.73 to 0.97), and from 34 to 36 weeks' gestation (32,155 women, 30 trials; RR 0.93, 95% CI 0.87 to 1.00), there were no clear differences between these subgroups ([Analysis 5.18](#); [Figure 15](#)).

Figure 12. Funnel plot of comparison: 5 Antiplatelet agents versus placebo/no antiplatelet for primary prevention (secondary outcomes), outcome: 5.15 Preterm birth (< 34 weeks).

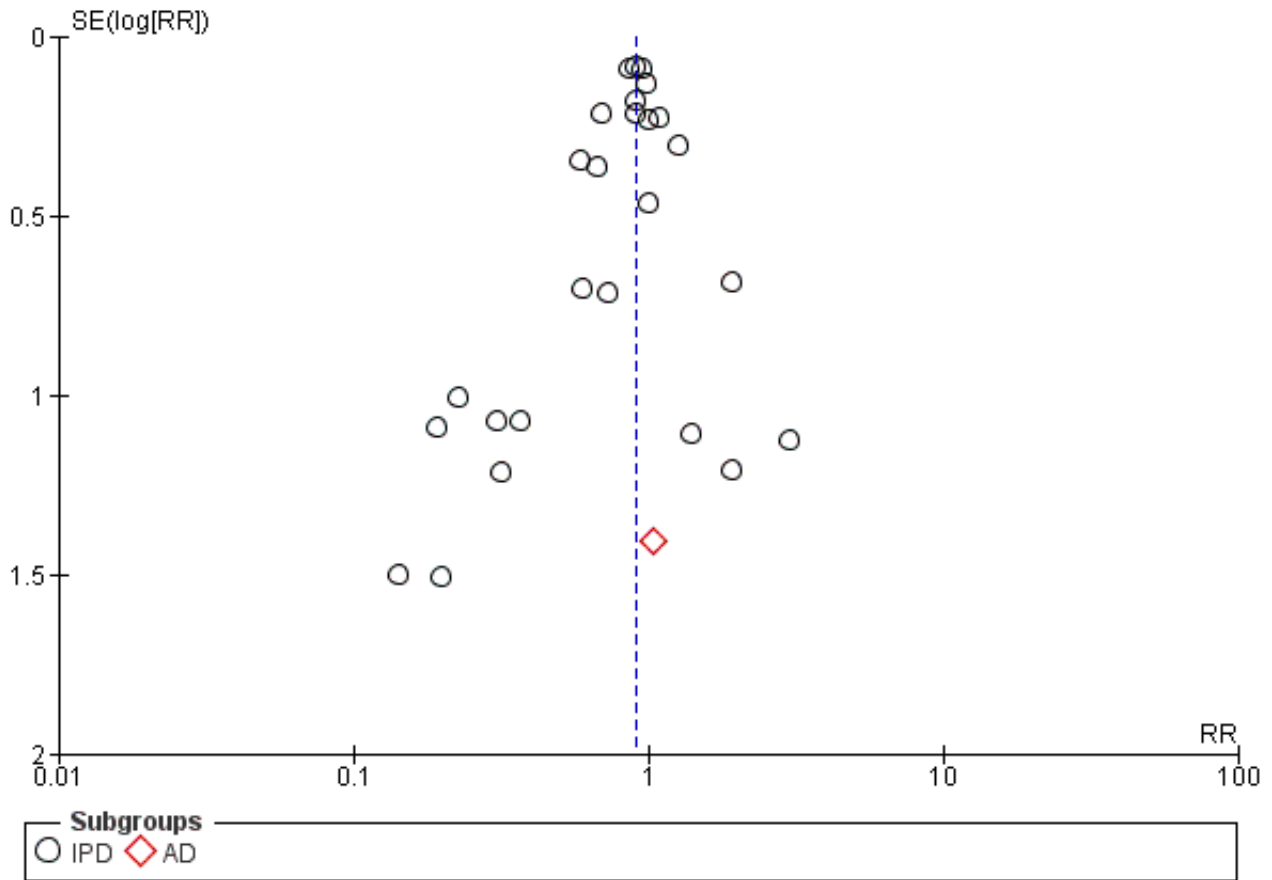


Figure 13. Funnel plot of comparison: 5 Antiplatelet agents versus placebo/no antiplatelet for primary prevention (secondary outcomes), outcome: 5.16 Preterm birth (< 32 weeks).

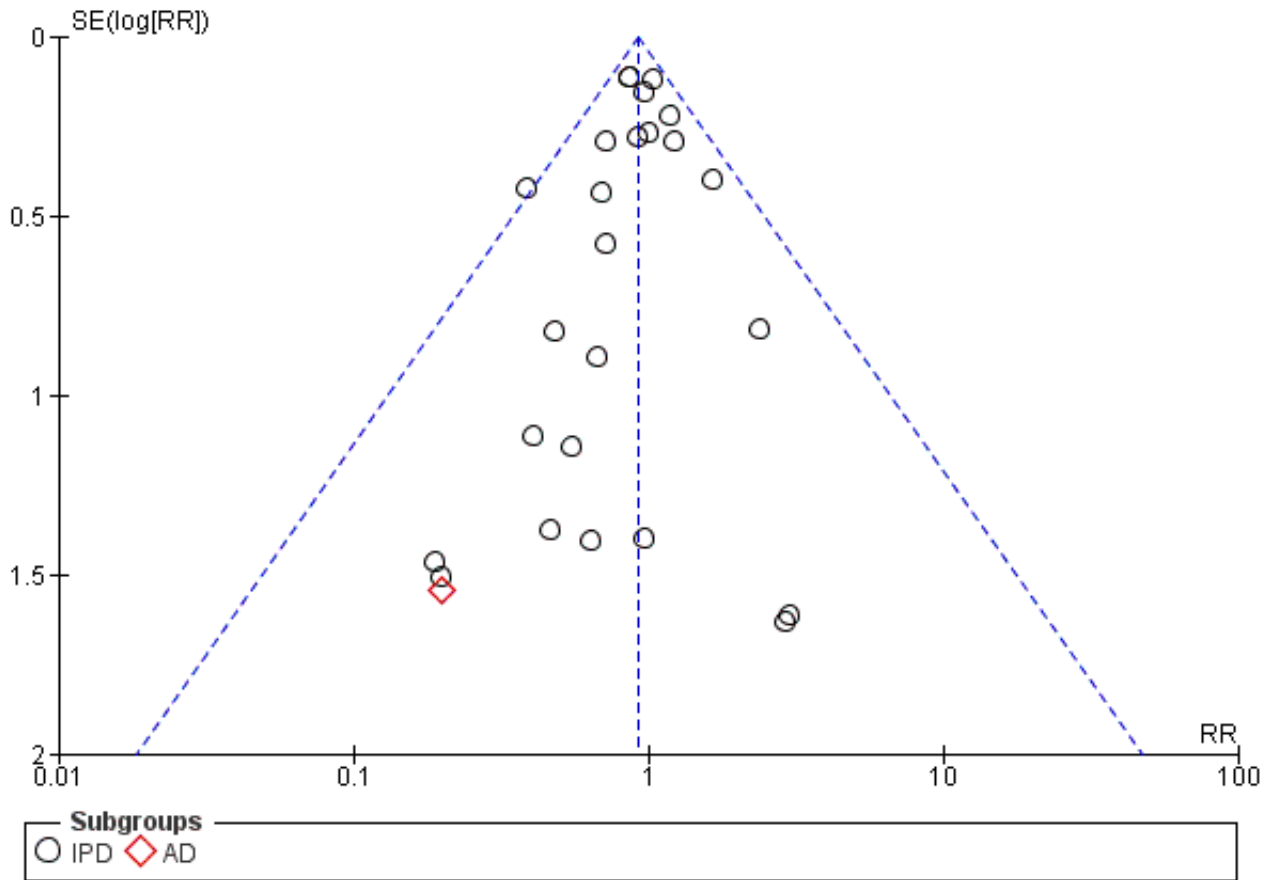


Figure 14. Funnel plot of comparison: 5 Antiplatelet agents versus placebo/no antiplatelet for primary prevention (secondary outcomes), outcome: 5.17 Preterm birth (< 28 weeks).

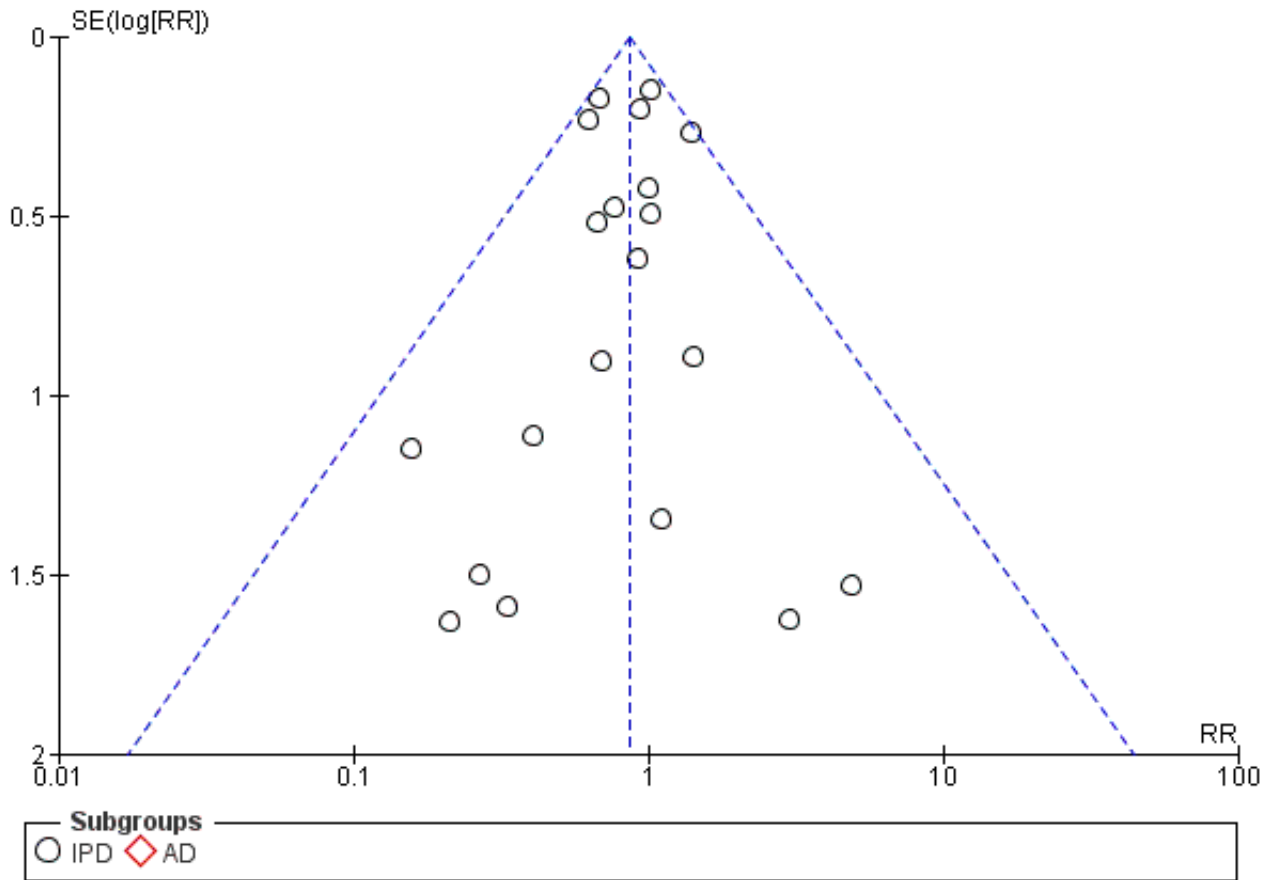
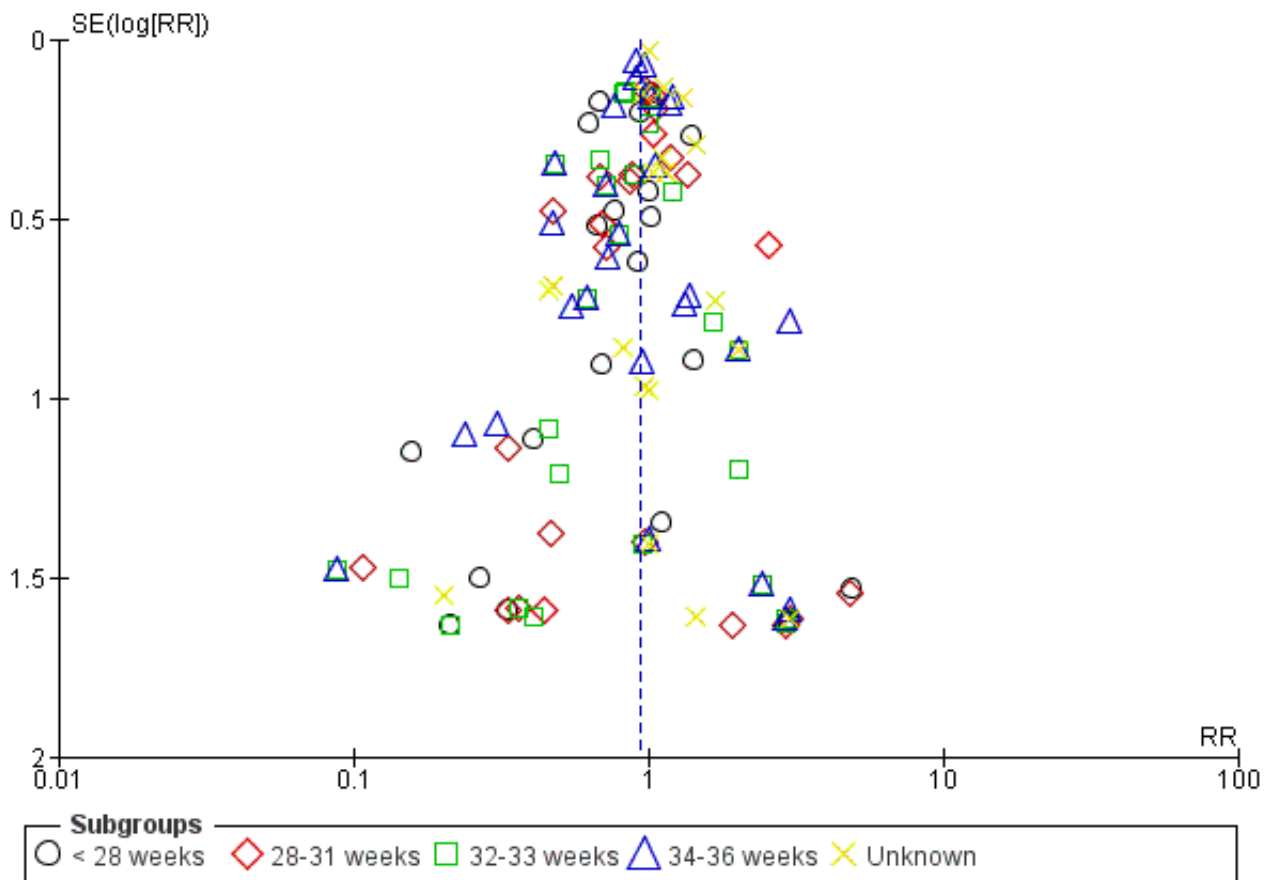


Figure 15. Funnel plot of comparison: 5 Antiplatelet agents versus placebo/no antiplatelet for primary prevention (secondary outcomes), outcome: 5.18 Preterm birth (mutually exclusive subgroups) - IPD only.



Subgroups by maternal risk

There appeared to be no significant heterogeneity between the subgroups by maternal risk, but again the subgroups are imbalanced in size ($\text{Chi}^2 = 6.39$, $\text{df} = 3$ ($P = 0.09$), $I^2 = 53.0\%$; [Analysis 1.7](#)). While the CIs largely overlap, there was no clear reduction in preterm birth in the low-risk group for trials where IPD were available (20,563 women, 25 trials; RR 0.95, 95% CI 0.89 to 1.01), but a 10% reduction in the high-risk group for IPD (11,076 women, 26 trials; RR 0.90 95%, CI 0.84 to 0.97). In the small subgroup of women at moderate risk of pre-eclampsia in IPD trials, the evidence suggested there was probably little or no difference in preterm birth between women receiving antiplatelet agents and those receiving placebo/no treatment (558 women, 12 trials; RR 1.09, 95% CI 0.94 to 1.27), but we note that this subgroup is substantially smaller than the others for IPD, so this result probably reflects the play of chance in a small subgroup. The results from the small trials with AD suggested a larger reduction in preterm birth for women at low risk of pre-eclampsia (453 women, 5 trials; RR 0.54, 95% CI 0.42 to 0.68) and also for those at high-risk (2013 women, 5 trials; RR 0.62, 95% CI 0.47 to 0.82). For AD trials, the effects for women at moderate-risk of pre-eclampsia were unclear (503 women, 5 trials; RR 0.84, 95% CI 0.60 to 1.18; [Analysis 1.3.4](#)).

Subgroups by gestation at randomisation

Most subgroups suggested a consistent small reduction in preterm birth, regardless of whether recruitment was before or after 20 weeks' gestation, although again the subgroups varied considerably in size ([Analysis 2.3](#)). For women randomised before 20 weeks' gestation, IPD trials suggested a slight reduction in preterm birth amongst women receiving antiplatelet agents beginning before 20 weeks' gestation, although the CI touched on no effect (18,930 women, 27 trials; RR 0.94, 95% CI 0.88 to 1.00); whereas AD trials suggested a more substantial benefit (2610 women, 11 trials; RR 0.63, 95% CI 0.53 to 0.74). For women randomised at or after 20 weeks' gestation, trials with IPD suggested a similar effect to women beginning the drugs earlier (13,173 women, 26 trials; RR 0.91, 95% CI 0.85 to 0.98), whereas the effects were unclear in the AD trials (287 women, 4 trials; RR 0.56, 95% CI 0.28 to 1.12).

Subgroups by use of placebo

There was no indication of clear subgroup differences by use of placebo for this outcome, however there were some differences between the IPD and the AD effect estimates. The findings from IPD trials where women received placebo (31,070 women, 24 trials; RR 0.93, 95% CI 0.89 to 0.98) were not substantially different from those without placebo, although the 95% CI without placebo crossed the line of no effect (1127 women, 7 trials; RR 0.90, 95% CI 0.72 to 1.14).

In AD trials the pattern was similar - with the results for no placebo being unclear - although the point estimates were greater both with placebo (2423 women, 11 trials; RR 0.57, 95% CI 0.47 to 0.69) and without (592 women, 5 trials; RR 0.79; 95% CI 0.58, 1.08; [Analysis 3.3](#)).

Subgroups by dose of aspirin

The evidence did not suggest different rates of preterm birth by aspirin dosing. In IPD trials, the findings when women received less than 75 mg (22,618 women, 11 trials; RR 0.93, 95% CI 0.89 to 0.98) overlapped substantially with the findings from women who received 75 mg or more (9087 women, 16 trials; RR 0.86, 95% CI 0.73 to 1.01). For AD trials, the findings were unclear when women received less than 75 mg aspirin (79 women, 2 trials; RR 0.29, 95% CI 0.08 to 1.09), while the effect seemed to indicate a more marked reduction than the IPD data when women received 75 mg or more (2712 women, 12 trials; RR 0.65, 95% CI 0.50 to 0.84). Again, in view

of the small number of women involved in trials combining aspirin with dipyridamole, we are uncertain about the effect of aspirin with dipyridamole on preterm birth for both IPD (218 women, 3 trials; RR 1.37, 95% CI 0.34 to 5.51) and AD studies (64 women, 1 trial; RR 0.89, 95% CI 0.30 to 2.61; [Analysis 4.3](#)).

Small-for-gestational-age baby

There was a 16% reduction in the risk of the baby being born small-for-gestational-age when women were given antiplatelet agents compared with placebo/no treatment (35,761 babies, 50 trials; RR 0.84, 95% CI 0.76 to 0.92; assumed risk with placebo 47 per 1000 women; corresponding risk with antiplatelet agents 7 fewer per 1000, 95% CI 11 fewer to 3 fewer; high-quality evidence) ([Summary of findings for the main comparison](#) and [Analysis 1.4](#); [Figure 16](#)). The risk difference was -0.69%, 95% CI -1.11% to -0.26%; NNTB 146, 95% CI 90 to 386. Results for this outcome are also analysed by severity for AD ([Analysis 5.19](#); [Figure 17](#)) and IPD ([Analysis 5.20](#); [Figure 18](#)).

Figure 16. Funnel plot of comparison: 1 Antiplatelet agents versus placebo/no antiplatelet for primary prevention (primary outcomes, subgroups by maternal risk), outcome: 1.4 Small-for-gestational age (IPD vs AD).

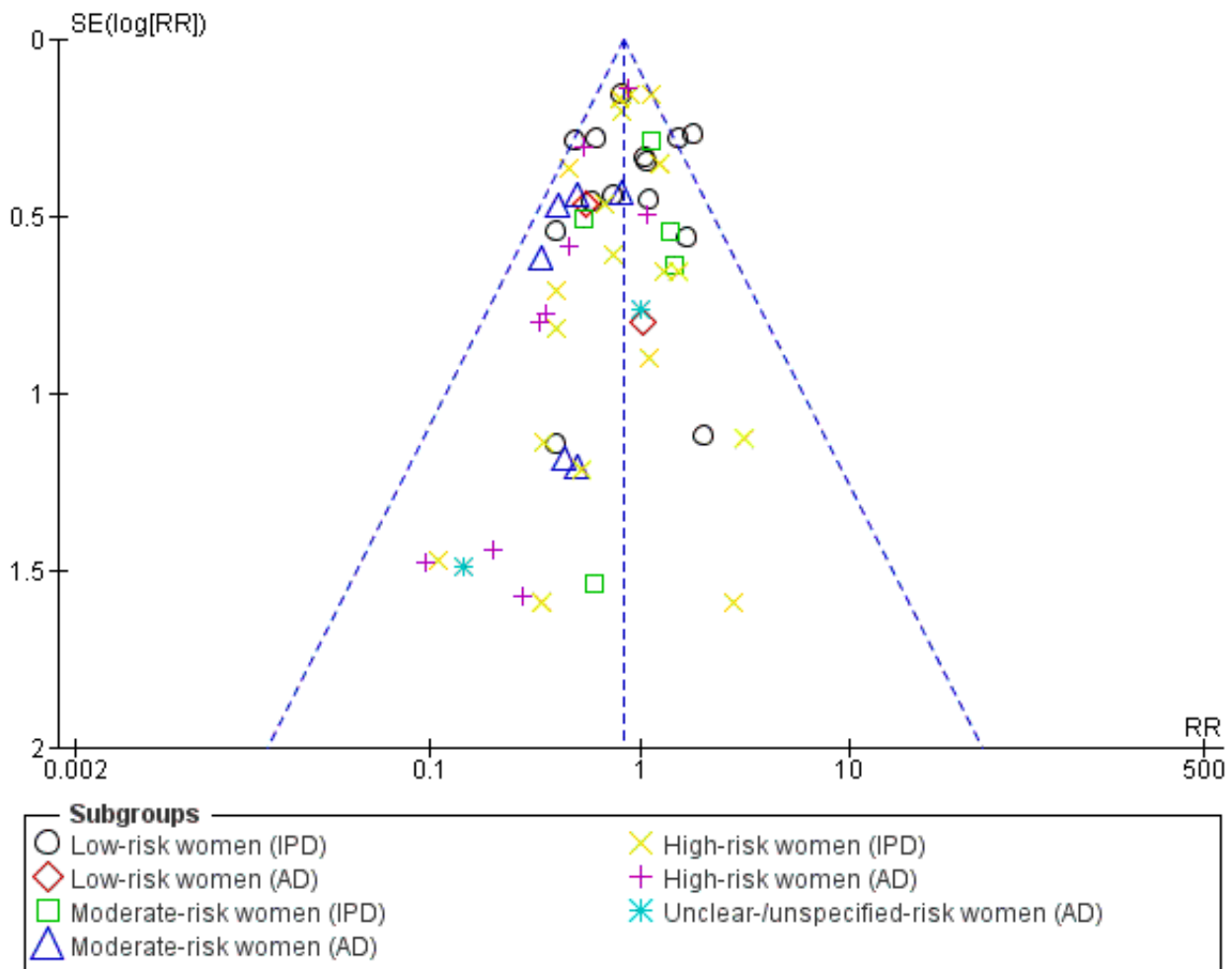


Figure 17. Funnel plot of comparison: 5 Antiplatelet agents versus placebo/no antiplatelet for primary prevention (secondary outcomes), outcome: 5.19 Small-for-gestational age (subgrouped by severity) - AD only, trial definition.

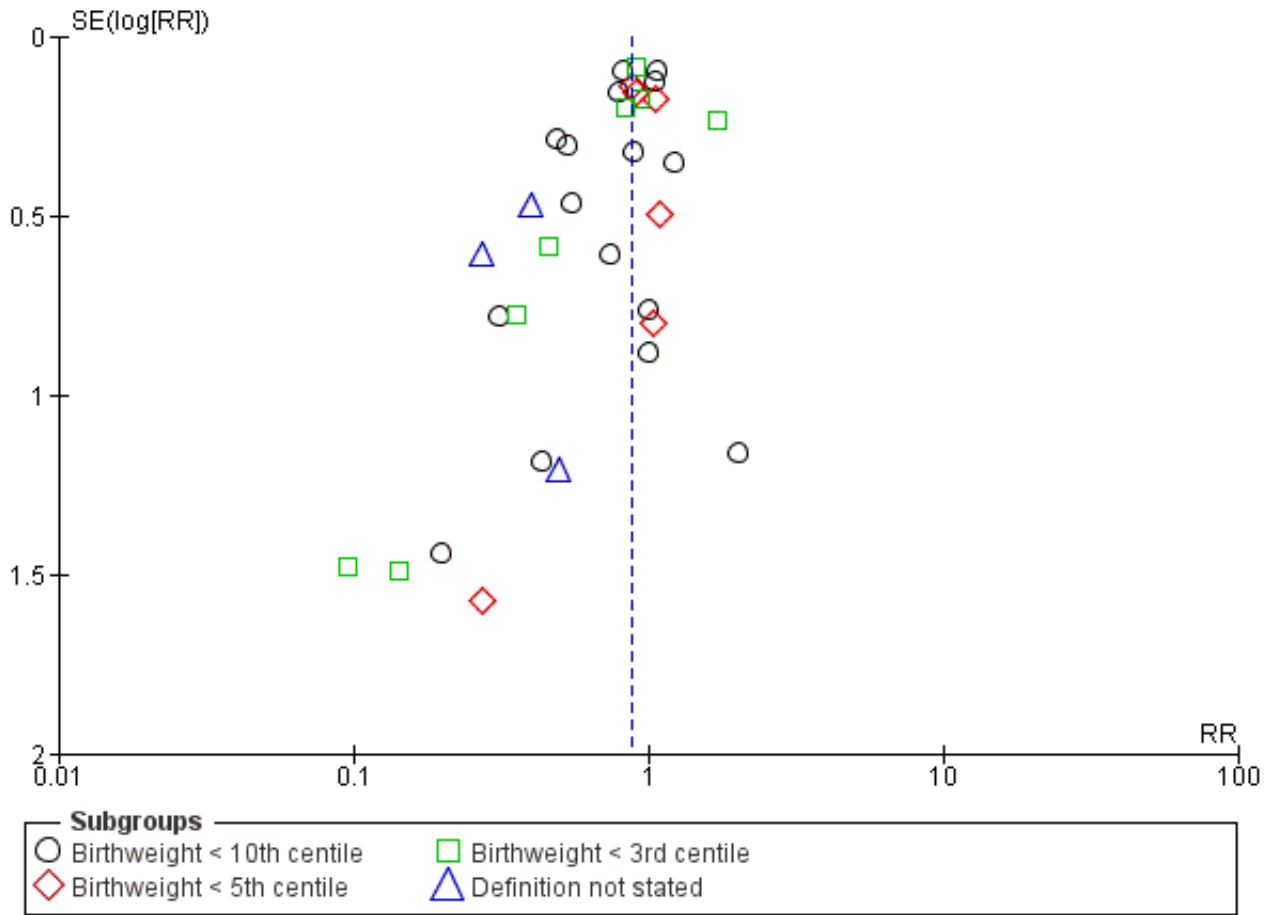
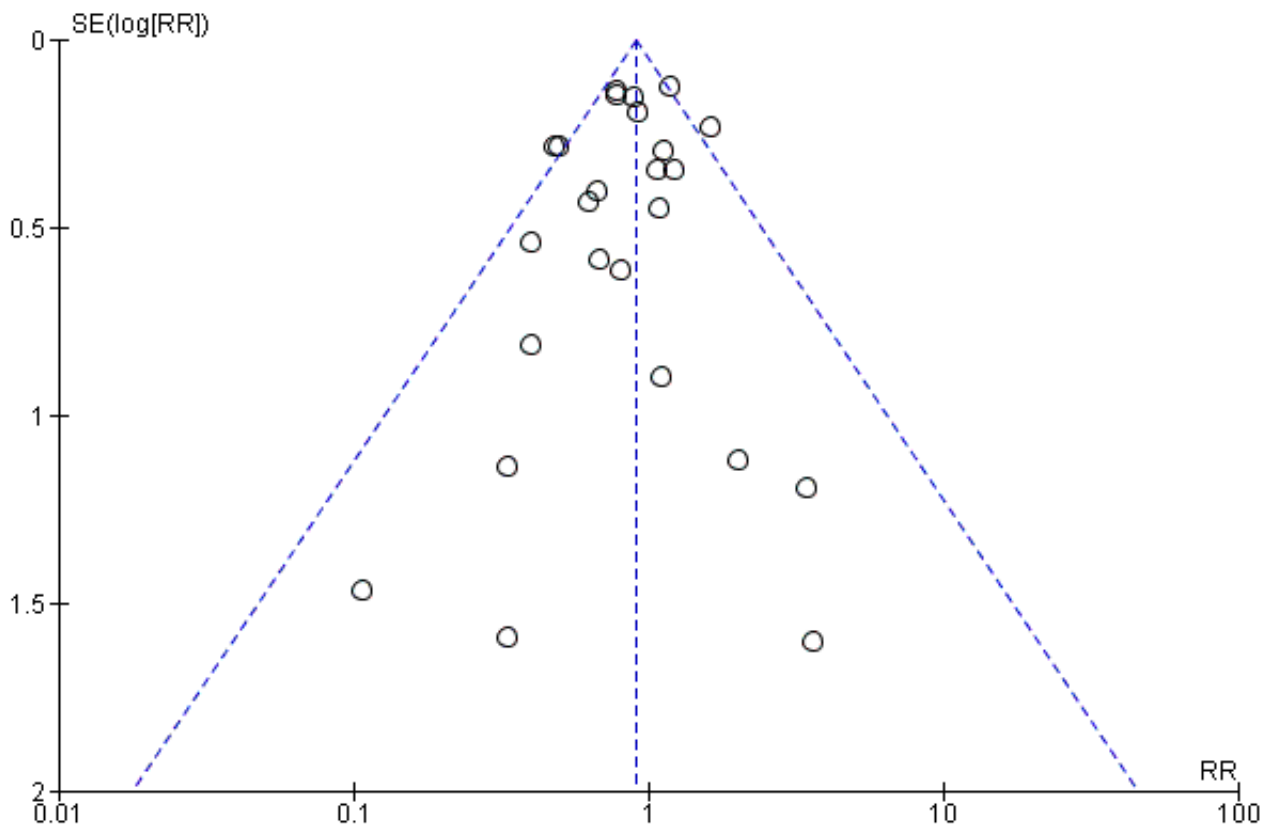


Figure 18. Funnel plot of comparison: 5 Antiplatelet agents versus placebo/no antiplatelet for primary prevention (secondary outcomes), outcome: 5.20 Any baby SGA < 3rd centile or as reported - IPD only.



Subgroups by maternal risk

This result was consistent across the subgroups by risk status at trial entry ($\text{Chi}^2 = 1.76$, $\text{df} = 3$ ($P = 0.62$), $I^2 = 0\%$; [Analysis 1.8](#)).

Subgroups by gestation at randomisation

There was a reduction the risk of the baby being born small-for-gestational-age if the mother was randomised before 20 weeks' gestation (IPD trials: 18,950 babies, 27 trials; RR 0.82, 95% CI 0.70 to 0.95; AD trials: 3211 babies, 13 trials; RR 0.67, 95% CI 0.55 to 0.82), but antiplatelet agents made little or no difference in IPD trials for women randomised at 20 weeks or after (IPD 13,173 women, 26 trials; RR 0.99 95% CI 0.85 to 1.16), and for AD trials the effect was unclear (AD trials 315 women, 5 trials; RR 0.69, 95% CI 0.35 to 1.37; [Analysis 2.4](#)). Again, although the effects appeared to differ slightly across these subgroups, all the subgroups are imbalanced in size, so it is not clear whether there are likely to be any real differences by gestation at randomisation for this outcome.

Subgroups by use of placebo

Subgroup analyses do not suggest differences by use of placebo, however the results from IPD trials do not completely align with those from AD. In trials with both IPD and AD that were controlled by placebo, antiplatelet agents appeared to reduce the risk of the baby being small-for-gestational-age, although the CI touched on no effect in IPD trials (31,090 women, 24 trials; RR 0.90 95% CI 0.81 to 1.00) while the reduction appeared clearer in AD trials (2885 women, 13 trials; RR 0.72, 95% CI 0.58 to 0.90). When no placebo

was given to women in the control group, the effect was unclear in the IPD trials (1127 women, 7 trials; RR 0.91, 95% CI 0.52 to 1.58), whereas AD suggested a clear reduction (504 women, 5 trials; RR 0.52, 95% CI 0.33 to 0.82). For AD trials both with and without placebo, the reduction in risk appeared greater than in IPD trials ([Analysis 3.4](#)).

Subgroups by dose of aspirin

There was no clear indication of subgroup differences by dose of aspirin for this outcome. For IPD trials, the effects appeared to be similar whether women were given less than 75 mg aspirin (22,618 women, 11 trials; RR 0.92, 95% CI 0.79 to 1.07), or greater than or equal to 75 mg (9107 women, 16 trials; RR 0.76, 95% CI 0.53 to 1.08). For trials with AD giving women less than 75 mg aspirin, the effect was unclear (299 women, 4 trials; RR 0.49, 95% CI 0.22 to 1.13), whereas there seemed to be a marked reduction for women given 75 mg or more (3092 women, 13 trials; RR 0.72, 95% CI 0.58 to 0.88). Where trials gave aspirin with dipyridamole, the sample sizes were too small to yield precise effect estimates so the effects are unclear ([Analysis 4.4](#)).

Secondary outcomes

Gestational hypertension

There was only evidence available from IPD trials for this outcome. Findings using the best available definition of gestational hypertension suggested that compared with placebo or no treatment, antiplatelet agents make little or no difference to

whether women developed gestational hypertension after trial entry (27,834 women; 25 studies; RR 0.95, 95% CI 0.90 to 1.01; Analysis 5.8; Figure 19). The findings using triallists' own definition of gestational hypertension (27,834 women, 25 studies; RR 0.95,

95% CI 0.89 to 1.01; Analysis 5.9; Figure 20) and using the PARIS definition (27,519 women, 24 studies; RR 0.95, 95% CI 0.90 to 1.02; Analysis 5.10; Figure 21) were very similar.

Figure 19. Funnel plot of comparison: 5 Antiplatelet agents versus placebo/no antiplatelet for primary prevention (secondary outcomes), outcome: 5.8 Gestational hypertension using best available definition - IPD only.

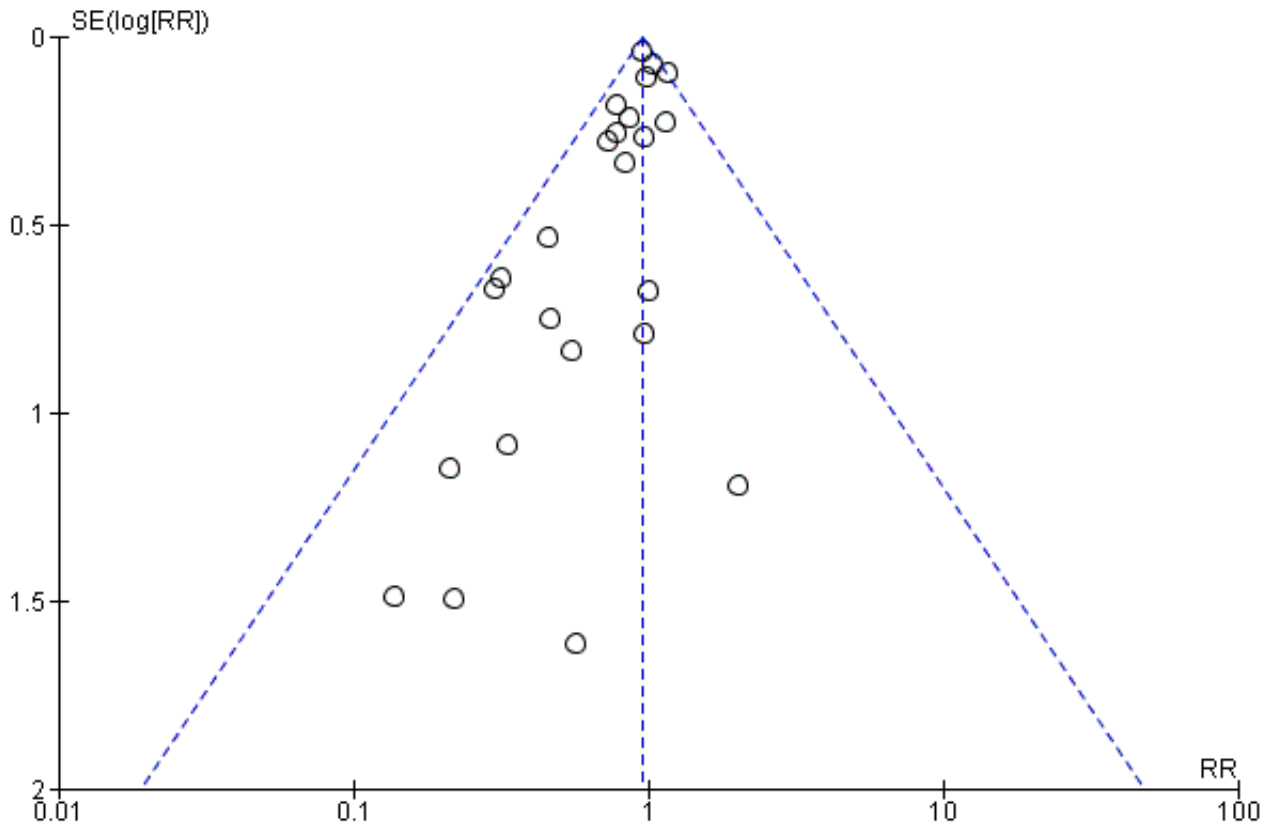


Figure 20. Funnel plot of comparison: 5 Antiplatelet agents versus placebo/no antiplatelet for primary prevention (secondary outcomes), outcome: 5.9 Gestational hypertension using trialists own definition - IPD only.

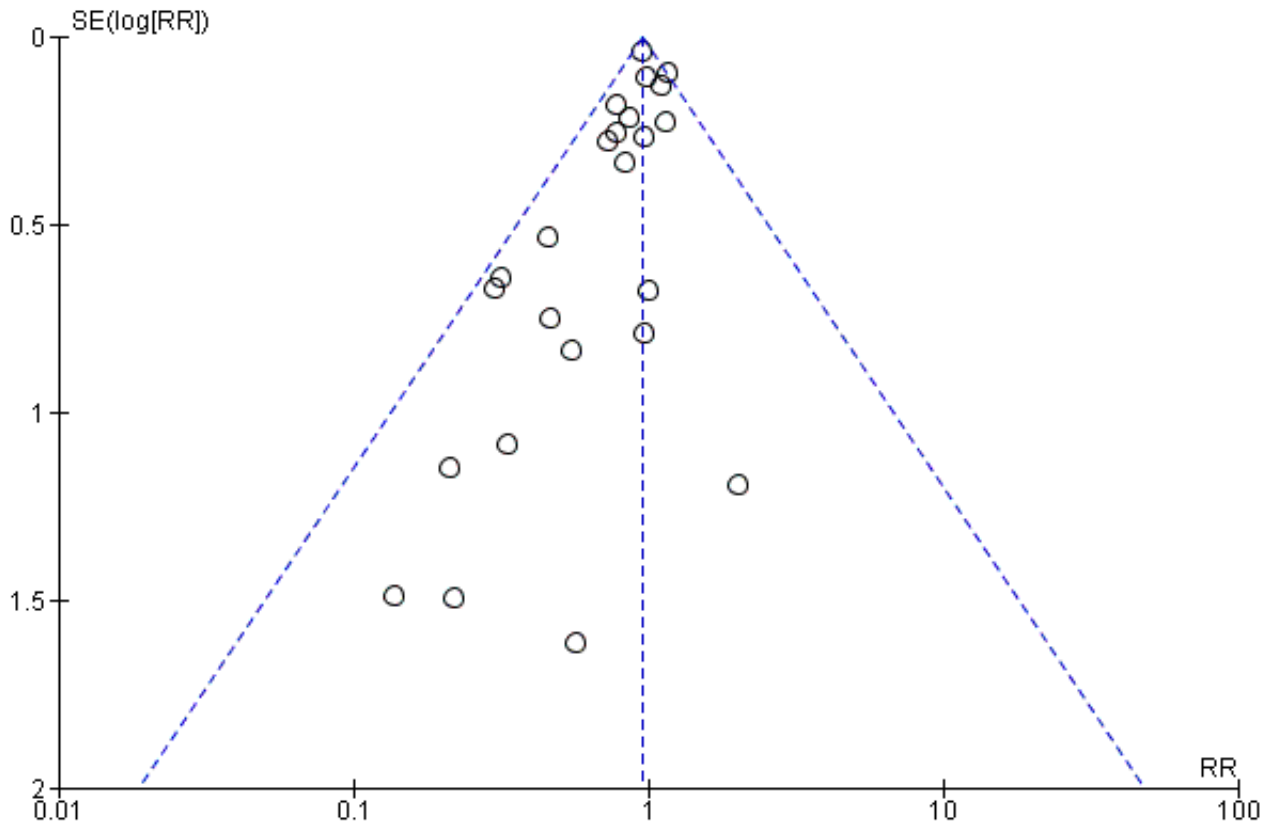
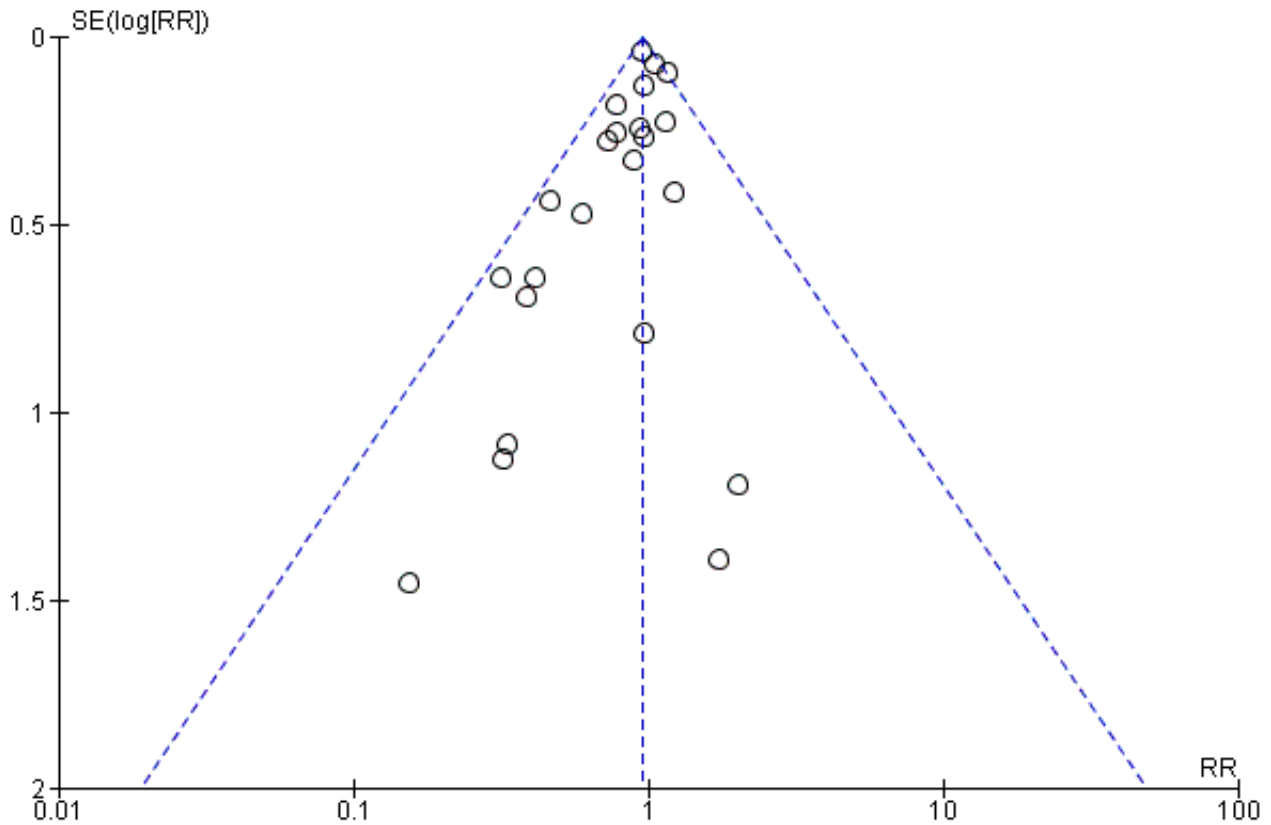


Figure 21. Funnel plot of comparison: 5 Antiplatelet agents versus placebo/no antiplatelet for primary prevention (secondary outcomes), outcome: 5.10 Gestational hypertension PARIS definition - IPD only.

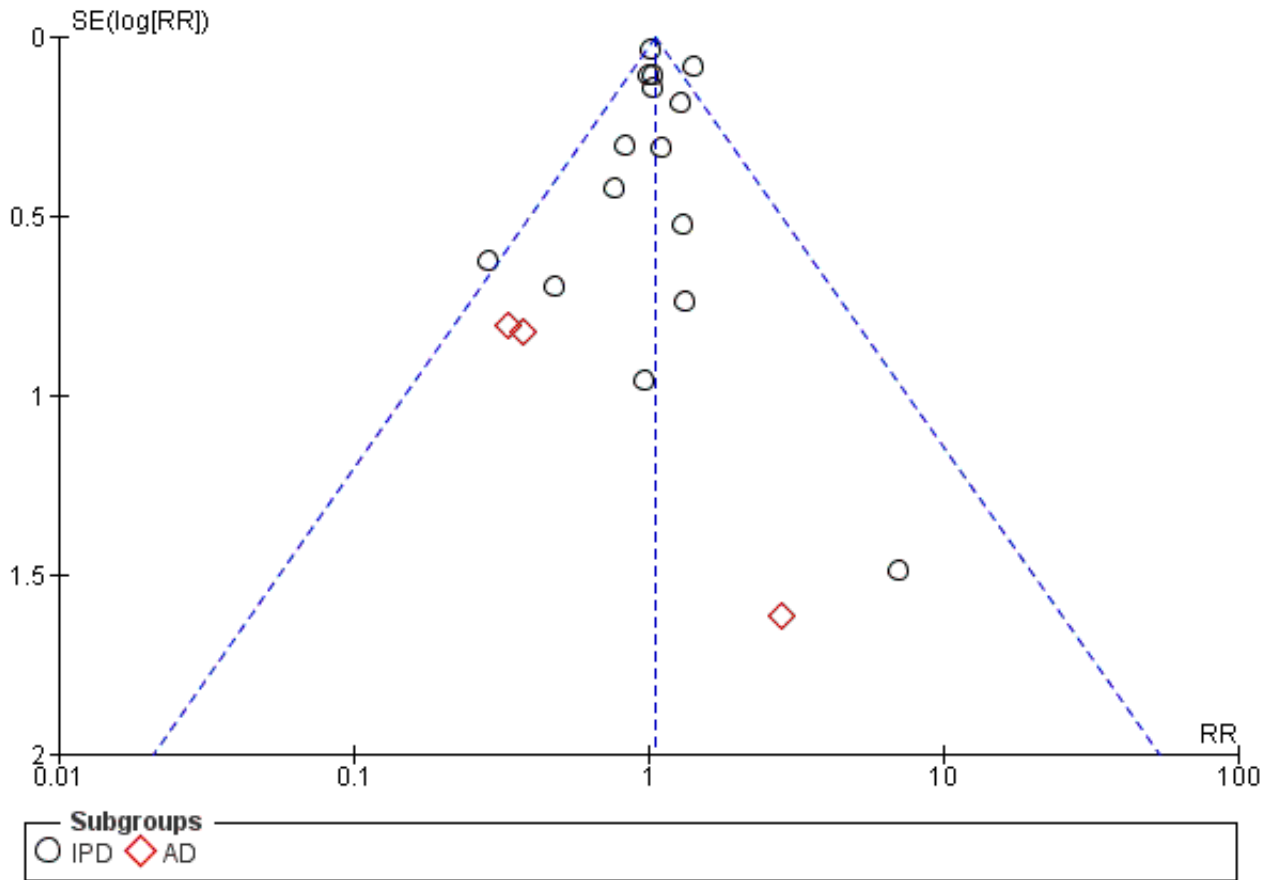


Postpartum haemorrhage > 500 mL

Data on postpartum haemorrhage were not included in previous versions of this Cochrane Review, but are included in this update as this outcome was part of the dataset collected for the PARIS IPD review. We used the trialist-defined outcome of 'postpartum haemorrhage', which was usually defined as more than 500 mL. Evidence from 19 trials with reliable available data (16 IPD trials,

three AD trials) suggested that antiplatelet agents probably slightly increase the risk of postpartum haemorrhage, although the 95% CI touches on the line of no effect (23,769 women, 19 trials; RR 1.06, 95% CI 1.00 to 1.12; assumed risk with placebo/no treatment 143 per 1000; corresponding risk with antiplatelet agents 9 more per 1000, 95% CI 0 more to 19 more; moderate-quality evidence; [Analysis 5.27](#); [Figure 22](#)).

Figure 22. Funnel plot of comparison: 5 Antiplatelet agents versus placebo/no antiplatelet for primary prevention (secondary outcomes), outcome: 5.27 Postpartum haemorrhage > 500 mL.

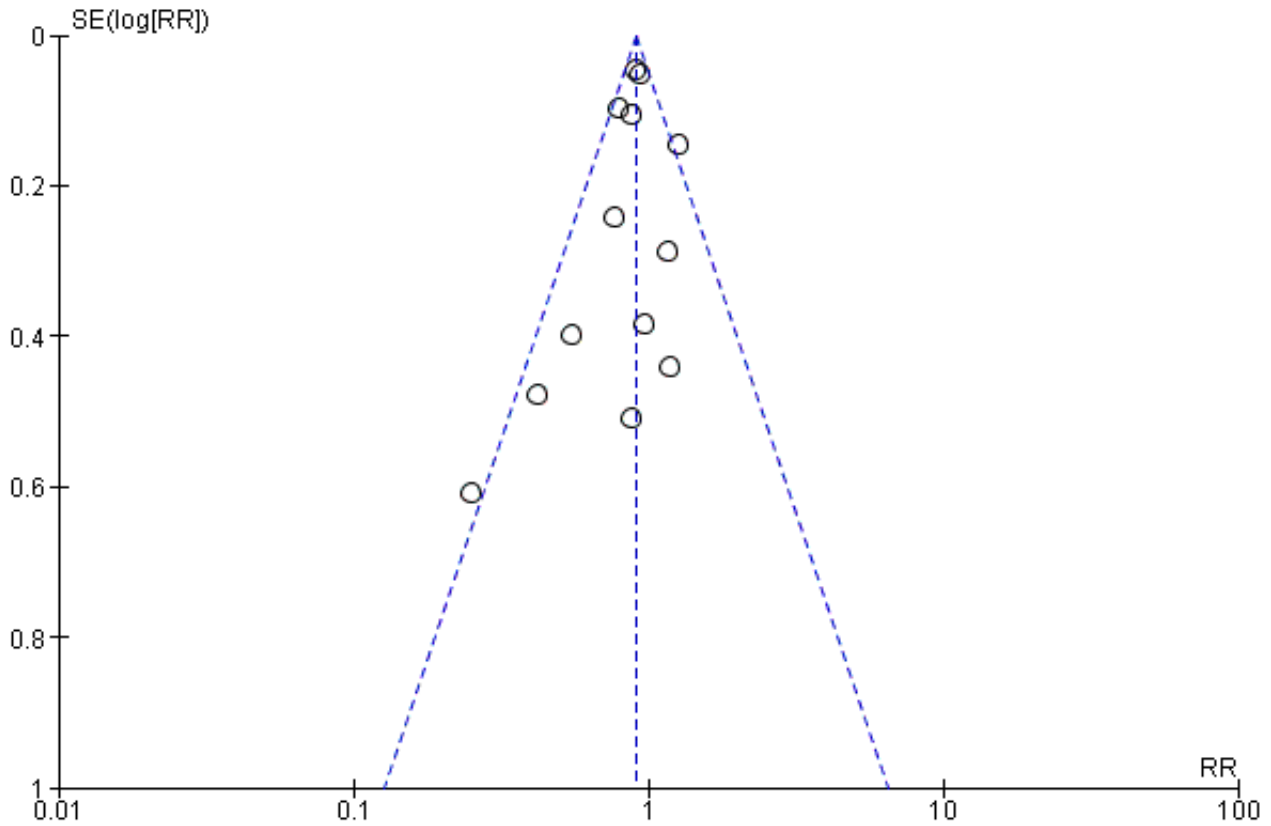


Pregnancy with serious adverse outcome

The availability of IPD from the PARIS Collaboration enabled the analysis of a composite outcome of 'pregnancy with serious adverse outcome'. This was defined as a pregnancy where the mother dies or develops pre-eclampsia, or where any baby is preterm, small-for-gestational age, or does not survive to discharge

from hospital. Analysis of these data suggest that antiplatelets reduce the incidence of this composite of adverse outcomes (17,382 women, 13 trials; average RR 0.90, 95% CI 0.85 to 0.96; assumed risk with placebo/no treatment 197 per 1000 women; corresponding risk with antiplatelet agents 20 fewer per 1000, 95% CI 30 fewer to 8 fewer; high-quality evidence; [Analysis 5.22](#); [Figure 23](#)).

Figure 23. Funnel plot of comparison: 5 Antiplatelet agents versus placebo/no antiplatelet for primary prevention (secondary outcomes), outcome: 5.22 Pregnancy with SAO (including maternal death, baby death, PE, SGA, preterm) - IPD only.

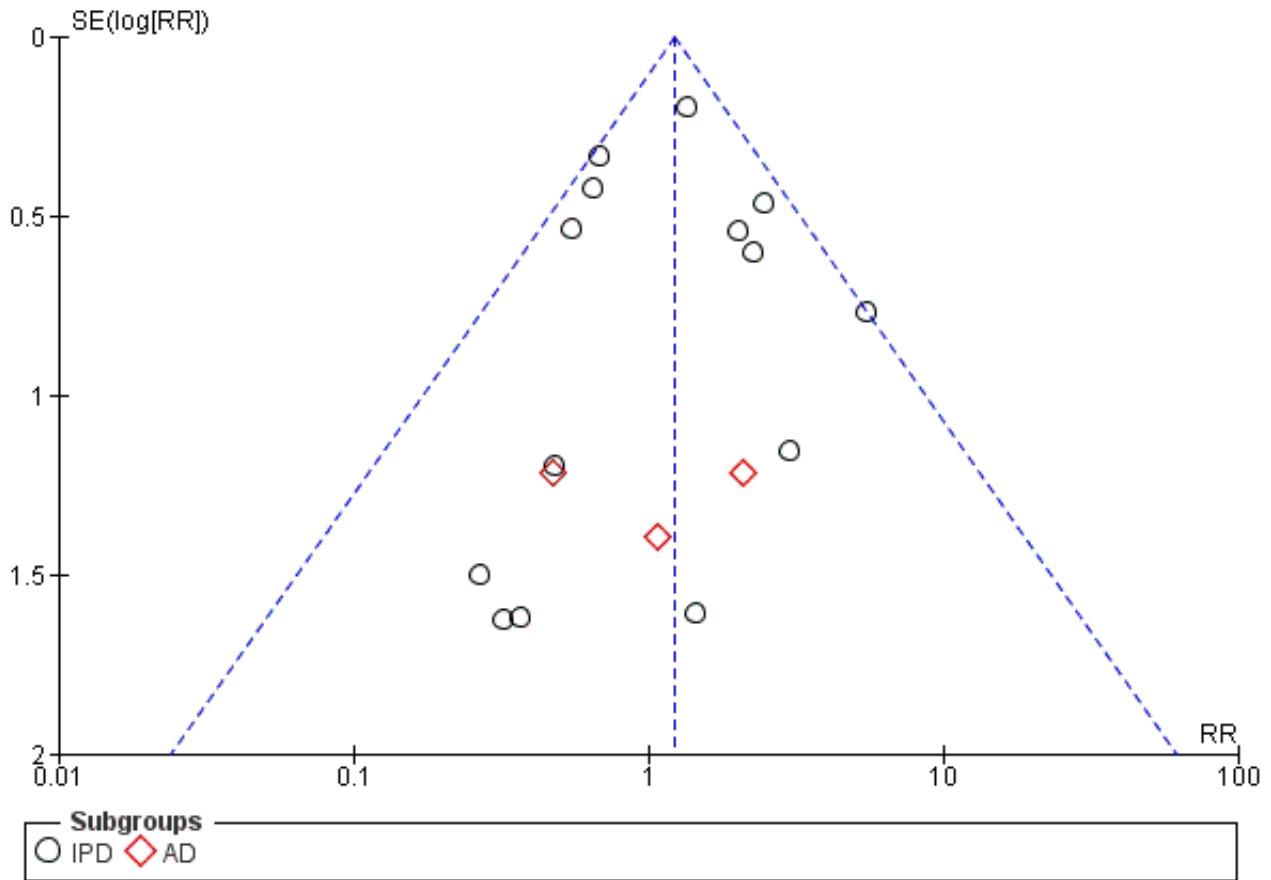


Placental abruption

Antiplatelet agents probably marginally increase the risk of placental abruption, however the 95% CI included both the line of no effect and a substantial increase in this outcome. This imprecision in the effect estimate is likely to be due to the rarity

of this outcome 30,775 women, 29 trials; RR 1.21, 95% CI 0.95 to 1.54; assumed risk with placebo/no treatment 7 per 1000 women; corresponding risk with antiplatelet agents 2 more per 1000, 95% CI 0 more to 4 more; moderate-quality evidence; [Analysis 5.26](#); [Figure 24](#)).

Figure 24. Funnel plot of comparison: 5 Antiplatelet agents versus placebo/no antiplatelet for primary prevention (secondary outcomes), outcome: 5.26 Placental abruption.



Long-term follow-up for the children

Two trials assessed the children in early childhood (CLASP 1994; Italy 1993). CLASP 1994 suggested no difference between treatment and control groups in any of the measures of health and development at 12 to 18 months (Analysis 5.31; Analysis 5.32; Analysis 5.34). (Italy 1993 suggested that antiplatelet agents may lower the risk of gross or fine motor problems at 18 months compared with control (15/427 versus 26/361, RR 0.49, 95% CI 0.26 to 0.91; Analysis 5.31), but suggested no difference in any of the other reported outcomes at 18 months (Analysis 5.31; Analysis

5.33; Analysis 5.34). This result should be interpreted with caution, however, as the trial was not placebo controlled and so assessment was unblinded, and 27% of children were lost to follow-up

Other secondary outcomes

There was a slight reduction for the treatment group in **birthweight less than 2500g** (31,522 babies, 32 trials; RR 0.92, 95% CI 0.88 to 0.97; Analysis 5.21; Figure 25), and also in the risk of any baby requiring assisted ventilation (RR 0.80, 95% CI 0.66 to 0.97; 7383 mothers; 15 trials; Analysis 5.28; Figure 26).

Figure 25. Funnel plot of comparison: 5 Antiplatelet agents versus placebo/no antiplatelet for primary prevention (secondary outcomes), outcome: 5.21 Birthweight < 2500 g.

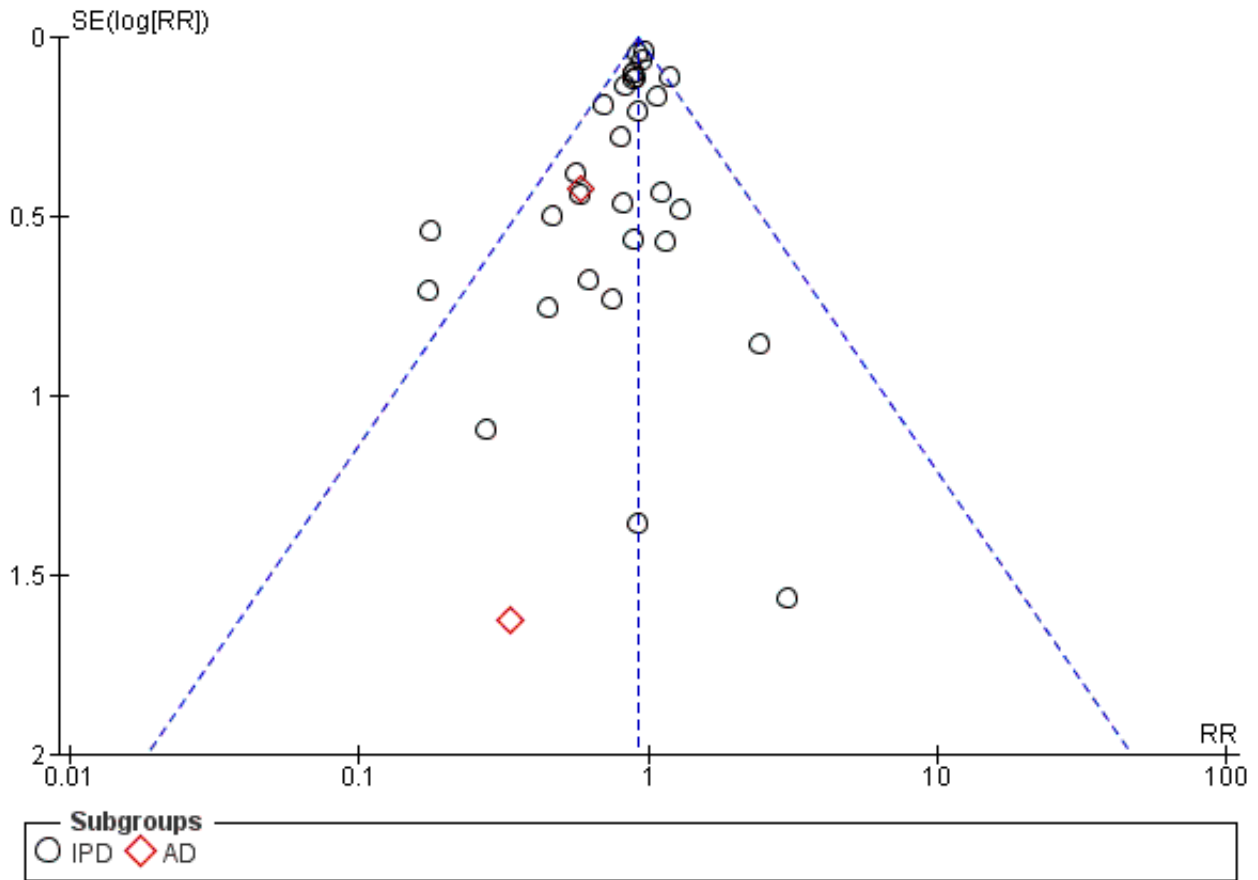
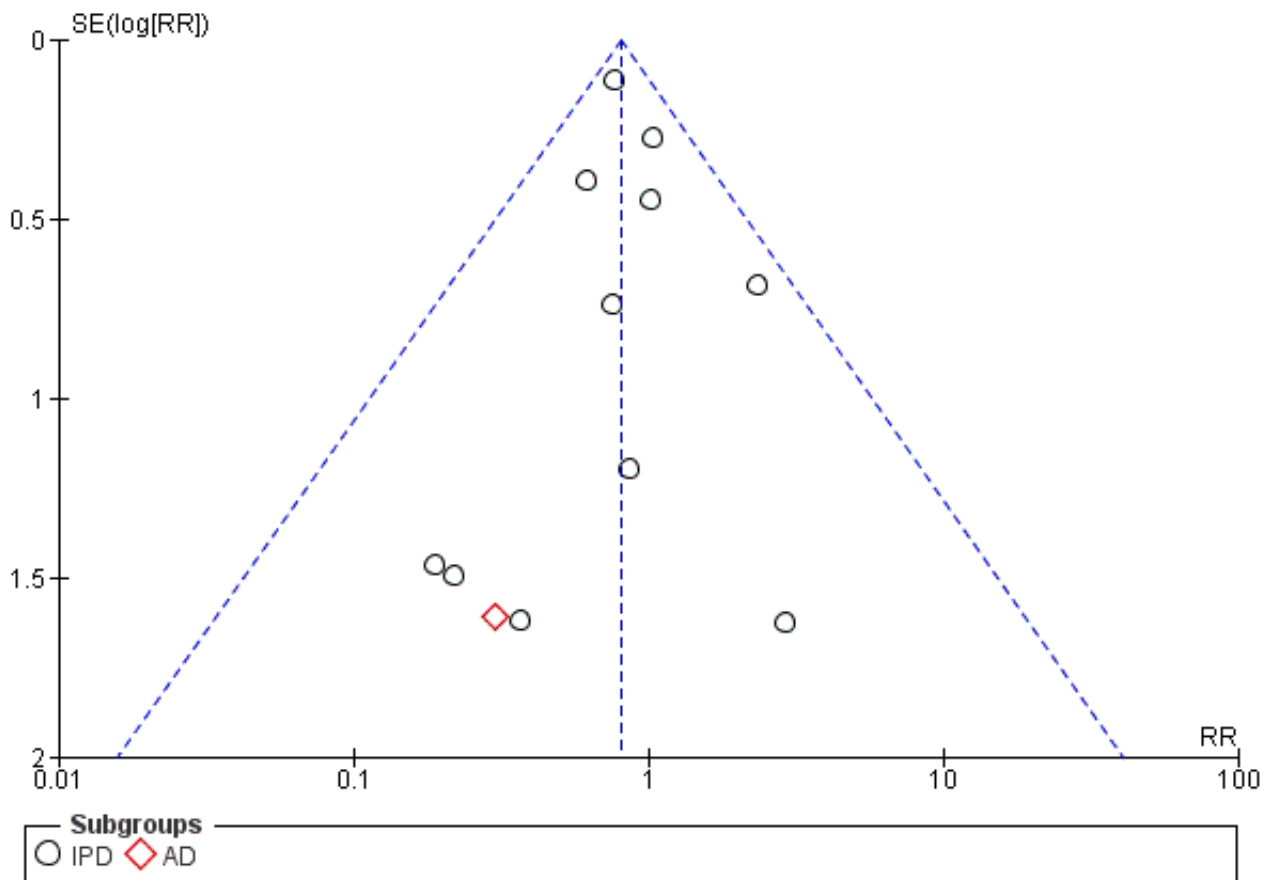


Figure 26. Funnel plot of comparison: 5 Antiplatelet agents versus placebo/no antiplatelet for primary prevention (secondary outcomes), outcome: 5.28 Any baby required assisted ventilation.



The evidence suggested that antiplatelet agents make little or no difference to **hospital admission for women during pregnancy** (AD trials only; 12,964 women, 3 trials; RR 1.03, 95% CI 0.97 to 1.09; [Analysis 5.23](#)), **non-spontaneous labour** (induced labour or pre-labour caesarean) (IPD trials only; 29,838 women, 24 trials; RR 1.02, 95% CI 0.98 to 1.05; [Analysis 5.24](#); [Figure 27](#)), **gestation at onset proteinuria** (IPD trials only; 3442 women; 14 trials; mean difference (MD) -0.42 weeks, 95% CI -1.40 to 0.56; [Analysis 5.11](#); [Figure 28](#)), **gestation at birth** (MD 0.02 weeks, 95% CI -0.04 to 0.09; 31,669 mothers; 34 trials; [Analysis 5.14](#); [Figure 29](#)), antepartum haemorrhage (IPD trials only; RR 1.04, 95% CI 0.92 to 1.17; 30,513 mothers, 25 trials; [Analysis 5.25](#); [Figure 30](#)), or **caesarean section** (32,698 women, 36 trials; RR 1.03, 95% CI 0.99 to 1.07; [Analysis 5.40](#);

[Figure 31](#)), Antiplatelet agents probably make little or no difference to the risk of **HELLP syndrome** (20,130 women, 16 trials; RR 0.77, 95% CI 0.44 to 1.36; [Analysis 5.2](#)) and **severe maternal morbidity** (28,065 women; 15 trials; RR 1.00, 95% CI 0.72 to 1.39; [Analysis 5.1](#); [Figure 32](#)), although for these outcome the 95% CIs are wide, possibly due to the sample size being underpowered given the rarity of these events. In terms of outcomes for the baby, there was probably little or no difference in the risk of **intraventricular haemorrhage** (32,224 babies, 20 trials; RR 0.99, 95% CI 0.72 to 1.36; [Analysis 5.29](#); [Figure 33](#)), other **neonatal bleeding** (30,715 babies, 20 trials; RR 0.90, 95% CI 0.75 to 1.08; [Analysis 5.30](#); [Figure 34](#)), or in **admission to special care baby unit** (32,808 babies, 29 trials; RR 0.95, 95% CI 0.90 to 1.00; [Analysis 5.35](#); [Figure 35](#)).

Figure 27. Funnel plot of comparison: 5 Antiplatelet agents versus placebo/no antiplatelet for primary prevention (secondary outcomes), outcome: 5.24 Non spontaneous labour (induced labour or pre-labour caesarean) - IPD only.

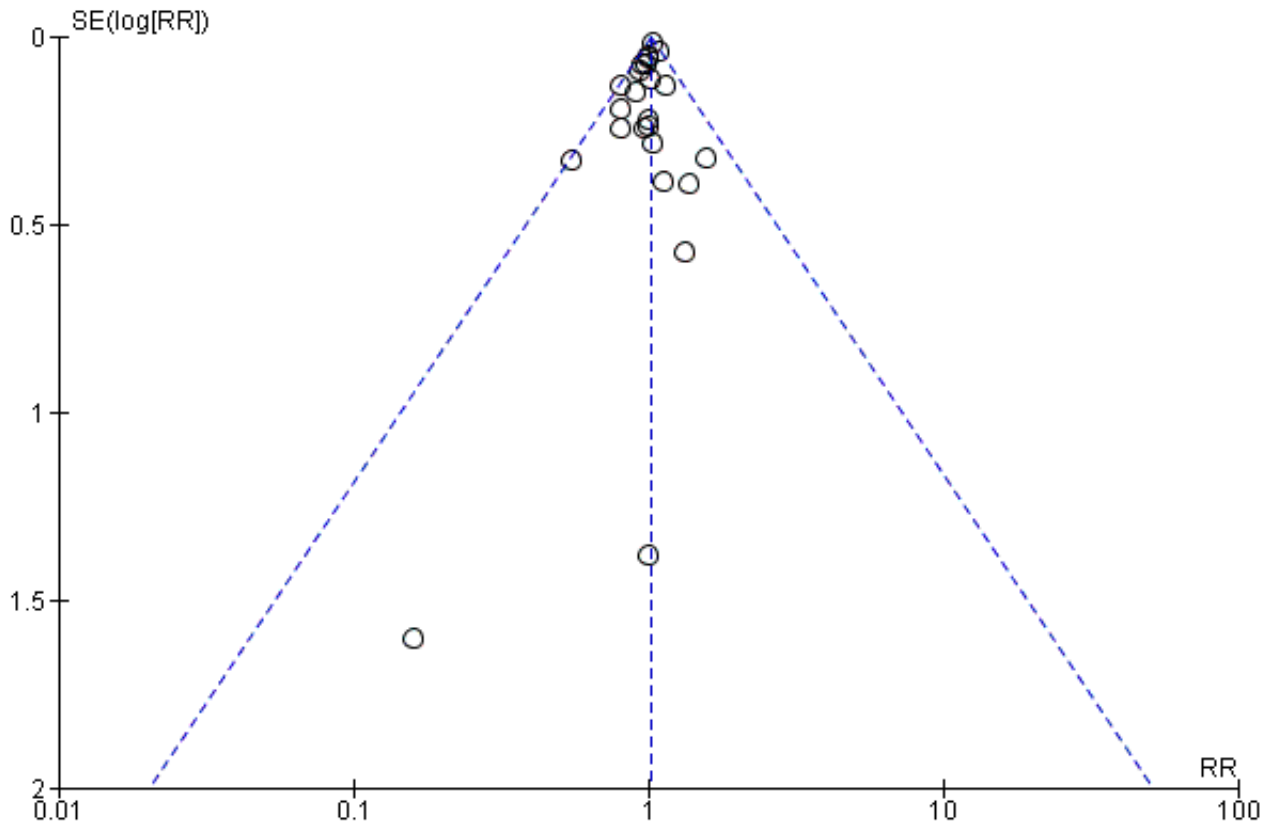


Figure 28. Funnel plot of comparison: 5 Antiplatelet agents versus placebo/no antiplatelet for primary prevention (secondary outcomes), outcome: 5.11 Gestation at onset proteinuria by best definition - IPD only.

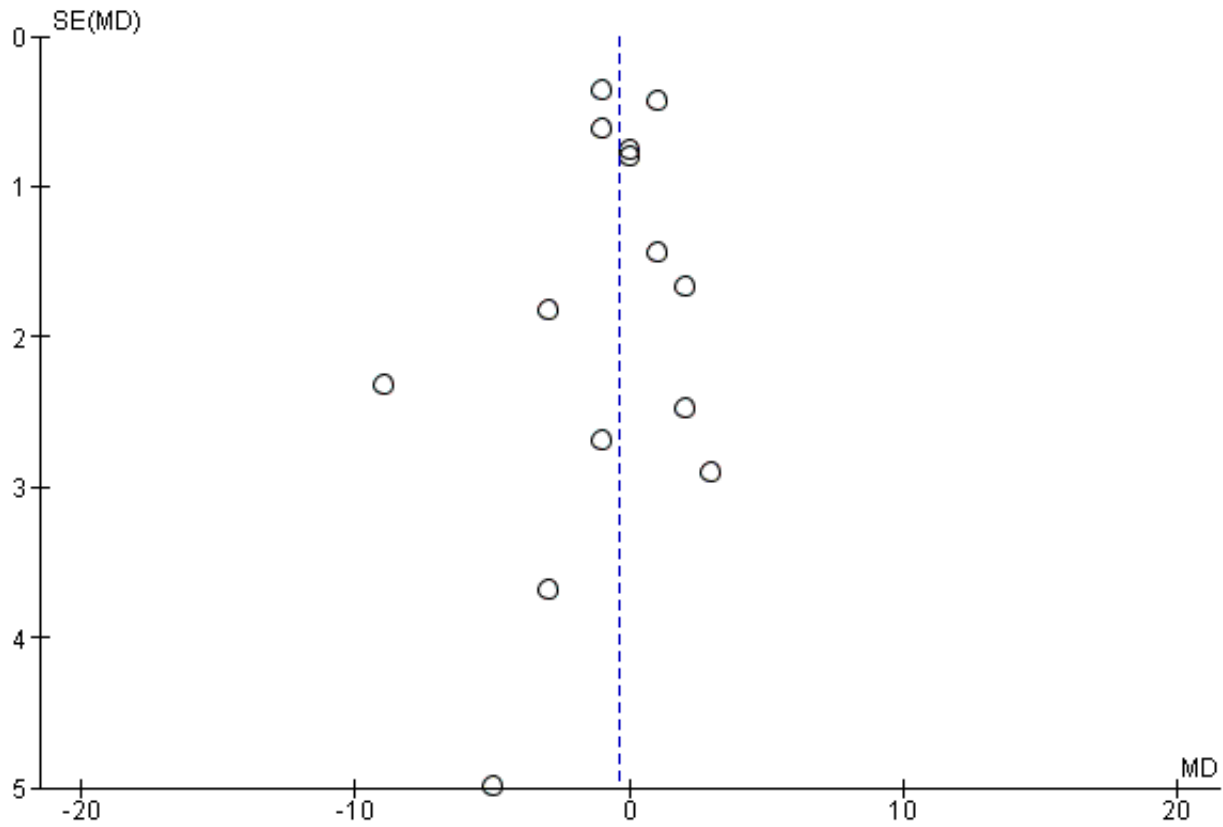


Figure 29. Funnel plot of comparison: 5 Antiplatelet agents versus placebo/no antiplatelet for primary prevention (secondary outcomes), outcome: 5.14 Gestation at birth (mean, weeks).

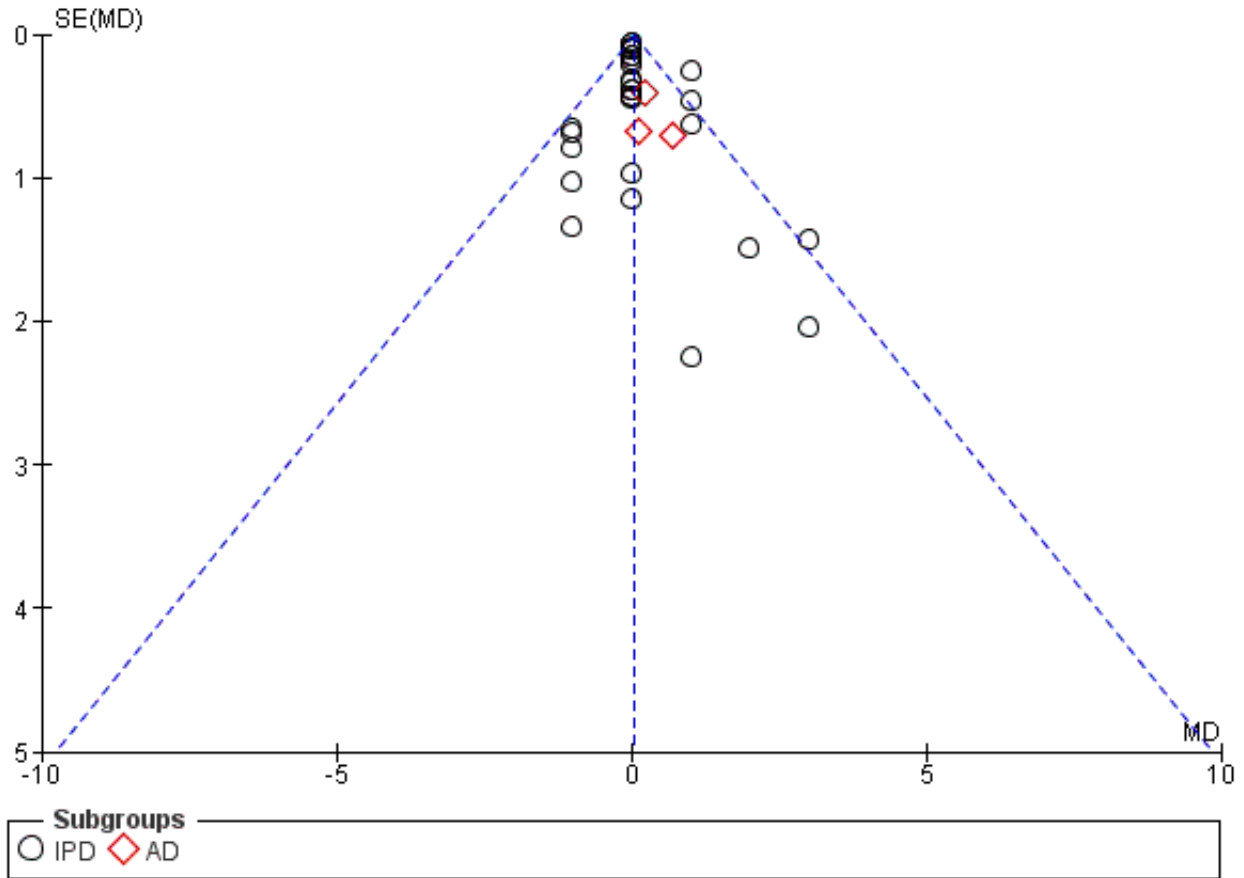


Figure 30. Funnel plot of comparison: 5 Antiplatelet agents versus placebo/no antiplatelet for primary prevention (secondary outcomes), outcome: 5.25 Antepartum haemorrhage - IPD only.

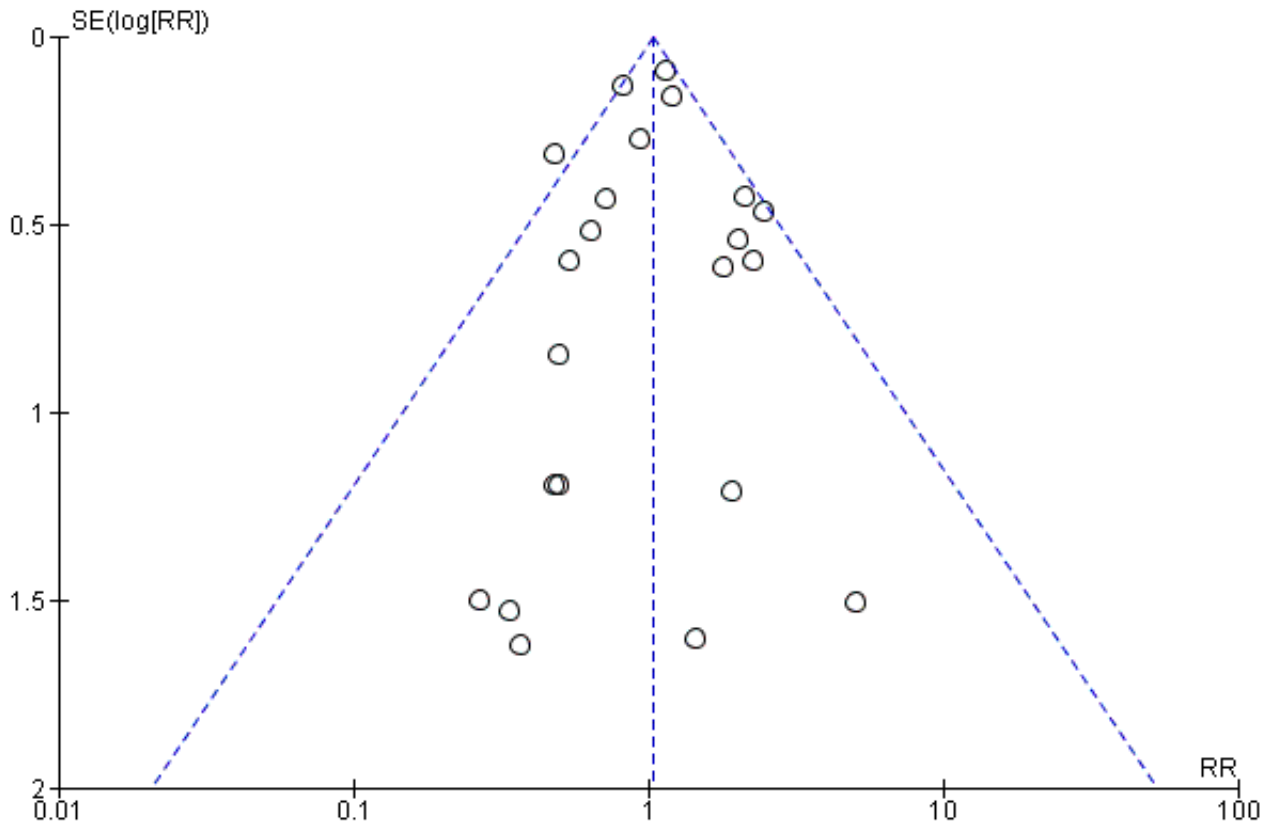


Figure 31. Funnel plot of comparison: 5 Antiplatelet agents versus placebo/no antiplatelet for primary prevention (secondary outcomes), outcome: 5.40 Caesarean section.

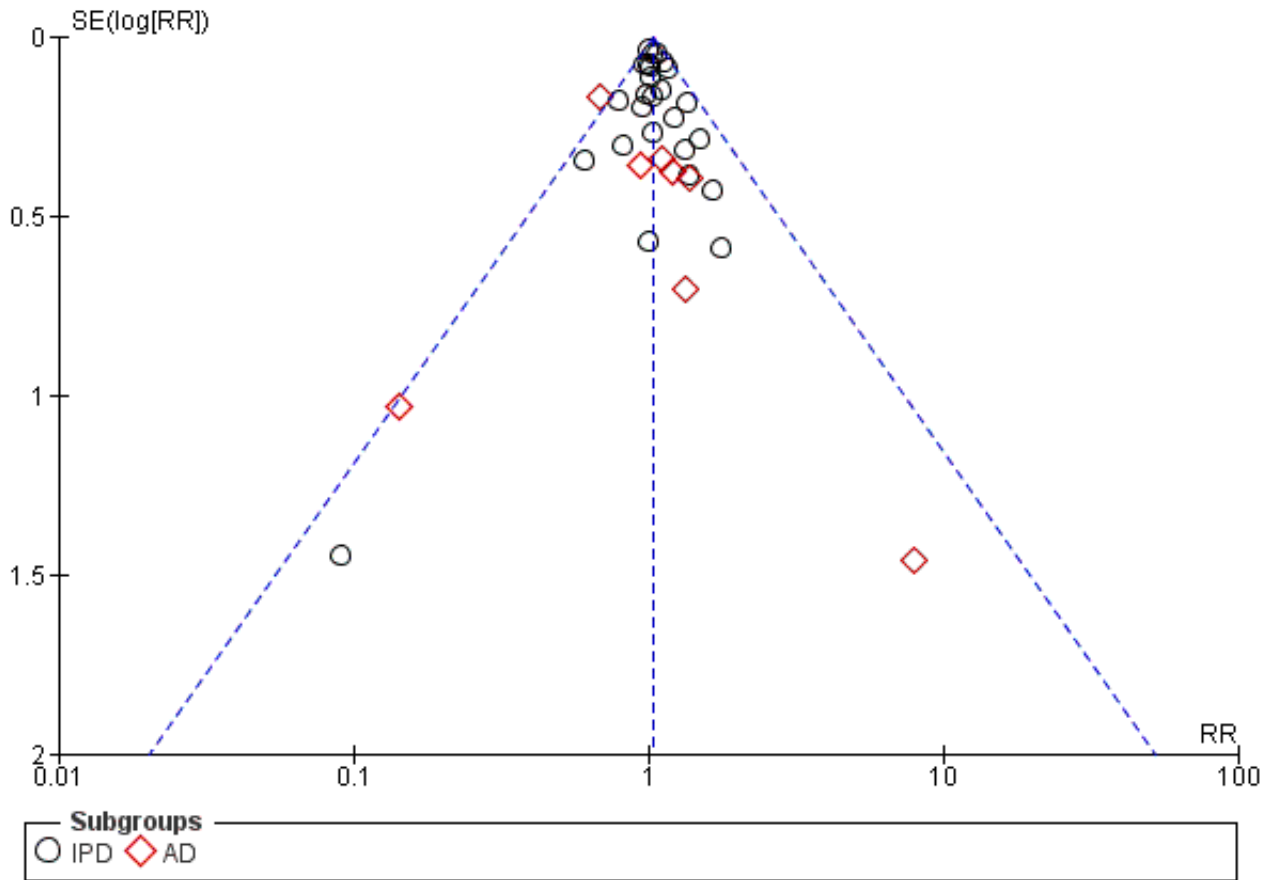


Figure 32. Funnel plot of comparison: 5 Antiplatelet agents versus placebo/no antiplatelet for primary prevention (secondary outcomes), outcome: 5.1 Severe maternal morbidity (eclampsia, renal failure, liver failure, HELLP syndrome, stroke - IPD only).

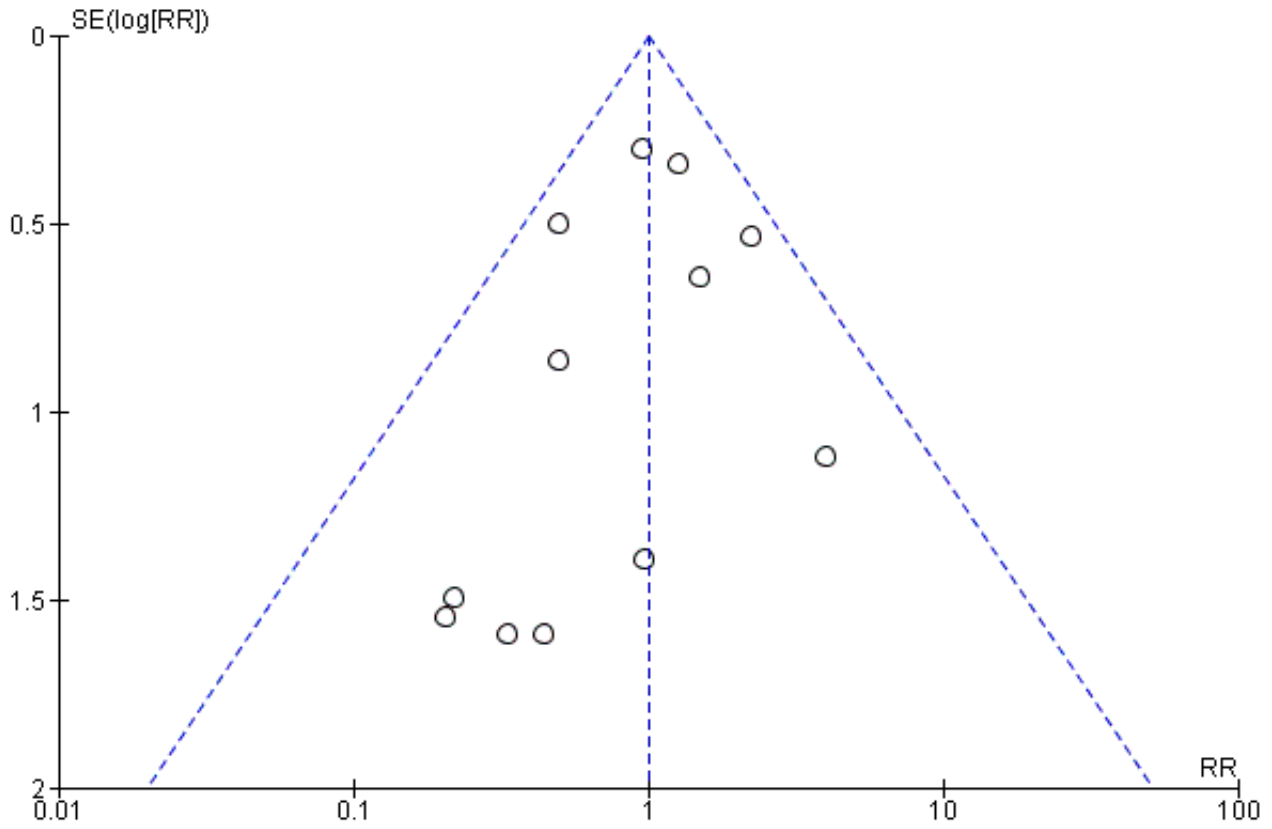


Figure 33. Funnel plot of comparison: 5 Antiplatelet agents versus placebo/no antiplatelet for primary prevention (secondary outcomes), outcome: 5.29 Intraventricular haemorrhage.

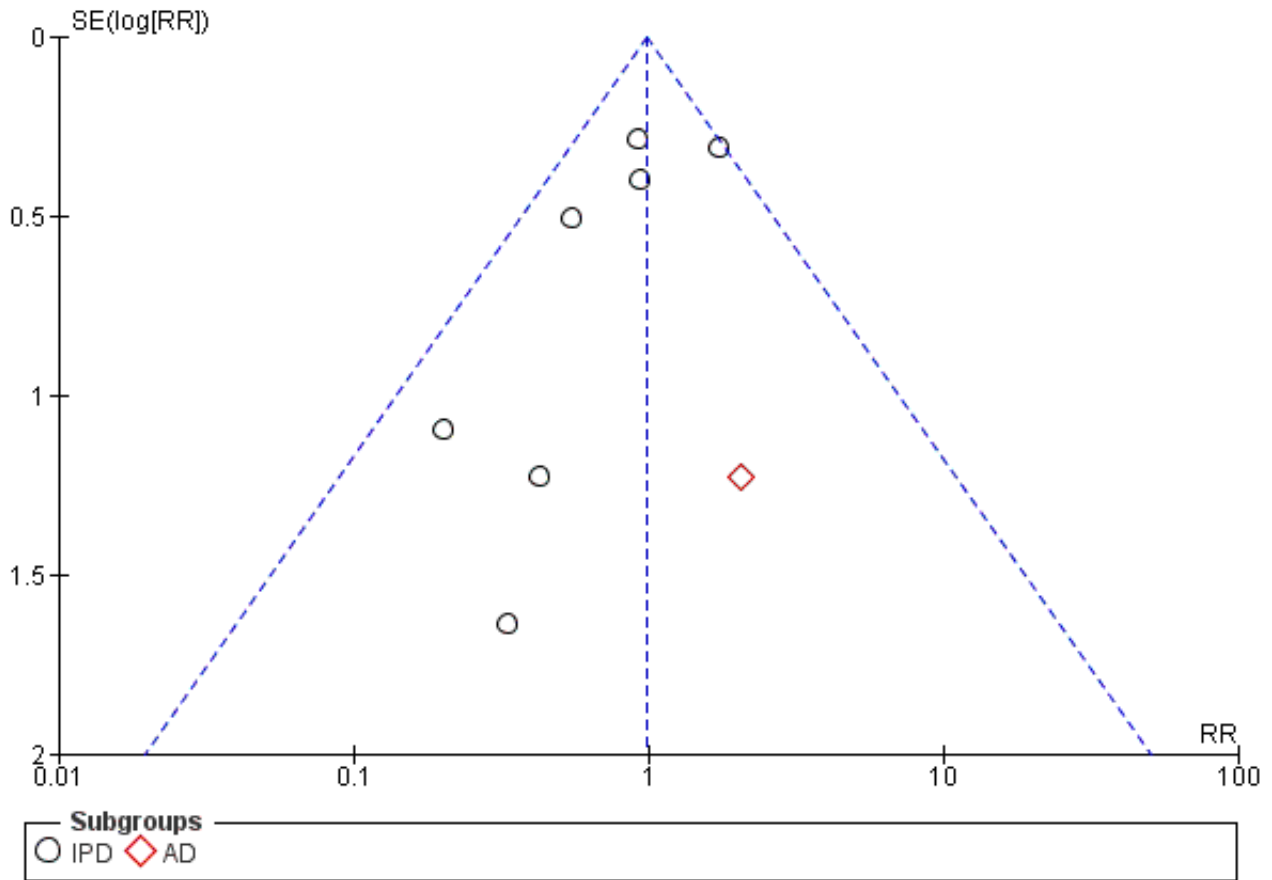


Figure 34. Funnel plot of comparison: 5 Antiplatelet agents versus placebo/no antiplatelet for primary prevention (secondary outcomes), outcome: 5.30 Other neonatal bleed.

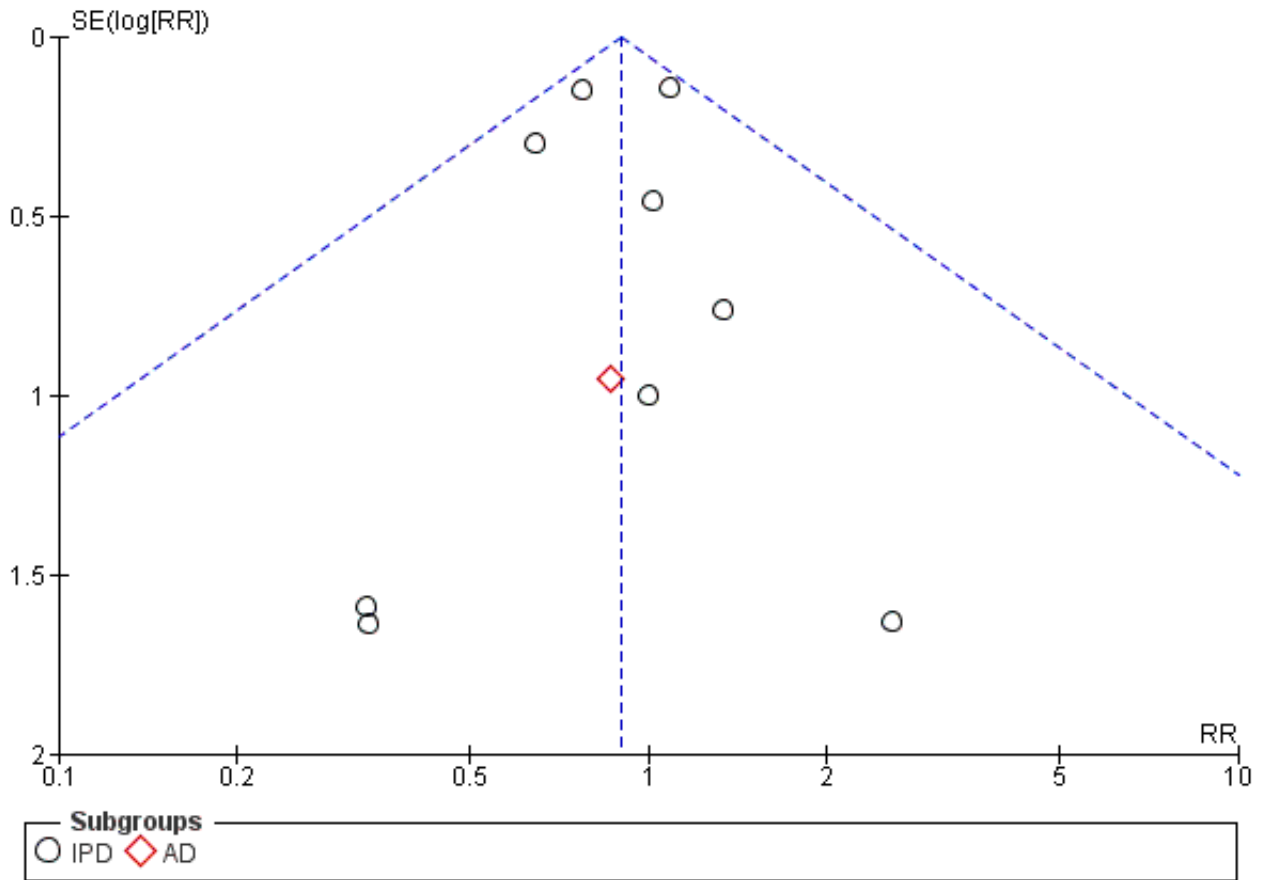
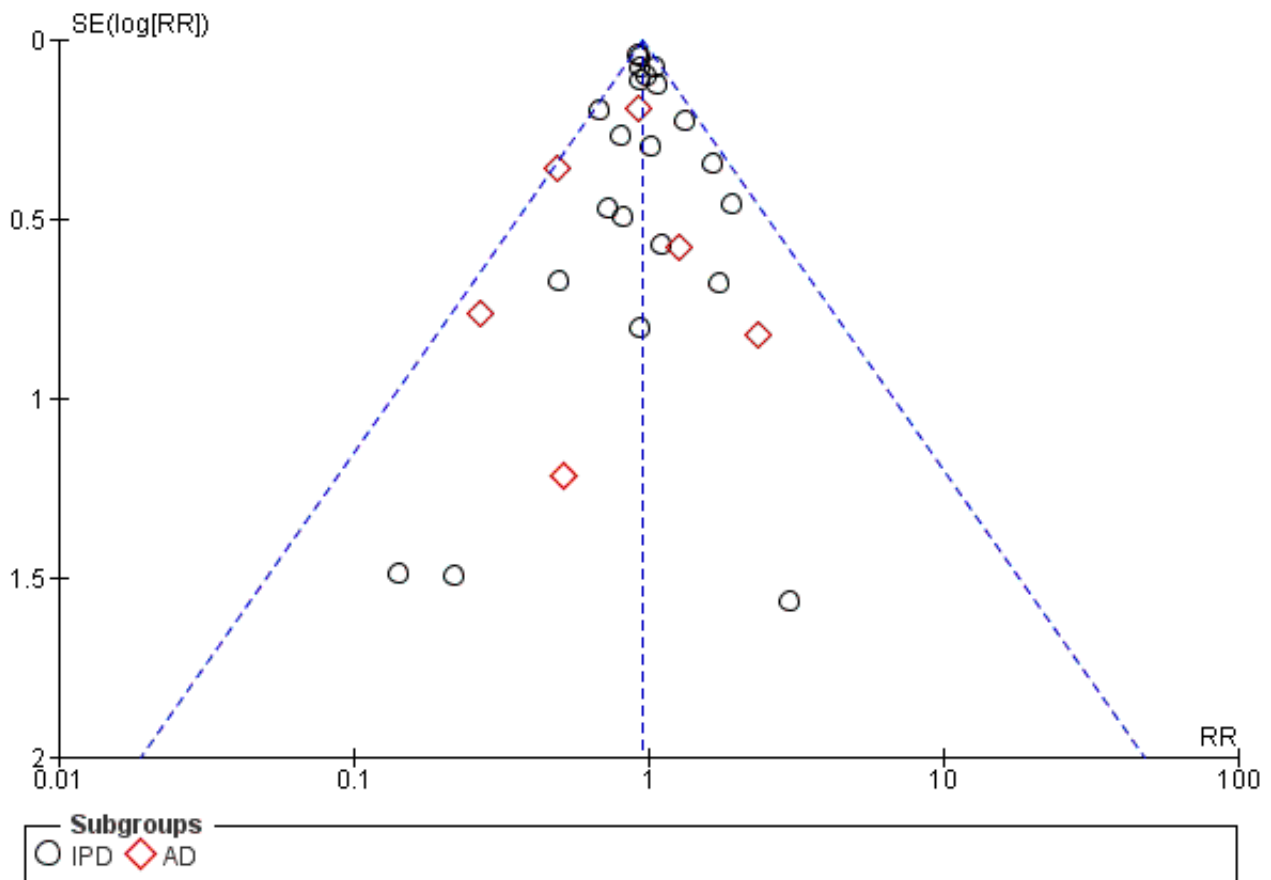


Figure 35. Funnel plot of comparison: 5 Antiplatelet agents versus placebo/no antiplatelet for primary prevention (secondary outcomes), outcome: 5.35 Admission to a special care baby unit.



It was unclear whether there was a difference between treatment and control groups in the risk for the mother of **disseminated intravascular coagulation** (10,828 women; 9 trials; RR 0.32, 95% CI 0.01 to 7.57; [Analysis 5.3](#)), stroke (IPD trials only; 10,828 mothers; 9 trials; RR 2.99, 95% CI 0.12 to 73.40; [Analysis 5.4](#)), **renal failure** (IPD trials only; 16,502 mothers; 11 trials; RR 1.29, 95% CI 0.35 to 4.79; [Analysis 5.5](#)), **liver failure** (IPD trials only; 10838 women, 9 trials; not estimable due to no reported events; [Analysis 5.6](#)), pulmonary oedema (IPD trials only; 16,732 mothers, 12 trials; RR 0.84, 95% CI 0.37 to 1.89; [Analysis 5.7](#)), **eclampsia** (24,947 women, 17 trials; RR 1.03, 95% CI 0.66 to 1.60; [Analysis 5.38](#)), or **maternal death** (IPD trials only; 28,675 women, 18 trials; RR 1.75, 95% CI 0.51 to 5.96; [Analysis 5.39](#)).

