Appendix 6 (as supplied by the authors): Summary of results from subgroup analyses

Outcome	Trials (patients)	Effect Estimate (95% CI)	P value	I^2 (%)	Subgroup Difference (p value)
CHILDREN VS ADULTS					
Duration of Symptoms					
Children	3 (563)	-0.26 (-0.78, 0.25)	0.32	84	< 0.0001
Adults	5 (371)	-2.63 (-3.69, -1.58)	<0.00001	82	
Severity of Symptoms					
Children	2 (314)	-0.05 (-0.27, 0.17)	0.67	0	0.01
Adults	2 (98)	-0.64 (-1.05, -0.24)	0.002	0	
Presence of Symptoms at 3 Days					
Children	1 (249)	1.00 (0.97, 1.03)	0.99		0.10
Adults	7 (1003)	0.90 (0.79, 1.02)	0.09	74	
Presence of Symptoms at 7 Days					
Children	1 (249)	0.85 (0.69, 1.04)	0.11		0.13
Adults	8 (1076)	0.57 (0.35, 0.91)	0.02	80	
INDUCED VS. NATURALLY ACQUIRED COLDS					
Not enough trials for subgroup					
ZINC FORMULATION					
Duration of Symptoms					
Zinc Acetate	3 (199)	-2.67 (-3.96, -1.38)	<0.0001	87	0.003
Zinc Gluconate	3 (421)	-1.72 (-3.89, 0.44)	0.12	87	
Zinc Sulfate	2 (314)	-0.31 (-0.89, 0.28)	0.31	92	
Severity of Symptoms					
Zinc Acetate	2 (98)	-0.64 (-1.05, -0.24)	0.002	0	0.01
Zinc Gluconate	0				
Zinc Sulfate	2 (314)	-0.05 (-0.27, 0.17)	0.67	0	
Presence of Symptoms at 3 Days					
Zinc Acetate	1 (48)	0.65 (0.48, 0.87)	0.004		0.02
Zinc Gluconate	5 (653)	0.95 (0.85, 1.06)	0.36	81	
Zinc Sulfate	0				
Presence of Symptoms at 7 Days					
Zinc Acetate	1 (48)	0.03 (0.00, 0.47)	0.01		0.03
Zinc Gluconate	6 (726)	0.61 (0.39, 0.97)	0.04	82	
Zinc Sulfate	0				
HIGH DOSE VS. LOW DOSE IONIZED ZINC					
Duration of Symptoms					
High Dose	3 (171)	-2.75 (-3.89, -1.60)	<0.00001	78	0.005
Low Dose	5 (763)	-0.84 (-1.50, -0.18)	0.01	89	
Severity of Symptoms					
High Dose	2 (98)	-0.64 (-1.05, -0.24)	0.002	0	0.01
Low Dose	2 (314)	-0.05 (-0.27, 0.17)	0.67	0	
Presence of Symptoms at 3 Days					
High Dose	3 (223)	0.77 (0.48, 1.26)	0.31	92	0.41
Low Dose	3 (478)	0.96 (0.84, 1.08)	0.52	75	
Presence of Symptoms at 7 Days					
High Dose	4 (296)	0.32 (0.12, 0.87)	0.03	79	0.14
Low Dose	3 (478)	0.79 (0.41, 1.54)	0.49	87	
HIGH RISK OF BIAS VS. LOW RISK OF BIAS*					
Duration of Symptoms					

Appendix to: Science M, Johnstone J, Roth DE et al. Zinc for the treatment of the common cold: a systematic review and meta-analysis of randomized controlled trials. *CMAJ* 2012. DOI:10.1503/cmaj111990.

Low risk of bias	6 (760)	-1.78 (-2.80, -0.76)	0.0006	96	0.44
High risk of bias	2 (174)	-1.29 (-2.00, -0.58)	0.0004	0	
Severity of Symptoms					
Low risk of bias	4 (412)	-0.27 (-0.58, 0.05)	0.09	55	
High risk of bias	0				
Presence of Symptoms at 3 Days					
Low risk of bias	3 (396)	0.81 (0.51, 1.29)	0.38	95	0.46
High risk of bias	5 (856)	0.97 (0.87, 1.08)	0.60	60	
Presence of Symptoms at 7 Days					
Low risk of bias	3 (396)	0.36 (0.11, 1.23)	0.10	88	0.32
High risk of bias	6 (929)	0.70 (0.45, 1.08)	0.10	76	
SYMPTOM DURATION PRIOR TO INTERVENTION					
Duration of Symptoms					
< 24 hours	5 (640)	-2.24 (-3.84, -0.63)	0.006	96	0.13
≥ 24 hours	3 (294)	-0.76 (-1.79, 0.28)	0.15	82	
Severity of Symptoms					
< 24 hours	3 (292)	-0.39 (-0.86, 0.09)	0.11	67	0.29
≥ 24 hours	1 (120)	-0.07 (-0.43, 0.29)	0.71	0	
Presence of Symptoms at 3 Days					
< 24 hours	4 (526)	0.88 (0.73, 1.07)	0.21	89	0.62
≥ 24 hours	4 (726)	0.94 (0.80, 1.10)	0.45	72	
Presence of Symptoms at 7 Days					
< 24 hours	4 (526)	0.64 (0.30, 1.36)	0.25	87	0.89
≥ 24 hours	5 (799)	0.60 (0.40, 0.90)	0.01	62	
FUNDING SOURCE					
All trials were industry funded					
***POST HOC* ANALYSIS – EFFECT OF TASTE BLINDING**					
Duration of Symptoms					
Potential inadequate taste blinding	4 (522)	-1.57 (-2.93, -0.20)	0.02	81	0.85
No Difference in taste	4 (412)	-1.74 (-2.90, -0.58)	0.003	97	

****Low risk of bias***: a low risk of bias on ≥ 5 of 6 items on the risk of bias assessment and no item considered high risk. ***High risk of bias***: any item considered high risk or low risk on < 5 of 6 items.

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