

Additional file 3: Details of included studies

Reference	Design	Doses and number	Outcomes	Analgesic results	Adverse events	Quality score
Ehrich et al, 1999	Randomised, double blind, placebo control in postoperative third molar extraction	Placebo, n=32 Rofecoxib 50 mg, n=32 Rofecoxib 500 mg, n=20 Ibuprofen 400 mg, n=20	Standard categorical pain intensity and relief scales, remedication time, adverse events. Review converts TOTPAR to at least 50% pain relief using standard methods	At least 50% pain relief: Placebo 2/32 Rofecoxib 50 mg 21/32 Rofecoxib 500 mg 15/20 Ibuprofen 400 mg 14/20 Remedication within 2 hours: 75% of placebo <25% of rofecoxib 50 mg <25% of rofecoxib 500 mg <25% of ibuprofen 400 mg	Adverse events were reported as mild and transient, with headache and nausea most frequent. No details reported	R = 1 DB = 2 W/D = 1 Total = 4
Malmstrom et al, 1999	Randomised, double blind, placebo and active control in postoperative third molar extraction	Placebo, n=45 Rofecoxib 50 mg, n=90 Celecoxib 200 mg, n=91 Ibuprofen 400 mg, n=46	Standard categorical pain intensity and relief scales, remedication time, adverse events. Review converts TOTPAR to at least 50% pain relief using standard methods	At least 50% pain relief: Placebo 3/45 Rofecoxib 50 mg 59/90 Celecoxib 200 mg 37/91 Ibuprofen 400 mg 30/46 Remedication within 24 hours: 91% of placebo 49% of rofecoxib 50 mg 78% of celecoxib 200 mg 76% of ibuprofen 400 mg Median time to remedication: 1.5 hours for placebo >24 hours for rofecoxib 50 mg 5.1 hours for celecoxib 200 mg 8.9 hours for ibuprofen 400 mg	No persistent or unexpected adverse events. Specific adverse events: Nausea - Placebo 9/45 Rofecoxib 50 mg 8/90 Celecoxib 200 mg 11/91 Ibuprofen 400 mg 8/46 Vomiting - Placebo 6/45 Rofecoxib 50 mg 1/90 Celecoxib 200 mg 3/91 Ibuprofen 400 mg 4/46 Headache - Placebo 6/45 Rofecoxib 50 mg 11/90 Celecoxib 200 mg 12/91 Ibuprofen 400 mg 4/46	R = 2 DB = 2 W/D = 1 Total = 5
Morrison et al, 1999	Randomised, double blind, placebo and active control in postoperative third molar extraction	Placebo, n=50 Rofecoxib 50 mg, n=50 Ibuprofen 400 mg, n=51	Standard categorical pain intensity and relief scales, remedication time, adverse events. Review converts TOTPAR to at least 50% pain relief using standard methods	At least 50% pain relief: Placebo 6/50 Rofecoxib 50 mg 22/50 Ibuprofen 400 mg 20/51 Remedication within 24 hours: 92% of placebo 56% of rofecoxib 50 mg 82% of ibuprofen 400 mg Median time to remedication: 2.4 hours for placebo 9.5 hours for rofecoxib 50 mg 6.1 hours for ibuprofen 400 mg	Patients experiencing any adverse event: Placebo 17/50 Rofecoxib 50 mg 6/50 Ibuprofen 400 mg 13/51 Nausea: Placebo 9/50 Rofecoxib 50 mg 4/50 Ibuprofen 400 mg 8/51 Vomiting: Placebo 7/50 Rofecoxib 50 mg 4/50 Ibuprofen 400 mg 5/52	R = 2 DB = 1 W/D = 1 Total = 4
Chang et al, 2001	Randomised, double blind, placebo and active control in postoperative third molar extraction	Placebo, n=31 Rofecoxib 50 mg, n=182 Paracetamol 600 mg plus codeine 60 mg, n=180	Standard categorical pain intensity and relief scales, remedication time, adverse events. Review converts TOTPAR to at least 50% pain relief using standard methods	At least 50% pain relief: Placebo 2/31 Rofecoxib 50 mg 104/182 Paracetamol 600 mg plus codeine 60 mg 49/180 Median time to remedication: 1.6 hours for placebo 9.6 hours for rofecoxib 50 mg 2.3 hours for paracetamol 600 mg plus codeine 60 mg	Patients experiencing any adverse event: Placebo 10/31 Rofecoxib 50 mg 60/182 Paracetamol 600 mg plus codeine 60 mg 83/180 Nausea: Placebo 3/31 Rofecoxib 50 mg 11/182 Paracetamol 600 mg plus codeine 60 mg 45/180 Vomiting: Placebo 2/31 Rofecoxib 50 mg 7/182 Paracetamol 600 mg plus codeine 60 mg 33/180	R = 1 DB = 2 W/D = 1 Total = 4
Reicin et al, 2001	Randomised, double blind, placebo and active control in postoperative orthopaedic surgery. Single dose followed by multiple doses over five days	Placebo, n=53 Rofecoxib 50 mg, n=110 Naproxen sodium 550 mg, n=55	Standard categorical pain intensity and relief scales, adverse events. Review converts TOTPAR to at least 50% pain relief using standard methods	At least 50% pain relief after first dose: Placebo 11/53 Rofecoxib 50 mg 52/110 Naproxen sodium 550 mg 25/55	No single dose adverse event data reported.	R = 2 DB = 1 W/D = 1 Total = 4