Two trials assessed the children in early childhood ([CLASP 1994](#); [Italy 1993](#)). In one, ([CLASP 1994](#)), no difference was apparent between treatment and control groups in any measure of health and development at 12 to 18 months. The other ([Italy 1993](#)) reported a higher risk of **gross and fine motor problems at 18 months** in treatment compared with control children (15/427 versus 26/361, RR 0.49, 95% CI 0.26 to 0.91), and there was also the possibility of a higher risk of **respiratory problems** in children of mothers who had received aspirin (56/427 versus 32/361; RR 1.48, 95% CI 0.98 to 2.23) ([Analysis 5.31](#)). These results should be interpreted with caution, however, as the trial was not placebo

controlled and so assessment was unblinded, and 27% of children were lost to follow-up.

2. Antiplatelet agents versus placebo or no treatment for secondary prevention of pre-eclampsia and its complications in women with gestational hypertension

Primary outcomes

Proteinuric pre-eclampsia

Combined evidence from IPD and AD trials suggested that antiplatelet agents reduced the risk of pre-eclampsia when administered to women who already have gestational hypertension (secondary prevention), compared with administration of placebo/no treatment (1813 women, 7 trials; average RR 0.67, 95% CI 0.47 to 0.95; [Analysis 6.2](#)).

Any reported death: fetal, neonatal or before hospital discharge

In the seven trials with IPD available, there was evidence that antiplatelet agents may make little or no difference to fetal or neonatal death where mothers were treated who already had gestational hypertension (1950 women, 7 trials; RR 1.00, 95% CI 0.68 to 1.47; [Analysis 6.9](#)). In the two small AD trials, there appears to have been a reduction in the relative risk of any reported death (fetal, neonatal or infant) for the treatment group (260 women, 2 trials; RR 0.36, 95% CI 0.15 to 0.84; [Analysis 6.8](#)).

Preterm birth

Administration of antiplatelet agents for secondary prevention appeared to slightly reduce the incidence of preterm birth, but the 95% just crossed the line of no effect (< 37 weeks) (IPD and AD trials; 2070 women, 9 trials; RR 0.89, 95% CI 0.78 to 1.01; [Analysis 6.10](#)).

Small-for-gestational age

It is unclear whether antiplatelet agents reduce the risk of babies being born small-for-gestational age when given to women for secondary prevention (1791 babies; 6 trials; average RR 0.76, 95% CI 0.54 to 1.09; [Analysis 6.11](#)).

Secondary outcomes

For secondary prevention, antiplatelet agents appeared to make little or no difference to the risk of: **caesarean section** (2327 women, 9 trials; RR 1.04, 95% CI 0.94 to 1.16; [Analysis 6.12](#)); **non-spontaneous labour** (IPD trials only: RR 0.96, 95% CI 0.77 to 1.18; 1540 women; 5 trials; [Analysis 6.13](#)); **severe hypertension using trialists' definition** (IPD trials only; RR 0.94, 95% CI 0.83 to 1.07; 1834 mothers; 5 trials; [Analysis 6.4](#)); **pregnancy with severe adverse outcome** (IPD trials only; 1970 mothers, 8 trials; RR 0.95, 95% CI 0.84 to 1.06; [Analysis 6.19](#)); and they also appeared to make little difference to **gestation at birth** (IPD trials only: 1927 mothers, 8 trials; MD 0.15 weeks, 95% CI -0.12 to 0.41; [Analysis 6.20](#)).

In terms of outcomes for the baby, the results suggested that antiplatelet agents are associated with a reduction in the risk of babies having **birthweight less than 2500g** (IPD and AD trials; 1966 babies, 9 trials; average RR 0.76, 95% CI 0.59 to 0.97; [Analysis 6.21](#)). However they make little or no difference to **admission to a special care baby unit** (IPD trials only; RR 0.97, 95% CI 0.86 to 1.10; 1910 babies, 6 trials; [Analysis 6.22](#)), while it is unclear whether they have an impact on the need for **assisted ventilation** (IPD trials only: 542 babies, 5 trials; RR 0.50, 95% CI 0.20 to 1.22; [Analysis 6.23](#)).

It was unclear whether antiplatelet agents make a difference to secondary prevention of all the other secondary outcomes. In these cases the point estimates suggested a clinically important effect, but were accompanied by wide confidence intervals substantially crossing the line of no effect: **severe pre-eclampsia** (1509 women; 3 trials; RR 0.78, 95% CI 0.48 to 1.26; [Analysis 6.1](#)), **gestation at onset proteinuria** (IPD trials only; 410 women, 2 trials; MD -1.05 weeks, 95% CI -3.70 to 1.59; [Analysis 6.7](#)), **antepartum haemorrhage** (IPD trials only; RR 1.11, 95% CI 0.75 to 1.64; 1606 women, 5 trials; [Analysis 6.14](#)), **postpartum haemorrhage > 500 mL** (IPD trials only; 1573 women; 5 trials; RR 1.09, 95% CI 0.85 to 1.40; [Analysis 6.16](#)), **HELLP syndrome** (IPD trials only, not estimable due to no reported events; [Analysis 6.17](#)), **severe maternal morbidity** (IPD trials only: RR 0.72, 95% CI 0.14 to 3.61; 1483 women; 3 trials; [Analysis 6.18](#)). The effects were also unclear for **eclampsia** (1743 women, 5 trials; RR 0.47, 95% CI 0.13 to 1.67; [Analysis 6.3](#)), and **placental abruption** (IPD trials only; 1606 women, 5 trials; RR 1.39, 95% CI 0.63 to 3.05; [Analysis 6.15](#)), probably due to there being very few events for both outcomes.

DISCUSSION

Summary of main results

This review of randomised trials evaluating antiplatelet agents for prevention of pre-eclampsia and its complications demonstrates that these agents, in particular low-dose aspirin, have small-to-

moderate benefits. For the first time, this update incorporates the individual participant data (IPD) analysis published by the PARIS collaborative group ([Askie 2007](#)). Methods for the two reviews have now been merged, and this Cochrane Review includes IPD wherever these are available. IPD are available from 36 trials including 34,514 women (80% of the total number of women included in this review).

We found high-quality evidence that the use of antiplatelet agents reduces the risk of pre-eclampsia (where most women in the included trials were given low-dose aspirin). This reduction in pre-eclampsia is reflected in modest improvement in outcomes for the baby: antiplatelet agents slightly reduce the risk for preterm birth before 37 completed weeks, and they reduce fetal or neonatal deaths, and small-for-gestational-age babies. For this Cochrane Review the outcome included any preterm birth before 37 weeks' gestation. A separate analysis using IPD for the 17 trials (28,797 women) that supplied data on whether onset of labour was spontaneous or indicated (induced or elective caesarean) in the PARIS dataset concluded that antiplatelet agents are associated with a reduction in spontaneous preterm birth ([van Vliet 2017](#)). The effect size of a 7% reduction was similar to that report here.

There was a slight increase in postpartum blood loss of > 500 mL associated with the use of antiplatelet agents. This result should be interpreted cautiously, however, given the well-known difficulties of accurately estimating blood loss after birth, and because the outcome does not take into account mode of birth (for caesarean births, clinically important postpartum haemorrhage is usually considered to be more than 1000 mL). If true, this slight increase would lead to 9 more women having blood loss > 500 mL per 1000 women giving birth, relative to an assumed baseline risk of 143 women per 1000. It should be noted that although the 95% confidence interval is narrow, it does include the possibility of no effect (1.00 to 1.12). Blood loss > 500 mL is the traditional definition of postpartum haemorrhage, but in terms of clinical importance postpartum haemorrhage of 500 mL to 1000 mL is considered relatively minor, with 1001 mL to 2000 mL considered moderate loss and > 2000 mL major postpartum haemorrhage. Hence the clinical relevance of this slight increase in minor postpartum haemorrhage is unclear.

Exploratory analyses in the PARIS analysis found the overall results to be sensitive to even small changes in the cut-off used to define postpartum blood loss. When the definition was changed from 'greater than' to 'greater than or equal to' 500 mL, the change in definition had up to a four-fold effect on the estimated effect size, and influenced statistical significance ([Askie 2007](#)). This underlines further the importance of interpreting the results for this outcome with caution. Data presented here are based on the pre-specified definition for this Cochrane Review, which was 'postpartum haemorrhage as defined in the trial'.

Antiplatelet agents probably marginally increase the risk of placental abruption, whilst they make little or no difference to gestational hypertension. There was a 10% reduction in the overall risk of having a pregnancy with a serious adverse outcome (defined as pregnancy where the mother dies or develops pre-eclampsia or if any baby is preterm, small-for-gestational age, or does not survive to discharge from hospital).

The results for secondary prevention were less clear. Fewer trials involving a much smaller number of women reported on secondary prevention, compared with primary prevention. While

the analyses suggested that antiplatelet agents probably lower the risk of proteinuric pre-eclampsia for women with gestational hypertension, for other primary outcomes the results suggested either that antiplatelet agents may make little or no difference (preterm birth), or were too imprecise to support firm conclusions (fetal and neonatal death; small-for-gestational age). Overall, for secondary prevention, the available evidence did not consistently indicate that antiplatelet agents confer a benefit for women and their babies.

The overall results of the review have not changed significantly after incorporation of IPD. Nevertheless, for several main outcomes IPD show more conservative estimates of the treatment effect than AD. It is not plausible that treatment effects really are bigger if IPD were not available. There are several possible explanations for this systematic difference between results based on IPD and AD. The first is that this is related to lower methodological quality, for trials which were eligible for the PARIS analysis, but for which IPD were not available (i.e. availability of IPD may be a marker for higher methodological quality). For example, a significant proportion of studies with only AD available were of uncertain risk of bias. Another possibility is publication bias; as shown in [Figure 6](#), smaller AD studies tended to report larger effects of antiplatelet agents for pre-eclampsia, leading to a skewed funnel plot. However, the effects remain stable (whilst slightly more conservative) when only including IPD, with no indication of publication bias. Other possible explanations are that the difference in treatment effect is due to differences in the populations in the trials with IPD and those with AD, or a difference in dose of the intervention. For example, two thirds of the women in trials with AD were in trials evaluating the higher dose (75 mg or more) of aspirin, compared with less than one third of the women in trials with IPD. As discussed below, trials with the higher dose tended to report a bigger effect.

Incorporating IPD has allowed more accurate classification of risk for individual women included in many of the trials. This improves the precision of the subgroup analyses. For a small number of trials only AD are available, and so for these studies the subgroup analysis by baseline risk is classified at trial level. The differences between the subgroups by maternal risk were not significant, so any individual subgroup result should be interpreted with caution. Because of the different baseline levels, and slightly different risk reduction rate (albeit not significant), the results suggest seven fewer cases of pre-eclampsia per 1000 low-risk women, with a range from 12 fewer to one fewer, and 27 fewer cases per 1000 high-risk women, with a range from 36 fewer to 16 fewer.

It is possible that starting antiplatelet agents before implantation and trophoblast invasion are complete may increase the reduction in relative risk of pre-eclampsia. In this review, data are presented by before and after 20 weeks' gestation, and we have added figures with the pre-specified analyses by gestation at trial entry in the PARIS IPD dataset. There is no clear evidence that antiplatelet agents are more effective if given early in pregnancy ([Meher 2017](#)). This differs from analysis based on AD only ([Bujold 2010](#); [Roberge 2017](#); [Xu 2015](#)), as gestation at trial entry is based on data from individual women, rather than being determined at trial level and power is greater as far greater numbers of women are included in the analysis ([Tong 2017](#)).

There is some evidence that a higher dose of aspirin (75 mg or more) may be more effective than a low dose (less than 75 mg), but this requires further evaluation ([Seidler 2018](#)), ideally in trials

comparing alternative dose regimens. Higher doses may also have higher risk, and the current reassurance about safety applies only to lower doses. There was no significant difference between trials with placebo and without placebo.

Although the subgroups presented in this review were all prespecified, their results should be interpreted with caution. As with all subgroup analyses, comparisons between subgroups are observational and so prone to all the limitations of observational analyses. Emphasis on the differences between subgroups is potentially misleading; provided the direction of effect is likely to be the same across subgroups, the best guide for clinical practice is the overall effect across all subgroups.

Overall completeness and applicability of evidence

It has been suggested that the promising early systematic reviews of antiplatelet therapy may have reflected publication bias ([Broughton Pipkin 1996](#)). Graphs (called funnel plots) of the effect size against sample size for each trial have been consistently asymmetric, suggesting that small negative trials may be missing. In this review, most of the small positive trials were published in the 1980s and early 1990s. It remains possible that small negative trials conducted at that time have still not been published. Interestingly, the recently conducted small studies added in this update are also largely positive. The funnel plot of the data for pre-eclampsia therefore continues to be asymmetric ([Figure 6](#)). However, as discussed above, this asymmetry largely disappears (while the effect remains stable) when only trials with IPD are included. The funnel plot for data on fetal deaths and neonatal deaths is more symmetric ([Figure 9](#)). Publication bias is not the only cause of funnel plot asymmetry, and in this review it may also be due to differences in maternal characteristics between the small studies and the large trials.

Quality of the evidence

As summarised in the [Summary of findings for the main comparison](#), we assessed the quality of the evidence for the seven key outcomes using GRADE. Overall, the results for pre-eclampsia, fetal or neonatal death, preterm birth, small-for-gestational age, and pregnancy with serious adverse outcome (composite including maternal death, baby death, pre-eclampsia, small-for-gestational age, preterm birth) were rated as high-quality evidence, while postpartum haemorrhage (< 500 mL) and placental abruption were rated as moderate-quality evidence.

We did not downgrade any of the outcomes for risk of bias, since the majority of studies were of low risk of bias, and in particular, the large trials that had the largest influence on the results were low risk of bias for most domains. There was substantial clinical heterogeneity in the measurement of postpartum haemorrhage, due to the well-known difficulties of accurately estimating blood loss after birth, we thus downgraded the quality of the evidence by one level for inconsistency. There was little heterogeneity for any of the other outcomes. Since the populations, settings, and treatments were representative for the question of interest for all rated outcomes, none of the outcomes were downgraded for indirectness. Generally, the results for our primary outcomes were precise due to the high number of included trials and women, whereas many trials did not report on our secondary outcomes so many of those results were imprecise. Of our primary outcomes, the only outcome that had to be downgraded for imprecision was

placental abruption, where the confidence interval was wide due to the low number of events.

For some of our secondary outcomes and for the subgroup analyses, future evidence may still change our conclusions. Similarly, the quality of the evidence for secondary prevention settings (i.e. women with gestational hypertension at trial entry) was not sufficient to derive final conclusions, and future research may change the conclusions drawn from this moderate- to low-quality evidence. Also, the large number of subgroups and outcomes means that at least a few of the statistically significant results may merely reflect the play of chance (with a P value of 0.05, one in 20 can be expected to be positive, purely by chance). Where only a proportion of eligible trials reported a particular outcome and large numbers of women are missing, there is also the potential to be misled by bias.

Potential biases in the review process

This review is based on an extensive search strategy. It includes studies from a wide range of countries, and those published in languages other than English. Nevertheless, it remains possible that studies have been missed, but should that be the case they will be included in future updates once they become available.

Agreements and disagreements with other studies or reviews

Systematic reviews evaluating antiplatelet agents for prevention of pre-eclampsia published elsewhere have focused on specific subgroups of women, for example, based on specific risk factors for developing pre-eclampsia (Coomarasamy 2001; Coomarasamy 2003; Rossi 2011; Ruano 2005; Trivedi 2011), or gestation at randomisation (Bujold 2010; Roberge 2013; Xu 2015), or dose and gestation (Roberge 2017). Most systematic reviews evaluating low-dose aspirin for high-risk and low-risk women (mainly based on medical and obstetric history, obstetric factors, and ultrasound) show similar small-to-moderate benefits for prevention of pre-eclampsia (Meher 2013) as this Cochrane Review. Using IPD, the Paris Collaborative Group found no clear evidence that antiplatelet agents are any more or less effective in reducing the relative risk of pre-eclampsia and its consequences for any particular subgroup of women (Askie 2007). Current research is focusing on biomarkers to identify women at risk of pre-eclampsia (Akolekar 2013). Whether this will help identify women most likely to benefit from aspirin remains to be seen.

Early and late administration of low-dose aspirin has been compared in several systematic reviews (Bujold 2010; Roberge 2013; Xu 2015). All defined early administration as 16 weeks or earlier, and late as 16 weeks or after. The first review concluded that early administration of aspirin is associated with a reduction in pre-eclampsia and intrauterine growth restriction, whereas late administration is not (Bujold 2010). The second review concluded that early administration was associated with a reduction in perinatal death and other adverse perinatal outcomes (Roberge 2013). The third review concluded that early administration was associated with a greater reduction in pre-eclampsia, perinatal death, fetal growth restriction, and preterm birth (Xu 2015) In these trials women were not randomised to whether they had early or late administration of low-dose aspirin. A fourth review looked at dose and gestation, and concluded there is a dose-response effect (Roberge 2017). As with all subgroup analyses, any comparison is

therefore observational. Even if there is a statistically significant difference between subgroups, this may be due to confounding, rather than any real difference in effect. For example, in these reviews, the control event rate for pre-eclampsia was high for women having early administration of low-dose aspirin (8.1% in Bujold 2010 and 8.4% in Roberge 2013). Also, all three reviews were based on AD and so some women in the analyses will have been incorrectly classified. Our IPD analysis demonstrates no clear difference in the relative risk of pre-eclampsia based on whether gestation at trial entry was before or after 16 weeks' gestation (Meher 2017).

AUTHORS' CONCLUSIONS

Implications for practice

Administration of antiplatelet agents leads to a 17% reduction in the relative risk of developing pre-eclampsia. For primary prevention of pre-eclampsia, for every 64 women treated, one case of pre-eclampsia will be prevented. For women who are at high risk, the results suggest that one case of pre-eclampsia will be prevented for every 39 treated. There are also smaller risk reductions associated with the use of antiplatelet agents of preterm birth (9%), with 61 women needing to be treated to prevent one case, and of fetal or neonatal death (14%) with 213 women needing to be treated to prevent one case. Adverse effects appear to be low although data were not reported by all trials. The results suggest a slight increase in postpartum haemorrhage of > 500 mL. Overall, there was a 10% reduction in pregnancies with serious adverse outcomes.

As most women in this review were in trials evaluating low-dose aspirin, the reassurance about safety may not apply to higher doses or other agents. However, there was some indication that higher doses may be more effective in preventing pre-eclampsia. The evidence presented in this review may be summarised and made available to women at risk of pre-eclampsia. The decision about whether to take aspirin during pregnancy may then be made in consultation between the woman and her doctor. As the reductions in risk are small to moderate, relatively large numbers of women will need to be treated to prevent pre-eclampsia and its consequences. However, from a public health perspective these moderate benefits are likely to be worthwhile, and low-dose aspirin may be worth considering for more widespread use.

Implications for research

Identifying women who are most likely to respond to low-dose aspirin would allow improved targeting of treatment. As almost all the women in this review were recruited to the trials after 12 weeks' gestation, it is unclear whether starting treatment before 12 weeks would have additional benefits without any increase in adverse effects. While there was some indication that higher doses of aspirin would be more effective, further studies would be warranted to examine whether a higher dose would be more effective and safe.

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David Henderson-Smart was a review author from the first version of this Cochrane Review, and he was a leading and enthusiastic contributor to the PARIS Collaborative Group. David died in February 2013, and we dedicate this update to his memory.

Parts of this review were generated using RevMan HAL v 4.2. You can find more information about RevMan HAL [here](#).

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* Indicates the major publication for the study

CHARACTERISTICS OF STUDIES
Characteristics of included studies [ordered by study ID]
Algeria 2011

Methods	Randomised controlled trial.
Participants	164 primiparous women consulting before the 10th week of amenorrhoea without previous vasculo-renal pathology. Excluded: counter-indication to use of aspirin, chronic arterial hypertension before pregnancy, chronic nephropathy, known auto-immune disorder, twin pregnancies, diabetes.
Interventions	Exp: aspirin 100 mg/day, taken in the evening from 8-10 weeks' gestation to 36 weeks' gestation Control: unclear - refer to the non-treated group most of the time, but refer to placebo group once in paper.
Outcomes	Women: maternal complications (gestation hypertensive disorders). Babies: gestation length, newborn weight, fetal complications.
Notes	Trial conducted in Blida Hospital, Algeria.

Risk of bias
Antiplatelet agents for preventing pre-eclampsia and its complications (Review)

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Algeria 2011 (Continued)

Bias	Authors' judgement	Support for judgement
Random sequence generation (selection bias)	Unclear risk	Quote: "randomization for treatment (using anonymous sealed envelopes)" Insufficient information about the sequence generation process to permit judgement.
Allocation concealment (selection bias)	Unclear risk	Quote: "anonymous sealed envelopes". No information about whether opaque or numbered.
Blinding (performance bias and detection bias) All outcomes	High risk	Quote: "The patient and the study promoter were not blinded to the conditions of treatment."
Incomplete outcome data (attrition bias) All outcomes	Low risk	Appears to be no missing outcome data, i.e. number randomised = number reported in outcomes.
Selective reporting (reporting bias)	Low risk	Protocol not available but all expected outcomes are reported.
Other bias	Unclear risk	Baseline characteristics: Quote: "The control and treated groups were not statistically different with respect to age, body mass index, gestity and parity (Table 1)." However, did not report baseline BP measures.

ASPRE 2017

Methods	Randomised controlled trial. Randomisation using web-based system (sealed envelope). Stratification by site.	
Participants	<p>1776 women age of 18 years or more, singleton pregnancy, live fetus at the time that scanning was performed at 11 to 13 weeks of gestation, and a high risk (> 1 in 100) for preterm pre-eclampsia according to a screening algorithm</p> <p>Exclusion criteria: unconscious or severely ill status, learning difficulties or serious mental illness, major fetal abnormality identified at the time that scanning was performed at 11 to 13 weeks of gestation, regular treatment with aspirin within 28 days before screening, bleeding disorder such as von Willebrand's disease, peptic ulceration, hypersensitivity to aspirin, long-term use of nonsteroidal antiinflammatory medication, and participation in another drug trial within 28 days before screening</p>	
Interventions	<p>Intervention: aspirin at a dose of 150 mg per day that was administered from 11 to 14 weeks of gestation until 36 weeks of gestation</p> <p>Control: placebo</p>	
Outcomes	<p>Primary outcome: delivery with pre-eclampsia before 37 weeks of gestation</p> <p>Secondary outcomes: adverse outcomes of pregnancy before 34 weeks of gestation, before 37 weeks of gestation, and at or after 37 weeks of gestation; stillbirth or neonatal death; death and neonatal complications; neonatal therapy; and poor fetal growth (birth weight below the 3rd, 5th, or 10th percentile)</p>	
Notes	Multicentre trial at 13 maternity hospitals in the UK, Spain, Italy, Belgium, Greece and Israel.	

Risk of bias

Bias	Authors' judgement	Support for judgement
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ASPRES 2017 (Continued)

Random sequence generation (selection bias)	Low risk	Quote: "randomly assigned, in a 1:1 ratio, with the use of a Web-based system (Sealed Envelope)"; stratified by participating centre
Allocation concealment (selection bias)	Low risk	Quote: "When randomised, participants will be assigned a randomisation code. The randomisation codes will determine who receives placebo or aspirin 150 mg. The investigational medicinal product (IMP) supplier (Mawdsley Brooks and Co) will keep and store the randomisation code list." Aspirin and placebo tablets were identical and were packaged, labelled, stored, and distributed by Mawdsley-Brooks.
Blinding (performance bias and detection bias) All outcomes	Low risk	Quote: "double-blind, placebo-controlled" Quote: "The placebo tablets were identical to the aspirin tablets with respect to variables such as size, thickness, physical properties, and appearance." Quote: "Mawdsley Brooks and Co will provide labelling (for all cartons and blister sheets) ensuring complete blinding of the IMP to all investigators and participants in the study, which includes the principal investigator, participating research doctors, pharmacists at the local clinical trial pharmacy, project managers and others involved in the trial. They are all blinded to the IMP allocation."
Incomplete outcome data (attrition bias) All outcomes	Low risk	Of the 1776 women who were randomised, 152 (8.6%) later withdrew consent (78 from aspirin group and 74 from placebo group) and 4 were lost to follow-up (2 from each group). Quote: "Statistical analyses were performed on an intention-to-treat basis"
Selective reporting (reporting bias)	Low risk	All outcomes described in the published study protocol are reported in the results publication.
Other bias	Low risk	Quote: "There were no significant differences between the aspirin group and the placebo group with regard to the characteristics of the participants at baseline"

Australia 1988

Methods	Women given an identification number at trial entry, with randomisation in the hospital pharmacy using a random-number sequence linked to this number.
Participants	46 women with singleton pregnancy at 28-36 weeks and concern about fetal welfare, in whom umbilical artery velocity waveform systolic/diastolic ratio > 95th centile. Excluded if DBP > 110 mmHg or > 90 mmHg with proteinuria, and if maternal condition likely to lead to delivery.
Interventions	Exp: aspirin 150 mg daily. Control: placebo.
Outcomes	Women: caesarean section; induction; placental weight. Babies: stillbirth; neonatal death; ventilation; admission to SCBU; cerebroventricular haemorrhage; birthweight; gestation at delivery; head circumference; Apgar scores.
Notes	Women divided into 2 groups: high umbilical artery systolic/diastolic ratio (> 95th but < 99.5th centile) and extreme umbilical artery systolic/diastolic ratio (> 99.5th centile). Data incomplete for second group, so only included if available for all women. Continuous data only presented for some outcomes.

Australia 1988 (Continued)

Risk of bias

Bias	Authors' judgement	Support for judgement
Random sequence generation (selection bias)	Low risk	Women given an identification number at trial entry, with randomisation in the hospital pharmacy using a random-number sequence linked to this number.
Allocation concealment (selection bias)	Low risk	Patients were allocated by series of random numbers to receive aspirin or placebo tablets, which were supplied by company Faulding & Co. Quote:"Capsules were in numbered envelopes and people handing out the capsules were blinded to their contents."
Blinding (performance bias and detection bias) All outcomes	Low risk	Quote:"The patient, fetal welfare laboratory staff and attending obstetrician were all blind to the treatment."
Incomplete outcome data (attrition bias) All outcomes	Unclear risk	Insufficient reporting of attritions/exclusions to permit judgement.
Selective reporting (reporting bias)	Unclear risk	Insufficient information - protocol not available. Maternal outcomes not reported, e.g. pre-eclampsia.
Other bias	Unclear risk	Baseline characteristics: Quote:"The patients in the two groups were comparable in terms of maternal age, parity, and principal reason for study" (But level of significance not specified). Placebo group had 5/24 (21%) vs treatment group 2/22 (9%) women with poor obstetric history.

Australia 1993

Methods	Randomised. capsules dispensed by pharmacy.
Participants	110 women at 12-24 weeks with either DBP \geq 90 or SBP \geq 140, or a history of PE.
Interventions	Exp: aspirin 100 mg/day. Control: placebo.
Outcomes	Women: PE.
Notes	

Risk of bias

Bias	Authors' judgement	Support for judgement
Random sequence generation (selection bias)	Low risk	Random number tables used.
Allocation concealment (selection bias)	Low risk	Dispensed by pharmacy.
Blinding (performance bias and detection bias) All outcomes	Unclear risk	Authors confirmed identical placebo used during PARIS risk of bias assessment, however no further information available.

Australia 1993 (Continued)

Incomplete outcome data (attrition bias) All outcomes	Unclear risk	Insufficient reporting of attritions/exclusions to permit judgement - number randomised not stated, details of any missing data not provided.
Selective reporting (reporting bias)	Unclear risk	The 3 primary outcomes pre-specified in the protocol are reported BUT key outcome reported in paper NOT pre-specified, i.e. mean days spent in hospital.
Other bias	Low risk	Article text and Table 1 indicate that there were no significant differences between either group in terms of baseline maternal details.

Australia 1995

Methods	Instructions about the tablets in numbered, sealed opaque envelopes. Women shown 5 envelopes and asked to choose 1.
Participants	51 women at 28-36 weeks with ultrasound diagnosis of restricted fetal growth, umbilical artery. Doppler systolic/diastolic ratio > 95 centile. No previous aspirin during pregnancy.
Interventions	Exp: 100 mg aspirin. Control: starch tablets.
Outcomes	Women: none. Babies: mean gestation at birth; birthweight (< 3 and 10 centile); Apgar 5 minutes; admission SCBU; IVH.
Notes	

Risk of bias

Bias	Authors' judgement	Support for judgement
Random sequence generation (selection bias)	Low risk	Random number tables used.
Allocation concealment (selection bias)	Low risk	Instructions about the tablets in numbered, sealed opaque envelopes. Women shown 5 envelopes and asked to choose 1.
Blinding (performance bias and detection bias) All outcomes	Low risk	Quote: "Both the women and the staff were blinded to the contents of the tablets".
Incomplete outcome data (attrition bias) All outcomes	Unclear risk	Insufficient reporting of attritions/exclusions to permit judgement.
Selective reporting (reporting bias)	Unclear risk	Insufficient information - protocol not available. Maternal outcomes not reported, e.g. pre-eclampsia.
Other bias	High risk	Interim analysis performed - DMC stopped the trial at that time because the findings did not support continuation. Table 1 of article indicates that there were no significant differences in baseline characteristics.

Australia 1995a

Methods	Randomised by quote:"envelope method". 1/21 women (5%) excluded as miscarriage at 20 weeks.
Participants	21 women with renal disease. 20 had previous early onset PE. Commenced therapy at 14 weeks' gestation.
Interventions	Exp: dipyridamole 75-100 mg x 4/day + subcutaneous heparin 7500 units x 2/day. Control: no treatment.
Outcomes	Women: hypertension; proteinuria; 'complications'; caesarean section. Babies: neonatal death; premature birth (< 37 weeks); IUGR (< 10th centile).
Notes	Trial stopped early on advice of 'ad hoc' committee, due to complications in control group.

Risk of bias

Bias	Authors' judgement	Support for judgement
Random sequence generation (selection bias)	Low risk	Randomly sorted envelopes with equal treatment and control cards inside, then numbered envelopes.
Allocation concealment (selection bias)	Low risk	PARIS assessment based on unpublished information: opaque, sequentially numbered, sealed envelopes.
Blinding (performance bias and detection bias) All outcomes	High risk	Although not stated explicitly, it seems reasonable to assume that the treatment was not blinded due to the daily administering of aspirin to the test group and no treatment to the control group.
Incomplete outcome data (attrition bias) All outcomes	Low risk	Only 1 out of the 21 women (5%) was excluded from the analysis when she miscarried at 20 weeks due to cervical incompetence.
Selective reporting (reporting bias)	Low risk	Data collection sheet available. Appears that all outcomes were reported.
Other bias	High risk	Trial was terminated in view of the high complication rate in the control group. Article: Quote:"The two groups were well matched in terms of previous pregnancy complications (p>0.40) and outcome and on the basis of underlying renal disease".

Australia 1996

Methods	Quote:"Double-blind randomised trial".
Participants	52 primigravid women with abnormal uterine artery waveforms on doppler examination at 22-24 weeks.
Interventions	Exp: aspirin 60 mg/day. Control: placebo.
Outcomes	Women: GH; PE; caesarean section; abruption. Babies: death; preterm birth (< 37 weeks); IUGR (< 10 centile); admission SCBU.
Notes	

Australia 1996 (Continued)

Risk of bias

Bias	Authors' judgement	Support for judgement
Random sequence generation (selection bias)	Low risk	Random number tables.
Allocation concealment (selection bias)	Low risk	Drug company supplied sequentially numbered packs.
Blinding (performance bias and detection bias) All outcomes	Low risk	Double-blind. Quote:"Outcomes were collected and categorized before the randomization code was broken" PARIS assessment noted that placebo was dispensed in identical blister packs.
Incomplete outcome data (attrition bias) All outcomes	Unclear risk	Insufficient information available to assess, no information regarding missing outcome data reported in paper.
Selective reporting (reporting bias)	High risk	Did not report on primary outcome perinatal death.
Other bias	Unclear risk	Baseline characteristics: Quote:"There were no significant differences in maternal age or booking BP. Although there was a statistically significant difference in the GA at enrollment, (18.8 vs 18.3 weeks) this was of no clinical relevance".

Australia 1996a

Methods	Randomisation by taking the next in a series of number identical blister packs. 2 women withdrew, 1 from each group.
Participants	104 primiparous women with abnormal uterine doppler flow at 18 weeks (systolic/diastolic ratio > 3.3 or S/D > 3 and early diastolic notch). Selected from 955 women screened, of whom 186 had abnormal waveforms.
Interventions	Exp: aspirin 100 mg/day. Control: placebo.
Outcomes	Women: GH; PE; eclampsia; APH. Babies: preterm birth; SGA.
Notes	

Risk of bias

Bias	Authors' judgement	Support for judgement
Random sequence generation (selection bias)	Low risk	Random number tables.
Allocation concealment (selection bias)	Low risk	Randomisation by taking the next in a series of numbered identical blister packs.

Australia 1996a *(Continued)*

Blinding (performance bias and detection bias) All outcomes	Low risk	Authors noted during PARIS risk of bias assessment that tablets were prepared in a central pharmacy to ensure double blinding.
Incomplete outcome data (attrition bias) All outcomes	Low risk	2 women withdrew, 1 from each group.
Selective reporting (reporting bias)	Unclear risk	Insufficient information - only conference abstract available.
Other bias	Unclear risk	Insufficient information - only conference abstract available.

Australia 1997

Methods	Allocated by a series of random numbers. 10% (12/120) of women were excluded as they withdrew before starting treatment.	
Participants	120 women at high risk of PE because of 1 of the following: pre-existing hypertension (BP greater \geq 140/90 prior to pregnancy on at least 2 occasions, or on antihypertensive therapy), renal disease, previous early severe PE. Excluded if aspirin allergy, aspirin-sensitive asthma, pre-existing bleeding diathesis or multiple pregnancy.	
Interventions	Exp: aspirin 100 mg modified release daily from 17-19 weeks until delivery. Control: placebo.	
Outcomes	Women: proteinuria; duration of pregnancy; indications for and mode of delivery; maximum antenatal BP; 'complications'. Babies: perinatal death; birthweight; Apgar scores.	
Notes	.	

Risk of bias

Bias	Authors' judgement	Support for judgement
Random sequence generation (selection bias)	Low risk	Allocated by a series of random numbers.
Allocation concealment (selection bias)	Low risk	Women were allocated by series of random numbers to receive aspirin or placebo tablets, which were supplied by company Faulding & Co. Article: Quote:"Capsules were in numbered envelopes and people handing out the capsules were blinded to their contents".
Blinding (performance bias and detection bias) All outcomes	Low risk	Quote:"double blinded." Authors noted during PARIS risk of bias assessment that the control arm received capsules containing sucrose. Not known whether active and placebo tablets were identical.
Incomplete outcome data (attrition bias) All outcomes	Low risk	Quote:"Twelve subjects who withdrew prior to commencement of therapy are excluded from analysis, leaving 108 subjects (aspirin = 58, placebo = 50)." Analysis by ITT.

Australia 1997 (Continued)

Selective reporting (reporting bias)	Low risk	All outcomes specified in the methods section of the paper are reported. However, no access to protocol.
Other bias	Unclear risk	No imbalance in baseline characteristics. Aspirin group - 4 intrauterine deaths (none in placebo group). Birthweights calculated after removal of values for the 4 fetuses who died in utero in the aspirin-treated group (and whose true weights could not be accurately assessed), means that quote:"results presented here are likely to be skewed in favour of the aspirin-treated group".

Austria 1992

Methods	Randomised to coded packages of medication; assessment of primary outcome blinded.	
Participants	41 primigravid women with positive roll-over test (increase of 20 mmHg in DBP) at 28-32 weeks. Exclusions: existing hypertension, renal gut lung or heart disease, IUGR, impending preterm birth.	
Interventions	Exp: aspirin 80 mg/day until 37 weeks. Control: placebo.	
Outcomes	Women: GH; PE; caesarean section; preterm birth (37 weeks). Babies: stillbirths; neonatal death; SGA (< 10th centile); neonatal bleeding; admission to SCBU.	
Notes		

Risk of bias

Bias	Authors' judgement	Support for judgement
Random sequence generation (selection bias)	Low risk	Computerised-generated randomisation lists.
Allocation concealment (selection bias)	Low risk	Pharmacy organised, coded packets of medication.
Blinding (performance bias and detection bias) All outcomes	Low risk	Quote:"double-blind." Placebo used.
Incomplete outcome data (attrition bias) All outcomes	Unclear risk	No information regarding missing outcome data reported in paper.
Selective reporting (reporting bias)	Low risk	All primary and secondary outcomes specified in the methods section of the paper are reported.
Other bias	Unclear risk	Baseline characteristics: mean age well correlated (24.7 years aspirin; 24.3 yrs placebo); no multiple pregnancies; but no information about other baseline characteristics.

Barbados 1998

Methods	Single-centre, treatment packs randomly numbered by computer in clinic and dispensed by pharmacist. 55/3697 women (1.5%) excluded after randomisation: 42 because of pack labelling errors, 8 not pregnant and 6 lost to follow-up.
Participants	3697 women at 12-32 weeks' gestation. Excluded if: increased risk of bleeding, aspirin allergy, high likelihood of immediate delivery, or previous placental abruption.
Interventions	Exp: aspirin 75 mg controlled release daily until delivery. Control: placebo.
Outcomes	Women: PE; APH; PPH; caesarean section; duration of pregnancy; use of antihypertensives and anti-convulsants. Babies: stillbirth; death before hospital discharge; days in SCBU; bleeding problems; birthweight.
Notes	

Risk of bias

Bias	Authors' judgement	Support for judgement
Random sequence generation (selection bias)	Low risk	Computer-generated list with minimisation.
Allocation concealment (selection bias)	Low risk	Study pharmacist dispensed treatment packs. Code for randomisation kept in Oxford.
Blinding (performance bias and detection bias) All outcomes	Low risk	Quote:"All staff in Barbados were blind to the treatment allocation, the randomisation code being kept in Oxford."
Incomplete outcome data (attrition bias) All outcomes	Low risk	55/3697 women (1.5%) excluded after randomisation: 42 because of pack labelling errors, 8 not pregnant and 6 lost to follow-up. Quote:"All but three women from each group were followed up successfully." Quote:"Analyses were to be by intention-to-treat for all women randomised appropriately."
Selective reporting (reporting bias)	Low risk	All pre-specified primary and secondary outcomes in protocol are reported in the paper.
Other bias	Low risk	Table 1 of article shows baseline characteristics were well balanced between groups.

Brazil 1996

Methods	Central telephone randomisation; 39/1009 women (4%) lost to follow-up.
Participants	1009 women at 12-32 weeks' gestation (mean 22, 41% = or < 20 weeks) quote:"who the obstetrician thought were at risk" of PE - generally low/moderate risk (primiparous 47%, chronic hypertension 47%, diabetes 6%). Excluded if bleeding risk, asthma, allergy to aspirin, gastric ulcer, placenta praevia.
Interventions	Exp: aspirin 60 mg/day. Control: placebo.

Brazil 1996 (Continued)

Outcomes	Women: PE; caesarean section; APH. Babies: SGA; perinatal death; preterm birth; neonatal bleeding.
Notes	Conducted in 12 university teaching hospitals and 182 obstetric offices.
Risk of bias	
Bias	Authors' judgement Support for judgement
Random sequence generation (selection bias)	Low risk Quote:"Computer-generated randomisation lists prepared by the Clinical Trials Service Unit, Oxford University."
Allocation concealment (selection bias)	Low risk Central telephone randomisation: Quote:"Entry to the study was attained by telephoning central 24 h service at Escola Paulista de Medicina in Sao Paulo".
Blinding (performance bias and detection bias) All outcomes	Low risk Quote:"double-blind", placebo used; Quote:"The actual contents of the allocated study treatment were not revealed, even after delivery, unless there was a clear medical reason for the treatment to be made known".
Incomplete outcome data (attrition bias) All outcomes	Low risk 39/1009 women (4%) lost to follow-up: follow-up was obtained for 96% (476 allocated aspirin and 494 allocated placebo); quote:"after randomisation, no woman was excluded from the trial"; ITT analyses. Secondary outcome bleeding: quote:"All bleeds after delivery were not explicitly recorded and were incompletely reported (overall rate of 0.9% compared with 26% in CLASP), but maternal transfusions were systematically sought".
Selective reporting (reporting bias)	Low risk All outcomes specified in the methods section of the paper are reported. However, no access to protocol.
Other bias	Low risk No imbalance in baseline characteristics: quote:"good balance between the treatment groups for the main pre-randomisation characteristics".

Brazil 1992a

Methods	Women randomly divided into 2 groups. No further information available. Blinding not reported. Outcome not reported for 4/56 women (7%).
Participants	56 women in 2nd or 3rd quarter of pregnancy who were young primigravidas, or had chronic HT, diabetes, previous PIH, twin pregnancy, or a family history of HT.
Interventions	Exp: acetylsalicylic acid 60 mg/day in a solution of 50% D-lisine. Control: no intervention.
Outcomes	Women: GH. Babies: death, birthweight (mean).
Notes	Original article published in Portuguese.
Risk of bias	
Bias	Authors' judgement Support for judgement

Brazil 1992a (Continued)

Random sequence generation (selection bias)	Unclear risk	Women randomly divided into 2 groups. No further information available.
Allocation concealment (selection bias)	Unclear risk	Women randomly divided into 2 groups. No further information available.
Blinding (performance bias and detection bias) All outcomes	Unclear risk	Blinding not reported.
Incomplete outcome data (attrition bias) All outcomes	Low risk	Outcome not reported for 4/56 women (7%); ITT analysis.
Selective reporting (reporting bias)	Unclear risk	Insufficient information to permit judgement - no protocol available.
Other bias	Unclear risk	Insufficient information to permit judgement.

Brazil 2006

Methods	Quote:"randomised, double-blind placebo-controlled study."	
Participants	49 pregnant women with chronic hypertension, abnormal uterine artery Doppler ultrasound, high resistance index and/or diastolic notch, 20-28 weeks' gestation.	
Interventions	Exp: aspirin 100 mg/day and calcium 2 g/day. Control: placebo.	
Outcomes	Women: pre-eclampsia, duration of pregnancy. Babies: prematurity, IUGR, birthweight.	
Notes	Abstracts only - no outcome data available.	

Risk of bias

Bias	Authors' judgement	Support for judgement
Random sequence generation (selection bias)	Unclear risk	Random allocation. No further information.
Allocation concealment (selection bias)	Unclear risk	Quote:"randomised, double-blind placebo-controlled study". No further information.
Blinding (performance bias and detection bias) All outcomes	Low risk	Double-blind and placebo used.
Incomplete outcome data (attrition bias) All outcomes	Unclear risk	Completeness of follow-up unclear. Abstracts only available - do not report attritions/exclusions.

Brazil 2006 *(Continued)*

Selective reporting (reporting bias)	Unclear risk	Insufficient information to permit judgement - abstracts only available.
Other bias	Unclear risk	Insufficient information to permit judgement - abstracts only available.

Canada 2017

Methods	Randomised
Participants	Women with a twin pregnancy between 10 and 14 weeks' gestation
Interventions	Aspirin 81 mg at bedtime vs placebo
Outcomes	Birthweight of live infants; very low birthweight; pre-eclampsia; platelet aggregation test
Notes	Published as an abstract only

Risk of bias

Bias	Authors' judgement	Support for judgement
Random sequence generation (selection bias)	Unclear risk	No information
Allocation concealment (selection bias)	Unclear risk	No information
Blinding (performance bias and detection bias) All outcomes	Low risk	Described as 'quadruple' blind (Participant, Care Provider, Investigator, Outcomes Assessor)
Incomplete outcome data (attrition bias) All outcomes	Unclear risk	No information
Selective reporting (reporting bias)	Unclear risk	No information
Other bias	Unclear risk	Published as abstract only

China 1996

Methods	Quote: "Prospective randomised double-blind study."
Participants	84 women with a singleton pregnancy at high risk of IUGR, and 28-34 weeks' gestation.
Interventions	Exp: 75 mg aspirin, from 28-34 weeks for 6-8 weeks. Control: placebo.
Outcomes	Women: PIH; caesarean section; preterm delivery. Babies: neonatal death; IUGR; IVH.

China 1996 (Continued)

Notes

Risk of bias

Bias	Authors' judgement	Support for judgement
Random sequence generation (selection bias)	Low risk	Random number tables.
Allocation concealment (selection bias)	Low risk	Opaque, sequentially numbered, sealed envelopes.
Blinding (performance bias and detection bias) All outcomes	Low risk	Quote:"double-blind" and placebo used.
Incomplete outcome data (attrition bias) All outcomes	Unclear risk	Insufficient reporting of attritions/exclusions to permit judgement.
Selective reporting (reporting bias)	Unclear risk	Protocol not available. All outcomes specified in methods section appear to be reported except pre-eclampsia - simply say aspirin quote:"may decrease the risk of feto-placental circulation, raise the infant birthweight and prevent IUGR or preeclampsia" BUT results not shown in table.
Other bias	Low risk	No imbalance in baseline characteristics: quote:"The patients were principally nulliparous; and their age and gravida, and the distribution of high risk factors of IUGR were not significantly different between the two groups".

China 1996a

Methods	Random allocation. No further information. Not blinded and no information on completeness of follow-up.
Participants	104 women at 20 to 38 weeks' gestation. Inclusion criteria: older primiparous; multiparous with history of severe PIH; obesity; MAP > 12 kPa; Hb < 8; PCV > 0.37; family history of HT or PIH in mother or sister.
Interventions	Exp: aspirin 50 mg/day for 3 to 5 weeks. Control: no intervention.
Outcomes	Women: GH; oligohydramnios; mode of delivery (numbers not reported); PPH (numbers not reported) biochemical markers. Babies: mean birthweight.
Notes	Single-centre.

Risk of bias

Bias	Authors' judgement	Support for judgement
Random sequence generation (selection bias)	Unclear risk	Random allocation. No further information.
Allocation concealment (selection bias)	Unclear risk	Random allocation. No further information.

China 1996a (Continued)

Blinding (performance bias and detection bias) All outcomes	High risk	Not blinded.
Incomplete outcome data (attrition bias) All outcomes	Unclear risk	No information on completeness of follow-up.
Selective reporting (reporting bias)	Unclear risk	Insufficient information to permit judgement - no protocol available.
Other bias	Unclear risk	Insufficient information to permit judgement.

China 1999

Methods	Randomisation by offering participant 5 sealed envelopes (2 aspirin, 2 calcium, 1 placebo). 132 women allocated aspirin, 154 calcium and 83 control (total 369). Women allocated calcium excluded from this review. 22 women lost to follow-up (14 aspirin, 8 control).
Participants	215 primigravid women with MAP > 80 and < 106 early in 2nd trimester and MAP > 60 at 22-24 weeks.
Interventions	Exp: aspirin 80 mg/day until delivery. Control: unclear, no placebo mentioned.
Outcomes	Women: GH; PE; eclampsia; caesarean section. Babies: gestation at delivery (mean); birthweight; Apgar scores.
Notes	Authors provided additional information.

Risk of bias

Bias	Authors' judgement	Support for judgement
Random sequence generation (selection bias)	Low risk	Simple, i.e. coin toss.
Allocation concealment (selection bias)	Low risk	Opaque, sequentially numbered, sealed envelopes.
Blinding (performance bias and detection bias) All outcomes	Low risk	Quote:"All randomization, data collection and data entry were undertaken by the same research assistant with the exception of outcome data, which were entered by the first two authors. The research assistant was therefore blinded to the outcome group."
Incomplete outcome data (attrition bias) All outcomes	Low risk	22 women lost to follow-up (14 aspirin, 8 control). 50 of the original 500 patients (105) eventually delivered in other hospitals and were therefore not subjected to analysis, as they could not reliably be classified into the 3 outcome groups. Quote:"Although there was no significant difference in the number of dropouts in the different randomization groups, the eventual distribution of cases was far from the 2:2:1 expected. The distribution of MAP and gestational age in the three randomized groups was therefore tested to ensure no systemic bias had occurred."

China 1999 (Continued)

Selective reporting (reporting bias)	Low risk	All outcomes specified in the methods section of the paper are reported. However, no access to protocol.
Other bias	Low risk	No imbalance in baseline characteristics: Table 1 shows no significant differences in maternal characteristics at time of randomisation. Quote: "The unequal numbers of patients in the two treatment groups suggests that even after allowing for the differential drop-out rates, something went wrong with the randomization process; possibly a tendency among patients to select envelopes from 1 particular part of the pile offered to them. Nevertheless, the Kruskal-Wallis analysis of variance showed no significant differences between groups for left lateral MAP or for gestational age at testing, suggesting that no systematic bias was introduced by the randomization procedure."

CLASP 1994

Methods	By telephoning a central computerised randomisation service. 0.6% (55/9364) lost to follow-up. International multicentre study conducted at 213 hospitals in 16 countries. Follow-up of surviving children with GP letter at 12 months in the UK (4688 with 4675 alive at 12 months) and parental questionnaire at 18 months in the UK and Canada (410 with 407 alive at 18 months). For GP letter, 89% response rate, for parental questionnaire 86% responded.	
Participants	9364 women at 12-32 weeks' gestation at risk of PE or IUGR, or women with established PE or IUGR.	
Interventions	Exp: aspirin 60 mg daily until delivery. Control: placebo.	
Outcomes	Women: death; eclampsia; PE; bleeding complications; caesarean section; induction; problems with epidural analgesia; PPH; transfusion; use of antihypertensives or anticonvulsants; compliance. Babies: stillbirth; neonatal death; mortality at 1 year; birthweight (mean) and centile (< 3rd); gestation at delivery; admission to SCBU; IVH; other neonatal bleeding. Follow-up at 12-18 months: developmental delay; congenital malformations; respiratory problems; hospital admissions.	
Notes	Compliance: 96% started treatment, 88% took it for at least 80% of the time from entry to delivery. For some outcomes data not presented separately for prophylaxis and treatment. Follow-up data only available for centres in the UK and Ottawa, Canada.	

Risk of bias

Bias	Authors' judgement	Support for judgement
Random sequence generation (selection bias)	Low risk	Minimisation; computer-generated list.
Allocation concealment (selection bias)	Low risk	Quote: "by clinical staff telephoning a central 24-hour service at the Clinical Trial Service Unit in Oxford"
Blinding (performance bias and detection bias) All outcomes	Low risk	Quote: "study treatment was not revealed, even after delivery, unless there was a clear medical or personal reason for the treatment to be made known" Quote: "Two senior investigators, unaware of the treatment groups of the babies' mothers, classified all deaths"
Incomplete outcome data (attrition bias) All outcomes	Low risk	0.6% (55/9364) lost to follow-up. Quote: "Post-delivery follow-up forms were obtained for 9309 (99.4%; 4659 aspirin-allocated and 4650 placebo-allocated) randomised women" Quote: "After randomisation, no woman was excluded from the trial";

CLASP 1994 (Continued)

ITT analyses.

Selective reporting (reporting bias)	Low risk	Protocol available. All pre-specified primary and secondary outcomes are reported in the paper.
Other bias	Low risk	No imbalance in baseline characteristics: Quote:"A minimisation algorithm was used to limit differences between the treatment groups for certain prognostic baseline variables" Quote:"9364 women were randomised, with good balance between the treatment groups for the main prerandomisation prognostic factors recorded"

Colorado 1993

Methods	Quote:"Randomised" - no further information; completeness of follow-up unclear.
Participants	100 nulliparous women with multiple pregnancy in quote:"early pregnancy".
Interventions	Exp: aspirin 81 mg/day. Control: placebo.
Outcomes	Women: GH; PE. Babies: none reported.
Notes	Multicentre trial, stopped early due to slow recruitment.

Risk of bias

Bias	Authors' judgement	Support for judgement
Random sequence generation (selection bias)	Unclear risk	Quote:"Randomised" - no further information.
Allocation concealment (selection bias)	Unclear risk	Quote:"A randomised controlled double-blind trial" - no further information.
Blinding (performance bias and detection bias) All outcomes	Low risk	Quote:"double-blind"; placebo used.
Incomplete outcome data (attrition bias) All outcomes	Unclear risk	Completeness of follow-up unclear. Letter only available - does not report attritions/exclusions.
Selective reporting (reporting bias)	Unclear risk	Insufficient information to permit judgement - letter only available.
Other bias	High risk	Stopped early due to slow recruitment.

Egypt 2005

Methods	Computer-generated list of random numbers. Numbers then placed in sealed envelopes, and women asked to choose 1 envelope. Randomisation, drug prescription, and allocation key kept by 1 author with no role in participant follow-up or outcome assessment.
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Egypt 2005 (Continued)

3 women (2%) lost to follow-up (1 aspirin, 2 control).

Participants	139 women at 14-16 weeks' gestation with abnormal uterine artery doppler (diastolic notch or resistance index > 90th percentile) and other risk factors for PE (previous history of PE/IUGR, essential HT, positive family history, underlying vascular disease, age < 20 years or > 40 years or gestational diabetes). Excluded: allergy to aspirin, peptic ulcer, other hepatic, renal, cardiovascular or thyroid disorder.
Interventions	Exp: aspirin 75 mg/day. Control: no treatment.
Outcomes	Women: PE (BP \geq 140/90 plus proteinuria > 300 mg/day); PE onset < 37 weeks; severe PE (BP > 160/110, proteinuria > 2 g, urine output < 500 mL/day, platelets < 100000/cmm, elevated liver enzymes); maternal bleeding. Babies: SGA (< 10th percentile); preterm birth; birthweight; neonatal bleeding; Apgar score at 1 and 5 minutes.

Notes

Risk of bias

Bias	Authors' judgement	Support for judgement
Random sequence generation (selection bias)	Low risk	Quote:"Randomization was done using random number generated through a computer program"
Allocation concealment (selection bias)	Low risk	Quote:"Computer-generated list of random numbers. Numbers then placed in sealed envelopes, and women asked to choose 1 envelope. Randomisation, drug prescription, and allocation key kept by 1 author with no role in participant follow up or outcome assessment".
Blinding (performance bias and detection bias) All outcomes	High risk	Although not stated explicitly, it seems reasonable to assume that the treatment was not blinded due to the daily administering of aspirin to the test group and no treatment to the control group.
Incomplete outcome data (attrition bias) All outcomes	Low risk	3 women (2%) lost to follow-up (1 aspirin, 2 control). Quote:"136 cases succeeded to complete the follow-up period, whereas 3 cases were lost. All patients were analysed in the group to which they were allocated (intention-to-treat analysis) and lost patients were analysed, using either the last follow-up report or applying the worst patient scenario (patients given aspirin had the worst outcomes and those with no treatment had the best outcomes). Only 1 patient was lost from the aspirin group, whereas the other 2 patients were from the control group. For all patients, the follow-up was lost after 37 weeks."
Selective reporting (reporting bias)	Low risk	All outcomes specified in the methods section of the paper are reported. However, no access to protocol.
Other bias	Low risk	No significant differences in baseline characteristics.

EPREDA 1991

Methods	Randomised by centre with stratification for 1 or 2 previous poor outcomes. 1 woman excluded after randomisation.
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EPREDA 1991 (Continued)

Participants	323 women at 15-18 weeks' gestation with poor outcome during previous 2 pregnancies, at least 1 being IUGR, or IUGR in 1 previous pregnancy. Excluded: twins, uterine malformation, renal disease, secondary hypertension, diabetes, cardiac disease.	
Interventions	Study 1: exp: aspirin 150 mg daily, or aspirin 150 mg plus dipyridamole 225 mg daily. Control: placebo. Study 2: exp: aspirin 150 mg and dipyridamole 225 mg daily. Control: aspirin 150 mg daily.	
Outcomes	Women: death; DBP > 90 mmHg; proteinuria; abruption; caesarean section < 34 weeks; quote:"poor outcome". Babies: stillbirth; neonatal death; ventilation; transfer to intensive care; birthweight < 10th centile; duration of hospital stay (mean).	
Notes	Two separate comparisons within the one study. Only data for study 1 ('Trial A' in report) included in the review, relating to 230 women. Study 1 has 3 arms. Data for 2 antiplatelet arms combined versus control. For comparison of subgroup analysis based on dose, data presented under aspirin > 75 mg plus dipyridamole.	
Risk of bias		
Bias	Authors' judgement	Support for judgement
Random sequence generation (selection bias)	Low risk	Permuted blocks; quote:"randomisation by centre allowed the ratio between treated and placebo patients to be the same in each centre, and precluded a bias introduced by centre differences".
Allocation concealment (selection bias)	Low risk	Opaque, sequentially-numbered, sealed envelopes.
Blinding (performance bias and detection bias) All outcomes	Low risk	Quote:"double-blind" and placebo used.
Incomplete outcome data (attrition bias) All outcomes	Unclear risk	1 woman excluded after randomisation. Quote:"All patients for whom the endpoint was known were included in the analysis, even if treatment was withdrawn" "The endpoint is not known for 5 patients (3 spontaneous abortions before 20 weeks, 1 therapeutic abortion because of ultrasonographically diagnosed malformations, and 1 lost to follow-up)", and it is unclear which groups they belonged to. Treatment was also withdrawn from a further 22 women, and it is not clear whether these were balanced across groups.
Selective reporting (reporting bias)	Low risk	All outcomes specified in the methods section of the paper are reported. We have access to the protocol, however it is in French.
Other bias	Low risk	No imbalance in baseline characteristics: quote:"The study groups were comparable for ethnic origin, social and professional status, parity (average 2.2 to 2.4), and other characteristics (table 1). A detailed analysis of the number and nature of previous poor outcomes revealed no differences between the groups"

ERASME 2003

Methods	Multicentre, 28 centres in France and 1 in Belgium. Computer-generated randomisation codes, stratified by centre in blocks of 8. Allocation via online 24 hour computer.
Participants	3294 primiparous women at 14-20 weeks' gestation. Singleton or multiple pregnancy. Excluded: known HT, indication or contraindication to aspirin.
Interventions	Exp: aspirin 100 mg to 34 weeks. Control: placebo.
Outcomes	Women: PIH; PE; placental abruption; caesarean section; induction; HELLP; PPH; hospital admission; side effects. Babies: stillbirth; neonatal death; SGA (< 10th and < 3rd centile); neonatal IVH; other bleeding; admission SCBU.
Notes	

Risk of bias

Bias	Authors' judgement	Support for judgement
Random sequence generation (selection bias)	Low risk	Computer-generated randomisation codes, stratified by centre in blocks of 8. Quote:"A randomisation list was computer-generated by the manufacturer before the study began. To limit the difference in group size within each centre, this list was specific for each centre and balanced in blocks of eight. Furthermore, the box numbers were thereafter randomly mixed within the blocks of eight (with a random number table, independently generated at a server site at the Department of Pharmacology, Medical School of Lille), so that the numbers were not consecutive"
Allocation concealment (selection bias)	Low risk	Allocation via online 24-hour computer.
Blinding (performance bias and detection bias) All outcomes	Low risk	Quote:"double-blinded placebo-controlled"; Quote:"the excipient and vanilla aroma were identical in both powders, making it impossible for patients to identify their treatment"; "The treatment was totally double-blinded to co-ordinators, investigators and patients. Except in the case of clear medical need, the treatment actually taken by the patients was not to be revealed until the blind was lifted, after the completion of the study - including complete data entry" Quote:"Unblinding during pregnancy or in the immediate postpartum period became necessary for 82 patients (2.5%). Most often, this was related to the need for epidural analgesia or an endouterine procedure or the need to begin aspirin treatment. The distribution of these cases was significantly different between the groups (p = 0.01), because both bleeding (n = 12 vs n = 3) and allergic effects (n = 4 vs n = 0) were observed more often in the aspirin group" Quote:"Two independent examiners, blinded to the mother's treatment allocation, looked at the files of perinatal deaths"
Incomplete outcome data (attrition bias) All outcomes	Low risk	Quote:"Analysis was by intention-to-treat"; Quote:"Twenty patients (0.6%) were lost to follow up, 10 in each group. The inclusion characteristics of the patients lost to follow up and those studied did not differ significantly. Pregnancy outcome was known for 3274 patients"

ERASME 2003 (Continued)

Quote: "Pregnancy outcome was finally analysed for 1645 children in the aspirin group and 1660 in the placebo group"

Selective reporting (reporting bias)	Low risk	All outcomes specified in the methods section of the paper are reported. We have access to the protocol, however it is in French.
Other bias	Low risk	No imbalance in baseline characteristics: quote: "The general characteristics of the patients and the clinical prognostic factors collected at inclusion were comparable between the two groups for all criteria (Table 1). In particular, there was no difference between the groups for any factor known to be associated with the risk of pre-eclampsia (maternal age, smoking, body mass index, blood pressure readings at inclusion)."

Finland 1993

Methods	Sealed envelopes. Double-blind. 5.3% (11/208) women excluded. 6 from aspirin group (1 miscarriage, 1 termination for anencephaly, 4 discontinued due to urticaria, raised AST, or prolonged bleeding time), 5 from placebo group (1 miscarriage, 3 discontinued due to raised AST or prolonged bleeding time, 1 lost to follow-up).
Participants	208 women with pre-existing hypertension (BP > 140/90 before pregnancy) or previous severe PE (in immediately preceding pregnancy), and 12-18 weeks' gestation. Excluded: women proteinuric before pregnancy.
Interventions	Exp: aspirin 50 mg daily. Control: placebo.
Outcomes	Women: exacerbation of hypertension +/- proteinuria; caesarean section; blood loss at delivery (mean); hospitalisation during pregnancy; bleeding time and DBP at 36 weeks (mean). Babies: perinatal death; admission to SCBU; birthweight (mean); SGA; gestation at delivery.
Notes	3 centres.

Risk of bias

Bias	Authors' judgement	Support for judgement
Random sequence generation (selection bias)	Unclear risk	Quote: "randomly allocated to the experimental (ASA) or placebo (PLA) groups by sealed envelopes"; insufficient information.
Allocation concealment (selection bias)	Low risk	PARIS assessment noted that opaque, sequentially numbered sealed envelopes were used
Blinding (performance bias and detection bias) All outcomes	Low risk	Placebo used; quote: "The code was broken when all the data, including the results of laboratory analyses, were available"
Incomplete outcome data (attrition bias) All outcomes	Low risk	5.3%(11/208) women excluded. 6 from aspirin group (1 miscarriage, 1 termination for anencephaly, 4 discontinued due to urticaria, raised AST, or prolonged bleeding time), 5 from placebo group (1 miscarriage, 3 discontinued due to raised AST or prolonged bleeding time, 1 lost to follow up) - reasons similar and attrition balanced between groups. Quote: "Thus the end points could be assessed in 97 women taking ASA and 100 women taking placebo"

Finland 1993 (Continued)

Selective reporting (reporting bias)	Low risk	All outcomes specified in the methods section of the paper are reported. However, no access to protocol.
Other bias	Low risk	Baseline characteristics: quote:"The clinical characteristics of ASA and PLA groups before the treatment were comparable" (however levels of significance not stated).

Finland 1997

Methods	Randomised
Participants	26 high-risk women with uterine artery bilateral notches on doppler, at 22-24 weeks.
Interventions	Exp: aspirin 50 mg. Control: no treatment.
Outcomes	Women: GH; PE; placental abruption; delivery < 37 weeks. Babies: stillbirth; IUGR (< 10th centile); IVH on ultrasound; gestation at delivery (mean); birthweight (mean).
Notes	

Risk of bias

Bias	Authors' judgement	Support for judgement
Random sequence generation (selection bias)	Low risk	Random number tables.
Allocation concealment (selection bias)	Low risk	Opaque sequentially numbered envelopes.
Blinding (performance bias and detection bias) All outcomes	High risk	Although not stated explicitly, it seems reasonable to assume that the treatment was not blinded due to the daily administering of aspirin to the test group and no treatment to the control group.
Incomplete outcome data (attrition bias) All outcomes	Unclear risk	Insufficient reporting of attritions/exclusions to permit judgement.
Selective reporting (reporting bias)	Low risk	All outcomes specified in the methods section of the paper are reported. However, no access to protocol.
Other bias	Unclear risk	No imbalance in baseline characteristics, but unable to assess some. Small sample size (26)

Finland 1997a

Methods	'Randomly allocated', code of medication broken once all data available. No further information.
Participants	66 women at around 5 weeks' gestation with a history of recurrent spontaneous miscarriage.

Finland 1997a (Continued)

Interventions	Exp: aspirin 50 mg/day, started as soon as pregnancy test positive. Control: placebo.
Outcomes	Women: PE (BP \geq 140/90 plus proteinuria $>$ 0.3 g/day); minor bleeding; abruption; mode of delivery; length of pregnancy; glucose tolerance. Baby: early fetal loss; SGA ($<$ 10th percentile); birthweight.
Notes	Almost one third of women had a miscarriage or ectopic pregnancy (10/33 aspirin vs 10/33 placebo). Therefore denominators for other pregnancy outcomes are based on women whose pregnancy continued beyond 20 weeks.

Risk of bias

Bias	Authors' judgement	Support for judgement
Random sequence generation (selection bias)	Unclear risk	Quote:"randomly allocated"; no other information provided.
Allocation concealment (selection bias)	Unclear risk	Coded medication; no other information provided.
Blinding (performance bias and detection bias) All outcomes	Low risk	Placebo used. Quote:"The code of medication was broken when all clinical and biochemical data were available"
Incomplete outcome data (attrition bias) All outcomes	Unclear risk	Insufficient reporting of attritions/exclusions to permit judgement.
Selective reporting (reporting bias)	Unclear risk	Outcomes are not clearly stated in the methods section of the paper (or abstract/introduction); protocol not available.
Other bias	Unclear risk	Baseline characteristics: insufficient information to judge if these were balanced across both groups.

Finland 2002

Methods	Randomisation in pharmacy. Code broken when last woman delivered. 4 women lost to follow-up, 2 each group.
Participants	90 women at risk of PE or IUGR with abnormal uterine doppler. 12-14 weeks' gestation.
Interventions	Exp: aspirin 0.5 mg/kg/day. Control: placebo.
Outcomes	Women: GH; PE; caesarean section. Babies: death; gestation at delivery (mean); birthweight $<$ 2500 g; admission SCBU; IVH.
Notes	

Risk of bias

Bias	Authors' judgement	Support for judgement
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Finland 2002 (Continued)

Random sequence generation (selection bias)	Unclear risk	Pharmacy organised randomisation; no other information provided.
Allocation concealment (selection bias)	Low risk	Pharmacy organised randomisation, code broken when last woman delivered.
Blinding (performance bias and detection bias) All outcomes	Low risk	Placebo used. Quote:"The [randomisation] code was not broken until after the delivery of the last woman randomised"
Incomplete outcome data (attrition bias) All outcomes	Low risk	4 women lost to follow-up, 2 each group. 43/45 of women on acetylsalicylic acid and 43/45 on placebo were successfully followed up: quote:"Two women in the acetylsalicylic acid group discontinued before second visit; 1 had urticaria and the other had itching in her throat. In the placebo group 1 woman moved to another town after the second visit and a second gave no reason for dropping out after the first visit"
Selective reporting (reporting bias)	Low risk	All outcomes specified in the methods section of the paper are reported. However, no access to protocol.
Other bias	Low risk	No imbalance in baseline characteristics: quote:"No significant differences were found between the acetylsalicylic acid and placebo groups with regard to age, weight, parity, diastolic or systolic blood pressure, multiple pregnancy, previous IUGR, previous fetus mortus, chronic hypertension, diabetes, previous PIH or previous PE".

Finland 2013

Methods		
Participants	152 women with risk factors for pre-eclampsia and abnormal uterine artery Doppler velocimetry. Excluded: allergy to aspirin; tobacco smoking; multiple pregnancy; and a history of asthma, peptic ulcer, placental ablation, inflammatory bowel diseases, rheumatoid arthritis, haemophilia or thrombophilia.	
Interventions	Exp: aspirin 100 mg/day from 12 + 0 to 13 + 6 weeks + days of gestation Control: placebo	
Outcomes	Women: pre-eclampsia, gestational hypertension, early-onset pre-eclampsia, severe pre-eclampsia, preterm pre-eclampsia, length of gestation. Babies: birthweight, small for gestational age	
Notes	Trial conducted in maternity clinics in ten Finnish hospitals.	
Risk of bias		
Bias	Authors' judgement	Support for judgement
Random sequence generation (selection bias)	Low risk	Quote:"randomisation was made in blocks of tens by the pharmacists not otherwise involved in the study"

Finland 2013 (Continued)

Allocation concealment (selection bias)	Low risk	Quote:"Tampere University Hospital Pharmacy performed the randomisation"; "aspirin and placebo tablets were prepared by a pharmaceutical company to appear identical"; Quote:"The randomisation code of each participant was sealed in an envelope and was opened after the outcome diagnoses of all participants has been set by the jury"
Blinding (performance bias and detection bias) All outcomes	Low risk	Quote:"double-blinded"; identical placebo used
Incomplete outcome data (attrition bias) All outcomes	Unclear risk	121/152 women completed the trial, i.e. 31 (20%) were left out: 4 of these women had a miscarriage (3 aspirin group; 1 placebo group); 11 women lost to follow-up or discontinued for various non medical reasons (7 aspirin group, 4 placebo group); 5 women discontinued because of a medical condition (3 placebo group, 2 aspirin group); 11 participants additionally excluded from analysis because of noncompliance with the study protocol; Quote:"The results of our intention-to-treat analysis do not differ from the results of the analysis made without these excluded women"
Selective reporting (reporting bias)	High risk	In the trial registration document (ISRCTN14030412) over 40 primary outcomes are listed. The paper reports 3 primary outcomes, only 1 of which was also listed in the trial registration document.
Other bias	Low risk	Baseline characteristics: outlined in paper (Table 2) and appear similar

France 1985

Methods	Quote:"Randomly allocated to group A or B", no other information available. 8.8% (9/102) excluded from analysis (2 controls lost to follow-up, 4 treatment and 3 controls had a miscarriage before 16 weeks).
Participants	102 women at high risk of PE or IUGR; for example, if several previous complicated pregnancies or vascular risk factors such as essential hypertension (BP > 160/95) or a family history of hypertension. Excluded: women with secondary hypertension or known or suspected renal disease.
Interventions	Exp: aspirin 150 mg and dipyridamole 300 mg daily, from 3 months until delivery. Control: no antiplatelet agent.
Outcomes	Women: PIH (BP at least 140/85 mmHg; PE; caesarean section; abnormal bleeding during delivery or caesarean section; abruption; headache). Babies: stillbirth; neonatal death; fetal malformation; birthweight < 10th and < 3rd centile (livebirths only); haemorrhagic complication (undefined).
Notes	

Risk of bias

Bias	Authors' judgement	Support for judgement
Random sequence generation (selection bias)	Unclear risk	Quote:"Randomly allocated to group A or B"; no other information available.

France 1985 (Continued)

Allocation concealment (selection bias)	Unclear risk	Quote:"Randomly allocated to group A or B"; no other information available.
Blinding (performance bias and detection bias) All outcomes	High risk	Quote:"For ethical reasons the study was not double blind"
Incomplete outcome data (attrition bias) All outcomes	Low risk	8.8% (9/102) excluded from analysis (2 controls lost to follow-up, 4 treatment and 3 controls had a miscarriage before 16 weeks); attrition balanced across groups.
Selective reporting (reporting bias)	Low risk	All expected outcomes are reported. However, no access to protocol.
Other bias	Low risk	Quote:"Our empirical selection of patients did not lead to a very homogenous population, but the heterogeneity was distributed evenly between the groups (table 1), so it is unlikely to bias results."

France 1990

Methods	Quote:"Randomised study", no other information given.
Participants	91 women at high risk of PIH because of previous early onset PE, severe IUGR or fetal death due to placental insufficiency; at 16 weeks' gestation.
Interventions	Exp: aspirin 100 mg and dipyridamole 300 mg daily until delivery. Control: no treatment.
Outcomes	Women: GH +/-; duration of pregnancy (mean). Babies: fetal death; birthweight (mean).
Notes	Published in abstract form only.

Risk of bias

Bias	Authors' judgement	Support for judgement
Random sequence generation (selection bias)	Unclear risk	Quote:"Randomised study", no other information given.
Allocation concealment (selection bias)	Unclear risk	Quote:"Randomised study", no other information given.
Blinding (performance bias and detection bias) All outcomes	High risk	Blinding of allocation not mentioned in article; Although not stated explicitly, it seems reasonable to assume that the treatment was not blinded due to the daily administering of aspirin + dipyridamole to the test group and no treatment to the control group.
Incomplete outcome data (attrition bias) All outcomes	Unclear risk	Insufficient reporting of attritions/exclusions to permit judgement
Selective reporting (reporting bias)	Unclear risk	Insufficient information to permit judgement - conference abstract only available.

France 1990 (Continued)

Other bias	Low risk	Baseline characteristics: quote: "Women in these two groups were similar in age, parity and previous obstetrical complications".
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Germany 1995

Methods	prospective, randomised, double-blind, placebo-control study	
Participants	160 pregnant women at 24 to 38 weeks' gestation at risk of developing PE (+7 patients with manifest PE or PIH excluded from this analysis)	
Interventions	Exp: 3 x 100 mg Trapidil per day by mouth Control: placebo	
Outcomes	Women: pre-eclampsia, pre-term delivery, 6-keto-PGF, TXB Babies: IUGR	
Notes	Translated from German to English. Trapidil is an antiplatelet, generic name: triazolopyrimidine	

Risk of bias

Bias	Authors' judgement	Support for judgement
Random sequence generation (selection bias)	Unclear risk	Not described
Allocation concealment (selection bias)	Unclear risk	Not described
Blinding (performance bias and detection bias) All outcomes	Low risk	Double-blind, placebo used
Incomplete outcome data (attrition bias) All outcomes	Low risk	Of the 167 women enrolled in the trial (including the 7 women with manifest pre-eclampsia or pregnancy-induced hypertension excluded from this analysis): quote: "9 women from the Trapidil group and 7 from the placebo group dropped out of the treatment early for various reasons. The reasons given in the two groups were comparable and non-specific, so a subjective component to tolerance of pharmaceuticals during pregnancy can be assumed."
Selective reporting (reporting bias)	Low risk	Protocol not available. However, all expected outcomes appear to be reported.
Other bias	Unclear risk	Average age of patients in the Trapidil group was 26.1 years (19-42 years) and the average age in the placebo group was 25.9 years (18-39 years). Unclear whether there were imbalances in any other baseline characteristics.

Germany 2000

Methods	Computer-generated random sequence. Blister packs, and the code held separately from person doing randomisation.
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Germany 2000 (Continued)

Participants	43 women with singleton pregnancy, < 20 weeks' gestation with early IUGR, impaired uteroplacental flow, chronic HT, or history of IUGR, stillbirth, or PE. Excluded: diabetes, pre-existing HT or proteinuria, fetal malformation.
Interventions	Exp: aspirin 100 mg/day. Control: placebo.
Outcomes	Women: PE. Babies: gestation at birth (mean); birthweight (mean).
Notes	

Risk of bias

Bias	Authors' judgement	Support for judgement
Random sequence generation (selection bias)	Low risk	Computer-generated self written Fortran program from separate university department
Allocation concealment (selection bias)	Low risk	Randomisation carried out by separate university department, i.e. the Department of Biometry and Medical Documentation, University of Ulm. Opaque sequentially-numbered sealed envelopes and Identical coded blister packs, code only known to packer and statistician.
Blinding (performance bias and detection bias) All outcomes	Low risk	Quote:"double blind"; placebo (identical blister packs) used.
Incomplete outcome data (attrition bias) All outcomes	Unclear risk	ITT analysis. Insufficient reporting of attritions/exclusions to permit judgement.
Selective reporting (reporting bias)	Low risk	Protocol not available. Outcomes not clearly specified in methods section or elsewhere although key outcomes appear to be reported.
Other bias	Unclear risk	No imbalance in baseline characteristics, but unable to assess some. Quote:"The PI [Pulsatility Index] did not differ below 38 weeks and the only significant finding at 38 weeks may be spurious, considering the large number of significance tests performed"

India 1991

Methods	Quote: "randomized, controlled prospective trial"
Participants	200 women at risk of IUGR based on historical factors (Group I), or have evidence of IUGR in current pregnancy on the basis of clinical and/or sonological measurements (Group II). Excluded: women with IUGR with fetal abnormality, Rh-iso-immunisation, multiple pregnancy with hydramnios, patients with a history of haemorrhagic disease or thromboembolism, history of APH in present pregnancy
Interventions	Exp: dipyridamole 75 mg/three times per day and aspirin 1.5 mg/kg/day from 16 to 36 weeks' gestation (Group I) or from 30 weeks' onwards (Group II).

India 1991 (Continued)

Control: ?no treatment

 Outcomes
 Women: maternal adverse effects
 Babies: IUGR, adverse effects

Notes

Risk of bias

Bias	Authors' judgement	Support for judgement
Random sequence generation (selection bias)	Unclear risk	Quote: "randomized, controlled prospective trial"; no other information provided
Allocation concealment (selection bias)	Low risk	Opaque, sequentially-numbered, sealed envelopes
Blinding (performance bias and detection bias) All outcomes	Unclear risk	Blinding not mentioned and unclear whether control group receives no treatment.
Incomplete outcome data (attrition bias) All outcomes	Unclear risk	Insufficient reporting of attritions/exclusions to permit judgement
Selective reporting (reporting bias)	Unclear risk	Insufficient information to permit judgement. Protocol is available but extremely difficult to read due to poor copying quality
Other bias	Unclear risk	No imbalance in baseline characteristics. Insufficient information to judge other potential sources of bias.

India 1993

 Methods
 Method of randomisation not specified; assessment of outcome not blinded.

 Participants
 100 women with PIH at 24-36 weeks' gestation.

 Interventions
 Exp: aspirin 60 mg/day.
 Control: 'standard treatments only'.

 Outcomes
 Women: severe GH (proteinuria not specified); eclampsia; preterm (gestation not specified).
 Babies: stillbirths; neonatal deaths; SGA.

 Notes
 Unclear whether aspirin group also had 'standard treatments'.

Risk of bias

Bias	Authors' judgement	Support for judgement
Random sequence generation (selection bias)	Unclear risk	Quote: "randomly allocated"; method of randomisation not specified
Allocation concealment (selection bias)	Unclear risk	No information regarding allocation concealment provided.

India 1993 (Continued)

Blinding (performance bias and detection bias) All outcomes	High risk	Assessment of outcome not blinded. Although not stated explicitly, it seems reasonable to assume that the treatment was not blinded due to the daily administering of aspirin to the test group and standard treatment only to the control group.
Incomplete outcome data (attrition bias) All outcomes	Unclear risk	Insufficient reporting of attritions/exclusions to permit judgement
Selective reporting (reporting bias)	Unclear risk	Protocol not available. Primary/secondary outcomes not specified in methods section.
Other bias	Unclear risk	Baseline characteristics: quote: "On statistical analysis it was found that both groups were well matched in relation to previous obstetric complications so the results were unbiased (Table I)." Age was also similar but 30% in aspirin group were multigravida vs 12% in control group

India 1994

Methods	Quote: "Randomly allocated", no other information given.
Participants	94 nulliparous women with PIH in the 3rd trimester (SBP at least 140 mmHg, or DBP at least 90 mmHg, or both, on 2 occasions more than 6 hours but less than 24 hours apart).
Interventions	Exp: aspirin 75 mg daily, until 10 days before EDD. Control: no antiplatelet agent.
Outcomes	Women: development of PE; eclampsia or abruption; mean fall in BP; rise in BP. Babies: neonatal death; admission to SCBU; gestational age at delivery (mean); birthweight (mean); Apgar at 1 minute; macroscopic haematuria.
Notes	Exclusion criteria not described.

Risk of bias

Bias	Authors' judgement	Support for judgement
Random sequence generation (selection bias)	Low risk	Simple (e.g. coin toss) method used
Allocation concealment (selection bias)	Low risk	Authors noted during PARIS risk of bias assessment that opaque, sequentially numbered sealed envelopes were used to ensure allocation concealment
Blinding (performance bias and detection bias) All outcomes	High risk	Blinding not mentioned but unlikely as intervention group receives aspirin and control receives no treatment.
Incomplete outcome data (attrition bias) All outcomes	Unclear risk	Insufficient reporting of attritions/exclusions to permit judgement
Selective reporting (reporting bias)	Low risk	Protocol not available. Primary/secondary outcomes not specified in methods section although all expected outcomes appear to be reported.
Other bias	Low risk	No imbalance in baseline characteristics: quote: "No significant difference was found in these two groups regarding age, height, mean gestational age at trial

India 1994 (Continued)

entry, mean BP - systolic and diastolic, incidence of proteinuric and non-proteinuric cases, cases with established PIH"

India 1999

Methods	Randomised trial, no further details. 2 women allocated aspirin lost to follow-up, 1 allocated placebo.
Participants	163 women with PIH at 20-32 weeks.
Interventions	Exp: aspirin 60 mg daily. Control: placebo. Treatment continued to 38 weeks.
Outcomes	Women: PE; eclampsia. Babies: perinatal death; IUGR < 10th centile.
Notes	Available as an abstract only.

Risk of bias

Bias	Authors' judgement	Support for judgement
Random sequence generation (selection bias)	Unclear risk	Randomised trial; no further details.
Allocation concealment (selection bias)	Unclear risk	Randomised trial; no further details.
Blinding (performance bias and detection bias) All outcomes	Unclear risk	Control group described in abstract as "placebo" so assume some level of blinding was attempted, however no further information available.
Incomplete outcome data (attrition bias) All outcomes	Low risk	163 participants: 2 women allocated aspirin lost to follow-up, 1 allocated placebo; attrition balanced across groups. ITT analysis
Selective reporting (reporting bias)	Unclear risk	Protocol not available. Abstract only available. Insufficient information to judge.
Other bias	Unclear risk	"Baseline characteristics were similar". Abstract only available - insufficient information to judge if other sources of bias exist.

India 2017

Methods	Quote: "Simple computerised random number allocation"
Participants	210 women at high risk of PE, based on the criteria age > 34 years, chronic hypertension, multiple pregnancy, gestational diabetes, or high uterine artery pulsatility index. Gestation 12 to 20 weeks.
Interventions	Aspirin 75 mg to 34 weeks vs no treatment

India 2017 (Continued)

Outcomes	PE; preterm birth; placental abruption; PPH, IUGR	
Notes		
Risk of bias		
Bias	Authors' judgement	Support for judgement
Random sequence generation (selection bias)	Low risk	Quote: "Simple computerised random number allocation"
Allocation concealment (selection bias)	High risk	No information about concealment of allocation, but the text quote: "Simple computerised random number allocation" implies there was none.
Blinding (performance bias and detection bias) All outcomes	High risk	Blinding is not discussed, but as there was no placebo it is likely that the women and their clinicians were aware of the allocation.
Incomplete outcome data (attrition bias) All outcomes	High risk	21/210 (10%) women randomised were excluded from the analysis. Loss to follow-up was higher in the control group (8/105 aspirin vs 13/105 control), and in the aspirin group for 5/8 this was because women discontinued treatment
Selective reporting (reporting bias)	Unclear risk	PE is the only outcome specified in methods. Data for other outcomes are reported. Protocol not available, so unclear whether all outcomes collected have been reported.
Other bias	Unclear risk	Groups balanced at trial entry.

Iran 1992

Methods	Prospective, randomised, double-blind study	
Participants	40 pregnant women with high risk for PIH (nulliparity, twin pregnancy or a history of previous PE) Excluded: history of chronic hypertension, long-term treatment with non-steroidal anti-inflammatory drugs (at least during the last 6 weeks), PIH or proteinuria	
Interventions	Exp: aspirin 100 mg/day after lunch during the third trimester of pregnancy up to 1 week before delivery Control: placebo	
Outcomes	Women: PIH (non-proteinuric/proteinuric), caesarean section, length of hospitalisation during pregnancy or parturition Babies: birthweight, gestational age at birth, Apgar score, stillbirth, prematurity (< 37 weeks gestational age), ICU admission, ventilator support, macroscopic haematuria, cephalhematoma, neonatal death	
Notes	Trial conducted at Hafez Hospital in Shiraz, Iran	

Risk of bias		
Bias	Authors' judgement	Support for judgement
Random sequence generation (selection bias)	Unclear risk	Quote: "randomly divided into two groups" - no other information provided

Iran 1992 (Continued)

Allocation concealment (selection bias)	Unclear risk	Quote: "randomly divided into two groups" - no other information provided
Blinding (performance bias and detection bias) All outcomes	Low risk	Quote: "double blind study" and placebo used
Incomplete outcome data (attrition bias) All outcomes	Low risk	Quote: "All medical data of each woman, including details of pregnancy and perinatal outcome collected."
Selective reporting (reporting bias)	Low risk	Protocol not available and outcomes not clearly specified in methods section. However, all expected outcomes appear to be reported.
Other bias	Unclear risk	Baseline characteristics: quote: "There is no significant difference among all groups with regard to age, gravidity, rate of twin pregnancy, previous preeclampsia and family history of essential hypertension or toxemia of pregnancy." (Table I) However, baseline blood pressures not reported.

Iran 2006

Methods	Randomised controlled trial
Participants	90 pregnant women with bilateral notches in the uterine arteries; rated in Doppler velocimetry waveform analysis to be at high risk of PE. Women at 12 to 14 weeks' gestation.
Interventions	Exp: aspirin 0.5 mg/kg/day Control: placebo
Outcomes	Women: PIH, PE, bleeding Babies: fetal bleeding
Notes	Abstract only. No raw data available. Unable to find contact email address for authors or any related publications.

Risk of bias

Bias	Authors' judgement	Support for judgement
Random sequence generation (selection bias)	Unclear risk	Quote: "randomised"; no other information provided
Allocation concealment (selection bias)	Unclear risk	Quote: "randomised"; no other information provided
Blinding (performance bias and detection bias) All outcomes	Unclear risk	Placebo used; no other information provided.
Incomplete outcome data (attrition bias) All outcomes	Low risk	40/45 women on aspirin and 40/45 on placebo were successfully followed up; attrition balanced across groups.

Iran 2006 (Continued)

Selective reporting (reporting bias)	Unclear risk	Abstract only - insufficient information to permit judgement
Other bias	Unclear risk	Abstract only available.

Iran 2010

Methods	Randomised; single-blind; parallel assignment
Participants	80 pregnant women with risk of PE (e.g. vascular disease, chronic hypertension, diabetes, age under 20 and more than 40 years old). Excluded: women with heart disease, liver disease, thyroid disease, chronic renal disease and peptic ulcer
Interventions	Exp: 100 mg aspirin daily Control: no treatment
Outcomes	Women: PE, preterm labour, type of delivery Babies: IUGR, neonatal APGAR score, neonatal weight
Notes	Registration record only available. Contacted author who advised by email that they have published in Persian but not yet in English.

Risk of bias

Bias	Authors' judgement	Support for judgement
Random sequence generation (selection bias)	Unclear risk	Insufficient information to assess.
Allocation concealment (selection bias)	Unclear risk	Insufficient information to assess.
Blinding (performance bias and detection bias) All outcomes	High risk	Quote: "Single blind", and no placebo used.
Incomplete outcome data (attrition bias) All outcomes	Unclear risk	Registration record only. No outcome data available yet.
Selective reporting (reporting bias)	Unclear risk	Registration record only. No outcome data available yet.
Other bias	Unclear risk	Registration record only - insufficient information to judge.

Iran 2012

Methods	Three-arm, randomised single-blind controlled trial
Participants	70 women included who had previous diagnosis of PCOS, age 18-40 years, gestational age 6-12 weeks, a single viable fetus

Iran 2012 (Continued)

	Excluded: history of diabetes or hypertension; and 35 women who were in metformin treatment arm
Interventions	Exp: aspirin 80 mg/day Control: no treatment
Outcomes	Women: uteroplacental circulation (uterine artery pulsatility index - PI), PE gestational diabetes, any adverse outcome Babies: preterm delivery, IUGR, infant birthweight, any adverse outcome
Notes	Conducted at Shariati Hospital, Tehran, Iran. 105 women were randomised to 3 groups of 35 each. However, 1 group that received metformin is excluded from this analysis, thus the number of women of interest here is 70.

Risk of bias

Bias	Authors' judgement	Support for judgement
Random sequence generation (selection bias)	Low risk	Quote: "by a computer program"
Allocation concealment (selection bias)	Unclear risk	Quote: "hidden in sealed envelopes"
Blinding (performance bias and detection bias) All outcomes	High risk	Single-blind. Quote: "The study was a single blind, controlled trial and the examiner was blinded to group status during the ultrasound examinations."
Incomplete outcome data (attrition bias) All outcomes	Low risk	No patients dropped out or were lost to follow-up
Selective reporting (reporting bias)	Low risk	All outcomes included in the registration record were reported.
Other bias	Unclear risk	No baseline imbalance, but some not reported, e.g. BP. Quote: "groups were homogenous according to the mean of age, BMI, gravidity"

Iran 2014a

Methods	Randomised single-blind trial
Participants	140 singleton pregnant women, who had unexplained elevated alpha-fetoprotein (> 2.5 multiple of median) and gestational age between 15 and 18 weeks' gestation
Interventions	Aspirin 80 mg/day taken in the evening vs control
Outcomes	Primary outcome was 'adverse pregnancy outcome', which was any of PE, fetal loss (miscarriage at 20-24 weeks or intrauterine death after 24 weeks), preterm delivery, IUGR, oligohydramnios, placental abruption. NICU admission, neonatal mortality
Notes	'Control' intervention was not specified, but as the study is described as single-blind and trial registration states no placebo was used, it is likely to have been no treatment.

Iran 2014a (Continued)

Risk of bias

Bias	Authors' judgement	Support for judgement
Random sequence generation (selection bias)	Low risk	Computer-generated random number list
Allocation concealment (selection bias)	Low risk	Sequentially-labelled opaque sealed envelopes
Blinding (performance bias and detection bias) All outcomes	High risk	The obstetrician was not told the woman's allocation. A nurse educator gave instructions to the women about taking the intervention. 'Control' intervention was not specified, but as the study is described as single-blind and trial registration states no placebo was used, it is likely to have been no treatment.
Incomplete outcome data (attrition bias) All outcomes	High risk	8/140 (6%) women excluded from the analysis (6 allocated aspirin, 2 control). Aspirin group: 2 did not return for follow-up, 3 had 'abortion' < 20 weeks and 1 had a fetal anomaly diagnosed after randomisation. Control group: 1 did not return for follow-up, 1 had 'abortion' < 20 weeks.
Selective reporting (reporting bias)	Low risk	Protocol not available. Primary outcomes specified and reported. Secondary outcomes not stated in methods section. All expected outcomes appear to be reported
Other bias	Unclear risk	The abstract states that the Quote: "[t]wo groups were comparable regarding the maternal characteristics", including age, gravidity, previous 'abortion', BMI, and weight. However, differences in baseline GA (range 15-18 weeks) not reported.

Israel 1989

Methods	Coded packages of 100 pills allocated according to a computer-generated randomisation list.	
Participants	65 women with either twin pregnancy, a history of PE or in first pregnancy, and a positive roll-over test at 28-29 weeks' gestation.	
Interventions	Exp: aspirin 100 mg daily. Control: placebo.	
Outcomes	Women: GH +/- proteinuria (BP > 140/90 on at least 2 occasions within 24 hours; proteinuria > 1 g/24 hours); caesarean section; length of hospitalisation (mean). Babies: stillbirth; neonatal death; gestation at birth (mean); born < 37 weeks; birthweight < 10th centile; Apgar scores; ventilation; admission to SCBU; IVH; haematuria; cephalhematoma; sepsis workup.	
Notes		

Risk of bias

Bias	Authors' judgement	Support for judgement
Random sequence generation (selection bias)	Low risk	Computer-generated list
Allocation concealment (selection bias)	Unclear risk	Coded packages of 100 tablets

Israel 1989 (Continued)

Blinding (performance bias and detection bias) All outcomes	Low risk	Quote: "double-blind placebo-controlled" Quote: "neither the subject nor the physician in charge of the study knew which pill was being taken" Quote: "data pertaining to the number of patients in whom PIH occurred were evaluated by an independent mathematician"
Incomplete outcome data (attrition bias) All outcomes	Unclear risk	Insufficient reporting of attritions/exclusions to permit judgement
Selective reporting (reporting bias)	Low risk	Protocol not available. Primary outcomes specified and reported. Secondary outcomes not stated in methods section. All expected outcomes appear to be reported.
Other bias	High risk	No imbalance in baseline characteristics: quote: "No significant differences were found among the groups with regard to average age, gravidity, rate of twin gestation, or family history of essential hypertension" Study was discontinued after the second 6-month data analysis on the recommendation of an independent mathematician aware of medication coding.

Israel 1990

Methods	Quote: "Divided randomly into 2 groups", no other information given.
Participants	47 nulliparous at 30-36 weeks with mild PIH (BP > 140/90 but < 165/110), no signs of PE, normal platelets and proteinuria < 500 mg/24 hours. Excluded if aspirin sensitivity, chronic hypertension, renal disease or antihypertensive drugs.
Interventions	Exp: aspirin 100 mg until 5 days before EDD. Control: placebo.
Outcomes	Women: PE (BP > 165/110 with low platelet count or proteinuria > 500 mg/24 hours, or both); caesarean section. Babies: gestation at delivery; birthweight (mean); Apgar score at 5 minutes (mean).
Notes	

Risk of bias

Bias	Authors' judgement	Support for judgement
Random sequence generation (selection bias)	Unclear risk	Quote: "Divided randomly into 2 groups", no other information given.
Allocation concealment (selection bias)	Unclear risk	Quote: "Divided randomly into 2 groups", no other information given.
Blinding (performance bias and detection bias) All outcomes	Low risk	Quote: "double-blind"; placebo used. Quote: "Neither the patients nor the medical staff knew which pill was being taken".
Incomplete outcome data (attrition bias)	Unclear risk	Insufficient reporting of attritions/exclusions to permit judgement

Israel 1990 (Continued)

All outcomes

Selective reporting (reporting bias)	Unclear risk	Protocol not available. Primary outcomes specified and reported, however some other expected outcomes (e.g. neonatal and maternal bleeding) not reported.
Other bias	Low risk	Baseline characteristics: Table 1 shows no significant differences between the 2 groups with regard to age, mean gravidity, mean GA, mean fetal weight percentile, and the number of growth-retarded fetuses according to ultrasound examination on admission.

Israel 1994

Methods	Allocated to a coded package according to randomisation list. 1 woman withdrawn from placebo group because of thrombocytopenia - outcomes included where possible.
Participants	48 women with twin pregnancies at about 18 weeks.
Interventions	Exp: aspirin 100 mg/day. Control: placebo.
Outcomes	Women: GH; PE; caesarean section; IUGR. Babies: preterm birth; perinatal mortality; birthweight discordancy (15%).
Notes	

Risk of bias

Bias	Authors' judgement	Support for judgement
Random sequence generation (selection bias)	Unclear risk	Quote: "randomisation list"
Allocation concealment (selection bias)	Unclear risk	Coded packages
Blinding (performance bias and detection bias) All outcomes	Low risk	Quote: "placebo controlled, double-blind" Quote: "Neither the subject nor her physician knew which pill contained aspirin until the code was broken at the end of the study"
Incomplete outcome data (attrition bias) All outcomes	Low risk	1 woman withdrawn from placebo group after 16 weeks of therapy at 32 weeks' gestation because of thrombocytopenia - outcomes included where possible.
Selective reporting (reporting bias)	Low risk	Protocol not available. Outcomes not clearly specified in methods section or elsewhere although key outcomes appear to be reported.
Other bias	High risk	Baseline characteristics: quote: "The placebo and aspirin group were similar in age, weight gain, zygoty, gravidity, parity and obstetrical antecedents" Quote: "Both groups were similar in all respects except for PIH, which occurred in previous pregnancies in three and one cases in the placebo and aspirin groups, respectively" Quote: "We are aware of the fact that the twin population participating the study was heterogenous. For example, three cases of PIH in previous pregnan-

Israel 1994 (Continued)

cies in the placebo group and only one in the aspirin group may represent different backgrounds and different risks of developing PIH in the ensuing pregnancy, although only one of those three developed PIH in our study. In balance, the fact that 10 primipara were enrolled in the aspirin group compared with seven in the placebo probably increases the risk of developing PIH in the aspirin group"

Italy 1989

Methods	Quote: "Randomly assigned", no other information given.
Participants	33 women at risk of hypertension because of essential hypertension or a significant previous obstetric history (placental insufficiency causing fetal death, severe IUGR or PE < 32 weeks). Excluded: if antiphospholipid antibodies present.
Interventions	Exp: aspirin 60 mg daily from 12 weeks until delivery. Control: placebo.
Outcomes	Women: GH (BP > 140/90 and BP previously normal); gestation at delivery (mean). Babies: perinatal death; assisted ventilation; haemorrhagic complications; birthweight < 10th centile for gestational age; born < 37 weeks' gestation; Apgar scores (mean) RDS.
Notes	

Risk of bias

Bias	Authors' judgement	Support for judgement
Random sequence generation (selection bias)	Unclear risk	Quote: "Randomly assigned", no other information given.
Allocation concealment (selection bias)	Unclear risk	Quote: "Randomly assigned", no other information given.
Blinding (performance bias and detection bias) All outcomes	High risk	Quote: "The study was single blind. Only the evaluator of clinical outcomes knew the treatment assignment."
Incomplete outcome data (attrition bias) All outcomes	Low risk	Attritions/exclusions not reported although data suggest no dropouts.
Selective reporting (reporting bias)	Unclear risk	Protocol not available. Most expected outcomes appear to be reported except proteinuria and PE
Other bias	Low risk	Baseline characteristics: 2 groups were comparable in age, body weight, diastolic BP and previous pregnancy complications.

Italy 1993

Methods	Allocation by a telephone call to 1 of 2 randomisation centres. 5.8% (64/1106) of women lost to follow-up (18/523 aspirin, 46/583 control).
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Italy 1993 (Continued)

Follow-up: postal questionnaire to parents for 1083 children at 18 months (excludes 41 born before follow-up started). 1 reminder and up to 3 telephone calls for non-responders. Data for 427 aspirin (72%) and 361 no treatment (73%).

Participants	1106 women at 16-32 weeks' gestation. Prophylactic: age < 18 or > 40 years, mild-moderate chronic hypertension, nephropathy with normal renal function and BP, PIH or IUGR in previous pregnancy, twin pregnancy). Therapeutic: PIH (DBP 90-110 mmHg) or early IUGR (fetal abdominal circumference \geq 2 SD below mean for gestational age). Excluded: chronic disease, allergy to aspirin, fetal malformation.
Interventions	Exp: aspirin 50 mg daily. Control: no treatment.
Outcomes	Women: PIH +/- proteinuria; abruption; induced or spontaneous abortion; caesarean section. Babies: perinatal mortality; gestation at delivery; birthweight < 10th or < 5th centile; admission to SCBU; IVH; gastric bleed. At 18 months: death; malformations height and weight < 10th centile, and respiratory; motor; sight; hearing or language problems.
Notes	Data not presented separately for prophylaxis and treatment, and so all women included in prophylaxis for this review. For follow-up, no difference between responders and non-responders in baseline characteristics and outcome at discharge from hospital. Also, no differences in information collected by post or by telephone.

Risk of bias

Bias	Authors' judgement	Support for judgement
Random sequence generation (selection bias)	Unclear risk	Allocation by a telephone call to 1 of 2 randomisation centres. Quote: "523 women were assigned to no treatment and 583 aspirin. The higher number of women in the aspirin group was due to the erroneous use of the same randomisation sheets for several centres in early stages of the trial. Although we recognised this error during the study, we decided that no bias could have been introduced, so no measure was taken to balance the number of subjects"
Allocation concealment (selection bias)	Low risk	Central telephone
Blinding (performance bias and detection bias) All outcomes	High risk	Trial with no placebo. Article: quote: "The frequency of caesarean section was higher, but not significantly, in aspirin-treated women than in controls. This finding is difficult to explain, but a potential bias due to the knowledge of treatment-group allocation cannot be excluded."
Incomplete outcome data (attrition bias) All outcomes	High risk	Article: quote: "Of the 1106 subjects, 46 (8.8%) in the no-treatment group and 18 (3.1%) in the aspirin group were lost to follow-up, so data were available for analysis in 1042 (94%) subjects (477 no-treatment, 565 aspirin)" Quote: "The overall percentage of randomised women lost to follow-up was low, though it was higher in the no-treatment than in the aspirin group. This difference suggests that clinicians followed women randomised to the active group more carefully. The effect of awareness of treatment by physicians on the results of a trial is difficult to define and quantify. This potential bias may act in favour of aspirin or of no treatment and could even have varied among the various participating centres." ITT analysis.

Italy 1993 (Continued)

Selective reporting (reporting bias)	Low risk	Protocol not available, but primary outcomes stated in methods section are reported.
Other bias	Low risk	No imbalance in baseline characteristics: "The aspirin and no-treatment groups were similar in terms of baseline characteristics; the mean ages at randomisation were 30.7 (SD 6.4) and 30.5 (6.7) years, the mean weights 62.3 (13.1) and 61.9 (12.8) kg, mean BPs 129 (17)/81 (11) and 128 (19)/81 (13) mm Hg, and mean durations of gestation 21.4 (5.3) and 21.5 (5.3) weeks. The 2 groups also had similar proportions of nulliparae (155 [27.4%] vs 155 [32.5%]) and of women reporting one or more previous reproductive failures (138 [24.4%] vs 96 [20.1%])."

Italy 1999

Methods	Quote: "Randomised". 9 women stopped treatment early, 4 aspirin and 5 control.
Participants	216 women aged 18-36 with pre-existing HT or history of severe PE, at 12-26 weeks.
Interventions	Exp: 50 mg aspirin/day. Control: placebo.
Outcomes	Women: PE.
Notes	Article is in Italian.

Risk of bias

Bias	Authors' judgement	Support for judgement
Random sequence generation (selection bias)	Unclear risk	Quote: "Randomised".
Allocation concealment (selection bias)	Unclear risk	Unclear
Blinding (performance bias and detection bias) All outcomes	Unclear risk	Article is in Italian, thus unable to assess this criteria
Incomplete outcome data (attrition bias) All outcomes	Low risk	Quote: "9 women stopped treatment early, 4 aspirin and 5 control." Attrition balanced between groups.
Selective reporting (reporting bias)	Unclear risk	Article is in Italian, thus unable to assess this criteria.
Other bias	Unclear risk	Article is in Italian, thus unable to assess this criteria

Italy 2004

Methods	Telephone randomisation using computer-generated randomisation list (separate list for each centre). 5 women (12%) lost to follow-up (2 aspirin, 3 control)
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Italy 2004 (Continued)

Participants	40 women at < 14 weeks' gestation with chronic HT +/- nephropathy or history of severe PE or eclampsia or IUGR or stillbirth. Excluded: allergy to aspirin, fetal malformation, current twin pregnancy, chronic disease except renal/HT/DM without hypertensive nephropathy.
Interventions	Exp: 100 mg aspirin/day until delivery. Control: no treatment.
Outcomes	Women: GH (SBP \geq 140 or DBP \geq 90) or PE (as above + proteinuria $>$ 300 mg/24 hours or \geq 1+). Babies: miscarriage, mean gestation at birth, mean birthweight, birthweight $<$ 2500 g.
Notes	Trial recruitment 1998-2000, in 2 centres in Italy. Planned sample size 160 women, but trial stopped due to slow recruitment. Data not presented separately for outcomes PIH and PE. Data for the combined outcome are therefore reported under the outcome PIH.

Risk of bias

Bias	Authors' judgement	Support for judgement
Random sequence generation (selection bias)	Low risk	Computer-generated randomisation list.
Allocation concealment (selection bias)	Low risk	Central telephone: quote: "Group allocation was done by telephone calls to one randomisation centre. Separate randomisation lists for each participating centre were used."
Blinding (performance bias and detection bias) All outcomes	High risk	Quote: "Neither patients nor clinicians were blinded to group assignment"
Incomplete outcome data (attrition bias) All outcomes	Low risk	5 women (12%) lost to follow-up (2 aspirin, 3 control). 19/22 women in no treatment group and 16/18 ASA group were successfully followed up. ITT analysis
Selective reporting (reporting bias)	Unclear risk	Protocol not available. Key outcomes not clearly specified in methods section.
Other bias	High risk	There was an imbalance in baseline characteristics: quote: "Women in the ASA group were older, and the group contained fewer nulliparae than in the no-treatment group." Trial stopped early: quote: "In August 2000, in consideration of the low rate of recruitment due to the restrictive criteria at entry (as i.e. early week of gestation at randomisation) and the decreased interest from participant centres, we stopped the trial entry."

