

Appendix 2: Complete summary of findings

Outcome	Subgroup	Number of trials	Number Subjects	Mean difference (MD)/ Standardised mean difference (SMD)/Risk Ratio/Rate Ratio [95% Confidence Interval]	P- value for effect	I ²	P -value for subgroup difference
Haematology							
Hemoglobin (MD)	Overall	28	6545	8.38 [6.21 -10.56]	<0.00001	97%	N/A
Baseline Hemoglobin	Anemic	12	1937	18.95 [13.61-24.28]	<0.00001	99%	Chi ² =22.38; df=2, P=0.0001; I ² =90.9%
	Non-anemic	7	1484	6.33 [2.66-10.00]	0.0007	93%	
	Mixed/unreported	16	2943	5.40 [3.47-7.32]	<0.00001	88%	
Baseline iron status	Iron Deficient	6	797	23.21 [13.53-32.88]	<0.00001	99%	Chi ² =19.15; df=2, P<0.0001; I ² =89.6%
	Iron Replete	4	1383	3.42 [1.67-5.17]	0.0001	48%	
	Mixed/ unreported	21	4107	6.58 [4.60-8.56]	<0.00001	92%	
Baseline Iron Deficiency status	Iron deficiency anemia	4	716	28.78 [16.08-41.49]	<0.00001	99%	Chi ² =29.02; df=3, P=0.20; I ² =89.7%
	Iron deficient not anemic	2	68	5.72 [2.98-8.46]	<0.00001	0%	
	Not replete non anemic	3	1323	2.92 [2.08-3.76]	<0.00001	0%	
	Mixed/Unreported	23	4436	7.12 [4.84-9.41]	<0.00001	96%	
Dose	12.5mg or less	4	850	6.15 [1.33-10.98]	0.01	92%	Chi ² =6.33; df=4, P=0.2; I ² =36.8%
	12.6-30mg	4	1025	5.33 [0.21-10.46]	0.04	88%	
	31-60mg	8	1831	11.13 [6.98-15.45]	<0.00001	97%	
	>61mg	9	1236	6.10 [4.50-7.71]	<0.00001	61%	
	Mixed/Unspecified	3	1603	12.44 [1.70-23.18]	0.02	97%	
Duration	1 month or less	0	N/A				Chi ² =4.27; df=1, P=0.04; I ² =76.6%
	>1 month to 3 months	14	2401	10.62 [7.27-13.98]	<0.00001	96%	
	> 3 months	14	4144	6.46 [4.38-8.54]	<0.00001	97%	
Malaria endemicity	Endemic	9	2203	9.71 [4.79-14.63]	0.0001	95%	Chi ² =13.87; df=2, P=0.001; I ² =85.6%
	Non-Endemic	3	1980	3.89 [2.99-4.80]	<0.00001	12%	
	Unstated	16	2362	8.67 [5.75-11.59]	<0.00001	97%	
Iron Combination	Iron vs control	22	3721	10.54 [7.98-13.11]	<0.00001	96%	Chi ² =18.83; df=1, P<0.00001; I ² =94.7%
	Iron + X vs X alone	10	2824	3.60 [1.80-5.41]	<0.00001	77%	
Anemia (Risk Ratio)	Overall	7	1763	0.50 [0.39-0.64]	<0.00001	85%	N/A
Baseline Hemoglobin	Anemic	3	797	0.46 [0.30-0.69]	0.0002	91%	Chi ² =0.516; df=1, P=0.7; I ² =0%
	Non-anemic	0	N/A				
	Mixed/unreported	4	966	0.46 [0.34-0.62]	0.004	83%	
Baseline iron status	Iron Deficient	1	480	0.54 [0.47-0.61]	<0.00001	N/A	Chi ² =0.47; df=1, P=0.5; I ² =0%
	Iron Replete	0	N/A				
	Mixed/ unreported	6	1283	0.47 [0.33-0.67]	<0.00001	88%	

