

eTable 4. Main and subgroup analyses of the proportion of confirmed studies

| | Total | Unchallenged | Contradicted | Confirmed | Proportion of confirmed studies, 95%CI (%) |
|--|---------|--------------|--------------|-----------|--|
| Original studies | 104(#1) | 18 | 27 | 59 | 68.6 (58.1 to 77.5) |
| - Research design | | | | | |
| Laboratory study | 1 | 1 | 0 | 0 | - |
| Case series | 3 | 1 | 0 | 2 | 100 (33.8 to 100) |
| Observational study | 35 | 4 | 12 | 19 | 61.3 (43.7 to 76.4) |
| Trial series of observational studies | 1 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 100 (20.3 to 100) |
| SR and MA of observational studies | 1 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 100 (20.3 to 100) |
| RCT | 56 | 12 | 13 | 31 | 70.5 (55.6 to 81.9) |
| Trial series of RCTs | 1 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 100 (20.3 to 100) |
| SR of RCTs and observational studies | 1 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 100 (20.3 to 100) |
| SR of RCTs | 1 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 100 (20.3 to 100) |
| SR and MA of RCTs | 4 | 0 | 2 | 2 | 50.0 (14.8 to 85.2) |
| - ICD-10 categories | | | | | |
| Certain infectious and parasitic disease (A00-B99) | 12 | 2 | 2 | 8 | 80.0 (48.7 to 94.4) |

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|---|----|---|---|---|---------------------|
| Neoplasms (C00-D48) | 6 | 1 | 3 | 2 | 40.0 (11.6 to 77.2) |
| Diseases of the blood and blood-forming organs and certain disorders involving the immune mechanism (D50-D89) | 1 | 0 | 1 | 0 | 0 (0 to 79.7) |
| Endocrine, nutritional and metabolic diseases (E00-E90) | 3 | 1 | 0 | 2 | 100 (33.8 to 100) |
| Mental and behavioral disorders (F00-F99) | 13 | 2 | 4 | 7 | 63.6 (35.1 to 85.0) |
| Diseases of the nervous system (G00-G99) | 3 | 2 | 0 | 1 | 100 (20.3 to 100) |
| Diseases of the circulatory system (I00-I99) | 16 | 4 | 3 | 9 | 75.0 (46.5 to 91.2) |
| Diseases of the respiratory system (J00-J99) | 8 | 1 | 3 | 4 | 57.1 (24.8 to 84.3) |
| Diseases of the digestive system (K00-K93) | 4 | 1 | 1 | 2 | 66.7 (20.5 to 93.9) |
| Diseases of the musculoskeletal system (M00-M99) | 5 | 0 | 1 | 4 | 80.0 (37.2 to 96.4) |
| Diseases of the genitourinary system (N00-N99) | 2 | 0 | 1 | 1 | 50.0 (9.3 to 90.7) |
| Pregnancy, childbirth and the puerperium (O00-O99) | 2 | 0 | 0 | 2 | 100 (33.8 to 100) |
| Symptoms, signs and abnormal clinical and laboratory findings, not elsewhere classified (R00-R99) | 2 | 1 | 0 | 1 | 100 (20.3 to 100) |
| Injury, poisoning and certain other consequences | 5 | 1 | 3 | 1 | 25.0 (4.5 to 70.3) |

| | | | | | |
|--|---------------------|----|----|----|---------------------|
| of external causes (S00-T98) | | | | | |
| Factors influencing health status and contact with health services (Z00-Z99) | 22 | 2 | 5 | 15 | 75.0 (52.9 to 88.9) |
| Newspaper stories | 162 ^(#2) | 30 | 45 | 87 | 65.9 (57.4 to 73.5) |
| - Quality paper | 111 | 23 | 32 | 56 | 63.6 (53.1 to 73.0) |
| New York Times (USA) | 24 | 7 | 6 | 11 | 64.7 (41.1 to 82.8) |
| Washington Post (USA) | 68 | 12 | 19 | 37 | 66.1 (52.9 to 77.2) |
| Daily Telegraph (UK) | 3 | 2 | 0 | 1 | 100 (20.3 to 100) |
| Times (UK) | 16 | 2 | 7 | 7 | 50.0 (26.6 to 73.4) |
| - Non-quality paper | 51 | 7 | 13 | 31 | 70.5 (55.6 to 81.9) |
| USA Today (USA) | 10 | 1 | 2 | 7 | 77.8 (44.9 to 93.8) |
| Daily News (USA) | 10 | 1 | 6 | 3 | 33.3 (11.9 to 64.8) |
| Daily Mail (UK) | 21 | 5 | 4 | 12 | 75.0 (50.3 to 89.9) |
| Daily Mirror (UK) | 10 | 0 | 1 | 9 | 90.0 (59.2 to 98.2) |

(#1) 104 comparisons from 96 original studies (including duplicate)

(#2) 162 comparisons from 158 newspaper stories (including duplicate)