Jamaica 1998

Methods	Women given sequential numbers on admission which identified a bottle containing either aspirin or placebo. 179/6275 (3%) lost to follow-up. 50 women with multiple pregnancy excluded. Some women entered twice and given aspirin and placebo excluded, but numbers not given.
Participants	6275 primiparous women 12-32 weeks and no contraindication to aspirin. 144 aspirin women and 161 placebo randomised after 32 weeks, but included in analysis.

Jamaica 1998 (Continued)

Interventions	Exp: aspirin 60 mg daily until delivery. Control: placebo.
Outcomes	Women: hypertension (DBP \geq 90 mmHg or SBP \geq 140 mmHg or rise of 25 mmHg DBP or 40 mmHg SBP); PE; eclampsia; caesarean section; antenatal admission; PPH. Baby: perinatal mortality; preterm delivery; birthweight < 2500 g; admission to SCBU; 5-minute Apgar < 5; IVH; other neonatal bleeding.
Notes	

Risk of bias

Bias	Authors' judgement	Support for judgement
Random sequence generation (selection bias)	Low risk	Random number tables
Allocation concealment (selection bias)	Low risk	Sequentially-numbered bottles. Identification numbers were pasted on top of the lot number which would destroy lot number if an attempt was made to remove ID number.
Blinding (performance bias and detection bias) All outcomes	Low risk	Quote: "Double-blind"; "Both drug and placebo were yellow sugar-coated pills"; Quote: "The scientific officer maintained the list that linked identification number to treatment group, but no data collector or clinician was able to determine the identity of the treatment for any individual. Revelation of the treatment allocations only occurred at data analysis."
Incomplete outcome data (attrition bias) All outcomes	Unclear risk	179/6275 (3%) lost to follow-up, unclear whether balanced between groups and reasons for attrition unclear. 50 women with multiple pregnancy excluded. Some women entered twice and given aspirin and placebo excluded, but numbers not given.
Selective reporting (reporting bias)	Low risk	Protocol available. All outcomes are reported in the paper.
Other bias	Unclear risk	No imbalance in baseline characteristics: quote: "The two groups of women were similar as regards maternal age, marital status, maternal employment status, identify of major wage earner of the household, household composition and housing facilities (e.g. toilet type and source of water supply), but the mothers assigned aspirin were slightly more likely to have higher educational status, and were slightly less likely to share a toilet with other households (Table 1). There was no difference in the blood pressures at enrolment." Quote: "significantly fewer women taking aspirin complied with their treatment (aspirin 1904/3023 (63%), placebo 2070/3026 (68%), $P < 0.001$ "

Japan 1999

Methods	Quote: "Enrolled randomly", no further information.
Participants	40 women with severe PE in previous pregnancy. Enrolled at 6-18 weeks, treatment started at 20 weeks.
Interventions	Exp: ozagrel hydrochloride, 400 mg/day from 20 weeks - delivery.

Japan 1999 (Continued)

Control: placebo.

 Outcomes
 Women: PE.
 Babies: preterm delivery; delivery < 32 weeks; SGA.

 Notes
 Ozagrel is a thromboxane synthetase inhibitor.

Risk of bias

Bias	Authors' judgement	Support for judgement
Random sequence generation (selection bias)	Unclear risk	Quote: "Enrolled randomly", no further information.
Allocation concealment (selection bias)	Unclear risk	Quote: "Enrolled randomly", no further information.
Blinding (performance bias and detection bias) All outcomes	Unclear risk	No mention of blinding in article, but placebo used.
Incomplete outcome data (attrition bias) All outcomes	Unclear risk	Attritions/exclusions not reported.
Selective reporting (reporting bias)	Unclear risk	Protocol not available. Key outcomes not clearly specified in methods section. Most expected outcomes are reported, although some are not, e.g. mortality.
Other bias	Unclear risk	No imbalance in baseline characteristics, but unable to assess some: quote: "There were no differences in maternal age, type, severity, and onset of preeclampsia in the previous pregnancy between the control and treatment groups"

Korea 1997

 Methods
 Randomly assigned

 Participants
 70 women with chronic hypertension or a history of severe PE in their previous pregnancy. Gestational age at trial entry unclear (main text in Korean).

 Interventions
 Exp: aspirin 60 mg/day
 Control: unclear

 Outcomes
 pregnancy-induced hypertension, rates of emergency caesarean section for fetal distress, NICU admission, fetal growth retardation, perinatal death, GA, birth weight, Apgar score at 5 minutes

 Notes
 Abstract only is available in English. Full article is in Korean - translation may provide additional helpful information.

Risk of bias

Bias	Authors' judgement	Support for judgement
Random sequence generation (selection bias)	Unclear risk	Quote: "randomly assigned"

Korea 1997 (Continued)

Allocation concealment (selection bias)	Unclear risk	insufficient information; need to translate article
Blinding (performance bias and detection bias) All outcomes	Unclear risk	insufficient information; need to translate article
Incomplete outcome data (attrition bias) All outcomes	Unclear risk	insufficient information; need to translate article
Selective reporting (reporting bias)	Unclear risk	insufficient information; need to translate article
Other bias	Unclear risk	insufficient information; need to translate article

Netherlands 1986

Methods	Coded packages, allocated according to a randomisation list. Two women in treatment group excluded because of non-compliance, but data for some clinical outcomes reported.	
Participants	46 angiotensin II sensitive primigravid women at 28 weeks' gestation with uncomplicated pregnancies, no history of hypertension, cardiovascular or renal disease, DBP < 80 mmHg and taking no drugs except iron.	
Interventions	Exp: aspirin 60 mg daily. Control: placebo.	
Outcomes	Women: eclampsia; GH (DBP at least 95 mmHg on 2 or more occasions 6 hours apart); PE (hypertension as above plus proteinuria > 0.5 g/L); preterm delivery (< 37 weeks); caesarean section. Babies: stillbirth; neonatal death; RDS; birthweight for GA < 10th or < 3rd centiles.	
Notes		

Risk of bias

Bias	Authors' judgement	Support for judgement
Random sequence generation (selection bias)	Unclear risk	Randomisation list; no other information provided.
Allocation concealment (selection bias)	Unclear risk	Coded packs of tablets, no further information.
Blinding (performance bias and detection bias) All outcomes	Low risk	Quote: "placebo-controlled, double-blind trial"; Quote: "The investigators were unaware of the results until the code of the study was broken."
Incomplete outcome data (attrition bias) All outcomes	Low risk	Two women in treatment group excluded because of non-compliance, but data for some clinical outcomes reported.

Netherlands 1986 (Continued)

Selective reporting (reporting bias)	Unclear risk	Quote: "only blood pressure and proteinuria were taken as end-points". However, proteinuria was not reported in and of itself - PIH and pre-eclampsia were reported.
Other bias	Low risk	Baseline characteristics: quote: "At the beginning of the study the two groups were comparable with respect to age, body weight, diastolic blood pressure, and effective pressor dose." All participants are primigravidae (so parity, previous pregnancy complications, etc. not relevant here)

Netherlands 1989

Methods	Coded packages containing trial drug allocated according to a randomisation list.	
Participants	10 primigravid women with chronic hypertension and a positive angiotensin II sensitivity test at 26 weeks' gestation. No proteinuria, BP < 90 mmHg diastolic, serum creatinine < 70 umol/L and an adequately grown fetus.	
Interventions	Exp: aspirin 60 mg. Control: placebo.	
Outcomes	Women: GH (rise in DBP of 20 mmHg or more); PE (hypertension as before plus proteinuria \geq 500 mg/L); caesarean section. Babies: birthweight < 10th centile.	
Notes	All women had methyl dopa.	

Risk of bias

Bias	Authors' judgement	Support for judgement
Random sequence generation (selection bias)	Unclear risk	Randomisation list
Allocation concealment (selection bias)	Unclear risk	Coded packs of tablets, no further information available.
Blinding (performance bias and detection bias) All outcomes	Low risk	Quote: "placebo-controlled double-blind"
Incomplete outcome data (attrition bias) All outcomes	Low risk	It appears that all 10 patients were successfully followed up.
Selective reporting (reporting bias)	Low risk	Protocol not available, however it appears that all expected outcomes were reported.
Other bias	Unclear risk	Information on baseline characteristics not presented and compared for all participants. Small sample size.

Netherlands 1991a

Methods	Coded packages allocated according to a randomisation sheet. Code broken at 34 weeks, some women then started aspirin.
Participants	36 women with a positive angiotensin II sensitivity test at 28 weeks.
Interventions	Exp: aspirin 60 mg daily from 28-32 weeks. Control: placebo.
Outcomes	Women: hypertension at 34 weeks. Babies: stillbirths.
Notes	

Risk of bias

Bias	Authors' judgement	Support for judgement
Random sequence generation (selection bias)	Unclear risk	Randomisation list
Allocation concealment (selection bias)	Unclear risk	Coded packs of tablets, no further information.
Blinding (performance bias and detection bias) All outcomes	Unclear risk	Quote: "placebo-controlled double-blind" Quote: "Code broken at 34 weeks, some women then started aspirin" Authors confirmed via PARIS assessment that a matching placebo was used
Incomplete outcome data (attrition bias) All outcomes	Low risk	Quote: "One woman in the aspirin group withdrew from the study immediately after randomization. The angiotensin II sensitivity test was not repeated in three women in the placebo group, because they had become hypertensive before 34 weeks' gestation; in the aspirin group all women were normotensive at 34 weeks."
Selective reporting (reporting bias)	Low risk	Quote: "Since some of the women had been taking a low dose of aspirin after 34 weeks' gestation and others had not, the outcome of pregnancy was not analysed." Only reported key endpoint of BP response to angiotensin II.
Other bias	Low risk	No imbalance in baseline characteristics: quote: "At the beginning of the study the two groups were comparable with regard to age, body weight, baseline blood pressure, and heart rate" All participants normotensive and primigravid.

Netherlands 2009

Methods	Prospective, randomised, double-blind, placebo-controlled trial.
Participants	54 previous IVF/ICSI patients with ongoing pregnancy.
Interventions	Exp: aspirin 100 mg/day. Started simultaneously with the start of the oral contraceptive pill and continued until the day of the pregnancy test. Pregnant patients continued the study medication until 12 weeks of GA.

Netherlands 2009 (Continued)

Outcomes	Incidence of pregnancy complications: including first trimester blood loss, PPH, hypertensive complication (PIH, PIH with PE, PIH with HELLP), premature contractions/premature rupture of membranes, premature delivery, growth restriction/growth difference (twins), no complications
Notes	169 patients randomised in original trial (not pregnant). Follow-up study included 54 patients (ongoing pregnancy)

Risk of bias

Bias	Authors' judgement	Support for judgement
Random sequence generation (selection bias)	Low risk	Quote: "using computerized tables"
Allocation concealment (selection bias)	Low risk	Quote: "Randomization was performed by an independent pharmacist of the hospital pharmacy"
Blinding (performance bias and detection bias) All outcomes	Low risk	Quote: "Randomization numbers corresponded with the numbers on the medication boxes containing 80 identical-looking tablets of either 100 mg aspirin or 100 mg placebo. These medication boxes were filled by an independent person at the hospital pharmacy, assuring that both patient and investigator were blinded to the randomization and the content of the tablets" "Follow-up medication: contained the same medication to which the patient had initially been randomized" Concealment maintained
Incomplete outcome data (attrition bias) All outcomes	High risk	Quote: "All 54 patients received a questionnaire after delivery and 49 patients (90.7%) completed and returned the questionnaire. We retrieved full records of one non-responder whereas four were lost to follow-up." All four patients lost to follow-up were in the aspirin group.
Selective reporting (reporting bias)	Unclear risk	Three outcomes (1 primary and 2 secondary) were included in the registration record. These were all reported in the published papers. However, a number of additional outcomes that were not pre-specified were also reported.
Other bias	Unclear risk	Baseline characteristics: Table I shows no significant differences in age, FSH on cycle day 3, BMI, primary infertility, twin pregnancy. Baseline BP not reported.

Pergar 1987

Methods	Double-blind placebo-controlled trial
Participants	300 women with history of idiopathic fetal growth. Fetal growth retardation must be <10 percentile of Lubchenco et al. Therapy began at 15 to 17 weeks' gestation. Excluded: Presence of chronic disease, allergy to dipyridamole, uterine or malformation, secondary hypertension, early fetal death in a previous pregnancy, current use of anti inflammatory drugs or anticoagulants
Interventions	Exp: dipyridamole 225mg/day Control: placebo
Outcomes	Babies: birth weight related to GA
Notes	Conducted by doctors from 50 hospitals throughout France and Belgium.

Pergar 1987 (Continued)

Risk of bias

Bias	Authors' judgement	Support for judgement
Random sequence generation (selection bias)	Unclear risk	Study appears to be randomised; however, French translation needed to confirm this
Allocation concealment (selection bias)	Unclear risk	French translation needed to determine if allocation was concealed.
Blinding (performance bias and detection bias) All outcomes	Low risk	Trial is double-blind placebo-controlled.
Incomplete outcome data (attrition bias) All outcomes	Unclear risk	French translation needed to judge this.
Selective reporting (reporting bias)	Unclear risk	French translation needed to judge this.
Other bias	Unclear risk	No imbalance in baseline characteristics. French translation needed to determine if there may be any other sources of bias.

Romania 2018

Methods	Randomised, using sealed envelopes
Participants	Women with a singleton pregnancy at risk of pre-eclampsia, based on a positive early pregnancy screening test (combining medical history, serum pregnancy-associated plasma protein A, mean arterial pressure, and uterine artery pulsatility index).
Interventions	1. Aspirin 150 mg to 32 weeks; 2. aspirin 150 mg to 36 weeks; 3. placebo
Outcomes	PE; fetal growth restriction
Notes	Data for the 2 aspirin groups combined for analysis of antiplatelets vs no antiplatelets

Risk of bias

Bias	Authors' judgement	Support for judgement
Random sequence generation (selection bias)	Unclear risk	Allocation to group described as women quote: "chose a sealed envelope from a pile and opened it". No further information.
Allocation concealment (selection bias)	Unclear risk	Allocation described as women quote: "chose a sealed envelope from a pile and opened it". No further information.
Blinding (performance bias and detection bias) All outcomes	Unclear risk	Women were aware of their treatment allocation. Ultrasound scans were conducted blind to the allocation. Not stated whether the clinicians were aware of the allocation.
Incomplete outcome data (attrition bias) All outcomes	Low risk	There do not appear to be any losses to follow-up

Romania 2018 (Continued)

Selective reporting (reporting bias)	Unclear risk	The outcomes to be assessed are not described, and the protocol is not available
Other bias	High risk	Quote: "The mean GA at enrollment was similar for all groups", however there were potentially important differences in other characteristics, including smoking (1. 8/50, 2. 3/50, 3.3/50) and nulliparity (1. 30/50, 2.24/50, 3. 36/50).

Russia 1993

Methods	Stratified blocked randomisation using sealed opaque numbered envelopes. Blinding not reported. Data not available for 12 women (16%).	
Participants	76 women with chronic glomerulonephritis or essential hypertension.	
Interventions	Exp: aspirin 125 mg plus dipyridamole 150-225 mg/day from 12-19 weeks' gestation. Control: no treatment.	
Outcomes	Women: PE, abruption. Babies: early (up to 15 weeks) and late (15 to 27 weeks) fetal deaths and perinatal death (28 weeks to 1st week of life); preterm birth (birth between 28 to 36 weeks); SGA (body mass < 2 SD for GA).	
Notes	Abstract published in 1994 reports 76 women recruited, Russian paper published in 1993 reports 64 women recruited. Authors confirmed additional women recruited after publication of the 1993 paper, but data not available. Data for the initial 64 women only included in this review.	

Risk of bias

Bias	Authors' judgement	Support for judgement
Random sequence generation (selection bias)	Low risk	Stratified block randomisation.
Allocation concealment (selection bias)	Low risk	Sealed opaque numbered envelopes
Blinding (performance bias and detection bias) All outcomes	High risk	Blinding not reported. Control group received no treatment (rather than placebo) so likely not blinded.
Incomplete outcome data (attrition bias) All outcomes	Low risk	Abstract published in 1994 reports 76 women recruited, Russian paper published in 1993 reports 64 women recruited. Authors confirmed additional women recruited after publication of the 1993 paper, but data not available. Data for the initial 64 women only included in this review.
Selective reporting (reporting bias)	Low risk	Protocol not available, but all expected outcomes appear to be reported.
Other bias	Low risk	Baseline characteristics (from translated document): quote: "There were no essential differences in age, in the number of first pregnancies, or in basic clinical differences (AD, proteinuria, serum level in the creatine) between the two groups. There were also no essential differences between the groups in the frequency of previous gynaecological illnesses or complications in previous child-birth."

S Africa 1988

Methods	By computer-generated random numbers, no other information. 1 woman lost to follow-up.
Participants	44 women with elevated mid-trimester BP, 12-28 weeks' gestation, DBP 80-105 mmHg, and otherwise normal.
Interventions	Exp1: aspirin 81 mg daily. Exp2: aspirin 81 mg + dipyridamole 200 mg daily. Control: no antiplatelet agent.
Outcomes	Women: PE. Babies: stillbirth.
Notes	Published only as an abstract. Three-arm study. Data for 2 antiplatelet arms combined for analysis versus control but presented separately in comparison of subgroup analysis based on dose.

Risk of bias

Bias	Authors' judgement	Support for judgement
Random sequence generation (selection bias)	Low risk	Computer-generated random numbers
Allocation concealment (selection bias)	Unclear risk	Computer-generated random numbers, no other information.
Blinding (performance bias and detection bias) All outcomes	Unclear risk	Blinding not mentioned. Unclear whether a placebo was used - they say control group received no treatment, but then refer to them as the placebo group in the paper.
Incomplete outcome data (attrition bias) All outcomes	Low risk	44 participants; 1 woman lost to follow-up. Pregnancy outcome was known in 43/44 patients.
Selective reporting (reporting bias)	Low risk	Protocol not available, but all expected outcomes appear to be reported.
Other bias	Low risk	No imbalance in baseline characteristics: quote: "The three groups were comparable for age, parity, family and personal history of hypertension and for gestational age and blood pressure at commencement of the study."

Spain 1997

Methods	Computer-generated random numbers used to prepare a table for the sequence of allocation. Tablets in identical blister packs. Allocated to 6 groups, according to treatment and timing of administration. 7 women excluded, because poor compliance or incomplete blood pressure assessments.
Participants	107 women aged 18-40 years at < 16 weeks' gestation and at moderate risk of PE. For example, family or own history of PIH, PE, chronic HT, cardiovascular or endocrine problem, bleeding or endocrine disease. Excluded: multiple pregnancy.
Interventions	Exp: 100 mg aspirin.

Spain 1997 (Continued)

Control: placebo.

Each treatment group could also be allocated to 3 different times of the day.

Outcomes	Women: GH; PE; caesarean section; abruption. Baby: death; preterm birth (< 37 weeks); IUGR.
Notes	Testing the hypothesis that aspirin effects are time-dependent, being greater in the evening.

Risk of bias

Bias	Authors' judgement	Support for judgement
Random sequence generation (selection bias)	Low risk	Computer-generated random numbers.
Allocation concealment (selection bias)	Low risk	Coded sequentially number packs of tablets: Placebo and ASA quote: "were prepared in an identical manner and provided monthly to the volunteers in a box containing three blister packs, each with 10 tablets. The boxes, grouped in packs of seven (to cover medication for the duration of pregnancy) and labeled with the randomisation number, were assigned to each patient at the time of her recruitment."
Blinding (performance bias and detection bias) All outcomes	Low risk	Quote: "double-blind" and placebo used.
Incomplete outcome data (attrition bias) All outcomes	Unclear risk	Quote: "7 subjects who did not comply with all requirements set a priori for this clinical trial were eliminated from the study. Reasons for elimination included the use of additional medication during the trial, noncompliance with the assigned medication (missing more than six tablets during any given month), and the impossibility of providing all required BP profiles. Subjects providing fewer than five profiles of ambulatory BP monitoring (ABPM) were eliminated from the study." The distribution of exclusions/withdrawals between groups was not reported.
Selective reporting (reporting bias)	Low risk	Protocol not available, but all expected outcomes appear to be reported.
Other bias	Unclear risk	Quote: "Baseline characteristics related to age, weight, height, and 24-hour mean BP values obtained from the first profile of ABPM (before treatment started) were similar for all six groups." 70/100 women were primipara, but distribution across groups not reported?

Spain 1999

Methods	Randomised. Tablets in identical blister packs. Allocated to 6 groups, according to treatment and timing of administration. 15 women excluded, because poor compliance or incomplete BP assessments.
Participants	255 women aged 18-40 years at < 16 weeks' gestation and at moderate risk of PE. For example, family or own history of PIH, PE, chronic HT, cardiovascular or endocrine problem, bleeding or endocrine disease.

Spain 1999 (Continued)

	Excluded: multiple pregnancy.
Interventions	Exp: 100 mg aspirin. Control: placebo. Each treatment group could also be allocated to 3 different times of the day.
Outcomes	Women: mean 24-hour BP. Baby: IUGR.
Notes	Testing the hypothesis that aspirin effects are time-dependent, being greater in the evening. Data entered into the review from the main publication. Data for a total of 341 women have been presented, but in abstract only and incomplete.

Risk of bias

Bias	Authors' judgement	Support for judgement
Random sequence generation (selection bias)	Unclear risk	insufficient information available to make an assessment of this criteria
Allocation concealment (selection bias)	Unclear risk	Placebo used, and tablets in identical blister packs, but insufficient information on allocation to make assessment.
Blinding (performance bias and detection bias) All outcomes	Unclear risk	Placebo used, but insufficient information available to make an assessment of this criteria.
Incomplete outcome data (attrition bias) All outcomes	Unclear risk	15 women excluded, because poor compliance or incomplete blood pressure assessments.
Selective reporting (reporting bias)	Unclear risk	insufficient information available to make an assessment of this criteria
Other bias	Unclear risk	insufficient information available to make an assessment of this criteria

Spain 2003

Methods	Double-blind, randomised, controlled trial
Participants	341 pregnant women at high risk for gestational hypertension or PE, including familial or own history of gestational hypertension or PE; cardiovascular; endocrine, bleeding or metabolic disease; a history of spontaneous abortion; obesity; <18 or > 35 years old; nulliparous Excluded: multiple pregnancy, chronic hypertension, chronic liver disease, any disease requiring anti-inflammatory medication, diabetes or other endocrine disease and intolerance to ABPM device
Interventions	Exp: aspirin 100 mg/day from 12-16 weeks' gestation until delivery Control: placebo Each treatment group could be allocated to 3 different times of day when tablets were to be taken.
Outcomes	Women:BP

Spain 2003 (Continued)

Notes Conducted at the Obstetric Physiopathology Service (high-risk unit) of the Hospital Clinico Universitario, Santiago de Compostela, Spain.

Risk of bias

Bias	Authors' judgement	Support for judgement
Random sequence generation (selection bias)	Low risk	Random number tables generated random sequence of 6 groups in blocks of 60
Allocation concealment (selection bias)	Low risk	Coded sequentially numbered packs of tablets: Placebo and ASA quote: "were prepared in identical presentation and provided monthly to the volunteers in a box containing 3 blister packs, each with 10 tablets. The boxes, grouped in packs of 7 (to cover medication for the duration of pregnancy) and labeled with the randomization number, were assigned to each women at the time of her recruitment."
Blinding (performance bias and detection bias) All outcomes	Low risk	Double-blind and placebo used.
Incomplete outcome data (attrition bias) All outcomes	Unclear risk	Quote: "Apart from the 341 women providing all required information, 12 subjects who provided < 4 profiles of ABPM (5 who had spontaneous abortions and 7 who withdrew from the trial after the first visit) and 4 women who missed > 6 tablets during any given month were eliminated from the study." The distribution of exclusions/ withdrawals between groups was not reported.
Selective reporting (reporting bias)	Low risk	Protocol not available, but all expected outcomes appear to be reported.
Other bias	Unclear risk	No imbalance in baseline characteristics:quote: "Baseline characteristics (given in the Table) related to age, weight, height, and 24-hour mean BP values obtained from the first profile of ABPM (sampled before treatment started) were similar for all 6 groups of treatment." 181/341 women were primipara, but distribution across groups not reported.

Spain 2017

Methods	Randomised
Participants	186 women aged 18 years or older with a singleton pregnancy, crown rump length 45 mm to 84 mm, an abnormal Doppler at 11 to 14 weeks and no other risk factors for PE
Interventions	Aspirin 150 mg extended release vs placebo, until 28 weeks' gestation
Outcomes	Pulsatility index at 28 weeks; PE; early onset PE (delivery before 34 weeks); severe PE; SGA, neonatal metabolic acidosis at birth.
Notes	Conducted at three university hospitals in Spain.

Risk of bias

Bias	Authors' judgement	Support for judgement
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Spain 2017 (Continued)

Random sequence generation (selection bias)	Low risk	Web-based randomisation, stratified by site
Allocation concealment (selection bias)	Low risk	Sites contacted a central office for randomisation, which then sent them the allocation by fax.
Blinding (performance bias and detection bias) All outcomes	Low risk	Women, caregivers and investigator described as blind to the allocation.
Incomplete outcome data (attrition bias) All outcomes	High risk	31/186 (17%) women excluded from analysis: lost to follow-up (7 aspirin vs 6 placebo)' voluntary withdrawal (6 vs 5), preterm birth < 28 weeks 1 vs 1), congenital malformation (1 vs 1), miscarriage, (2 vs 0), asthma attack 0 vs 1).
Selective reporting (reporting bias)	Unclear risk	Protocol not available. Outcome reported for those listed in methods, with some additional outcome data reported that are not in methods.
Other bias	Low risk	Baseline characteristics balanced between groups (see table 1).

Tanzania 1995

Methods	Coded packages A and B. No other information.	
Participants	127 women with a positive roll-over test at 20 weeks, at which point therapy began. Excluded if history of HT, long-term treatment with or use within last six weeks of nonsteroidal anti-inflammatory drugs, or increased BP before screening or proteinuria > 300 mg.	
Interventions	Exp: 80 mg aspirin daily. Control: placebo. Both taken until 10 days before the expected date of delivery	
Outcomes	Women: GH; PE. Babies: none.	
Notes		

Risk of bias

Bias	Authors' judgement	Support for judgement
Random sequence generation (selection bias)	Low risk	Simple method e.g. coin toss
Allocation concealment (selection bias)	High risk	Pharmacist coded packages labelled A or B.
Blinding (performance bias and detection bias) All outcomes	Low risk	Quote: "double-blind" and identical placebo used. Quote: "Neither the subject nor the physician knew which tablet was being taken by the particular woman."
Incomplete outcome data (attrition bias) All outcomes	Low risk	One dropout from the aspirin group due to severe gastritis

Tanzania 1995 (Continued)

Selective reporting (reporting bias)	Unclear risk	Protocol not available. No neonatal outcomes reported (only maternal BP and proteinuria).
Other bias	Low risk	Baseline characteristics (age, diastolic BP, GA, protein and nitrites in urine, Hb) appear comparable (although significance level not provided).

UK 1990

Methods	Computer-generated randomisation list. Serially-numbered bottles dispensed by pharmacist. 5.7% (6/106) excluded after randomisation (5 women moved house, 1 withdrew after 3 weeks).
Participants	106 primigravid women with persistently abnormal doppler waveform studies at 24 weeks' gestation. Excluded: aspirin allergy, diabetes, bleeding disorders, peptic ulceration, SLE.
Interventions	Exp: aspirin 75 mg daily. Control: placebo.
Outcomes	Women: GH; proteinuria; hypertension < 37 weeks' gestation; caesarean section for complications of hypertension. Babies: perinatal death; birthweight < 5th centile.
Notes	Lancet contacted to confirm this study has not been retracted.

Risk of bias

Bias	Authors' judgement	Support for judgement
Random sequence generation (selection bias)	Low risk	Computer-generated randomisation list
Allocation concealment (selection bias)	Low risk	Pharmacist dispensed tablets in serially numbered bottles
Blinding (performance bias and detection bias) All outcomes	Low risk	Quote: "Patients attended for routine antenatal care but the clinicians were unaware of their treatment." Placebo used.
Incomplete outcome data (attrition bias) All outcomes	Low risk	5.7% (6/106) excluded after randomisation (5 women moved house, 1 withdrew after 3 weeks). 4 of these were from the aspirin group; 2 from the placebo group.
Selective reporting (reporting bias)	Low risk	Protocol not available, but all expected outcomes appear to be reported.
Other bias	Low risk	Baseline characteristics: quote: "The demographic features of the groups were similar" (although significance levels not given).

UK 1992

Methods	Quote: "Simply randomised with block size 4".
Participants	(a) 18 normal primigravidae, 16 weeks' gestation, and (b) 16 primigravidae with GH but no proteinuria at > 20 weeks.

UK 1992 (Continued)

Interventions	Exp: aspirin 60 mg daily until delivery. Control: placebo.
Outcomes	Women: duration of labour; blood loss at delivery. Babies: < 36 weeks at delivery; birthweight < 10th centile; minor bruising of newborn.
Notes	Continuous data only presented for some outcomes.

Risk of bias

Bias	Authors' judgement	Support for judgement
Random sequence generation (selection bias)	Low risk	Quote: "Simply randomised with block size of 4". Small block randomisation however trial is blinded.
Allocation concealment (selection bias)	Low risk	Quote: "Simply randomised with block size of 4". Small block randomisation however trial is blinded.
Blinding (performance bias and detection bias) All outcomes	Low risk	Quote: "double blind", placebo used, Meyer pharmaceuticals supplied identical tablets. Quote: "A paediatrician who was unaware of the treatment allocation examined the infants 1 or 2 days after birth."
Incomplete outcome data (attrition bias) All outcomes	Low risk	Attritions/exclusions not explicitly reported but appears there were none.
Selective reporting (reporting bias)	Low risk	Quote: "This study was designed to measure changes in platelets and prostaglandins, rather than clinical outcomes." All expected outcomes are reported.
Other bias	Unclear risk	No imbalance in baseline characteristics: quote: "The aspirin and placebo groups of both the normal primigravidae and the patients with GH were well matched for age, weight and blood pressure (Table 1). In the GH group, the patients who received aspirin were recruited at a significantly more advanced gestational age than those who received placebo ($P < 0.05$, Table 1)." "Despite the randomization procedure, the group of normal primigravidae randomized to receive aspirin had a lower initial arachidonic acid induced platelet aggregation at 16 weeks (median 62%, interquartile range 34, 79) than those randomized to receive placebo (median 92%, interquartile range 48, 94) and a lower release reaction (median 11%, interquartile range 2, 33) compared with those randomized to receive placebo (median 27%, interquartile range 0, 34). Although neither of these differences were statistically significant ($P > 0.05$ in each case), it was felt that it was of sufficient magnitude to render direct comparison of the two groups invalid. Thus, for this aggregating agent, comparisons were drawn between the change in platelet aggregation from pre-treatment to post-treatment values."

UK 1992b

Methods	Quote: "Randomly allocated", no other information given.
Participants	26 women with history of recurrent miscarriage or connective tissue disorder, and positive anticardiolipin antibodies. Gestational age not described.

UK 1992b (Continued)

Interventions	Exp: aspirin 75 mg daily. Control: no treatment.
Outcomes	Women: miscarriage. Babies: neonatal death.
Notes	Abstract only available.

Risk of bias

Bias	Authors' judgement	Support for judgement
Random sequence generation (selection bias)	Unclear risk	Quote: "Randomly allocated", no other information given.
Allocation concealment (selection bias)	Unclear risk	Quote: "Randomly allocated", no other information given.
Blinding (performance bias and detection bias) All outcomes	High risk	Control was no treatment therefore likely not blinded.
Incomplete outcome data (attrition bias) All outcomes	Unclear risk	Attritions/exclusions not reported in abstract.
Selective reporting (reporting bias)	Unclear risk	Protocol not available and insufficient information provided in abstract.
Other bias	Unclear risk	Insufficient information provided in abstract to judge other sources of bias.

UK 1995

Methods	Computer-generated randomisation list used to produce sealed envelopes. 4/122 women (3%) withdrew after randomisation.
Participants	122 women with no previous pregnancy proceeding beyond 12 weeks, Hb > 13.2 g/dL at 12-19 weeks' gestation, DBP < 90 mmHg and no proteinuria. Excluded if multiple pregnancy, diabetes, recurrent miscarriage or contraindication to aspirin.
Interventions	Exp: aspirin 75 mg from 18 weeks until delivery. Control: placebo.
Outcomes	Women: GH; PE; eclampsia; abruption; caesarean section; induction of labour; side effects. Babies: perinatal mortality; delivery < 34 weeks' gestation; admission to SCBU; birthweight < 5th centile.
Notes	Trial conducted 1989-1992.

Risk of bias

Bias	Authors' judgement	Support for judgement
Random sequence generation (selection bias)	Low risk	Computer-generated list

UK 1995 (Continued)

Allocation concealment (selection bias)	Low risk	Quote: "sealed envelopes" PARIS assessment confirmed that allocation concealment was achieved via opaque, sequentially numbered, sealed envelopes
Blinding (performance bias and detection bias) All outcomes	Low risk	Quote: "double-blind placebo-controlled" PARIS assessment confirmed that matching placebo was used to ensure blinding
Incomplete outcome data (attrition bias) All outcomes	Low risk	4/122 women (3%) withdrew from the study soon after randomisation, so that 58 women were in the low-dose aspirin group and 60 women in the placebo group. No cases were lost to follow-up.
Selective reporting (reporting bias)	Low risk	Protocol not available but all expected outcomes appear to be reported.
Other bias	Low risk	Quote: "There were no significant differences in demographic characteristics between the groups." (includes age, weight, DBP, Hb, % Caucasian, % smokers).

UK+others 2003

Methods	Computer-generated random number lists, in blocks of 10, created by pharmaceutical company. 'Appropriately numbered drug' dispensed by each hospital pharmacy. 6 women (1%) lost to follow-up (4 aspirin, 2 control).
Participants	560 women with singleton pregnancy at 22-24 weeks and doppler pulsatility index > 1.6 (95th percentile). Excluded: pre-existing hypertensive, renal or cardiovascular disease, DM, bleeding disorders, SLE, peptic ulcers, hypersensitivity to aspirin, fetal abnormality or growth restriction at 23 week scan.
Interventions	Exp: aspirin 150 mg/day. Control: placebo (identical tablets containing lactose).
Outcomes	Women: PE; early PE < 34 weeks; placental abruption; PPH; blood transfusion. Babies: death (stillbirth, perinatal death); preterm birth < 37 weeks; very preterm birth < 34 weeks; SGA (< 5th percentile); admission to SCBU.
Notes	Trial recruitment 2001-2002. Multicentre: 7 centres in UK, 1 in Brazil, 1 in Chile, and 1 in South Africa. Compliance: 95% in both groups.

Risk of bias

Bias	Authors' judgement	Support for judgement
Random sequence generation (selection bias)	Low risk	Computer-generated random number lists, in blocks of 10
Allocation concealment (selection bias)	Low risk	Quote: "created by Penn Pharmaceuticals Ltd and the appropriately numbered drug was dispensed by each hospital pharmacy."
Blinding (performance bias and detection bias) All outcomes	Low risk	Quote: "All investigators, participants and clinicians were unaware of the treatment groups." "All outcomes were determined before the randomization code of the trial was broken."

UK+others 2003 (Continued)

Incomplete outcome data (attrition bias) All outcomes	Low risk	6 women (1%) lost to follow-up (4 aspirin, 2 control). 24 women in aspirin group discontinued intervention, vs 26 in placebo group. 4 women excluded from analysis in aspirin group. 2 excluded from analysis in placebo group. ITT analysis.
Selective reporting (reporting bias)	Low risk	Protocol available and all pre-specified outcomes are reported.
Other bias	Low risk	No imbalance in baseline characteristics: quote: "There were no systematic differences in the baseline characteristics between the two groups"

USA 1993

Methods	Efforts were made to conceal randomisation; placebo controlled; < 1% loss; blind assessment of outcome.
Participants	604 primiparous women at 24 weeks, in single antenatal clinic. Exclusions: renal or collagen disease, diabetes, essential hypertension, multiple pregnancy.
Interventions	Exp: aspirin 60 mg/day, from 22 weeks. Control: placebo.
Outcomes	Women: GH; PE; eclampsia; APH; caesarean section; preterm delivery (< 37, < 34, < 32 weeks). Babies: perinatal death; SGA.
Notes	

Risk of bias

Bias	Authors' judgement	Support for judgement
Random sequence generation (selection bias)	Low risk	Quote: "blocked randomization scheme with randomly chosen block sizes."
Allocation concealment (selection bias)	Low risk	Efforts were made to conceal randomisation: quote: "The University of Alabama at Birmingham Investigational Drug Service of the Drug Resource Centre generated a blocked randomization scheme."
Blinding (performance bias and detection bias) All outcomes	Low risk	Quote: "double-blinded"; "identical appearing" placebo used Blind assessment of outcome
Incomplete outcome data (attrition bias) All outcomes	Low risk	< 1% loss: quote: "Follow-up was maintained on 99% of the patients." Quote: "Analysis was by intention-to-treat." "One patient from each group was lost to follow-up, leaving 302 patients in each group for analysis."
Selective reporting (reporting bias)	Low risk	Protocol not available but all expected outcomes appear to be reported.
Other bias	Unclear risk	Baseline characteristics: quote: "The patients in each of these groups were of similar age ...and of similar race.... Both groups had a similar number of antepartum visits". Baseline BP, weight, height, etc. not reported.

USA 1993a

Methods	Quote: "Assigned randomly". 150/3135 (4.8%) lost to follow-up: 85 from aspirin group and 65 from placebo.
Participants	3135 nulliparous women at 13-25 weeks with BP < 135/85 and no proteinuria; out of the 4241 entered into a run-in compliance phase. Exclusions: chronic hypertension, diabetes, renal disease, other medical illness.
Interventions	Exp: aspirin 60 mg/day. Control: placebo.
Outcomes	Women: GH; PE; eclampsia; caesarean section; abruption; preterm delivery; PPH. Babies: stillbirths; neonatal deaths; SGA < 10th centile; bleeding.
Notes	Mean gestation at trial entry 19.8 weeks.

Risk of bias

Bias	Authors' judgement	Support for judgement
Random sequence generation (selection bias)	Unclear risk	Quote: "Assigned randomly"; stratified by enrolment centre
Allocation concealment (selection bias)	Low risk	Numbered bottles containing allocated tablets Quote: "an independent data-coordinating centre (the George Washington University Biostatistics Center) was responsible for developing the treatment allocation code"
Blinding (performance bias and detection bias) All outcomes	Low risk	Quote: "double-blind placebo-controlled study"
Incomplete outcome data (attrition bias) All outcomes	Low risk	150/3135 (4.8%) lost to follow-up: 85 from aspirin group and 65 from placebo. ITT analysis.
Selective reporting (reporting bias)	Low risk	Protocol seems to be available and all expected outcomes appear to be reported.
Other bias	Unclear risk	No imbalance in baseline characteristics: quote: "The demographic and clinical characteristics of the women in the two groups were similar except that more women in the placebo group had a systolic blood pressure of 120 to 134 mm Hg (297 [19.0%] vs 245 women [15.6%] in the aspirin group; P = 0.01), although the mean systolic blood pressures in the groups were similar." Editorial: "A point of concern... is the skewed population of the study group; the study subjects were healthy, nulliparous pregnant women. Along with the reduction in the incidence of pre-eclampsia among the women treated with aspirin, there was a marked increase in abruptio placentae (0.7% vs 0.1% in the placebo group). The incidence of abruptio placentae among unselected pregnant women is about 1%. Hence, this study group did not represent the patient population encountered by the average clinician in the US. The increase in the frequency of abruptio placentae, even though the incidence of this complication was very low, may nullify the potential benefit of low-dose aspirin in pregnant women"

USA 1994

Methods	Quote: "Randomised"; 5/54 (9%) women lost to follow-up.
Participants	54 women with chronic hypertension or previous severe PE, enrolled at 13-15 weeks.
Interventions	Exp: aspirin 100 mg sustained release/day until 37 weeks. Control: placebo.
Outcomes	Women: PE. Babies: stillbirth; SGA.
Notes	Published as abstract only. Ethics form also available.

Risk of bias

Bias	Authors' judgement	Support for judgement
Random sequence generation (selection bias)	Low risk	Randomised via simple method e.g. coin toss
Allocation concealment (selection bias)	Unclear risk	Double-blind, no further information available.
Blinding (performance bias and detection bias) All outcomes	Low risk	Quote: "double blind"; placebo used.
Incomplete outcome data (attrition bias) All outcomes	Unclear risk	5/54 (9%) women lost to follow-up. 49/54 completed study; distribution across groups not specified.
Selective reporting (reporting bias)	Unclear risk	Protocol not available (although ethics form is). Only abstract shows summary results - therefore insufficient information to judge.
Other bias	Unclear risk	Insufficient information to judge

USA 1997

Methods	Quote: "Randomly assigned", no further information.
Participants	19 women with antiphospholipid antibodies and ≤ 2 previous miscarriages with no other antiphospholipid antibody-related complications. Gestational age not described. Excluded: previous thrombosis, early onset PE, thrombocytopenia.
Interventions	Exp: aspirin 81 mg/day throughout pregnancy. Control: usual care.
Outcomes	Babies: fetal death; SGA (< 5th percentile); fetal distress at term (not defined).
Notes	

Risk of bias

Bias	Authors' judgement	Support for judgement
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USA 1997 (Continued)

Random sequence generation (selection bias)	Unclear risk	Quote: "Randomly assigned", no further information.
Allocation concealment (selection bias)	Unclear risk	Quote: "Randomly assigned", no further information.
Blinding (performance bias and detection bias) All outcomes	High risk	Blinding not mentioned but aspirin was compared to usual care (not placebo) so likely not blinded.
Incomplete outcome data (attrition bias) All outcomes	Low risk	Attritions/exclusions not explicitly reported in article but data in Table I indicates that there were none.
Selective reporting (reporting bias)	Unclear risk	Protocol not available and outcomes not clearly specified in methods section or elsewhere. Therefore, insufficient information to judge.
Other bias	Unclear risk	Baseline characteristics: quote: "The patients' obstetric histories... and antiphospholipid antibody test results are summarised in Table I. None of the differences between groups was statistically significant." However, demographic details of groups (e.g. age, weight, etc) not provided.

USA 1998

Methods	Packets prepared using computer-generated random numbers. Opened consecutively in each centre. 36/2539 women (1%) lost to follow-up.
Participants	2539 women 13-26 weeks' gestation with insulin-treated diabetes, chronic hypertension, multiple pregnancy or PE in a previous pregnancy. Women with multiple pregnancy excluded if also diabetes, chronic hypertension or proteinuria.
Interventions	Exp: aspirin 60 mg daily. Control: placebo.
Outcomes	Women: GH; PE; abruption; preterm delivery; PPH. Baby: death; IUGR (< 10th centile); IVH; other neonatal bleeding.
Notes	Additional data provided by the authors.

Risk of bias

Bias	Authors' judgement	Support for judgement
Random sequence generation (selection bias)	Low risk	Quote: "Computer-generated permuted-block randomization sequence stratified according to clinical center and risk group."
Allocation concealment (selection bias)	Low risk	Quote: "The aspirin and placebo packets were prepared and labeled at a central location...each woman receiving the next labeled packet"
Blinding (performance bias and detection bias) All outcomes	Low risk	Quote: "double-blind, randomized, placebo-controlled trial" Quote: "To ensure consistency in the diagnosis of preeclampsia, the records of all the women with apparent preeclampsia, worsening hypertension, new-onset proteinuria, or proteinuria at base line of 1+ or more were reviewed independently by three physicians unaware of the treatment-group assignments."

USA 1998 (Continued)

		PARIS assessment confirmed that a placebo, identical in appearance to the aspirin tablet, was used
Incomplete outcome data (attrition bias) All outcomes	Low risk	36/2539 women (1%) lost to follow-up: quote: "Outcome data could not be obtained on 19 women in the aspirin group and on 17 in the placebo group." Intention-to-treat analysis.
Selective reporting (reporting bias)	Low risk	Protocol not available but all expected outcomes are reported.
Other bias	Low risk	No imbalance in baseline characteristics: quote: "Within each risk group, there were no significant differences between the aspirin and placebo groups."

Venezuela 2000

Methods	Quote: "Randomised" no further information.
Participants	127 nulliparous women < 29 weeks' gestation. At risk of PE because previous PE, obesity, HT, diabetes, nephropathy, MAP > 85, positive roll-over test, family history PE, multiple pregnancy or < 20 years.
Interventions	Exp: aspirin 100 mg x 3/week + vitamin C 500 mg/day + vitamin E 400 IU/day fish oil x 3/day.
Outcomes	Women: PE.
Notes	Abstract only.

Risk of bias

Bias	Authors' judgement	Support for judgement
Random sequence generation (selection bias)	Unclear risk	Multicentre randomised triple-blind in blocks of 10, but no further information on method randomisation.
Allocation concealment (selection bias)	Low risk	Sequentially numbered sealed boxes in blocks of 10
Blinding (performance bias and detection bias) All outcomes	Low risk	Quote: "triple-blind placebo-controlled"
Incomplete outcome data (attrition bias) All outcomes	Unclear risk	Abstract only available - attritions/exclusions not reported.
Selective reporting (reporting bias)	Unclear risk	Abstract only available - insufficient information to judge.
Other bias	Unclear risk	Abstract only available - insufficient information to judge.

Zimbabwe 1998

Methods	Randomisation list used to determine the sequence of numbered containers. 20/250 (8%) women lost to follow-up.
Participants	250 women at 20-28 weeks with a history of PE in a previous pregnancy, especially if at < 32 weeks, or chronic hypertension. Excluded if hypersensitivity to aspirin, PE this pregnancy, bleeding or peptic disorder.
Interventions	Exp: aspirin 75 mg/day. Control: placebo.
Outcomes	Women: PE; antihypertensive drug; preterm delivery; PPH; caesarean section. Baby: death; IUGR; admission SCBU.
Notes	

Risk of bias

Bias	Authors' judgement	Support for judgement
Random sequence generation (selection bias)	Low risk	Computer-generated randomisation list
Allocation concealment (selection bias)	Low risk	Identical numbered containers organised by a statistician not involved in the trial
Blinding (performance bias and detection bias) All outcomes	Low risk	Quote: "double-blind" and placebo used; Quote: "The clinical investigators and the subjects were blinded to the type of drug in the containers."
Incomplete outcome data (attrition bias) All outcomes	Low risk	20/250 (8%) women lost to follow-up: quote: "Out of the 250 subjects recruited, only 230 women (ASA, n = 113; PLA, n = 117) completed the trial. Twenty subjects (8%) were lost to follow up in the study. 12 belonged to the aspirin group, while eight belonged to the placebo group. 1 subject voluntarily withdrew from the trial. She did not develop pre-eclampsia and had been allocated to the placebo group. The other 19 stopped attending the antenatal clinic and information regarding the progress and outcome of the pregnancy was not available."
Selective reporting (reporting bias)	Low risk	Protocol not available but all expected outcomes are reported.
Other bias	Low risk	No imbalance in baseline characteristics: quote: "Table 1 shows the baseline characteristics between the two groups was comparable."

ABPM: Ambulatory blood pressure monitoring
 APH: antepartum haemorrhage
 AST: aspartate aminotransferase
 BMI: body mass index
 BP: blood pressure
 DBP: diastolic blood pressure
 DM: diabetes mellitus
 EDD: estimated date of delivery
 Exp: experimental group
 FSH: follicle-stimulating hormone
 GA: gestational age
 GH: gestational hypertension
 Hb: haemoglobin
 HELLP: haemolysis elevated liver enzymes and low platelets

HT: hypertension
 ICSI: intra-cytoplasmic-sperm-injection
 ICU: intensive care unit
 ITT: intention-to-treat
 IU: international unit
 IUGR: intrauterine growth restriction
 IVF: in vitro fertilisation
 IVH: intraventricular haemorrhage
 MAP: mean arterial pressure
 NICU: neonatal intensive care unit
 PCV: packed cell volume
 PE: pre-eclampsia
 PIH: pregnancy-induced hypertension
 PPH: postpartum haemorrhage
 RDS: respiratory distress syndrome
 RH: Rhesus
 SBP: systolic blood pressure
 SCBU: special care baby unit
 SD: standard deviation
 SGA: small-for-gestational age
 SLE: systemic lupus erythematosus
 vs: versus

Characteristics of excluded studies [ordered by study ID]

Study	Reason for exclusion
Argentina 1994	Abstract only, no clinical outcomes reported. Randomisation unclear.
Australia 1989	41% of participants (9/16) excluded post randomisation as refused to take treatment. Trial abandoned. Intervention: aspirin vs placebo.
Australia 1989a	No relevant outcomes reported. Study design: quote: "randomly treated", no other information given. Participants: 27 women with uncomplicated twin pregnancies at 28-30 weeks' gestation. Interventions: aspirin 100 mg daily vs placebo. Outcomes: mean placental weight, mean gestation at delivery, mean birthweight.
Brazil 1992	Method of allocation to treatment group not stated. No clinical outcomes reported. Available as an abstract only. Participants: 67 high-risk women with abnormal doppler at 26 weeks. Interventions: 60 mg aspirin daily vs placebo.
Brazil 1995	Women with pre-eclampsia, no relevant outcomes reported, randomisation unclear.
Brazil 1996a	Study discontinued prematurely due to local problems. A few women recruited but no outcome data available. Study design: not known. Participants: women at 12-26 weeks with chronic hypertension. Intervention: aspirin 100 mg daily vs placebo. Outcomes: pre-eclampsia; prematurity; IUGR.
Canada 2015	Comparison of different doses of aspirin

Study	Reason for exclusion
China 1991	Abstract only available in English, no clinical outcomes. Participants: women at risk of PIH. Interventions: aspirin 50 mg vs placebo.
China 2016	Quasi-randomised study. Allocation 'according to the order of admission to hospital'
China 2017	Quasi-randomised study. Allocation 'according to the order of hospitalisation'
Colombia 1996	200 women included in the study, data only presented for 97 who completed the protocol. Study design: randomised trial, no other information. Participants: 200 high-risk women: primigravidae, with antecedents of PIH or chronic hypertension. Intervention: 100 mg aspirin vs placebo.
East Germany 1986	No clinical outcomes, available as abstract only. Groups not balanced Study design: quote: "prospective randomised study". Participants: 142 women in the 3rd trimester. Interventions: aspirin (96 women) vs no antiplatelet agent (46 women).
East Germany 1988	Method of allocation not stated, described as quote: "double-blind" but 2 very different interventions. No outcomes reported. Participants: 100 primigravidae with quote: "normal pregnancies". Interventions: aspirin vs magnesium sulphate vs placebo.
Egypt 2017	Not women at risk of pre-eclampsia. Randomised 60 women with asymmetric IUGR and abnormal Doppler at 28-32 weeks.
Egypt 1991	Cross-over study, women with established pre-eclampsia at trial entry, no relevant clinical outcomes reported. Study design: 'allocated at random', no further information. Participants: 20 primigravid women in the 3rd trimester with SBP \geq 160 mmHg, DBP \geq 110 mmHg, lower limb oedema 2+, and proteinuria 3+ or 4+. Interventions: aspirin 75 mg vs conventional therapy (oral methyldopa, diazepam, and 25% glucose infusion). Outcomes: changes in BP and albuminuria; lower limb oedema; and urine volume.
Egypt 1998	Unclear if randomised trial. Study design: women 'put' into 3 groups (30, 30 and 13). No further information. Imbalance suggests not a randomised trial Participants: 73 women with abnormal uterine artery flow on doppler ultrasound. Intervention: group 1 received aspirin 75 mg/day, group 2 received allylestrenol 5 mg twice daily, and group 3 was control. Outcomes: uterine artery blood flow; pregnancy outcome. No data on clinical outcomes reported.
Equador 1998	No data on clinical outcomes reported. Available as abstract only. Study design: 'randomised'. No further information. Participants: pregnant women who met all inclusion criteria. Intervention: aspirin 100 mg/day vs placebo.
ERASME 2003a	Comparison of doppler vs no doppler estimation of uterine artery flow velocities. Study design: randomised trial (2 treatment: 1 control).

Study	Reason for exclusion
	<p>Participants: 1870 nulliparous women at 14-20 weeks' gestation. Intervention: doppler at 22 to 24 weeks. If abnormal doppler given 100 mg aspirin until 36 weeks.</p>
<p>Finland 1993a</p>	<p>No clinical outcomes reported.</p> <p>Study design: randomised with sealed numbered opaque envelopes. Participants: 14 women with systemic lupus erythematosus. Intervention: 50 mg aspirin vs placebo.</p>
<p>Finland 2007</p>	<p>Aspirin/placebo began prior to pregnancy, for women have invitro fertilisation.</p>
<p>France 2001</p>	<p>Comparison of doppler with no doppler.</p> <p>Study design: multicentre randomised trial. Numbered sealed envelopes. 184 (6%) lost to follow-up. Participants: 3317 women in routine antenatal clinic. Intervention: doppler, with aspirin if results abnormal, vs no doppler.</p>
<p>Germany 1986</p>	<p>Abstract only, no clinical outcomes reported.</p>
<p>India 1986</p>	<p>Unclear whether randomised trial. Likely that participants include women with established pre-eclampsia at trial entry. No relevant clinical outcomes reported.</p> <p>Study design: 'double blind'. Participants: 68 women with IUGR and mild-moderate pre-eclampsia at 28 weeks' gestation. Intervention: dipyridamole 100 mg x 3/day vs placebo. Outcomes: fetal weight.</p>
<p>India 1997</p>	<p>Quasi-random study, consecutive women allocated treatment or control. 21/71 women (29%) excluded from the analysis.</p> <p>Participants: 71 women with a positive roll-over test at 28-32 weeks, and previous history of essential hypertension or PIH. Interventions: 50 mg aspirin, not stated whether placebo. Outcomes: PIH, gestation at delivery, birthweight.</p>
<p>India 1998</p>	<p>Not a randomised trial. 22 neonates born to women who took aspirin during pregnancy compared to matched controls. Women allocated to aspirin consecutively.</p>
<p>India 2001</p>	<p>10 out of 50 women (20%) excluded from analysis as a result of loss to follow-up.</p> <p>Study design: women divided into 2 groups based on random-number sequence obtained from standard tables. Participants: 50 women at 16-32 weeks with history of IUGR or PIH +/- proteinuria in previous pregnancy after 32 weeks or current twin pregnancy. Intervention: aspirin 1 mg/kg/day vs placebo. Outcomes: hypertension, pre-eclampsia; maternal mortality; mode of delivery; perinatal death; prematurity; severe IUGR.</p>
<p>India 2002</p>	<p>Quasi-randomised study.</p> <p>Study design: every alternate woman given aspirin and the others served as controls. Participants: 215 women at 15-16 weeks with history of either recurrent missed abortion or IUGR or unexplained stillbirth or pre-eclampsia/eclampsia remote from term or DVT or chorea gravidarum (B-HCG > 2 multiples of the mean for that gestation). Intervention: aspirin 1.2 mg/kg/day vs no treatment. Outcomes: early onset pre-eclampsia, miscarriage, preterm birth, IUGR, birthweight.</p>
<p>India 2002a</p>	<p>Unclear whether randomised trial.</p>

Study	Reason for exclusion
	Study design: not reported. 2 groups: 1 group was given aspirin and the other was given placebo. Participants: 76 high-risk women (not defined). Intervention: aspirin 50 mg/day vs placebo, until 36 weeks. Outcomes: hypertension; mild and severe PIH; eclampsia; duration of pregnancy; duration of labour; mode of delivery; APH; PPH; fetal death; birthweight; Apgar score; neonatal complications.
India 2011	Compares aspirin with or without antioxidant - Excluded because both groups get aspirin. Study design: prospective randomised comparative study Participants: 60 primigravida women with mild PIH Intervention: licopene 2 g + 75 mg aspirin vs 75 mg aspirin alone Outcomes: pre-eclampsia, mode of delivery, fetal outcome
Iran 2002	Likely inadequate concealment of allocation. Random-number tables for allocation, without any mention of blinding, and imbalances between the groups at trial entry. Study design: allocation using random number tables, no further information. Participants: 990 nulliparous women, < 20 weeks. Intervention: aspirin 75 g vs 500 mg calcium vs no treatment.
Iran 2013	There are concerns about high risk of bias. Unclear whether exclusions were pre- or post-randomisation Study design: randomised, double-blind, placebo-controlled trial with parallel assignment Participants: 64 pregnant women at higher risk for gestational hypertension and pre-eclampsia Intervention: 100 mg/day aspirin at awakening vs 100 mg/day aspirin at bed time vs placebo at awakening or bed time Outcomes: BP, pre-eclampsia, maternal complications, fetal complications
Iran 2014	Quasi-random study - allocation by odd and even dates for referral
Iran 2016	Women with pre-eclampsia recruited, not a trial of prevention of pre-eclampsia
Iran 2017	Not prevention of pre-eclampsia. Study recruited women with history of recurrent miscarriage when they were not pregnant
Ireland 1995	Comparison of 2 different aspirin preparations. No clinical outcomes. Study design: quote: "randomly assigned in a double-blind fashion". Participants: 18 normotensive women and 18 women with pre-eclampsia. Intervention: aspirin 75 mg/day vs controlled-release aspirin 75 mg/day. Outcomes: no clinical outcomes reported.
Ireland 2014	Pilot trial to assess feasibility of a large trial. Clinical outcomes not reported
Israel 2006	The comparator is an anticoagulant (enoxaparin), not an antiplatelet. As anticoagulants are not used for the prevention of pre-eclampsia, this study is not eligible. Study design: multicentre randomised comparative cohort study Participants: 104 women with unexplained recurrent miscarriages Interventions: aspirin 100 mg/day vs enoxaparin 40 mg/day

Study	Reason for exclusion
	Outcomes: uterine blood flow, umbilical blood flow, incidence of haemorrhage, thrombocytopenia, allergic reactions, live births, birth weight, incidence of major or minor clinically significant haemorrhages, presence of congenital malformations
Italy 1988	Inadequate allocation concealment. Study design: randomised trial using open random-number tables. Participants: 34 high-risk women. Interventions: heparin 15,000 IU/day sc and dipyridamole 300 mg/day, compared with untreated controls.
Italy 1990	Does not seem to have been randomised. Described as 'random selection' of women with PIH, but control group did not have PIH. Participants: 20 women with PIH at < 36 weeks' gestation. Interventions: picotamide vs no treatment. Outcomes: no data reported on clinical outcomes.
Italy 1990a	Quote: "Random selection" of women with PIH but control group did not have PIH. Participants: 63 pregnant women at risk of pre-eclampsia Intervention: heparin calcium 15,000 IU/day sc and dipyridamole 225 mg/day by mouth vs no treatment Outcomes: pre-eclampsia, perinatal death, IUGR, gestational age at birth, emergency caesarean section
Italy 1991	Does not appear to be a randomised trial.
Italy 1994	Doesn't appear to be an RCT Participants: at risk patients identified through a 'double gate' selection method based on parity, obstetric history, increased vascular resistance in the uteroplacental districts Intervention: low dose aspirin (100 mg) vs placebo Outcomes: gestational hypertension, proteinuria, IUGR, fetal growth retardation
Italy 2002	Not a randomised trial. Study design was a retrospective case-control study. Participants: 52 women at 12 weeks with chronic hypertension. Intervention: aspirin 100 mg/day plus antihypertensive treatment vs antihypertensive treatment alone. Outcomes: PIH, pre-eclampsia, severe SGA, gestation at delivery, preterm delivery < 34 weeks, birthweight.
Italy 2005	Comparison of anticoagulant (low molecular weight heparin) with no treatment. Study design: computer-generated random-number sequence. Participants: 85 women with history of pre-eclampsia and DD genotype for angiotensin-converting enzyme. Intervention: low molecular weight heparin 5000 IU/day vs no treatment. Outcomes: pre-eclampsia; IUGR; gestation at delivery; birthweight.
Italy 2006	The comparator is an anticoagulant (enoxaparin), not an antiplatelet. As anticoagulants are not used for the prevention of pre-eclampsia, this study is not eligible. Study design: randomised Participants: women with 2 or more unexpected pregnancy loss

Study	Reason for exclusion
	<p>Interventions: 100 mg/day aspirin vs 40 mg/day enoxaparin vs 100 mg/day aspirin + 40 mg/day enoxaparin</p> <p>Outcomes: pregnancy losses, live births</p>
Italy 2009	Not prevention of pre-eclampsia. Women with recurrent miscarriage
Japan 1989	<p>Quasi-random allocation on the basis of odd and even record numbers, women with established pre-eclampsia at trial entry, and no clinical outcomes reported.</p> <p>Participants: 40 women with pre-eclampsia.</p> <p>Interventions: antithrombin III concentrate vs no treatment.</p>
Libya 2000	<p>Abstract only. Large imbalance between the groups in an open study (538 vs 372), no information about concealment of allocation.</p> <p>Study design: quote: "randomised".</p> <p>Participants: 910 primigravid women.</p> <p>Interventions: aspirin 150 mg/day from 20 weeks vs no aspirin.</p>
New Zealand 1990	<p>No outcomes reported, this was a feasibility study and the trial was abandoned due to poor recruitment.</p> <p>Study design: quote: "randomised trial" no other information.</p> <p>Participants: 4 nulliparous women < 16 weeks.</p> <p>Interventions: aspirin 100 mg vs placebo.</p>
New Zealand 1998	<p>Secondary prevention trial</p> <p>> 20% of recruited women excluded. 34/99 (34%) women excluded as <14 days on trial treatment.</p> <p>Study design: randomised trial.</p> <p>Participants: 99 women with normal anatomy scan < 20 weeks and ultrasound diagnosis of IUGR at 24-36 weeks, plus abnormal umbilical doppler.</p> <p>Interventions: 100 mg aspirin daily vs placebo.</p> <p>Outcomes: caesarean section, birthweight, baby deaths, days in hospital for the baby.</p>
New Zealand 2000	<p>10 women (20%) excluded because antibody levels had not met eligibility criteria, or second test normal.</p> <p>Study design: computer-generated sequence, sealed numbered opaque envelopes.</p> <p>Participants: 50 women with antiphospholipid syndrome, 3 or more miscarriages and 1 or more antibodies increased.</p> <p>Interventions: aspirin 75 mg vs placebo.</p> <p>Outcomes: PIH, pre-eclampsia, caesarean section, preterm delivery, SGA.</p>
Pakistan 1994	<p>Comparison of aspirin with antihypertensive drugs. Method of allocation unclear, but the description implies quasi-randomisation.</p> <p>Study design: consecutive women randomly divided into 2 treatment groups.</p> <p>Participants: 200 women with either a previous history of pre-eclampsia or eclampsia, or BP 140/90 x 2 15 days apart or mild essential hypertension.</p> <p>Intervention: 75 mg aspirin x 2/day vs routine antihypertensive drugs if BP > 100 mmHg.</p>
Panama 2014	<p>Treatment of women with mild-moderate chronic hypertension, with aspirin used for the control group</p> <p>Study design: randomisation using computer-generated codes in blocks of 6. Concealment of allocation using sealed envelopes.</p> <p>Participants: women with mild-moderate chronic hypertension before 20 weeks.</p>

Study	Reason for exclusion
	Interventions: furosemide, amlodipine, aspirin.
Poland 1996	<p>Not a randomised trial.</p> <p>Participants: 165 pregnant women who were either healthy or with EPH gestosis</p> <p>Intervention: aspirin 150 mg/day vs no treatment</p> <p>Outcomes: mean BP, plasma rennin activity, and plasma concentration of aldosterone, ANP and vasopressin</p>
Poland 1999	<p>Comparison of aspirin with another therapy. Abstract only. Large imbalance between groups (22 vs 9) in an open study with no information about concealment of allocation.</p> <p>Study design: quote: "randomly assigned" in 2 to 1 ratio. No further details.</p> <p>Participants: 31 women with IUGR.</p> <p>Interventions: aspirin (1.5 mg/kg) versus 'standard treatment' with Sadamin, Partusisten, infusion of amino acids and glucose.</p> <p>Outcomes: gestational age at delivery, birthweight, IUGR.</p>
Russia 1997	<p>Comparison of aspirin plus dipyridamole with glyceryl trinitrate.</p> <p>Randomisation: 'blinded randomisation' stratified by essential hypertension or chronic glomerulonephritis. No further information.</p> <p>Participants: 76 women at 16-20 weeks with mild-moderate hypertension, with either essential hypertension or CGN.</p> <p>Intervention: glyceryl trinitrate skin patch 5 mg, increasing to 20 mg if tolerated for 12 hours/day vs aspirin 125 mg/day and dipyridamole 150 to 225 mg/day.</p> <p>Outcomes: progressive gestational hypertension; increase in proteinuria; development or progression of renal failure; abortion; pregnancy complications; side-effects; miscarriage or stillbirth; preterm birth; IUGR.</p>
Slovenia 1998	<p>Quasi-random study.</p> <p>Study design: quote: "randomly allocated" into 3 groups with odd and even numbers.</p> <p>Participants: 48 women at high risk for gestational hypertension.</p> <p>Interventions: aspirin 100 mg/day vs n-3 fatty acids 300 mg/day vs no treatment.</p>
Spain + others 2000	<p>172/768 (22%) women lost to follow-up. Abstract only.</p> <p>Study design: randomisation by sealed opaque numbered envelopes. Multicentre randomised trial in Spain, Portugal, Ecuador, Argentina and Brazil.</p> <p>Participants: women at 12-16 weeks' gestation, BP < 135/85 and no proteinuria.</p> <p>Interventions: aspirin 100 mg vs placebo.</p>
Sweden 2017	<p>Not women at risk of pre-eclampsia. Trial to prevent miscarriage</p>
Thailand 1996	<p>PARIS assessment noted that this is a quasi-randomised study.</p> <p>Study design: randomisation by odd and even numbers based on last 2 digits of MRN.</p> <p>PARIS assessment also revealed that the trial had 32% loss to follow-up with complete data available on only 1020 of 1500 women enrolled.</p>
Trinidad 1998	<p>Not a randomised comparison of aspirin with placebo.</p> <p>Study design: alternate allocation to supplemented or control group, and the supplemented group randomised using random-number tables to 3 intervention groups.</p> <p>Participants: 510 women, primigravid or with previous pre-eclampsia.</p> <p>Interventions: 1200 mg calcium versus 60 mg calcium + 80 mg aspirin vs 80 mg aspirin vs control.</p>

Study	Reason for exclusion
Tunisia 1989	<p>Not a randomised trial. Concurrent controls.</p> <p>Participants: 60 women with previous hypertension in pregnancy. Interventions: aspirin 250 mg 2nd daily and dipyridamole 300 mg daily if < 12 weeks' gestation or standard treatment if 12-20 weeks.</p>
Tunisia 1990	<p>Comparison of aspirin alone with aspirin plus dipyridamole</p>
Turkey 1994	<p>Unclear whether randomised trial, and unable to get in touch with authors.</p> <p>Participants: 80 women between 8 and 32 weeks pregnant, having a history of at least 1 previous pregnancy complicated by 1 of the following, for which there was no known cause: spontaneous abortion, intrauterine fetal demise, pre-eclampsia, or primipara age in current pregnancy</p> <p>Intervention: 60 mg/day aspirin vs no treatment</p> <p>Outcomes: mode of birth, spontaneous abortion, prematurity, pre-eclampsia, IUGR, Apgar, weight</p>
UK 1992a	<p>No clinical outcomes reported.</p> <p>Study design: quote: "randomised trial" no further information. Participants: 52 high-risk women > 24 weeks' gestation. Interventions: aspirin 75 mg/day vs placebo.</p>
UK 1993	<p>Study of bleeding times in a subgroup of a larger trial evaluating the effect of low-dose aspirin on pregnancy-induced hypertension. No clinical outcomes reported. The full trial report does not appear to have been published.</p> <p>Participants: 30 women. Intervention: aspirin vs placebo.</p>
UK 1994	<p>Paper retracted by journal editors, suspected fraud.</p>
UK 2000	<p>Concern about potential for major bias: concealment of allocation not adequate, no placebo, active group had different care to control group (see below).</p> <p>Study design: sealed envelopes, no further details. Participants: 116 women at 19-21 weeks with abnormal uterine artery doppler. Intervention: aspirin 100 mg. Doppler repeated at 24 weeks, if normal aspirin stopped. If persistent notching aspirin continued and further scans every 4 weeks. Control group, no aspirin, no routine doppler. Usual antenatal care.</p>
USA 1989	<p>Participants were 40 normal pregnant women in the 3rd trimester, not women with pre-eclampsia or considered to be at risk of pre-eclampsia.</p> <p>Study design: allocation by sealed opaque numbered envelopes. Interventions: aspirin 20 mg, or 60 mg or 80 mg daily vs placebo (4 groups). Outcomes: APH, PPH, stillbirth, mean birthweight, Apgar scores.</p>
USA 1990	<p>Interim report of 20 women from a study with a planned sample size of 160. Study design described as quote: "prospective placebo-controlled, double-blind study", with no other information given. Not stated whether randomised study.</p> <p>Participants: primiparous women, with ultrasound confirmation of dates < 20 weeks' gestation. Intervention: aspirin 80 mg daily vs placebo.</p> <p>Percentages only reported with no denominators. Published as abstract only.</p>
USA 1993b	<p>Comparison of prednisone + aspirin with aspirin alone.</p>

Study	Reason for exclusion
	Study design: sequential opaque envelopes. Participants: 39 antiphospholipid antibody positive women.
USA 1993c	No clinical outcomes reported. Study design: quote: "randomised double-blind crossover". Participants: 24 women with hypertension or other complications. Intervention: acetaminophen vs indomethacin versus control.
USA 1996	Women with uncomplicated pregnancy. No relevant outcomes. Study design: randomised, no other information. Participants: 12 women with uncomplicated pregnancy at 28-34 weeks. Intervention: 4 groups. Aspirin 20 mg vs 40 mg vs 80 mg vs placebo. Outcomes: haematological measures only.
USA 2012	Data reported for 30/53 (57%) women, with 43% lost to follow-up.
USA 2013	Aspirin was administered pre-conception.
Vietnam 2017	Abstract only, but does not appear to be a randomised trial. Women who received aspirin appear to be compared to all pregnancies.
West Germany 1977	Unclear if randomised trial. No clinical outcomes reported, published in abstract only. Study design: quote: "double-blind trial". Participants: 40 women with suspected early IUGR, 30-33 weeks. Intervention: dipyridamole vs placebo.

ANP: atrial natriuretic peptide
 APH: antepartum haemorrhage
 BP: blood pressure
 CGN: chronic glomerulonephritis
 DPB: diastolic blood pressure
 DVT: deep vein thrombosis
 EPH: edema, proteinuria, hypertension
 HCG: human chorionic gonadotrophin
 IU: international unit
 IUGR: intrauterine growth restriction
 MRN: medical record number
 PIH: pregnancy-induced hypertension
 PPH: postpartum haemorrhage
 RCT: randomised controlled trial
 SBP: systolic blood pressure
 sc: subcutaneous
 SGA: small-for-gestational age
 vs: versus

Characteristics of studies awaiting assessment *[ordered by study ID]*

Abdi 2019

Methods

Participants

Interventions

Abdi 2019 *(Continued)*

Outcomes

Notes Identified in September 2019 prepublication search. Not yet assessed.

Agrawala 2019

Methods

Participants

Interventions

Outcomes

Notes Identified in September 2019 prepublication search. Not yet assessed.

Amro 2019

Methods

Participants

Interventions

Outcomes

Notes Identified in September 2019 prepublication search. Not yet assessed.

Benavides 2016

Methods

Participants

Interventions

Outcomes

Notes Identified in September 2019 prepublication search. Not yet assessed.

China 2012

Methods 'Randomly allocated'

Participants Women at high risk of pre-eclampsia between 13 and 16 weeks' gestation

Interventions Aspirin 75 mg at bedtime vs placebo

China 2012 *(Continued)*

Outcomes Pre-eclampsia; birthweight; preterm birth; perinatal death; placental abruption

Notes Published in Chinese, abstract only in English.

Cobaleda 2018

Methods

Participants

Interventions

Outcomes

Notes Identified in September 2019 prepublication search. Not yet assessed.

Finneran 2019

Methods

Participants

Interventions

Outcomes

Notes Identified in September 2019 prepublication search. Not yet assessed.

Finneran 2019a

Methods

Participants

Interventions

Outcomes

Notes Identified in September 2019 prepublication search. Not yet assessed.

India 1993a

Methods Randomised

Participants Women with previous fetal loss > 20 weeks or IUGR in previous pregnancy

Interventions Aspirin vs placebo

India 1993a *(Continued)*

Outcomes

Notes	Trial in progress in 1993, no longer recruiting. No data available. Further information requested from trialists
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Iran 2017a

Methods	Randomised
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Participants	Singleton pregnancy at 11 to 14 weeks with abnormal uterine artery Doppler
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Interventions	Aspirin 80 mg vs placebo
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Outcomes	Pre-eclampsia; preterm birth; intrauterine growth restriction; birthweight
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Notes	
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Lin 2018

Methods	
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Participants	
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Interventions	
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Outcomes	
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Notes	Identified in September 2019 prepublication search. Not yet assessed.
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Matthews 2019

Methods	
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Participants	
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Interventions	
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Outcomes	
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Notes	Identified in September 2019 prepublication search. Not yet assessed.
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Meher 2019

Methods	
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Participants	
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Interventions	
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Meher 2019 *(Continued)*

Outcomes

Notes

Identified in September 2019 prepublication search. Not yet assessed.

Mirzamoradi 2018

Methods

Participants

Interventions

Outcomes

Notes

Identified in September 2019 prepublication search. Not yet assessed.

Mone 2018

Methods

Participants

Interventions

Outcomes

Notes

Identified in September 2019 prepublication search. Not yet assessed.

Mone 2019

Methods

Participants

Interventions

Outcomes

Notes

Identified in September 2019 prepublication search. Not yet assessed.

Mulcahy 2019

Methods

Participants

Interventions

Mulcahy 2019 *(Continued)*

Outcomes

Notes Identified in September 2019 prepublication search. Not yet assessed.

NCT03574909 2018

Methods

Participants

Interventions

Outcomes

Notes Identified in September 2019 prepublication search. Not yet assessed.

NCT03674606 2018

Methods

Participants

Interventions

Outcomes

Notes Identified in September 2019 prepublication search. Not yet assessed.

Netherlands 1991

Methods	Study design: quote: "randomly allocated", no other information.
Participants	41 women with 2 or more previous pregnancies complicated by severe IUGR and placental infarction, no other complications.
Interventions	Aspirin 1 mg/kg daily and dipyridamole 75 mg x 3 daily vs aspirin alone. From 12 to 34 weeks.
Outcomes	No outcomes reported.
Notes	Available as an abstract only. Currently, this intervention is not included in the analyses for the review, but may be included in future updates.

Netherlands/UK 1994

Methods	Study design: quote: "double-blind randomised".
Participants	193 primiparous women with resistance index 0.58, or more, in 1 or both arcuate arteries at 24 weeks.

Netherlands/UK 1994 *(Continued)*

Interventions	Allylestrenol 25 mg vs aspirin 60 mg/day vs placebo.
Outcomes	Pre-eclampsia, fetal growth restriction
Notes	No clinical data available. Published as abstract only.

O'Brien 2019

Methods	
Participants	
Interventions	
Outcomes	
Notes	Identified in September 2019 prepublication search. Not yet assessed.

Poon 2018

Methods	
Participants	
Interventions	
Outcomes	
Notes	Identified in September 2019 prepublication search. Not yet assessed.

Poon 2019

Methods	
Participants	
Interventions	
Outcomes	
Notes	Identified in September 2019 prepublication search. Not yet assessed.

Qi 2019

Methods	
Participants	

Qi 2019 *(Continued)*

Interventions

Outcomes

Notes Identified in September 2019 prepublication search. Not yet assessed.

Rood 2018

Methods

Participants

Interventions

Outcomes

Notes Identified in September 2019 prepublication search. Not yet assessed.

Sallam 2018

Methods

Participants

Interventions

Outcomes

Notes Identified in September 2019 prepublication search. Not yet assessed.

Sallam 2018a

Methods

Participants

Interventions

Outcomes

Notes Identified in September 2019 prepublication search. Not yet assessed.

Slovenia 1992

Methods Study design: quote: "randomly allocated", no other information.

Participants 43 women at risk of pre-eclampsia on the basis of their obstetric history.

Slovenia 1992 *(Continued)*

Interventions	Aspirin 150 mg + dipyridamole 225 mg daily from 16 weeks until delivery vs no treatment.
Outcomes	Pre-eclampsia, mode of delivery, birthweight
Notes	Allocation 18 women to antiplatelets and 25 to control. No outcomes reported. Available as an abstract only.

Slovenia 1994

Methods	Study design: "randomly allocated".
Participants	20 women at high risk for gestational hypertension on the basis of obstetric history
Interventions	Aspirin 100 mg/day vs n-3 fatty acids 3 g/day, both from 16 weeks' gestation until delivery
Outcomes	Not stated
Notes	Abstract only with no data reported.

South Africa 1986

Methods	Study design: sealed numbered envelopes, no other information provided.
Participants	152 primigravid women with normal blood pressure and at first antenatal hospital visit. Recruitment was largely in the second and third trimester
Interventions	75 mg aspirin daily vs placebo
Outcomes	Pregnancy-induced hypertension, neonatal outcome
Notes	Published in abstract only, no data available.

Sutton 2018

Methods	
Participants	
Interventions	
Outcomes	
Notes	Identified in September 2019 prepublication search. Not yet assessed.

Switzerland 2000

Methods	Study design: randomly assigned, no other information.
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Switzerland 2000 *(Continued)*

Participants	Women with a high-risk pregnancy
Interventions	Aspirin 100 mg/day vs aspirin plus low molecular weight heparin.
Outcomes	Gestational hypertension, pre-eclampsia, perinatal death, preterm birth, birthweight
Notes	Interim report of 24 women randomised - of whom 2 had a miscarriage and 16 had completed the trial. Available as an abstract only.

Uganda 1992

Methods	Trial planned in 1992, no further information
Participants	
Interventions	
Outcomes	
Notes	

USA 1988a

Methods	Trial registered as planned in 1988, but no data published. Study design described as 'coded drugs'.
Participants	Women with a history of previous stillbirth or IUGR but negative for systemic lupus and lupus anti-coagulant.
Interventions	Aspirin vs placebo.
Outcomes	
Notes	No clinical data available.

USA 1990a

Methods	Registered as a planned trial in 1990. Recruitment due to start in November 1990, but no further information available.
Participants	Multiparous women with a multiple pregnancy.
Interventions	Aspirin vs placebo.
Outcomes	
Notes	

Wright 2018

Methods	
Participants	
Interventions	
Outcomes	
Notes	Identified in September 2019 prepublication search. Not yet assessed.

Wright 2019

Methods	
Participants	
Interventions	
Outcomes	
Notes	Identified in September 2019 prepublication search. Not yet assessed.

Zhang 2018

Methods	
Participants	
Interventions	
Outcomes	
Notes	Identified in September 2019 prepublication search. Not yet assessed.

IUGR: intrauterine growth restriction
 vs: versus

Characteristics of ongoing studies [ordered by study ID]

ASPIRIN trial 2017

Trial name or title	Aspirin supplementation for pregnancy indicated risk reduction In nulliparas (ASPIRIN) study
Methods	Computer-generated randomised sequence
Participants	Nulliparous women between the ages of 14 and 40, with a singleton pregnancy between 6 0/7 weeks and 13 6/7 weeks gestational age (GA) confirmed by ultrasound prior to enrolment, no more than 2 previous first trimester pregnancy losses, and no contraindications to aspirin
Interventions	Daily administration of low-dose (81 mg) aspirin, initiated between 6 0/7 weeks and 13 6/7 weeks GA and continued to 36 0/7 weeks GA, compared to an identical appearing placebo.

ASPIRIN trial 2017 *(Continued)*

Outcomes	Primary outcome: incidence of PTB (birth prior to 37 0/7 weeks GA). Secondary outcomes: incidence of pre-eclampsia/eclampsia, SGA and perinatal mortality.
Starting date	March 2016
Contact information	
Notes	Being conducted in 7 low- and middle-income countries

China 2016a

Trial name or title	Low dose aspirin in the prevention of preeclampsia in China (APPEC)
Methods	Randomised
Participants	Women at 12 to 20 weeks' gestation with risk factors for pre-eclampsia
Interventions	Aspirin 100 mg at night until 34 weeks vs placebo
Outcomes	Pre-eclampsia, fetal growth restriction, PTB, placental abruption, maternal haemorrhage, neonatal intracranial haemorrhage
Starting date	November 2016
Contact information	
Notes	

Egypt 2015

Trial name or title	Comparison between the roles of low dose aspirin and folic acid in preventing preeclampsia among high risk women screened by uterine artery Doppler at 22-24 weeks of gestation: a randomised controlled trial
Methods	Randomised, using computer-generated random numbers and sealed opaque envelopes
Participants	Women with high uterine artery resistance (Doppler resistance index exceeds 0.68 with or without an early diastolic notch) at 22- 24 weeks' gestation and high risk for developing pre-eclampsia based on having any of the following risk factors: chronic hypertension, pre-gestational diabetes mellitus, body mass index (BMI) > 30 kg/m ² or past history of pre-eclampsia
Interventions	75 mg aspirin and 1 g folic acid per day, throughout pregnancy vs no treatment
Outcomes	Pre-eclampsia, early onset pre-eclampsia (before 34 weeks), severe pre-eclampsia
Starting date	07/05/2013
Contact information	AbdelGany Hassan email: abdelgany2@gmail.com
Notes	Sponsor: Cairo University. Planned sample size: 210

France 2012

Trial name or title	Prevention of pre-eclampsia and SGA by low-dose aspirin in nulliparous women with abnormal first-trimester uterine artery dopplers (PERASTUN)
Methods	Randomised
Participants	Nulliparous pregnant women before 16 weeks gestation selected as "high-risk" by the presence of a bilateral uterine artery notch and/or bilateral uterine artery PI ≥ 1.7 during the first trimester ultrasound scan (11-13 + 6 weeks),
Interventions	Aspirin 160 mg at bedtime vs placebo
Outcomes	Pre-eclampsia, SGA, perinatal death, adverse effects, mode of delivery
Starting date	June 2012
Contact information	
Notes	Multicentre trial

Ghana 2016

Trial name or title	Prospects for the prevention of pregnancy-induced hypertension and preeclampsia (4P) - a randomised, placebo-controlled, double-blind clinical trial
Methods	Randomised trial
Participants	Women at risk of pre-eclampsia, < 16 weeks' gestation
Interventions	1. Combined aspirin and multivitamin supplement. Single capsule with 80 mg low-dose aspirin, 1.2 g calcium, 600 IU vitamin D, 5 mg folic acid and 1000 ug vitamin B12 mixed. 2. placebo
Outcomes	Pregnancy-induced hypertension, pre-eclampsia, maternal death, eclampsia, haemolysis, elevated liver enzymes, and low platelet count (HELLP) syndrome, haemorrhage, caesarean section, other complications during pregnancy or delivery. For the baby: preterm birth, Intrauterine death, stillbirth, neonatal mortality, congenital abnormality, NICU admission or paediatrician referral, birth-weight, SGA, Apgar scores, other adverse effects. Infant outcomes: weight and height, health, occurrence of disease and general health status
Starting date	January 2018
Contact information	Joyce L. Browne, UMC Utrecht
Notes	

India 2018

Trial name or title	Pilot interventional study by different low doses of aspirin versus placebo for prevention of preeclampsia - A double blind randomized control trial
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India 2018 (Continued)

Methods	Randomised. Sequentially numbered, sealed, opaque envelopes
Participants	Women with a history of pre-eclampsia or eclampsia, with mean arterial pressure of more than 90th centile and uterine artery raised pulsatility index of more than 90th centile
Interventions	3 groups: aspirin 150 mg or 75 mg, and placebo
Outcomes	Pre-eclampsia, eclampsia, placental abruption, intrauterine growth restriction, stillbirth
Starting date	September 2016
Contact information	
Notes	

Iran 2013

Trial name or title	Using of aspirin in the prevention of preeclampsia
Methods	Randomised, no other information
Participants	Women with a singleton pregnancy at 11-14 weeks with risk factors for pre-eclampsia, such as; nulliparity
Interventions	Aspirin 80 mg daily after lunch vs no treatment
Outcomes	Pre-eclampsia, intrauterine growth restriction, preterm birth, stillbirth, transfusion for the mother
Starting date	
Contact information	
Notes	

Iran 2015

Trial name or title	Effect of low dose aspirin in prevention of adverse pregnancy outcomes in women with unexplained elevated alpha-protein in second trimester screening
Methods	Randomised
Participants	Pregnant women with second-trimester positive screening test for neural tube defect and alpha-fetoprotein ≥ 2.5 MOM
Interventions	Aspirin 80 mg to 34 weeks, vs no treatment
Outcomes	Pre-eclampsia, preterm birth, IUGR, admission to neonatal unit, gestation at birth, fetal death
Starting date	
Contact information	Bahadori Fatemeh: fbahadory27@yahoo.com

Iran 2015 *(Continued)*

Notes

Iran 2015a

Trial name or title	Evaluation of the effect of aspirin in pregnancy outcomes in women with abnormal down syndrome biochemical tests and with normal karyotype
Methods	Randomised
Participants	Pregnant women with abnormal biochemical tests in second trimester which have normal karyotype
Interventions	Aspirin 80 mg to 34 weeks' gestation vs no treatment
Outcomes	Preterm birth, fetal death, pre-eclampsia, IUGR placental abruption
Starting date	April 2014
Contact information	
Notes	

Ireland 2016

Trial name or title	An open-label randomized-controlled trial of low dose aspirin with an early screening test for pre-eclampsia and growth restriction (TEST)
Methods	Randomised
Participants	Nulliparous low-risk women between 11 and 14 weeks' gestation
Interventions	3 arms: aspirin 75 mg, no aspirin, and aspirin depending on results of a screening test for pre-eclampsia
Outcomes	Acceptability and compliance; pre-eclampsia, preterm birth, admission to neonatal unit, placental abruption, intra uterine growth restriction, baby death
Starting date	
Contact information	
Notes	Study completed, but trial report not yet available.

Netherlands 2017

Trial name or title	Low dose aspirin in the prevention of recurrent spontaneous preterm labour - the April study: a multicenter randomized placebo controlled trial.
Methods	Web-based randomisation

Netherlands 2017 *(Continued)*

Participants	Women with singleton pregnancy at 8 to 16 weeks' gestation with previous spontaneous preterm birth in a singleton pregnancy
Interventions	Aspirin 80 mg vs placebo
Outcomes	Spontaneous preterm birth, adverse neonatal and maternal outcomes
Starting date	Jan 2016
Contact information	
Notes	Multicentre trial

Spain 2012

Trial name or title	Prevention of preeclampsia with aspirin in recipients of donated oocytes. (PROVAS)
Methods	Randomised
Participants	Women who are between 5 and 10 weeks' gestation following oocyte donation
Interventions	Aspirin 100 mg vs placebo until 36 weeks' gestation
Outcomes	Pre-eclampsia, preterm birth
Starting date	May 2014
Contact information	
Notes	

Thailand 2017

Trial name or title	Combined therapy with low dose aspirin and calcium supplements during second trimester to reduce the risk of superimposed preeclampsia in pregnant women with chronic hypertension: a randomized-controlled trial
Methods	Randomised
Participants	Women with chronic hypertension at 13-16 weeks' gestation
Interventions	1. 81 mg aspirin and calcium carbonate 1500 mg 2. placebo
Outcomes	Pre-eclampsia
Starting date	July 2017
Contact information	Sukanya Chaiyarach: sukanyatanoorat@hotmail.com
Notes	

IU: international units
 IUGR: intrauterine growth restriction
 MOM: multiples of the median
 NICU: neonatal intensive care unit
 PTB: preterm birth
 SGA: small-for-gestational age
 vs: versus

DATA AND ANALYSES

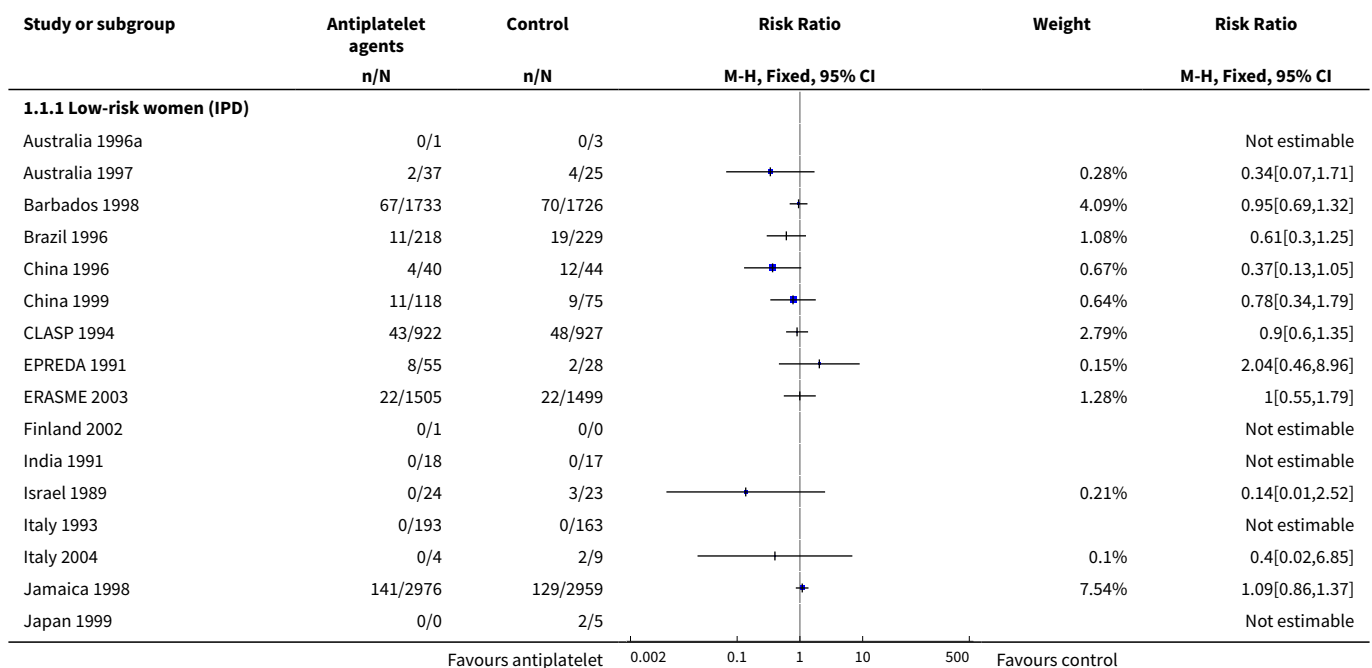
Comparison 1. Antiplatelet agents versus placebo/no antiplatelet for primary prevention (primary outcomes, subgroups by maternal risk)

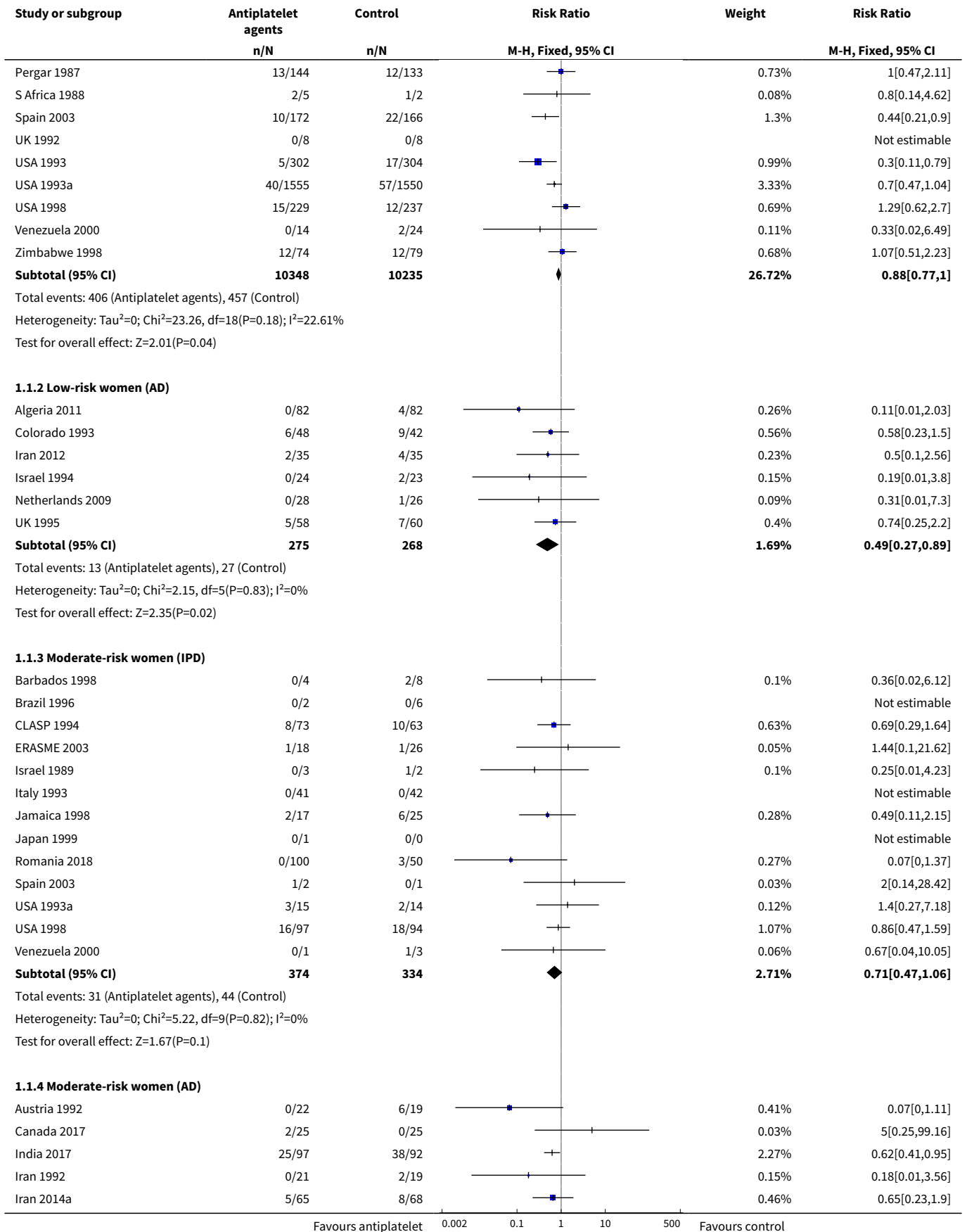
Outcome or subgroup title	No. of studies	No. of participants	Statistical method	Effect size
1 Pre-eclampsia (IPD vs AD)	60	36716	Risk Ratio (M-H, Fixed, 95% CI)	0.82 [0.77, 0.88]
1.1 Low-risk women (IPD)	25	20583	Risk Ratio (M-H, Fixed, 95% CI)	0.88 [0.77, 1.00]
1.2 Low-risk women (AD)	6	543	Risk Ratio (M-H, Fixed, 95% CI)	0.49 [0.27, 0.89]
1.3 Moderate-risk women (IPD)	13	708	Risk Ratio (M-H, Fixed, 95% CI)	0.71 [0.47, 1.06]
1.4 Moderate-risk women (AD)	7	708	Risk Ratio (M-H, Fixed, 95% CI)	0.59 [0.42, 0.84]
1.5 High-risk women (IPD)	26	11076	Risk Ratio (M-H, Fixed, 95% CI)	0.90 [0.82, 0.98]
1.6 High-risk women (AD)	13	3006	Risk Ratio (M-H, Fixed, 95% CI)	0.59 [0.49, 0.72]
1.7 Unclear-/unspecified-risk women (AD)	2	92	Risk Ratio (M-H, Fixed, 95% CI)	0.14 [0.03, 0.76]
2 Fetal death, neonatal death, or death before hospital discharge (IPD vs AD)	52	35391	Risk Ratio (M-H, Fixed, 95% CI)	0.85 [0.76, 0.95]
2.1 Low-risk women (IPD)	25	20583	Risk Ratio (M-H, Fixed, 95% CI)	0.92 [0.79, 1.08]
2.2 Low-risk women (AD)	3	378	Risk Ratio (M-H, Fixed, 95% CI)	0.26 [0.07, 1.04]
2.3 Moderate-risk women (IPD)	12	558	Risk Ratio (M-H, Fixed, 95% CI)	1.47 [0.81, 2.67]
2.4 Moderate-risk women (AD)	4	326	Risk Ratio (M-H, Fixed, 95% CI)	0.46 [0.21, 1.00]
2.5 High-risk women (IPD)	26	11076	Risk Ratio (M-H, Fixed, 95% CI)	0.80 [0.66, 0.99]
2.6 High-risk women (AD)	11	2323	Risk Ratio (M-H, Fixed, 95% CI)	0.63 [0.40, 0.98]
2.7 Unclear-/unspecified-risk women (AD)	3	147	Risk Ratio (M-H, Fixed, 95% CI)	1.0 [0.49, 2.03]
3 Preterm birth (IPD vs AD)	47	35212	Risk Ratio (M-H, Fixed, 95% CI)	0.91 [0.87, 0.95]
3.1 Low-risk women (IPD)	25	20563	Risk Ratio (M-H, Fixed, 95% CI)	0.95 [0.89, 1.01]

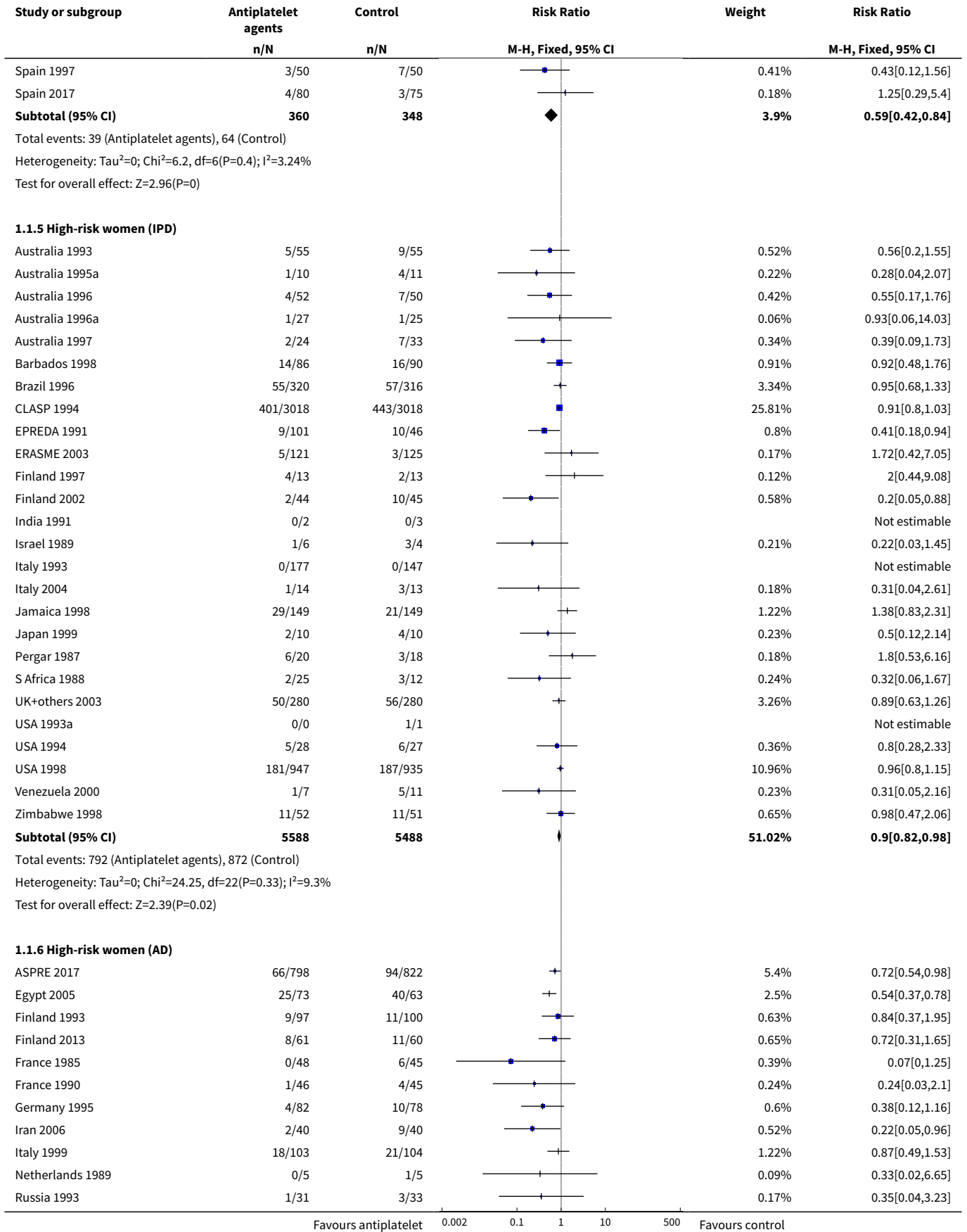
Outcome or subgroup title	No. of studies	No. of participants	Statistical method	Effect size
3.2 Low-risk women (AD)	5	453	Risk Ratio (M-H, Fixed, 95% CI)	0.54 [0.42, 0.68]
3.3 Moderate-risk women (IPD)	12	558	Risk Ratio (M-H, Fixed, 95% CI)	1.09 [0.94, 1.27]
3.4 Moderate-risk women (AD)	5	503	Risk Ratio (M-H, Fixed, 95% CI)	0.84 [0.60, 1.18]
3.5 High-risk women (IPD)	26	11076	Risk Ratio (M-H, Fixed, 95% CI)	0.90 [0.84, 0.97]
3.6 High-risk women (AD)	5	2013	Risk Ratio (M-H, Fixed, 95% CI)	0.62 [0.47, 0.82]
3.7 Unclear-/unspecified-risk women (AD)	1	46	Risk Ratio (M-H, Fixed, 95% CI)	0.11 [0.01, 1.95]
4 Small-for-gestational age (IPD vs AD)	50	35761	Risk Ratio (M-H, Fixed, 95% CI)	0.84 [0.76, 0.92]
4.1 Low-risk women (IPD)	25	20583	Risk Ratio (M-H, Fixed, 95% CI)	0.90 [0.76, 1.07]
4.2 Low-risk women (AD)	2	214	Risk Ratio (M-H, Fixed, 95% CI)	0.65 [0.30, 1.41]
4.3 Moderate-risk women (IPD)	12	558	Risk Ratio (M-H, Fixed, 95% CI)	1.06 [0.70, 1.60]
4.4 Moderate-risk women (AD)	6	883	Risk Ratio (M-H, Fixed, 95% CI)	0.51 [0.33, 0.80]
4.5 High-risk women (IPD)	26	11076	Risk Ratio (M-H, Fixed, 95% CI)	0.87 [0.76, 1.01]
4.6 High-risk women (AD)	9	2355	Risk Ratio (M-H, Fixed, 95% CI)	0.73 [0.58, 0.92]
4.7 Unclear-/unspecified-risk women (AD)	2	92	Risk Ratio (M-H, Fixed, 95% CI)	0.54 [0.16, 1.86]
5 Pre-eclampsia (IPD/AD combined)	60	36716	Risk Ratio (M-H, Fixed, 95% CI)	0.82 [0.77, 0.88]
5.1 Low-risk women	31	21126	Risk Ratio (M-H, Fixed, 95% CI)	0.85 [0.75, 0.97]
5.3 Moderate-risk women	20	1416	Risk Ratio (M-H, Fixed, 95% CI)	0.64 [0.49, 0.83]
5.4 High-risk women	39	14082	Risk Ratio (M-H, Fixed, 95% CI)	0.83 [0.77, 0.90]
5.6 Unclear-/unspecified-risk women	2	92	Risk Ratio (M-H, Fixed, 95% CI)	0.14 [0.03, 0.76]
6 Fetal death, neonatal death, or death before hospital discharge (IPD/AD combined)	52	35391	Risk Ratio (M-H, Fixed, 95% CI)	0.85 [0.76, 0.95]
6.1 Low-risk women	28	20961	Risk Ratio (M-H, Fixed, 95% CI)	0.90 [0.77, 1.05]
6.2 Moderate-risk women	16	884	Risk Ratio (M-H, Fixed, 95% CI)	0.94 [0.60, 1.48]
6.3 High-risk women	37	13399	Risk Ratio (M-H, Fixed, 95% CI)	0.77 [0.64, 0.93]

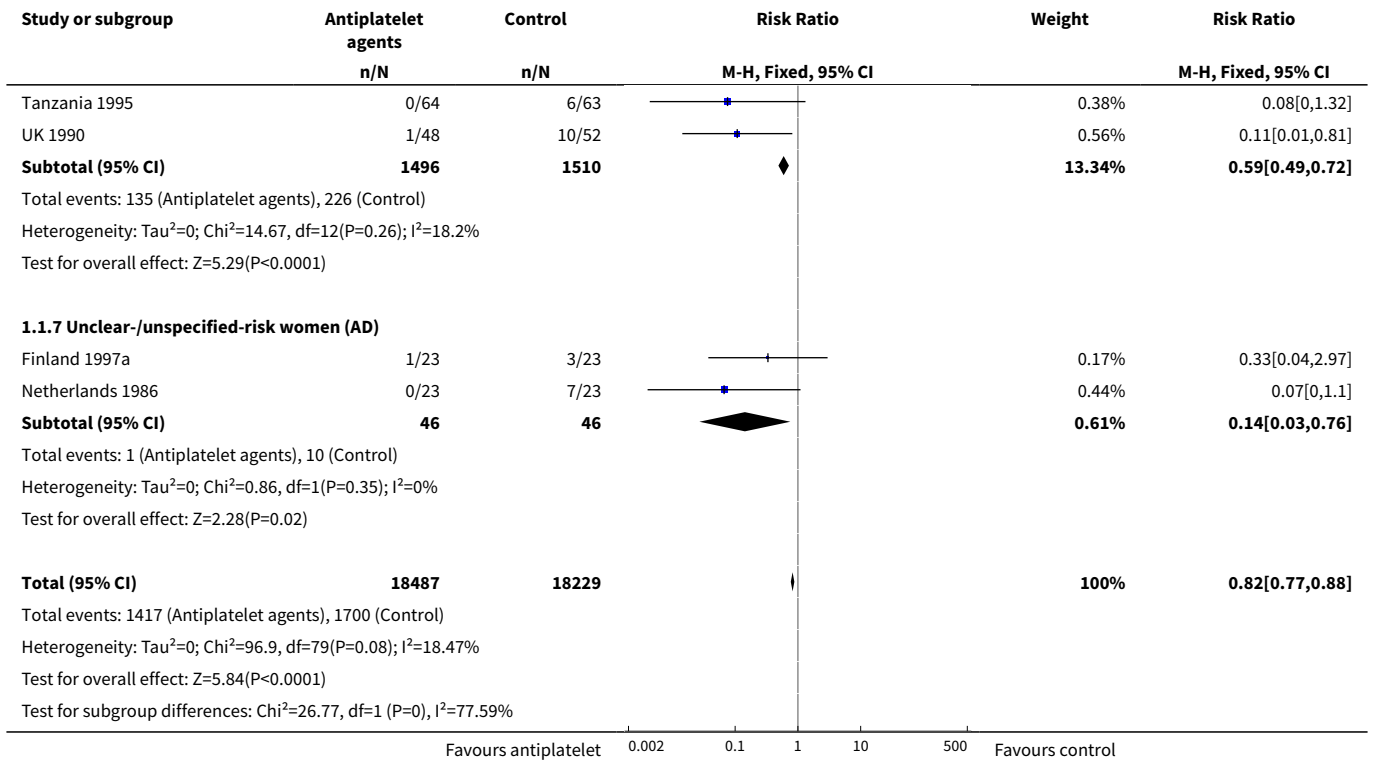
Outcome or subgroup title	No. of studies	No. of participants	Statistical method	Effect size
6.5 Unclear-/unspecified-risk women	3	147	Risk Ratio (M-H, Fixed, 95% CI)	1.0 [0.49, 2.03]
7 Preterm birth (IPD/AD combined)	47	35212	Risk Ratio (M-H, Fixed, 95% CI)	0.91 [0.87, 0.95]
7.1 Low-risk women	30	21016	Risk Ratio (M-H, Fixed, 95% CI)	0.92 [0.87, 0.98]
7.2 Moderate-risk women	17	1061	Risk Ratio (M-H, Fixed, 95% CI)	1.03 [0.89, 1.18]
7.3 High-risk women	31	13089	Risk Ratio (M-H, Fixed, 95% CI)	0.87 [0.81, 0.94]
7.5 Unclear-/unspecified-risk women	1	46	Risk Ratio (M-H, Fixed, 95% CI)	0.11 [0.01, 1.95]
8 Small-for-gestational age (IPD/AD combined)	50	35761	Risk Ratio (M-H, Fixed, 95% CI)	0.84 [0.76, 0.92]
8.1 Low-risk women	27	20797	Risk Ratio (M-H, Fixed, 95% CI)	0.89 [0.76, 1.05]
8.2 Moderate-risk women	18	1441	Risk Ratio (M-H, Fixed, 95% CI)	0.74 [0.55, 0.99]
8.3 High-risk women	35	13431	Risk Ratio (M-H, Fixed, 95% CI)	0.83 [0.73, 0.94]
8.5 Unclear-/unspecified-risk women (AD)	2	92	Risk Ratio (M-H, Fixed, 95% CI)	0.54 [0.16, 1.86]

Analysis 1.1. Comparison 1 Antiplatelet agents versus placebo/no antiplatelet for primary prevention (primary outcomes, subgroups by maternal risk), Outcome 1 Pre-eclampsia (IPD vs AD).

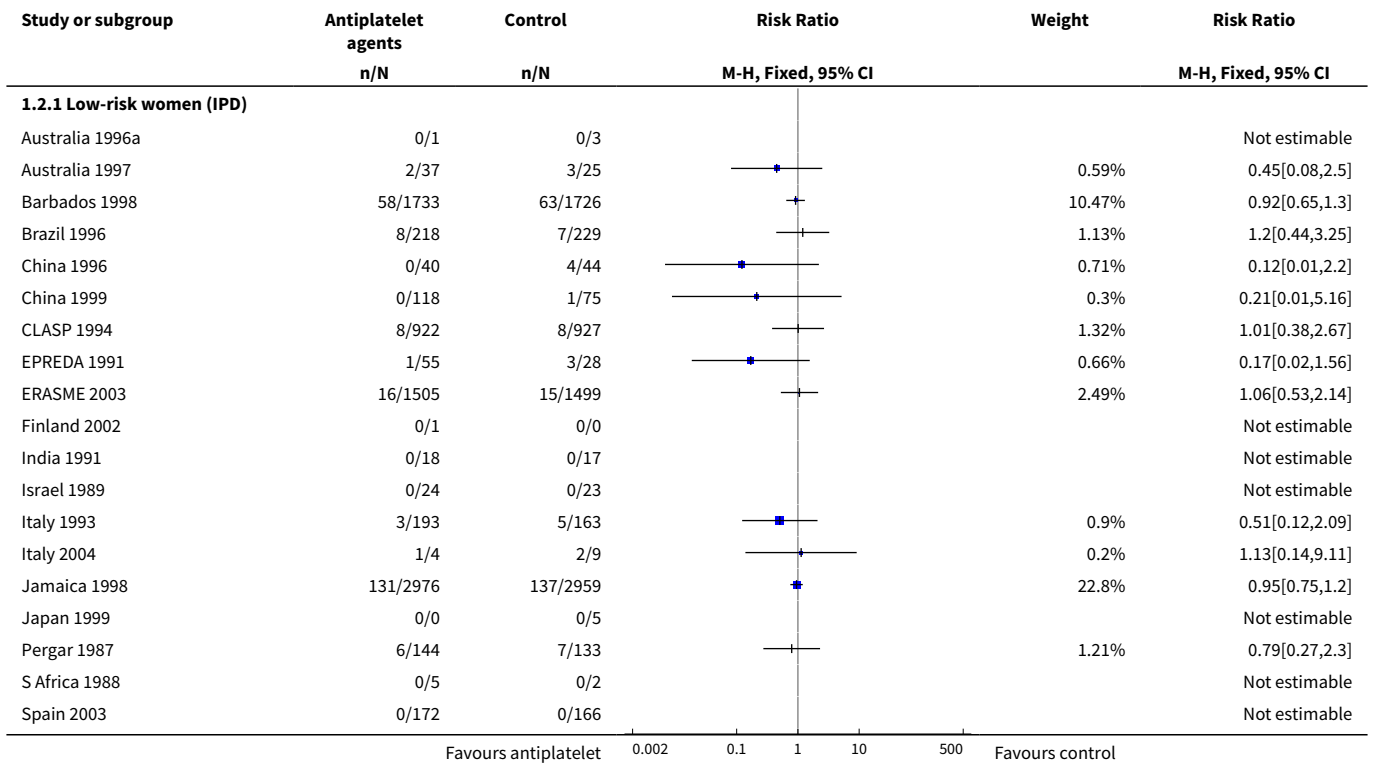


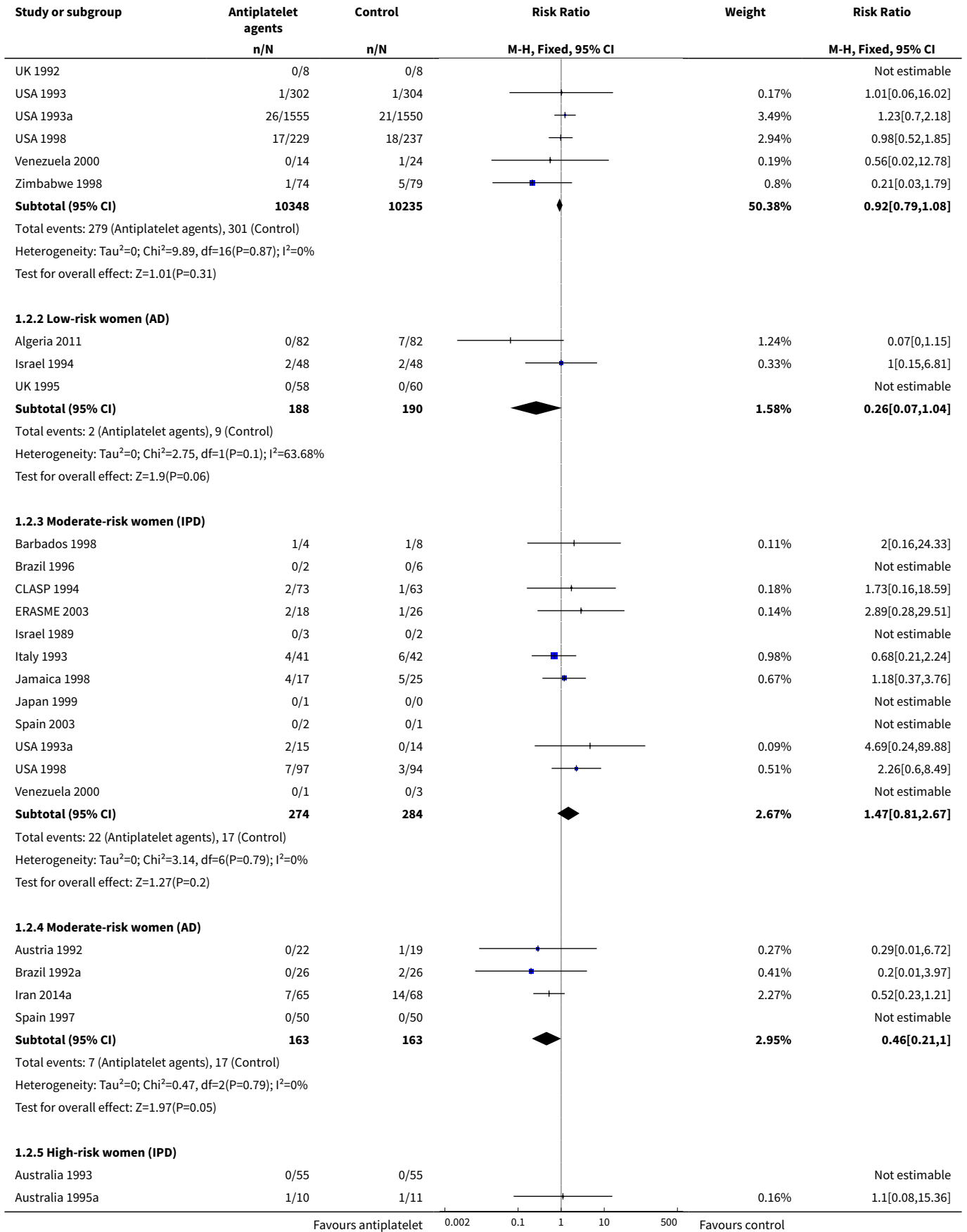


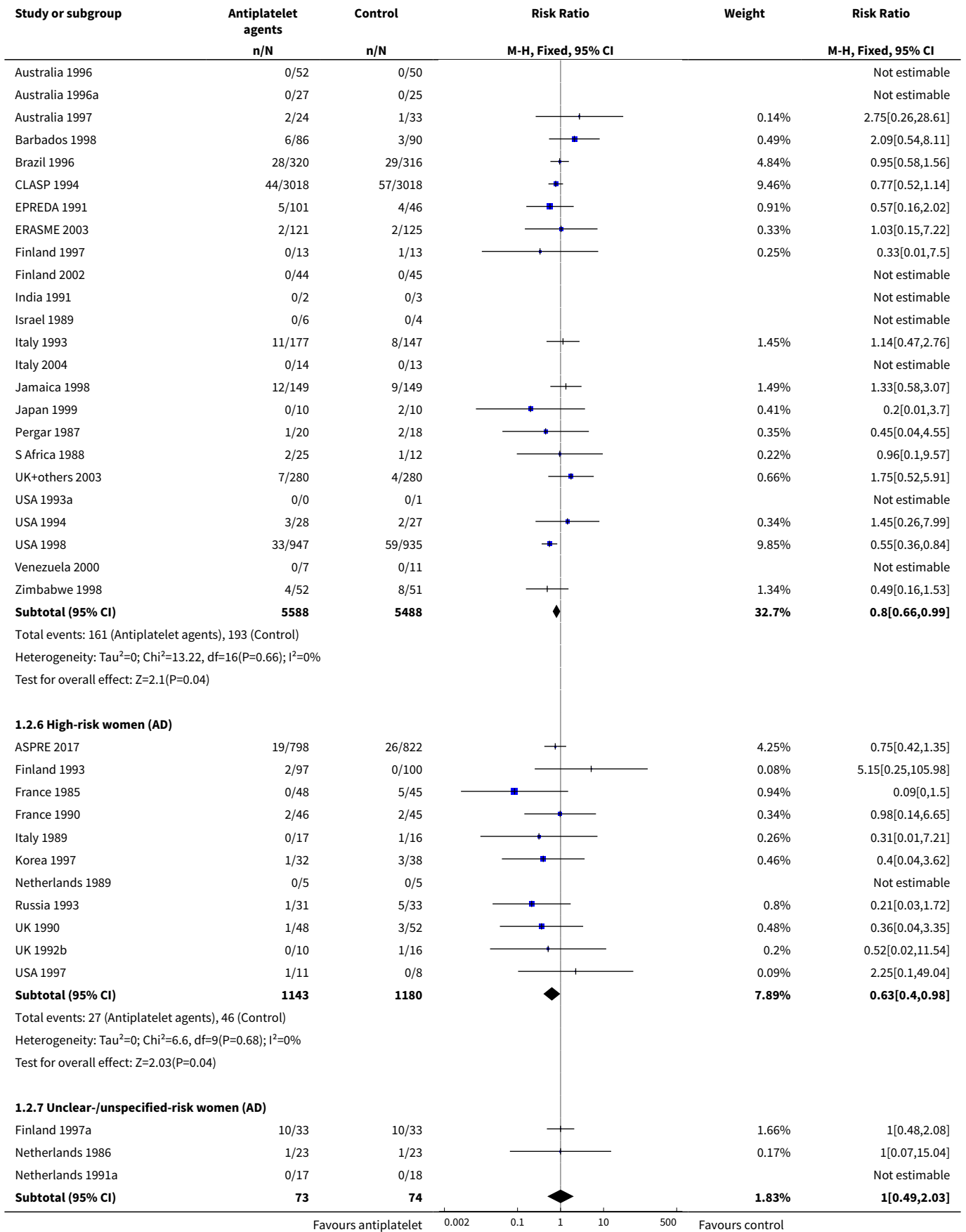


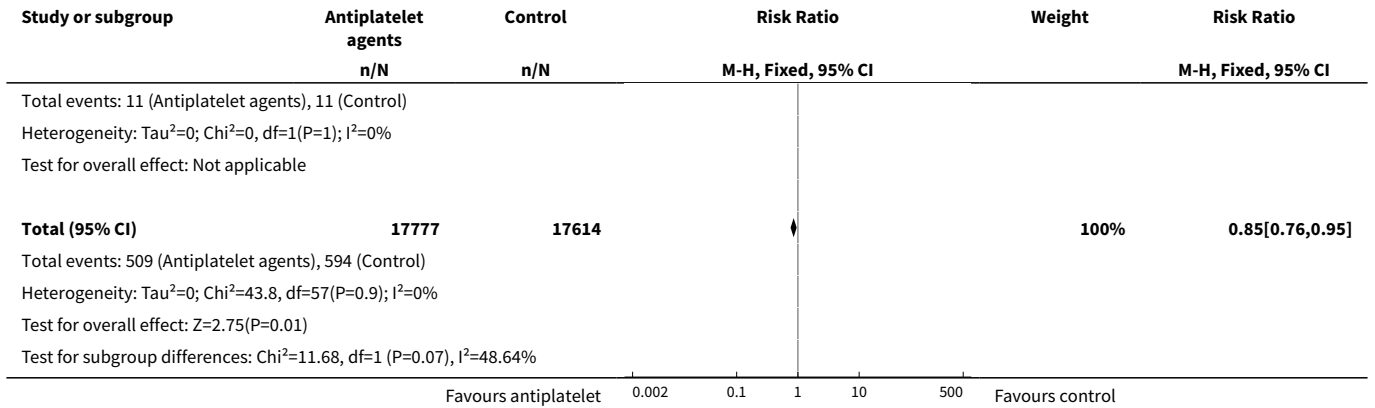


Analysis 1.2. Comparison 1 Antiplatelet agents versus placebo/no antiplatelet for primary prevention (primary outcomes, subgroups by maternal risk), Outcome 2 Fetal death, neonatal death, or death before hospital discharge (IPD vs AD).

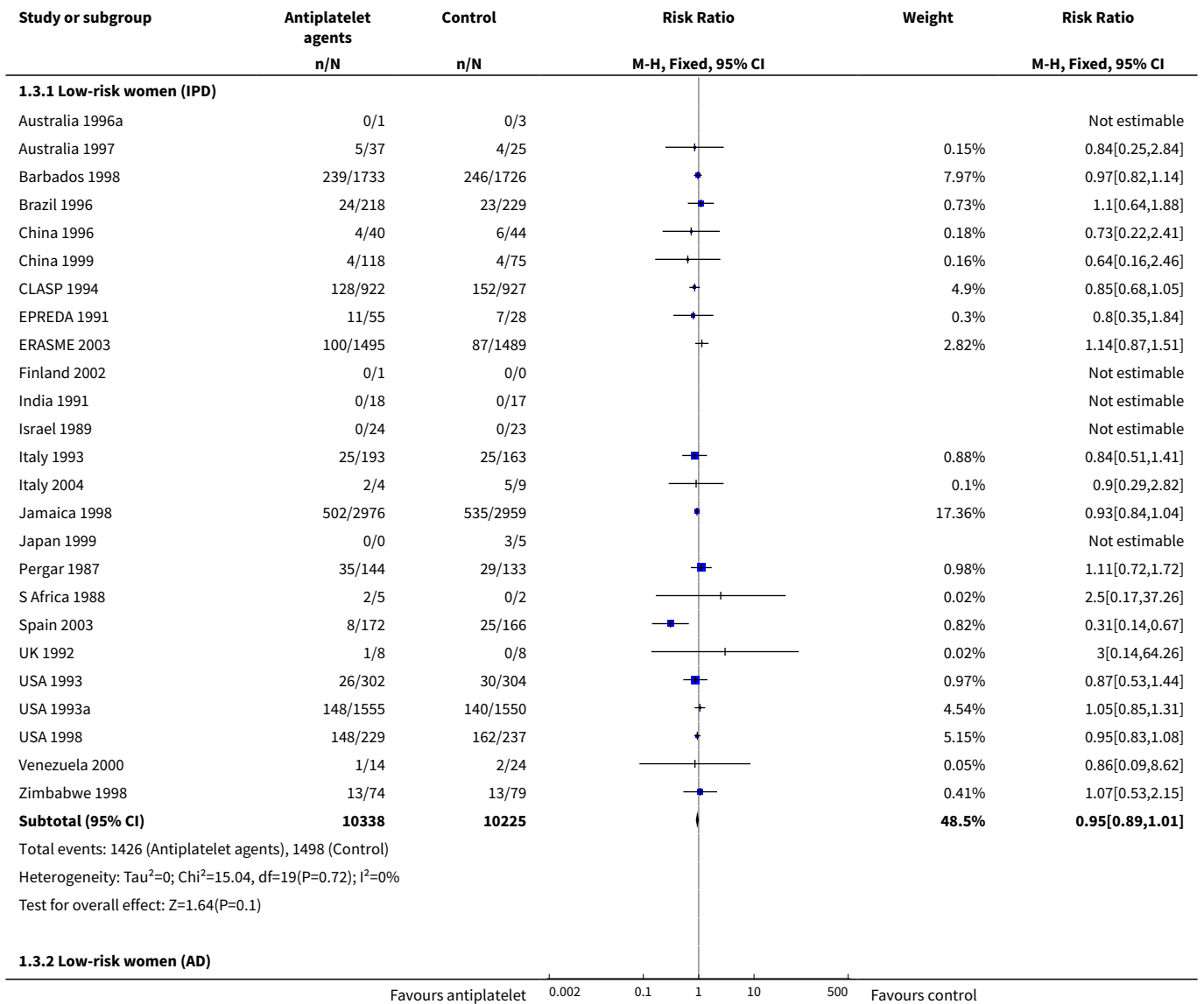


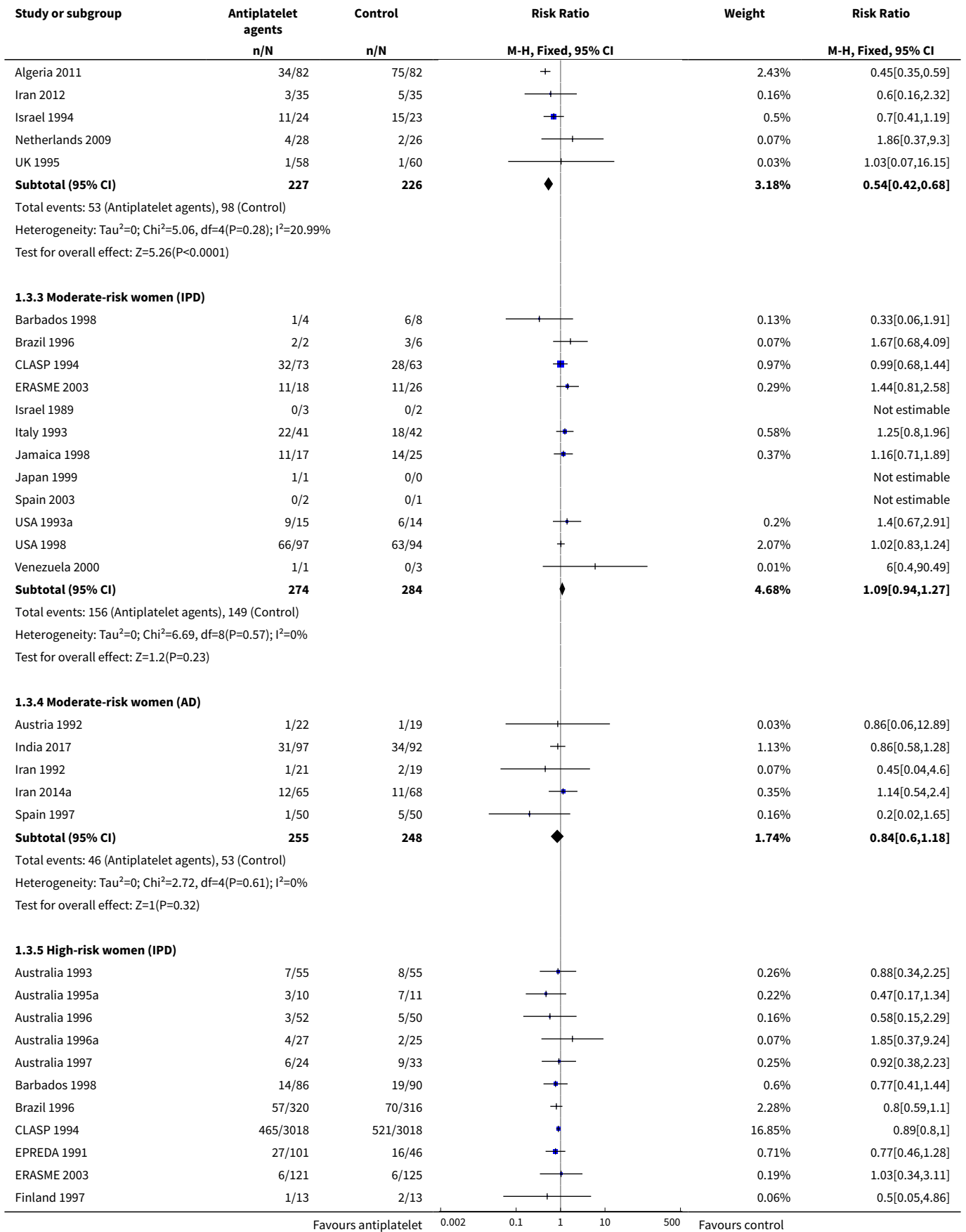


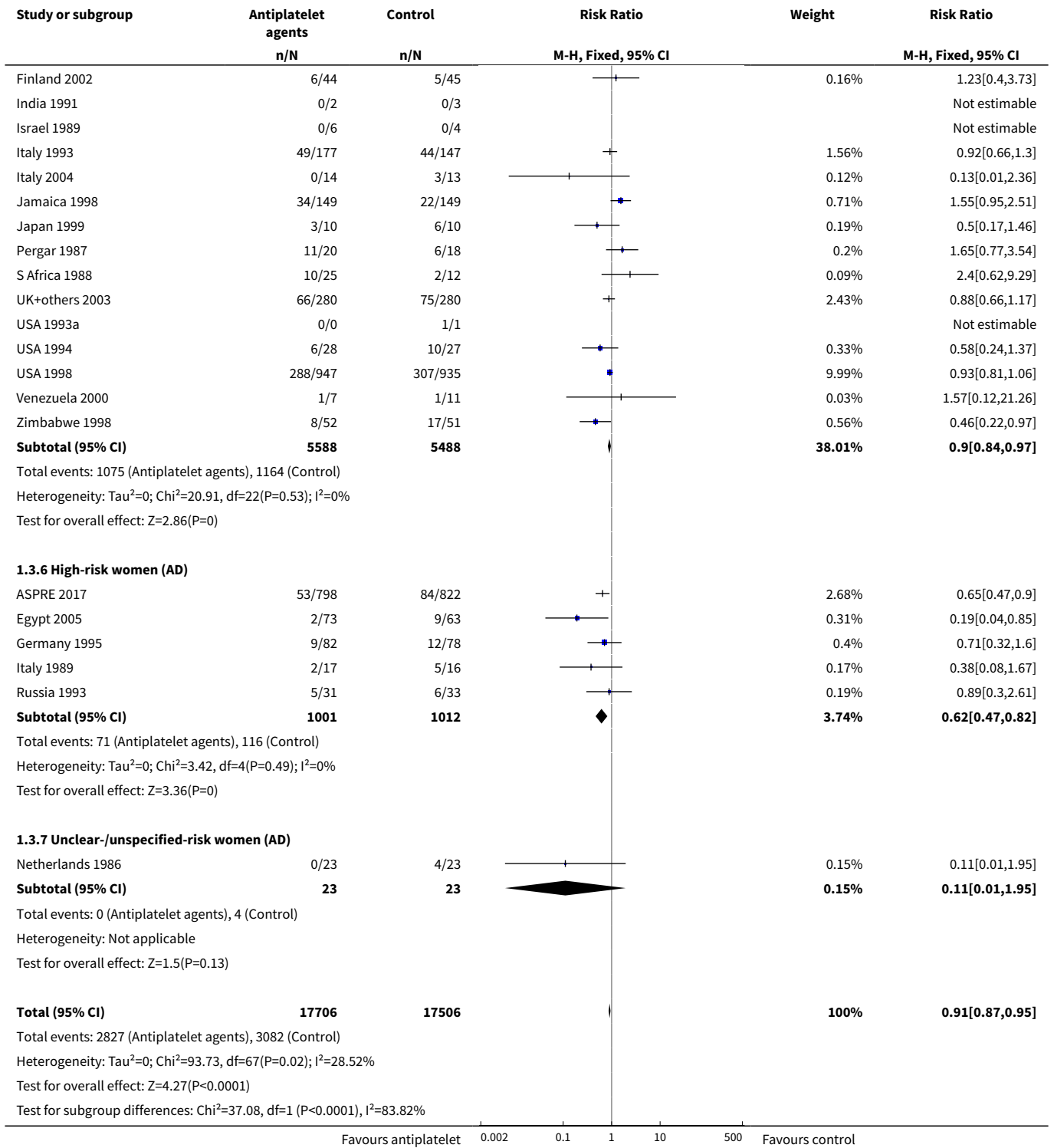




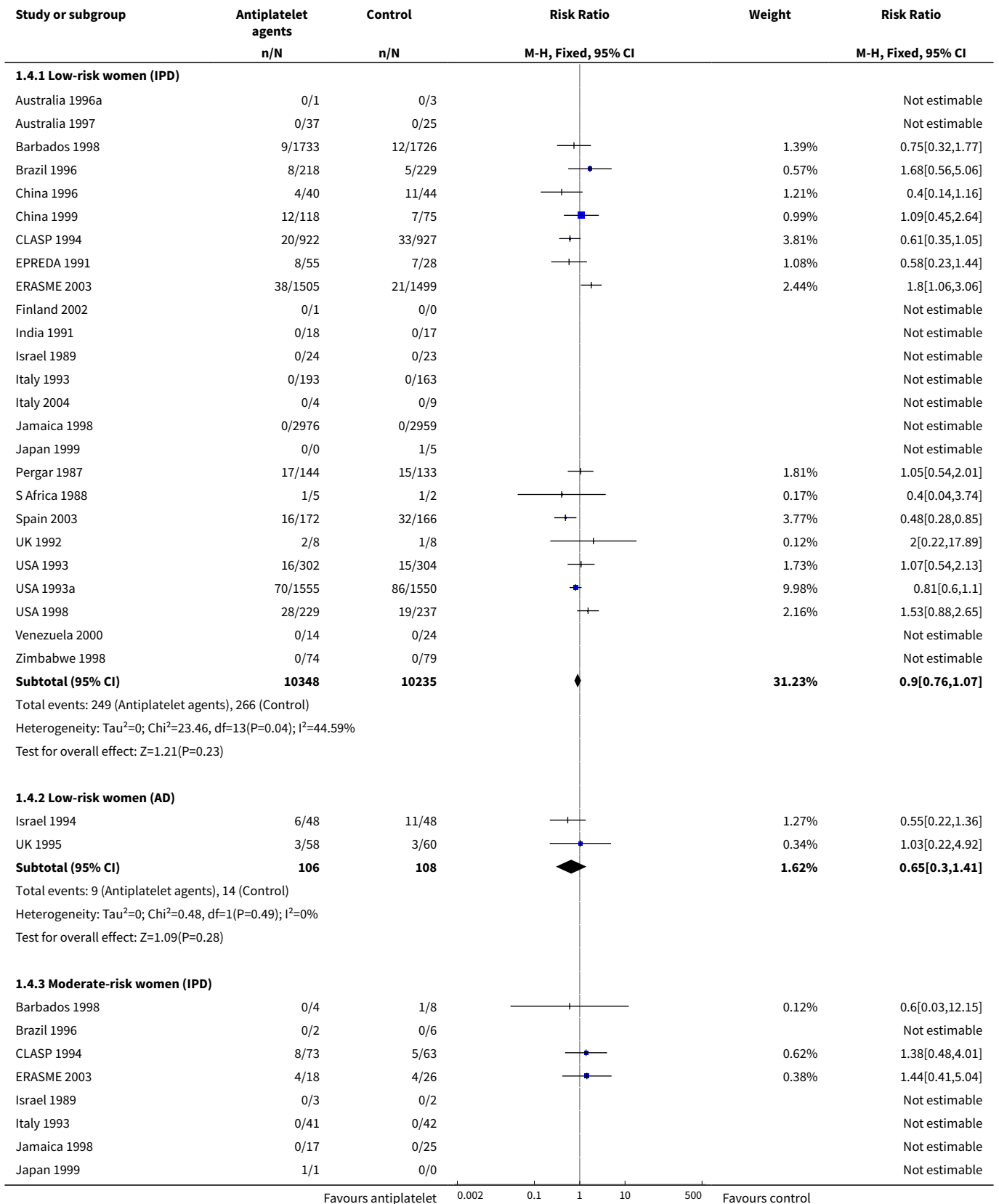
Analysis 1.3. Comparison 1 Antiplatelet agents versus placebo/no antiplatelet for primary prevention (primary outcomes, subgroups by maternal risk), Outcome 3 Preterm birth (IPD vs AD).

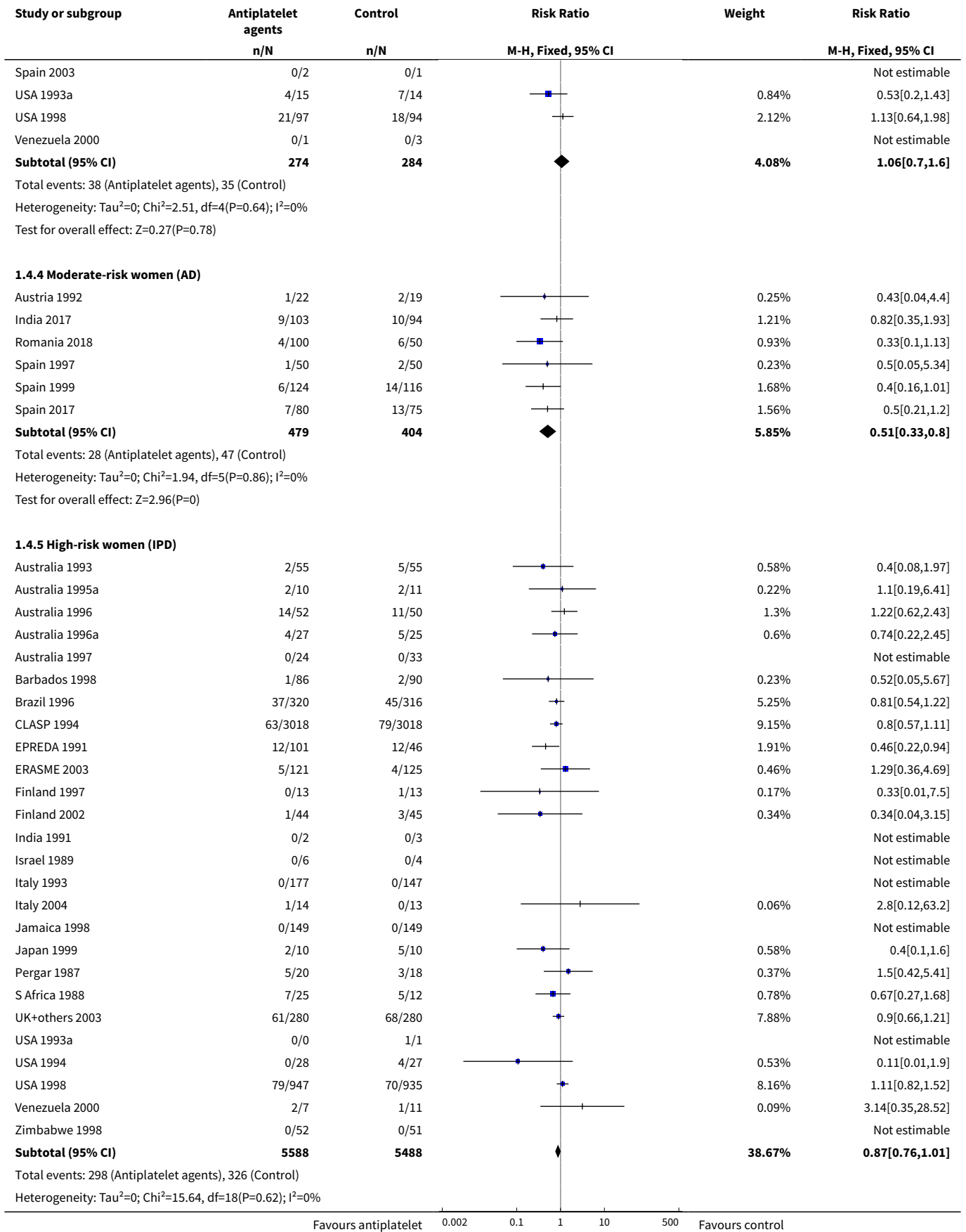


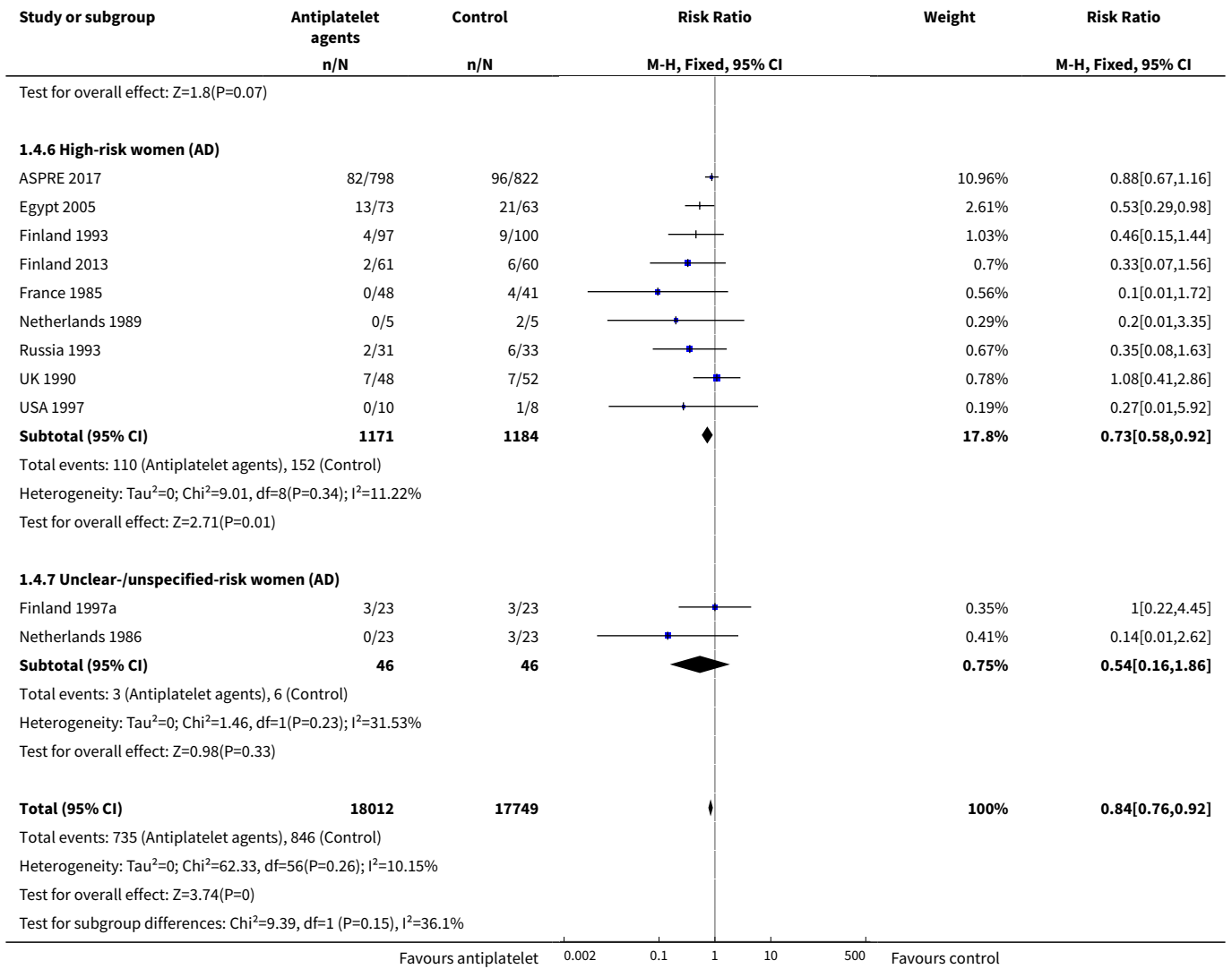




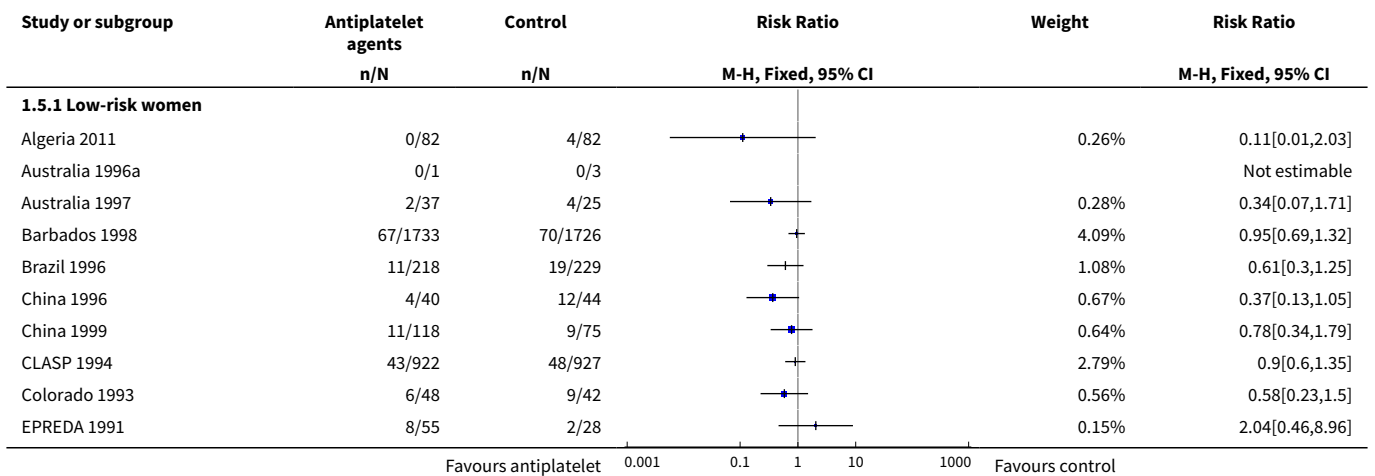
Analysis 1.4. Comparison 1 Antiplatelet agents versus placebo/no antiplatelet for primary prevention (primary outcomes, subgroups by maternal risk), Outcome 4 Small-for-gestational age (IPD vs AD).

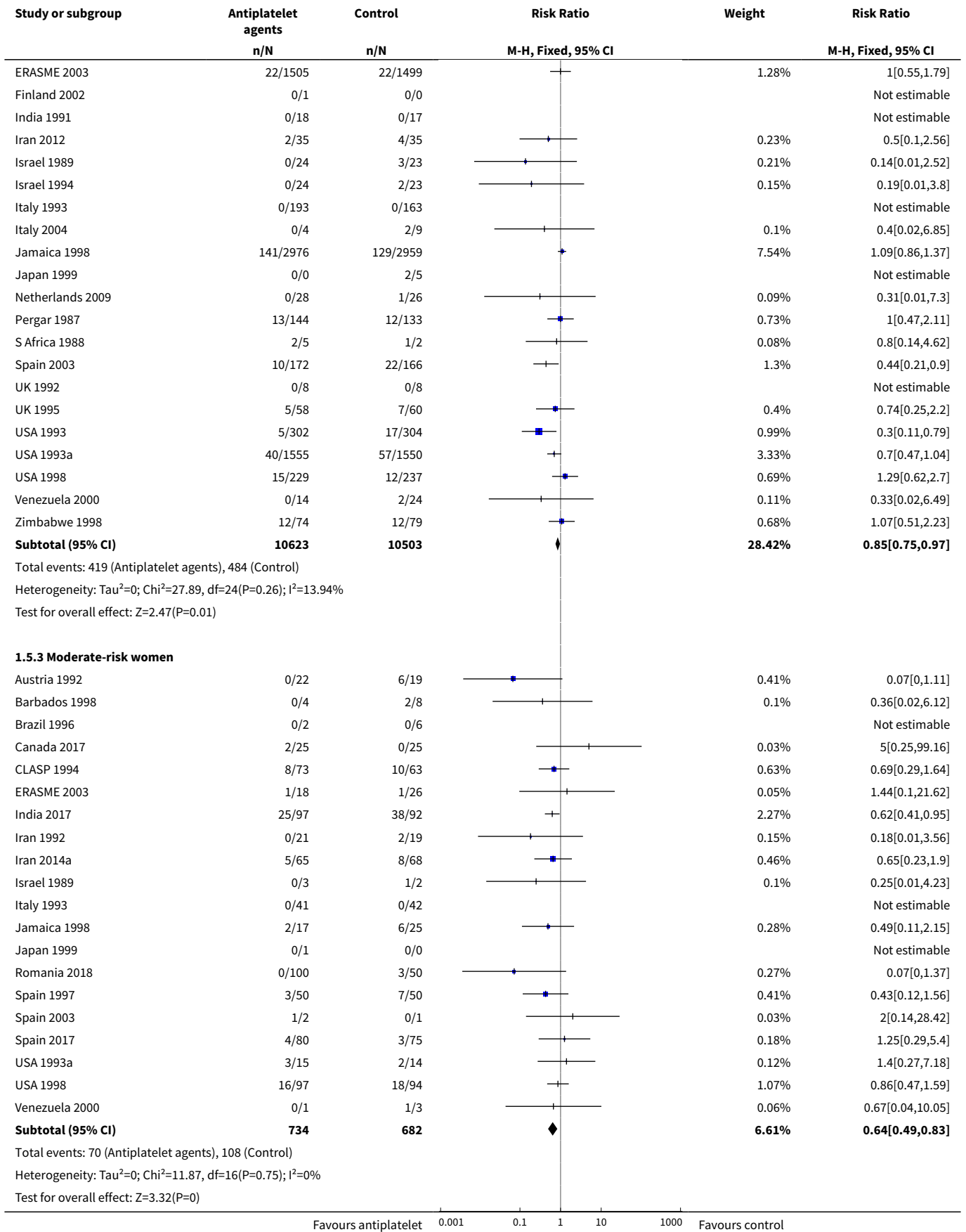


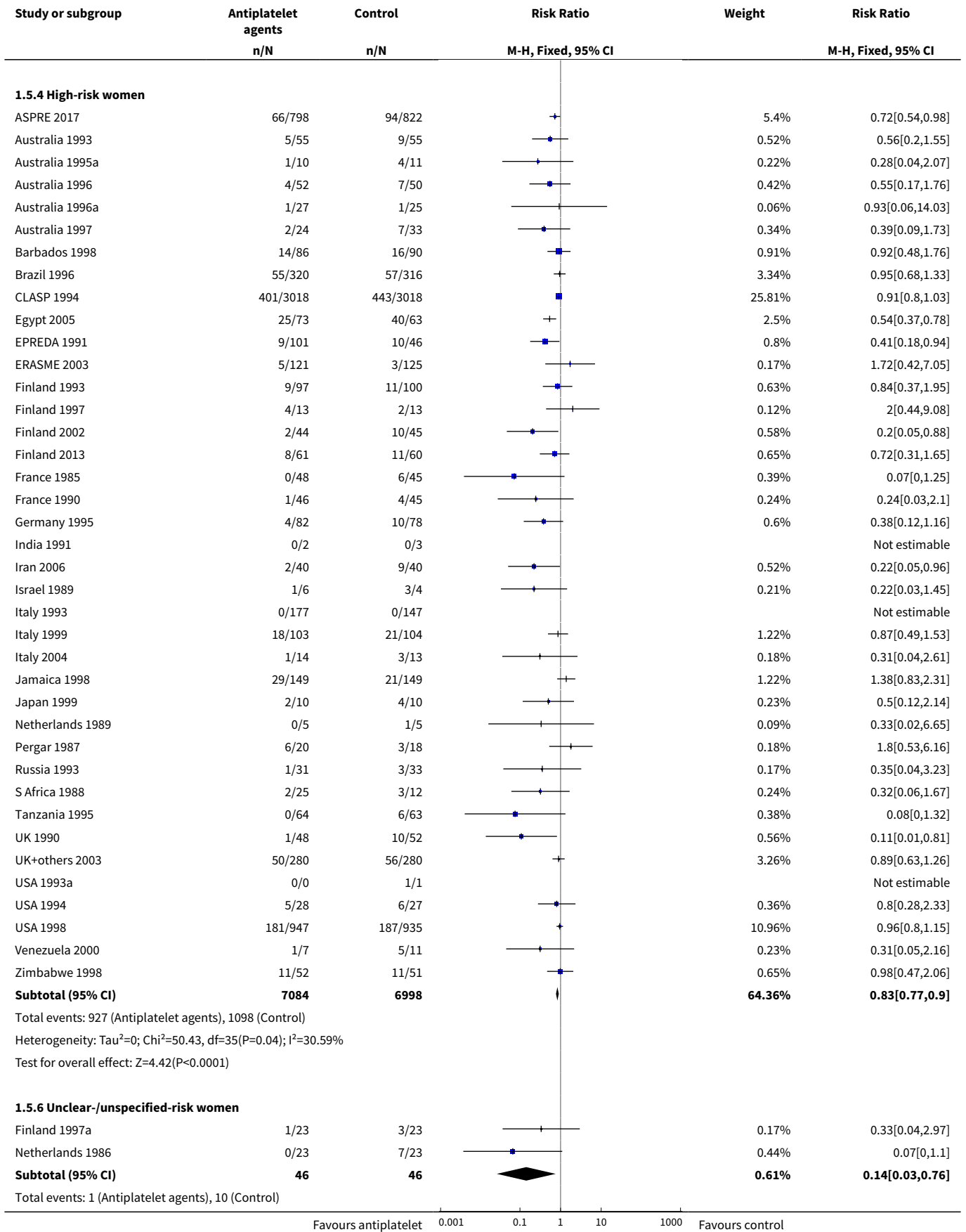


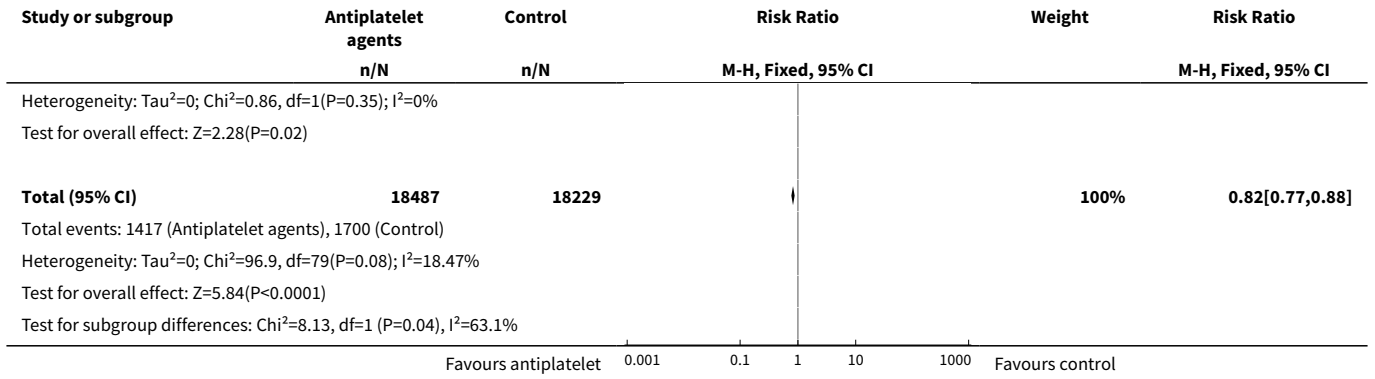


Analysis 1.5. Comparison 1 Antiplatelet agents versus placebo/no antiplatelet for primary prevention (primary outcomes, subgroups by maternal risk), Outcome 5 Pre-eclampsia (IPD/AD combined).

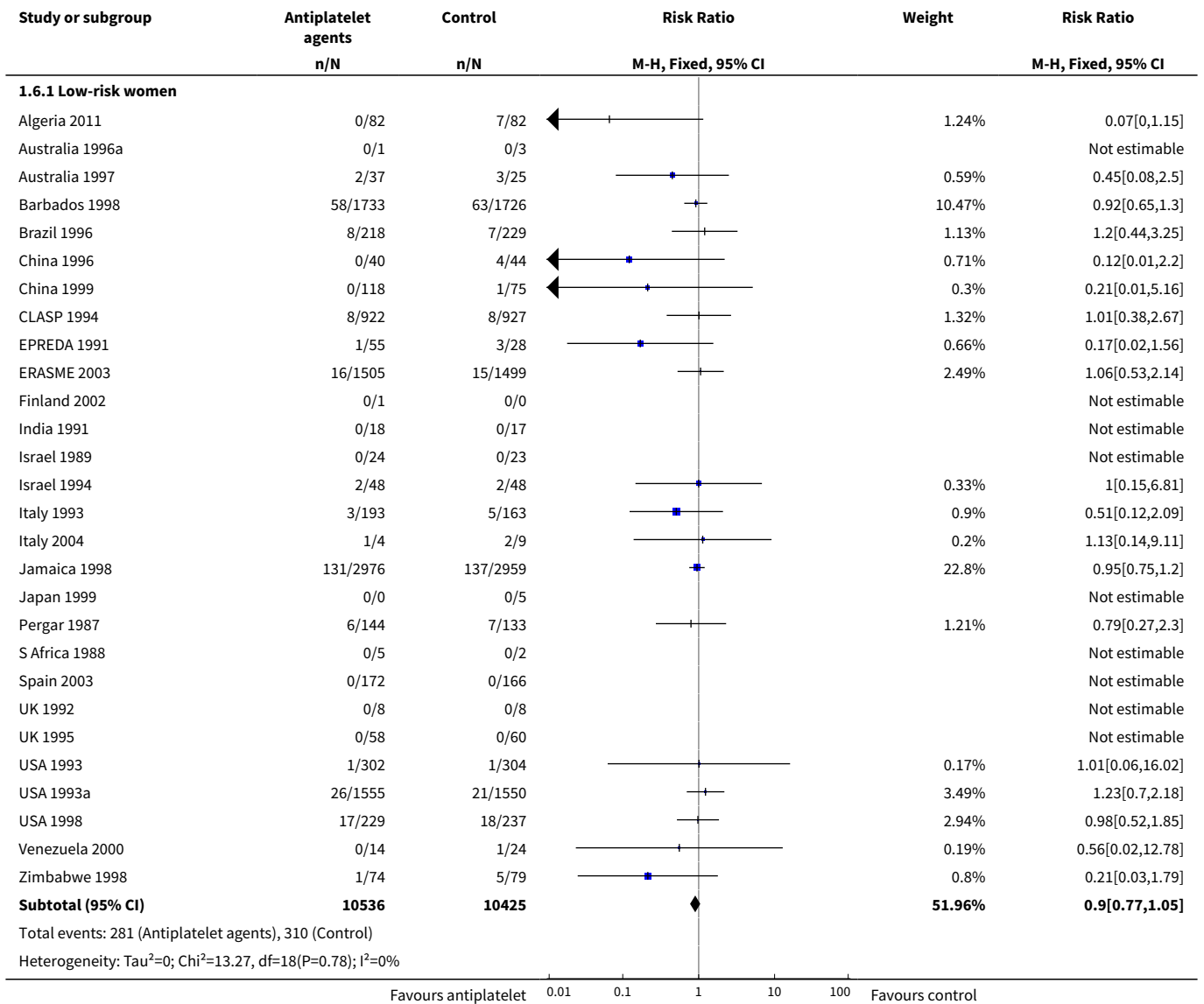


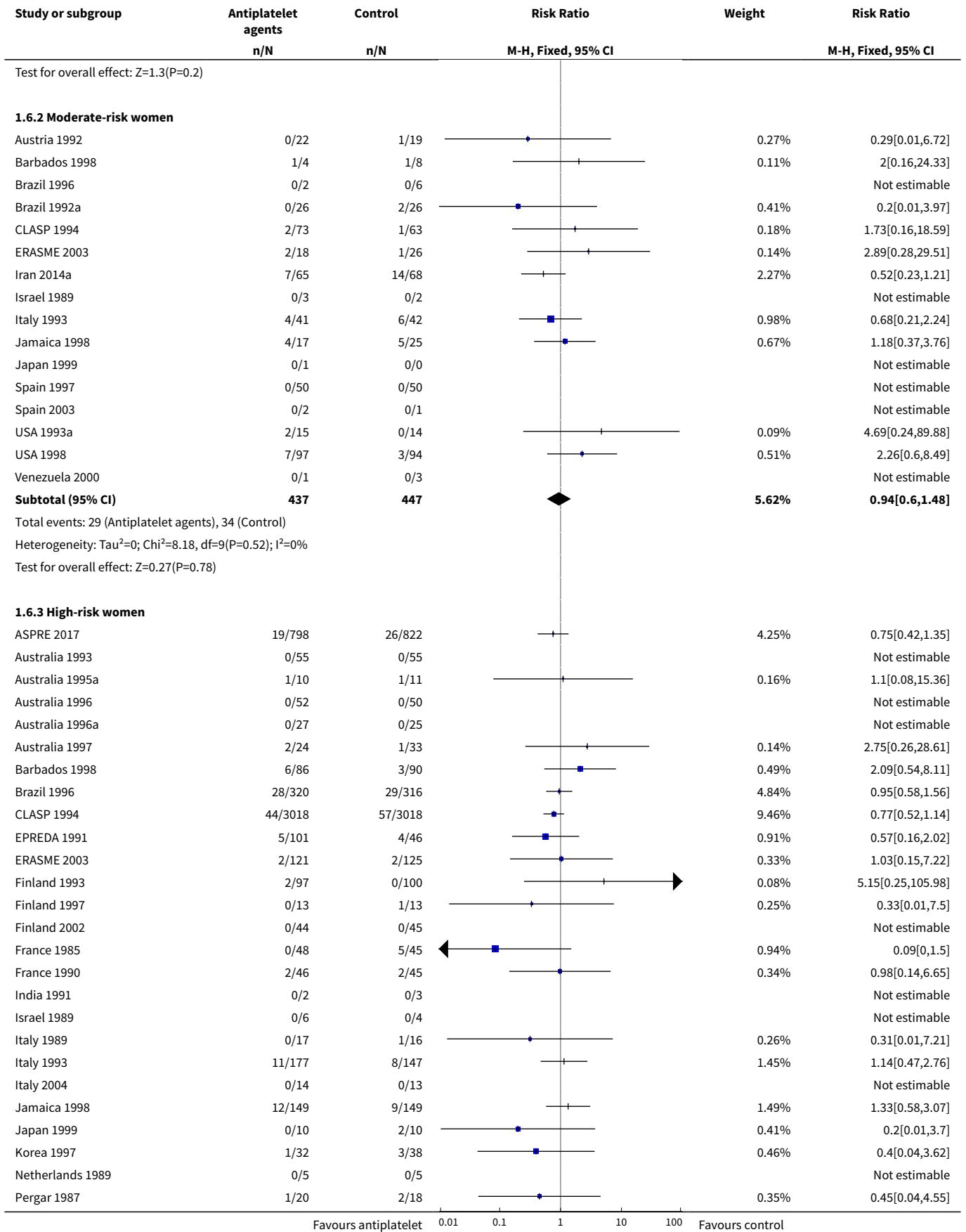


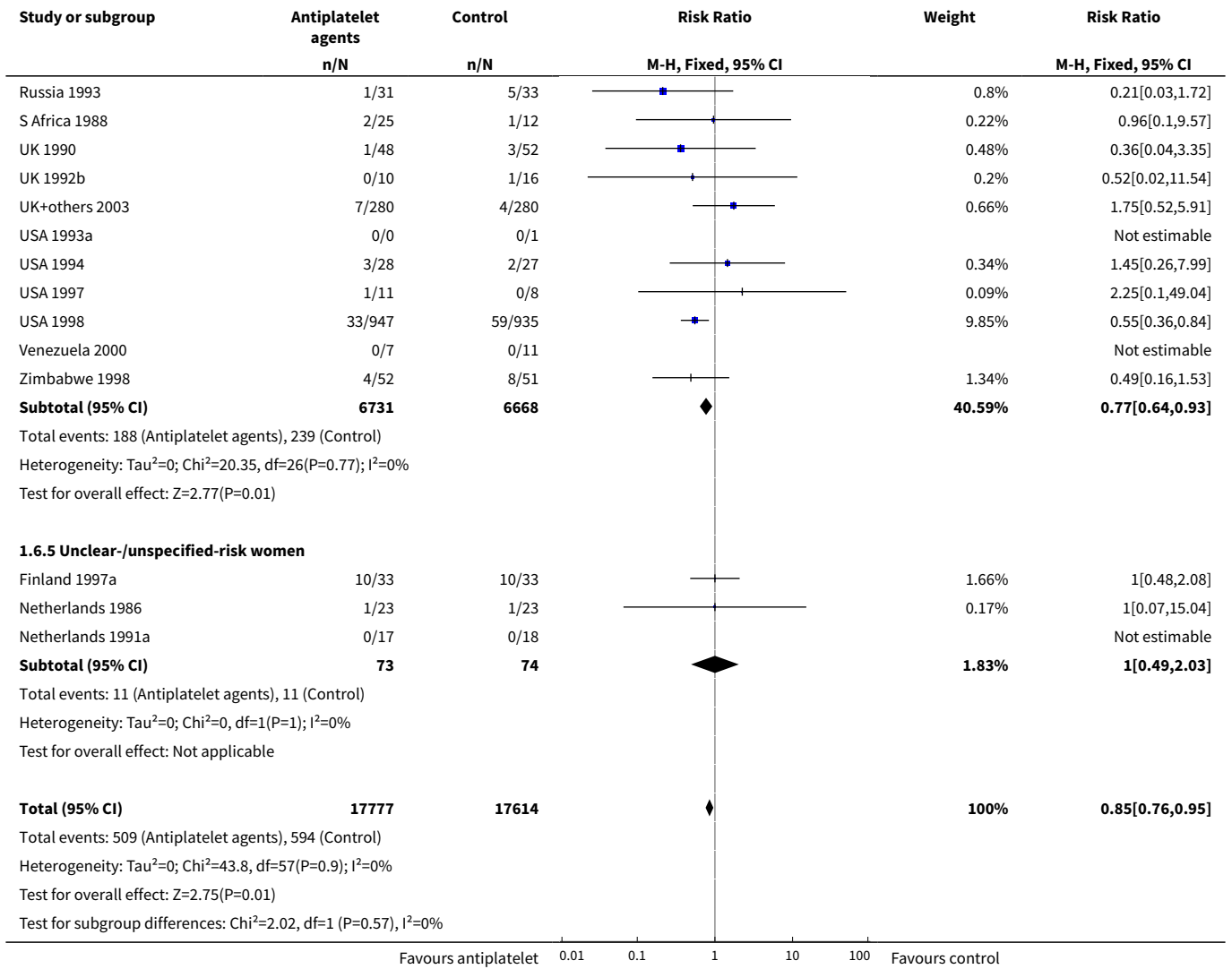




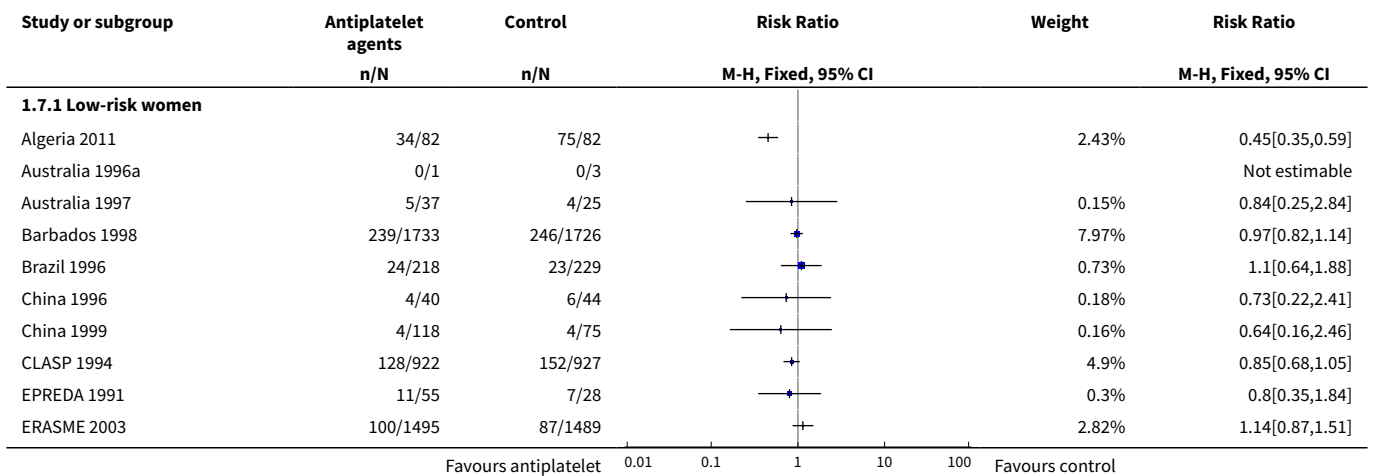
Analysis 1.6. Comparison 1 Antiplatelet agents versus placebo/no antiplatelet for primary prevention (primary outcomes, subgroups by maternal risk), Outcome 6 Fetal death, neonatal death, or death before hospital discharge (IPD/AD combined).

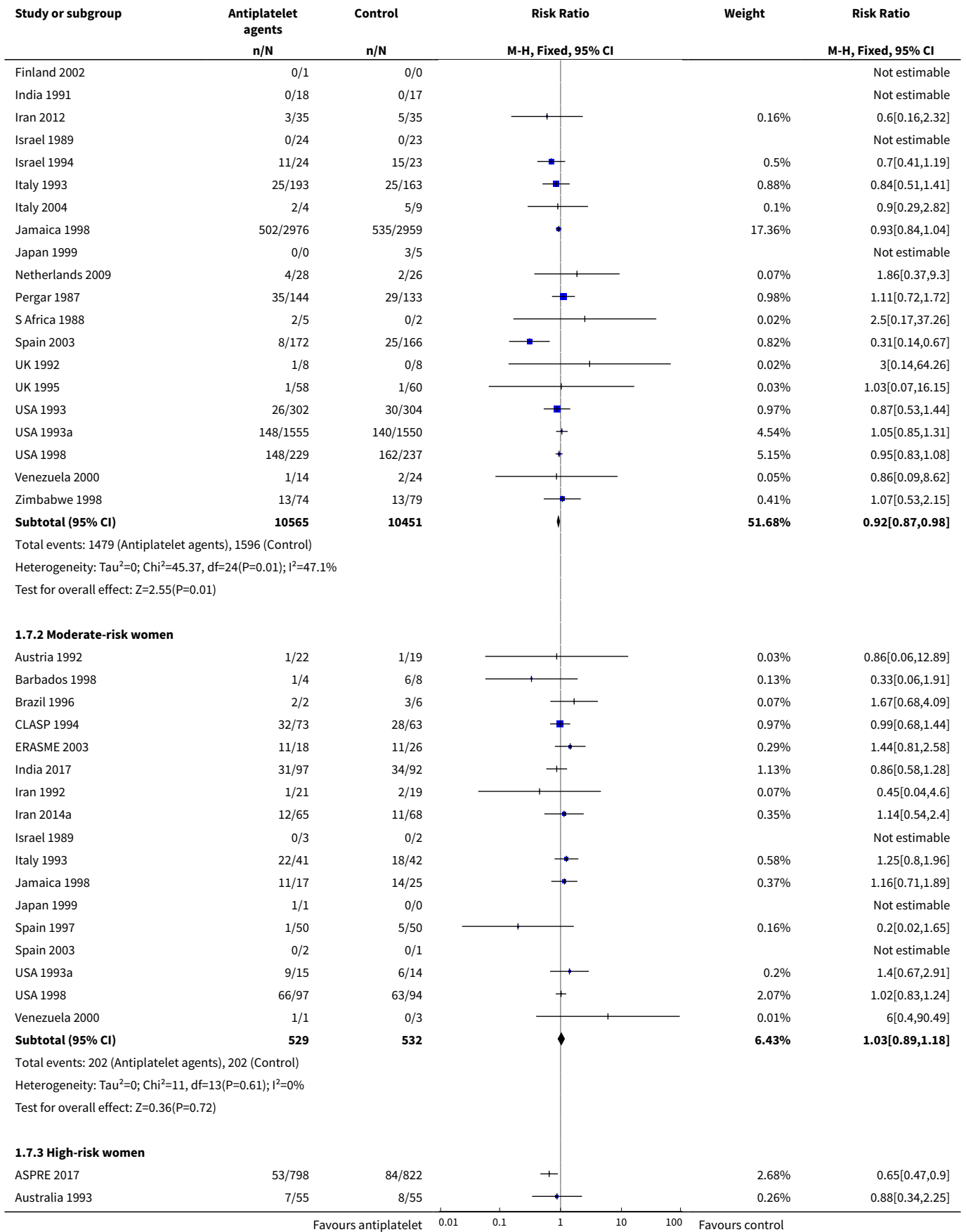


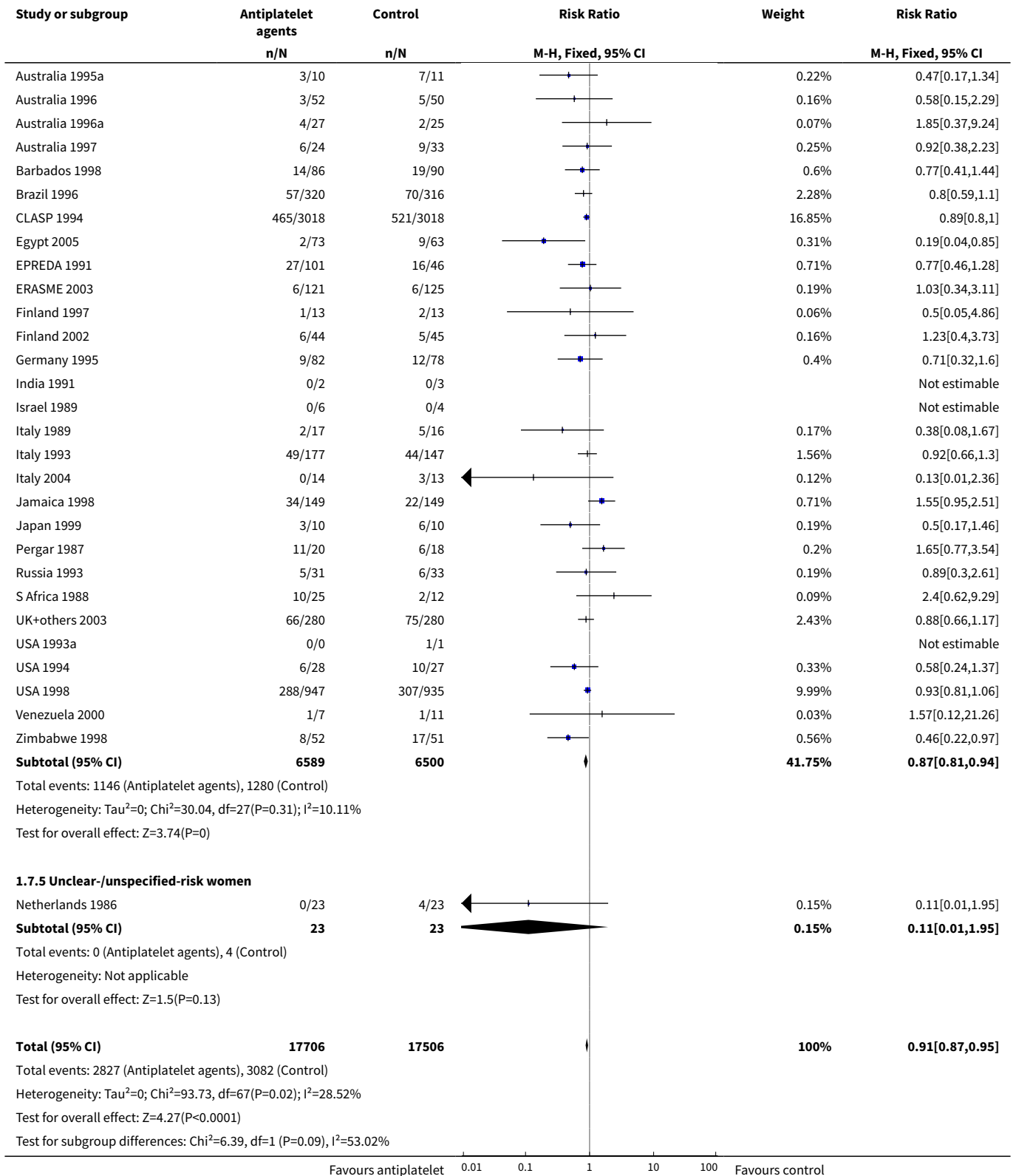




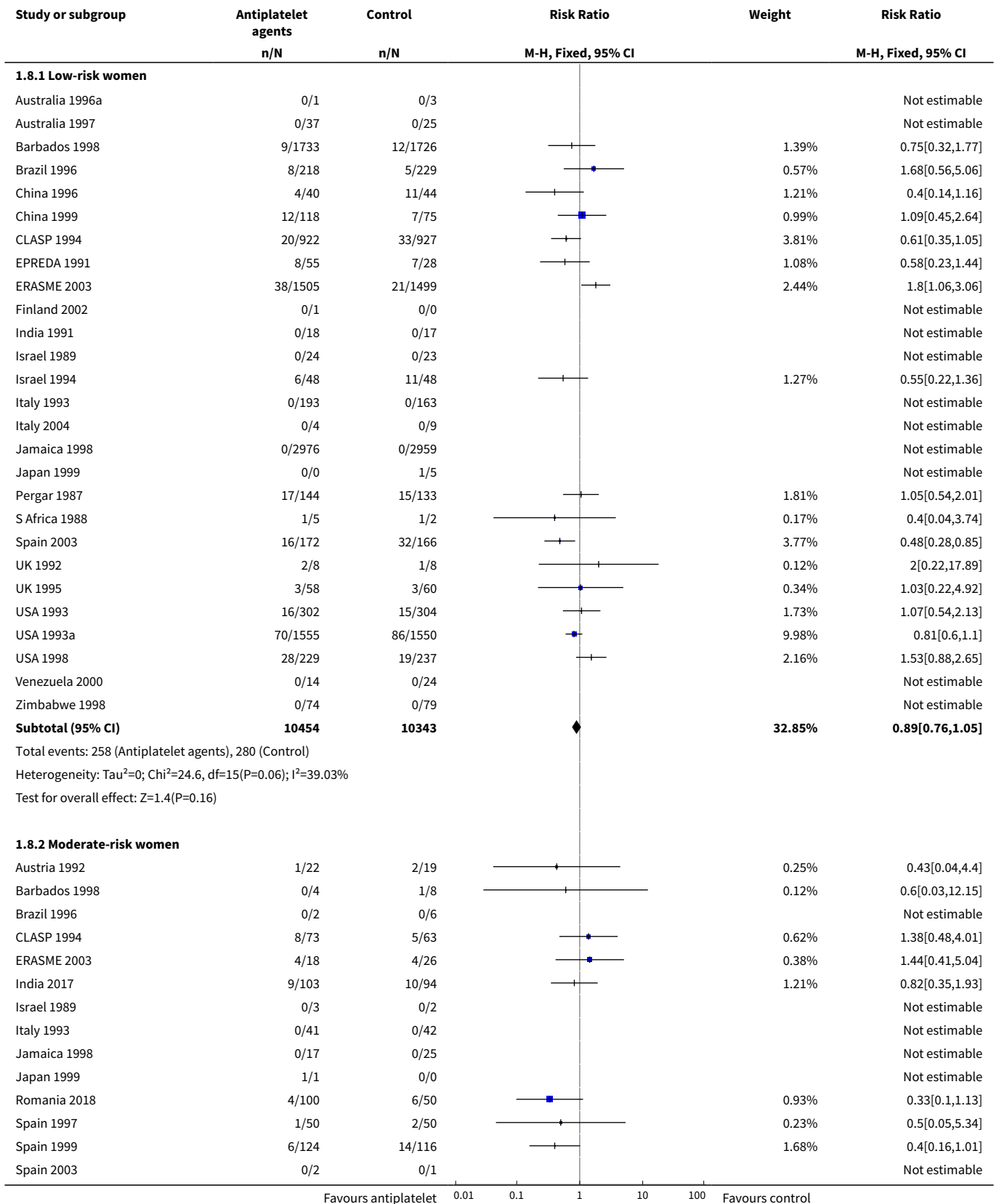
Analysis 1.7. Comparison 1 Antiplatelet agents versus placebo/no antiplatelet for primary prevention (primary outcomes, subgroups by maternal risk), Outcome 7 Preterm birth (IPD/AD combined).

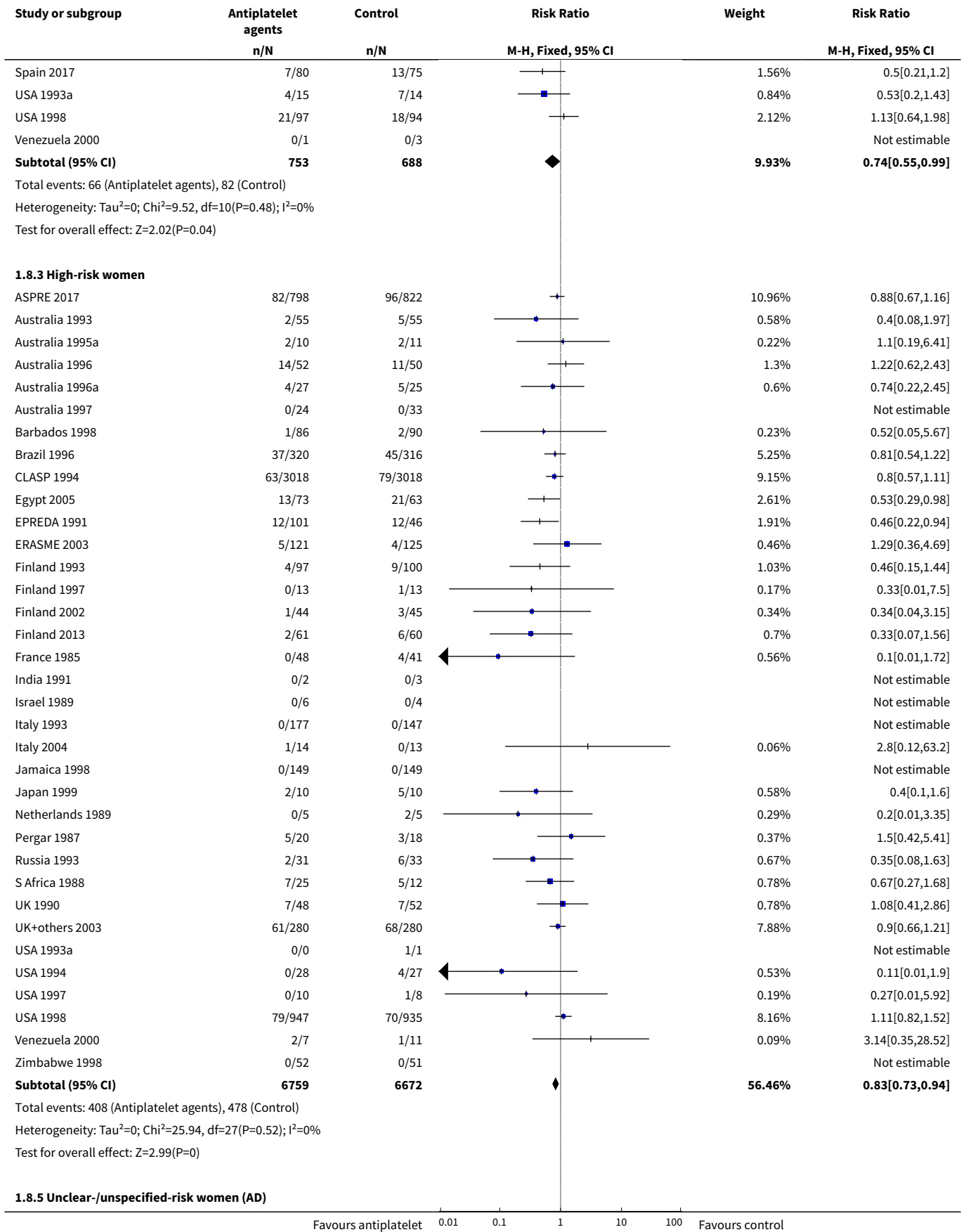


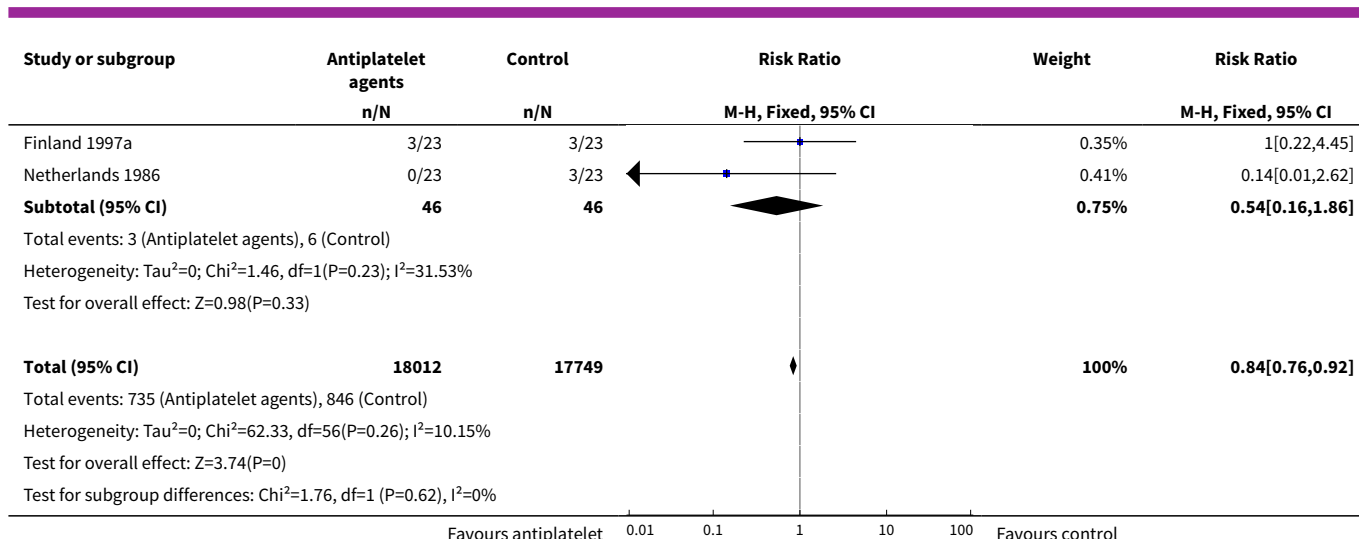




Analysis 1.8. Comparison 1 Antiplatelet agents versus placebo/no antiplatelet for primary prevention (primary outcomes, subgroups by maternal risk), Outcome 8 Small-for-gestational age (IPD/AD combined).





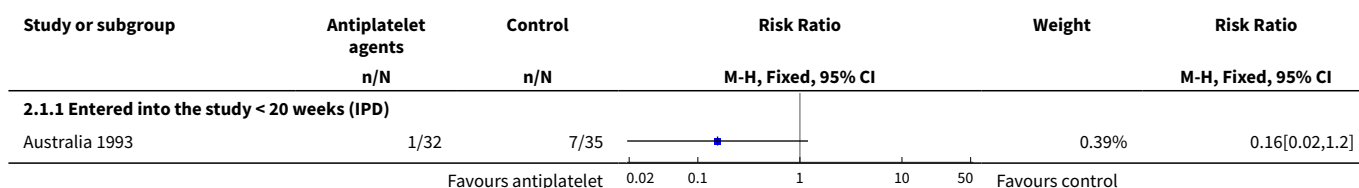


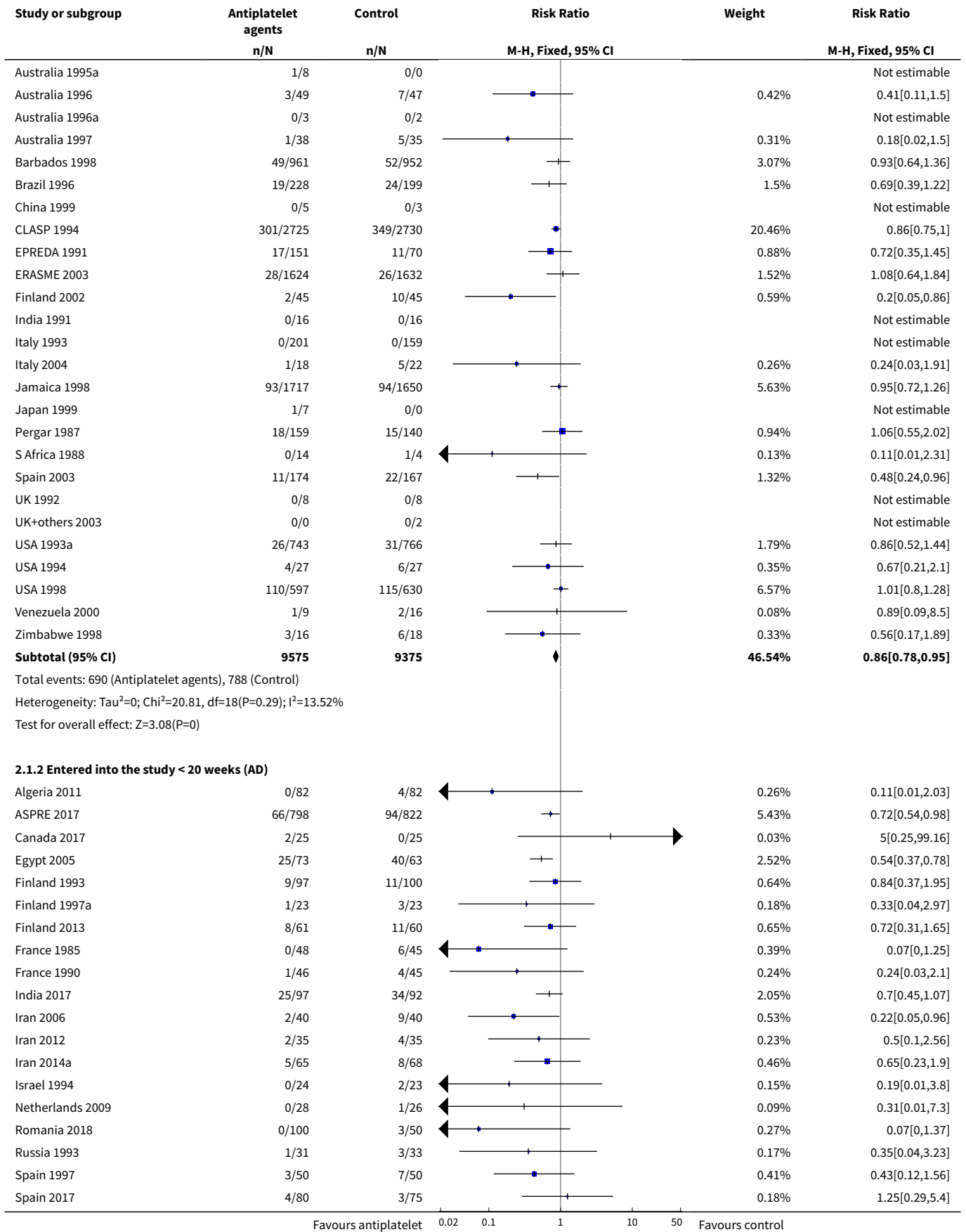
Comparison 2. Antiplatelet agents versus placebo/no antiplatelet for primary prevention (primary outcomes, subgroups by gestation at entry)

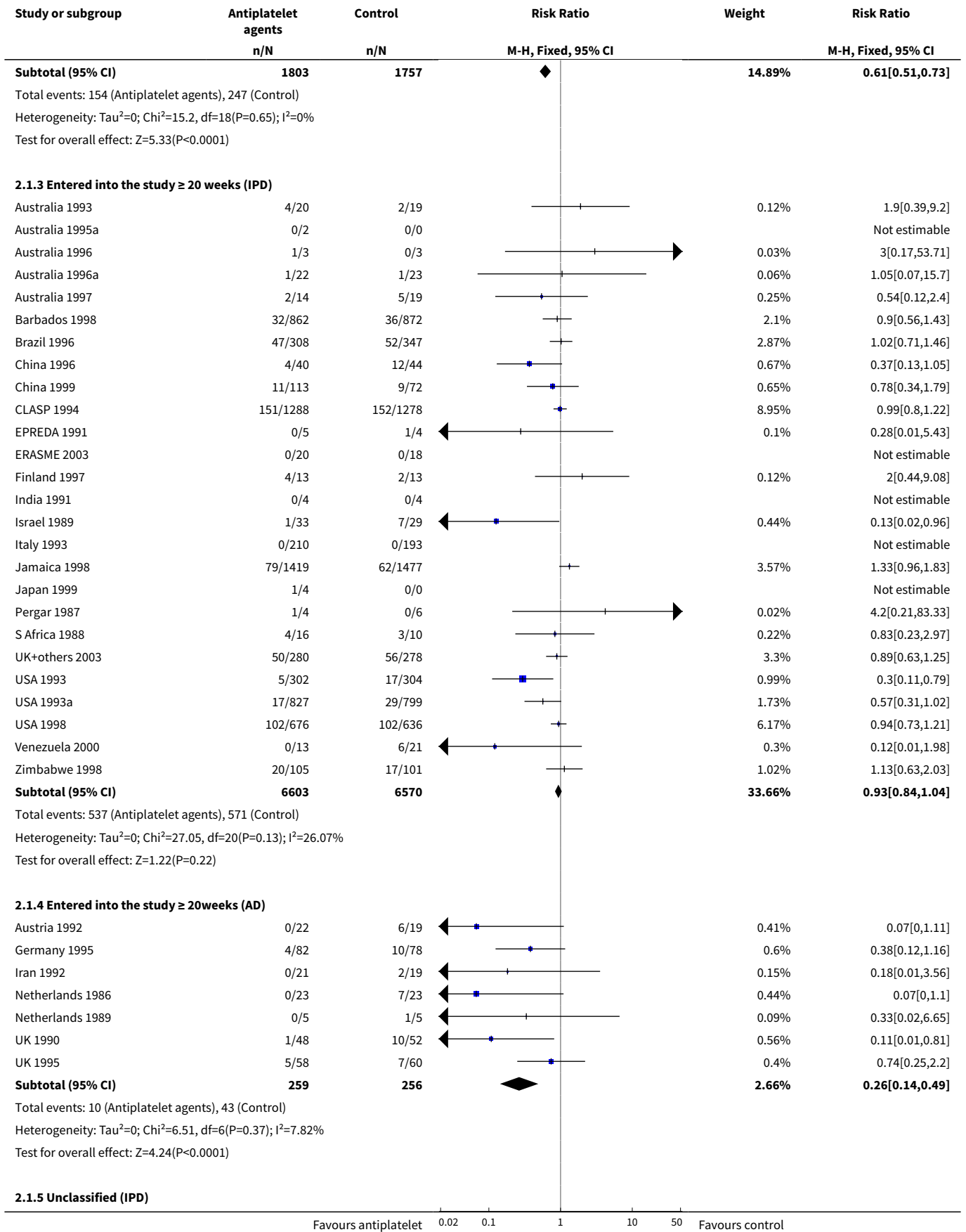
Outcome or subgroup title	No. of studies	No. of participants	Statistical method	Effect size
1 Pre-eclampsia	60	36716	Risk Ratio (M-H, Fixed, 95% CI)	0.83 [0.77, 0.88]
1.1 Entered into the study < 20 weeks (IPD)	27	18950	Risk Ratio (M-H, Fixed, 95% CI)	0.86 [0.78, 0.95]
1.2 Entered into the study < 20 weeks (AD)	19	3560	Risk Ratio (M-H, Fixed, 95% CI)	0.61 [0.51, 0.73]
1.3 Entered into the study ≥ 20 weeks (IPD)	26	13173	Risk Ratio (M-H, Fixed, 95% CI)	0.93 [0.84, 1.04]
1.4 Entered into the study ≥ 20weeks (AD)	7	515	Risk Ratio (M-H, Fixed, 95% CI)	0.26 [0.14, 0.49]
1.5 Unclassified (IPD)	11	94	Risk Ratio (M-H, Fixed, 95% CI)	0.44 [0.04, 5.46]
1.6 Unclassified (AD)	3	424	Risk Ratio (M-H, Fixed, 95% CI)	0.65 [0.41, 1.04]
2 Fetal death, neonatal death, or death before hospital discharge	52	35391	Risk Ratio (M-H, Fixed, 95% CI)	0.85 [0.76, 0.95]
2.1 Entered into the study < 20 weeks (IPD)	27	18950	Risk Ratio (M-H, Fixed, 95% CI)	0.87 [0.75, 1.02]
2.2 Entered into the study < 20 weeks (AD)	11	2657	Risk Ratio (M-H, Fixed, 95% CI)	0.62 [0.44, 0.88]
2.3 Entered into the study ≥ 20 weeks (IPD)	26	13173	Risk Ratio (M-H, Fixed, 95% CI)	0.93 [0.76, 1.15]

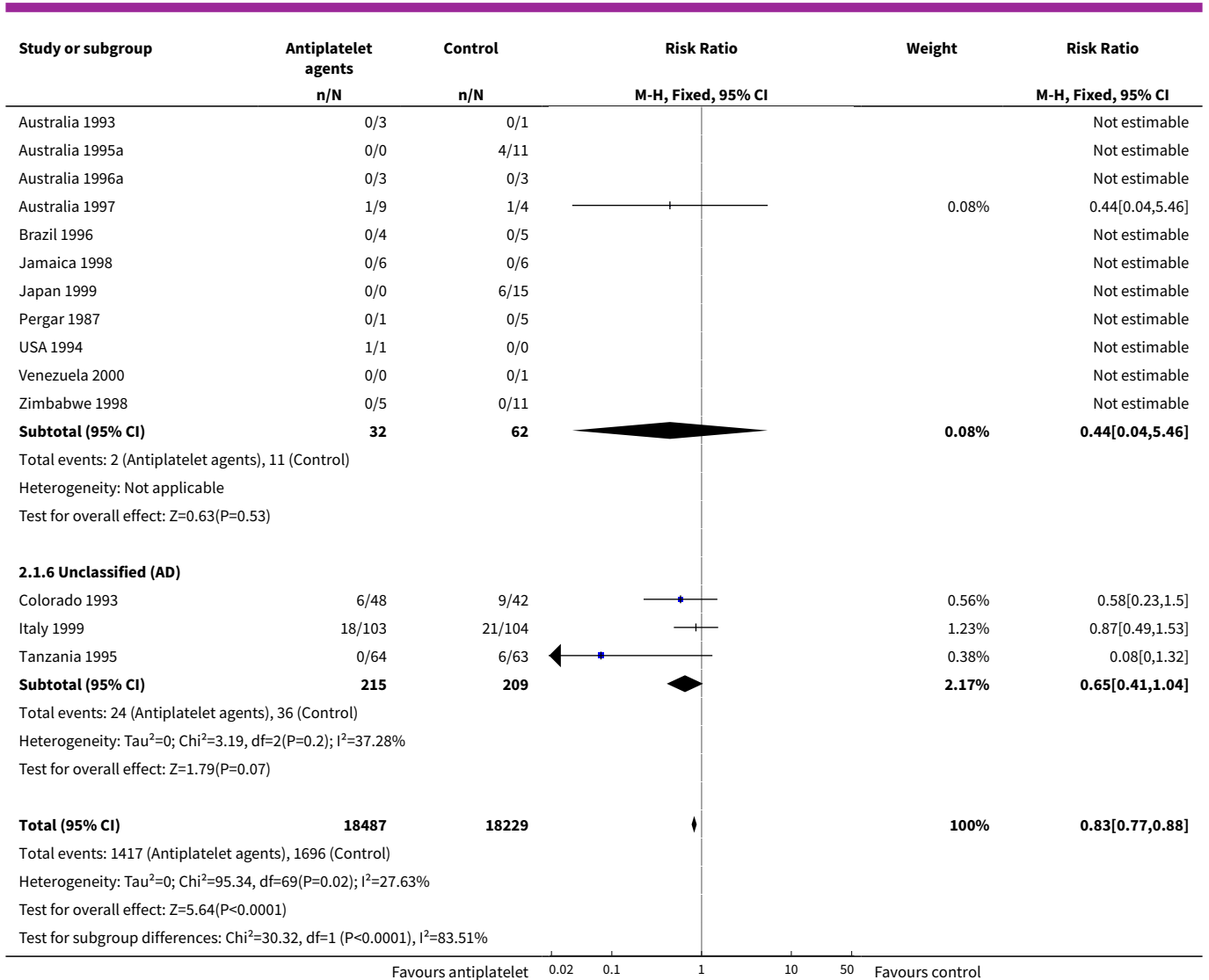
Outcome or subgroup title	No. of studies	No. of participants	Statistical method	Effect size
2.4 Entered into the study \geq 20 weeks (AD)	6	350	Risk Ratio (M-H, Fixed, 95% CI)	0.46 [0.11, 1.98]
2.5 Unclassified (IPD)	11	94	Risk Ratio (M-H, Fixed, 95% CI)	0.27 [0.04, 2.09]
2.6 Unclassified (AD)	4	167	Risk Ratio (M-H, Fixed, 95% CI)	0.50 [0.14, 1.78]
3 Preterm birth	47	35212	Risk Ratio (M-H, Fixed, 95% CI)	0.90 [0.86, 0.94]
3.1 Entered into the study $<$ 20 weeks (IPD)	27	18930	Risk Ratio (M-H, Fixed, 95% CI)	0.94 [0.88, 1.00]
3.2 Entered into the study $<$ 20 weeks (AD)	11	2610	Risk Ratio (M-H, Fixed, 95% CI)	0.63 [0.53, 0.74]
3.3 Entered into the study \geq 20 weeks (IPD)	26	13173	Risk Ratio (M-H, Fixed, 95% CI)	0.91 [0.85, 0.98]
3.4 Entered into the study \geq 20 weeks (AD)	4	287	Risk Ratio (M-H, Fixed, 95% CI)	0.56 [0.28, 1.12]
3.5 Unclassified (IPD)	11	94	Risk Ratio (M-H, Fixed, 95% CI)	0.1 [0.01, 1.71]
3.6 Unclassified (AD)	1	118	Risk Ratio (M-H, Fixed, 95% CI)	1.03 [0.07, 16.15]
4 Small-for-gestational age	50	35761	Risk Ratio (M-H, Fixed, 95% CI)	0.84 [0.76, 0.92]
4.1 Entered into the study $<$ 20 weeks (IPD)	27	18950	Risk Ratio (M-H, Fixed, 95% CI)	0.82 [0.70, 0.95]
4.2 Entered into the study $<$ 20 weeks (AD)	13	3211	Risk Ratio (M-H, Fixed, 95% CI)	0.67 [0.55, 0.82]
4.3 Entered into the study \geq 20 weeks (IPD)	26	13173	Risk Ratio (M-H, Fixed, 95% CI)	0.99 [0.85, 1.16]
4.4 Entered into the study \geq 20 weeks (AD)	5	315	Risk Ratio (M-H, Fixed, 95% CI)	0.69 [0.35, 1.37]
4.5 Unclassified (IPD)	11	94	Risk Ratio (M-H, Fixed, 95% CI)	0.0 [0.0, 0.0]
4.6 Unclassified (AD)	1	18	Risk Ratio (M-H, Fixed, 95% CI)	0.27 [0.01, 5.92]

Analysis 2.1. Comparison 2 Antiplatelet agents versus placebo/no antiplatelet for primary prevention (primary outcomes, subgroups by gestation at entry), Outcome 1 Pre-eclampsia.

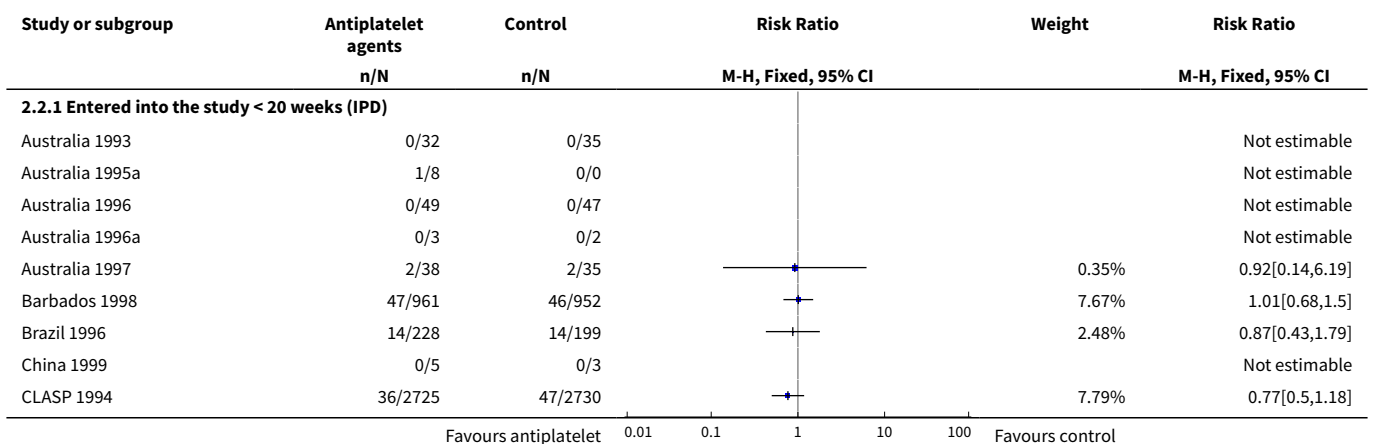


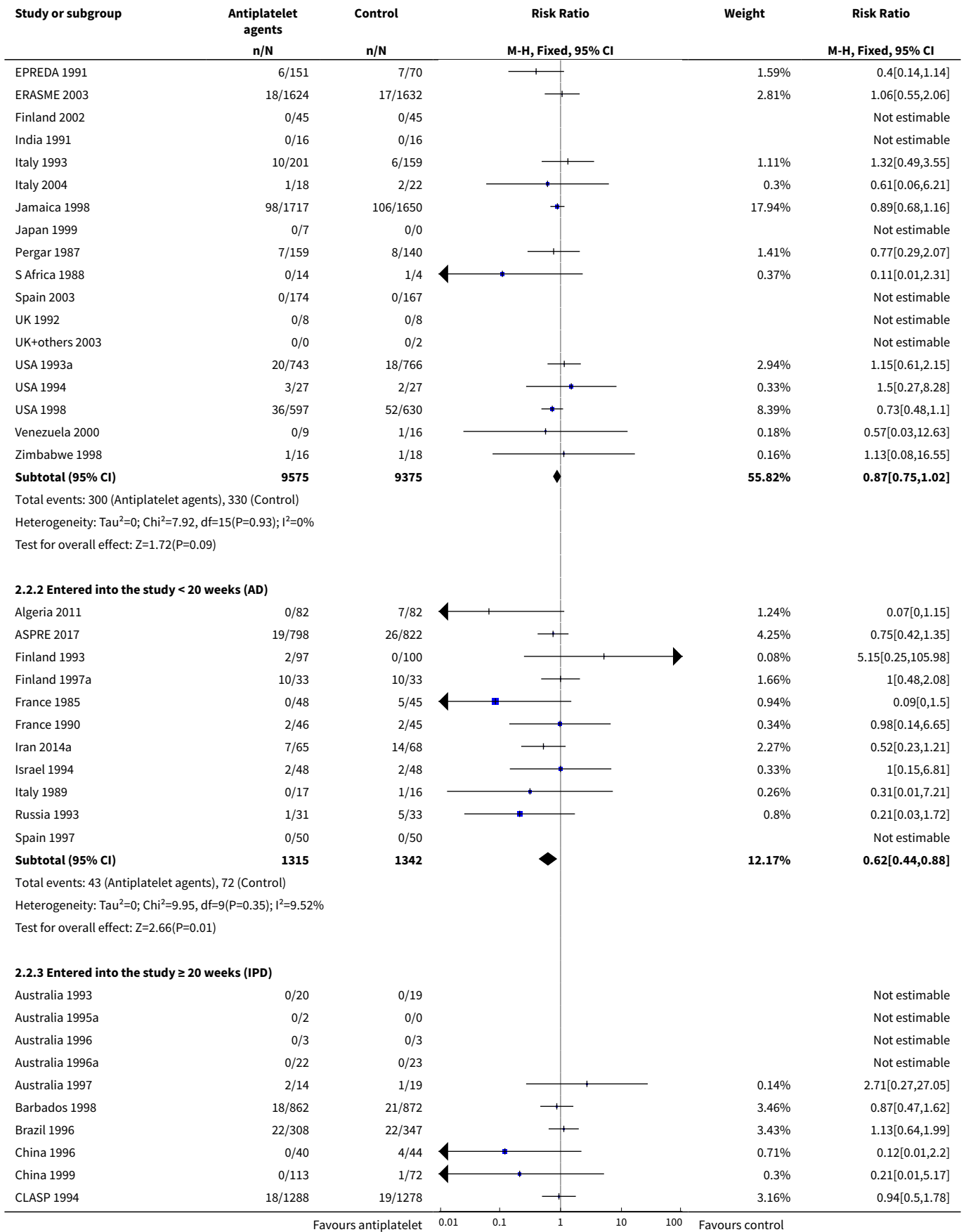


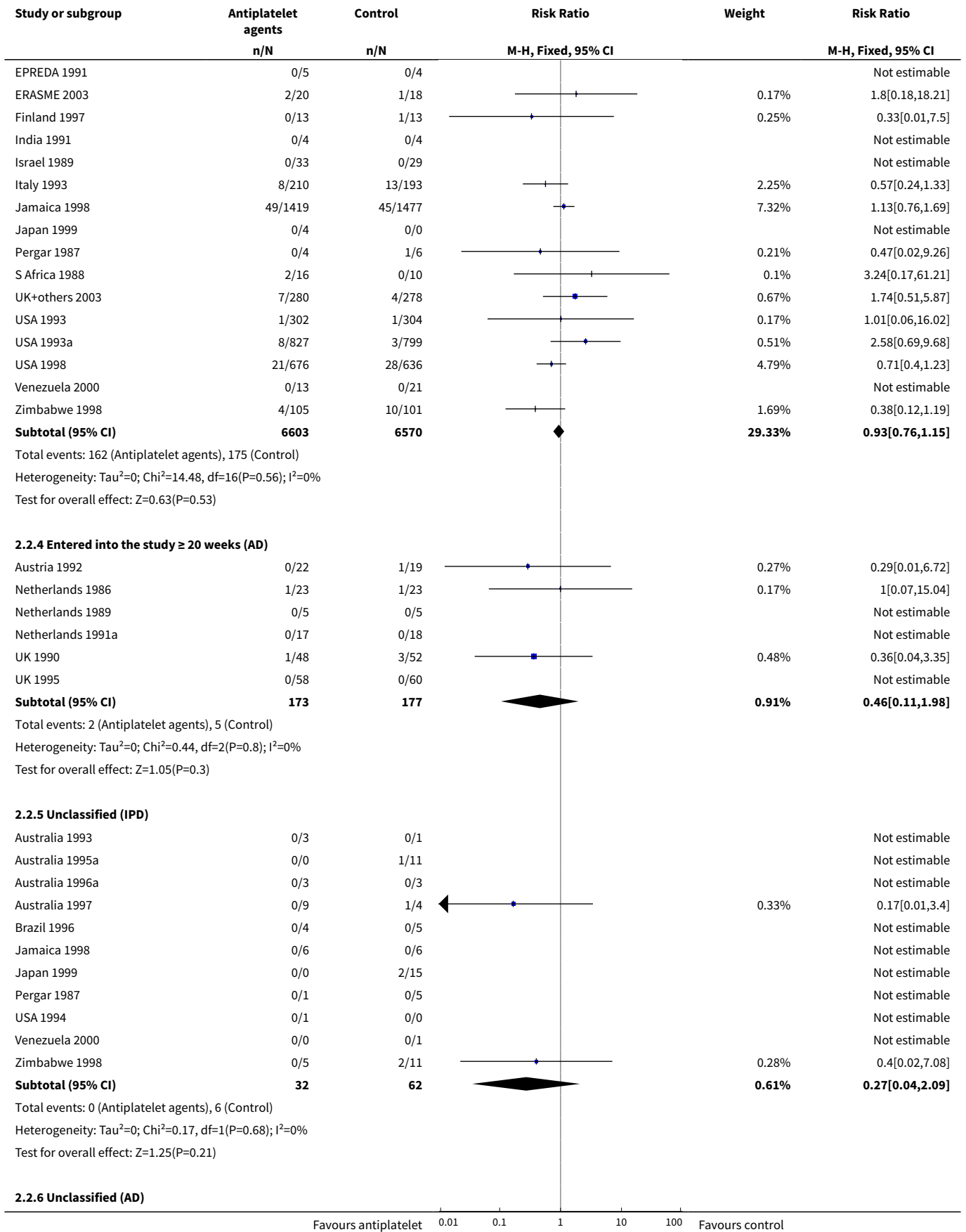


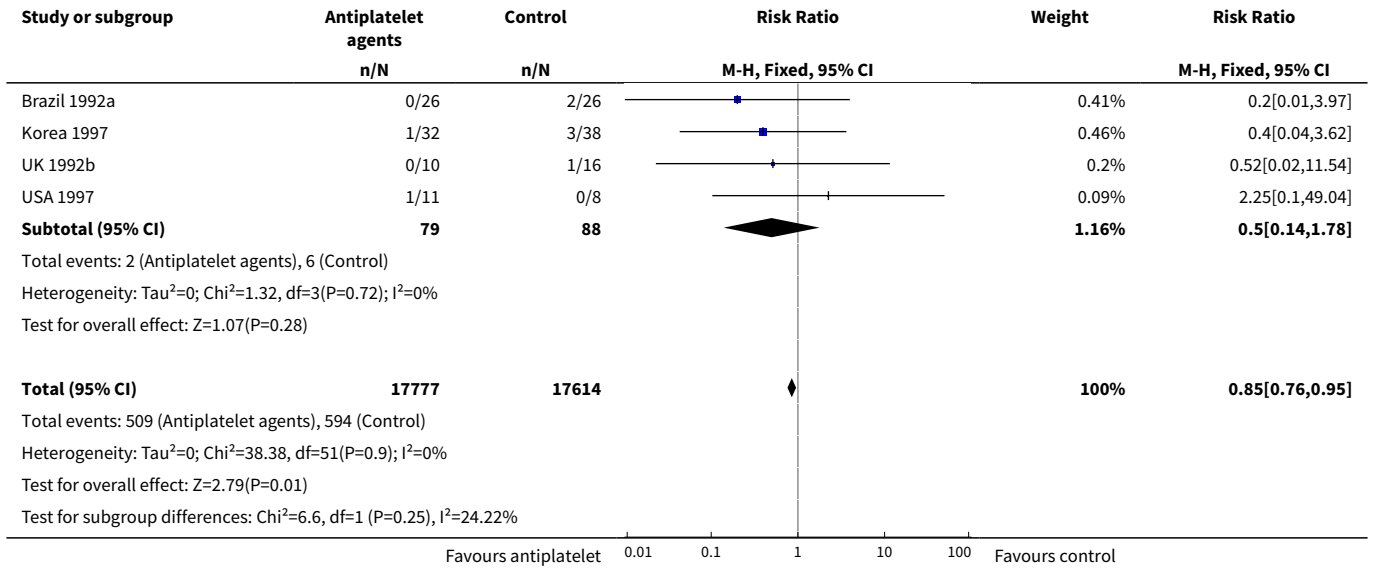


Analysis 2.2. Comparison 2 Antiplatelet agents versus placebo/no antiplatelet for primary prevention (primary outcomes, subgroups by gestation at entry), Outcome 2 Fetal death, neonatal death, or death before hospital discharge.

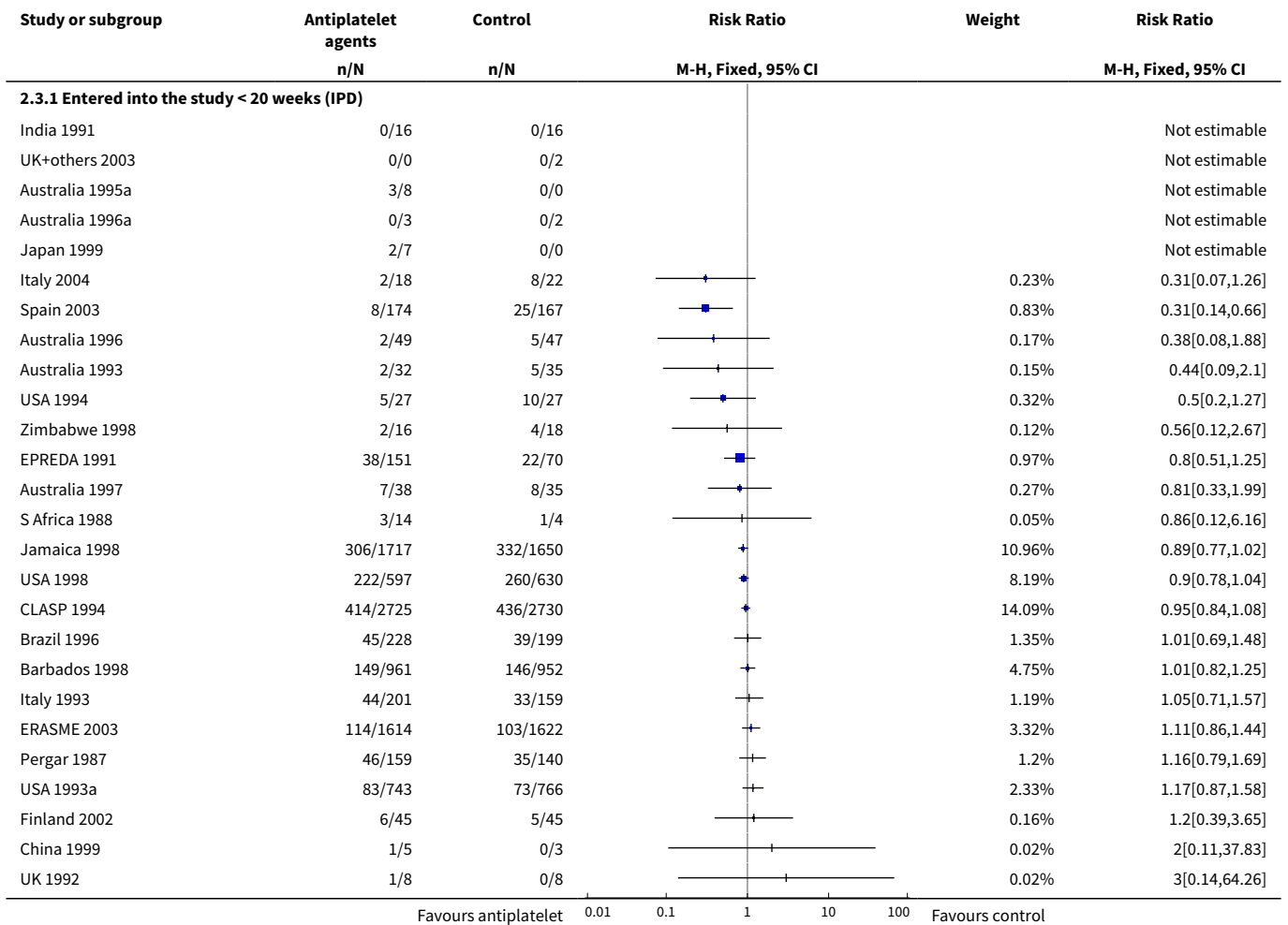


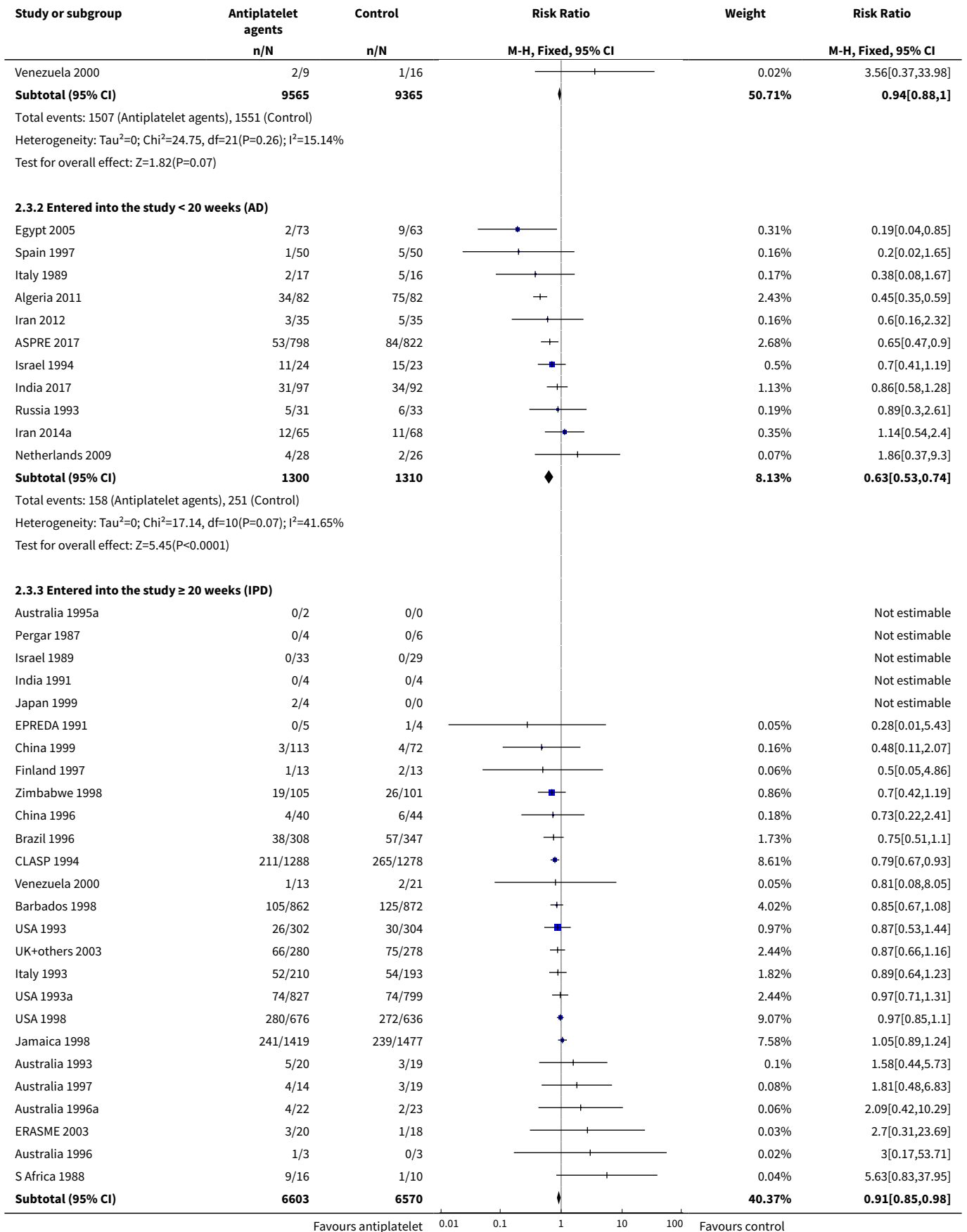


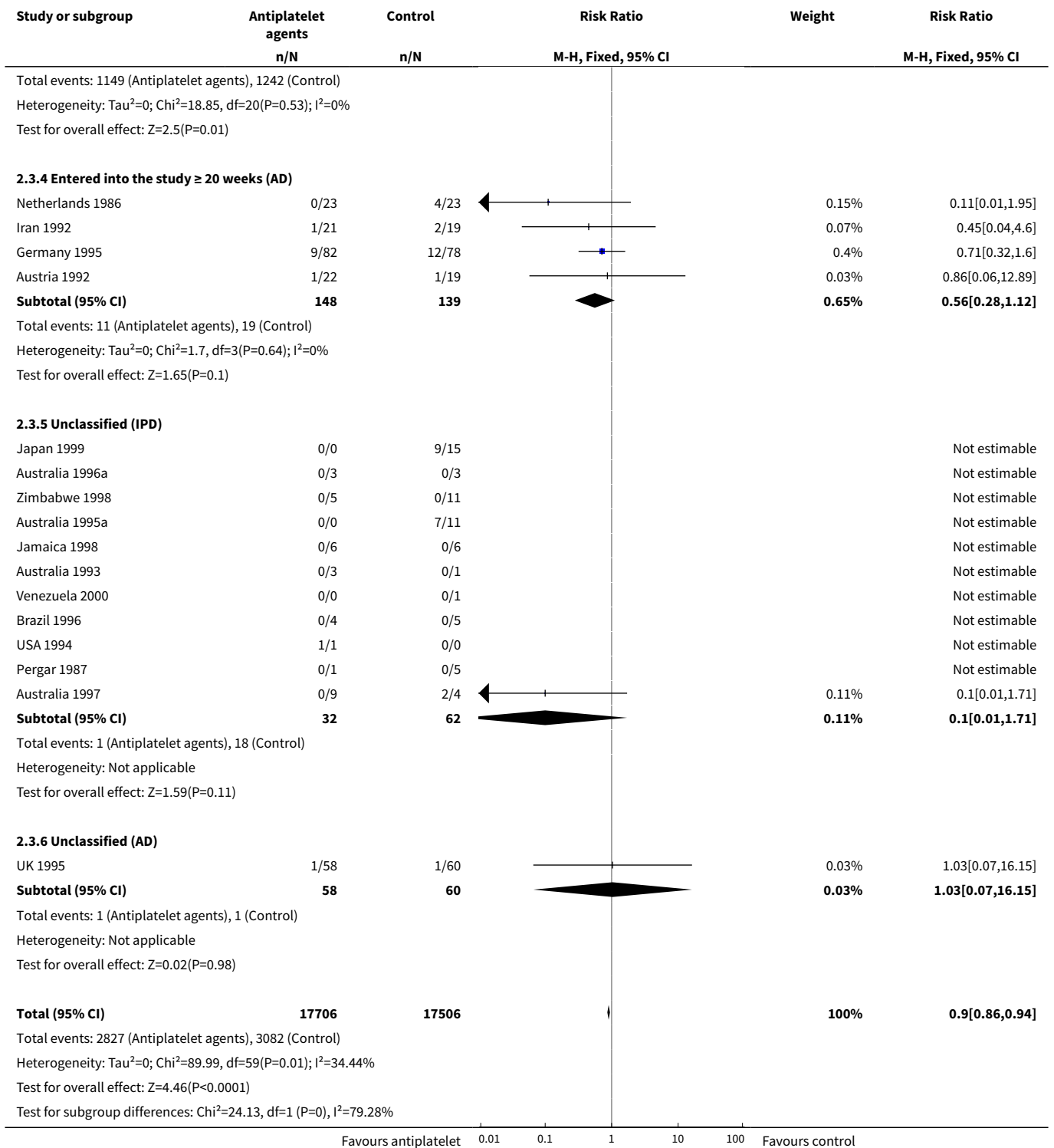




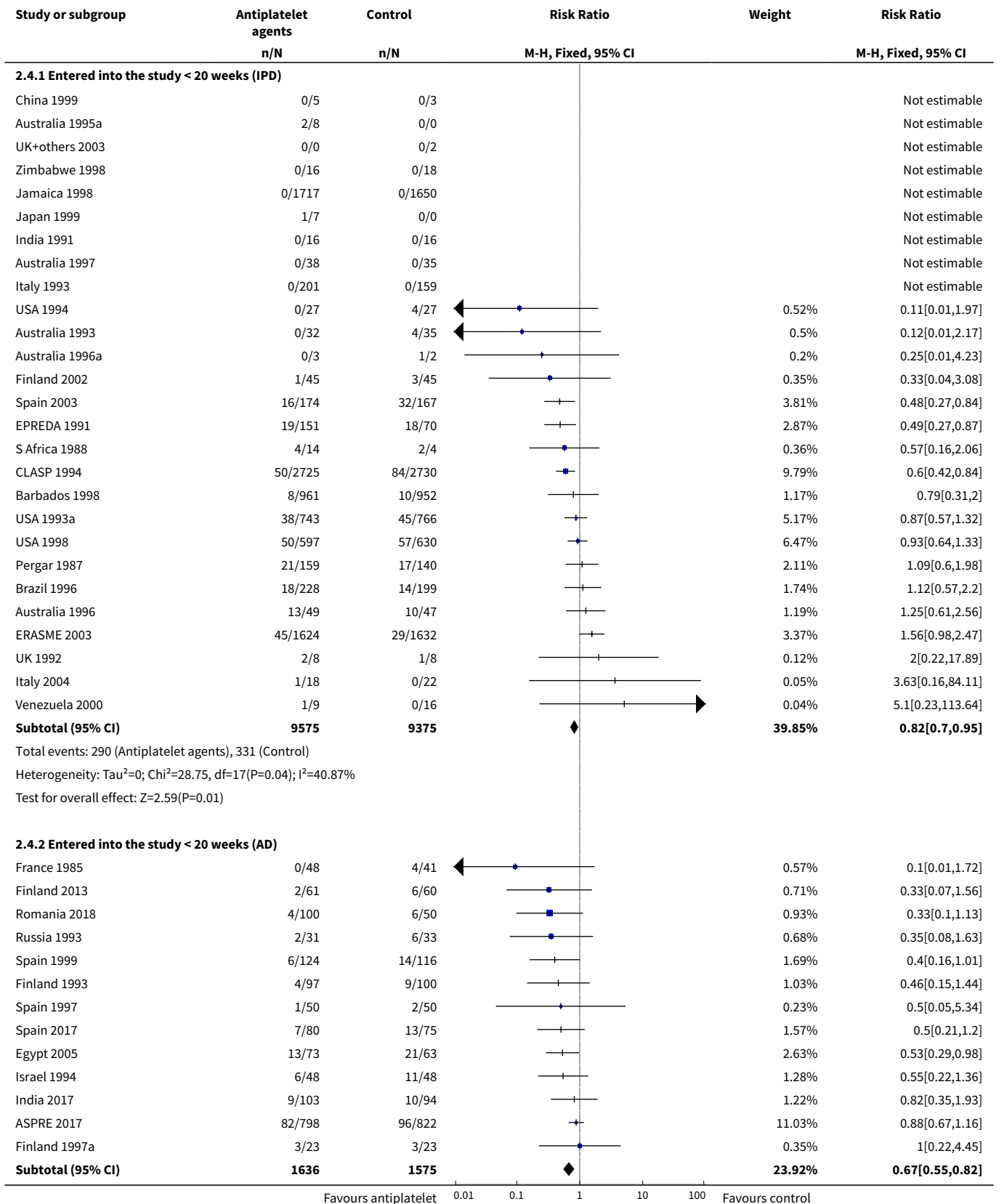
Analysis 2.3. Comparison 2 Antiplatelet agents versus placebo/no antiplatelet for primary prevention (primary outcomes, subgroups by gestation at entry), Outcome 3 Preterm birth.

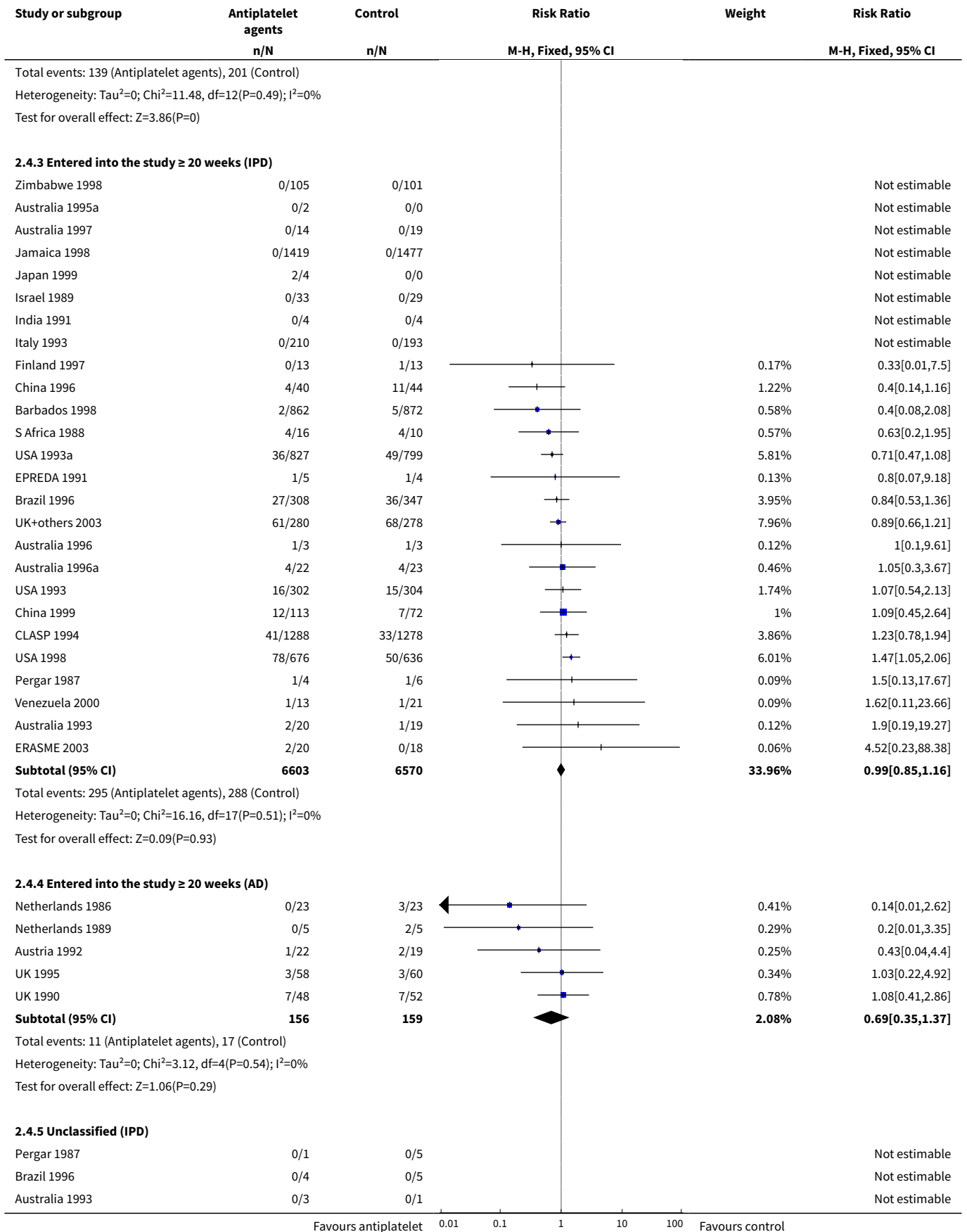


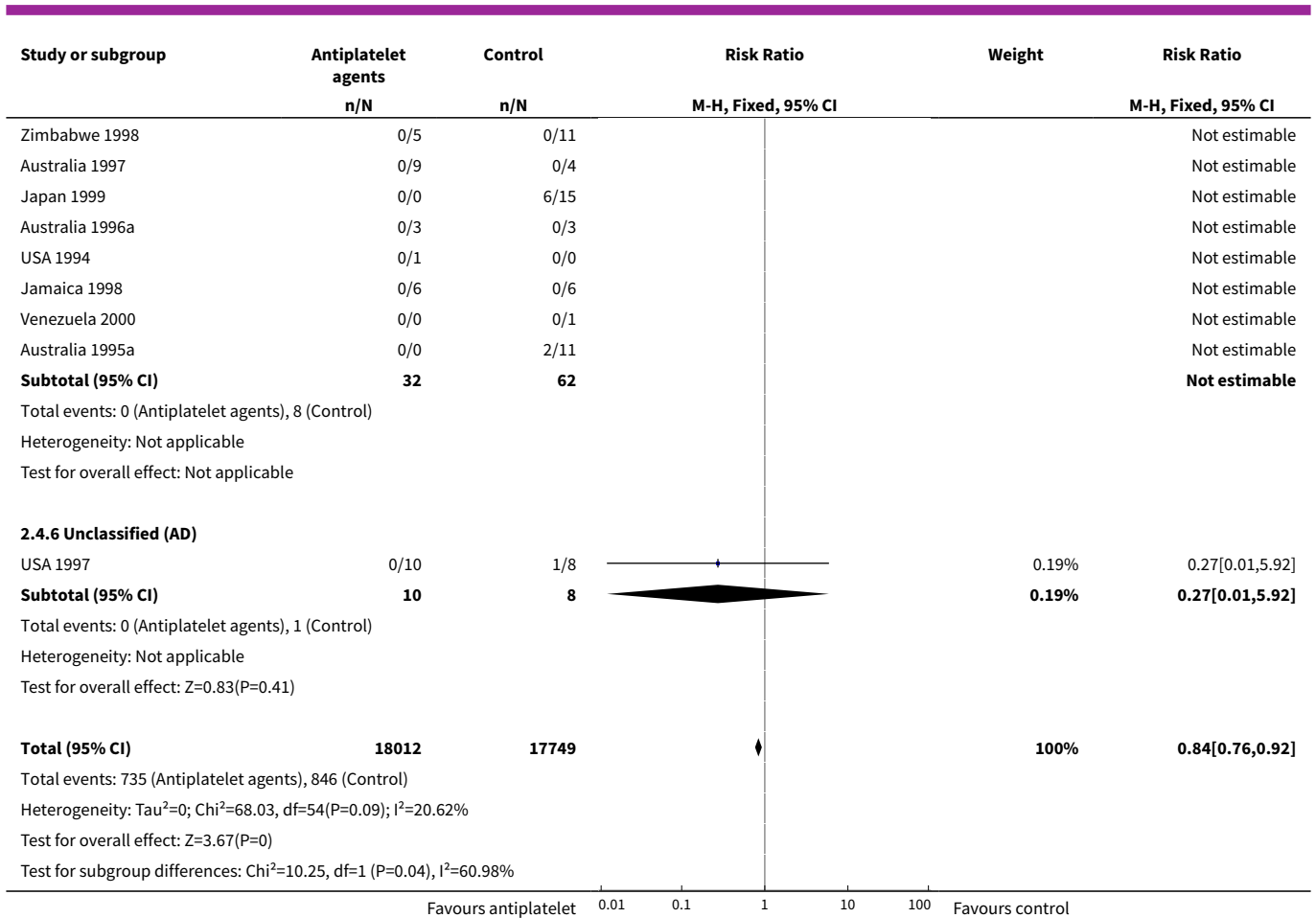




Analysis 2.4. Comparison 2 Antiplatelet agents versus placebo/no antiplatelet for primary prevention (primary outcomes, subgroups by gestation at entry), Outcome 4 Small-for-gestational age.





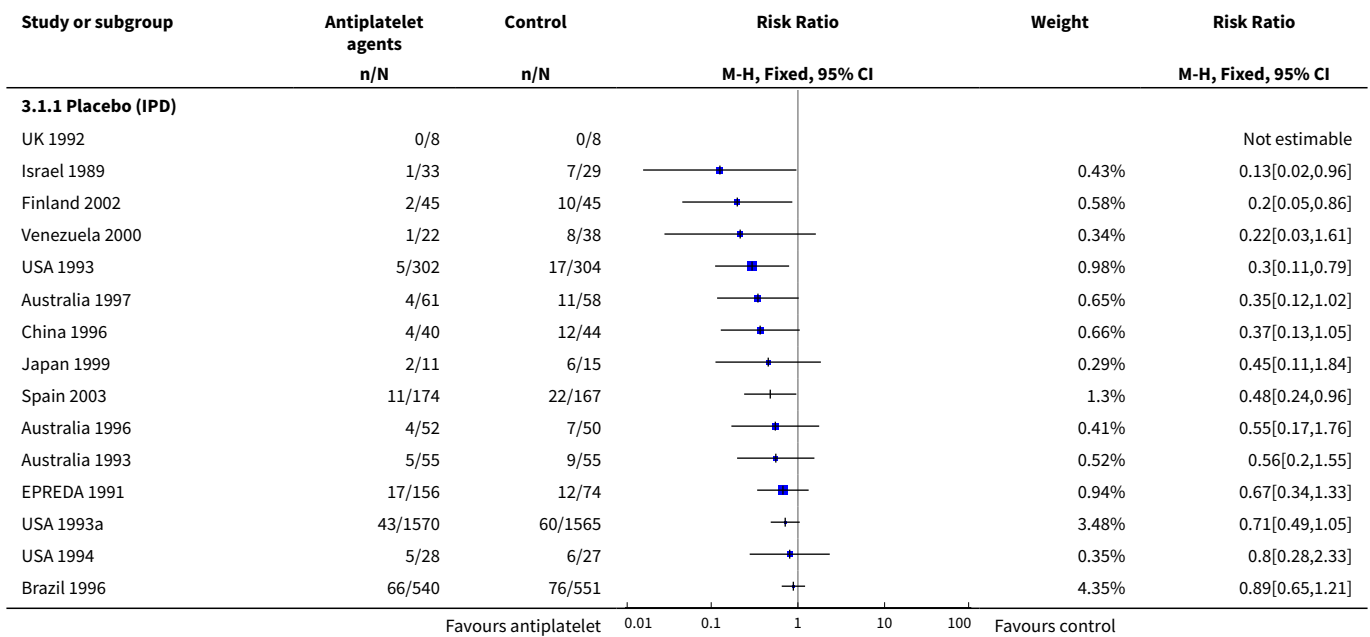


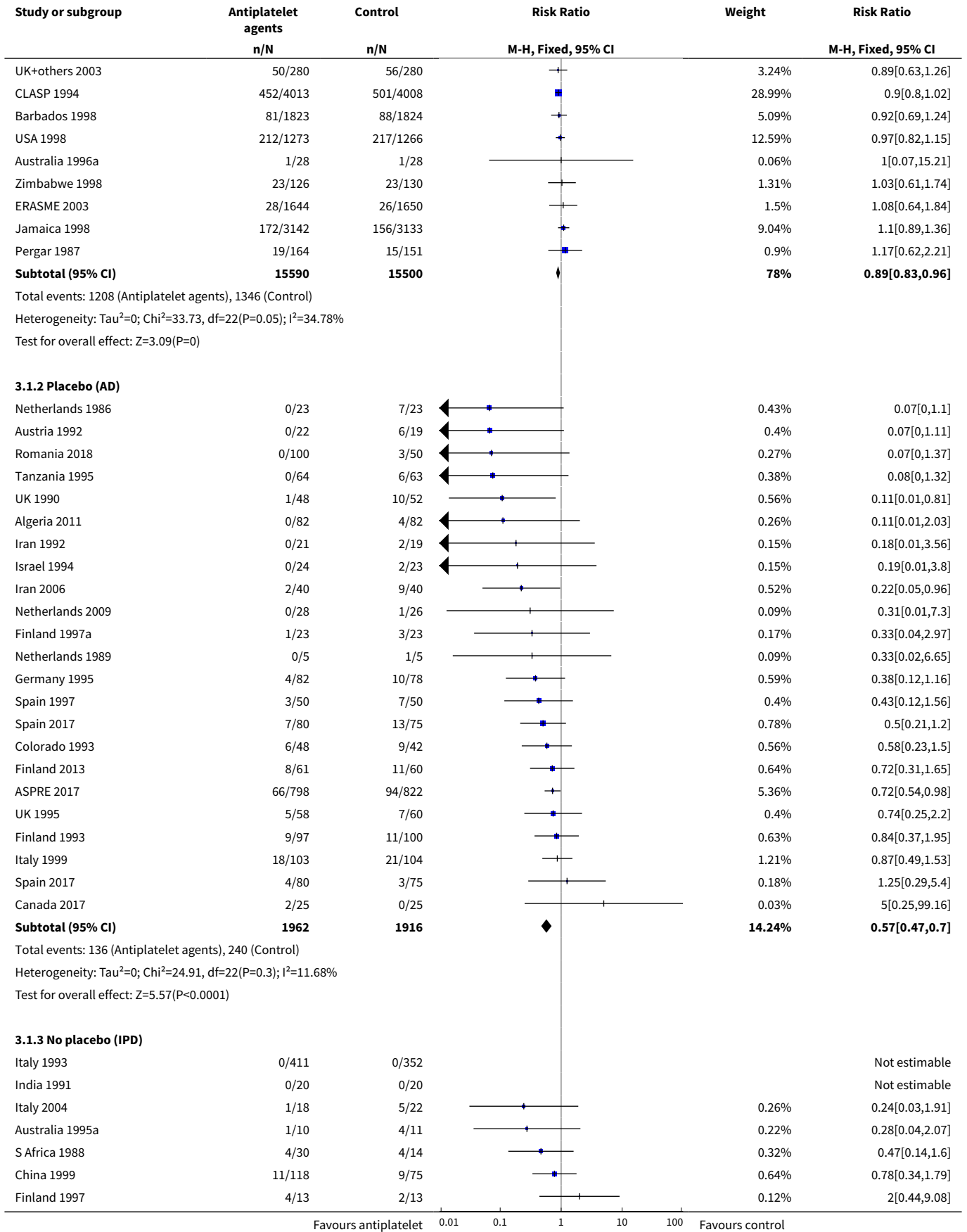
Comparison 3. Antiplatelet agents versus placebo/no treatment for primary prevention (primary outcomes, subgroups by use of placebo)

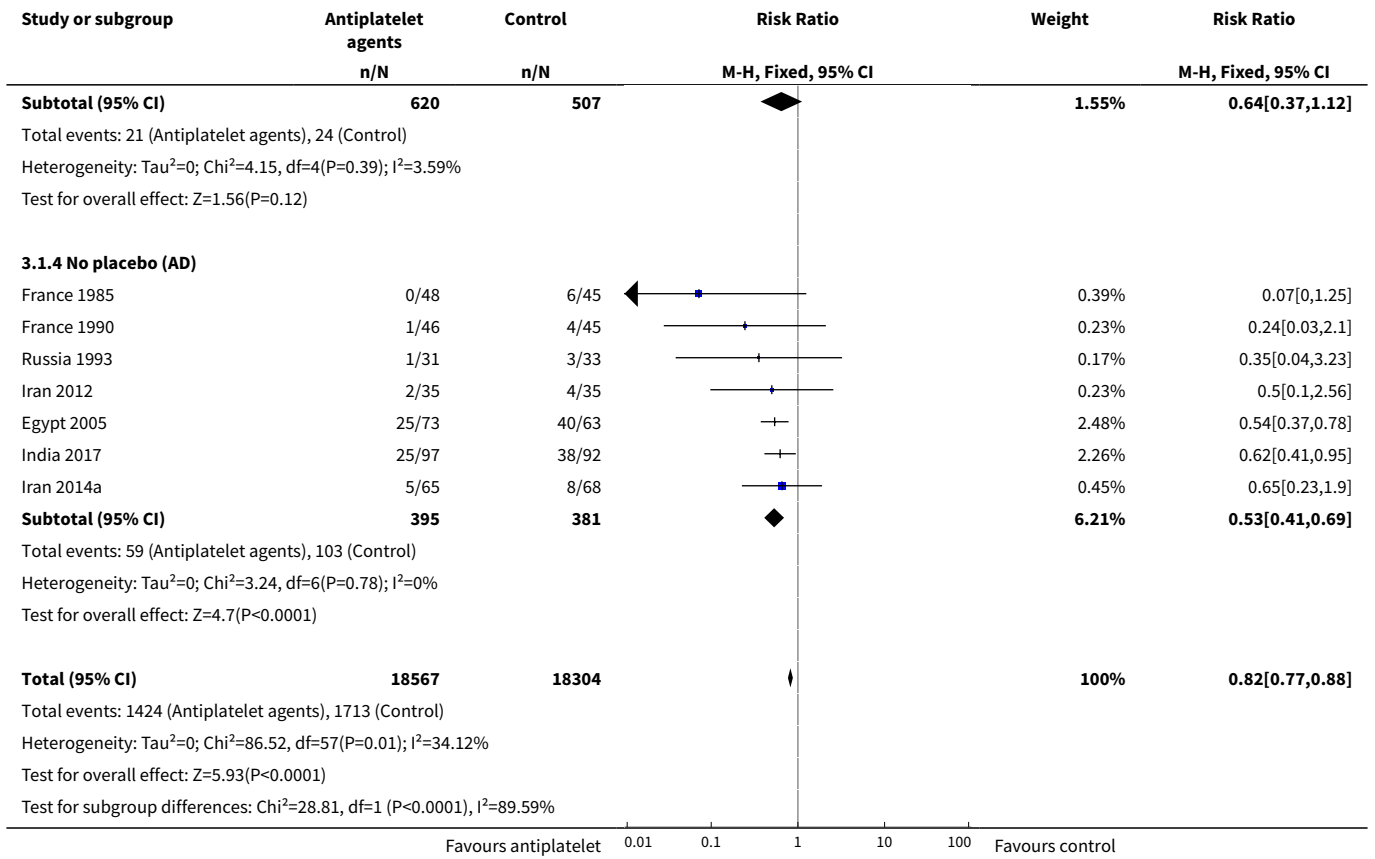
Outcome or subgroup title	No. of studies	No. of participants	Statistical method	Effect size
1 Pre-eclampsia	60	36871	Risk Ratio (M-H, Fixed, 95% CI)	0.82 [0.77, 0.88]
1.1 Placebo (IPD)	24	31090	Risk Ratio (M-H, Fixed, 95% CI)	0.89 [0.83, 0.96]
1.2 Placebo (AD)	22	3878	Risk Ratio (M-H, Fixed, 95% CI)	0.57 [0.47, 0.70]
1.3 No placebo (IPD)	7	1127	Risk Ratio (M-H, Fixed, 95% CI)	0.64 [0.37, 1.12]
1.4 No placebo (AD)	7	776	Risk Ratio (M-H, Fixed, 95% CI)	0.53 [0.41, 0.69]
2 Fetal death, neonatal death, or death before hospital discharge	52	35391	Risk Ratio (M-H, Fixed, 95% CI)	0.85 [0.76, 0.95]
2.1 Placebo (IPD)	24	31090	Risk Ratio (M-H, Fixed, 95% CI)	0.90 [0.79, 1.02]
2.2 Placebo (AD)	14	2652	Risk Ratio (M-H, Fixed, 95% CI)	0.70 [0.47, 1.05]

Outcome or subgroup title	No. of studies	No. of participants	Statistical method	Effect size
2.3 No placebo (IPD)	7	1127	Risk Ratio (M-H, Fixed, 95% CI)	0.75 [0.43, 1.30]
2.4 No placebo (AD)	6	452	Risk Ratio (M-H, Fixed, 95% CI)	0.42 [0.23, 0.80]
2.5 Unclear/unspecified (AD)	1	70	Risk Ratio (M-H, Fixed, 95% CI)	0.40 [0.04, 3.62]
3 Preterm birth	47	35212	Risk Ratio (M-H, Fixed, 95% CI)	0.90 [0.86, 0.94]
3.1 Placebo (IPD)	24	31070	Risk Ratio (M-H, Fixed, 95% CI)	0.93 [0.89, 0.98]
3.2 Placebo (AD)	11	2423	Risk Ratio (M-H, Fixed, 95% CI)	0.57 [0.47, 0.69]
3.3 No placebo (IPD)	7	1127	Risk Ratio (M-H, Fixed, 95% CI)	0.90 [0.72, 1.14]
3.4 No placebo (AD)	5	592	Risk Ratio (M-H, Fixed, 95% CI)	0.79 [0.58, 1.08]
4 Small-for-gestational age	49	35606	Risk Ratio (M-H, Fixed, 95% CI)	0.84 [0.77, 0.93]
4.1 Placebo (IPD)	24	31090	Risk Ratio (M-H, Fixed, 95% CI)	0.90 [0.81, 1.00]
4.2 Placebo (AD)	13	2885	Risk Ratio (M-H, Fixed, 95% CI)	0.72 [0.58, 0.90]
4.3 No Placebo (IPD)	7	1127	Risk Ratio (M-H, Fixed, 95% CI)	0.91 [0.52, 1.58]
4.4 No placebo (AD)	5	504	Risk Ratio (M-H, Fixed, 95% CI)	0.52 [0.33, 0.82]

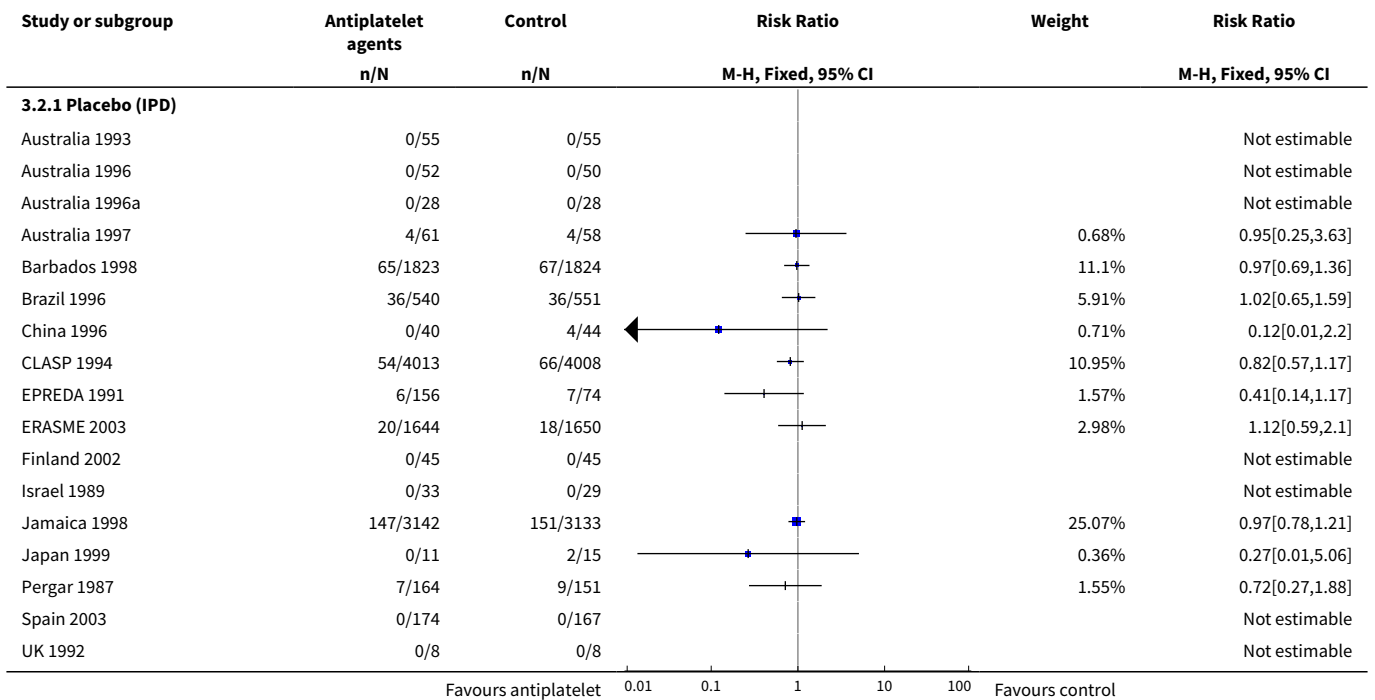
Analysis 3.1. Comparison 3 Antiplatelet agents versus placebo/no treatment for primary prevention (primary outcomes, subgroups by use of placebo), Outcome 1 Pre-eclampsia.

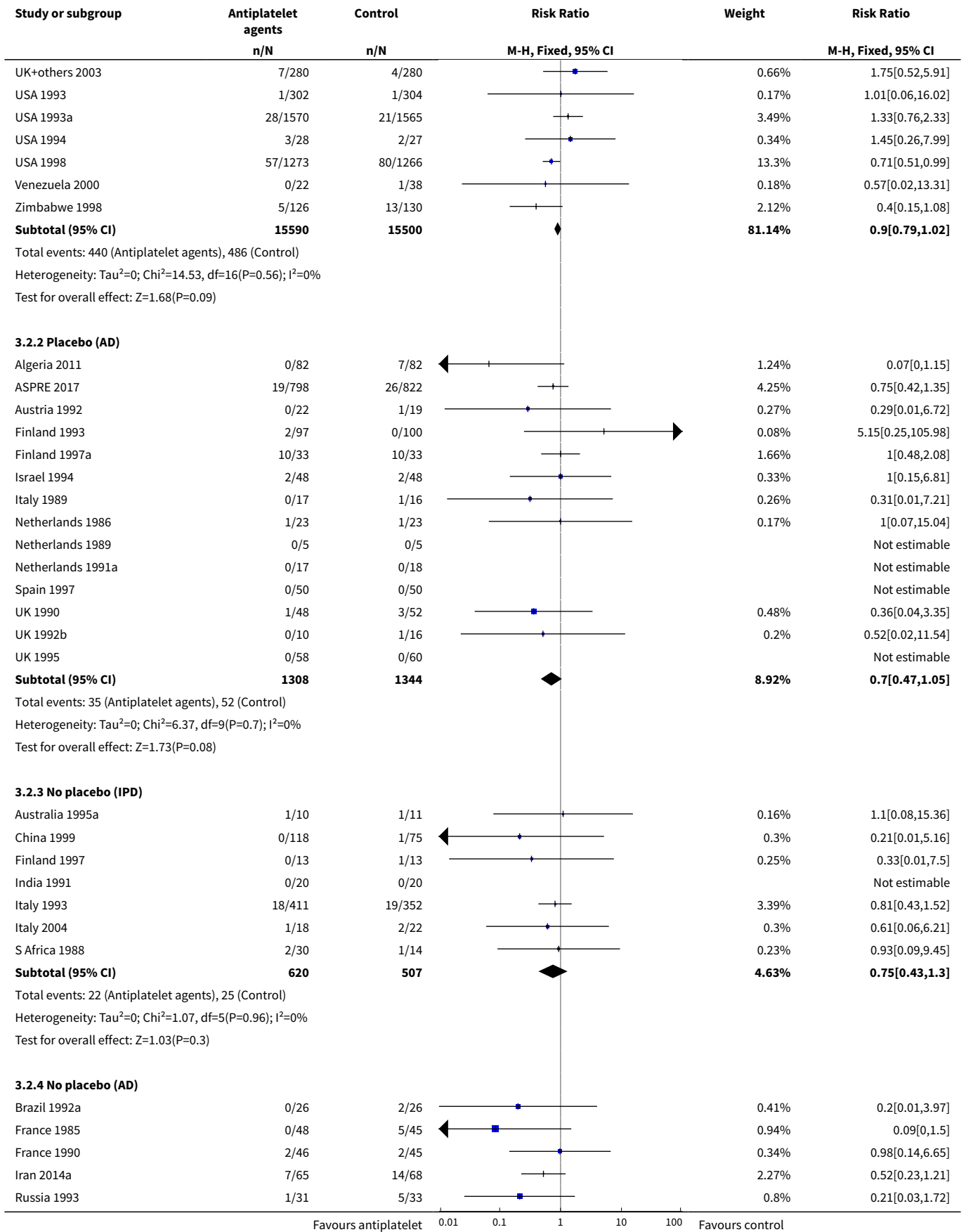


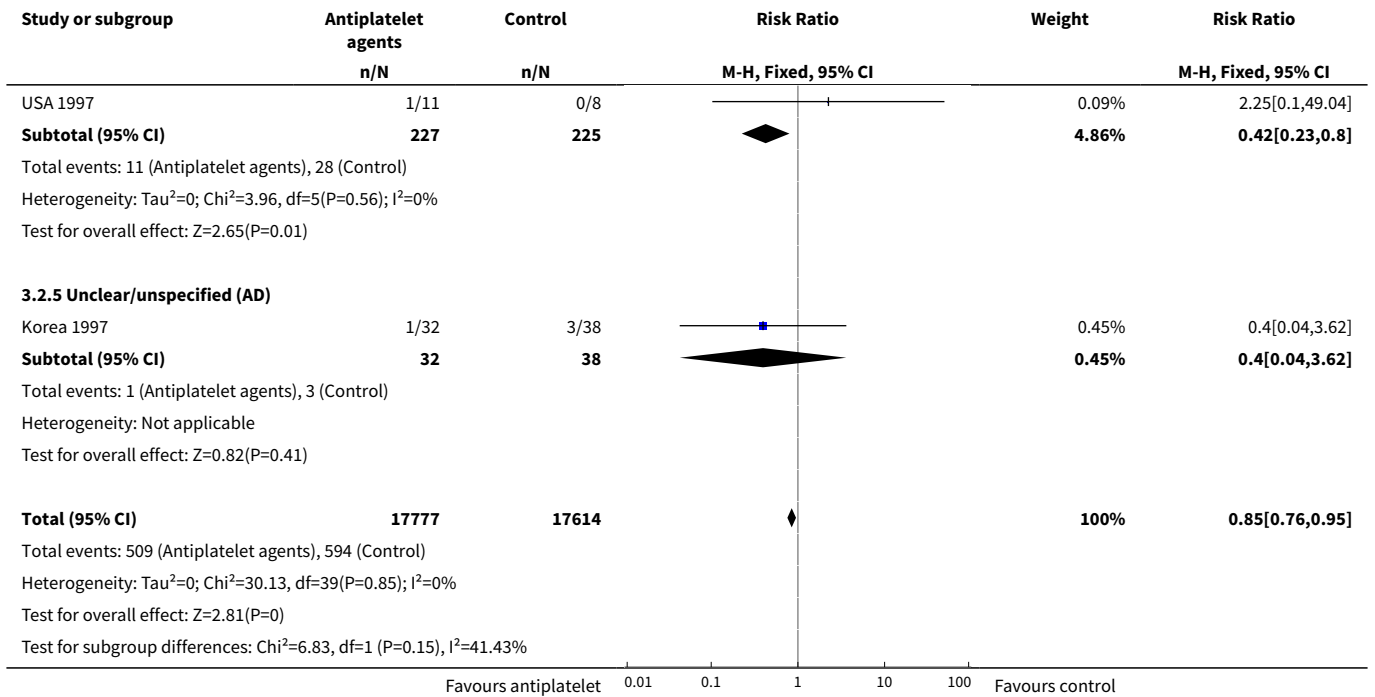




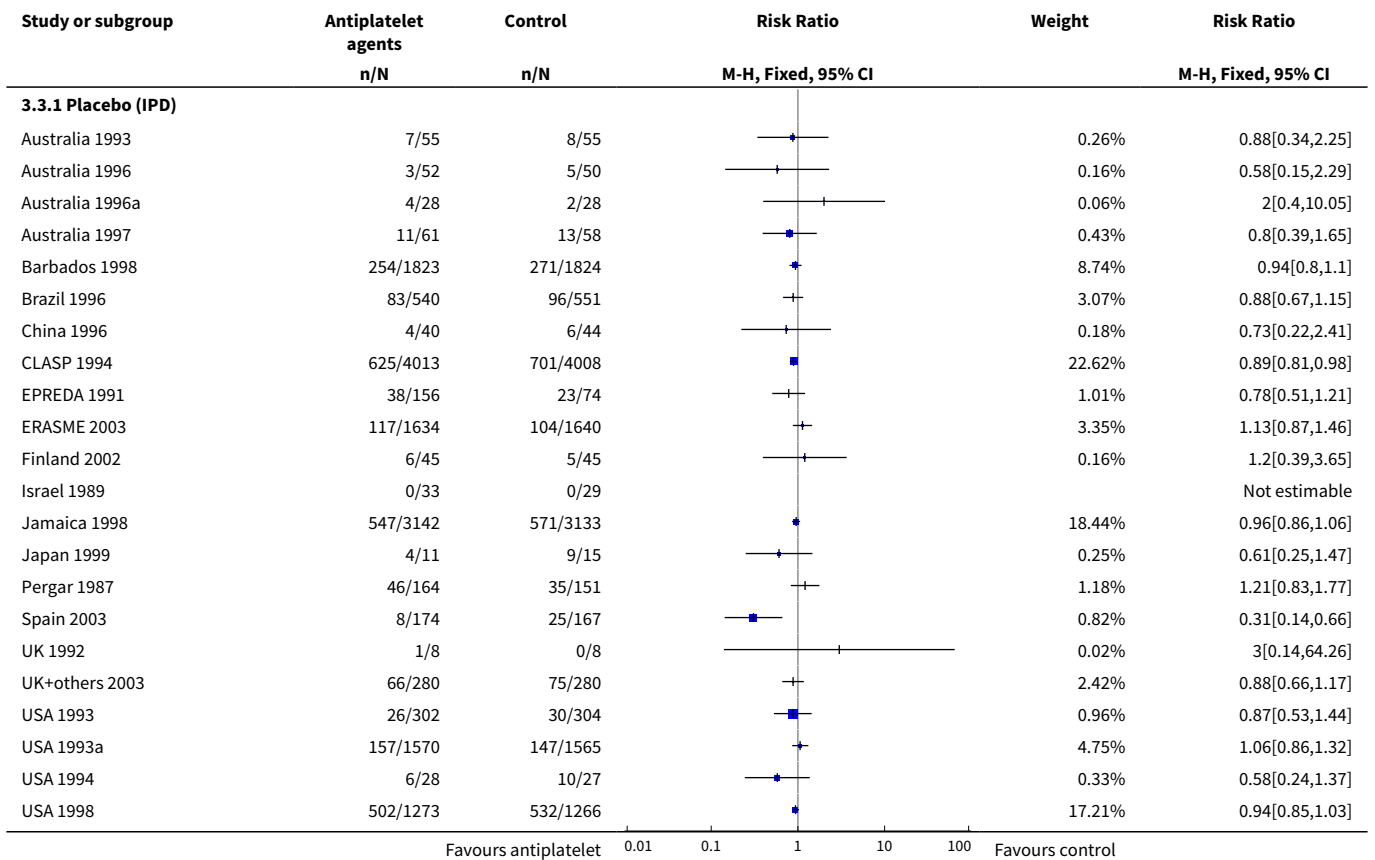
Analysis 3.2. Comparison 3 Antiplatelet agents versus placebo/no treatment for primary prevention (primary outcomes, subgroups by use of placebo), Outcome 2 Fetal death, neonatal death, or death before hospital discharge.

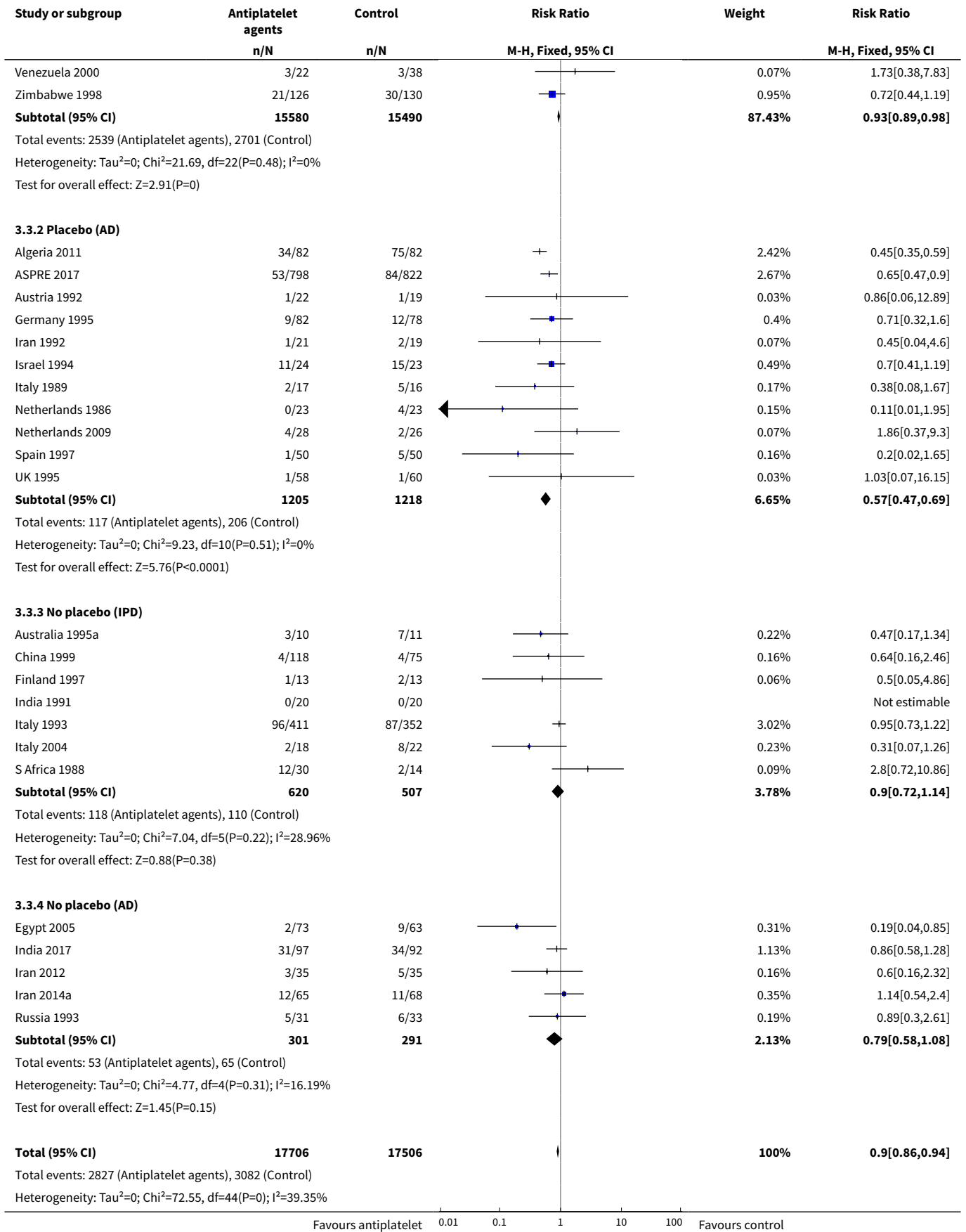


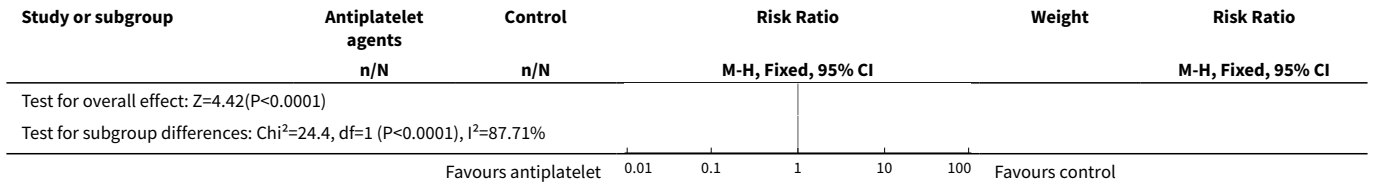




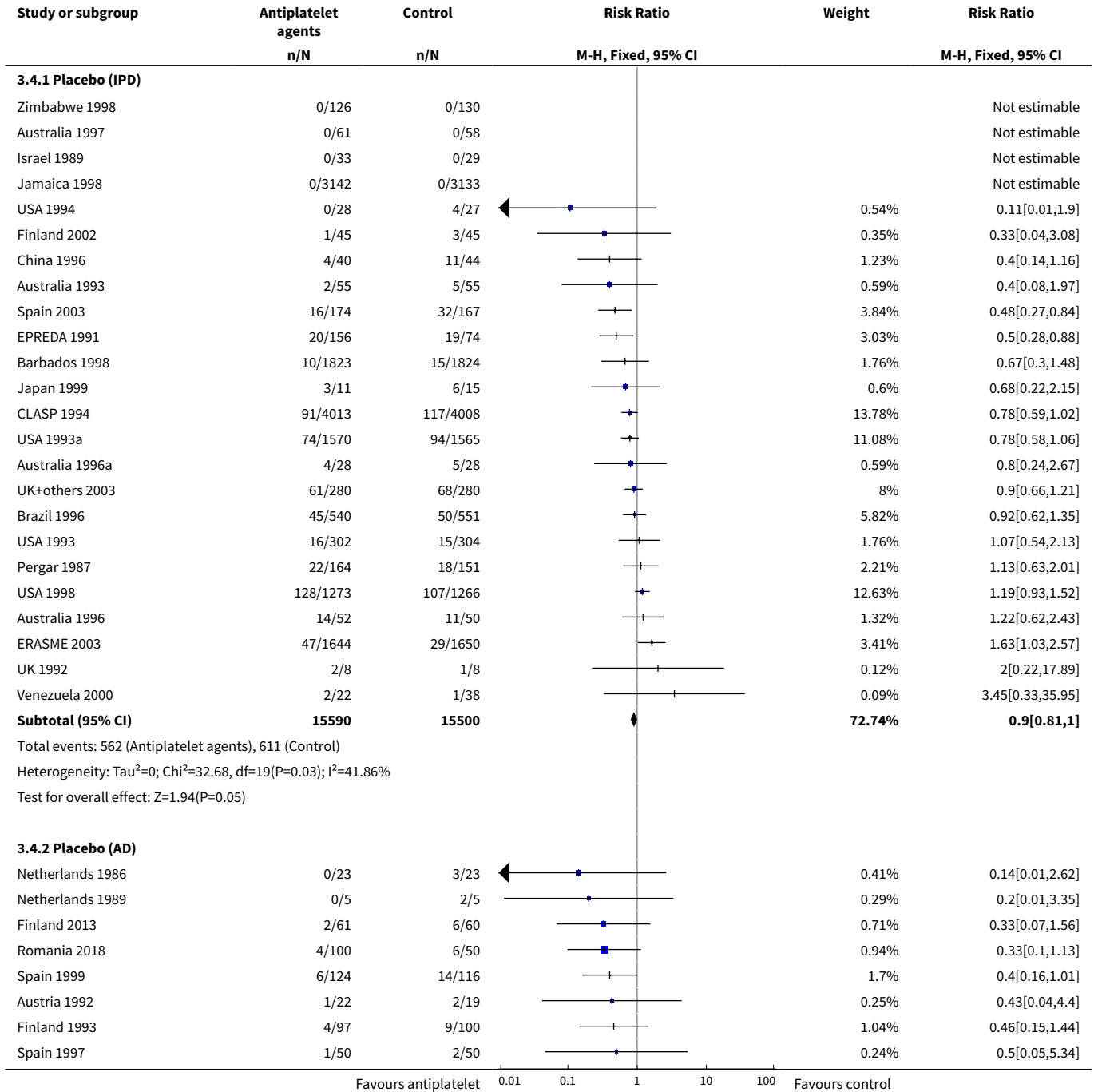
Analysis 3.3. Comparison 3 Antiplatelet agents versus placebo/no treatment for primary prevention (primary outcomes, subgroups by use of placebo), Outcome 3 Preterm birth.

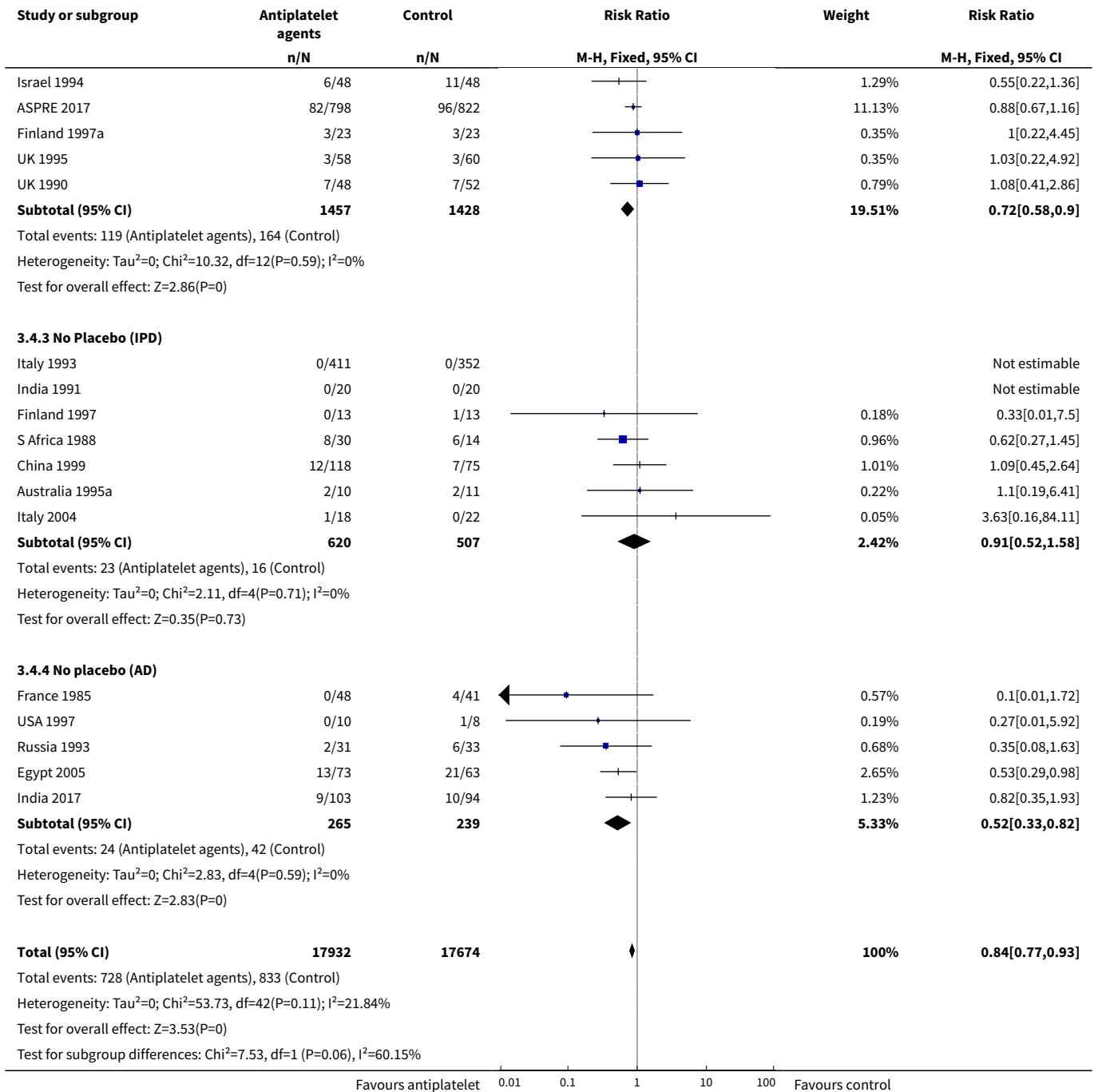






Analysis 3.4. Comparison 3 Antiplatelet agents versus placebo/no treatment for primary prevention (primary outcomes, subgroups by use of placebo), Outcome 4 Small-for-gestational age.





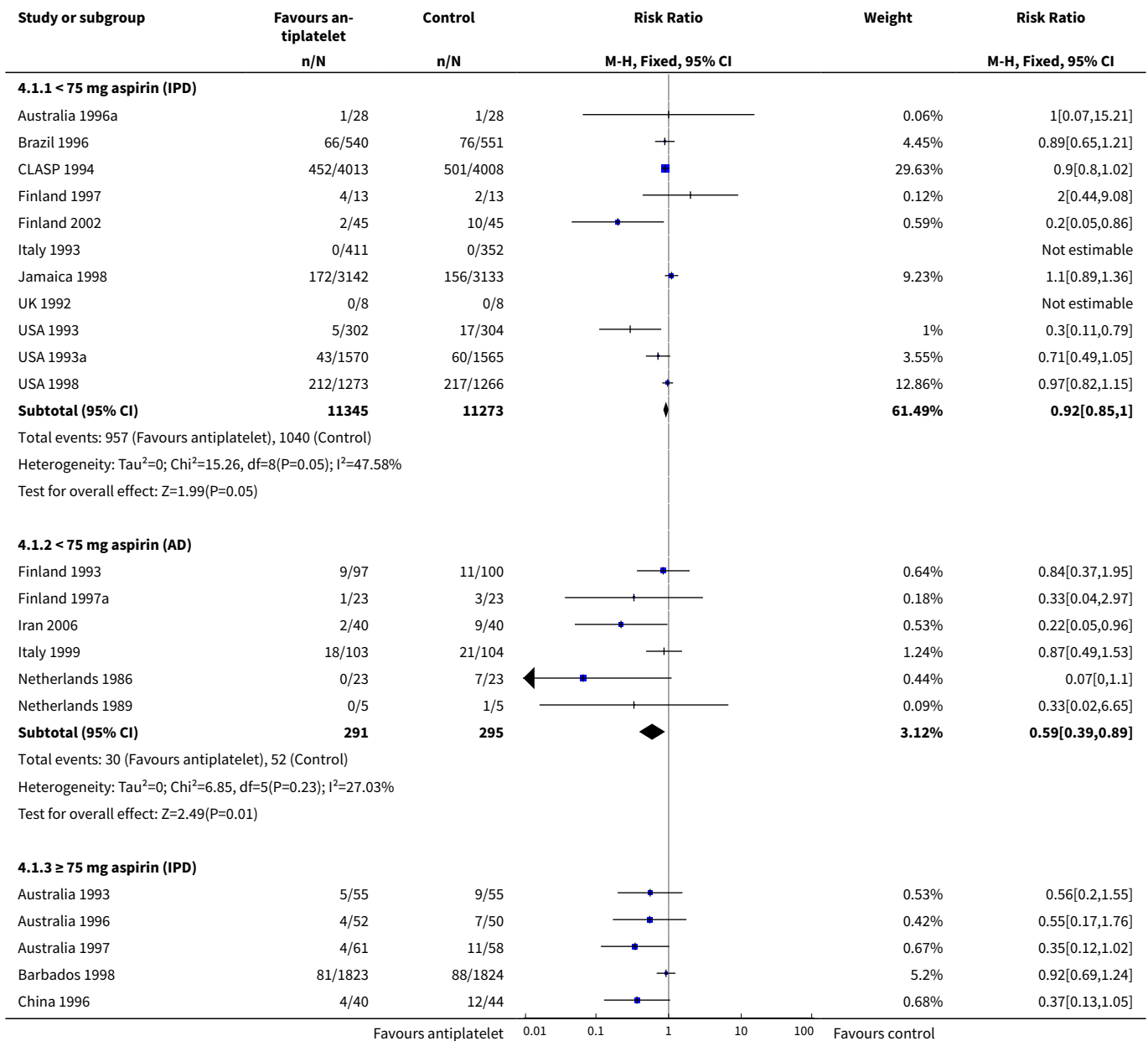
Comparison 4. Antiplatelet agents versus placebo/no treatment for primary prevention (primary outcomes, subgroups by dose)

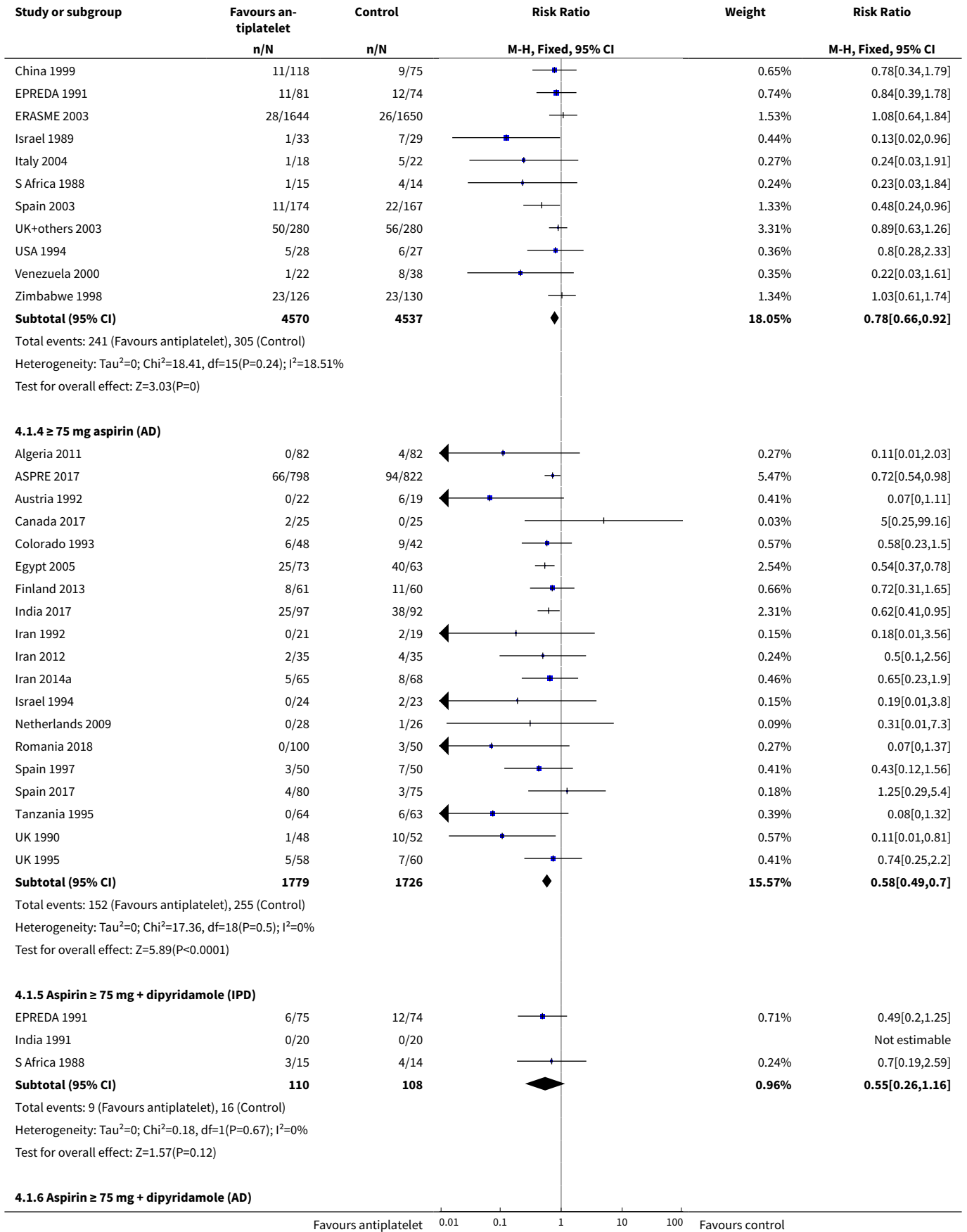
Outcome or subgroup title	No. of studies	No. of participants	Statistical method	Effect size
1 Pre-eclampsia	56	36282	Risk Ratio (M-H, Fixed, 95% CI)	0.82 [0.77, 0.88]
1.1 < 75 mg aspirin (IPD)	11	22618	Risk Ratio (M-H, Fixed, 95% CI)	0.92 [0.85, 1.00]

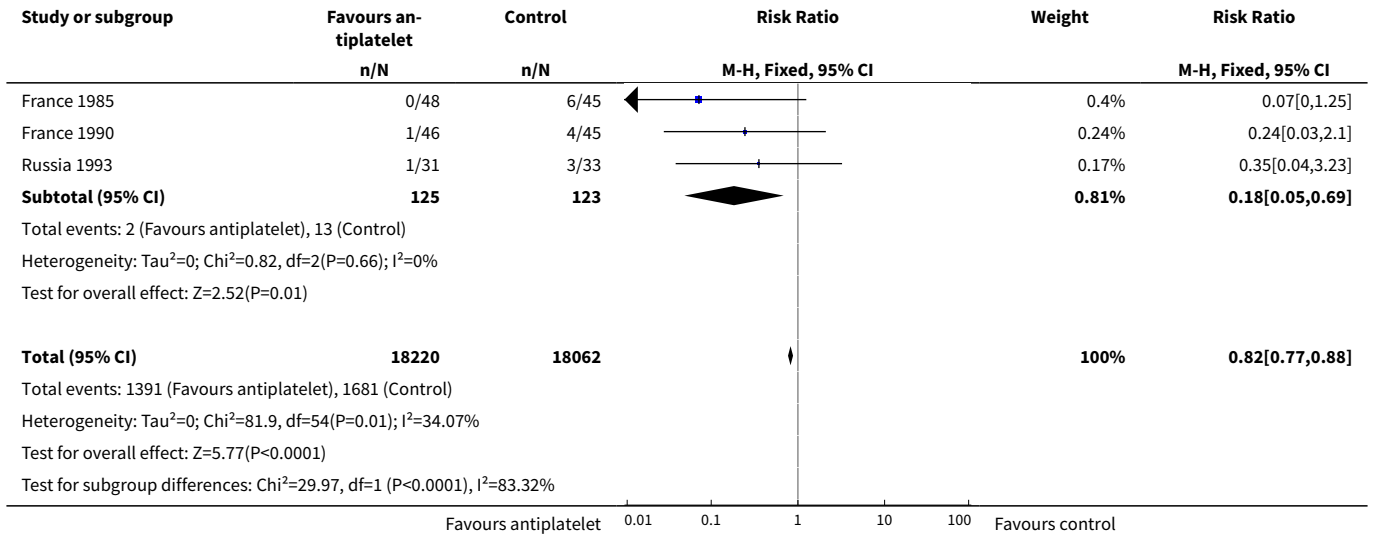
Outcome or subgroup title	No. of studies	No. of participants	Statistical method	Effect size
1.2 < 75 mg aspirin (AD)	6	586	Risk Ratio (M-H, Fixed, 95% CI)	0.59 [0.39, 0.89]
1.3 ≥ 75 mg aspirin (IPD)	16	9107	Risk Ratio (M-H, Fixed, 95% CI)	0.78 [0.66, 0.92]
1.4 ≥ 75 mg aspirin (AD)	19	3505	Risk Ratio (M-H, Fixed, 95% CI)	0.58 [0.49, 0.70]
1.5 Aspirin ≥ 75 mg + dipyridamole (IPD)	3	218	Risk Ratio (M-H, Fixed, 95% CI)	0.55 [0.26, 1.16]
1.6 Aspirin ≥ 75 mg + dipyridamole (AD)	3	248	Risk Ratio (M-H, Fixed, 95% CI)	0.18 [0.05, 0.69]
2 Fetal death, neonatal death, or death before hospital discharge	49	35117	Risk Ratio (M-H, Fixed, 95% CI)	0.85 [0.76, 0.95]
2.1 < 75 mg aspirin (IPD)	16	27025	Risk Ratio (M-H, Fixed, 95% CI)	0.89 [0.78, 1.01]
2.2 < 75 mg aspirin (AD)	10	720	Risk Ratio (M-H, Fixed, 95% CI)	0.81 [0.45, 1.45]
2.3 ≥ 75 mg aspirin only (IPD)	12	4733	Risk Ratio (M-H, Fixed, 95% CI)	0.94 [0.61, 1.45]
2.4 ≥ 75 mg aspirin only (AD)	6	2165	Risk Ratio (M-H, Fixed, 95% CI)	0.51 [0.34, 0.78]
2.5 Aspirin ≥ 75 mg + dipyridamole (IPD)	3	218	Risk Ratio (M-H, Fixed, 95% CI)	0.61 [0.21, 1.80]
2.6 Aspirin ≥ 75 mg + dipyridamole (AD)	4	256	Risk Ratio (M-H, Fixed, 95% CI)	0.90 [0.23, 3.51]
3 Preterm birth	43	34778	Risk Ratio (M-H, Random, 95% CI)	0.85 [0.78, 0.93]
3.1 < 75 mg aspirin (IPD)	11	22618	Risk Ratio (M-H, Random, 95% CI)	0.93 [0.89, 0.98]
3.2 < 75 mg aspirin (AD)	2	79	Risk Ratio (M-H, Random, 95% CI)	0.29 [0.08, 1.09]
3.3 ≥ 75 mg aspirin only (IPD)	16	9087	Risk Ratio (M-H, Random, 95% CI)	0.86 [0.73, 1.01]
3.4 ≥ 75 mg aspirin only (AD)	12	2712	Risk Ratio (M-H, Random, 95% CI)	0.65 [0.50, 0.84]
3.5 Aspirin ≥ 75 mg + dipyridamole (IPD)	3	218	Risk Ratio (M-H, Random, 95% CI)	1.37 [0.34, 5.51]
3.6 Aspirin ≥ 75 mg + dipyridamole (AD)	1	64	Risk Ratio (M-H, Random, 95% CI)	0.89 [0.30, 2.61]
4 Small-for-gestational age	47	35487	Risk Ratio (M-H, Random, 95% CI)	0.78 [0.68, 0.89]
4.1 < 75 mg aspirin (IPD)	11	22618	Risk Ratio (M-H, Random, 95% CI)	0.92 [0.79, 1.07]
4.2 < 75 mg aspirin (AD)	4	299	Risk Ratio (M-H, Random, 95% CI)	0.49 [0.22, 1.13]
4.3 ≥ 75 mg aspirin only (IPD)	16	9107	Risk Ratio (M-H, Random, 95% CI)	0.76 [0.53, 1.08]

Outcome or subgroup title	No. of studies	No. of participants	Statistical method	Effect size
4.4 ≥ 75 mg aspirin only (AD)	13	3092	Risk Ratio (M-H, Random, 95% CI)	0.72 [0.58, 0.88]
4.5 Aspirin ≥ 75 mg + dipyridamole (IPD)	3	218	Risk Ratio (M-H, Random, 95% CI)	0.76 [0.40, 1.43]
4.6 Aspirin ≥ 75 mg + dipyridamole (AD)	2	153	Risk Ratio (M-H, Random, 95% CI)	0.27 [0.07, 1.03]

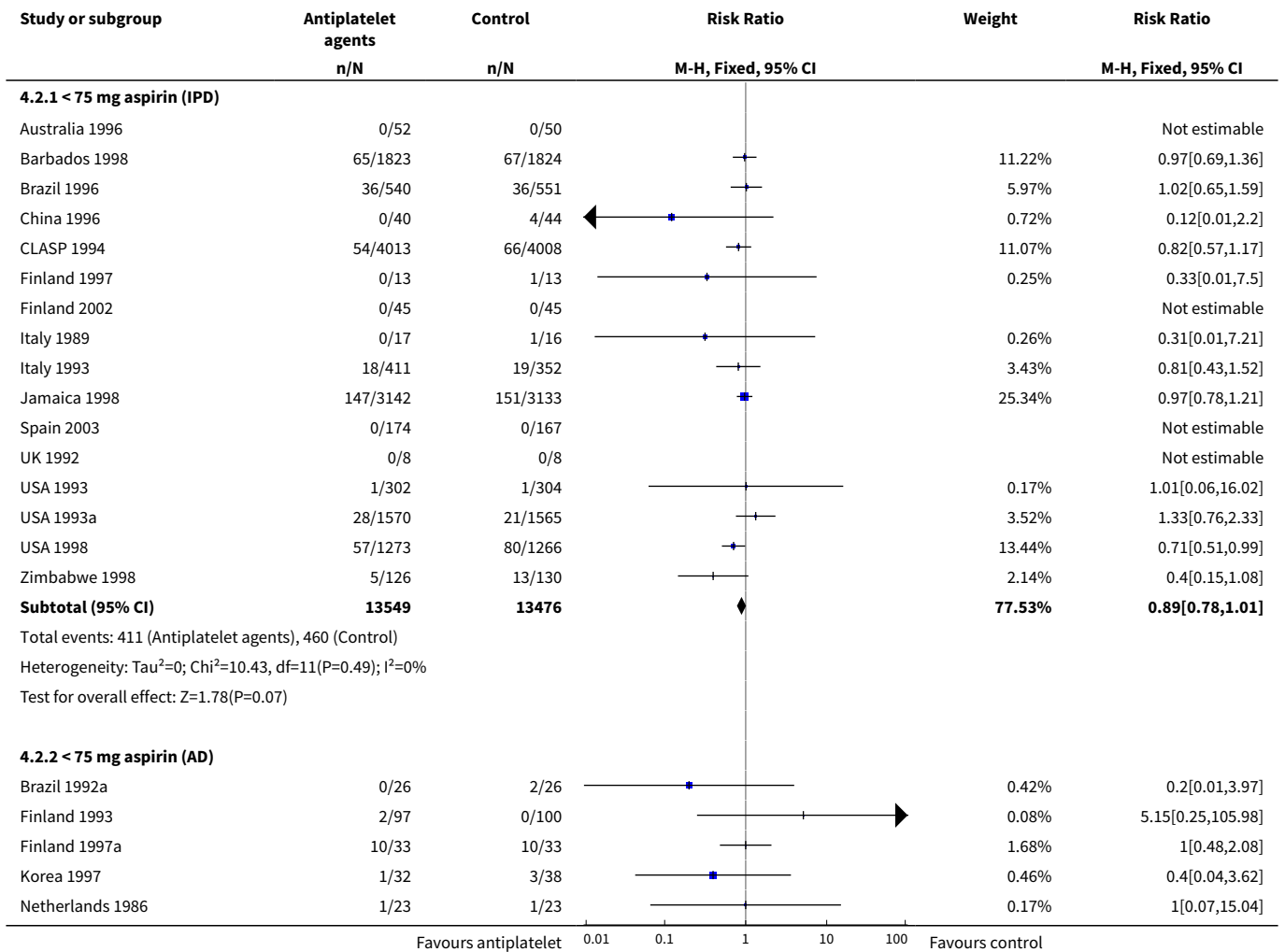
Analysis 4.1. Comparison 4 Antiplatelet agents versus placebo/no treatment for primary prevention (primary outcomes, subgroups by dose), Outcome 1 Pre-eclampsia.

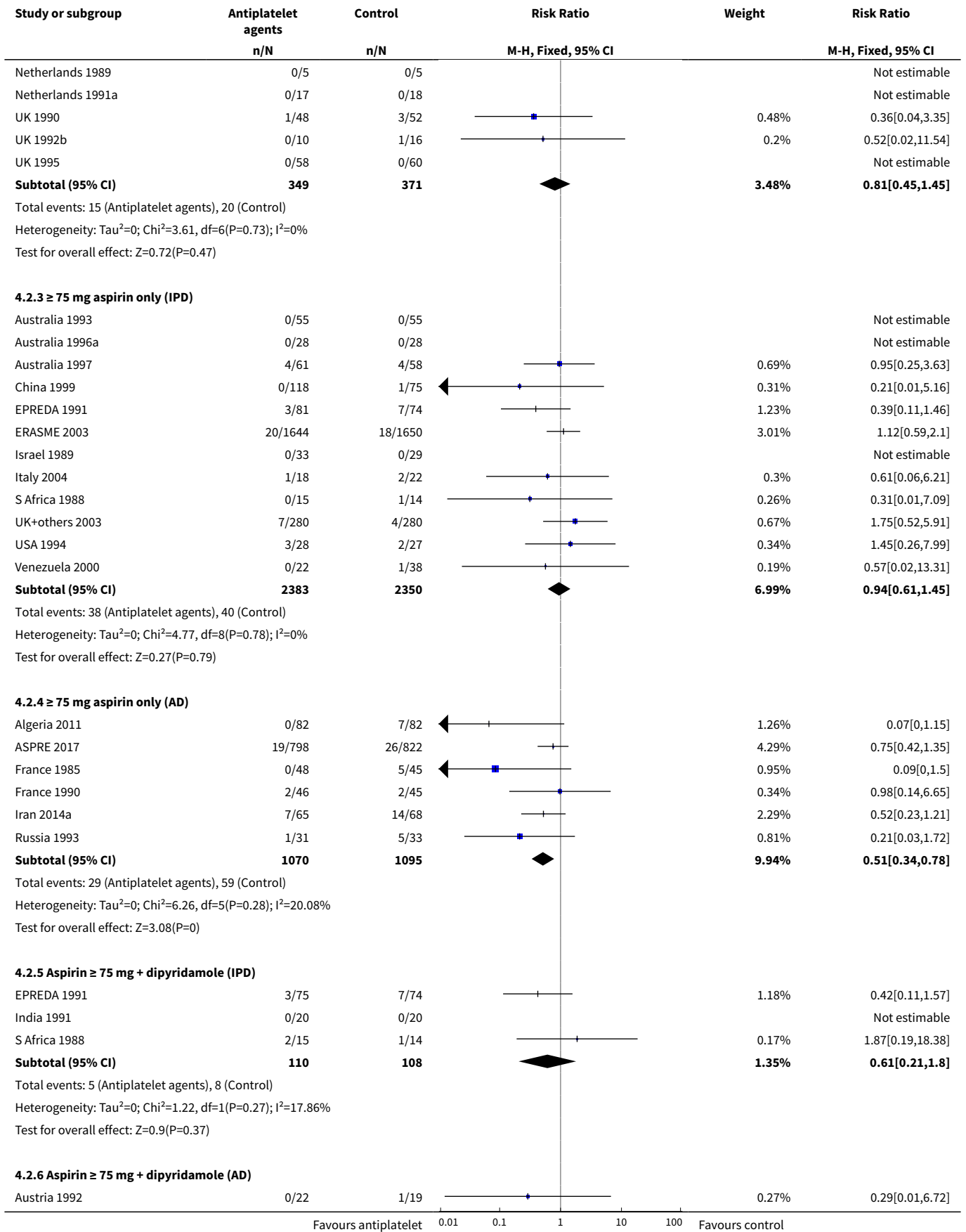


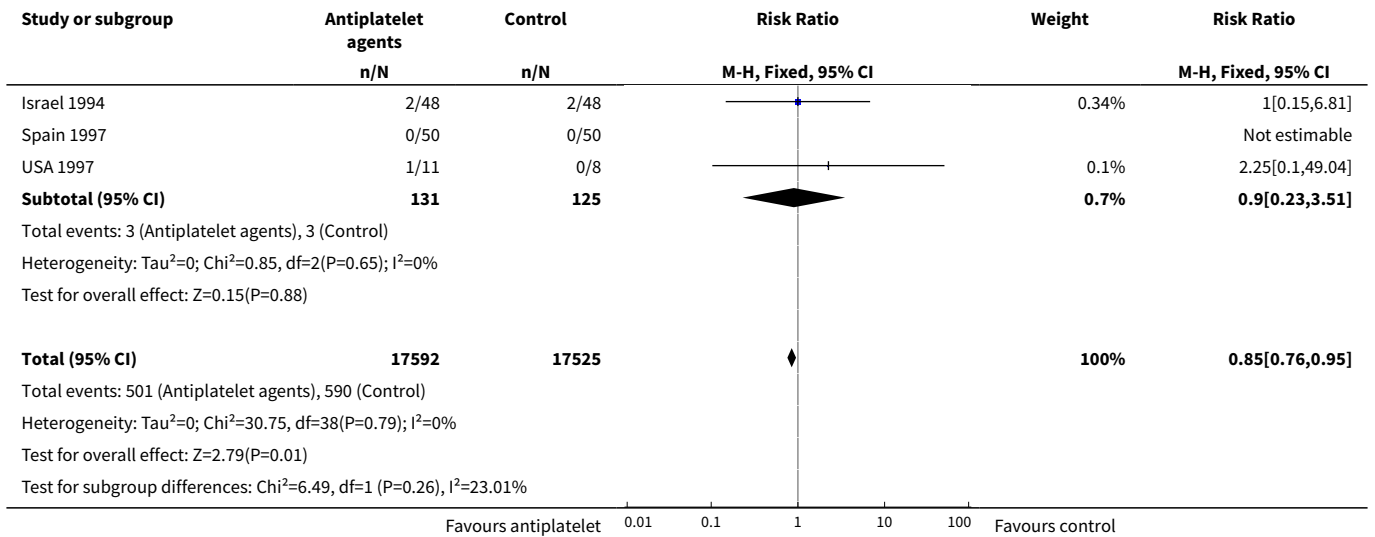




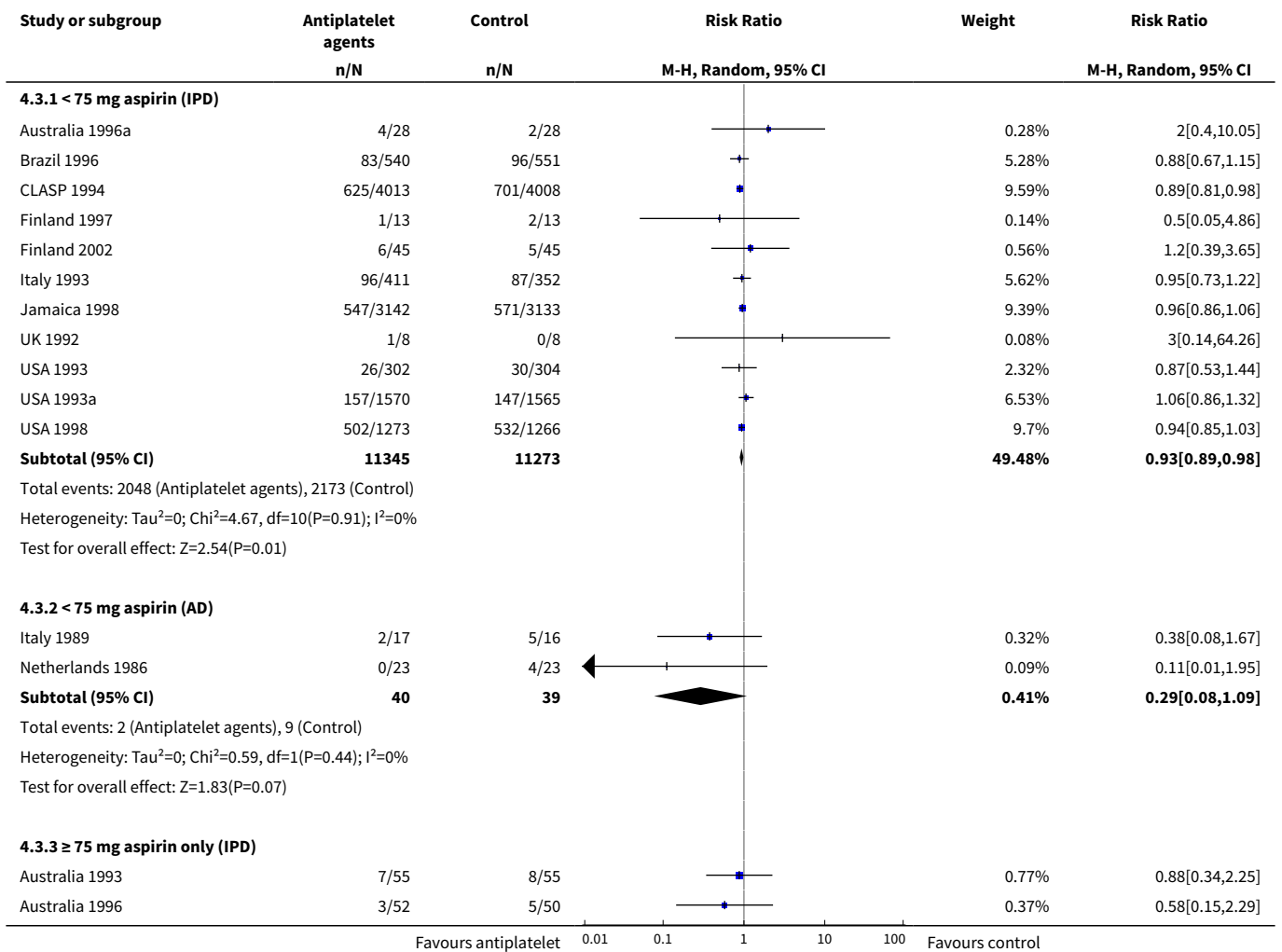
Analysis 4.2. Comparison 4 Antiplatelet agents versus placebo/no treatment for primary prevention (primary outcomes, subgroups by dose), Outcome 2 Fetal death, neonatal death, or death before hospital discharge.

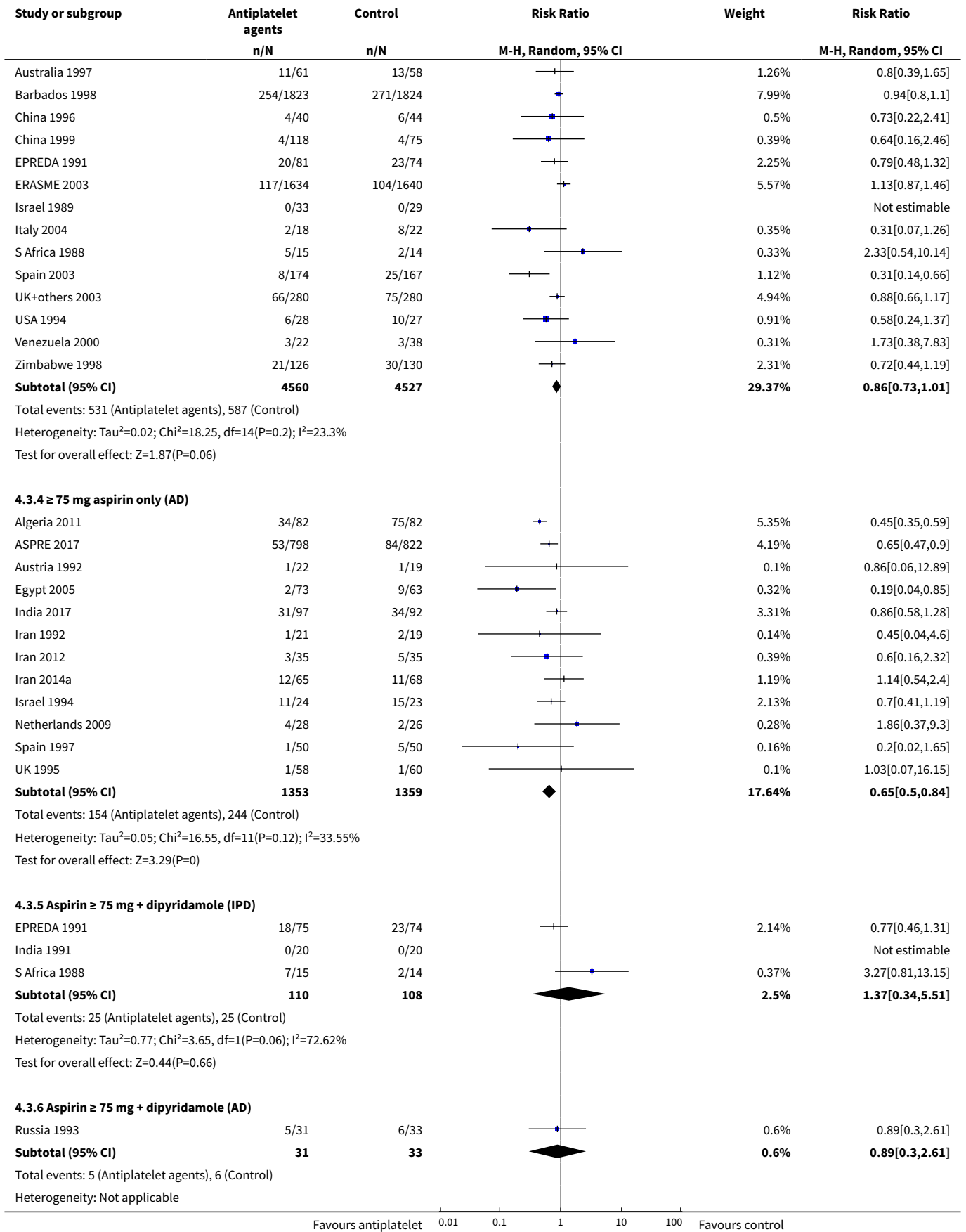


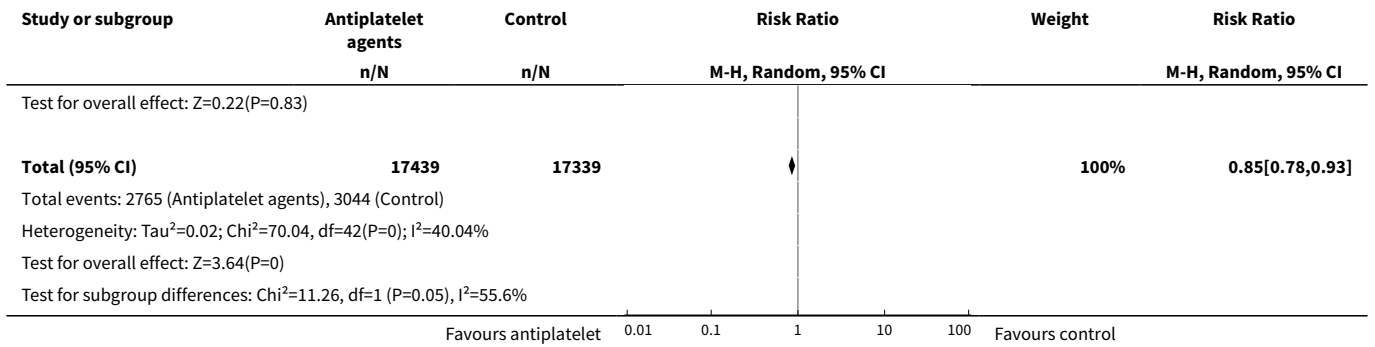




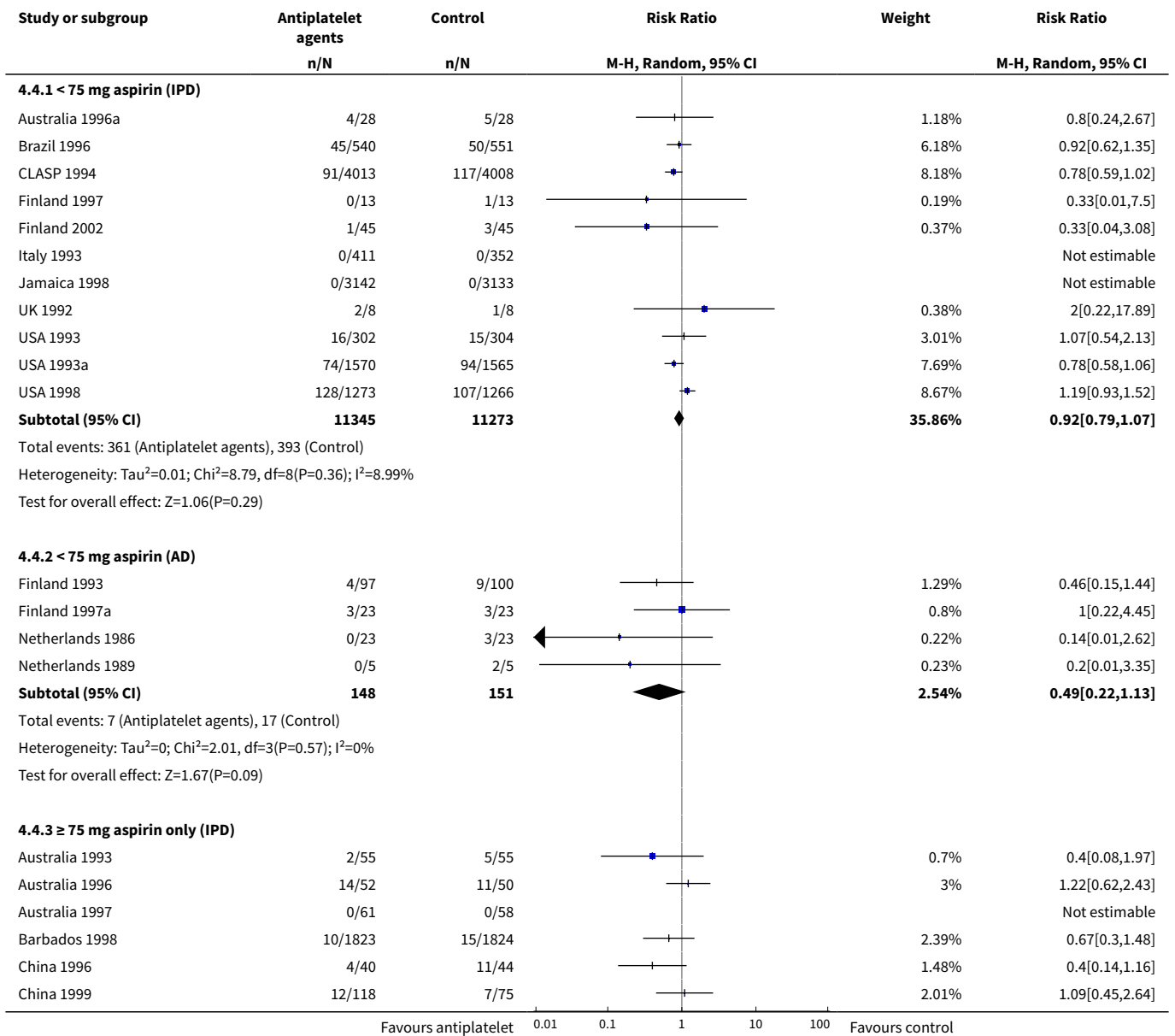
Analysis 4.3. Comparison 4 Antiplatelet agents versus placebo/no treatment for primary prevention (primary outcomes, subgroups by dose), Outcome 3 Preterm birth.

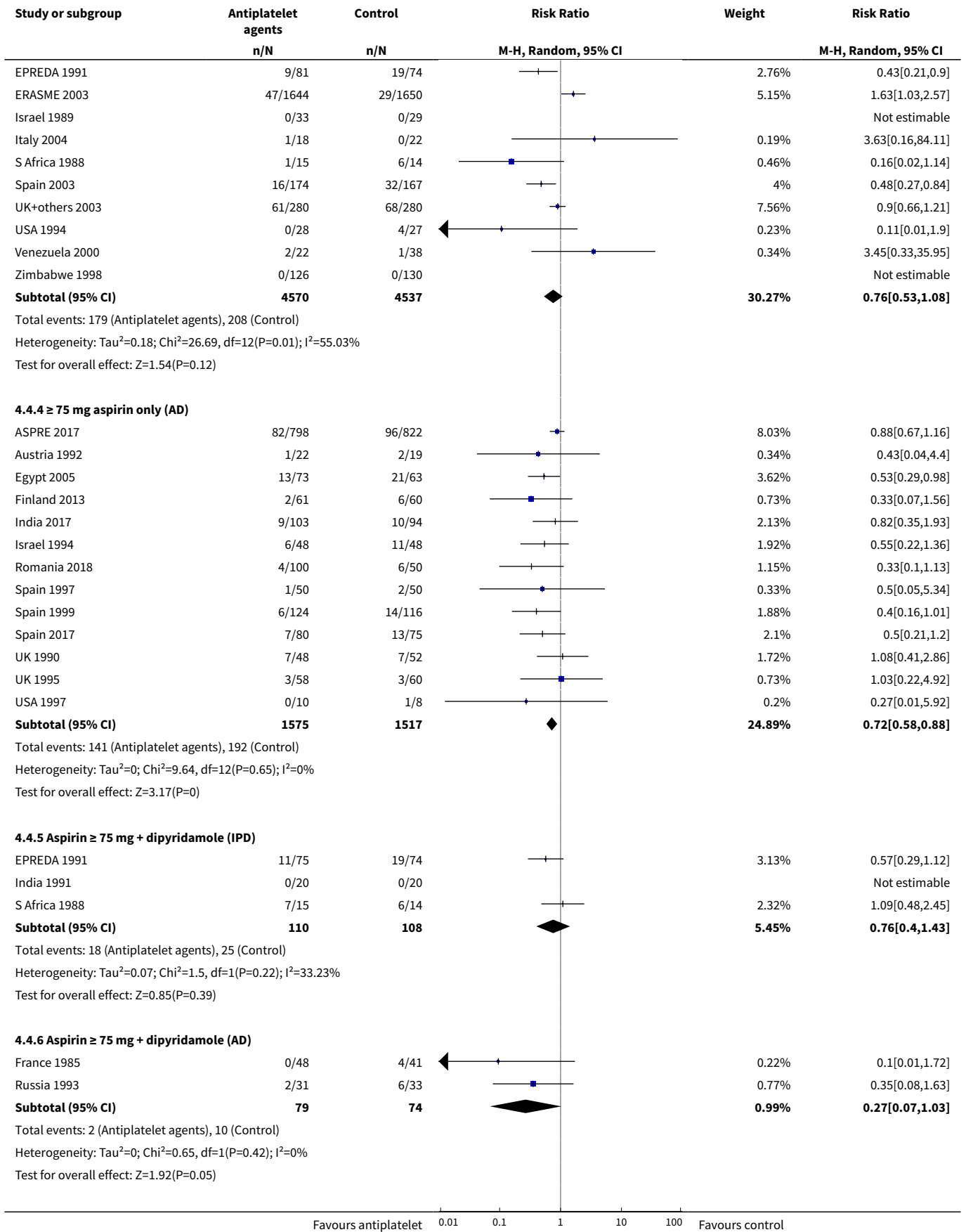


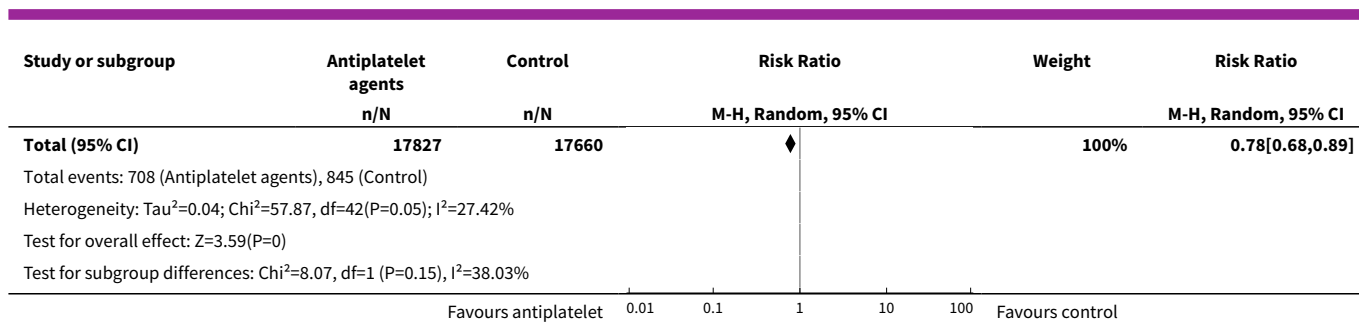




Analysis 4.4. Comparison 4 Antiplatelet agents versus placebo/no treatment for primary prevention (primary outcomes, subgroups by dose), Outcome 4 Small-for-gestational age.







Comparison 5. Antiplatelet agents versus placebo/no antiplatelet for primary prevention (secondary outcomes)

Outcome or subgroup title	No. of studies	No. of participants	Statistical method	Effect size
1 Severe maternal morbidity (eclampsia, renal failure, liver failure, HELLP syndrome, stroke - IPD only)	15	28065	Risk Ratio (M-H, Fixed, 95% CI)	1.00 [0.72, 1.39]
2 HELLP syndrome	16	20130	Risk Ratio (M-H, Fixed, 95% CI)	0.77 [0.44, 1.36]
2.1 IPD	14	19912	Risk Ratio (M-H, Fixed, 95% CI)	1.00 [0.53, 1.87]
2.2 AD	2	218	Risk Ratio (M-H, Fixed, 95% CI)	0.20 [0.03, 1.10]
3 Disseminated intravascular coagulation - IPD only	9	10828	Risk Ratio (M-H, Fixed, 95% CI)	0.32 [0.01, 7.57]
4 Stroke - IPD only	9	10828	Risk Ratio (M-H, Fixed, 95% CI)	2.99 [0.12, 73.40]
5 Renal failure - IPD only	11	16502	Risk Ratio (M-H, Fixed, 95% CI)	1.29 [0.35, 4.79]
6 Liver failure - IPD only	9	10828	Risk Ratio (M-H, Fixed, 95% CI)	0.0 [0.0, 0.0]
7 Pulmonary oedema - IPD only	12	16732	Risk Ratio (M-H, Fixed, 95% CI)	0.84 [0.37, 1.89]
8 Gestational hypertension using best available definition - IPD only	25	27834	Risk Ratio (M-H, Fixed, 95% CI)	0.95 [0.90, 1.01]
9 Gestational hypertension using trialists own definition - IPD only	25	27834	Risk Ratio (M-H, Fixed, 95% CI)	0.95 [0.89, 1.01]
10 Gestational hypertension PARIS definition - IPD only	24	27519	Risk Ratio (M-H, Fixed, 95% CI)	0.95 [0.90, 1.02]
11 Gestation at onset proteinuria by best definition - IPD only	14	3442	Mean Difference (IV, Random, 95% CI)	-0.42 [-1.40, 0.56]

Outcome or subgroup title	No. of studies	No. of participants	Statistical method	Effect size
12 Fetal, neonatal, infant and childhood deaths (subgroups by time of death)	45		Risk Ratio (M-H, Random, 95% CI)	Subtotals only
12.1 Fetal death (IPD)	29	32478	Risk Ratio (M-H, Random, 95% CI)	0.93 [0.80, 1.08]
12.2 Fetal death (AD)	12	903	Risk Ratio (M-H, Random, 95% CI)	0.78 [0.44, 1.38]
12.3 Death in first week of life (IPD)	17	25721	Risk Ratio (M-H, Random, 95% CI)	0.88 [0.68, 1.14]
12.4 Death in first week of life (AD)	10	827	Risk Ratio (M-H, Random, 95% CI)	0.74 [0.23, 2.42]
12.5 Late death (IPD)	11	15036	Risk Ratio (M-H, Random, 95% CI)	1.10 [0.30, 4.04]
12.6 Perinatal deaths (AD)	1	160	Risk Ratio (M-H, Random, 95% CI)	0.47 [0.19, 1.18]
12.7 Death status unknown (IPD)	15	30372	Risk Ratio (M-H, Random, 95% CI)	0.96 [0.80, 1.15]
13 Baby deaths after discharge from hospital - AD only	2	5886	Risk Ratio (M-H, Fixed, 95% CI)	0.53 [0.21, 1.34]
13.1 Deaths 8 days to 18 months	1	788	Risk Ratio (M-H, Fixed, 95% CI)	1.69 [0.15, 18.57]
13.2 Hospital discharge - 12 months	1	4688	Risk Ratio (M-H, Fixed, 95% CI)	0.28 [0.08, 0.99]
13.3 Hospital discharge - 18 months	1	410	Risk Ratio (M-H, Fixed, 95% CI)	2.16 [0.20, 23.66]
14 Gestation at birth (mean, weeks)	34	31669	Mean Difference (IV, Fixed, 95% CI)	0.02 [-0.04, 0.09]
14.1 IPD	30	31438	Mean Difference (IV, Fixed, 95% CI)	0.02 [-0.05, 0.09]
14.2 AD	4	231	Mean Difference (IV, Fixed, 95% CI)	0.27 [-0.33, 0.88]
15 Preterm birth (< 34 weeks)	31	32253	Risk Ratio (M-H, Random, 95% CI)	0.90 [0.83, 0.97]
15.1 IPD	30	32135	Risk Ratio (M-H, Random, 95% CI)	0.90 [0.83, 0.97]
15.2 AD	1	118	Risk Ratio (M-H, Random, 95% CI)	1.03 [0.07, 16.15]
16 Preterm birth (< 32 weeks)	31	32319	Risk Ratio (M-H, Fixed, 95% CI)	0.92 [0.83, 1.02]
16.1 IPD	30	32155	Risk Ratio (M-H, Fixed, 95% CI)	0.93 [0.84, 1.03]
16.2 AD	1	164	Risk Ratio (M-H, Fixed, 95% CI)	0.2 [0.01, 4.10]
17 Preterm birth (< 28 weeks)	30	32135	Risk Ratio (M-H, Fixed, 95% CI)	0.87 [0.74, 1.01]

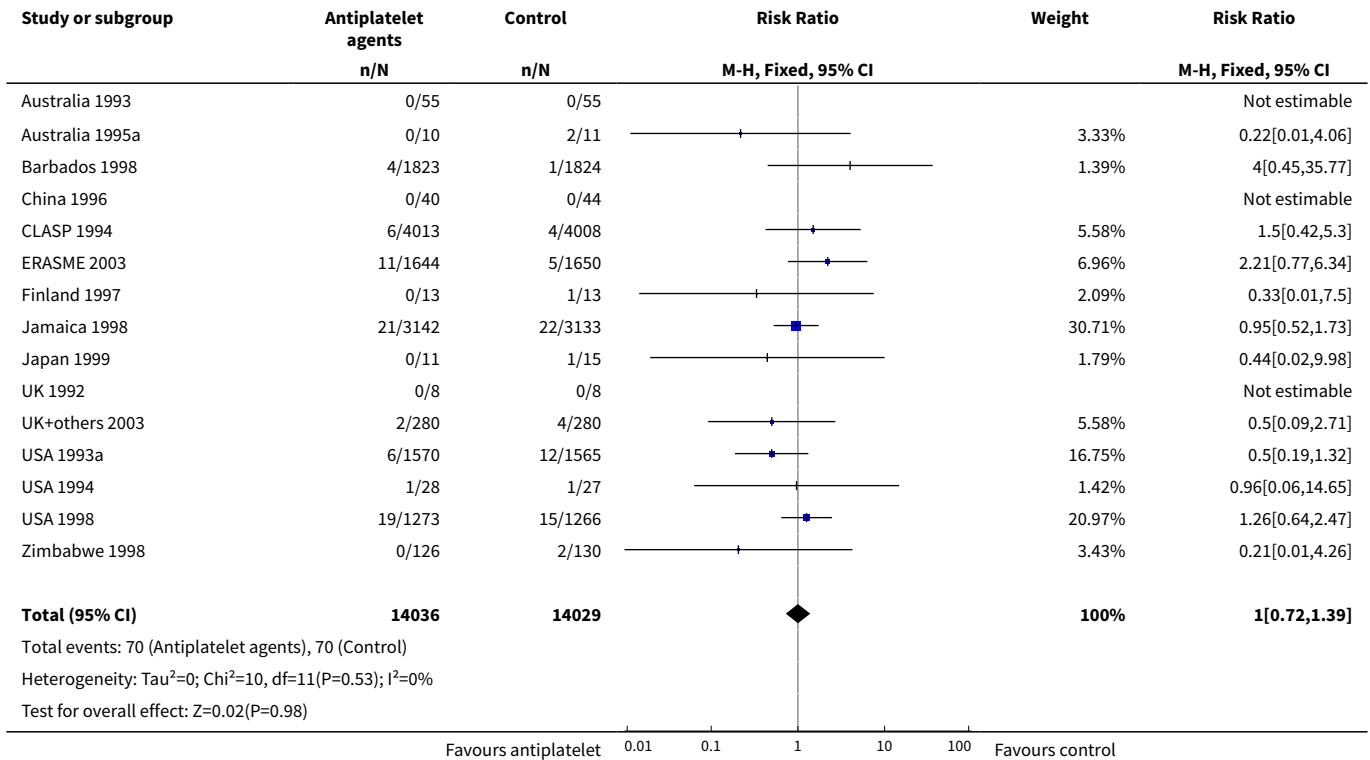
Outcome or subgroup title	No. of studies	No. of participants	Statistical method	Effect size
17.1 IPD	30	32135	Risk Ratio (M-H, Fixed, 95% CI)	0.87 [0.74, 1.01]
17.2 AD	0	0	Risk Ratio (M-H, Fixed, 95% CI)	0.0 [0.0, 0.0]
18 Preterm birth (mutually exclusive subgroups) - IPD only	31		Risk Ratio (M-H, Fixed, 95% CI)	Subtotals only
18.1 < 28 weeks	30	32155	Risk Ratio (M-H, Fixed, 95% CI)	0.87 [0.74, 1.01]
18.2 28-31 weeks	30	32155	Risk Ratio (M-H, Fixed, 95% CI)	0.98 [0.85, 1.13]
18.3 32-33 weeks	30	32155	Risk Ratio (M-H, Fixed, 95% CI)	0.84 [0.73, 0.97]
18.4 34-36 weeks	30	32155	Risk Ratio (M-H, Fixed, 95% CI)	0.93 [0.87, 1.00]
18.5 Unknown	31	32217	Risk Ratio (M-H, Fixed, 95% CI)	1.10 [0.96, 1.25]
19 Small-for-gestational age (subgrouped by severity) - AD only, trial definition	30		Risk Ratio (M-H, Random, 95% CI)	Subtotals only
19.1 Birthweight < 10th centile	17	10537	Risk Ratio (M-H, Random, 95% CI)	0.86 [0.75, 0.99]
19.2 Birthweight < 5th centile	6	3554	Risk Ratio (M-H, Random, 95% CI)	0.93 [0.79, 1.11]
19.3 Birthweight < 3rd centile	8	14535	Risk Ratio (M-H, Random, 95% CI)	0.91 [0.69, 1.19]
19.4 Definition not stated	3	424	Risk Ratio (M-H, Random, 95% CI)	0.36 [0.18, 0.72]
20 Any baby SGA < 3rd centile or as reported - IPD only	25	24702	Risk Ratio (M-H, Fixed, 95% CI)	0.90 [0.81, 1.00]
21 Birthweight < 2500 g	32	31522	Risk Ratio (M-H, Fixed, 95% CI)	0.92 [0.88, 0.97]
21.1 IPD	30	31258	Risk Ratio (M-H, Fixed, 95% CI)	0.93 [0.88, 0.97]
21.2 AD	2	264	Risk Ratio (M-H, Fixed, 95% CI)	0.56 [0.25, 1.24]
22 Pregnancy with SAO (including maternal death, baby death, PE, SGA, preterm) - IPD only	13	17382	Risk Ratio (M-H, Fixed, 95% CI)	0.90 [0.85, 0.96]
23 Hospital admission for the woman during pregnancy - AD only	3	12964	Risk Ratio (M-H, Random, 95% CI)	1.03 [0.97, 1.09]
24 Non spontaneous labour (induced labour or pre-labour caesarean) - IPD only	24	29838	Risk Ratio (M-H, Fixed, 95% CI)	1.02 [0.98, 1.05]
25 Antepartum haemorrhage - IPD only	25	30513	Risk Ratio (M-H, Fixed, 95% CI)	1.04 [0.92, 1.17]

Outcome or subgroup title	No. of studies	No. of participants	Statistical method	Effect size
26 Placental abruption	29	30775	Risk Ratio (M-H, Fixed, 95% CI)	1.21 [0.95, 1.54]
26.1 IPD	24	30257	Risk Ratio (M-H, Fixed, 95% CI)	1.22 [0.95, 1.56]
26.2 AD	5	518	Risk Ratio (M-H, Fixed, 95% CI)	1.01 [0.26, 3.94]
27 Postpartum haemorrhage > 500 mL	19	23769	Risk Ratio (M-H, Fixed, 95% CI)	1.06 [1.00, 1.12]
27.1 IPD	16	23396	Risk Ratio (M-H, Fixed, 95% CI)	1.06 [1.00, 1.13]
27.2 AD	3	373	Risk Ratio (M-H, Fixed, 95% CI)	0.46 [0.17, 1.25]
28 Any baby required assisted ventilation	15	7383	Risk Ratio (M-H, Fixed, 95% CI)	0.80 [0.66, 0.97]
28.1 IPD	14	7343	Risk Ratio (M-H, Fixed, 95% CI)	0.81 [0.67, 0.97]
28.2 AD	1	40	Risk Ratio (M-H, Fixed, 95% CI)	0.30 [0.01, 7.02]
29 Intraventricular haemorrhage	20	32224	Risk Ratio (M-H, Fixed, 95% CI)	0.99 [0.72, 1.36]
29.1 IPD	18	30538	Risk Ratio (M-H, Fixed, 95% CI)	0.97 [0.70, 1.34]
29.2 AD	2	1686	Risk Ratio (M-H, Fixed, 95% CI)	2.06 [0.19, 22.67]
30 Other neonatal bleed	20	30715	Risk Ratio (M-H, Fixed, 95% CI)	0.90 [0.75, 1.08]
30.1 IPD	18	30538	Risk Ratio (M-H, Fixed, 95% CI)	0.90 [0.75, 1.08]
30.2 AD	2	177	Risk Ratio (M-H, Fixed, 95% CI)	0.86 [0.13, 5.56]
31 Developmental problems at 18 months - AD only	2		Risk Ratio (M-H, Fixed, 95% CI)	Subtotals only
31.1 Poor gross motor function	1	4365	Risk Ratio (M-H, Fixed, 95% CI)	0.82 [0.57, 1.17]
31.2 Poor fine motor function	1	4365	Risk Ratio (M-H, Fixed, 95% CI)	0.98 [0.84, 1.14]
31.3 Poor gross or fine motor function	1	788	Risk Ratio (M-H, Fixed, 95% CI)	0.49 [0.26, 0.91]
31.4 Respiratory problems	1	788	Risk Ratio (M-H, Fixed, 95% CI)	1.48 [0.98, 2.23]
31.5 Poor language expression	1	4365	Risk Ratio (M-H, Fixed, 95% CI)	0.94 [0.74, 1.19]
31.6 Poor language comprehension	1	4365	Risk Ratio (M-H, Fixed, 95% CI)	0.95 [0.80, 1.13]
31.7 Language problems - undefined	1	788	Risk Ratio (M-H, Fixed, 95% CI)	0.99 [0.69, 1.42]

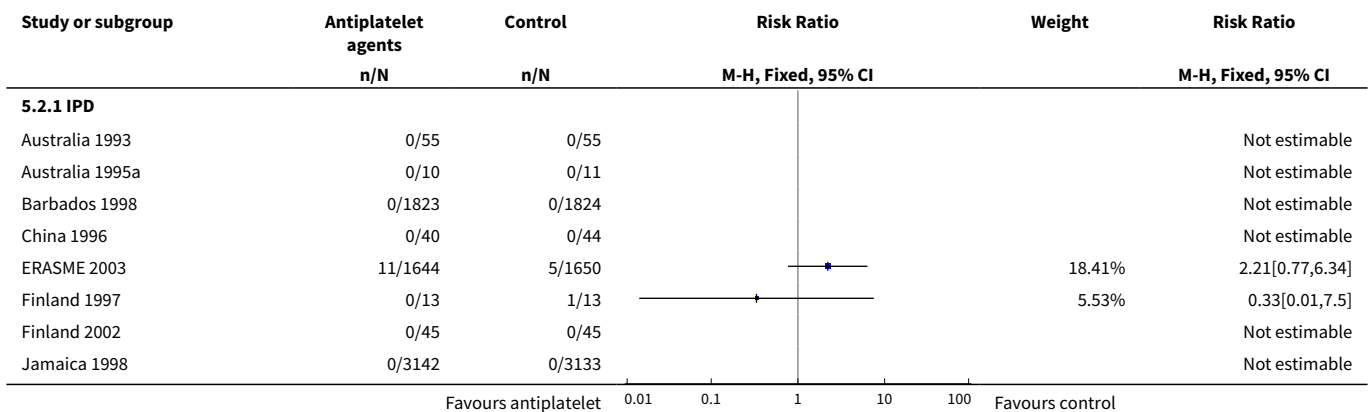
Outcome or subgroup title	No. of studies	No. of participants	Statistical method	Effect size
31.8 Hearing problems	1	788	Risk Ratio (M-H, Fixed, 95% CI)	2.54 [0.10, 62.10]
31.9 Sight problems	1	788	Risk Ratio (M-H, Fixed, 95% CI)	0.85 [0.25, 2.90]
32 Behaviour problems at 18 months - AD only	1	4365	Risk Ratio (M-H, Fixed, 95% CI)	0.87 [0.75, 1.01]
32.1 Poor sleep pattern	1	4365	Risk Ratio (M-H, Fixed, 95% CI)	0.87 [0.75, 1.01]
33 Malformations at 18 months - AD only	1	788	Risk Ratio (M-H, Fixed, 95% CI)	0.74 [0.27, 2.02]
34 Growth at 18 months - AD only	2	10306	Risk Ratio (M-H, Fixed, 95% CI)	0.94 [0.84, 1.07]
34.1 Height < 3rd or 10th centile	2	5153	Risk Ratio (M-H, Fixed, 95% CI)	0.94 [0.80, 1.09]
34.2 Weight < 3rd or 10th centile	2	5153	Risk Ratio (M-H, Fixed, 95% CI)	0.96 [0.79, 1.16]
35 Admission to a special care baby unit	29	32808	Risk Ratio (M-H, Fixed, 95% CI)	0.95 [0.91, 1.00]
35.1 IPD	23	30519	Risk Ratio (M-H, Fixed, 95% CI)	0.96 [0.91, 1.01]
35.2 AD	6	2289	Risk Ratio (M-H, Fixed, 95% CI)	0.81 [0.60, 1.09]
36 Child admitted to hospital - AD only	1		Risk Ratio (M-H, Fixed, 95% CI)	Subtotals only
36.1 At 12 months	1	4168	Risk Ratio (M-H, Fixed, 95% CI)	0.94 [0.83, 1.08]
36.2 At 18 months	1	4365	Risk Ratio (M-H, Fixed, 95% CI)	0.99 [0.89, 1.11]
37 Non-routine GP consultation for child - AD only	1		Risk Ratio (M-H, Fixed, 95% CI)	Subtotals only
37.1 At 12 months	1	4168	Risk Ratio (M-H, Fixed, 95% CI)	1.00 [0.99, 1.02]
37.2 At 18 months	1	4365	Risk Ratio (M-H, Fixed, 95% CI)	1.00 [0.96, 1.04]
38 Eclampsia	17	24947	Risk Ratio (M-H, Fixed, 95% CI)	1.03 [0.66, 1.60]
38.1 IPD	14	24742	Risk Ratio (M-H, Fixed, 95% CI)	1.09 [0.69, 1.71]
38.2 AD	3	205	Risk Ratio (M-H, Fixed, 95% CI)	0.34 [0.04, 3.18]
39 Maternal death - IPD only	18	28675	Risk Ratio (M-H, Fixed, 95% CI)	1.75 [0.51, 5.96]
40 Caesarean section	36	32698	Risk Ratio (M-H, Fixed, 95% CI)	1.03 [0.99, 1.07]
40.1 IPD	28	32071	Risk Ratio (M-H, Fixed, 95% CI)	1.03 [0.99, 1.07]

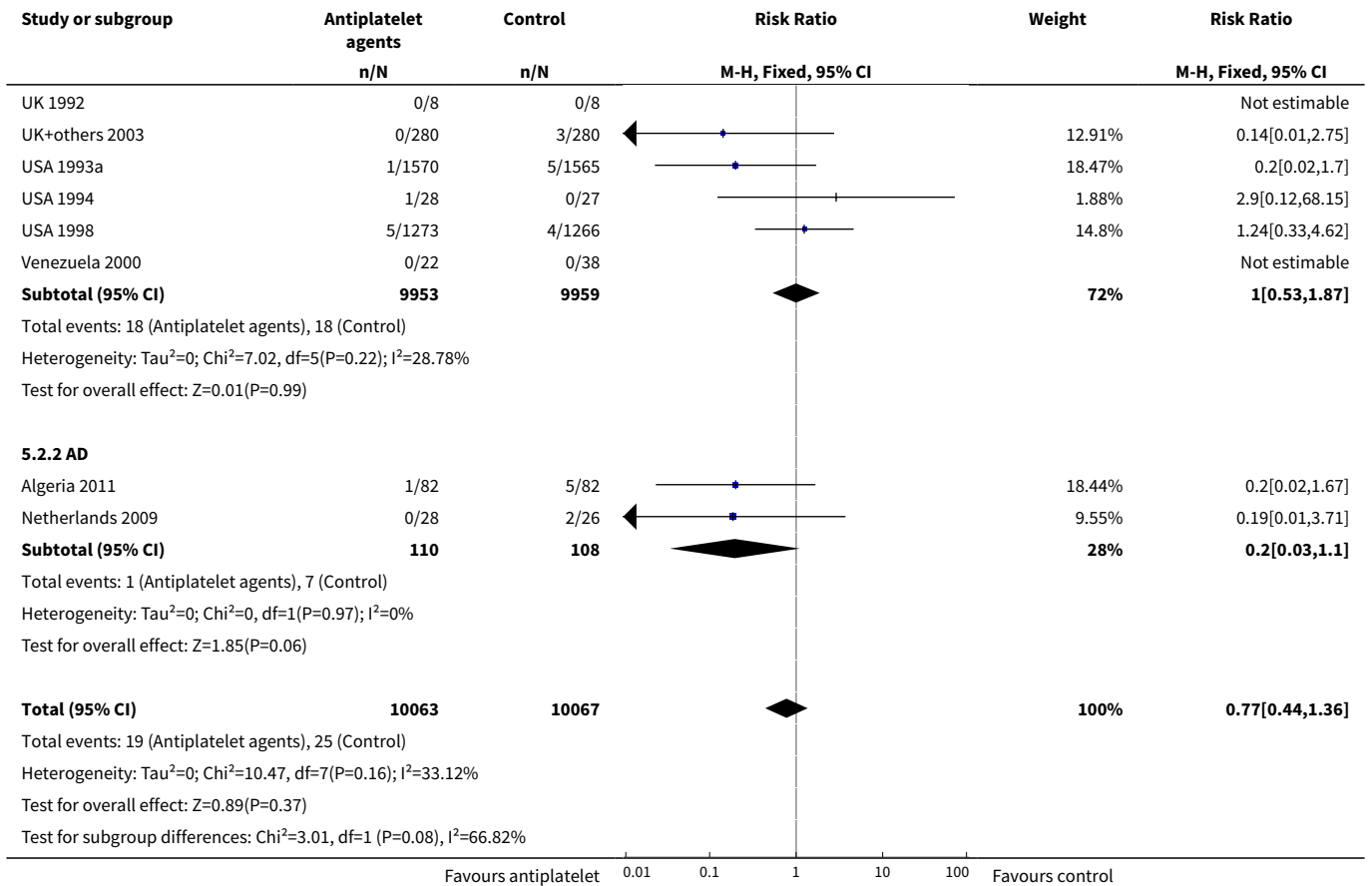
Outcome or subgroup title	No. of studies	No. of participants	Statistical method	Effect size
40.2 AD	8	627	Risk Ratio (M-H, Fixed, 95% CI)	0.92 [0.72, 1.18]

Analysis 5.1. Comparison 5 Antiplatelet agents versus placebo/no antiplatelet for primary prevention (secondary outcomes), Outcome 1 Severe maternal morbidity (eclampsia, renal failure, liver failure, HELLP syndrome, stroke - IPD only).

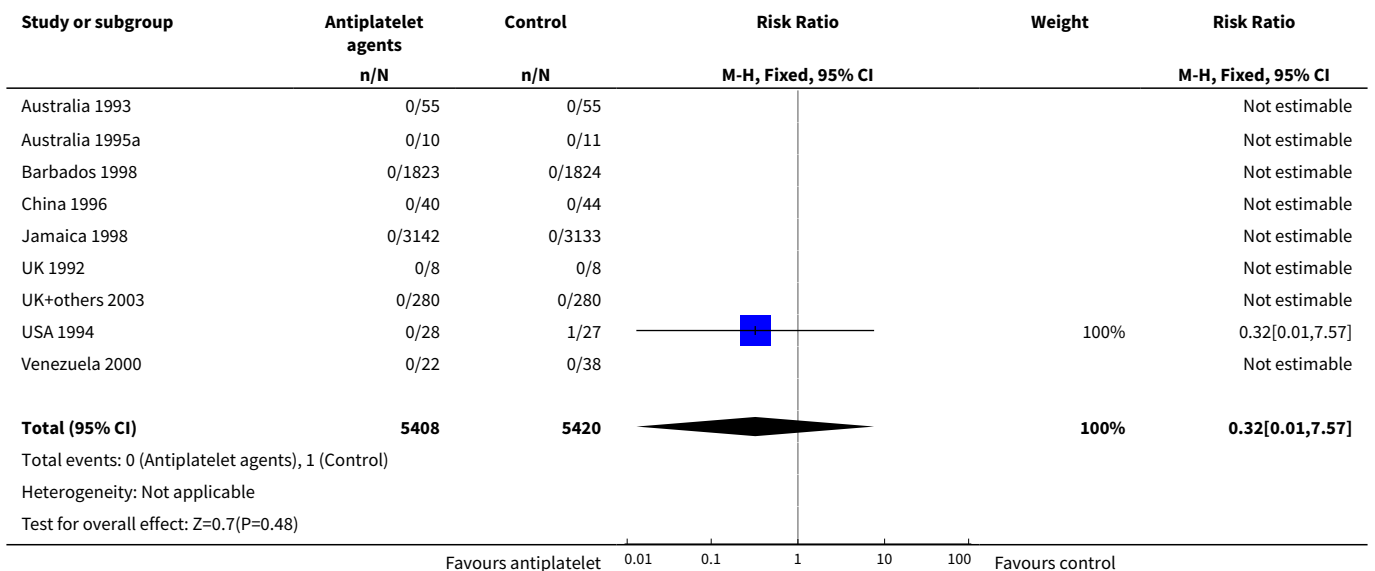


Analysis 5.2. Comparison 5 Antiplatelet agents versus placebo/no antiplatelet for primary prevention (secondary outcomes), Outcome 2 HELLP syndrome.

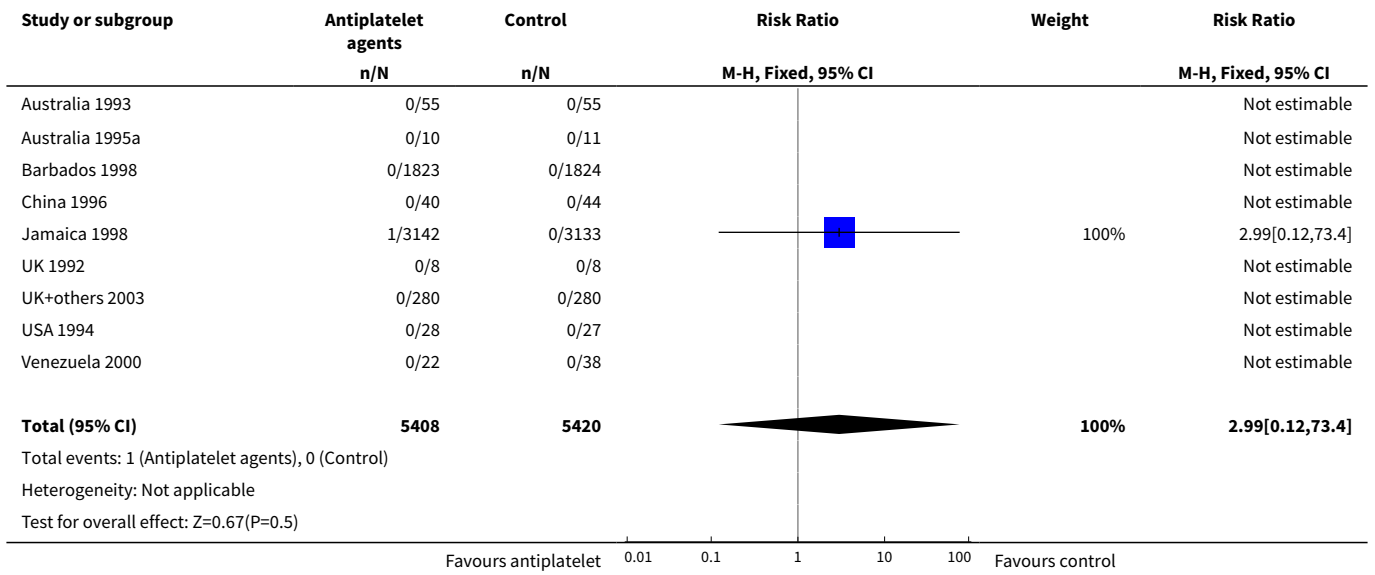




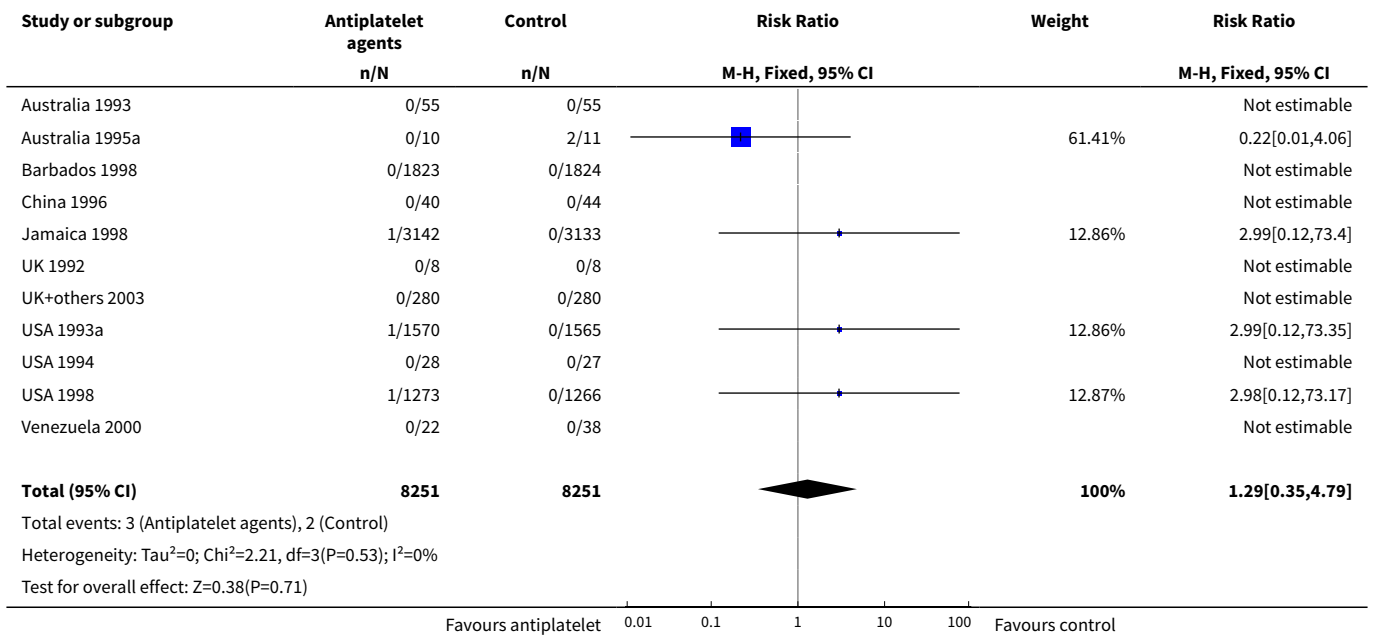
Analysis 5.3. Comparison 5 Antiplatelet agents versus placebo/no antiplatelet for primary prevention (secondary outcomes), Outcome 3 Disseminated intravascular coagulation - IPD only.



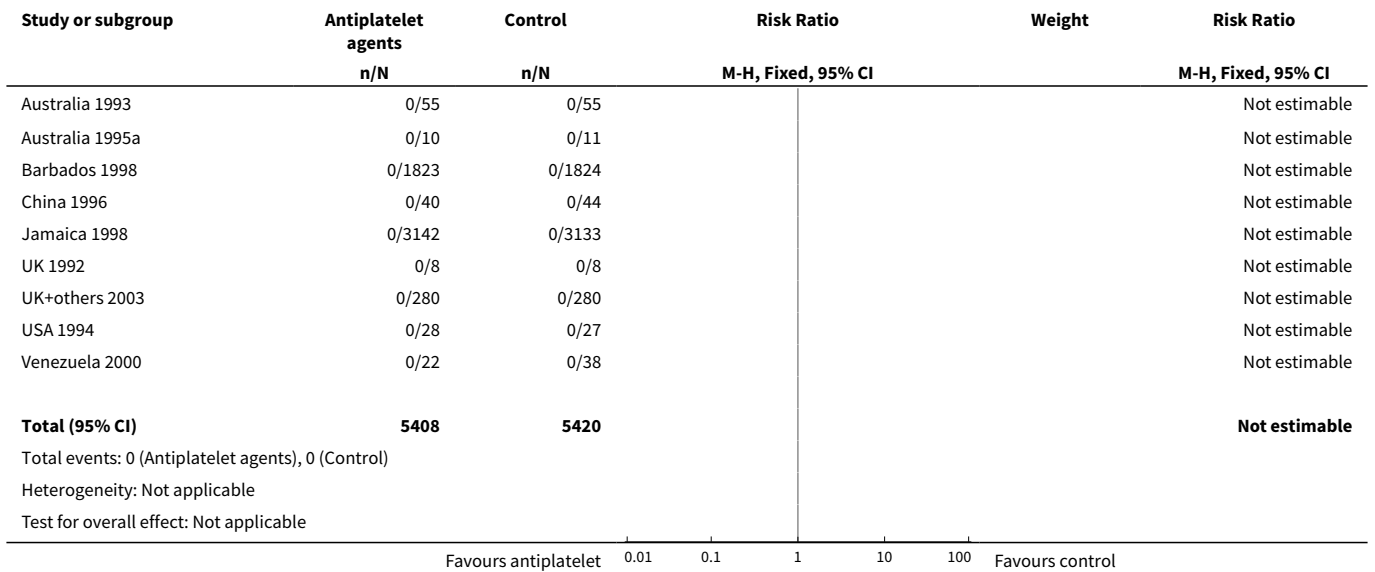
Analysis 5.4. Comparison 5 Antiplatelet agents versus placebo/no antiplatelet for primary prevention (secondary outcomes), Outcome 4 Stroke - IPD only.



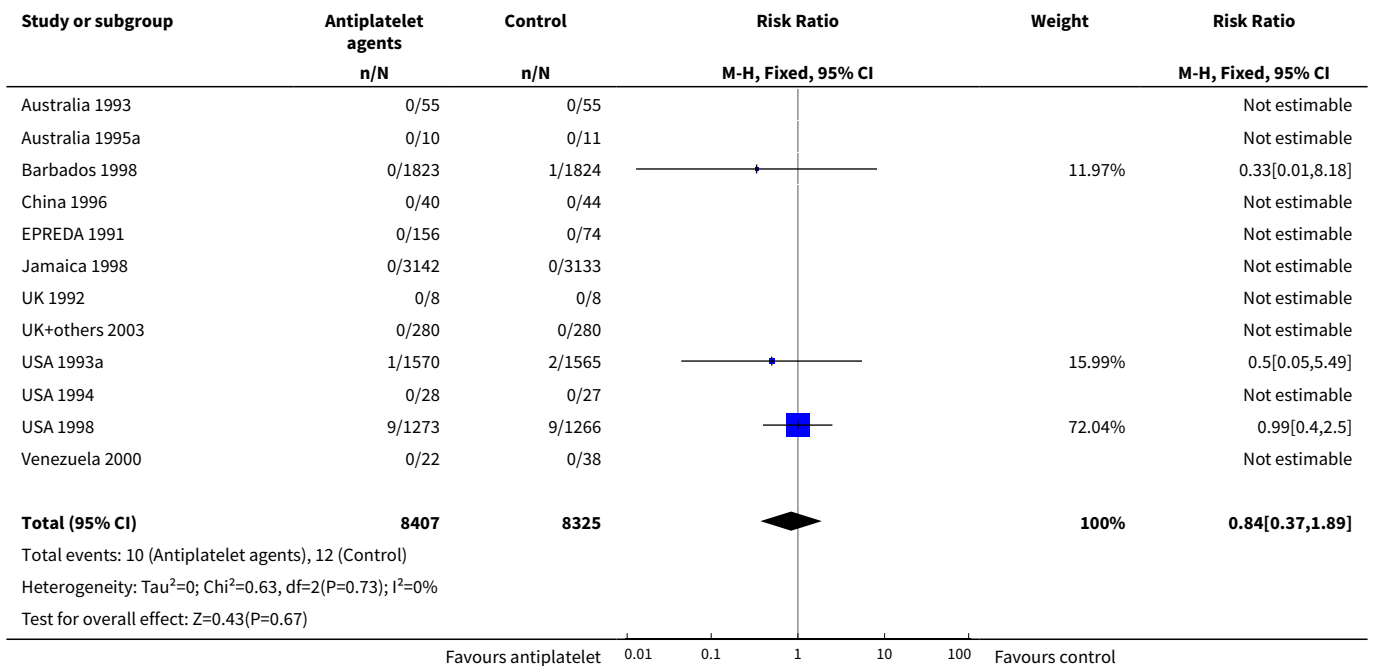
Analysis 5.5. Comparison 5 Antiplatelet agents versus placebo/no antiplatelet for primary prevention (secondary outcomes), Outcome 5 Renal failure - IPD only.



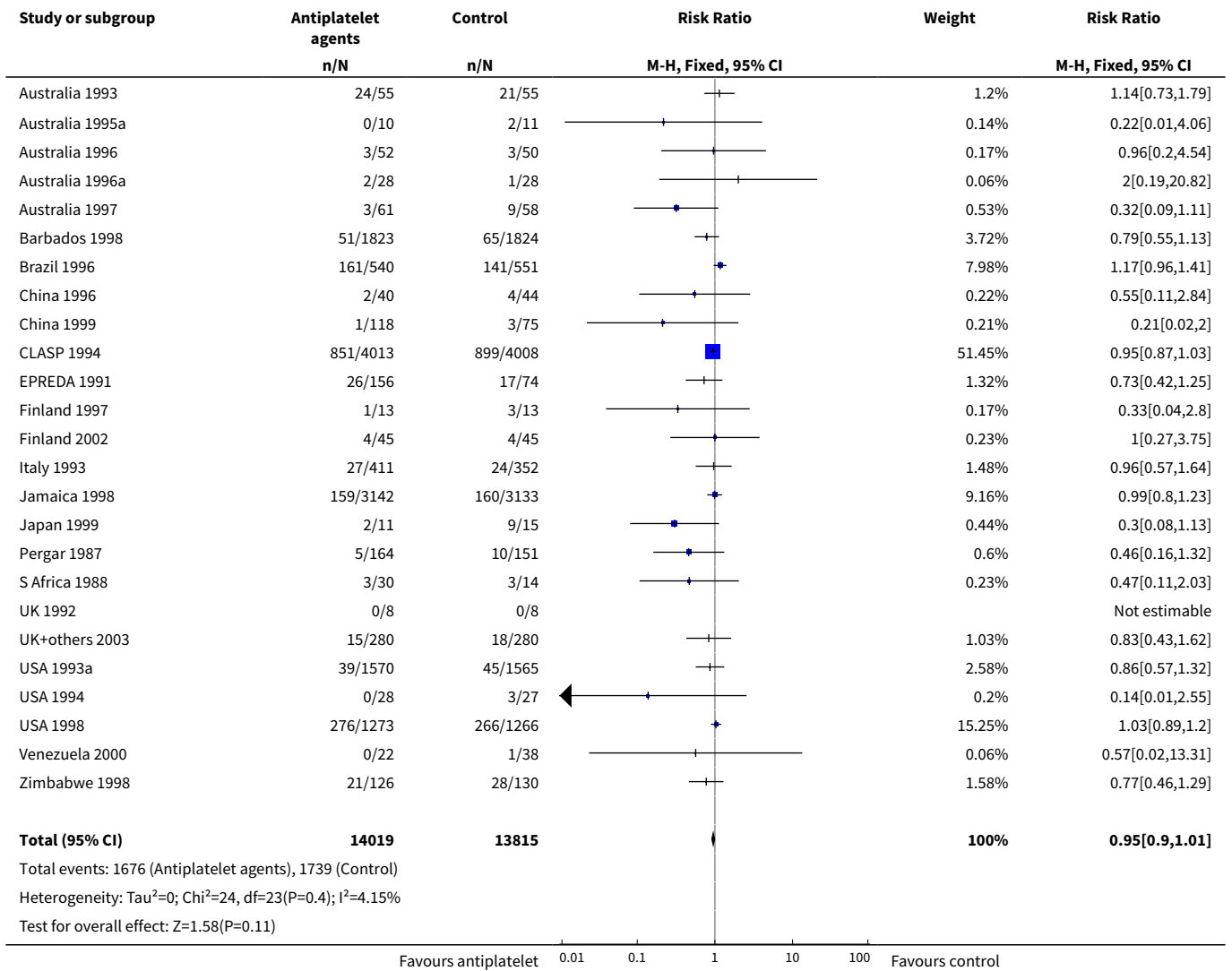
Analysis 5.6. Comparison 5 Antiplatelet agents versus placebo/no antiplatelet for primary prevention (secondary outcomes), Outcome 6 Liver failure - IPD only.



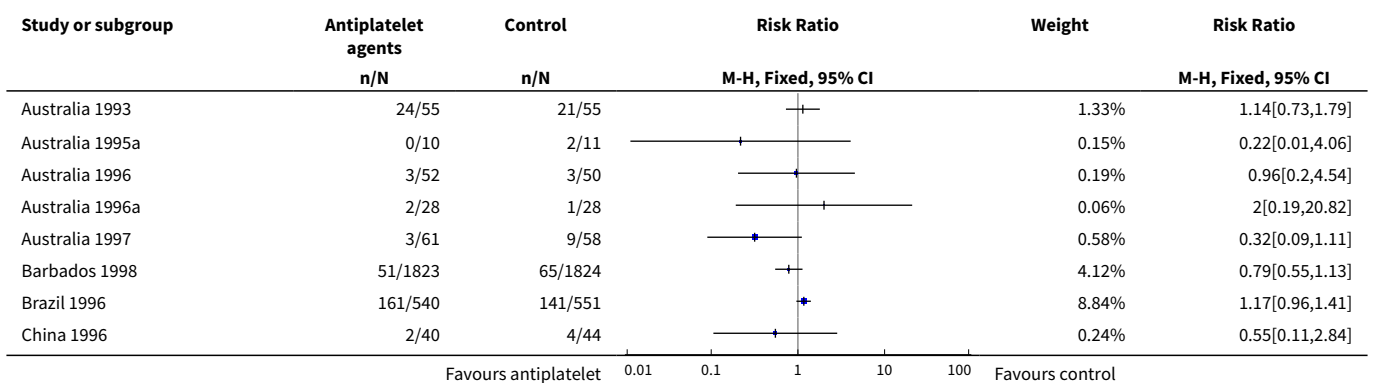
Analysis 5.7. Comparison 5 Antiplatelet agents versus placebo/no antiplatelet for primary prevention (secondary outcomes), Outcome 7 Pulmonary oedema - IPD only.

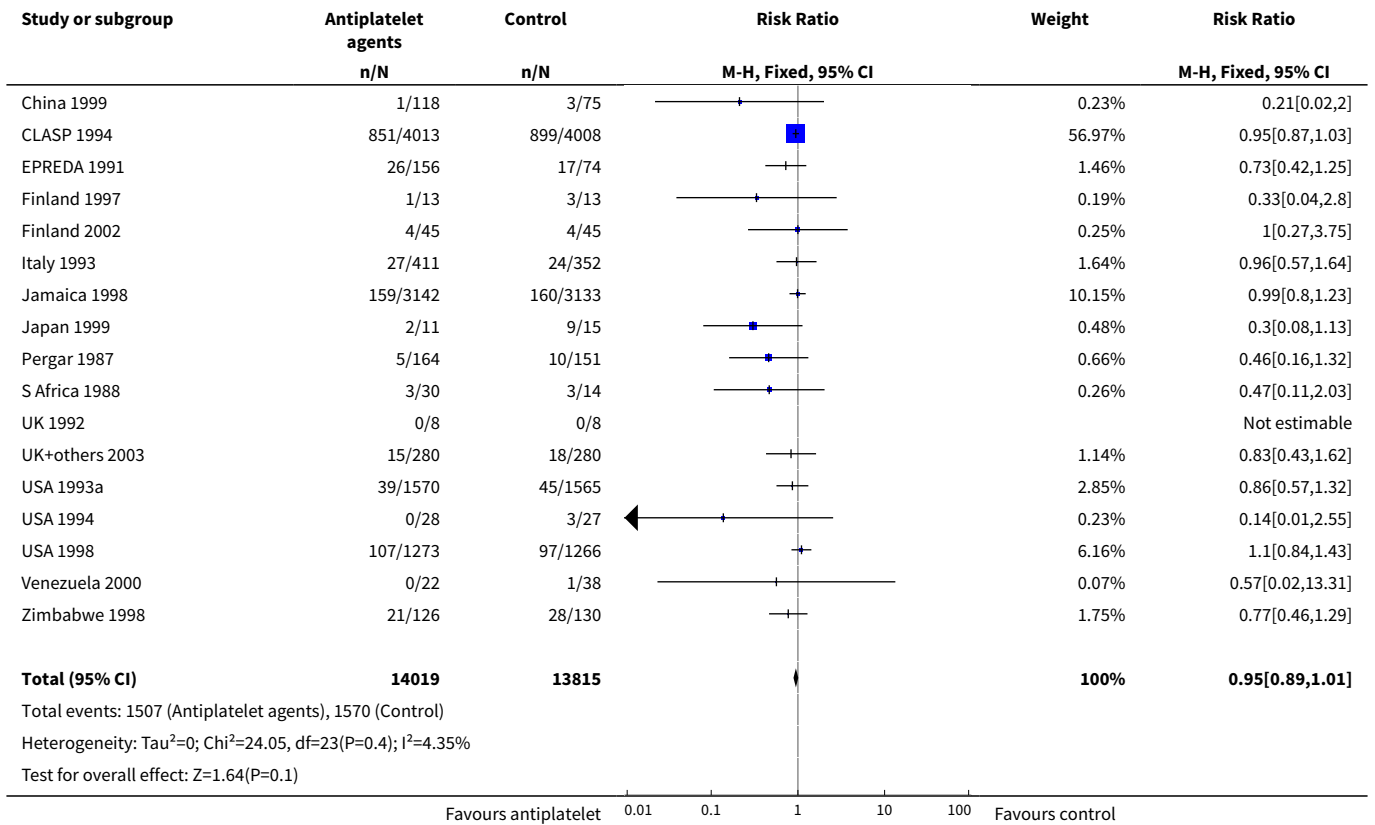


Analysis 5.8. Comparison 5 Antiplatelet agents versus placebo/no antiplatelet for primary prevention (secondary outcomes), Outcome 8 Gestational hypertension using best available definition - IPD only.

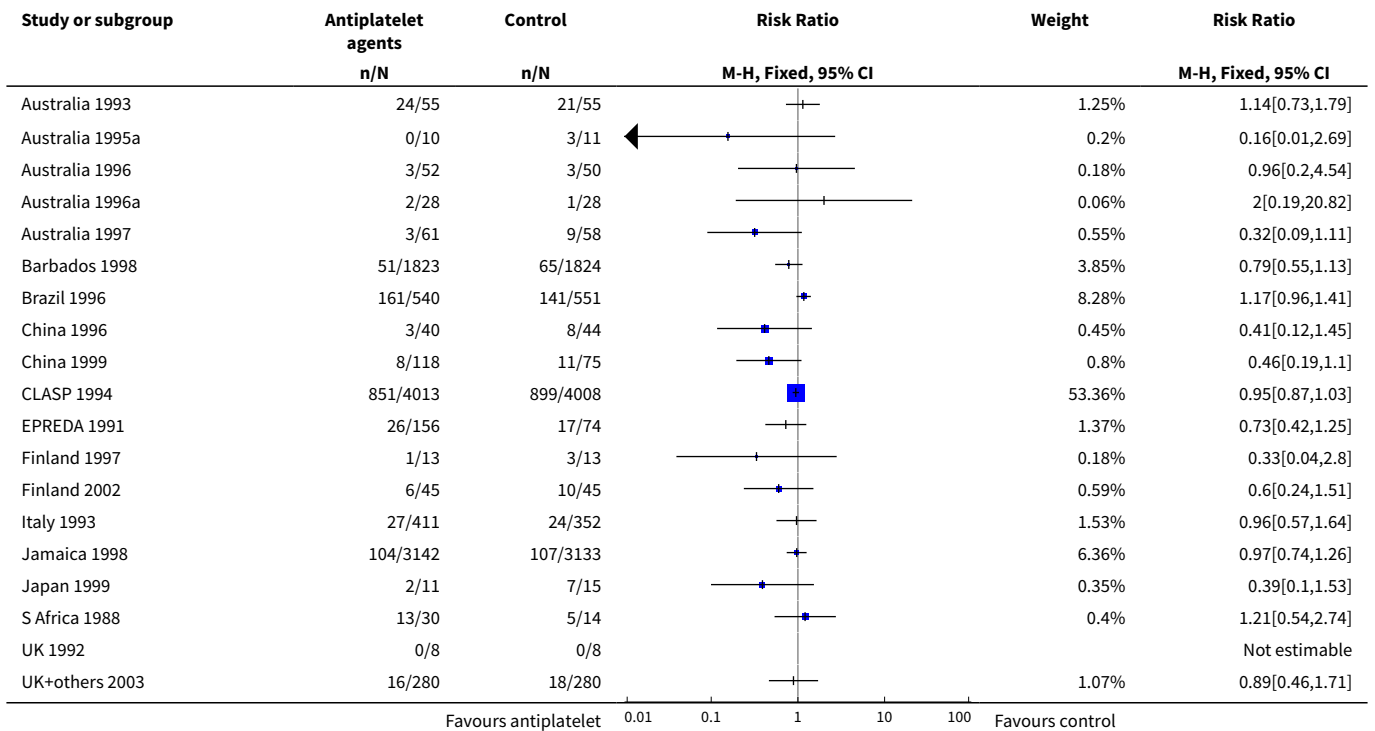


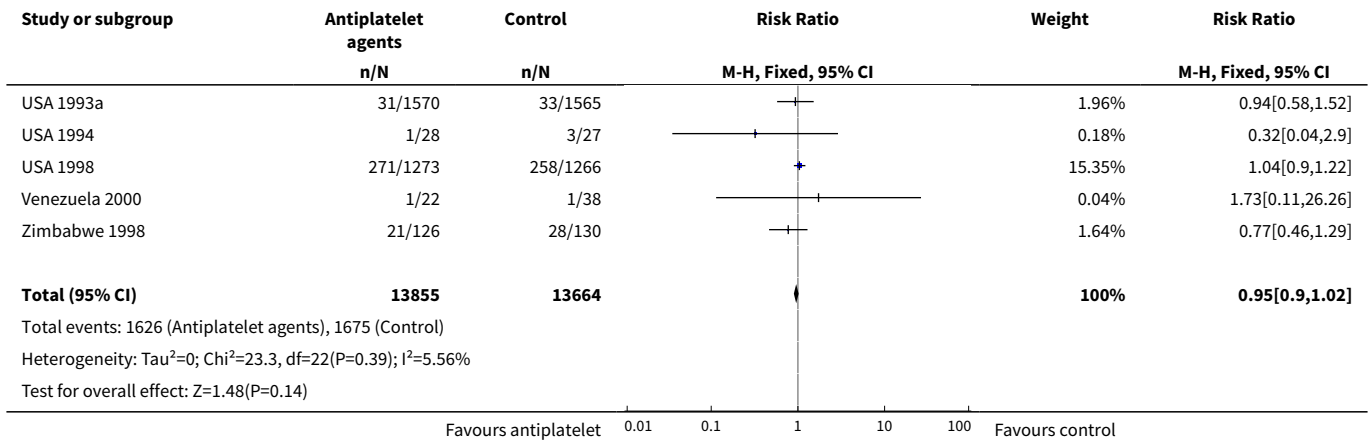
Analysis 5.9. Comparison 5 Antiplatelet agents versus placebo/no antiplatelet for primary prevention (secondary outcomes), Outcome 9 Gestational hypertension using trialists own definition - IPD only.



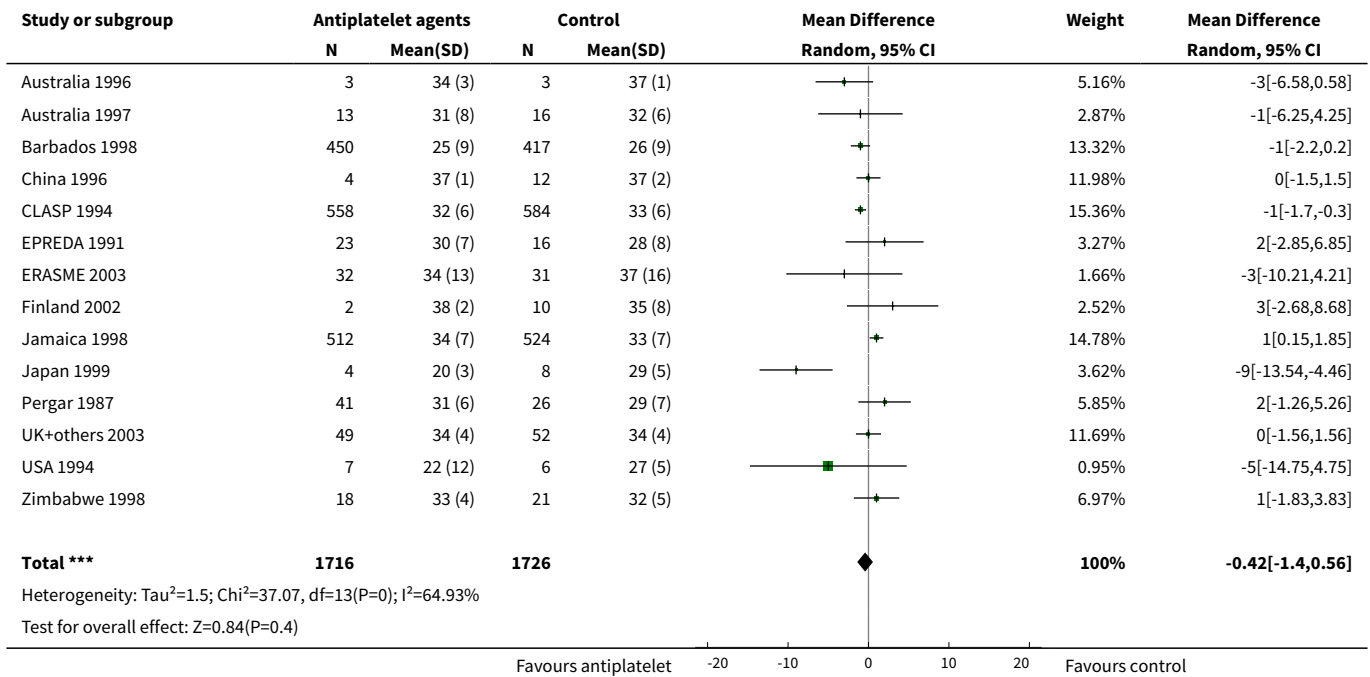


Analysis 5.10. Comparison 5 Antiplatelet agents versus placebo/no antiplatelet for primary prevention (secondary outcomes), Outcome 10 Gestational hypertension PARIS definition - IPD only.

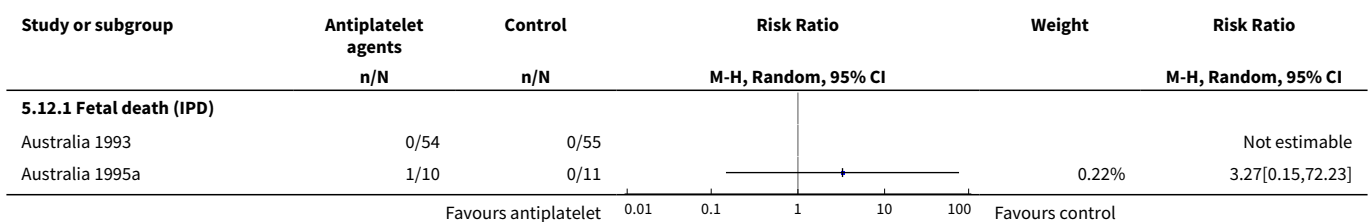


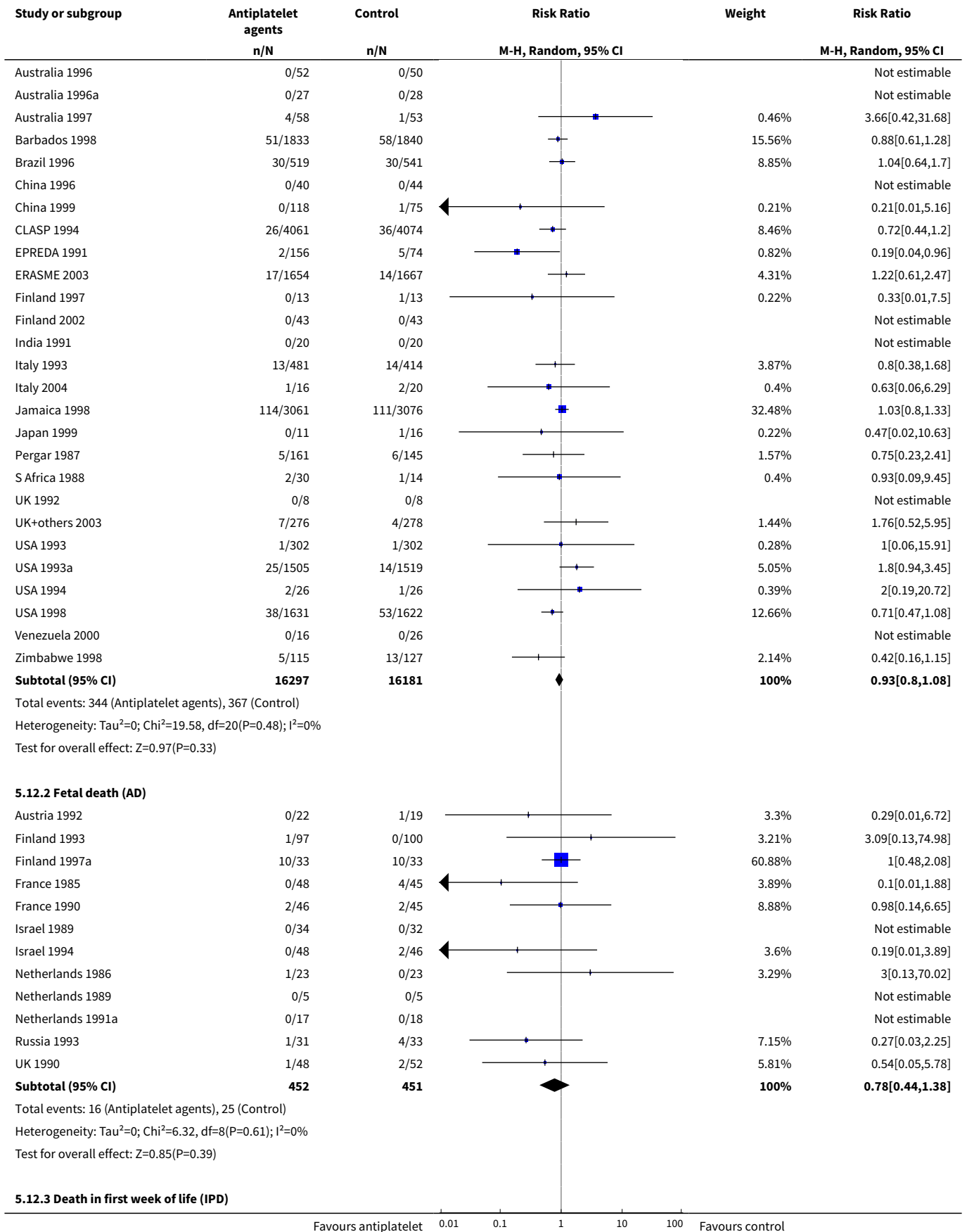


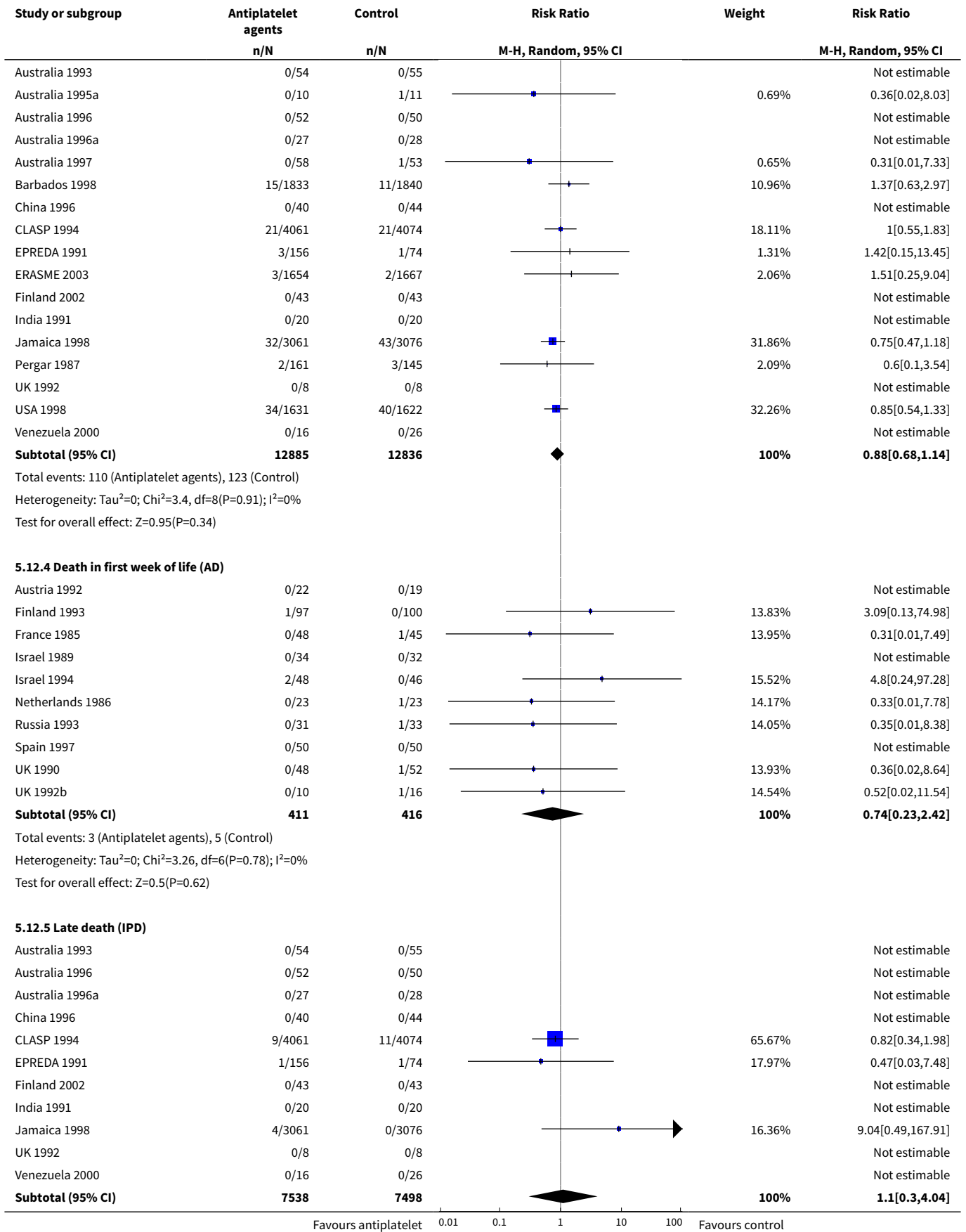
Analysis 5.11. Comparison 5 Antiplatelet agents versus placebo/no antiplatelet for primary prevention (secondary outcomes), Outcome 11 Gestation at onset proteinuria by best definition - IPD only.

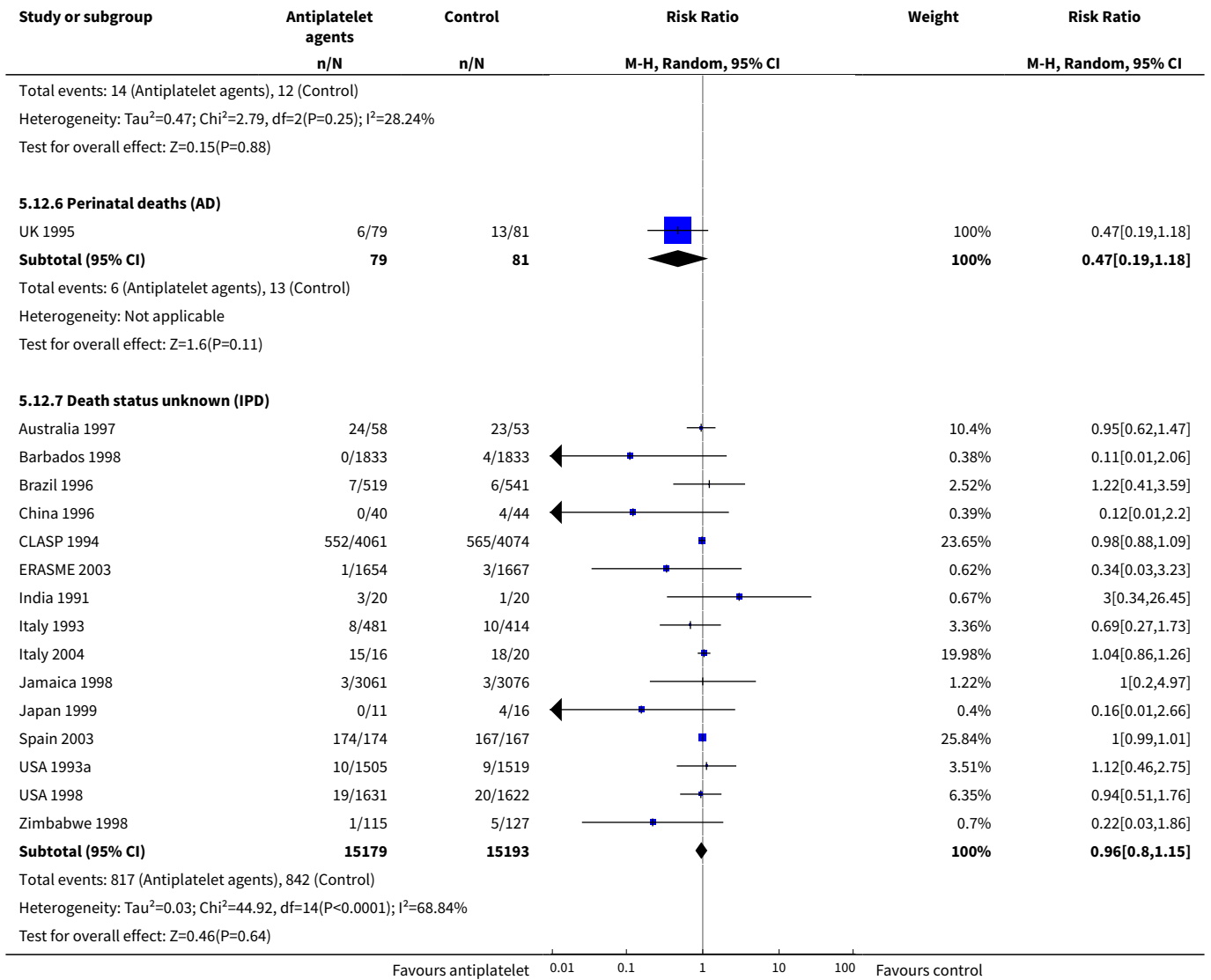


Analysis 5.12. Comparison 5 Antiplatelet agents versus placebo/no antiplatelet for primary prevention (secondary outcomes), Outcome 12 Fetal, neonatal, infant and childhood deaths (subgroups by time of death).

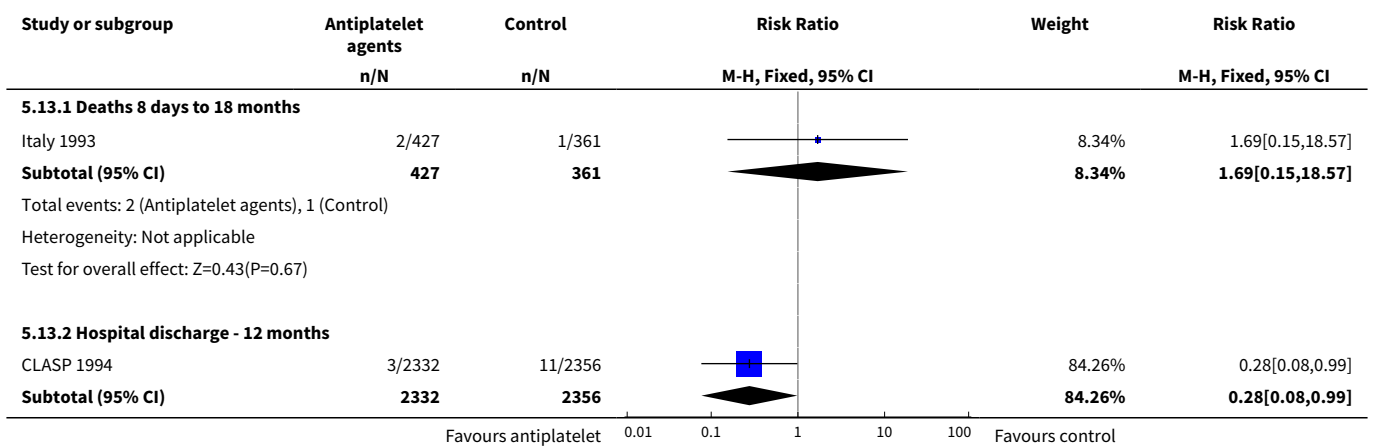


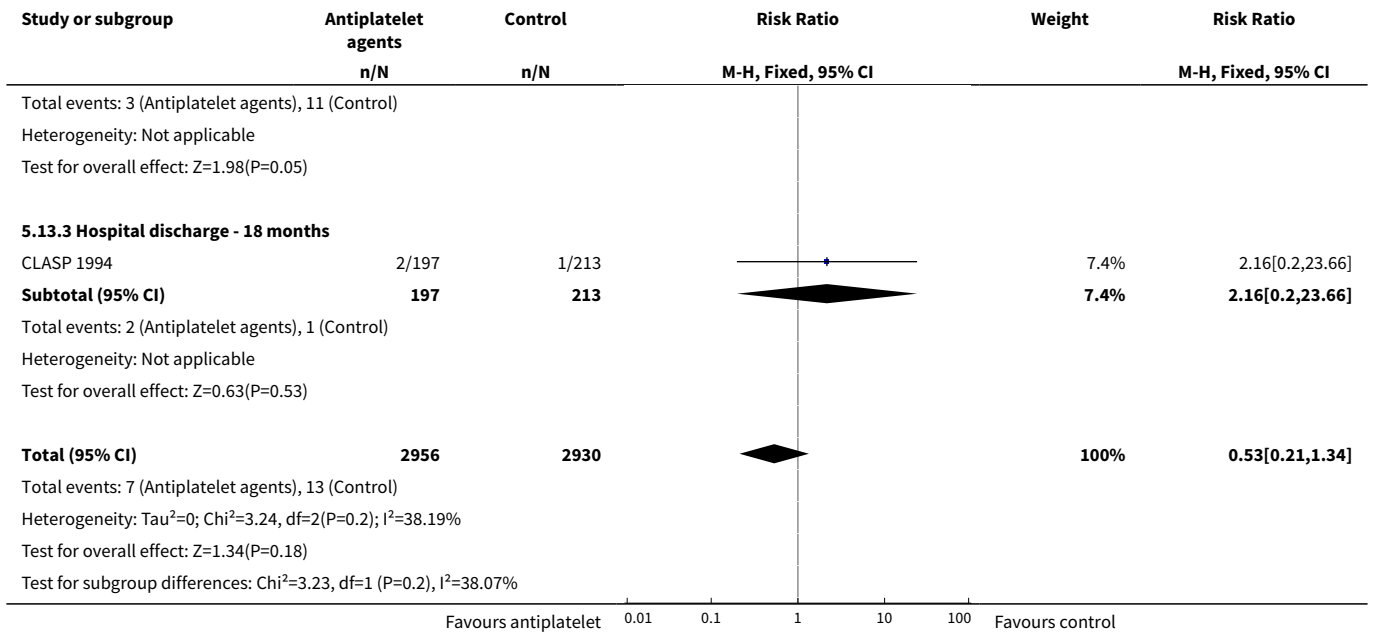




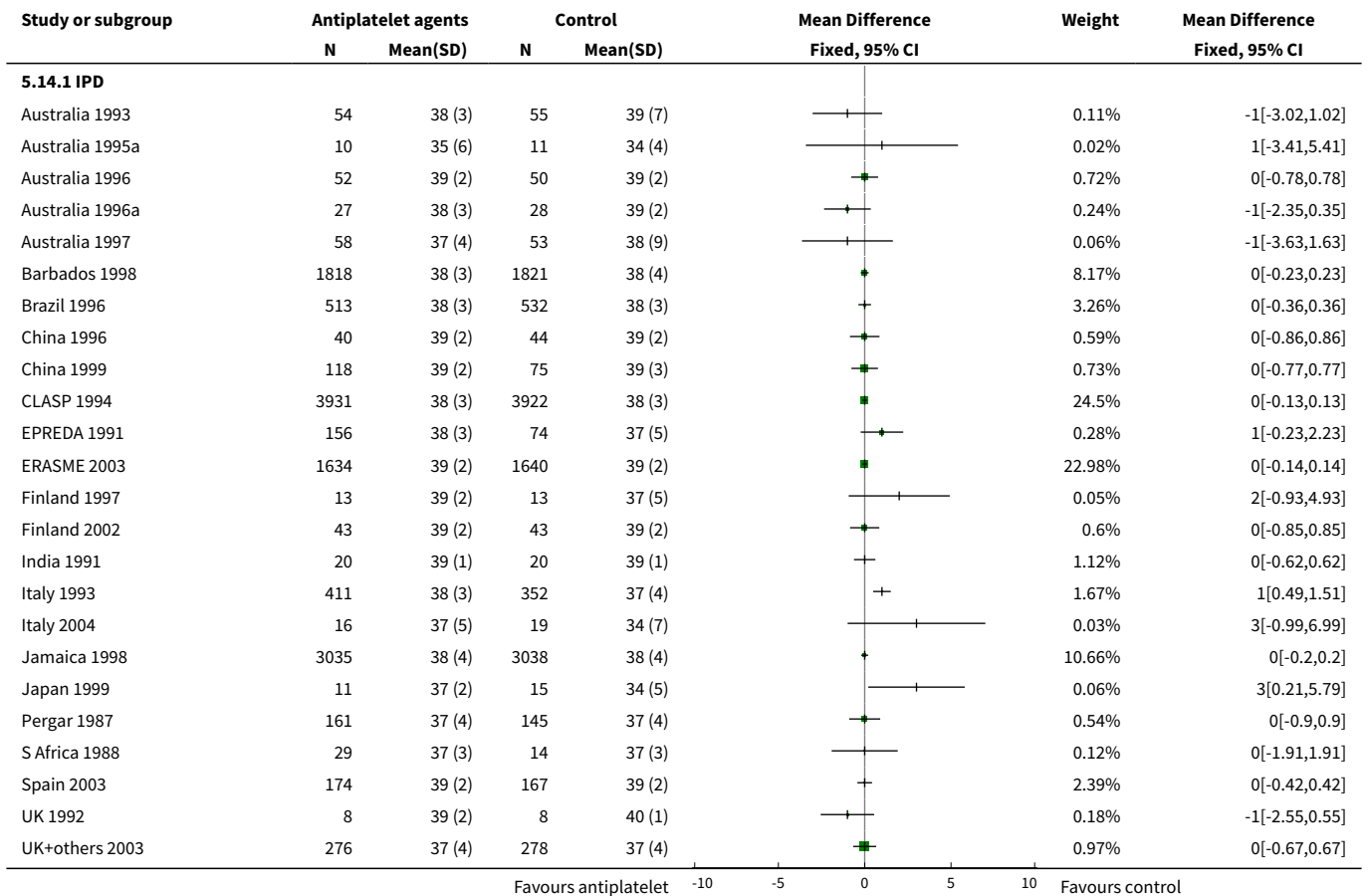


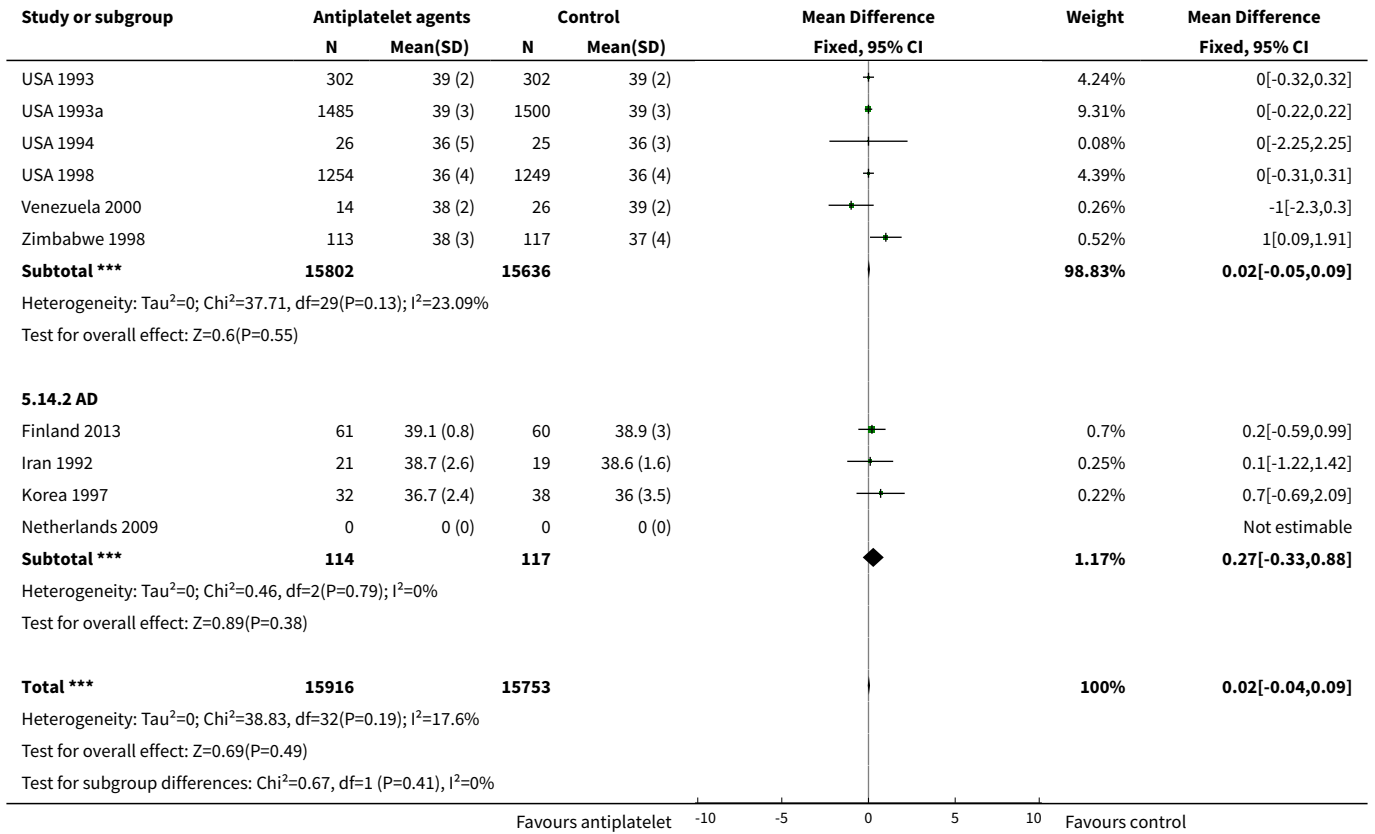
Analysis 5.13. Comparison 5 Antiplatelet agents versus placebo/no antiplatelet for primary prevention (secondary outcomes), Outcome 13 Baby deaths after discharge from hospital - AD only.



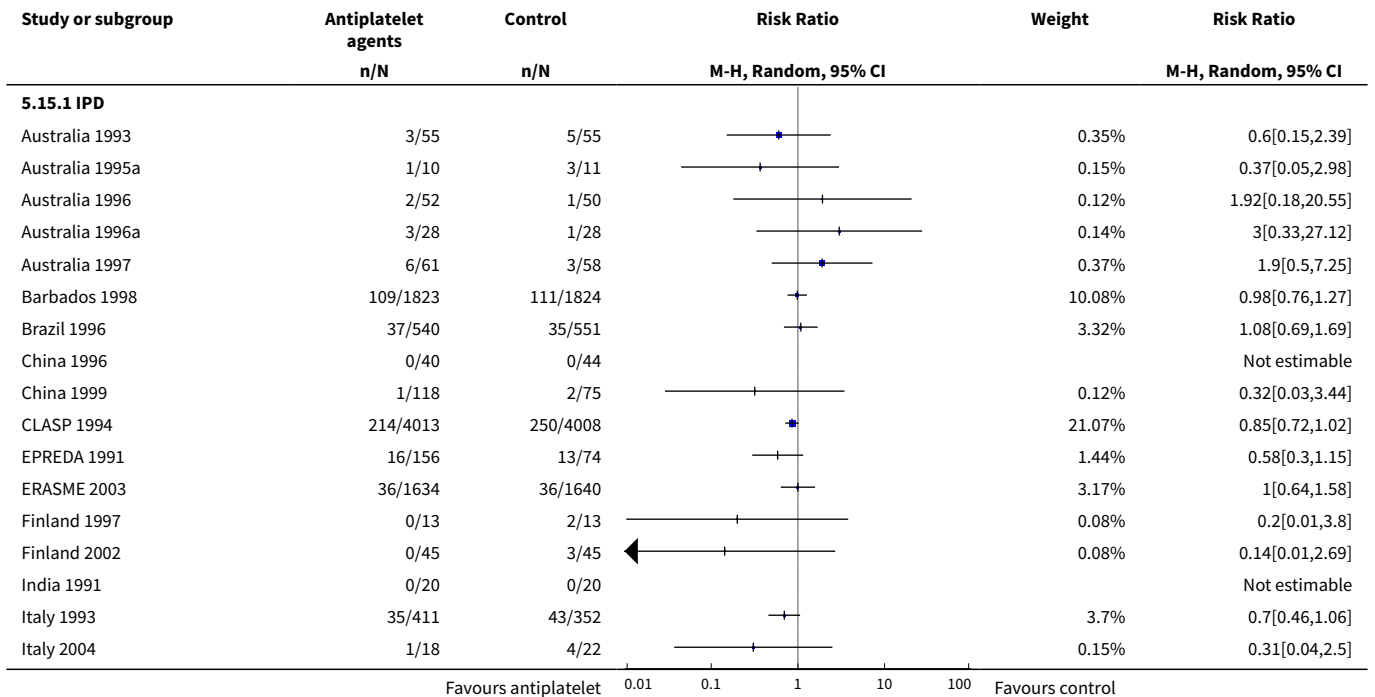


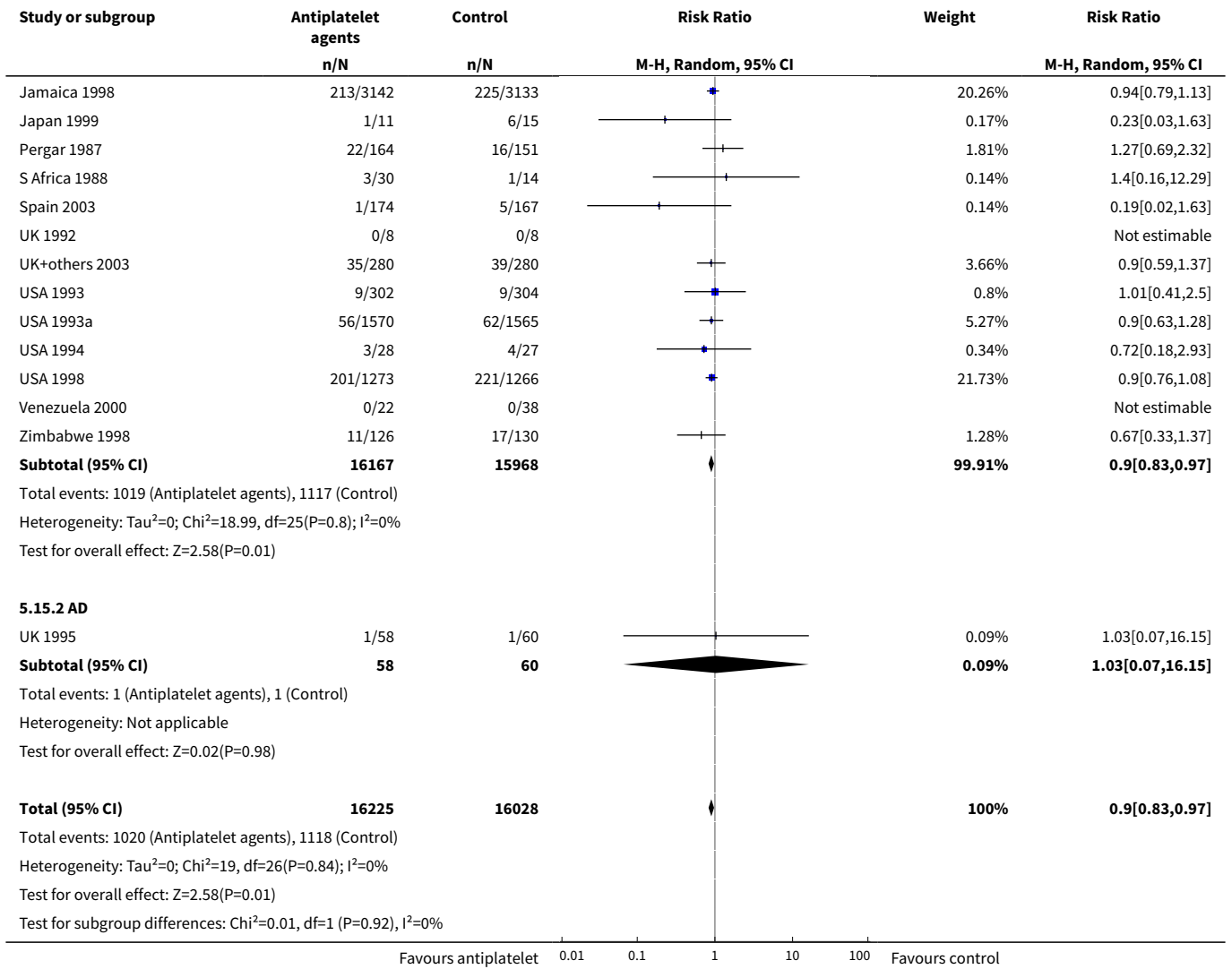
Analysis 5.14. Comparison 5 Antiplatelet agents versus placebo/no antiplatelet for primary prevention (secondary outcomes), Outcome 14 Gestation at birth (mean, weeks).



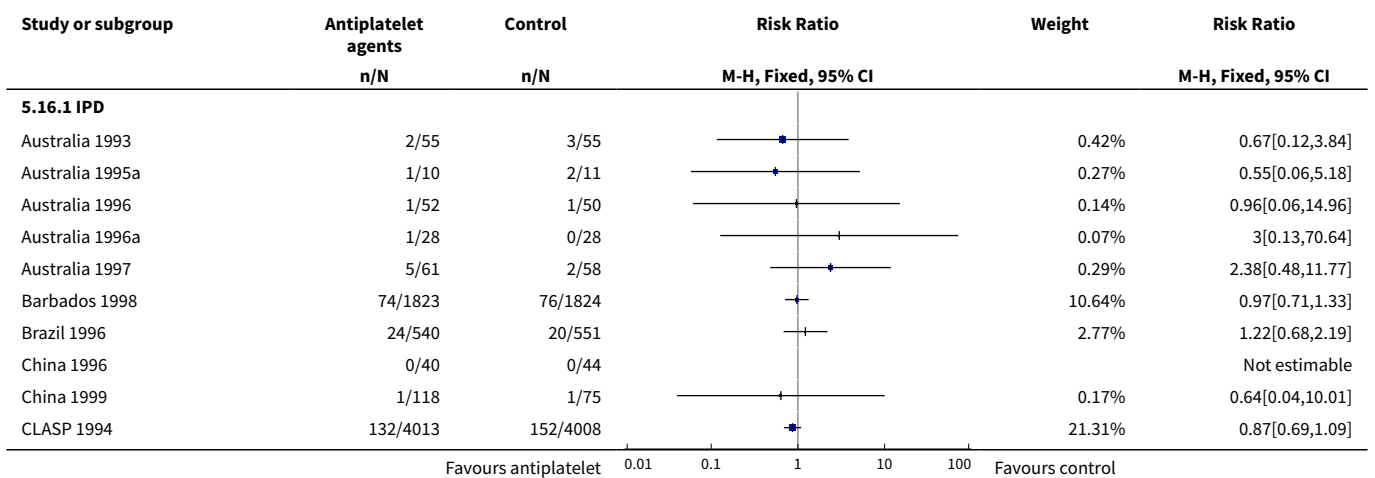


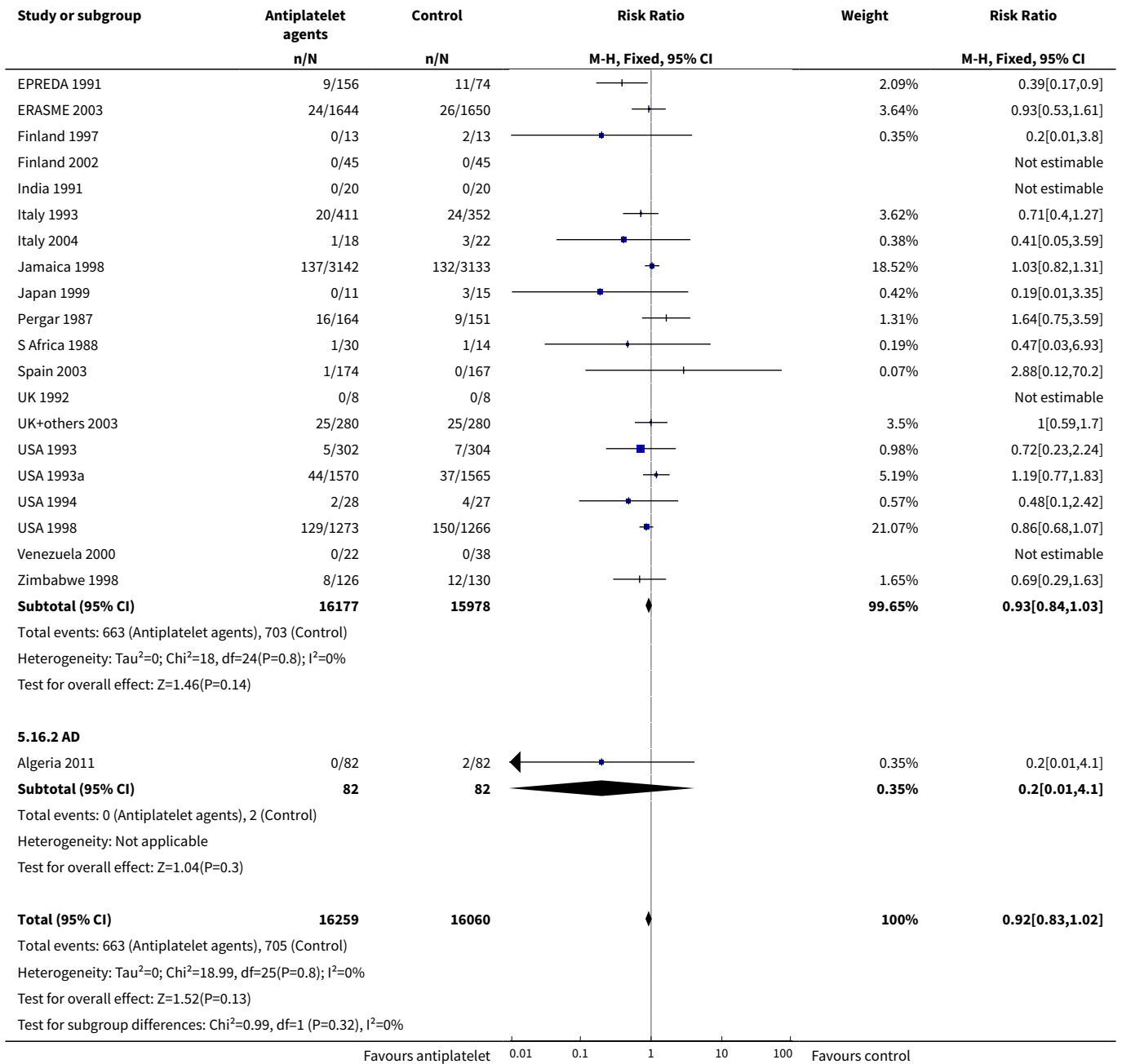
Analysis 5.15. Comparison 5 Antiplatelet agents versus placebo/no antiplatelet for primary prevention (secondary outcomes), Outcome 15 Preterm birth (< 34 weeks).



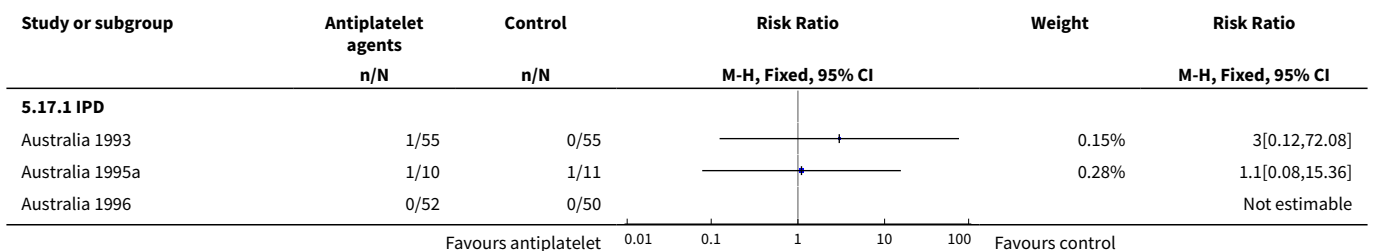


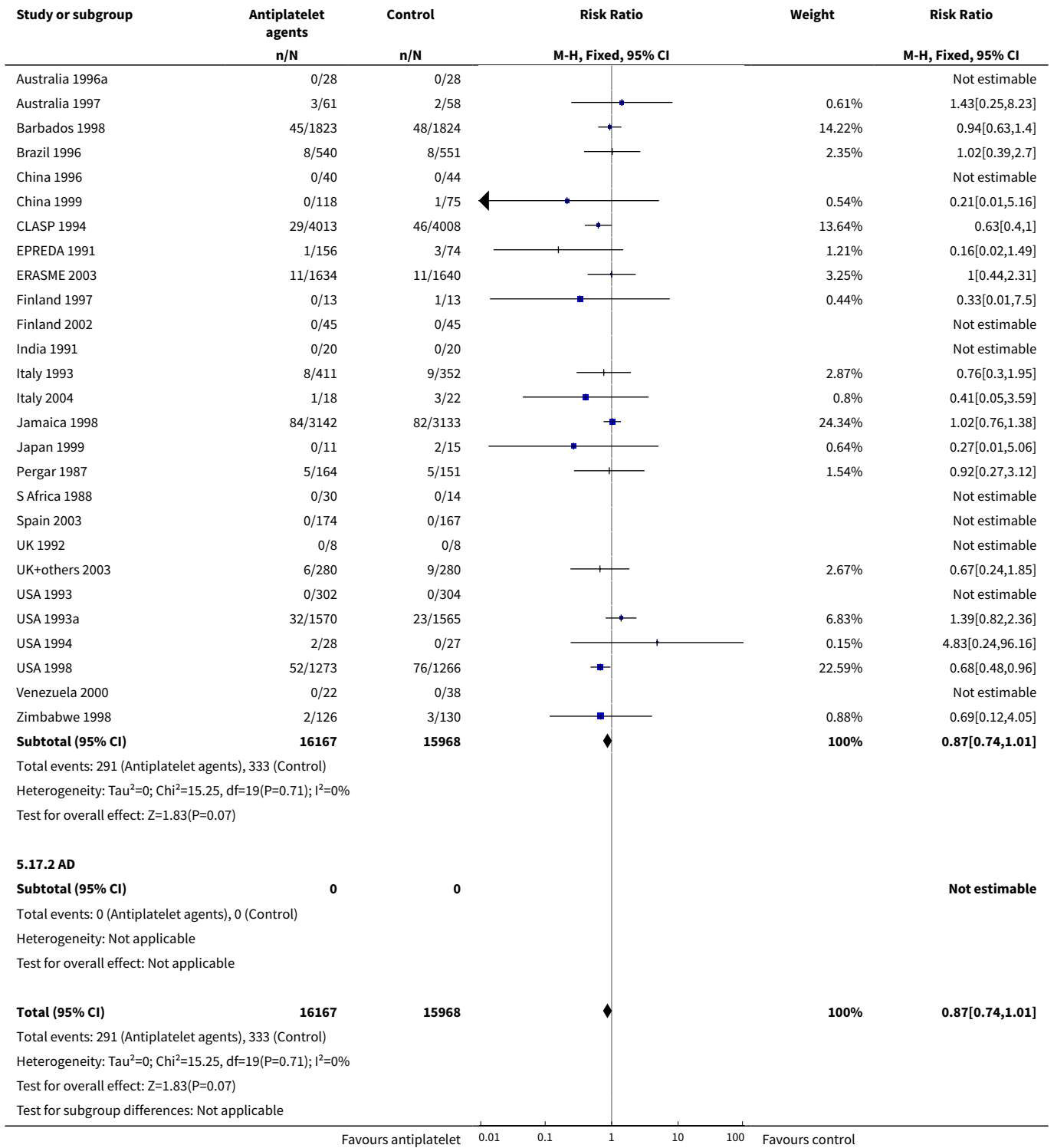
Analysis 5.16. Comparison 5 Antiplatelet agents versus placebo/no antiplatelet for primary prevention (secondary outcomes), Outcome 16 Preterm birth (< 32 weeks).



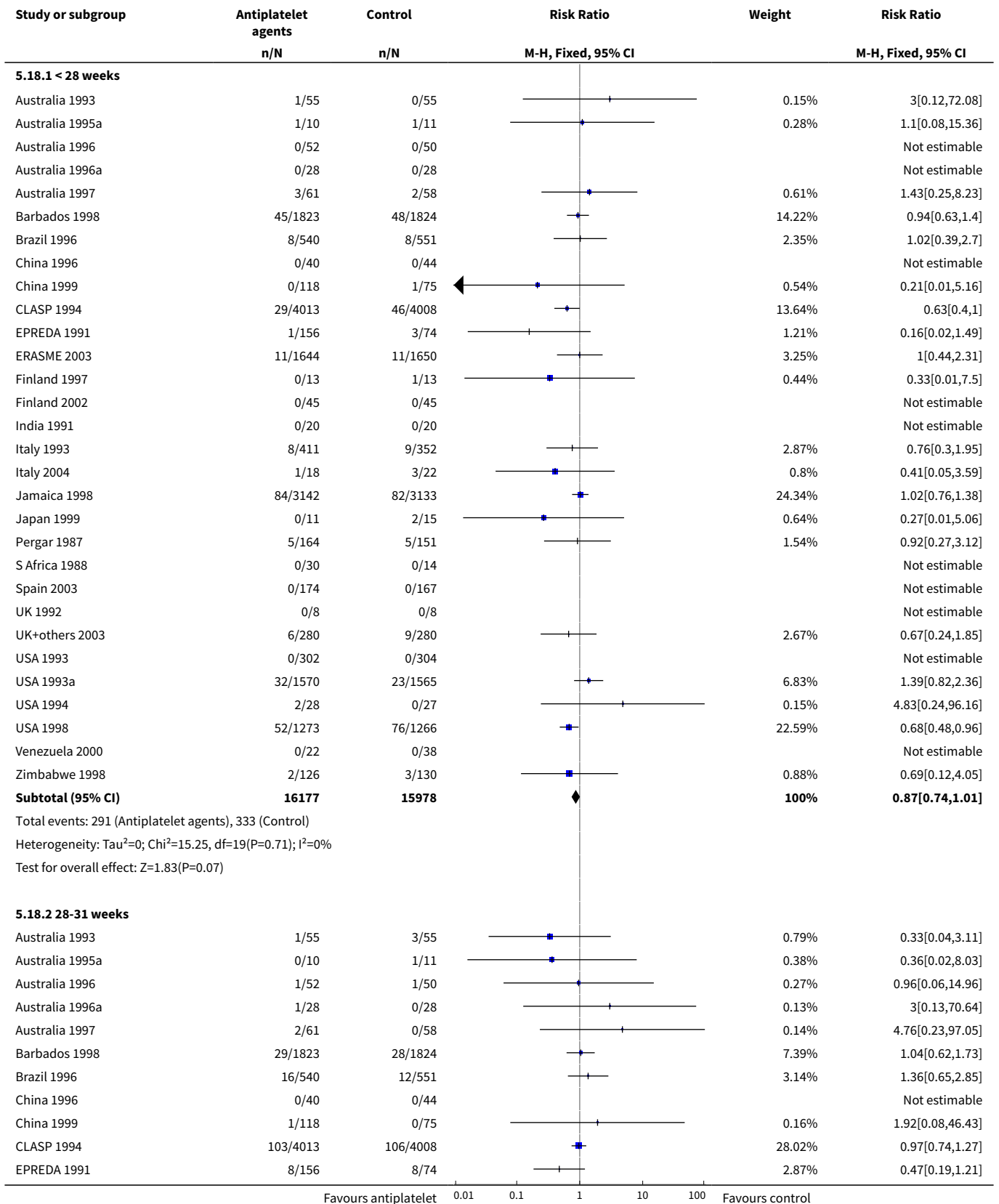


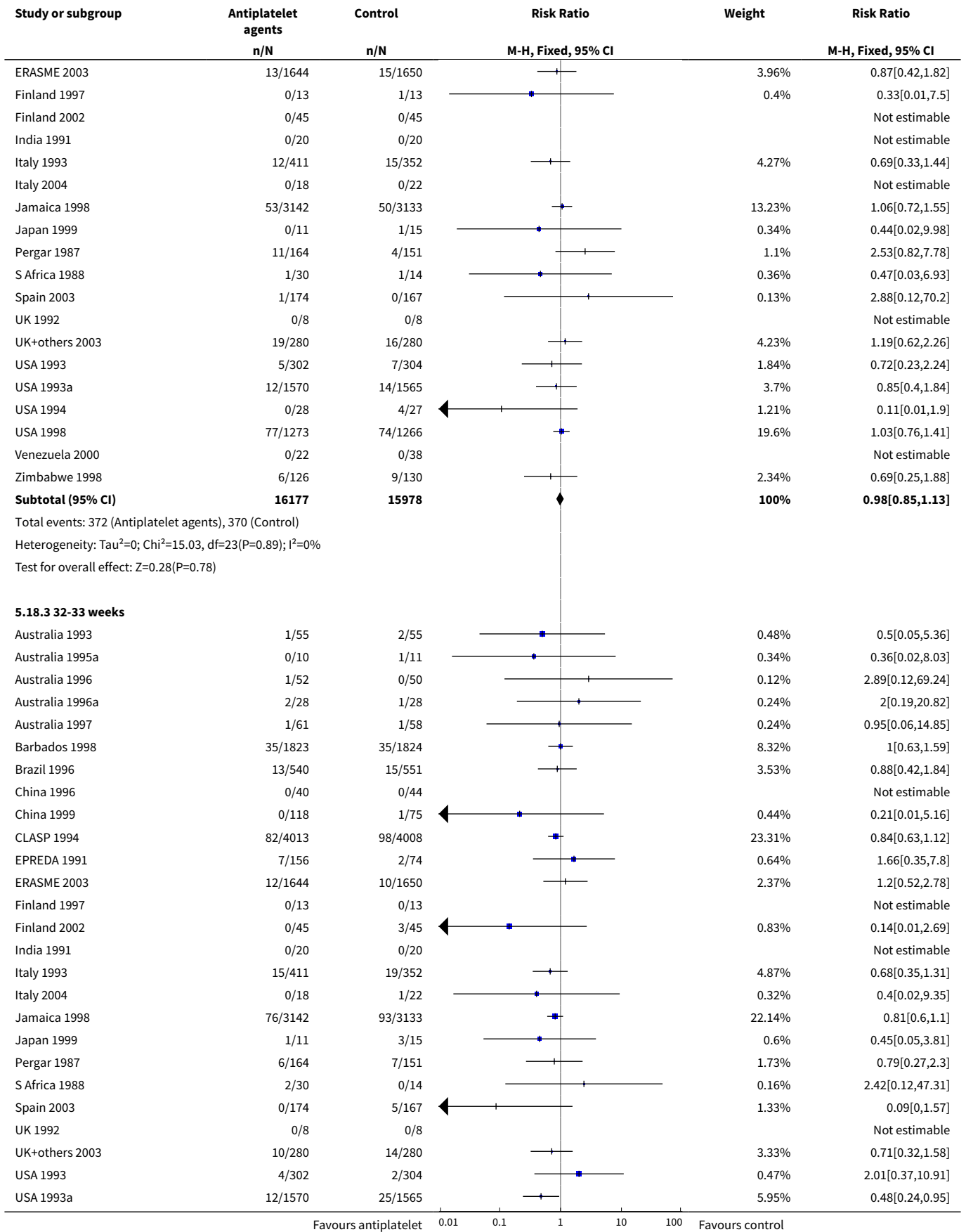
Analysis 5.17. Comparison 5 Antiplatelet agents versus placebo/no antiplatelet for primary prevention (secondary outcomes), Outcome 17 Preterm birth (< 28 weeks).

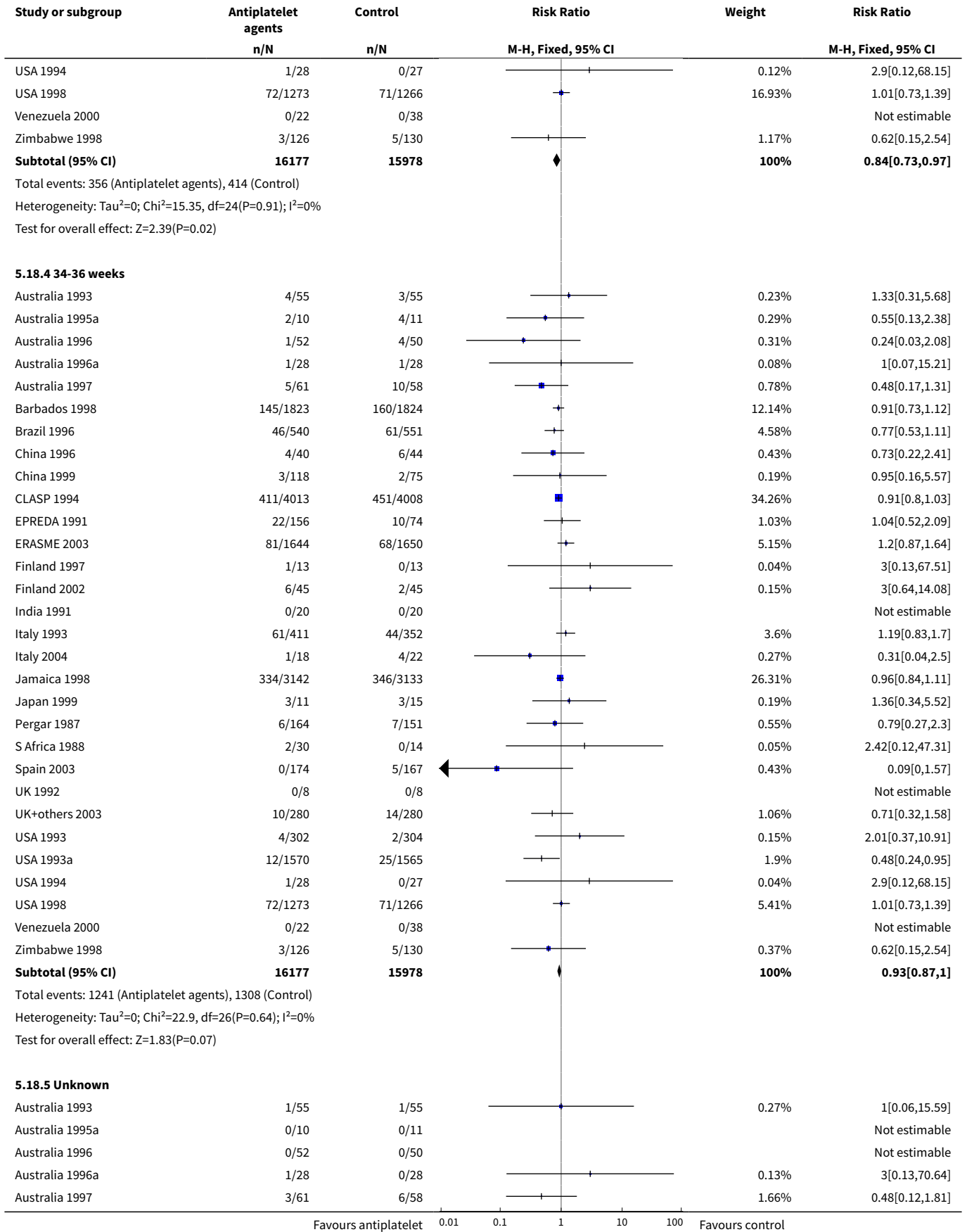


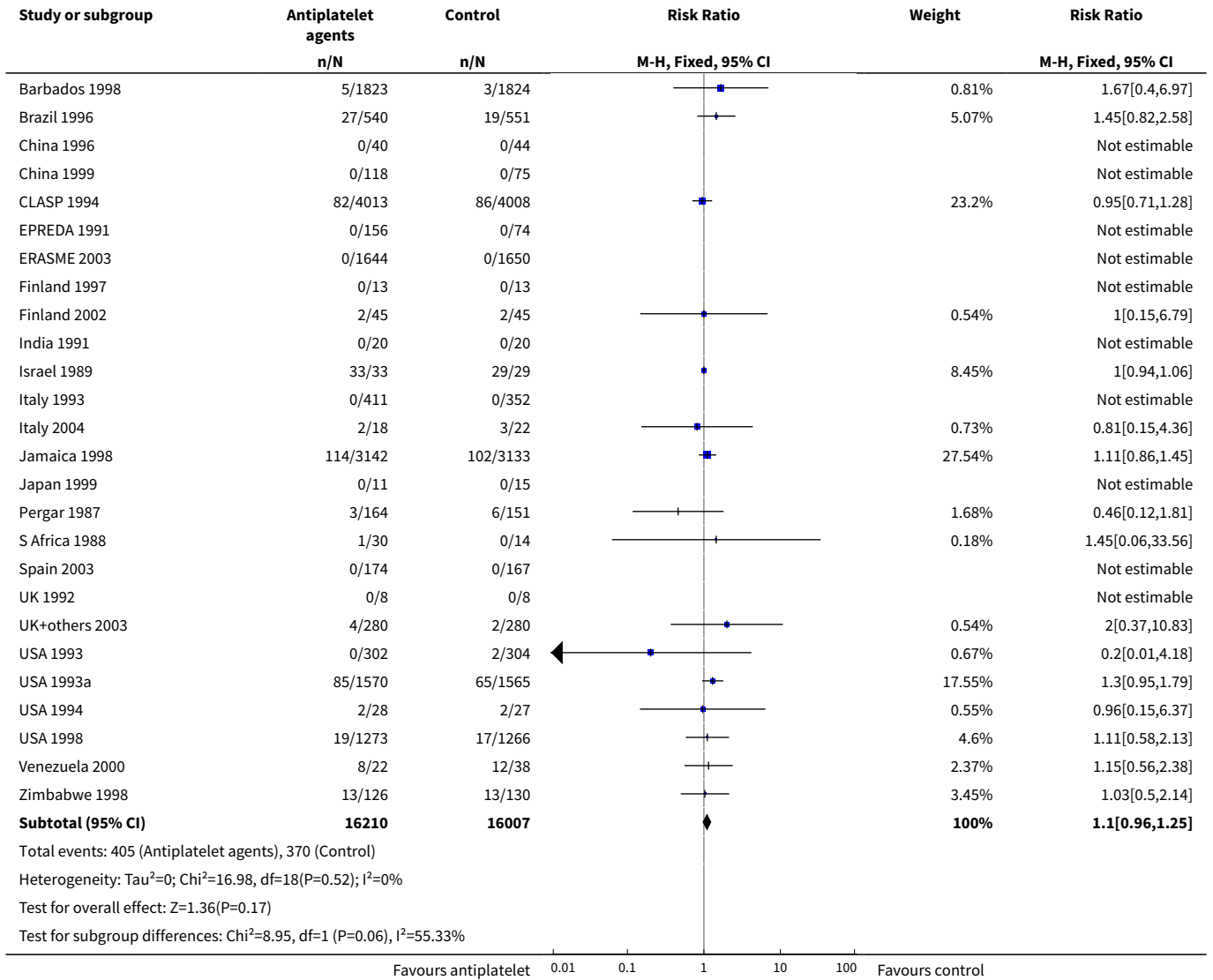


Analysis 5.18. Comparison 5 Antiplatelet agents versus placebo/no antiplatelet for primary prevention (secondary outcomes), Outcome 18 Preterm birth (mutually exclusive subgroups) - IPD only.

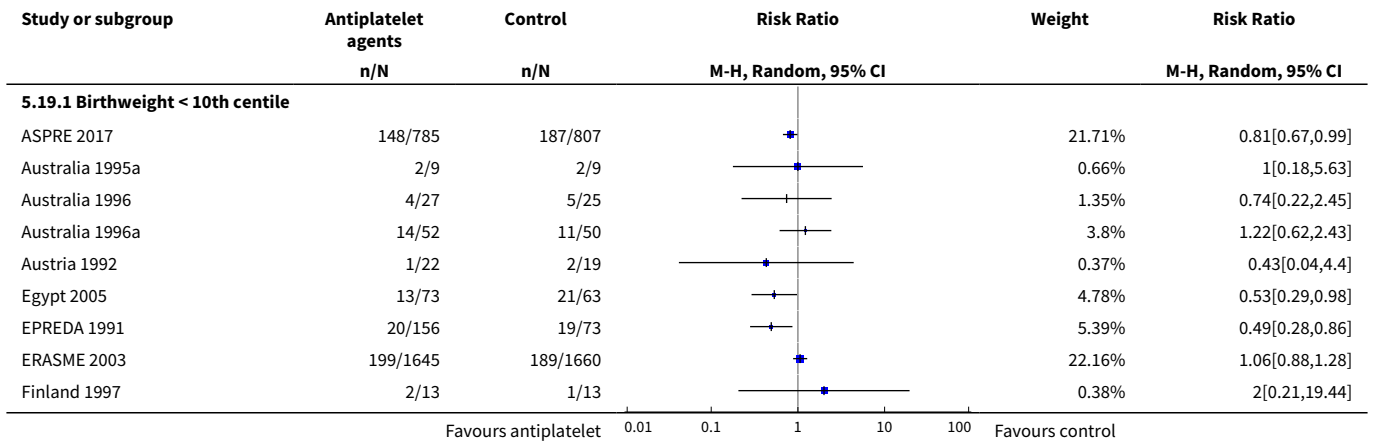


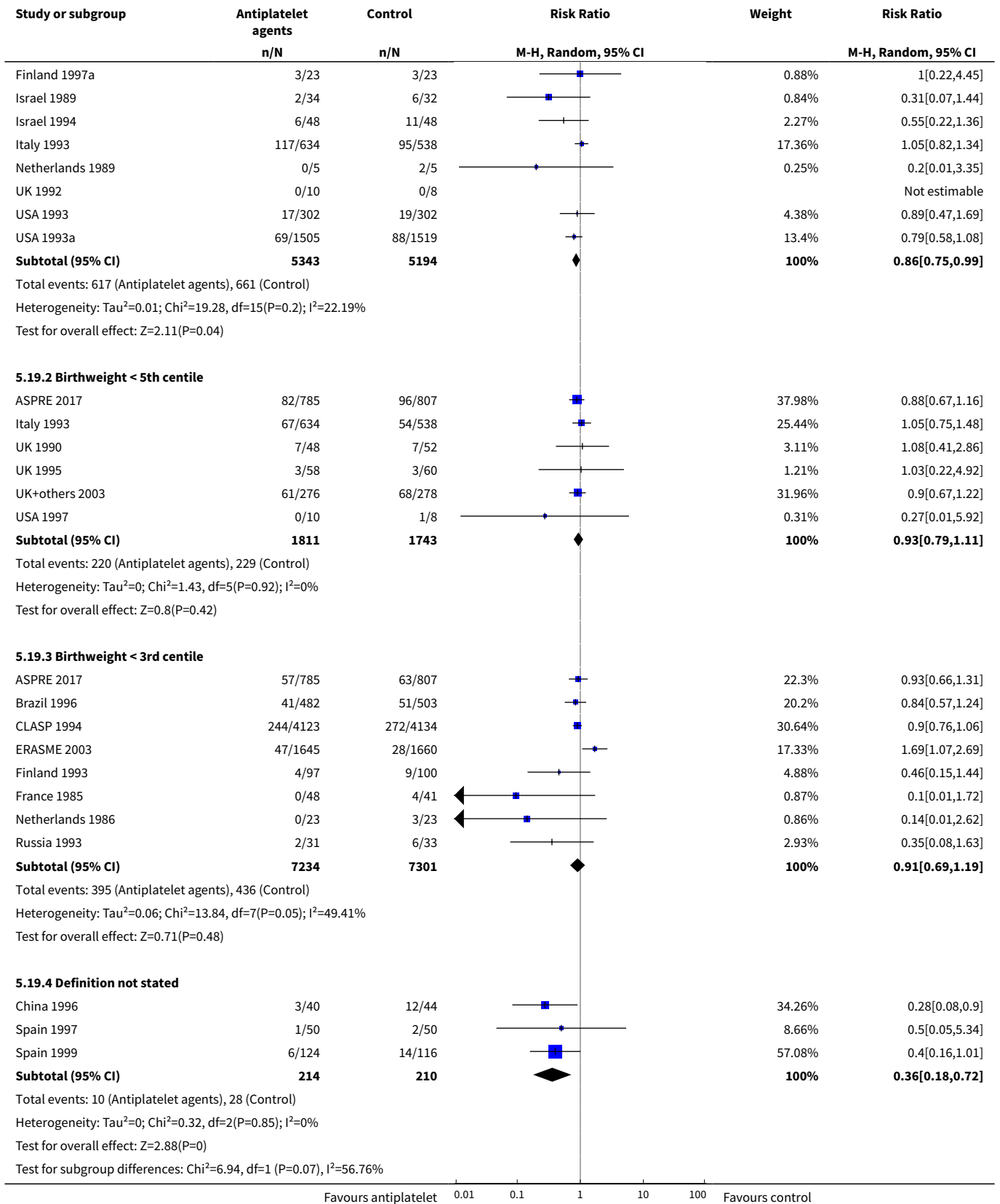




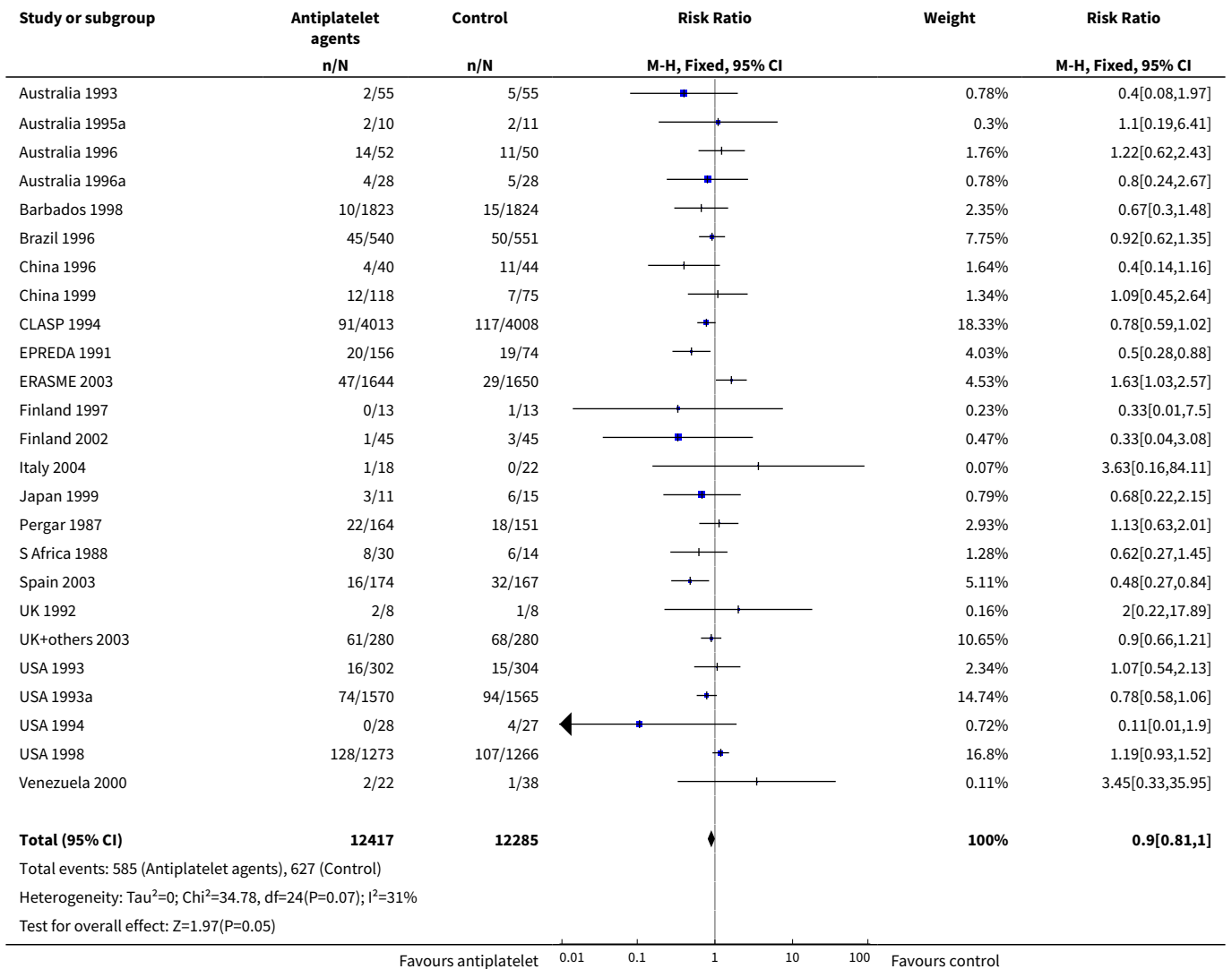


Analysis 5.19. Comparison 5 Antiplatelet agents versus placebo/no antiplatelet for primary prevention (secondary outcomes), Outcome 19 Small-for-gestational age (subgrouped by severity) - AD only, trial definition.

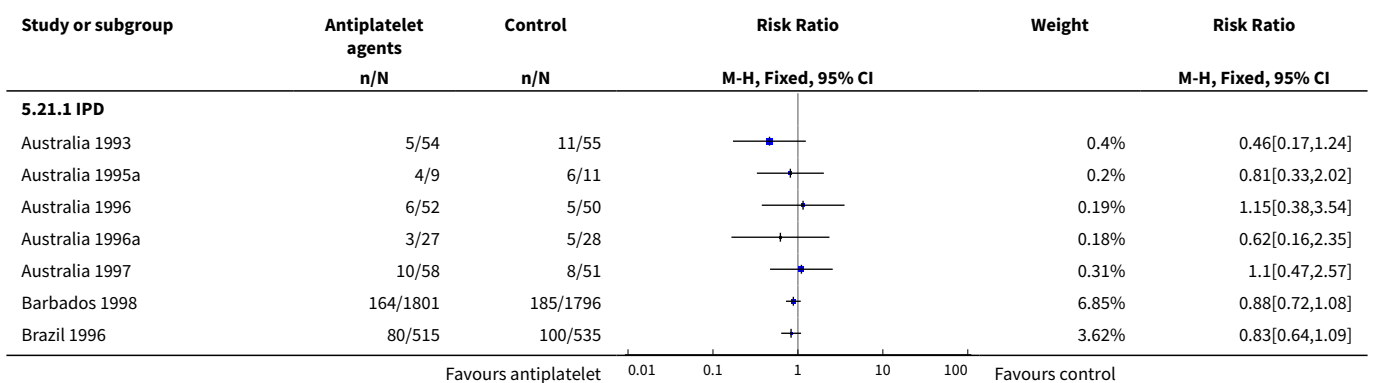


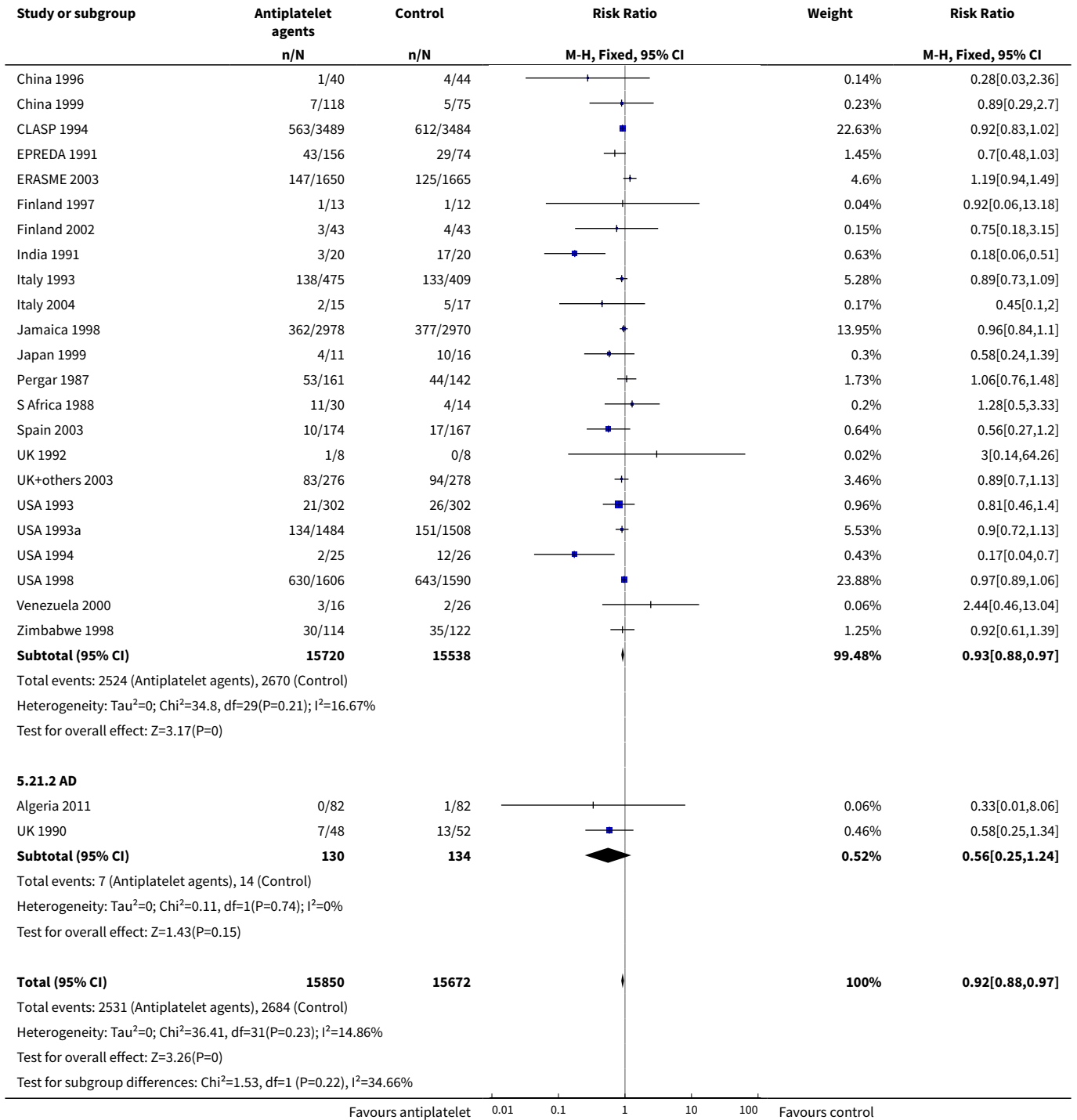


Analysis 5.20. Comparison 5 Antiplatelet agents versus placebo/no antiplatelet for primary prevention (secondary outcomes), Outcome 20 Any baby SGA < 3rd centile or as reported - IPD only.

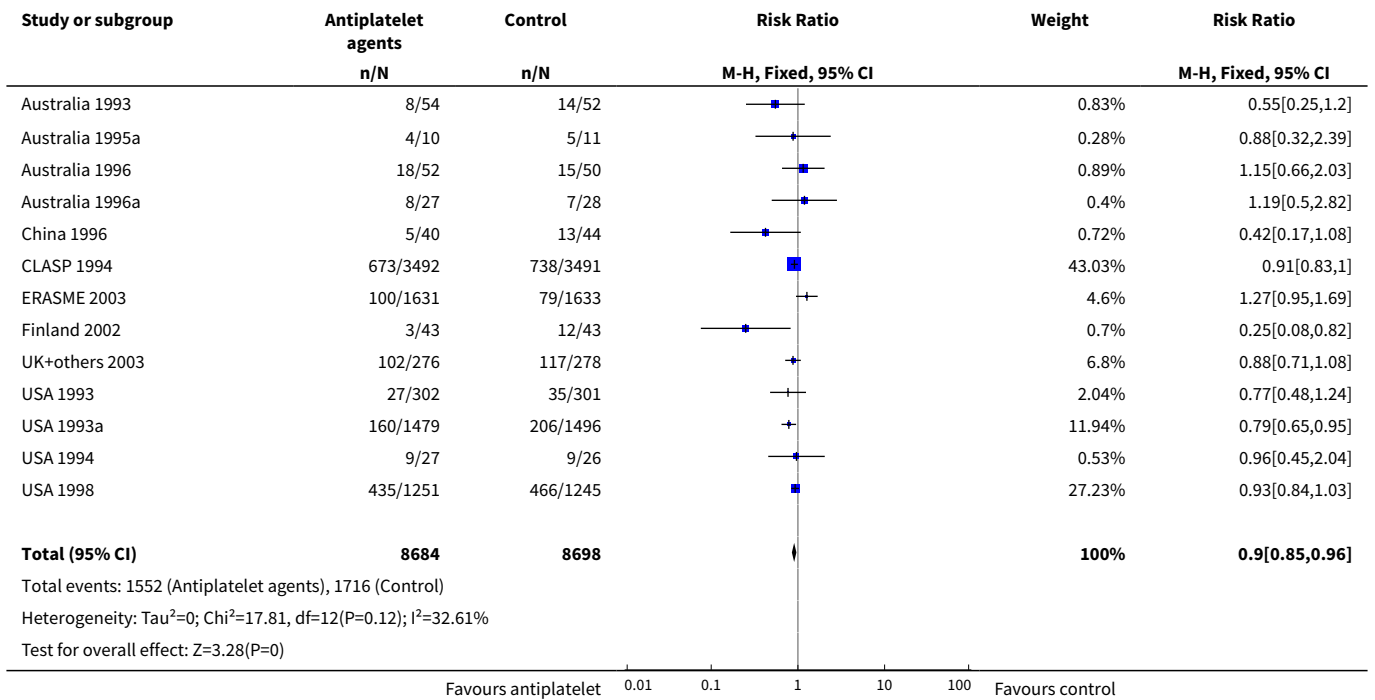


Analysis 5.21. Comparison 5 Antiplatelet agents versus placebo/no antiplatelet for primary prevention (secondary outcomes), Outcome 21 Birthweight < 2500 g.

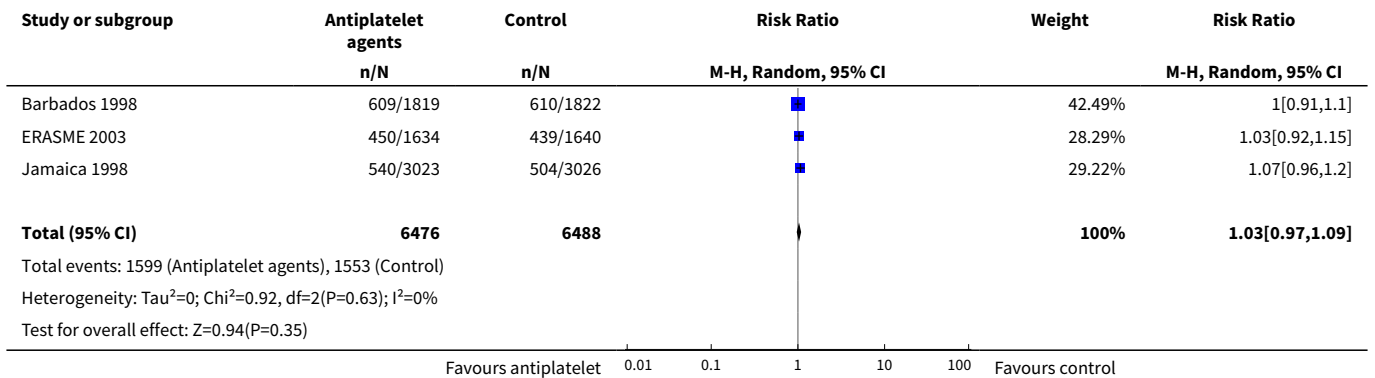




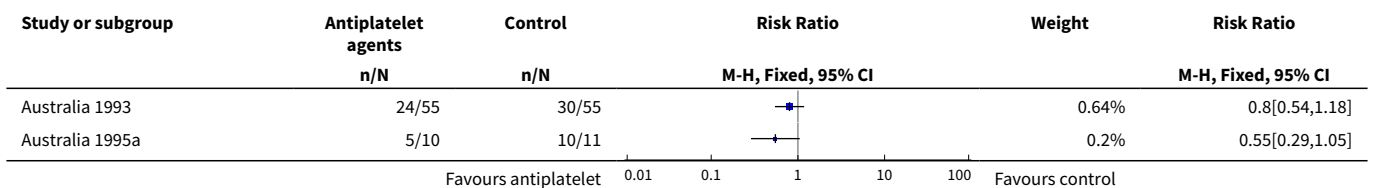
Analysis 5.22. Comparison 5 Antiplatelet agents versus placebo/no antiplatelet for primary prevention (secondary outcomes), Outcome 22 Pregnancy with SAO (including maternal death, baby death, PE, SGA, preterm) - IPD only.

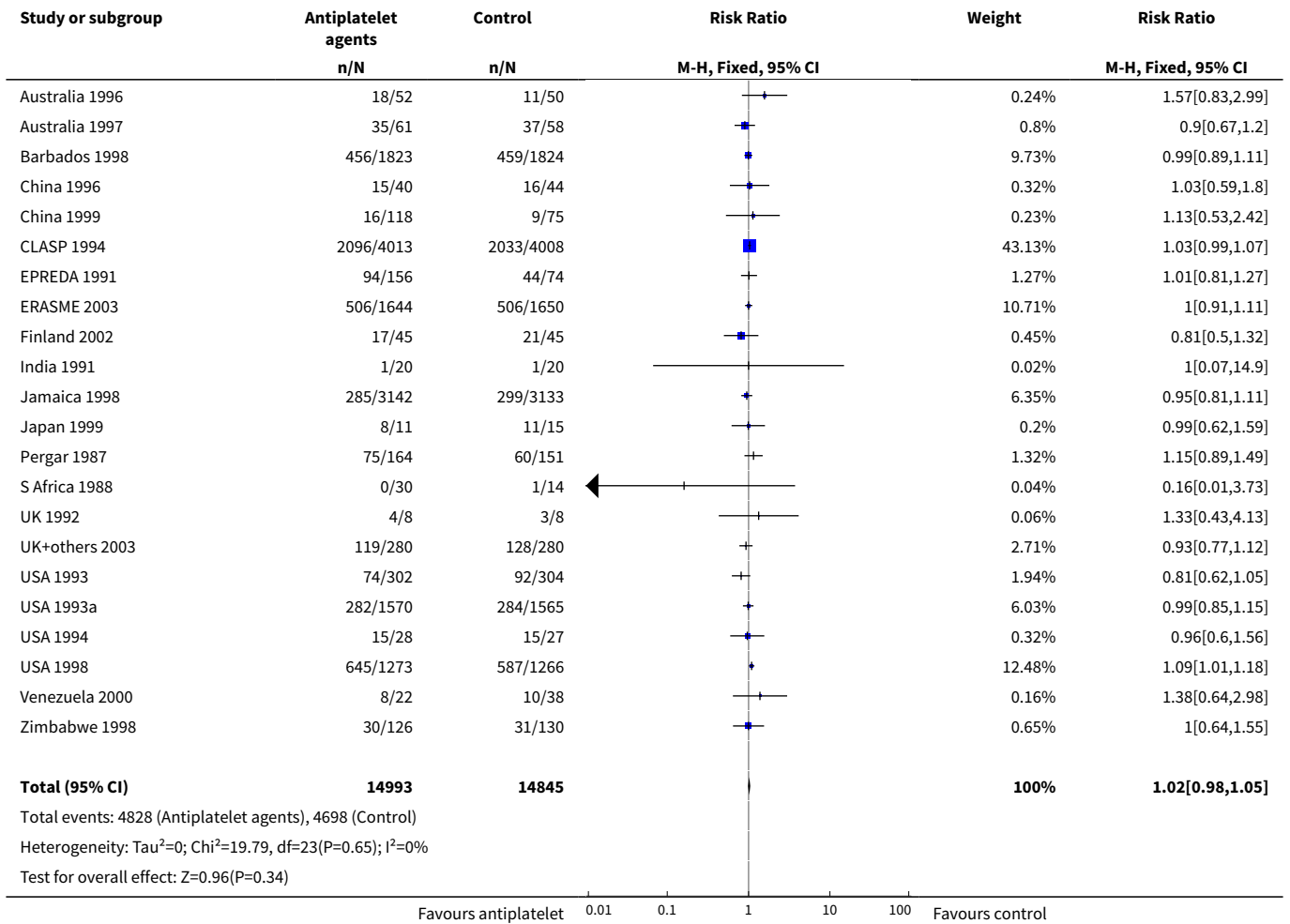


Analysis 5.23. Comparison 5 Antiplatelet agents versus placebo/no antiplatelet for primary prevention (secondary outcomes), Outcome 23 Hospital admission for the woman during pregnancy - AD only.

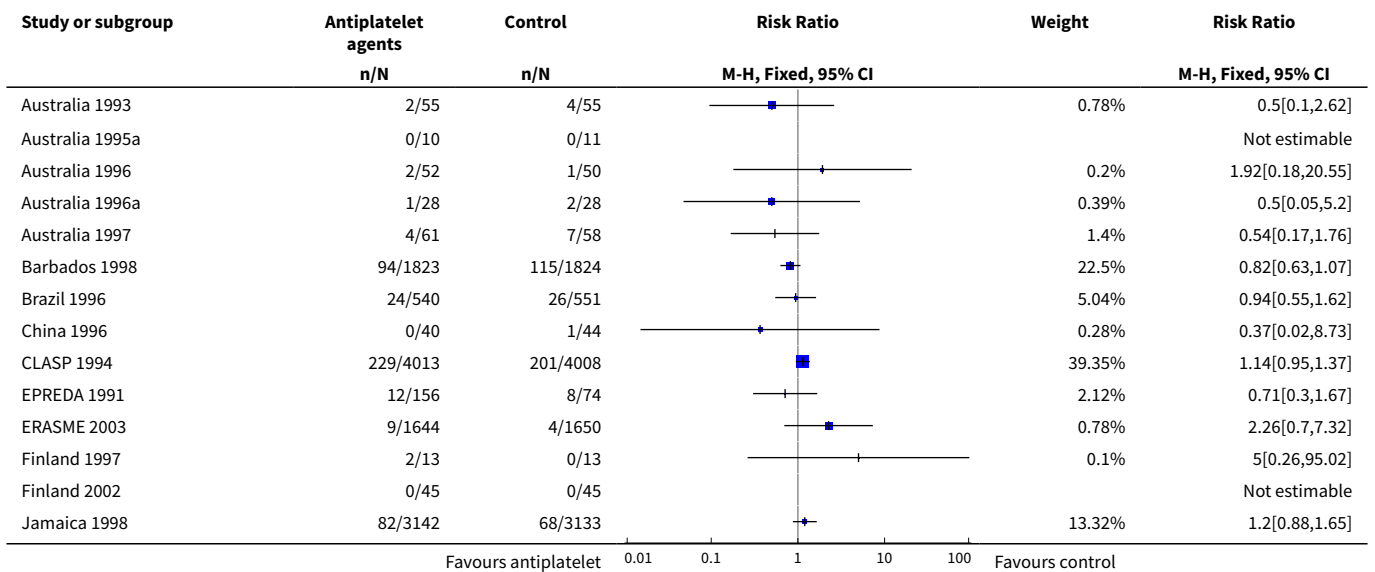


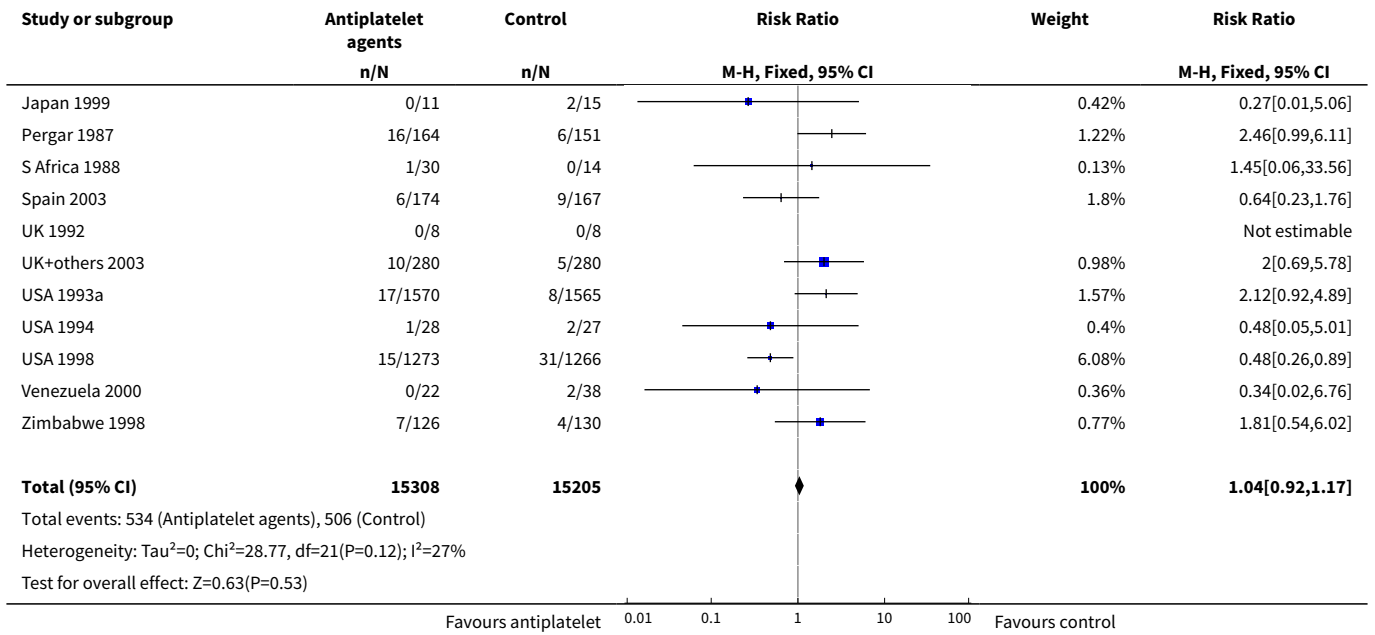
Analysis 5.24. Comparison 5 Antiplatelet agents versus placebo/no antiplatelet for primary prevention (secondary outcomes), Outcome 24 Non spontaneous labour (induced labour or pre-labour caesarean) - IPD only.



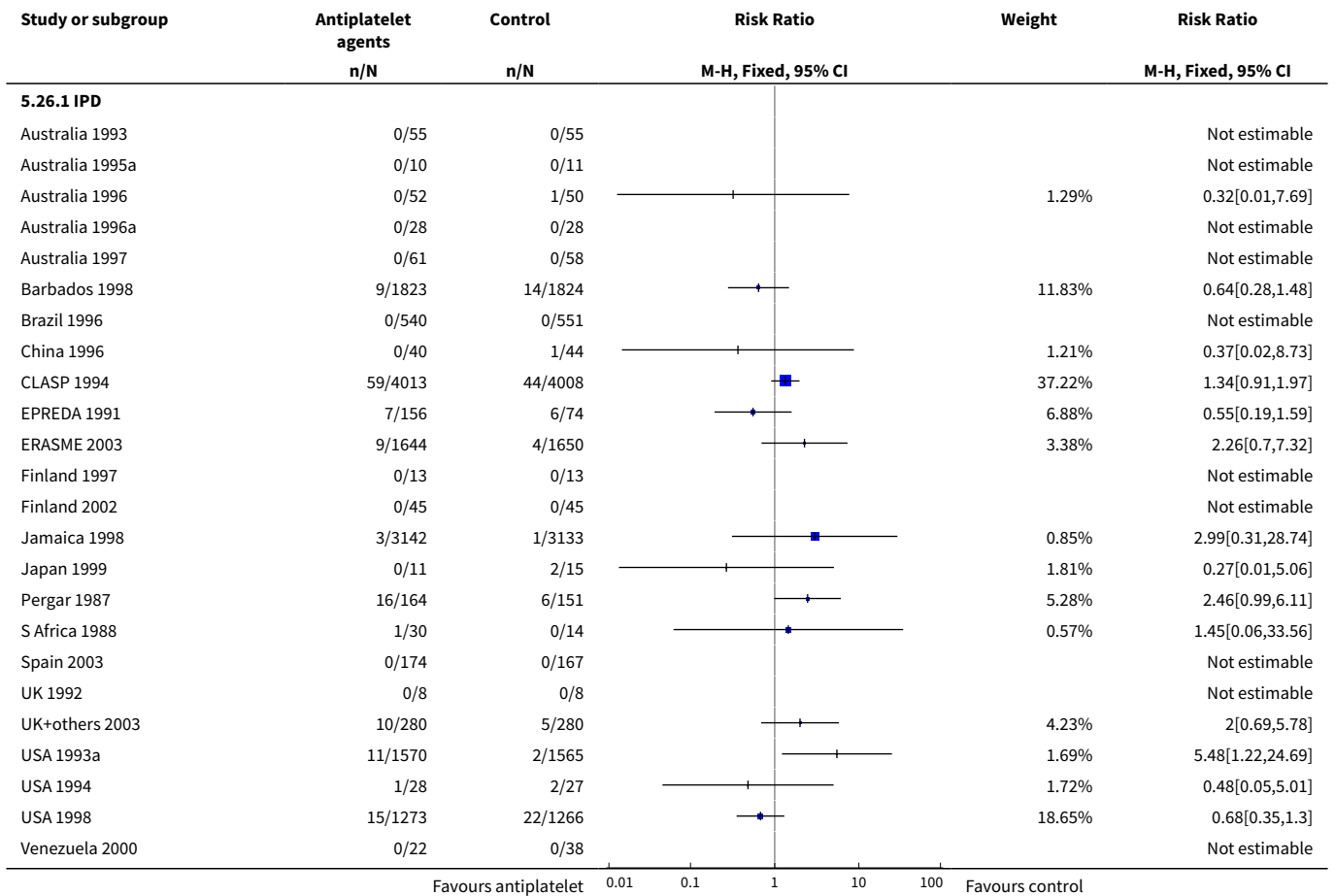


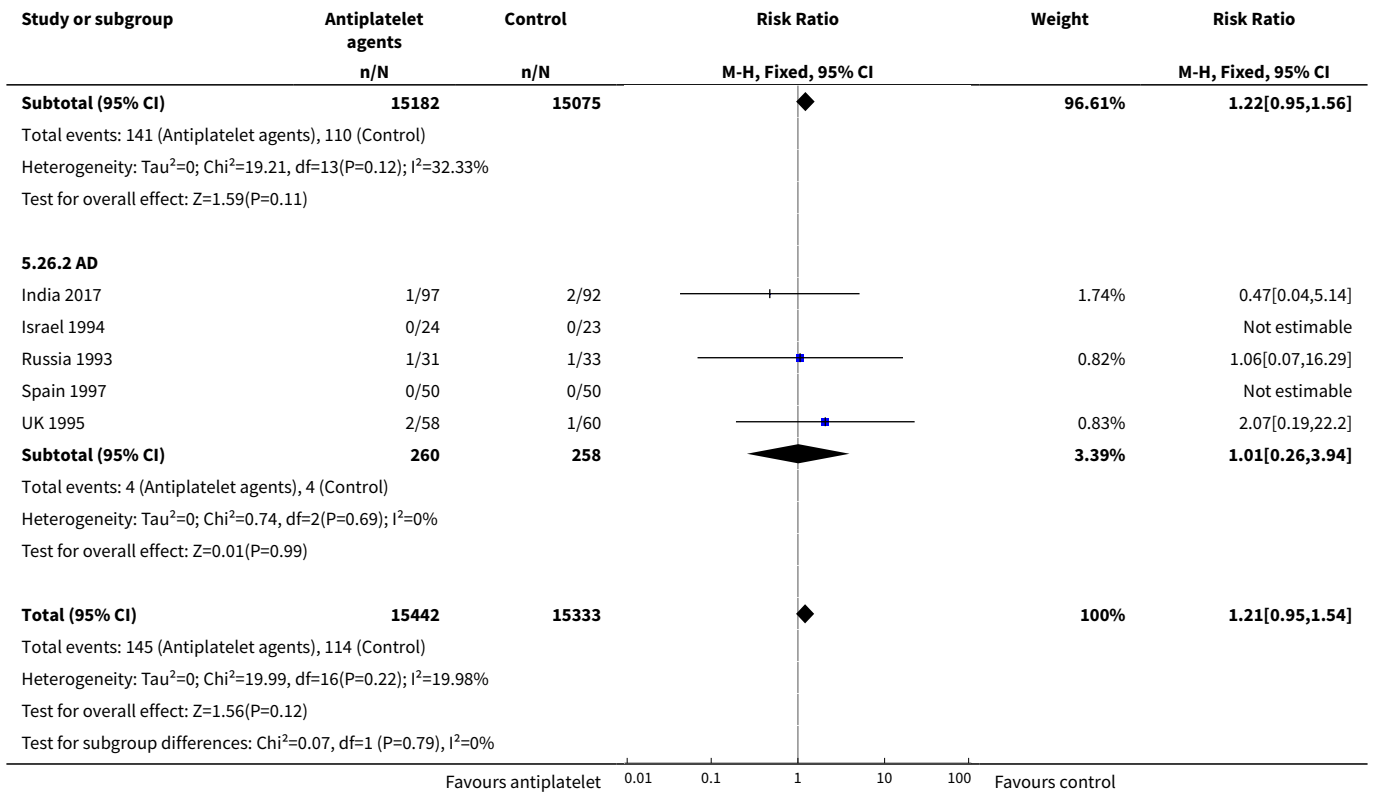
Analysis 5.25. Comparison 5 Antiplatelet agents versus placebo/no antiplatelet for primary prevention (secondary outcomes), Outcome 25 Antepartum haemorrhage - IPD only.



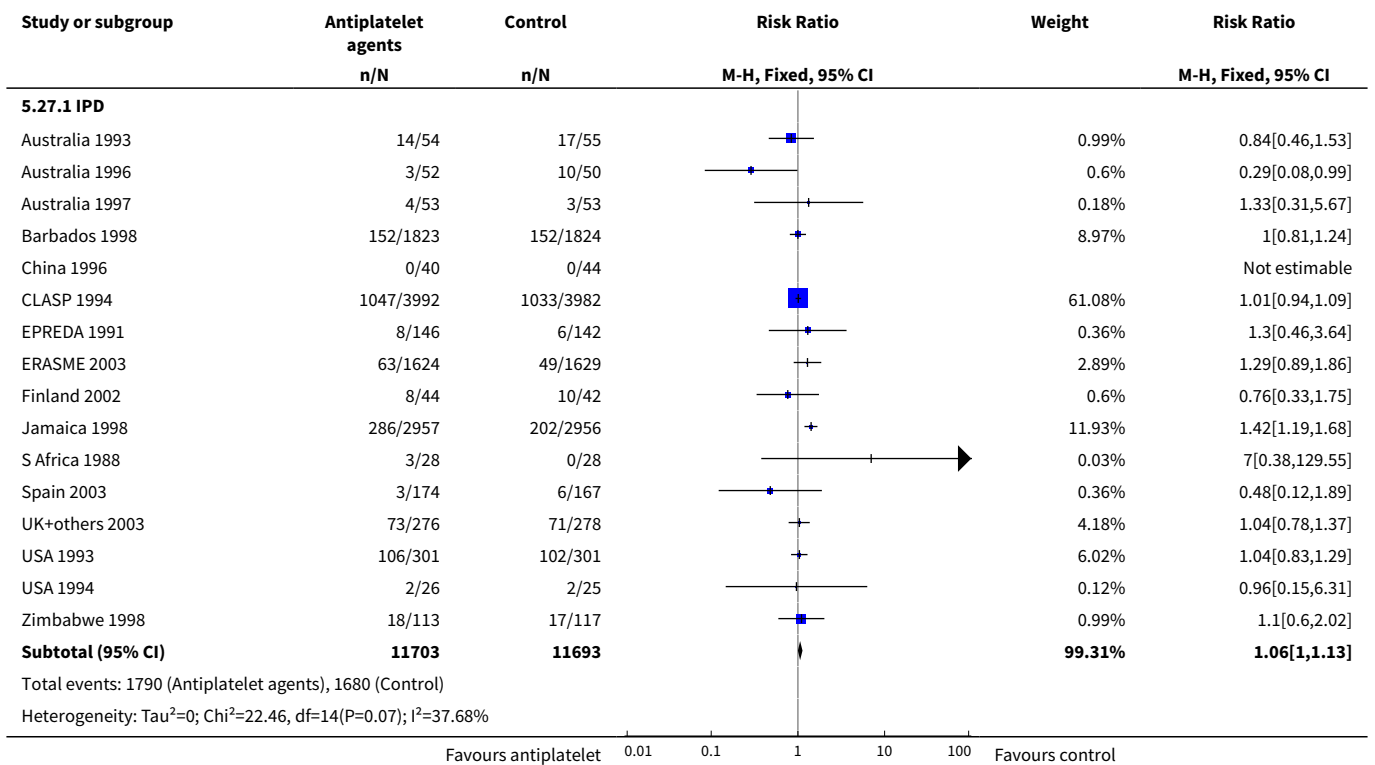


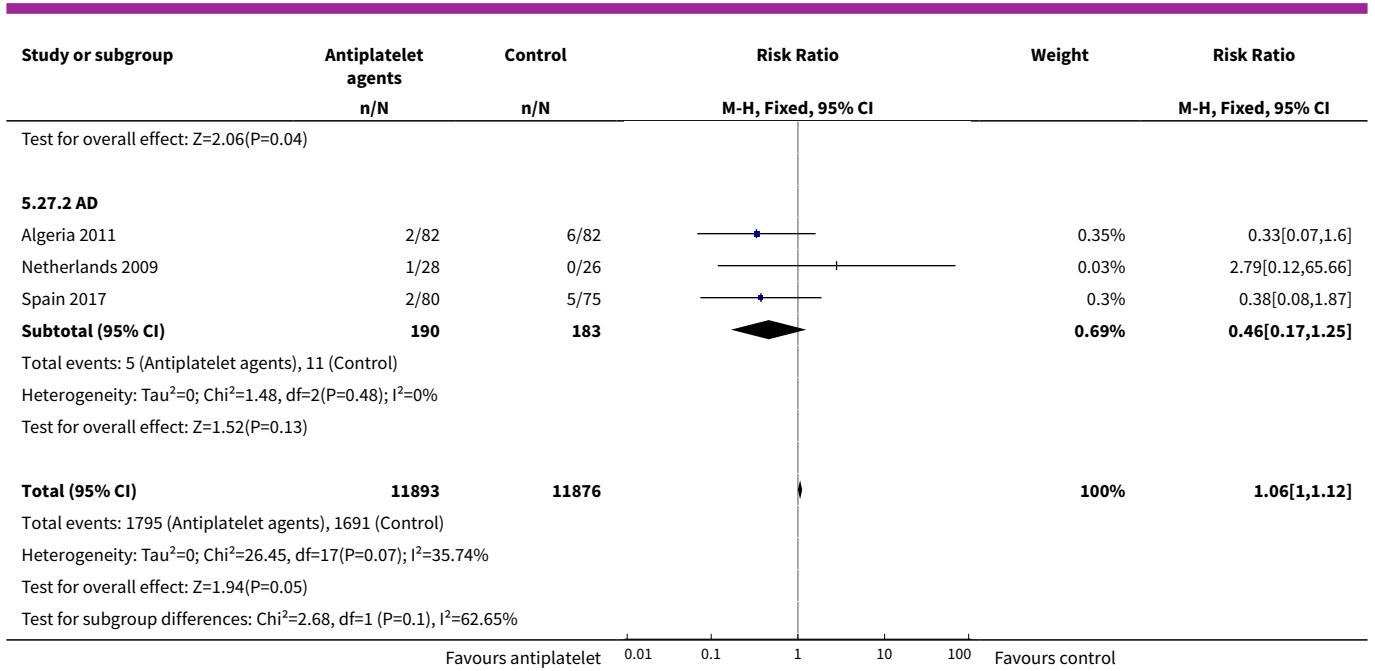
Analysis 5.26. Comparison 5 Antiplatelet agents versus placebo/no antiplatelet for primary prevention (secondary outcomes), Outcome 26 Placental abruption.



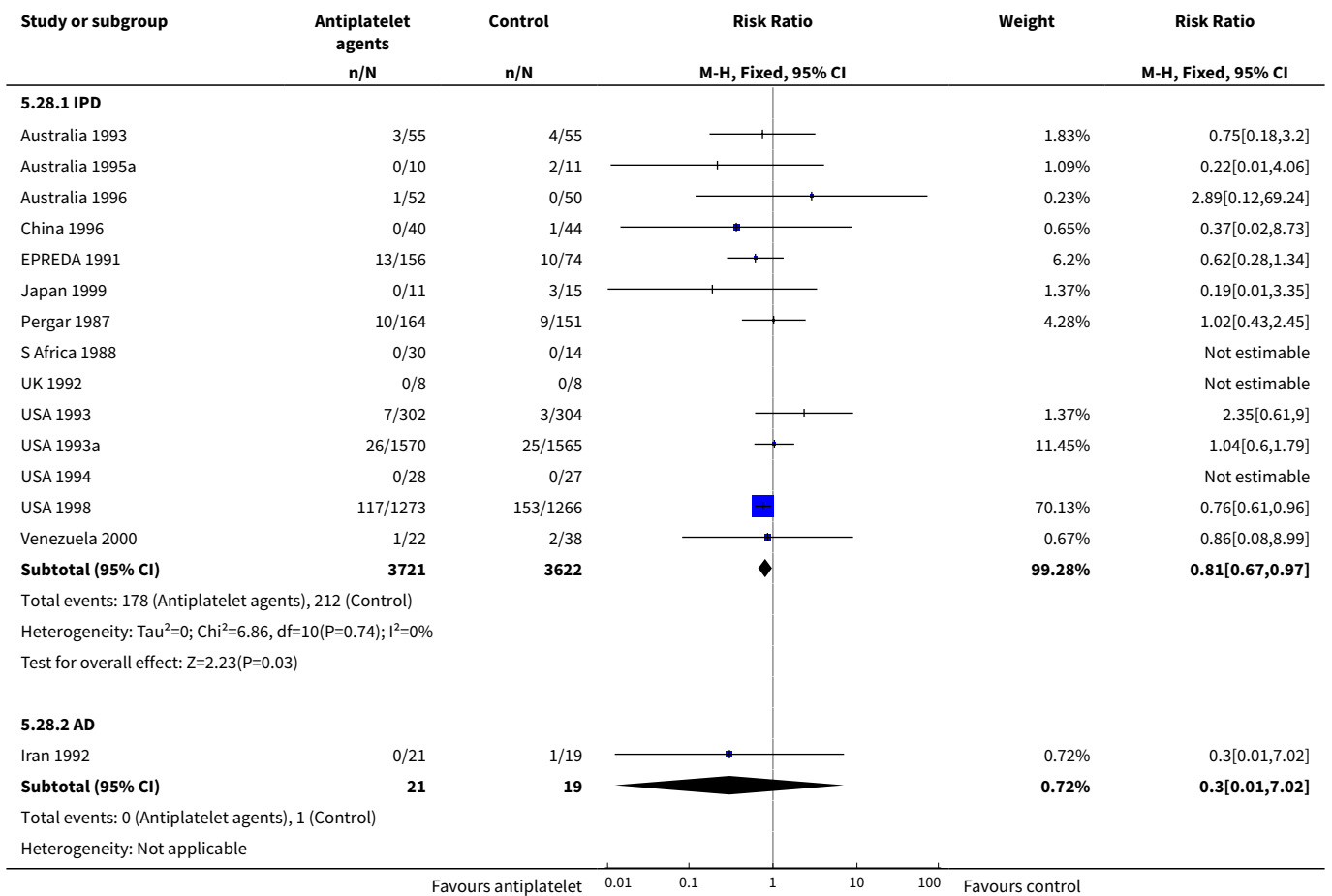


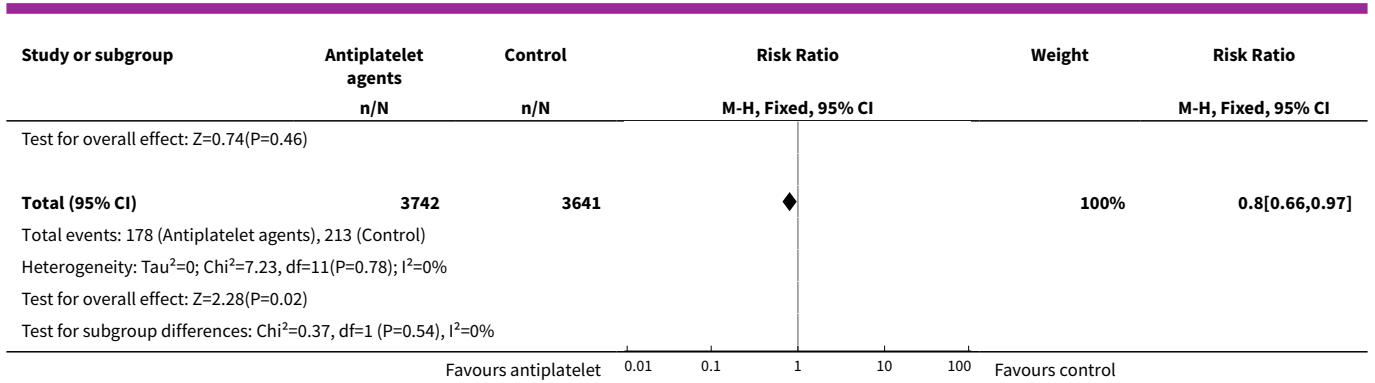
Analysis 5.27. Comparison 5 Antiplatelet agents versus placebo/no antiplatelet for primary prevention (secondary outcomes), Outcome 27 Postpartum haemorrhage > 500 mL.



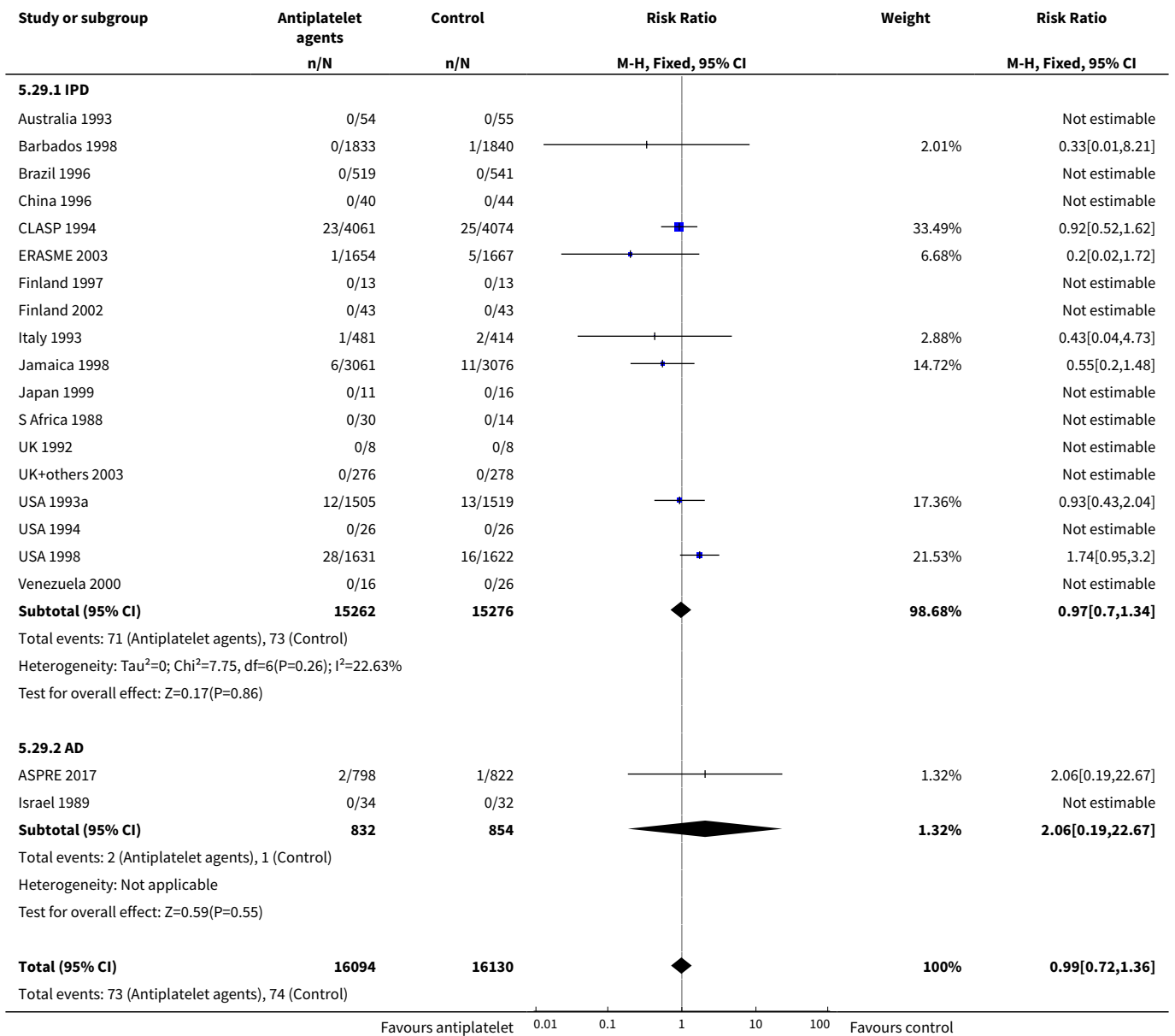


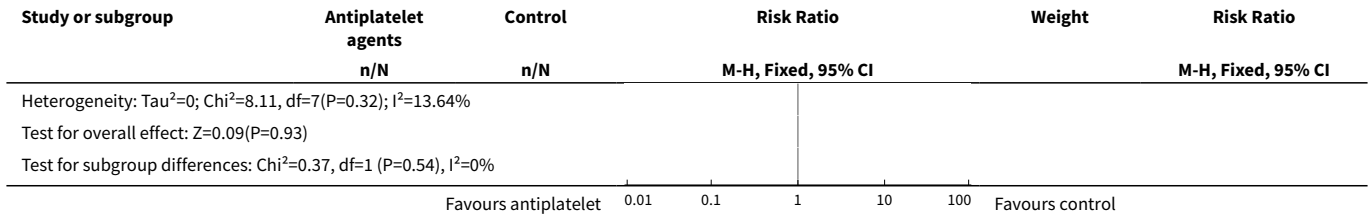
Analysis 5.28. Comparison 5 Antiplatelet agents versus placebo/no antiplatelet for primary prevention (secondary outcomes), Outcome 28 Any baby required assisted ventilation.



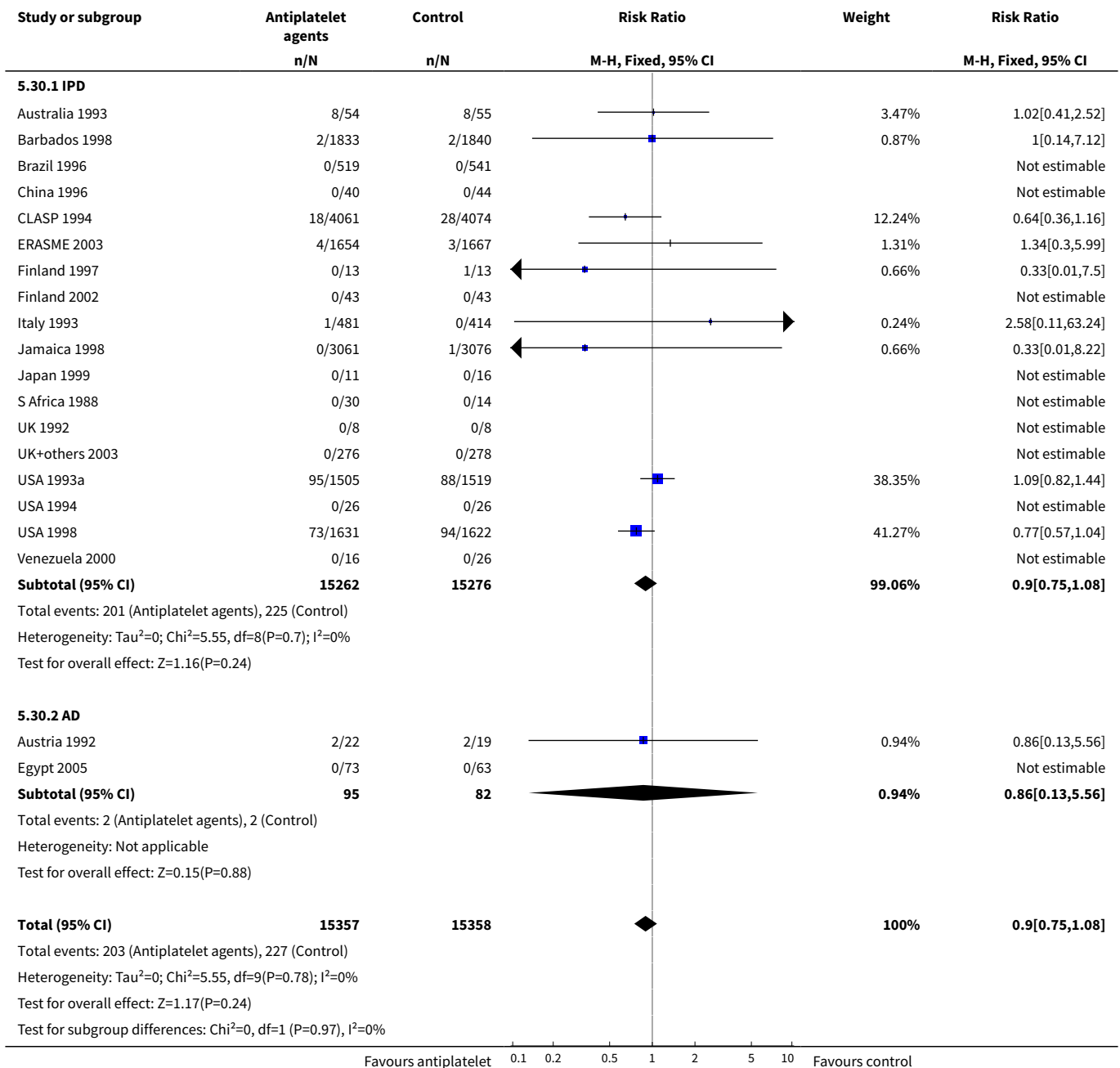


Analysis 5.29. Comparison 5 Antiplatelet agents versus placebo/no antiplatelet for primary prevention (secondary outcomes), Outcome 29 Intraventricular haemorrhage.

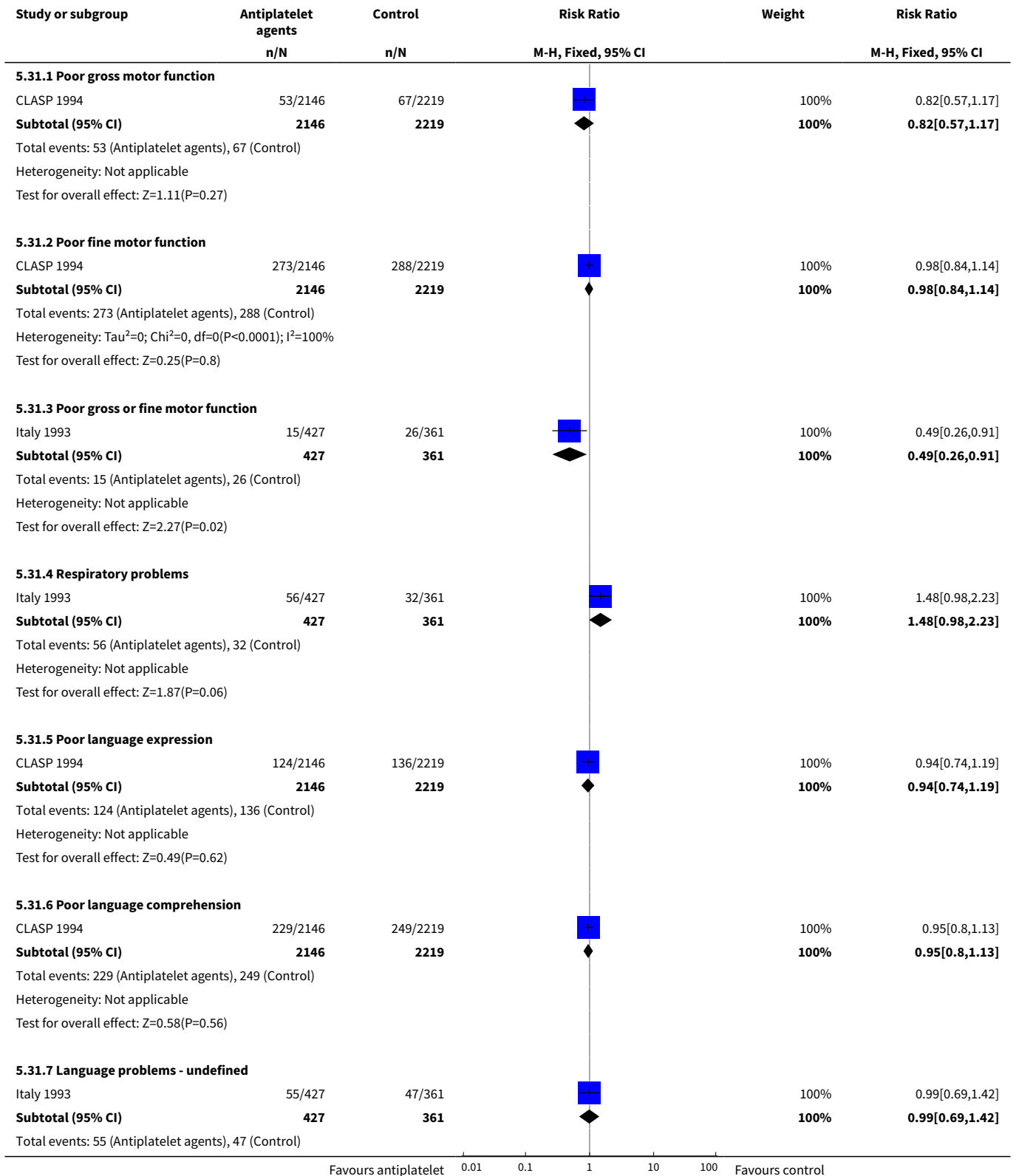


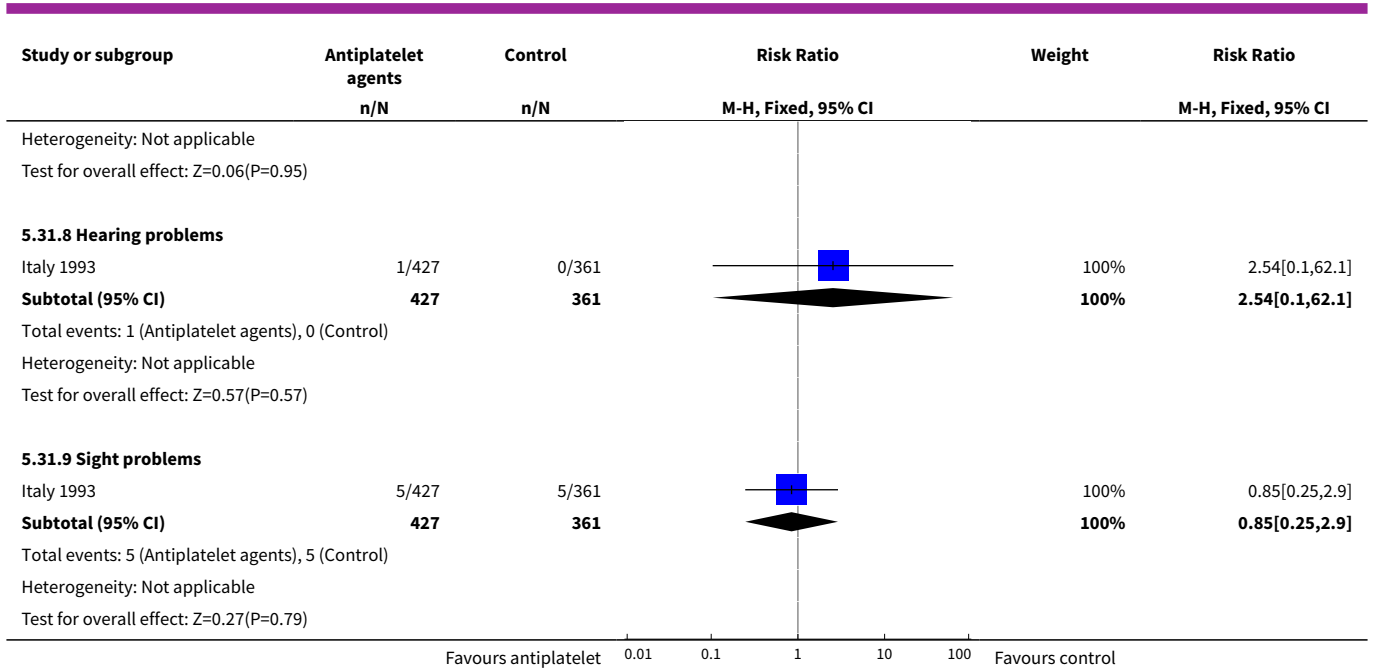


Analysis 5.30. Comparison 5 Antiplatelet agents versus placebo/no antiplatelet for primary prevention (secondary outcomes), Outcome 30 Other neonatal bleed.

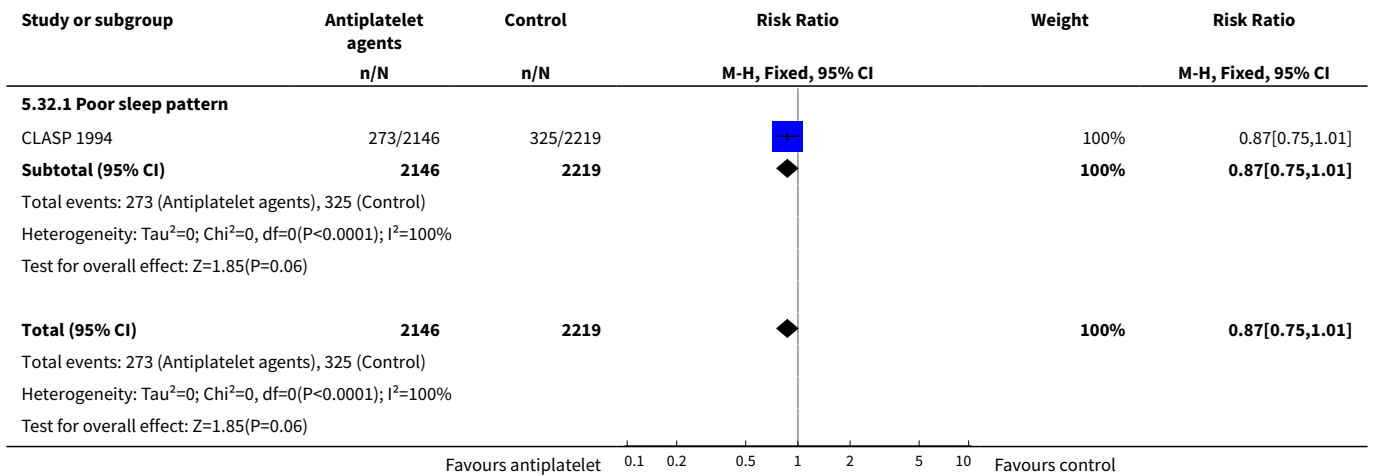


Analysis 5.31. Comparison 5 Antiplatelet agents versus placebo/no antiplatelet for primary prevention (secondary outcomes), Outcome 31 Developmental problems at 18 months - AD only.

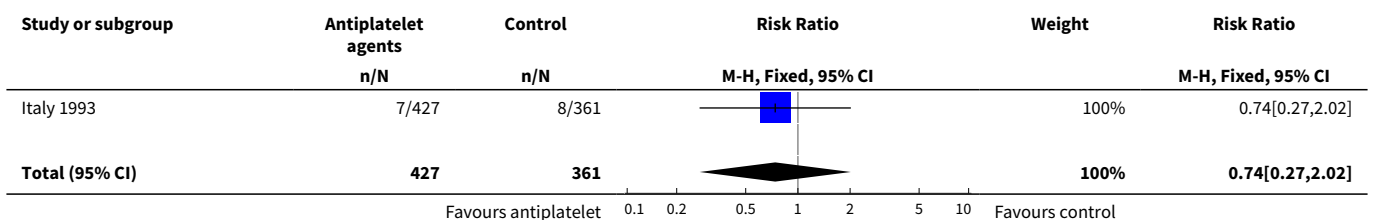


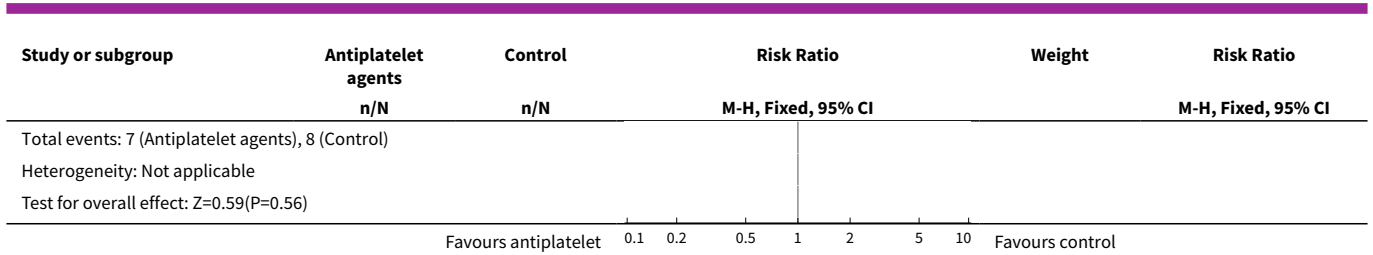


Analysis 5.32. Comparison 5 Antiplatelet agents versus placebo/no antiplatelet for primary prevention (secondary outcomes), Outcome 32 Behaviour problems at 18 months - AD only.

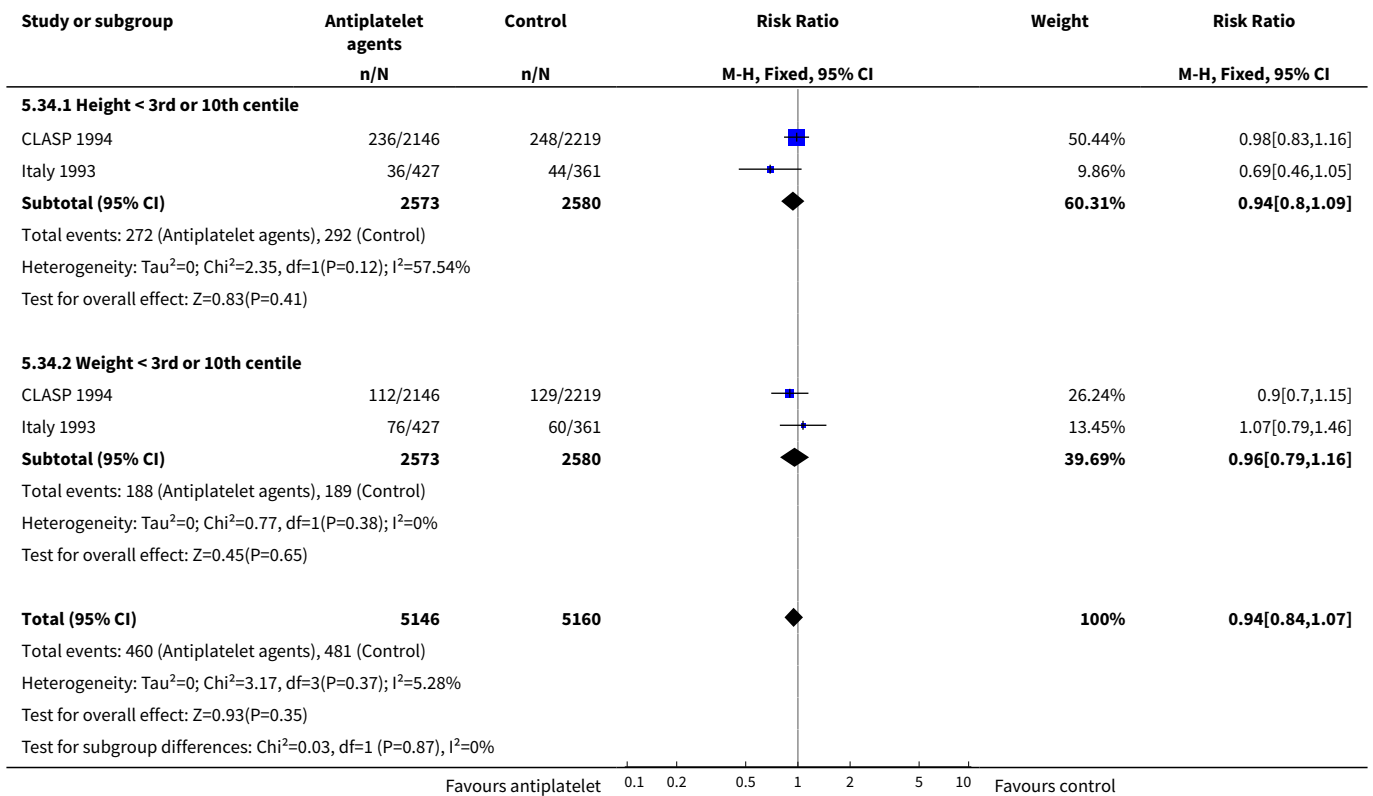


Analysis 5.33. Comparison 5 Antiplatelet agents versus placebo/no antiplatelet for primary prevention (secondary outcomes), Outcome 33 Malformations at 18 months - AD only.

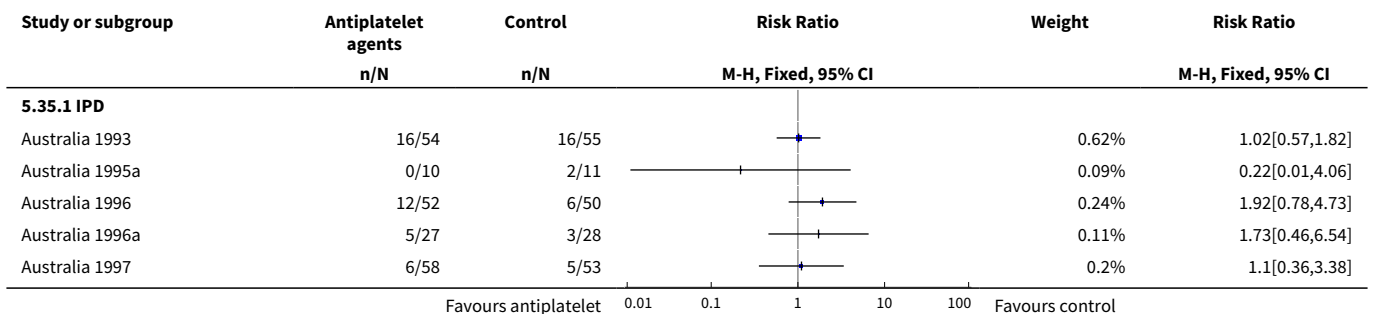


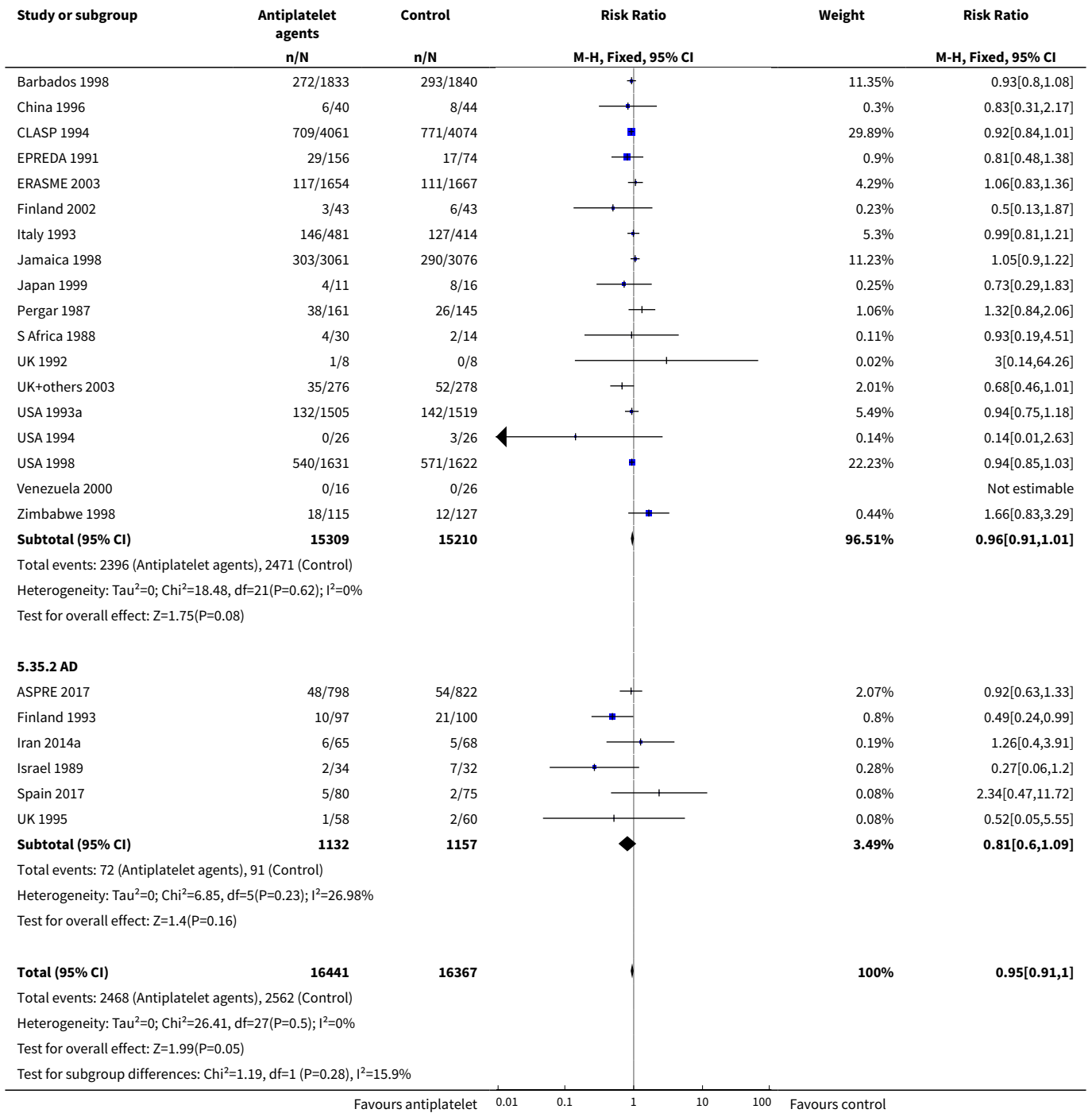


Analysis 5.34. Comparison 5 Antiplatelet agents versus placebo/no antiplatelet for primary prevention (secondary outcomes), Outcome 34 Growth at 18 months - AD only.

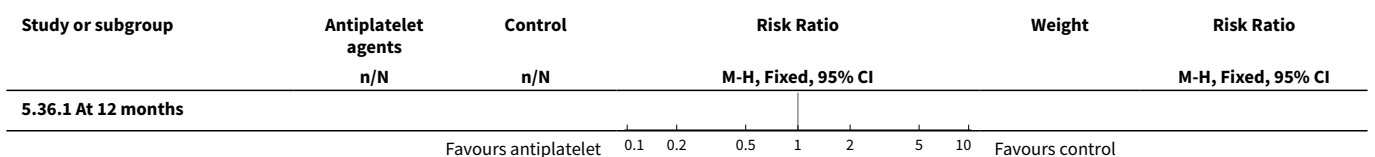


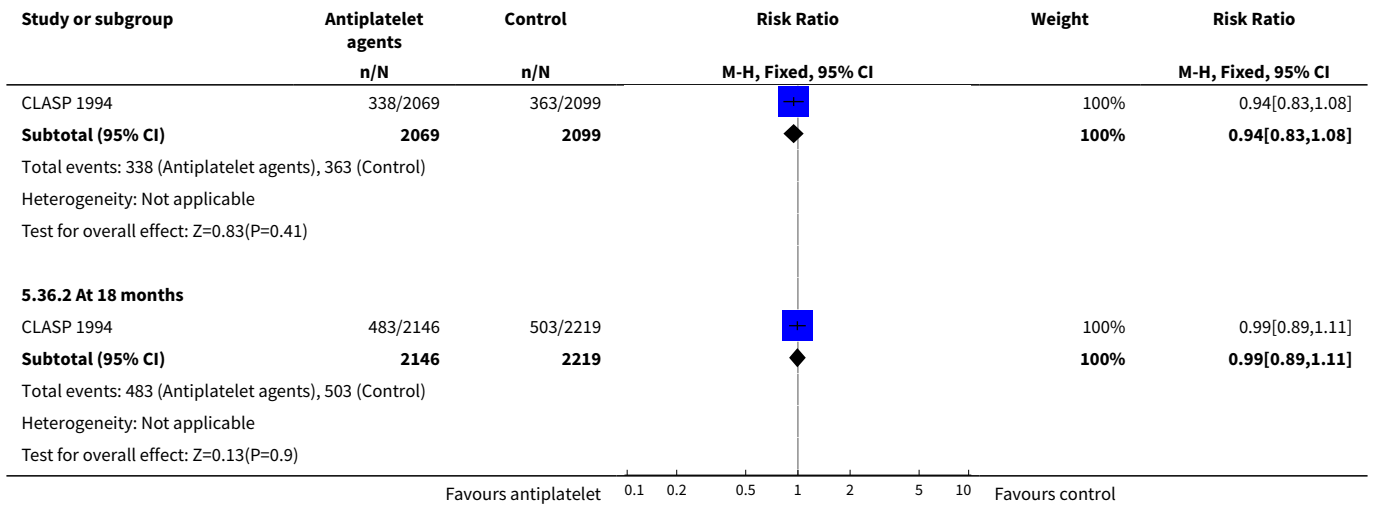
Analysis 5.35. Comparison 5 Antiplatelet agents versus placebo/no antiplatelet for primary prevention (secondary outcomes), Outcome 35 Admission to a special care baby unit.



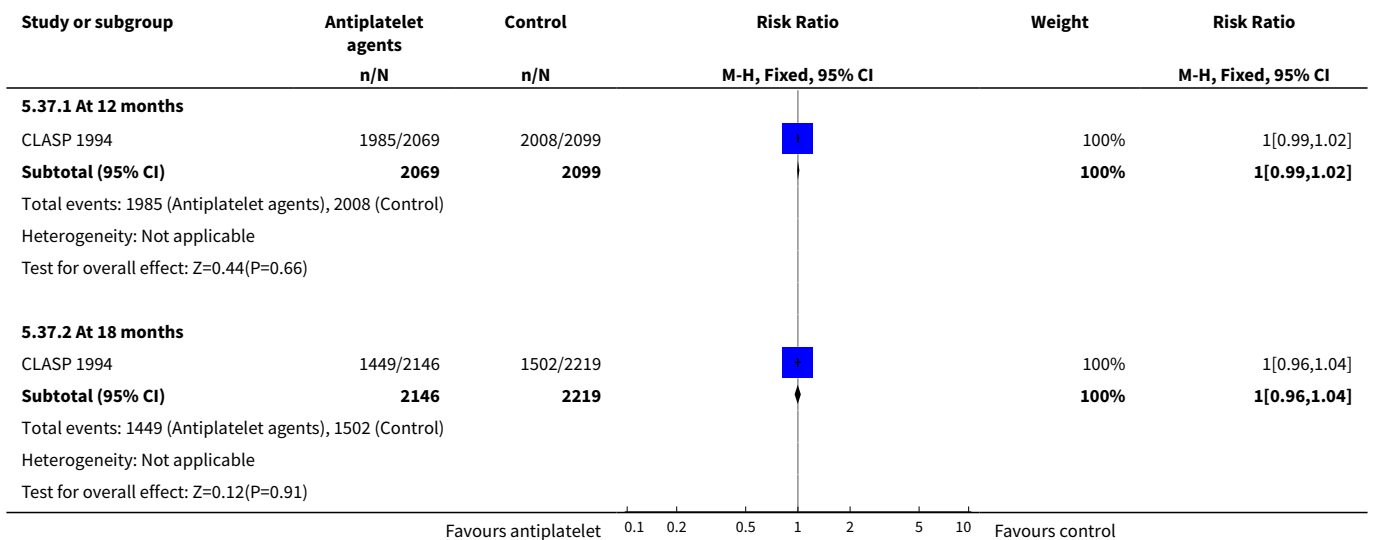


Analysis 5.36. Comparison 5 Antiplatelet agents versus placebo/no antiplatelet for primary prevention (secondary outcomes), Outcome 36 Child admitted to hospital - AD only.

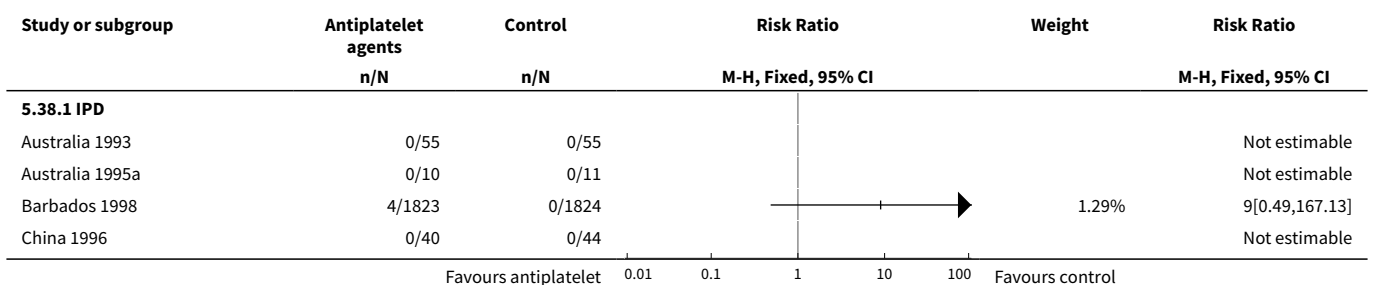


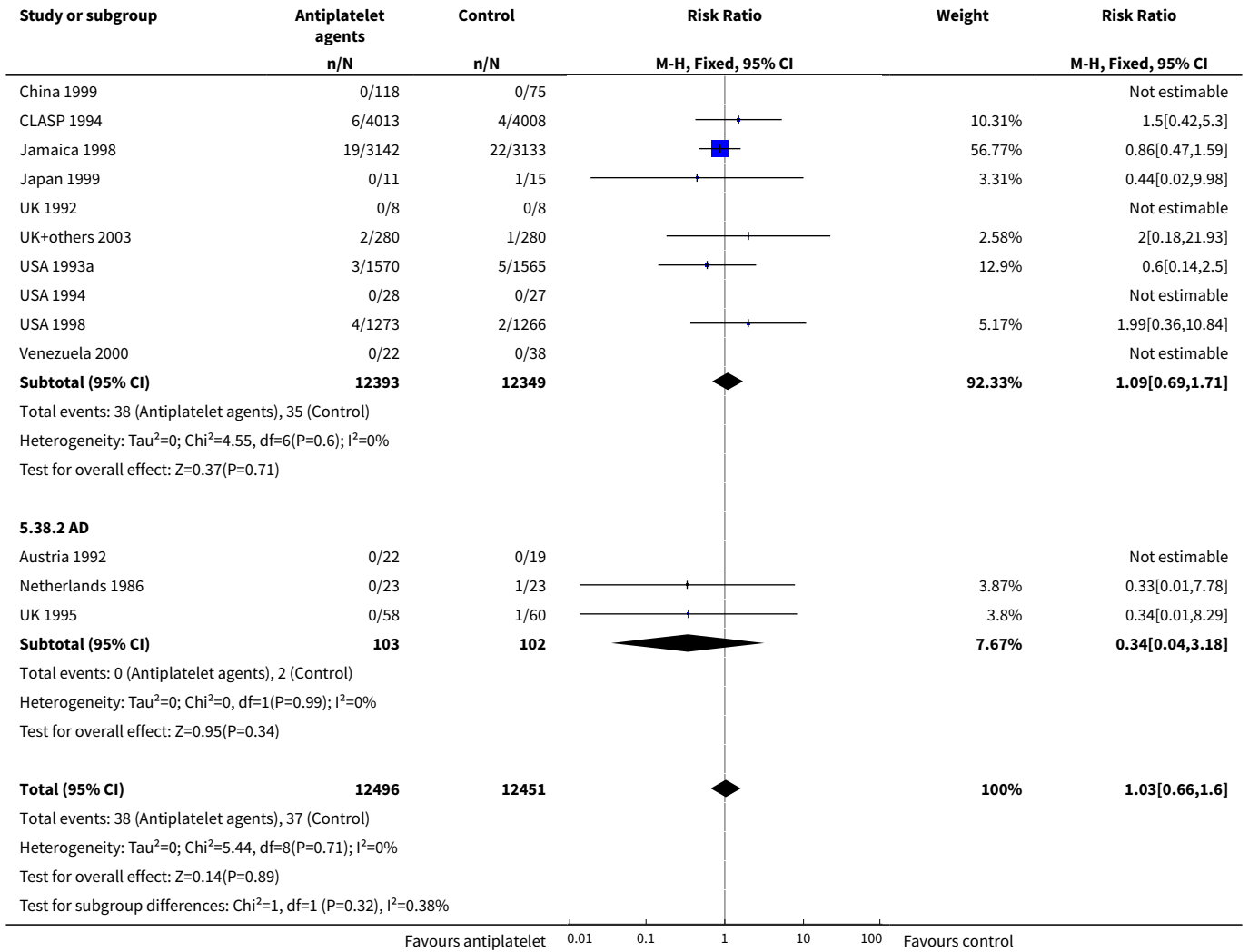


Analysis 5.37. Comparison 5 Antiplatelet agents versus placebo/no antiplatelet for primary prevention (secondary outcomes), Outcome 37 Non-routine GP consultation for child - AD only.

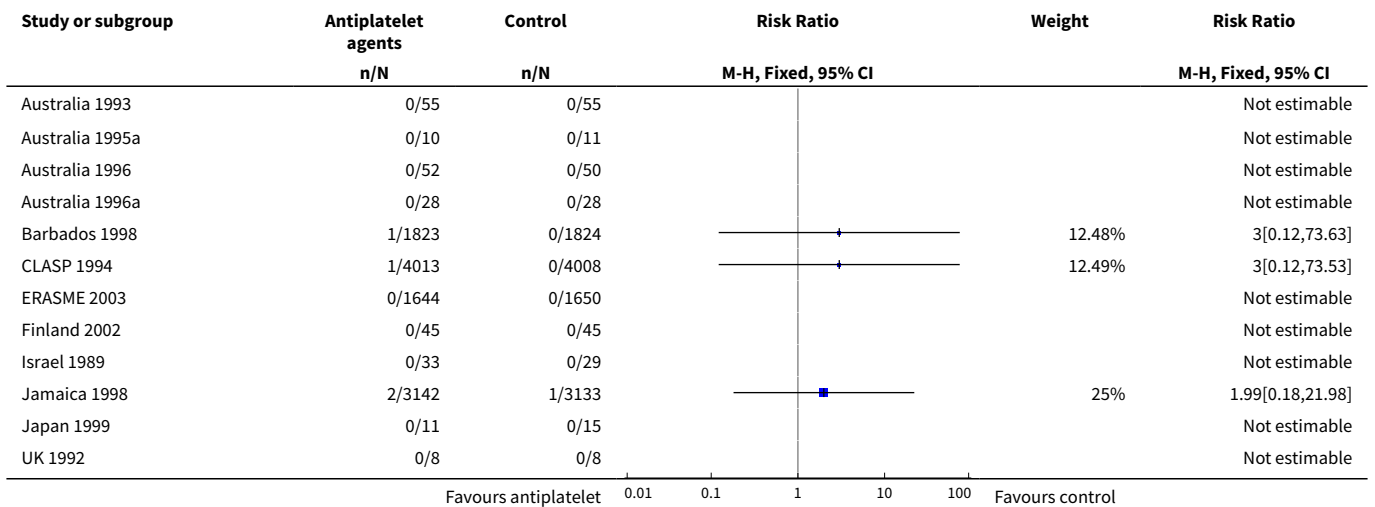


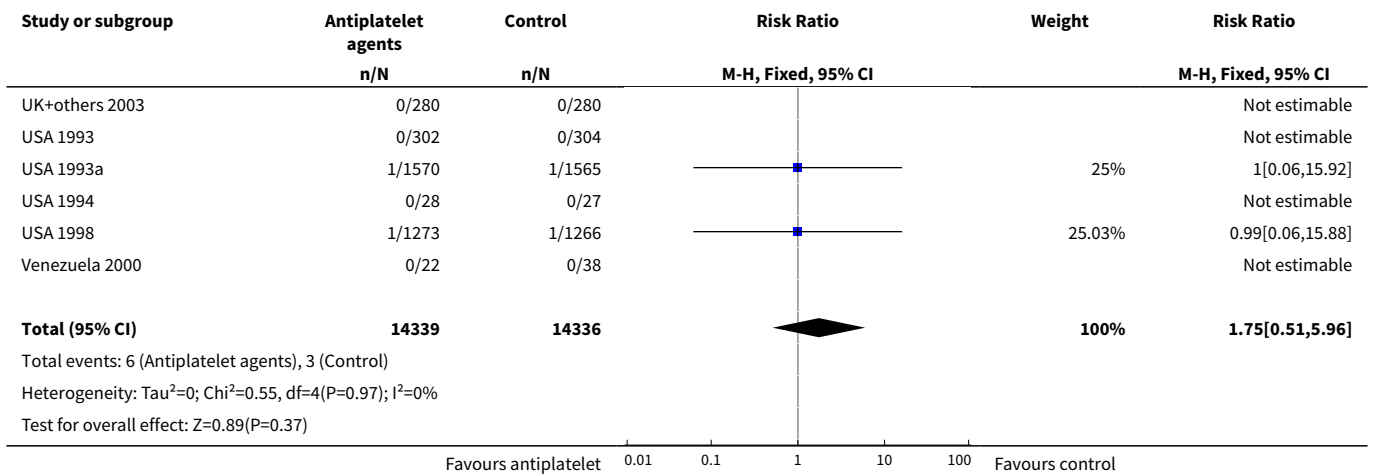
Analysis 5.38. Comparison 5 Antiplatelet agents versus placebo/no antiplatelet for primary prevention (secondary outcomes), Outcome 38 Eclampsia.



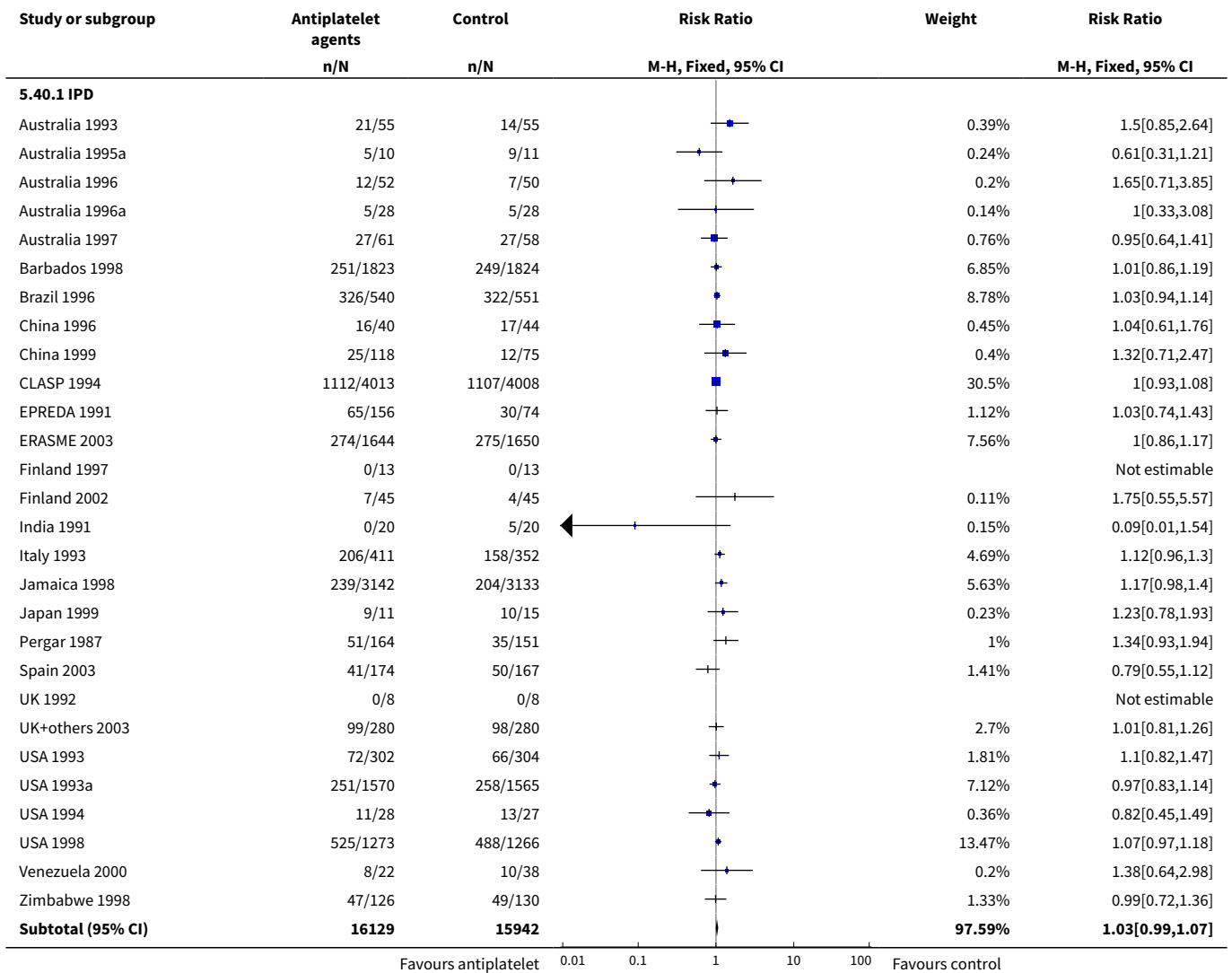


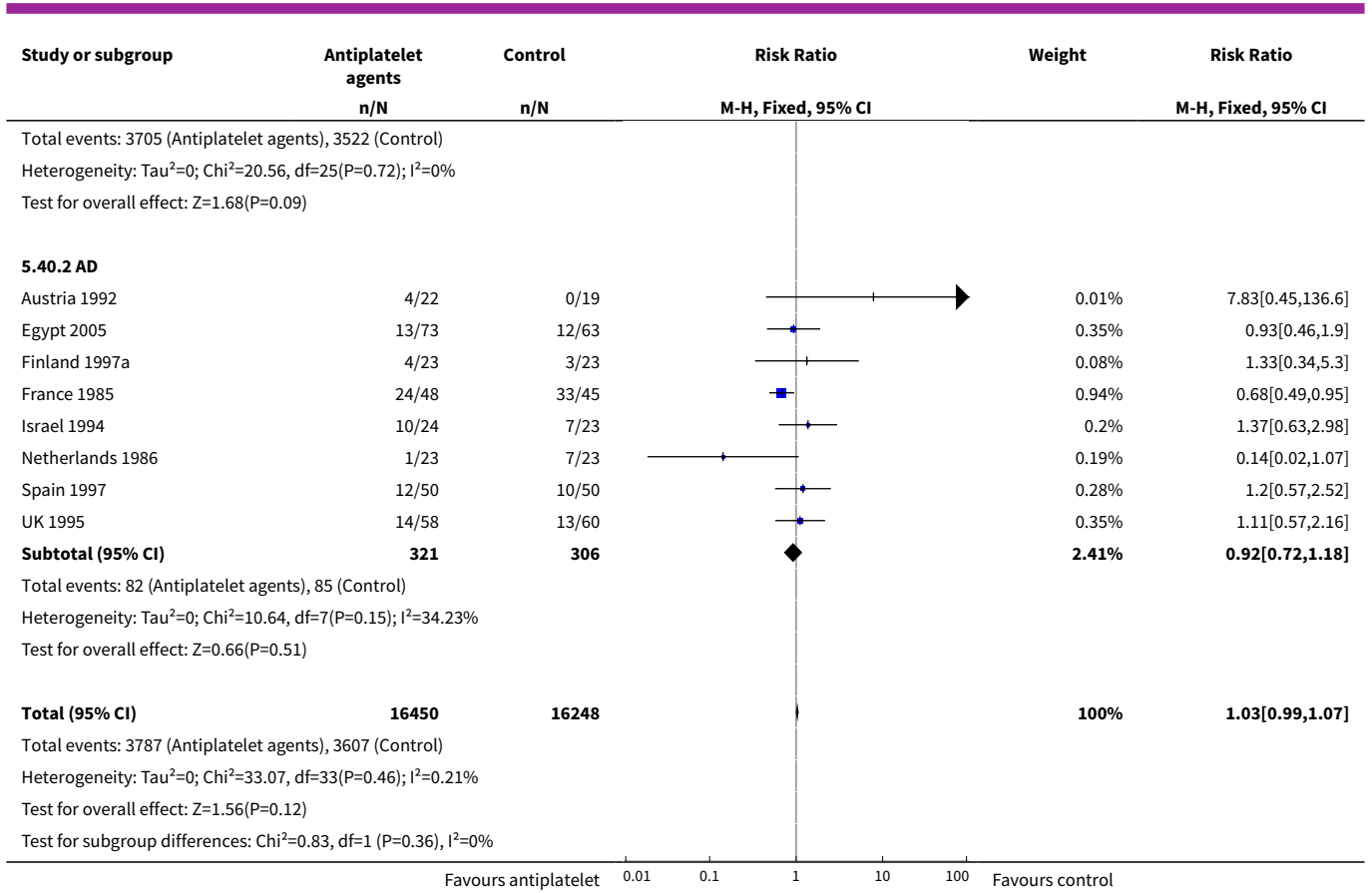
Analysis 5.39. Comparison 5 Antiplatelet agents versus placebo/no antiplatelet for primary prevention (secondary outcomes), Outcome 39 Maternal death - IPD only.





Analysis 5.40. Comparison 5 Antiplatelet agents versus placebo/no antiplatelet for primary prevention (secondary outcomes), Outcome 40 Caesarean section.





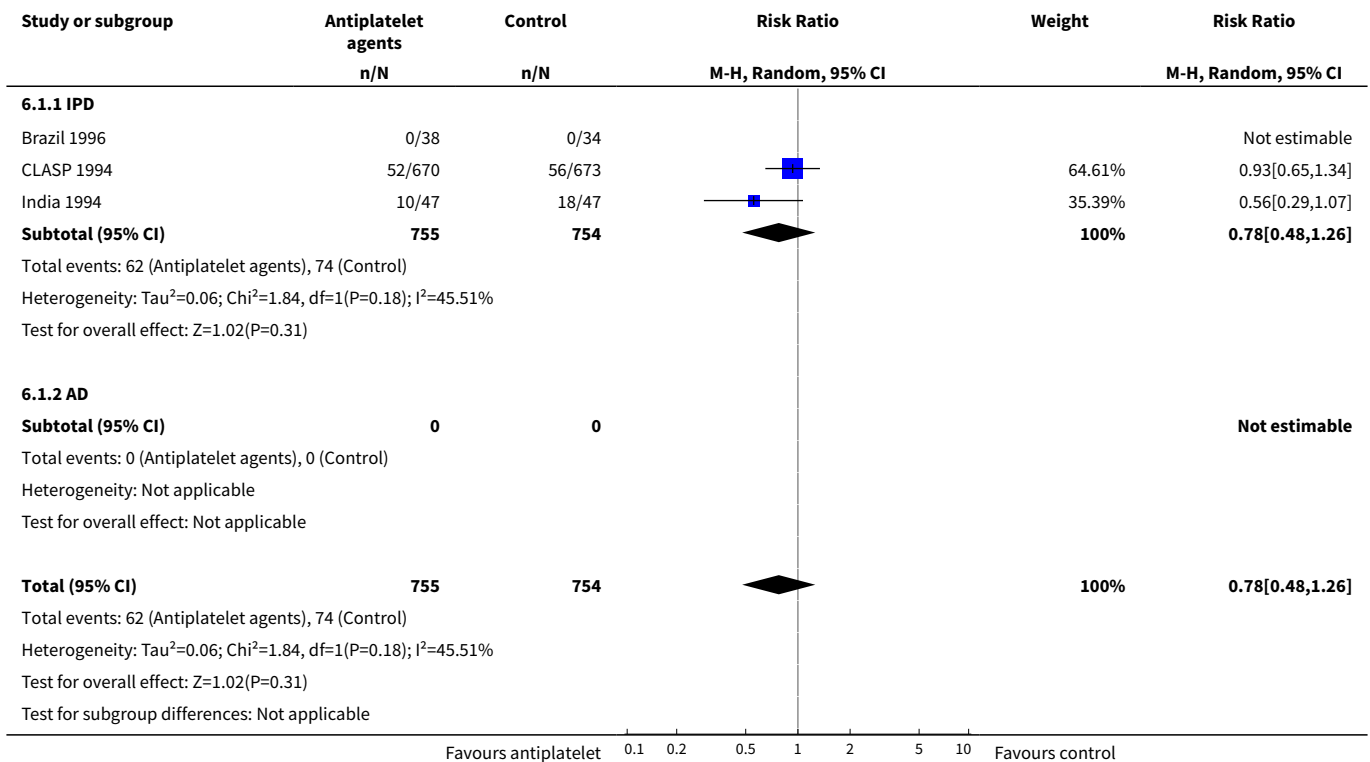
Comparison 6. Antiplatelet agents versus placebo/no antiplatelet for secondary prevention

Outcome or subgroup title	No. of studies	No. of participants	Statistical method	Effect size
1 Severe pre-eclampsia	3	1509	Risk Ratio (M-H, Random, 95% CI)	0.78 [0.48, 1.26]
1.1 IPD	3	1509	Risk Ratio (M-H, Random, 95% CI)	0.78 [0.48, 1.26]
1.2 AD	0	0	Risk Ratio (M-H, Random, 95% CI)	0.0 [0.0, 0.0]
2 Pre-eclampsia	7	1813	Risk Ratio (M-H, Random, 95% CI)	0.67 [0.47, 0.95]
2.1 IPD	5	1606	Risk Ratio (M-H, Random, 95% CI)	0.79 [0.60, 1.04]
2.2 AD	2	207	Risk Ratio (M-H, Random, 95% CI)	0.59 [0.23, 1.49]
3 Eclampsia	5	1743	Risk Ratio (M-H, Fixed, 95% CI)	0.47 [0.13, 1.67]
3.1 IPD	3	1483	Risk Ratio (M-H, Fixed, 95% CI)	0.72 [0.14, 3.61]
3.2 AD	2	260	Risk Ratio (M-H, Fixed, 95% CI)	0.25 [0.03, 2.24]
4 Severe hypertension using trialists own definition - IPD only	5	1834	Risk Ratio (M-H, Fixed, 95% CI)	0.94 [0.83, 1.07]

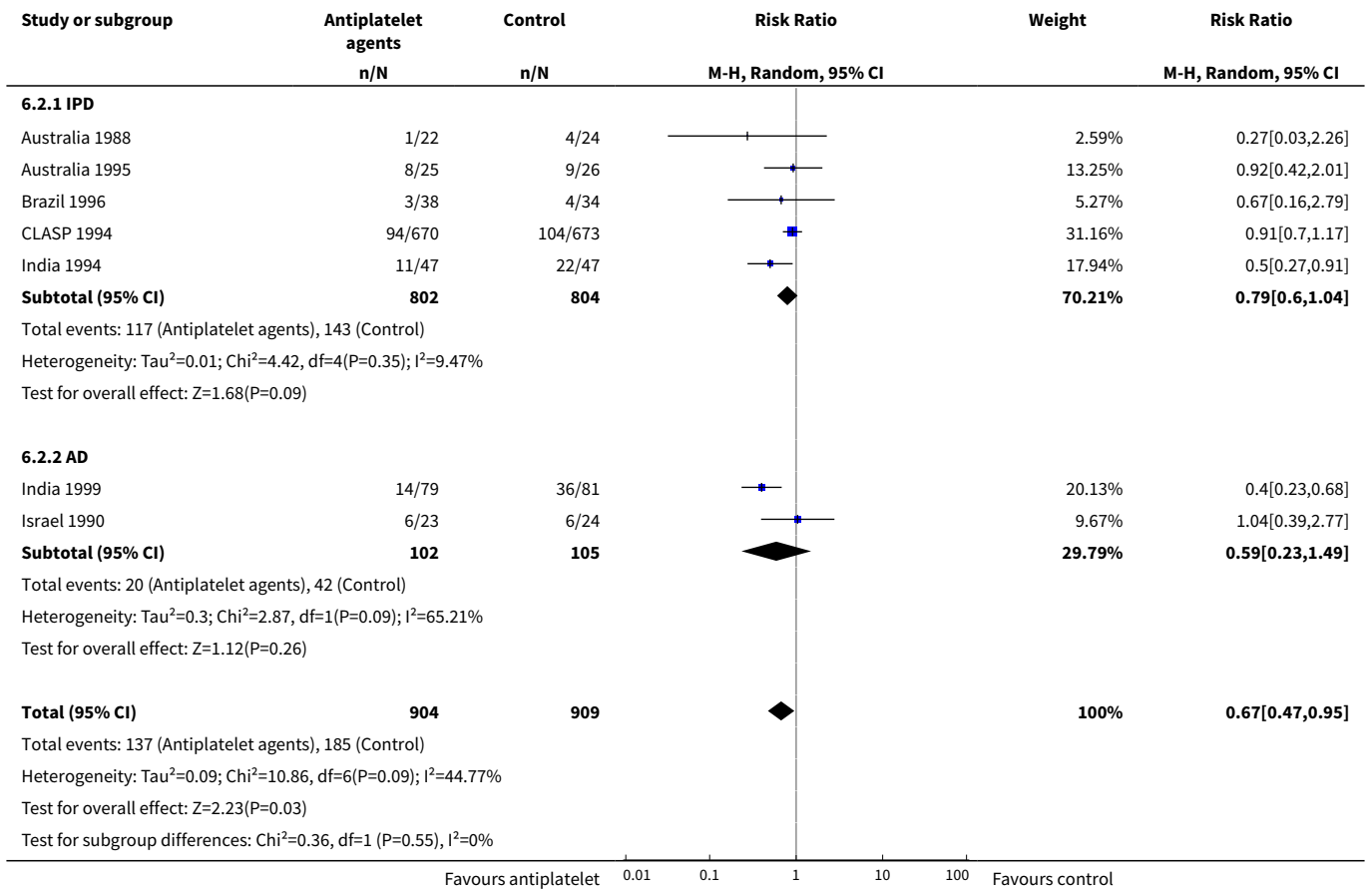
Outcome or subgroup title	No. of studies	No. of participants	Statistical method	Effect size
5 Severe hypertension PARIS definition - IPD only	5	1834	Risk Ratio (M-H, Random, 95% CI)	0.87 [0.51, 1.47]
6 Severe hypertension using best available def - IPD only	5	1834	Risk Ratio (M-H, Fixed, 95% CI)	0.94 [0.83, 1.07]
7 Gestation at onset proteinuria by best definition - IPD only	2	410	Mean Difference (IV, Random, 95% CI)	-1.05 [-3.70, 1.59]
8 Fetal death, neonatal death, or death before hospital discharge - AD only	2	260	Risk Ratio (M-H, Fixed, 95% CI)	0.36 [0.15, 0.84]
9 Fetal and neonatal deaths - IPD only	7	1950	Risk Ratio (M-H, Fixed, 95% CI)	1.00 [0.68, 1.47]
10 Preterm birth (< 37 weeks)	9	2070	Risk Ratio (M-H, Fixed, 95% CI)	0.89 [0.78, 1.01]
10.1 IPD	8	1970	Risk Ratio (M-H, Fixed, 95% CI)	0.88 [0.78, 1.00]
10.2 AD	1	100	Risk Ratio (M-H, Fixed, 95% CI)	3.0 [0.13, 71.92]
11 Small-for-gestational age	6	1791	Risk Ratio (M-H, Random, 95% CI)	0.76 [0.54, 1.09]
11.1 IPD	5	1631	Risk Ratio (M-H, Random, 95% CI)	0.83 [0.59, 1.17]
11.2 AD	1	160	Risk Ratio (M-H, Random, 95% CI)	0.57 [0.33, 0.96]
12 Caesarean section	9	2327	Risk Ratio (M-H, Fixed, 95% CI)	1.04 [0.94, 1.16]
12.1 IPD	8	2280	Risk Ratio (M-H, Fixed, 95% CI)	1.05 [0.94, 1.16]
12.2 AD	1	47	Risk Ratio (M-H, Fixed, 95% CI)	0.87 [0.31, 2.46]
13 Non spontaneous labour IPD only	5	1540	Risk Ratio (M-H, Random, 95% CI)	0.96 [0.77, 1.18]
14 Antepartum haemorrhage - IPD only	5	1606	Risk Ratio (M-H, Fixed, 95% CI)	1.11 [0.75, 1.64]
15 Placental abruption - IPD only	5	1606	Risk Ratio (M-H, Fixed, 95% CI)	1.39 [0.63, 3.05]
16 Postpartum haemorrhage > 500 mL - IPD only	5	1573	Risk Ratio (M-H, Fixed, 95% CI)	1.09 [0.85, 1.40]
17 HELLP Syndrome - IPD only	2	140	Risk Ratio (M-H, Fixed, 95% CI)	0.0 [0.0, 0.0]
18 Severe maternal morbidity - IPD only	3	1483	Risk Ratio (M-H, Fixed, 95% CI)	0.72 [0.14, 3.61]
19 Pregnancy with SAO (including maternal death, baby	8	1970	Risk Ratio (M-H, Fixed, 95% CI)	0.95 [0.84, 1.06]

Outcome or subgroup title	No. of studies	No. of participants	Statistical method	Effect size
death, PE, SGA, preterm) - IPD only				
20 Gestation at birth - IPD only	8	1927	Mean Difference (IV, Fixed, 95% CI)	0.15 [-0.12, 0.41]
21 Birthweight < 2500 g	9	1966	Risk Ratio (M-H, Random, 95% CI)	0.76 [0.59, 0.97]
21.1 IPD	8	1866	Risk Ratio (M-H, Random, 95% CI)	0.82 [0.66, 1.02]
21.2 AD	1	100	Risk Ratio (M-H, Random, 95% CI)	0.24 [0.09, 0.65]
22 Admission to a special care baby unit - IPD only	6	1910	Risk Ratio (M-H, Fixed, 95% CI)	0.97 [0.86, 1.10]
23 Any baby required assisted ventilation - IPD only	5	542	Risk Ratio (M-H, Random, 95% CI)	0.50 [0.20, 1.22]

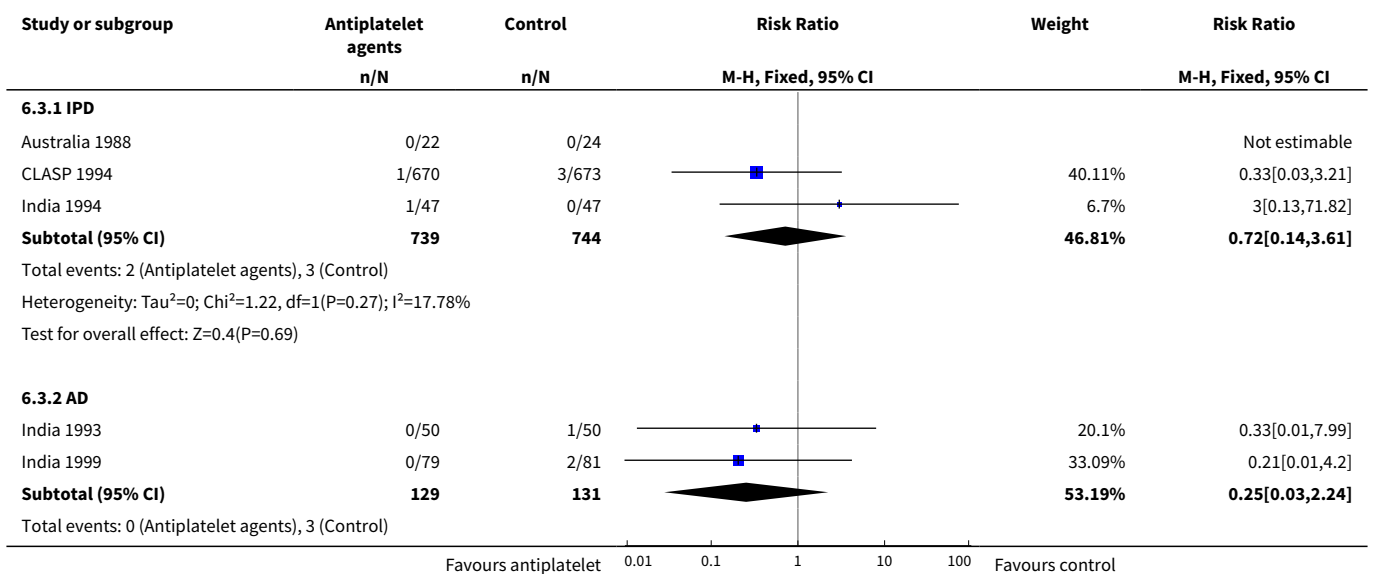
Analysis 6.1. Comparison 6 Antiplatelet agents versus placebo/no antiplatelet for secondary prevention, Outcome 1 Severe pre-eclampsia.

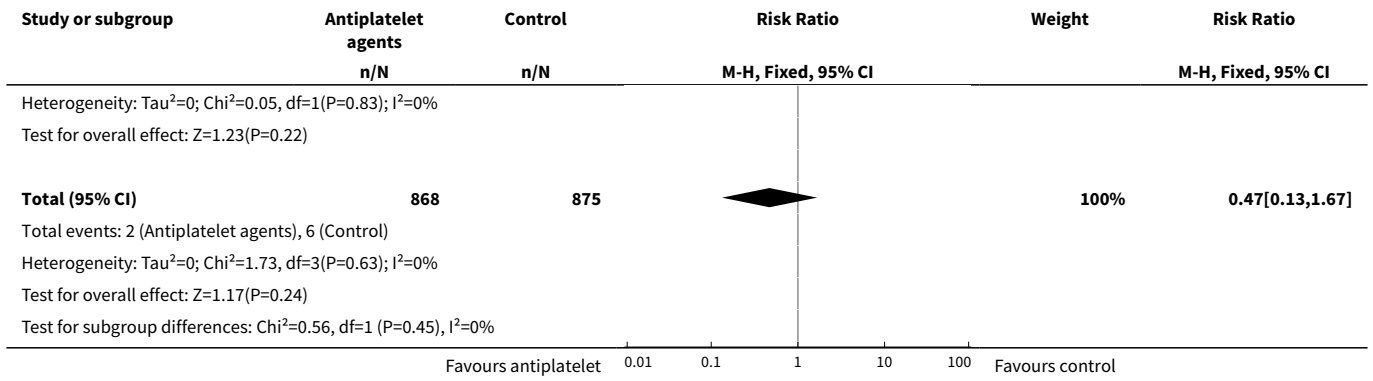


**Analysis 6.2. Comparison 6 Antiplatelet agents versus placebo/
no antiplatelet for secondary prevention, Outcome 2 Pre-eclampsia.**

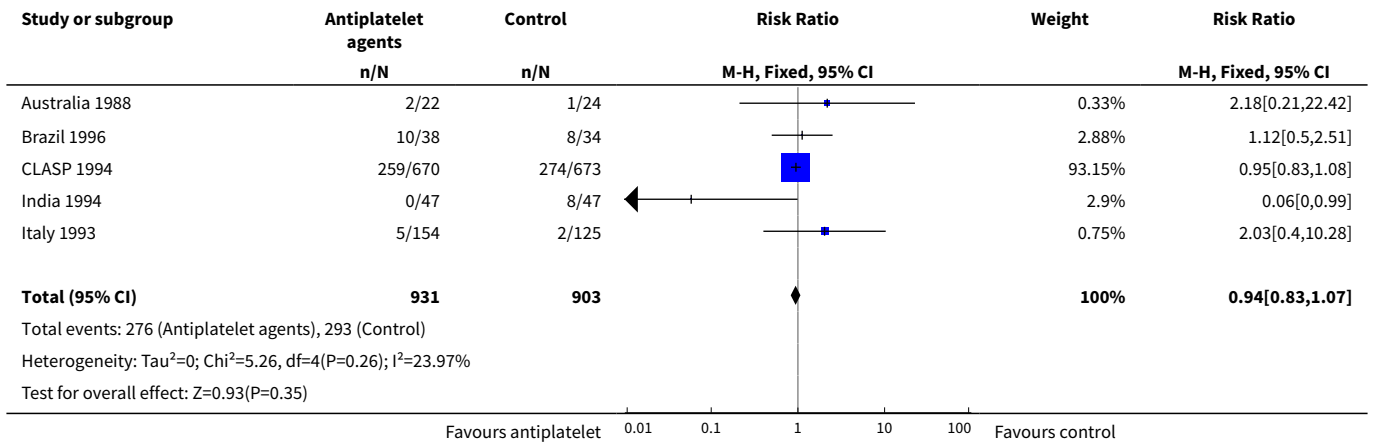


**Analysis 6.3. Comparison 6 Antiplatelet agents versus placebo/
no antiplatelet for secondary prevention, Outcome 3 Eclampsia.**

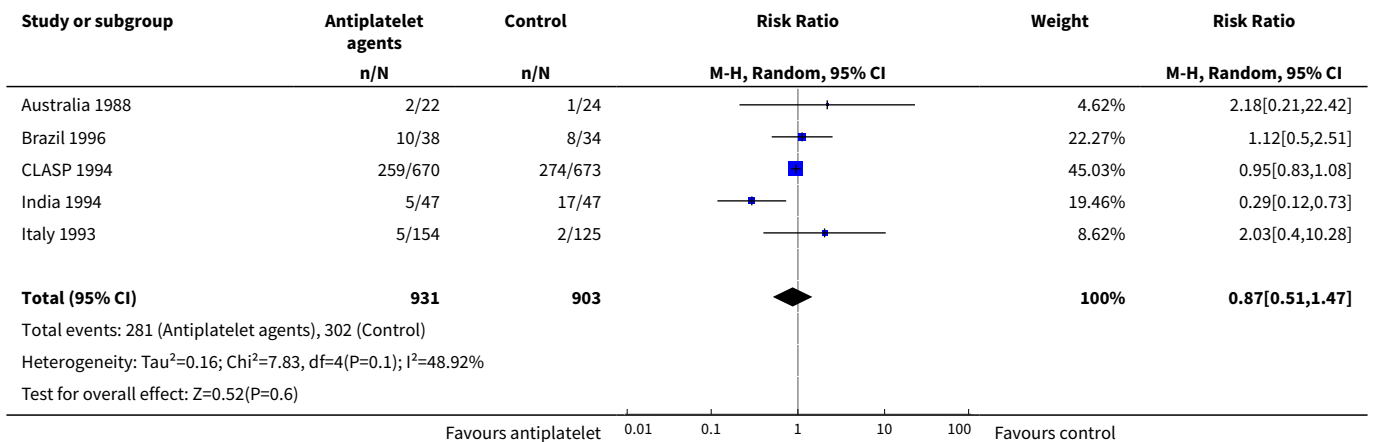




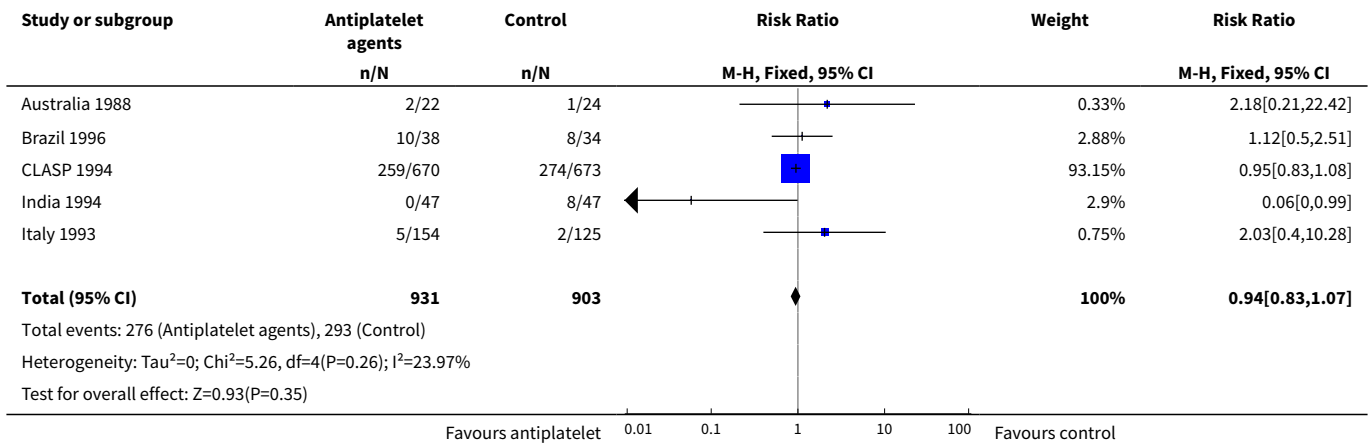
Analysis 6.4. Comparison 6 Antiplatelet agents versus placebo/no antiplatelet for secondary prevention, Outcome 4 Severe hypertension using trialists own definition - IPD only.



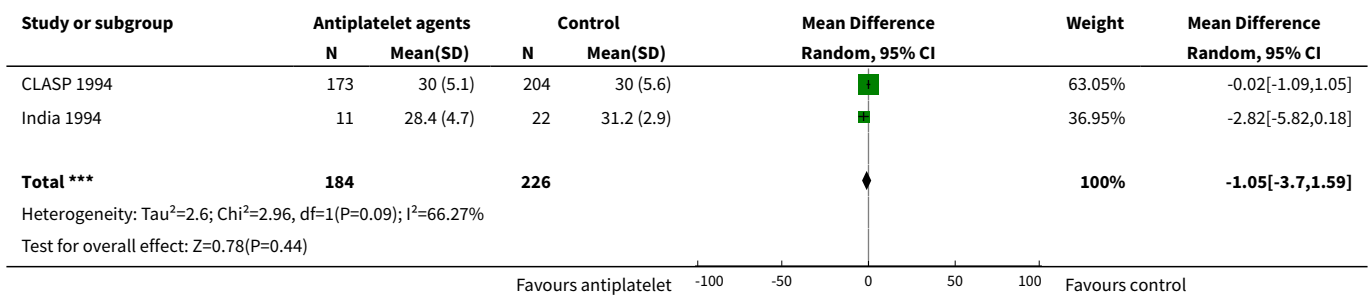
Analysis 6.5. Comparison 6 Antiplatelet agents versus placebo/no antiplatelet for secondary prevention, Outcome 5 Severe hypertension PARIS definition - IPD only.



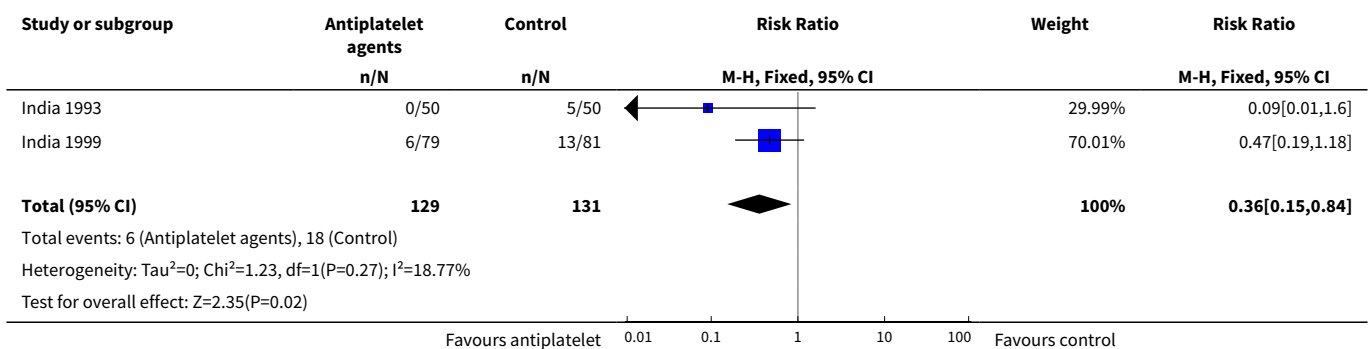
Analysis 6.6. Comparison 6 Antiplatelet agents versus placebo/no antiplatelet for secondary prevention, Outcome 6 Severe hypertension using best available def - IPD only.



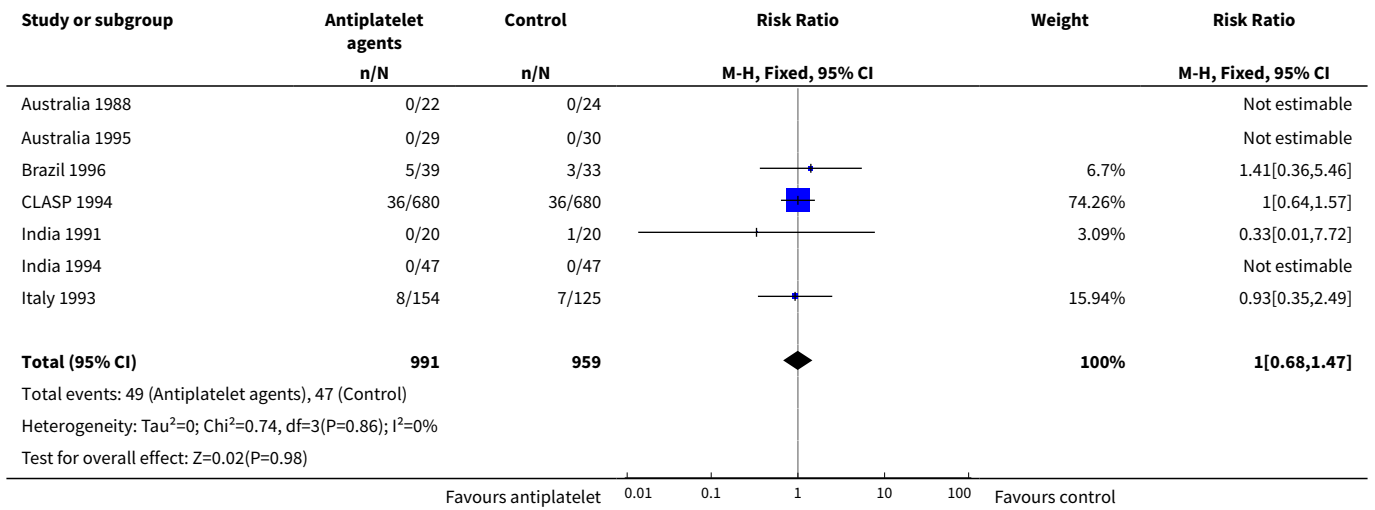
Analysis 6.7. Comparison 6 Antiplatelet agents versus placebo/no antiplatelet for secondary prevention, Outcome 7 Gestation at onset proteinuria by best definition - IPD only.



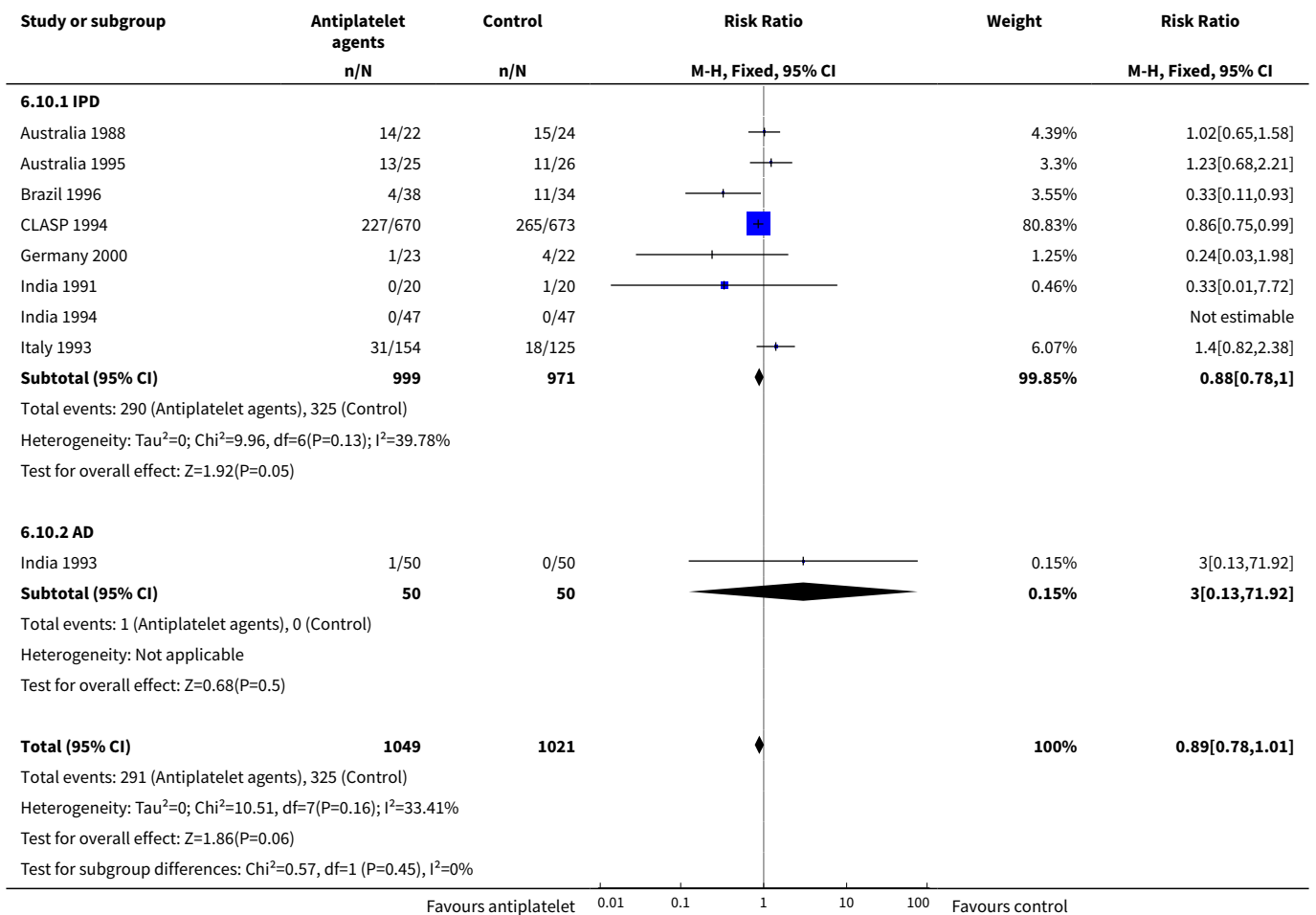
Analysis 6.8. Comparison 6 Antiplatelet agents versus placebo/no antiplatelet for secondary prevention, Outcome 8 Fetal death, neonatal death, or death before hospital discharge - AD only.



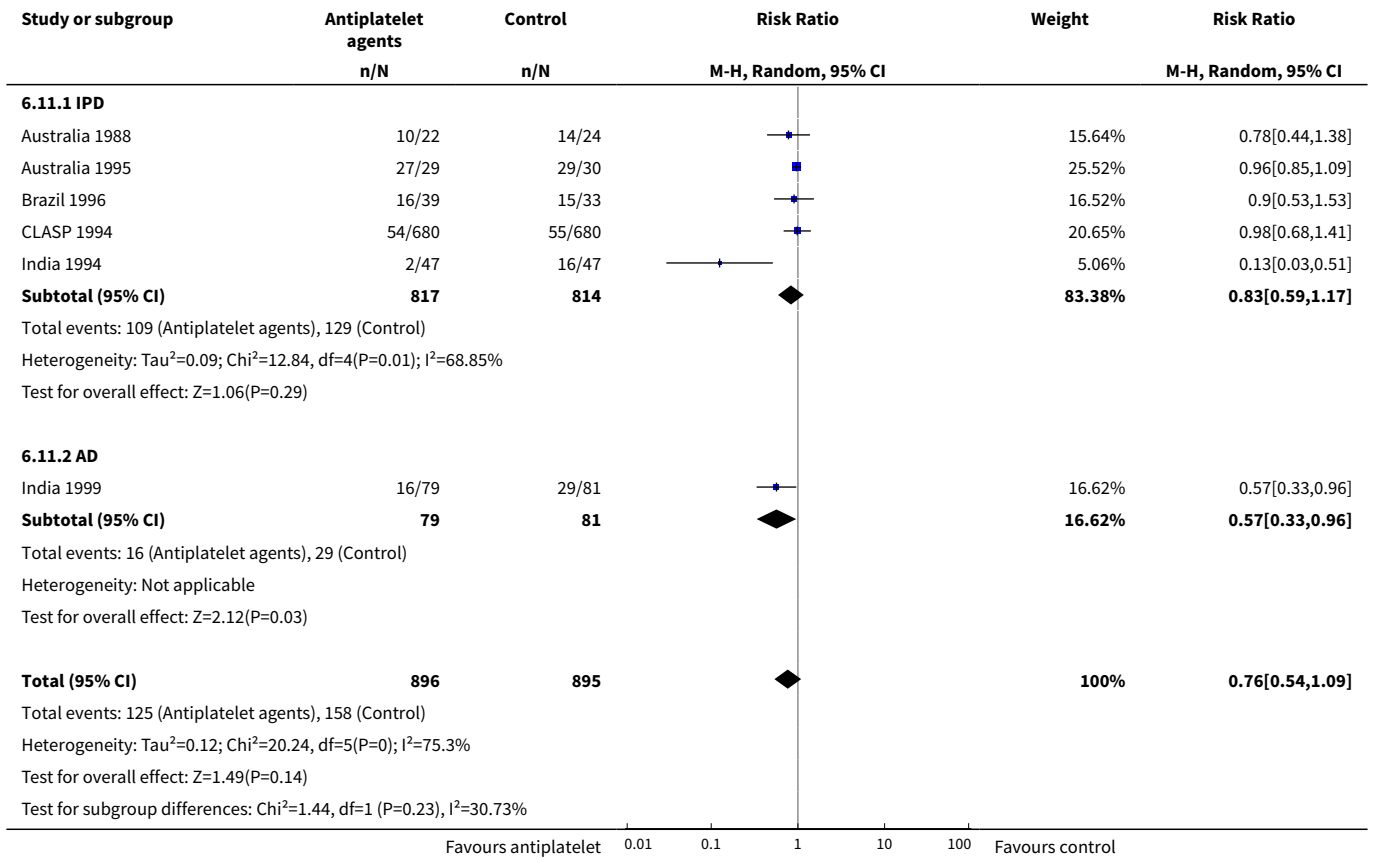
Analysis 6.9. Comparison 6 Antiplatelet agents versus placebo/no antiplatelet for secondary prevention, Outcome 9 Fetal and neonatal deaths - IPD only.



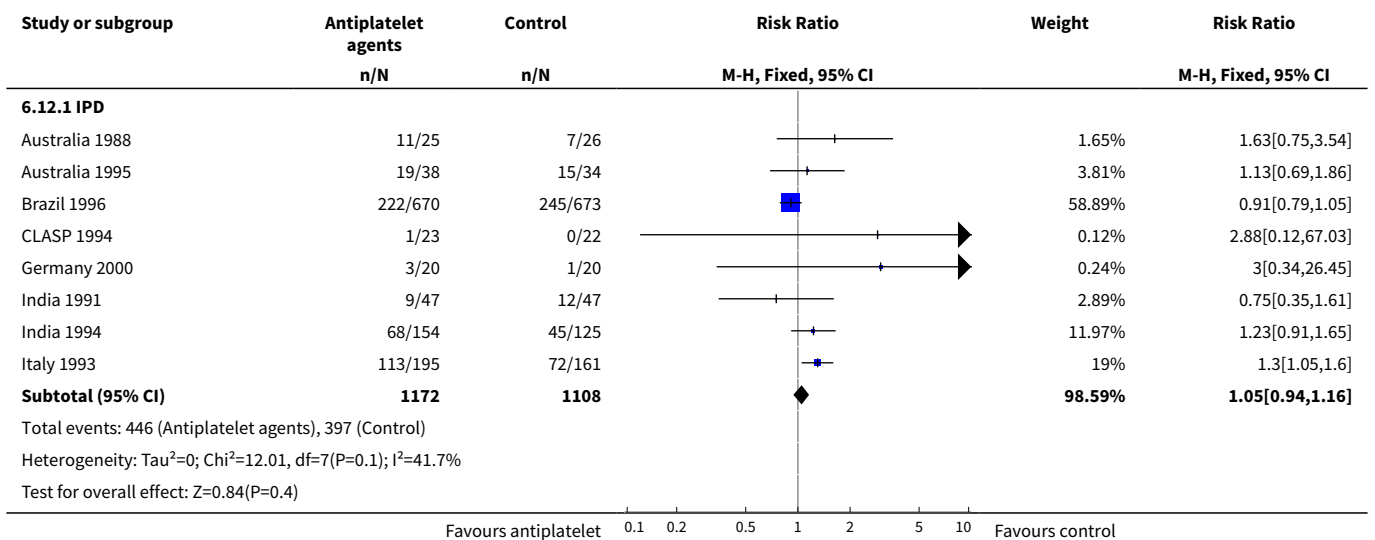
Analysis 6.10. Comparison 6 Antiplatelet agents versus placebo/no antiplatelet for secondary prevention, Outcome 10 Preterm birth (< 37 weeks).

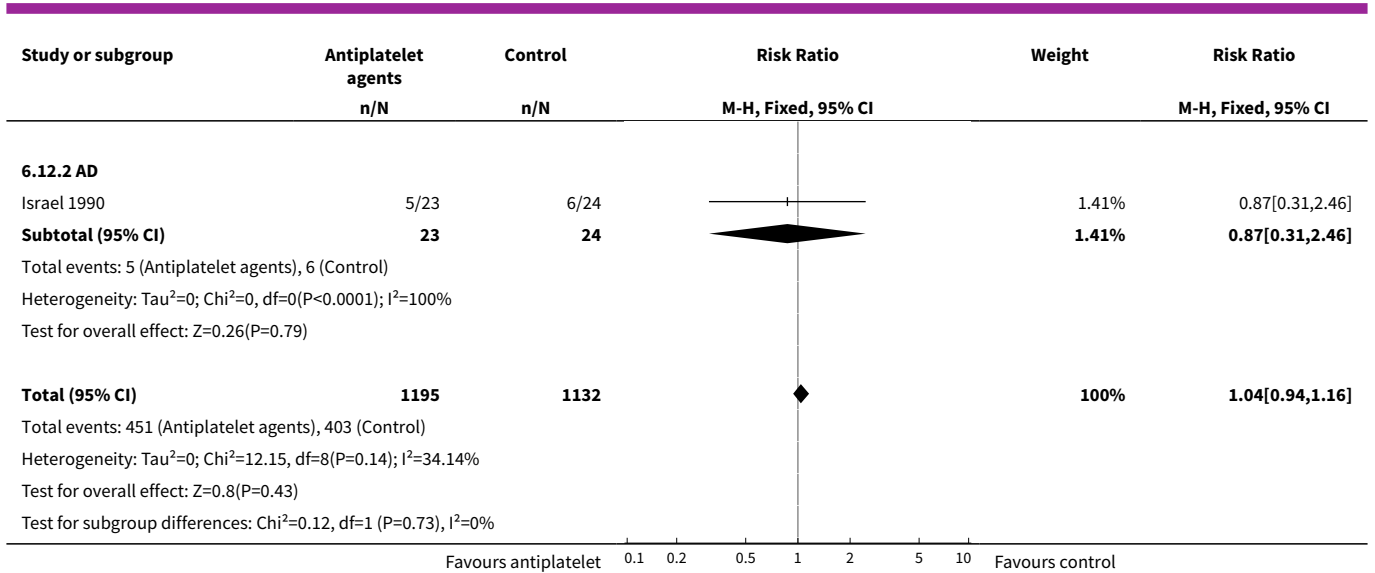


Analysis 6.11. Comparison 6 Antiplatelet agents versus placebo/no antiplatelet for secondary prevention, Outcome 11 Small-for-gestational age.

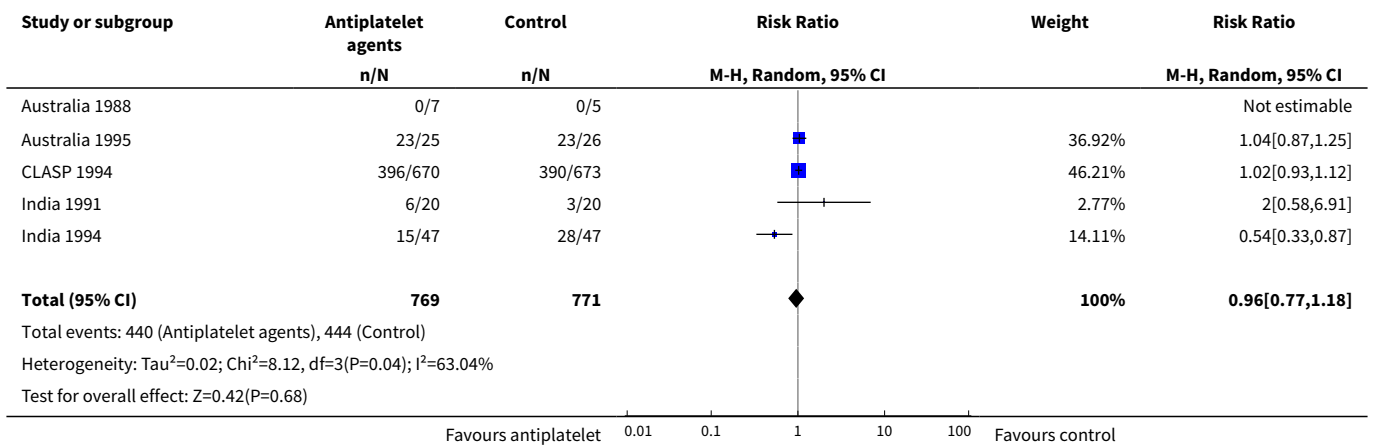


Analysis 6.12. Comparison 6 Antiplatelet agents versus placebo/no antiplatelet for secondary prevention, Outcome 12 Caesarean section.

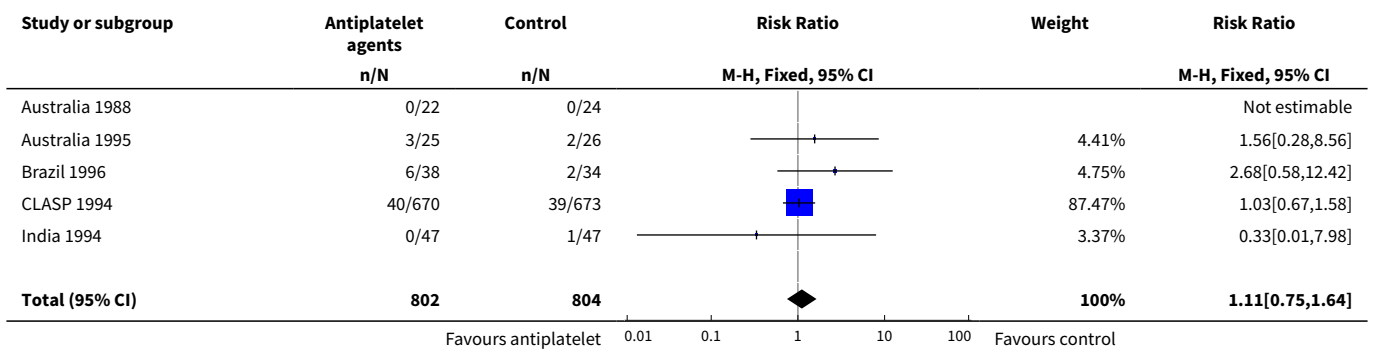


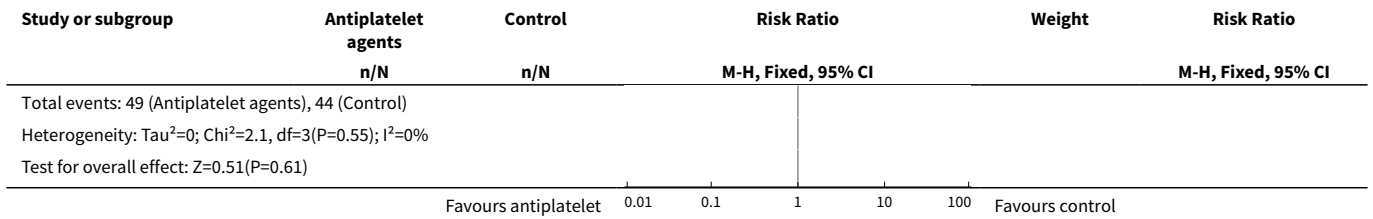


Analysis 6.13. Comparison 6 Antiplatelet agents versus placebo/no antiplatelet for secondary prevention, Outcome 13 Non spontaneous labour IPD only.

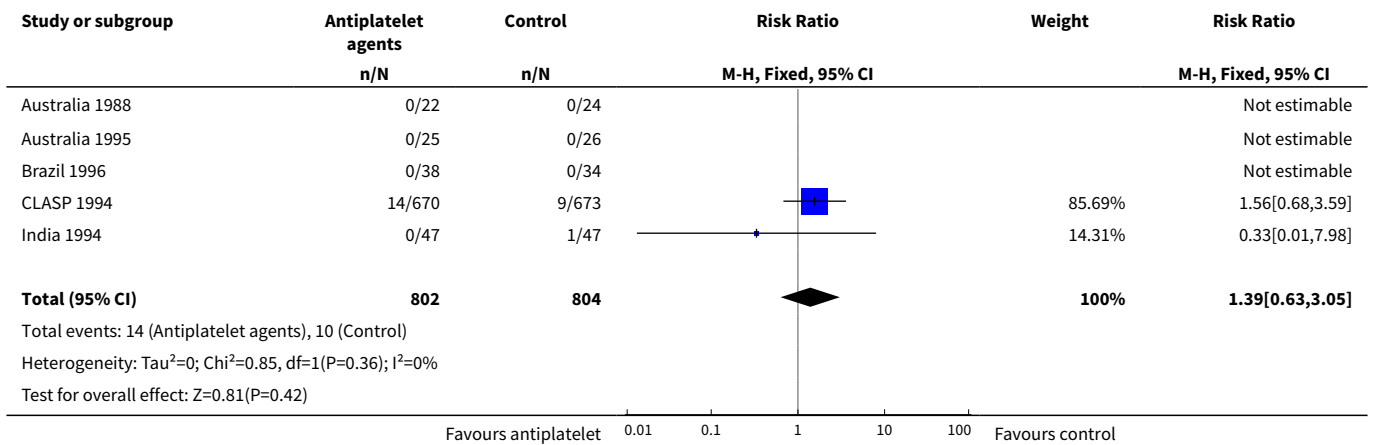


Analysis 6.14. Comparison 6 Antiplatelet agents versus placebo/no antiplatelet for secondary prevention, Outcome 14 Antepartum haemorrhage - IPD only.

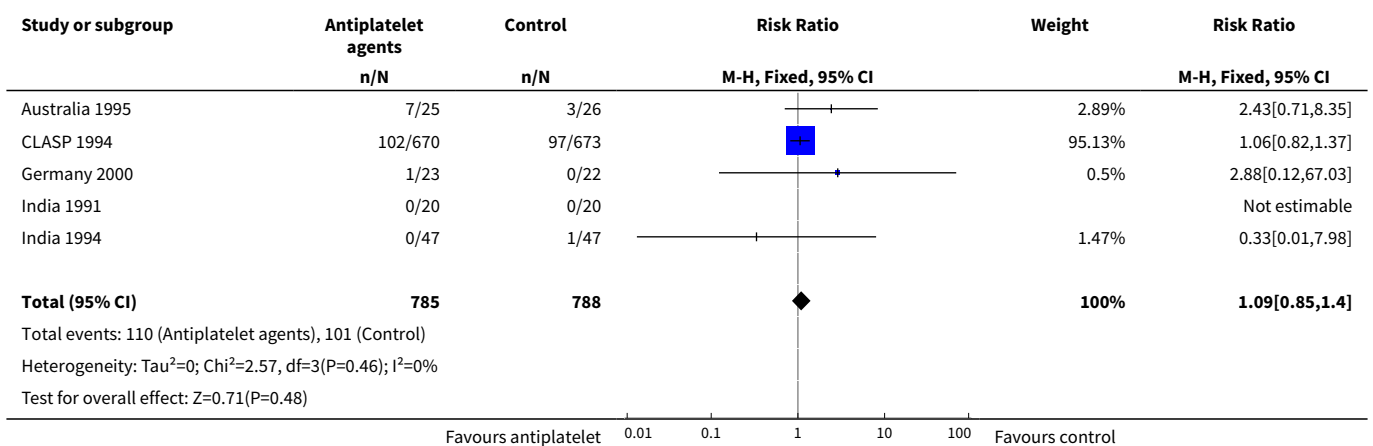




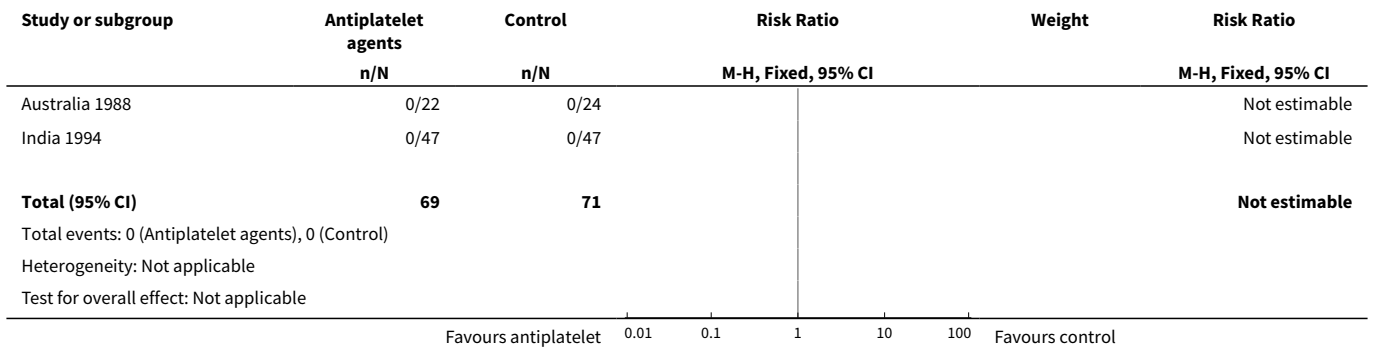
Analysis 6.15. Comparison 6 Antiplatelet agents versus placebo/no antiplatelet for secondary prevention, Outcome 15 Placental abruption - IPD only.



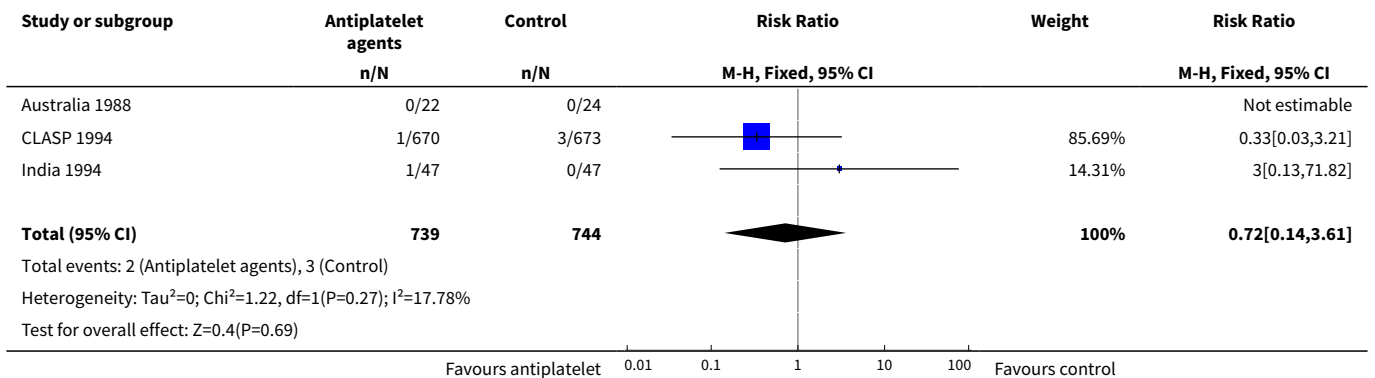
Analysis 6.16. Comparison 6 Antiplatelet agents versus placebo/no antiplatelet for secondary prevention, Outcome 16 Postpartum haemorrhage > 500 mL - IPD only.



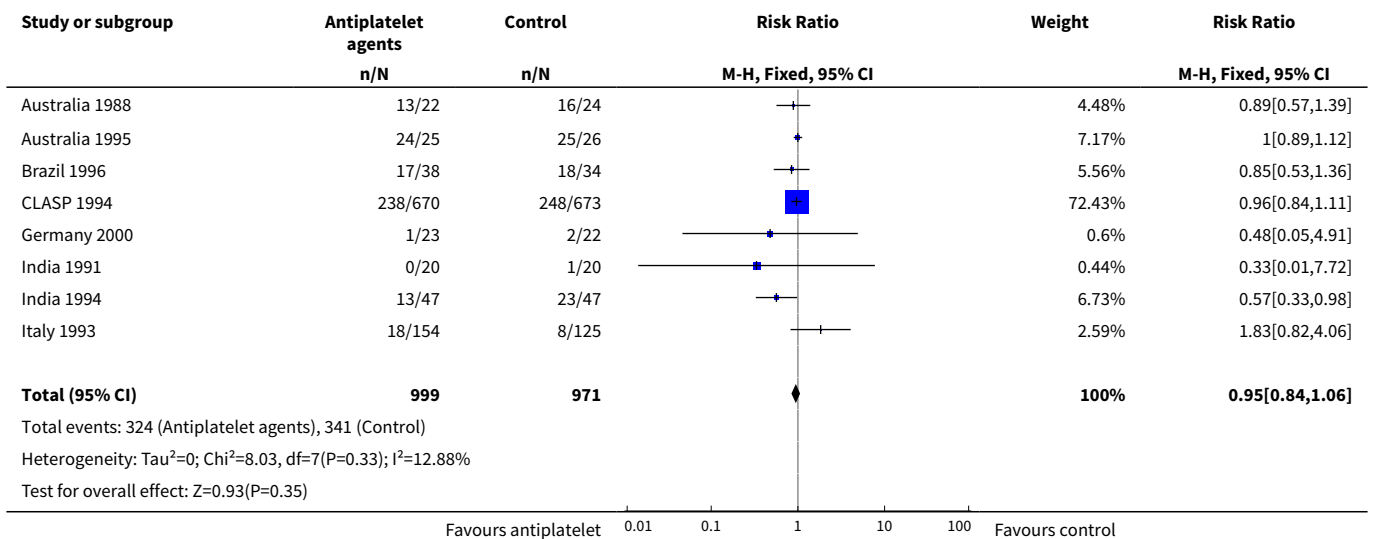
Analysis 6.17. Comparison 6 Antiplatelet agents versus placebo/no antiplatelet for secondary prevention, Outcome 17 HELLP Syndrome - IPD only.



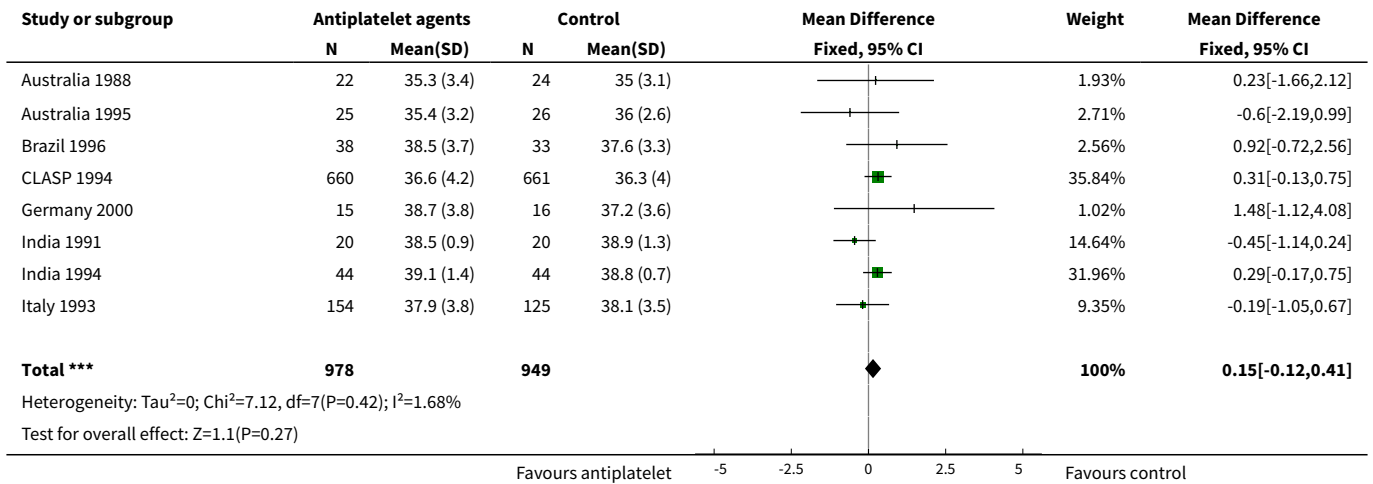
Analysis 6.18. Comparison 6 Antiplatelet agents versus placebo/no antiplatelet for secondary prevention, Outcome 18 Severe maternal morbidity - IPD only.



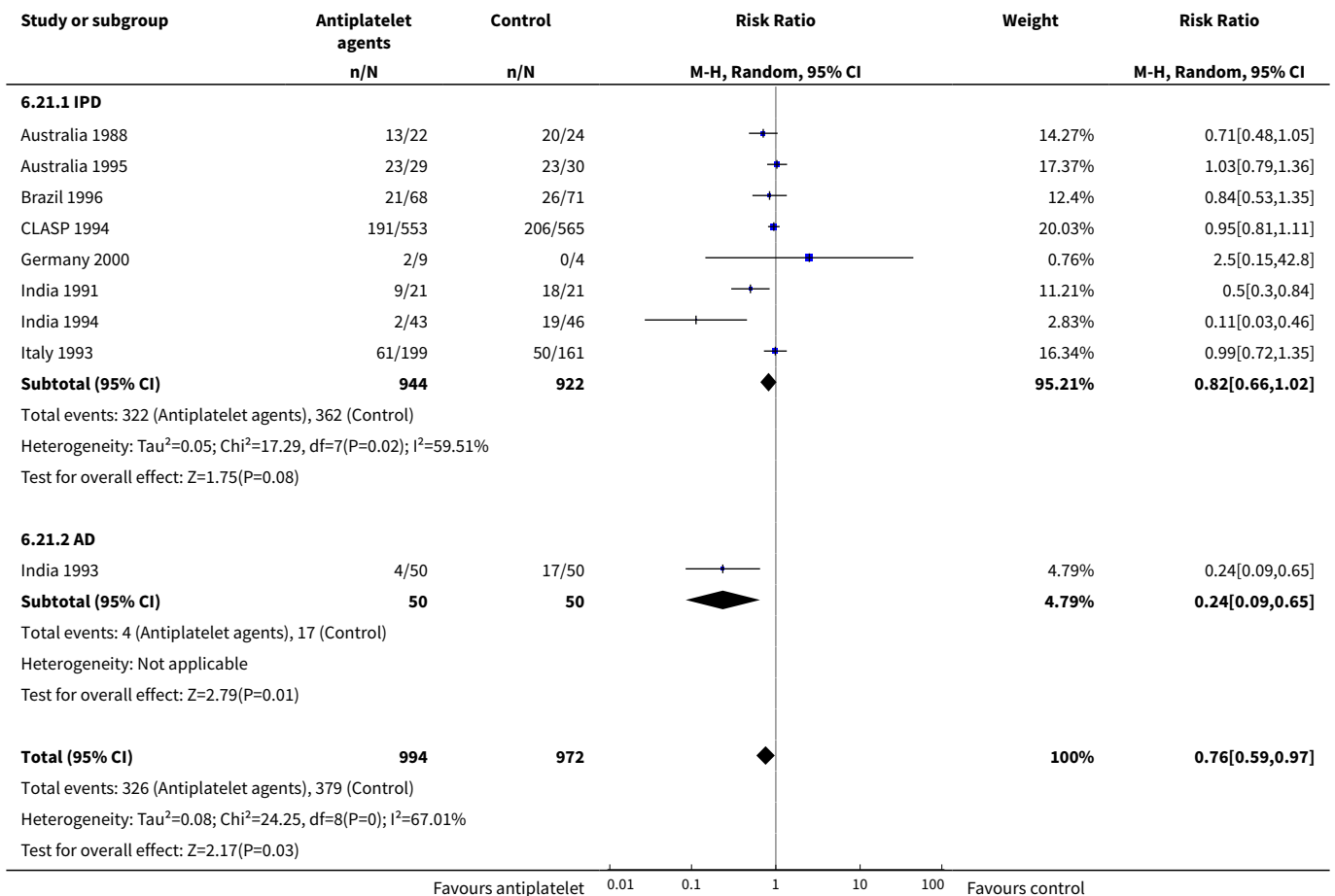
Analysis 6.19. Comparison 6 Antiplatelet agents versus placebo/no antiplatelet for secondary prevention, Outcome 19 Pregnancy with SAO (including maternal death, baby death, PE, SGA, preterm) - IPD only.

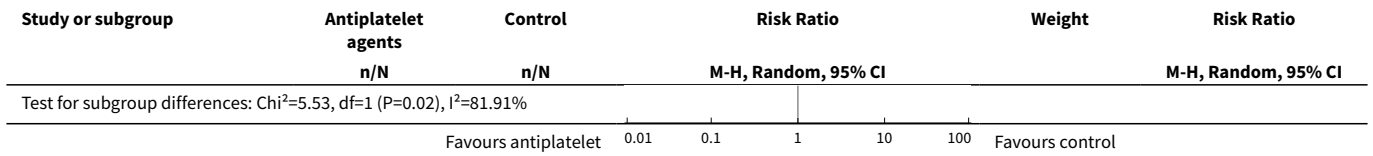


Analysis 6.20. Comparison 6 Antiplatelet agents versus placebo/no antiplatelet for secondary prevention, Outcome 20 Gestation at birth - IPD only.

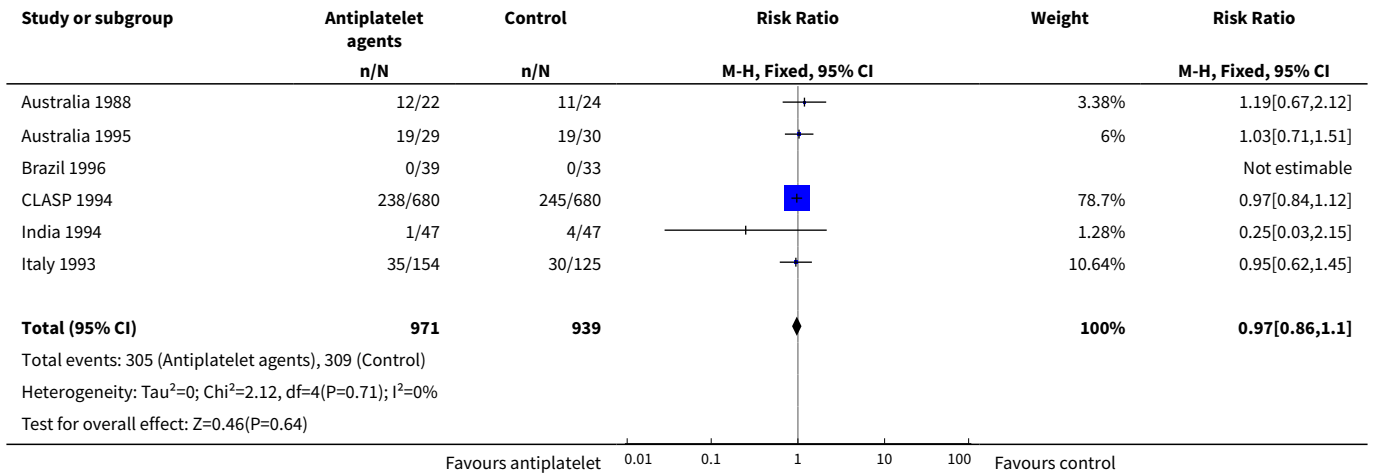


Analysis 6.21. Comparison 6 Antiplatelet agents versus placebo/no antiplatelet for secondary prevention, Outcome 21 Birthweight < 2500 g.

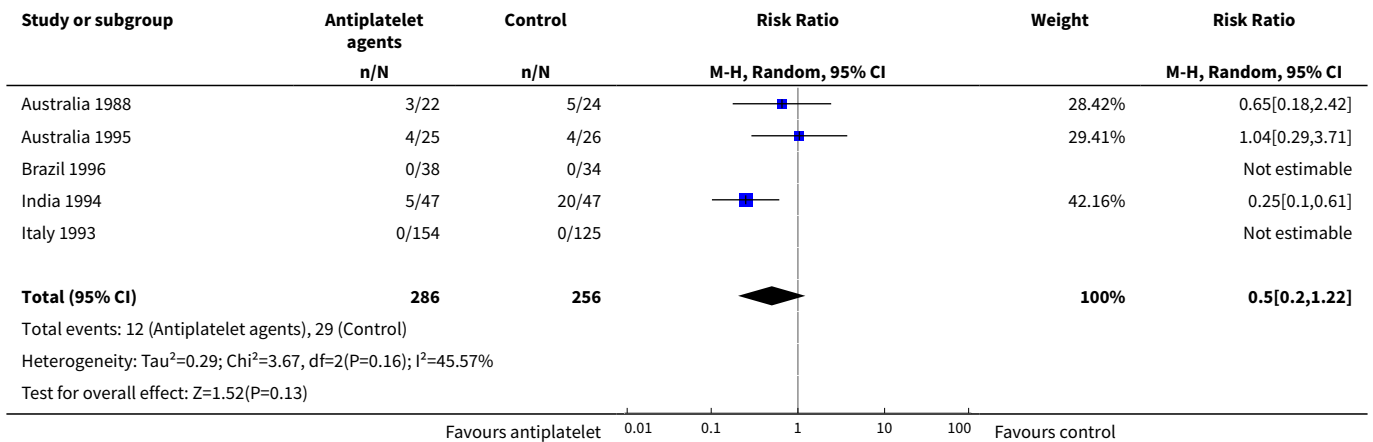




Analysis 6.22. Comparison 6 Antiplatelet agents versus placebo/no antiplatelet for secondary prevention, Outcome 22 Admission to a special care baby unit - IPD only.



Analysis 6.23. Comparison 6 Antiplatelet agents versus placebo/no antiplatelet for secondary prevention, Outcome 23 Any baby required assisted ventilation - IPD only.



APPENDICES

Appendix 1. Search Methods

ICTRP (30 March 2018)

(each line was run separately)

aspirin AND pregnancy

aspirin AND pre-eclampsia

aspirin AND preeclampsia

antiplatelet(s) AND pregnancy

hypertension AND pregnancy AND aspirin

ClinicalTrials.gov (30 March 2018)

Advanced search

Interventional studies | hypertension in pregnancy | aspirin

Interventional studies | pre-eclampsia | aspirin

Interventional studies | pregnancy | antiplatelet agents

Interventional studies | pregnancy | antiplatelet drugs

Interventional studies | pre-eclampsia | antiplatelet agents

Interventional studies | pre-eclampsia | antiplatelet drugs

Interventional studies | hypertension in pregnancy | antiplatelet agents

Interventional studies | hypertension in pregnancy | antiplatelet drugs

FEEDBACK

Coomarasamy, February 2001

Summary

[Aspirin has clinically significant benefit in high risk groups - Summary NNT can mislead clinicians and women]

Editor - The systematic review (1;2) of antiplatelet drugs for prevention of pre-eclampsia found statistically significant reduction in pre-eclampsia and other outcomes such as fetal or neonatal death. The authors concluded that the benefit was 'small to moderate' and the implication for practice was that 'relatively large numbers of women will need to be treated to prevent a single adverse outcome'. With the numbers of women needed to be treated to prevent one case of pre-eclampsia reported as 100 (95% CI 59 to 167), clinicians (and women) might not think treatment worthwhile.

However, calculating numbers needed to treat from pooled meta-analysis data may be inappropriate, if it is possible to identify subgroups of patients with substantially differing baseline risks(3). In women with high levels of baseline risk, and assuming constant relative risk from treatment, numbers needed to treat are smaller (4), and both clinicians and women may be much more likely to wish to use aspirin to prevent pre-eclampsia. It has been suggested(1;2) that meta-analysis of individual patient data would be useful both in identifying high-risk subgroups, and estimating the benefit they derive from antiplatelet treatment. However, such meta-analyses generally take a long time to complete(5). What should clinicians do in the mean time?

We can see no reason for thinking that the reduction in relative risk for various risk levels will be substantially different. If high-risk (or low risk) women can be identified, by any means, specific numbers needed to treat can then be generated by using pooled relative risk estimates from reviews of effectiveness(4), making the decision to treat (or not) more appropriate and, in this particular case, probably more clear-cut for most women.

We systematically reviewed the accuracy of uterine artery Doppler in early pregnancy for predicting pre-eclampsia(6). In clinically high-risk women, a positive Doppler result (abnormal flow velocimetry ratio or the presence diastolic notch) meant a 23.5% (95% CI 18.6 to 29.2) risk of developing pre-eclampsia. With baseline risk elevated to this level and assuming the global estimated relative risk of 0.85 (1), we estimate that 31 (95% CI 18 to 55) patients will be needed to be treated with aspirin to prevent one case of pre-eclampsia. We would thus expect most women with abnormal uterine artery Dopplers, when advised by their clinicians, to request antiplatelet treatment.

1. Duley L, Henderson-Smart DJ, Knight M, King JF. Anteplatelet drugs for prevention of pre-eclampsia and its consequences: systematic review. *BMJ* 2001;322: 329-333.

2. Knight M, Duley L, Henderson-Smart DJ, King JF. Antiplatelet agents for preventing and treating pre-eclampsia. *Cochrane Database.Syst.Rev.* 2000;CD000492.
3. Smeeth L, Haines A, Ebrahim S. Numbers needed to treat derived from meta-analyses--sometimes informative, usually misleading. *BMJ* 1999;318:1548-51.
4. Guyatt GH, Sackett DL, Sinclair JC, Hayward R, Cook DJ, Cook RJ. Users' guides to the medical literature. IX. A method for grading health care recommendations. Evidence-Based Medicine Working Group. *JAMA* 1995;274:1800-4.
5. Stewart LA, Clarke MJ. Practical methodology of meta-analyses (overviews) using updated individual patient data. *Cochrane Working Group. Stat.Med.* 1995;14:2057-79.
6. Chien PF, Arnott N, Gordon A, Owen P, Khan KS. How useful is uterine artery Doppler flow velocimetry in the prediction of pre-eclampsia, intrauterine growth retardation and perinatal death? An overview. *BJOG.* 2000;107:196-208.

Reply

The main aim of our review was to summarise the evidence. We agree the number needed to treat will be more favourable for women at higher risk, nevertheless, women at moderate/low risk do also seem to benefit. The public health benefit of a 15% reduction in pre-eclampsia and a 14% reduction in stillbirth and neonatal death is difficult to quantify, but is likely to be important. Aspirin is the best we have to offer for prevention of pre-eclampsia, with the added advantages of being low cost and reasonable reassurance about safety.

As indicated in our review, we are addressing the issue of potential variations in effect size for women with different baseline risk by undertaking a review based on data from individual women.

[reply from the review team, September 2002]

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WHAT'S NEW

Date	Event	Description
4 October 2018	New citation required but conclusions have not changed	Updating this review did not change the conclusion of the previous version of this review that antiplatelet agents reduce pre-eclampsia, preterm birth, and neonatal death.
4 October 2018	New search has been performed	Search updated. Updated previously included studies with available individual participant data (IPD), added IPD from two not previously in-

Date	Event	Description
		<p>cluded studies (Pergar 1987; Spain 2003), and added aggregate data (AD) from 17 new studies (Algeria 2011; ASPRES 2017; Brazil 2006; Canada 2017, Finland 2013; Germany 1995; India 1991; India 2017 Iran 1992; Iran 2006; Iran 2010; Iran 2012; Iran 2014a, Korea 1997; Netherlands 2009, Romania 2018, Spain 2017).</p> <p>The use of IPD enabled us to classify participants by risk of developing pre-eclampsia and analyse the effect of antiplatelet agents for different risk groups. Including the new studies and IPD in the updated review allowed for the novel inclusion of the two key outcomes, postpartum haemorrhage and pregnancy with serious adverse outcome (composite including maternal death, baby death, pre-eclampsia, small-for-gestational age, preterm birth). Antiplatelet agents reduced the risk of pregnancy with serious adverse outcome, but probably slightly increased the risk of postpartum haemorrhage (> 500 mL).</p> <p>A prepublication search in September identified 27 new trial reports. These have been added to the Studies awaiting classification section for consideration at the next update.</p>

HISTORY

Protocol first published: Issue 4, 1997

Review first published: Issue 2, 2000

Date	Event	Description
31 May 2010	Amended	Search updated. Sixteen reports added to Studies awaiting classification .
1 September 2008	Amended	Converted to new review format.
7 February 2007	New citation required but conclusions have not changed	This version updates two previously published reviews in <i>The Cochrane Library</i> (Knight 2000a and Duley 2003).
30 July 2006	New search has been performed	<p>Seven additional trials have been included (Brazil 1992a; China 1996a; Egypt 2005; Finland 1997a; Italy 2004; UK+others 2003; USA 1997), and one study which had previously been excluded (Russia 1993) is now included after additional clarification from trialists. Fifteen additional trials have been assessed and excluded (Brazil 1996a; Egypt 1991; Egypt 1998a; Equador 1998; India 1986; India 2001; India 2002; India 2002a; Italy 1990; Italy 2002; Italy 2005; Japan 1989; Russia 1997; Tunisia 1990a; Tunisia 1994a). These changes have not made a substantive difference to the overall conclusions of this review.</p> <p>Trials previously classified as 'treatment' rather than 'prevention' (India 1993; India 1994; Israel 1990; subgroup of UK 1992; subgroup of CLASP 1994; subgroup of Italy 1993) are now included with this review, but under a different comparison for secondary prevention of pre-eclampsia. The review 'Antiplatelet agents for preventing and treating pre-eclampsia' (Knight 2000a) has therefore been withdrawn from <i>The Cochrane Library</i>.</p>

Date	Event	Description
25 September 2002	Feedback has been incorporated	Feedback and reply from authors added.

CONTRIBUTIONS OF AUTHORS

Marian Knight wrote the first draft of the protocol, which was then modified in discussion with David Henderson-Smart and James King, and again following comments from others. Marian Knight, Lelia Duley and David Henderson-Smart did the searches for previous versions of the review, with help from the Cochrane Pregnancy and Childbirth Group, and decided on potentially eligible studies. Searches for this update were done by the Cochrane Pregnancy and Childbirth Group. All the authors decided on potentially eligible studies, and helped with data extraction. Data for previous versions of the review were entered by Marian Knight, Lelia Duley, and David Henderson-Smart.

For the 2019 update: Lisa Askie and Kylie Hunter added the IPD from the PARIS analysis. Studies were assessed for inclusion by Kylie Hunter and Anna Lene Seidler, who also extracted and entered the data. All authors contributed to checking the data. All authors have contributed to preparing the final report for this update, which was originally drafted by Lelia Duley.

DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Lelia Duley LD was a member of the steering committee for [Barbados 1998](#) and a co-author of the report, and a member of the PARIS Collaborative Group. She was awarded an NIHR grant for applied research for a programme of work on care at very preterm birth

Lisa Askie received a postdoctoral fellowship (Australian NHMRC 2003-2006) to conduct the PARIS Collaboration.

Kylie Hunter: none known.

Shireen Meher: none known.

Anna Lene Seidler: none known.

SOURCES OF SUPPORT

Internal sources

- NSW Centre for Perinatal Health Services Research, School of Public Health, University of Sydney, Australia.
- Department of Neonatal Medicine, Royal Prince Alfred Hospital, Sydney, Australia.
- Department of Perinatal Medicine, Royal Womens Hospital, Melbourne, Australia.
- Medical Research Council, UK.
- The University of Liverpool, UK.
- The University of Nottingham, UK.
- NHMRC Clinical Trials Centre, University of Sydney, Australia.

External sources

- Health Technology Assessment, UK.

DIFFERENCES BETWEEN PROTOCOL AND REVIEW

Objective

The previous version of this review included a second objective ("If antiplatelets were effective, our second objective was to determine which of these agents was best and to compare antiplatelet agents with other interventions"). For this update, we removed this second objective from the scope of the review. Because the review is now so large, this objective would be better covered by a separate companion review to this one.

Search methods

For this update, we added in a search of [ClinicalTrials.gov](#) and the WHO International Clinical Trials Registry Platform ([ICTRP](#)). In addition, we removed the text for additional searches of the Cochrane Central Register of Controlled Trials (the Cochrane Library 2014, Issue 1) and Embase (1994 to January 2013), as these searches have not been updated since 2014.

Methods

Types of studies - we have clarified that studies only published in abstract format were eligible for inclusion if sufficient information was available. Cluster-randomised controlled trials were eligible (but none were identified).

Types of participants

In the previous version

Pregnant women considered to be at risk of developing pre-eclampsia. This included women with normal blood pressure and those with chronic hypertension, as well as women with pregnancy-induced or gestational hypertension.

Women who were either normotensive, or had chronic hypertension without superimposed pre-eclampsia at trial entry were classified as being at high risk if they had one or more of the following: previous severe pre-eclampsia, diabetes, chronic hypertension, renal disease, or autoimmune disease. Moderate risk was defined as any other risk factors, in particular first pregnancy, a mild rise in blood pressure and no proteinuria, abnormal uterine artery doppler scan, positive roll-over test, multiple pregnancies, a family history of severe pre-eclampsia, and being a teenager. When risk was unclear or unspecified, women were classified as moderate-low risk.

In the current version

Types of participants

Pregnant women considered to be at risk of developing pre-eclampsia. This included women with normal blood pressure and those with chronic hypertension, as well as women with pregnancy-induced or gestational hypertension.

For studies where IPD were available, individual women were classified into risk categories based on the criteria in the PARIS protocol (Askie 2007). They were classified as low risk if they had any one of the following risk factors: primiparity, family history of pre-eclampsia, age greater than 40 years, or multiple pregnancy. Women were classified as moderate risk if they had any two of the previous risk factors. Women were classified as high risk if they had any one of the following risk factors: diabetes, chronic hypertension, renal disease, autoimmune disease, gestational hypertension, positive uterine artery Doppler, previous pre-eclampsia or previous fetal/neonatal death associated with pre-eclampsia. Women with no identifiable risk factor in the available IPD were grouped with the low-risk women. Hence for studies where IPD were available, data from one trial could appear in more than one 'maternal risk' category and in more than one 'gestational age at randomisation' category, as individual women within each trial could be classified into different risk and gestational age subgroups.

For studies where aggregate data (AD) only were available, inclusion criteria were used to group women into low, moderate, high or unclassified risk according to the same criteria outlined above, so that categorisation was consistent with IPD analyses. Women in a particular trial could be placed in one category only (unless appropriate subgroup data were available from the trial publication), as IPD were not available.

Types of outcomes

We have added that, for trials with IPD, outcomes were defined using the PARIS 2005 definitions. For trials with only AD available, the trialists' own outcome definitions were used.

We have also separated out our list of outcomes into primary and secondary outcomes.

Data collection and analysis

We have updated our methods to incorporate the standard methods used by Cochrane Pregnancy and Childbirth.

Subgroup analysis and investigation of heterogeneity

We have changed our subgroup analysis by 'type of antiplatelet':

from "type of antiplatelet agent: aspirin, or all other types"

to "low-dose aspirin alone; all other types of antiplatelet agent and low-dose aspirin combined with other antiplatelet agents".

GRADE methods

We have added methods for the use of GRADE and inclusion of a 'Summary of findings' table.

INDEX TERMS

Medical Subject Headings (MeSH)

Aspirin [therapeutic use]; Fetal Death [prevention & control]; Obstetric Labor, Premature [prevention & control]; Platelet Aggregation Inhibitors [*therapeutic use]; Pre-Eclampsia [*prevention & control]; Randomized Controlled Trials as Topic

Antiplatelet agents for preventing pre-eclampsia and its complications (Review)

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MeSH check words

Female; Humans; Pregnancy