Baseline Iron Deficiency status	Iron deficiency anemia	1	480	0.54 [0.47-0.61]	<0.00001	N/A	Chi ² =0.47; df=1, P=0.5; I ² =0%
	Iron deficient not anemic	0	N/A				
	Not replete non anemic	0	N/A				
	Mixed/Unreported	6	1283	0.47 [0.33-0.67]	<0.00001	88%	
Dose	12.5mg or less	0	N/A				Chi ² =13.57; df=1, P=0.003; I ² =88.3%
	12.6-30mg	0	N/A				
	31-60mg	6	1648	0.57 [0.46-0.69]	<0.00001	78%	
	>61mg	0	N/A				
	Dose mixed/ unspecified	1	115	0.18 [0.10-0.32]	<0.00001	N/A	
Duration	1 month or less	0	N/A				Chi ² =8.56; df=1, P=0.005; I ² =87.1%
	>1 month to 3 months	4	1255	0.62 [0.53-0.73]	<0.00001	74%	
	> 3 months	3	508	0.24 [0.13-0.44]	<0.00001	56%	
Malaria endemicity	Endemic	2	682	0.60 [0.48-0.75]	<0.00001	78%	Chi ² =2.64; df=2, P=0.3; I ² =24.1%
	Non-Endemic	2	626	0.32 [0.02-4.58]	0.4	73%	
	Unstated	3	455	0.33 [0.17-0.67]	<0.00001	92%	
Iron Combination	Iron vs control	5	1298	0.47 [0.35-0.63]	<0.00001	87%	Chi ² =0.15; df=1, P=0.7; I ² =0%
	Iron + X vs X alone	2	465	0.28 [0.02-3.57]	0.33	71%	
Iron deficiency Anemia (Risk ratio)	Overall	2	334	0.12 [0.02-0.66]	0.01	0%	N/A
Haematocrit (MD)	Overall	6	895	1.70 [0.52-2.89]	0.005	89%	N/A
Baseline Hemoglobin	Anemic	2	117	6.56 [-1.92-15.04]	0.1	100%	Chi ² =1.68; df=2, P=0.4; I ² =0%
	Non-anemic	2	132	0.87 [-0.95-2.69]	0.4	90%	
	Mixed/unreported	4	646	0.94 [-0.13-2.02]	0.09	72%	
Baseline iron status	Iron Deficient	2	117	6.56 [-1.92-15.04]	0.1	100%	Chi ² =1.68; df=2, P=0.4; I ² =0%
	Iron Replete	2	132	0.87 [-0.95-2.69]	0.4	90%	
	Mixed/ unreported	4	646	0.94 [-0.13-2.02]	0.09	72%	
Baseline Iron Deficiency status	Iron deficiency anemia	2	117	6.56 [-1.92-15.04]	0.1	100%	Chi ² =1.68; df=2, P=0.4; I ² =0%
	Iron deficient not anemic	0	N/A				
	Not replete non anemic	2	132	0.87 [-0.95-2.69]	0.4	90%	
	Mixed/Unreported	4	646	0.94 [-0.13-2.02]	0.09	72%	
Dose	12.5mg or less	1	87	1.0 [-0.57-2.57]	0.2	N/A	Chi ² =51.23; df=3, P<0.00001; I ² =94.1%
	12.6-30mg	0	N/A				
	31-60mg	1	437	-0.10 [-0.57-0.37]	0.7	N/A	
	>61mg	3	241	1.83 [1.33-2.34]	<0.00001	0%	
	Dose mixed/ unspecified	1	130	4.39 [2.89-5.89]	<0.00001	N/A	
Duration	1 month or less	0	N/A				Chi ² =0.09; df=1, P=0.8; I ² =0%
	>1 month to 3 months	5	823	1.76 [0.28-3.24]	0.02	90%	

	> 3 months	1	72	1.50 [0.68-2.32]	0.0003	N/A	
Malaria endemicity	Endemic	2	137	1.37 [0.00-2.74]	0.05	N/A	Chi ² =0.2; df=1, P=0.7; I ² =0%
	Non-Endemic	0	N/A				
	Unstated	4	758	1.83 [0.29-3.38]	0.02	94%	
Iron Combination	Iron vs control	4	678	1.93 [-0.74-4.59]	0.2	91%	Chi ² =0.02; df=1, P=0.9; I ² =0%
	Iron + X vs X alone	3	217	1.76 [1.26-2.25]	<0.00001	0%	
MCV (MD)	Overall	2	169	3.46 [2.59-4.33]	<0.00001	0%	N/A
MCH (MD)	Overall	2	169	1.77 [1.20-2.33]	<0.00001	0%	N/A
Iron status							
Iron deficiency (Risk Ratio)	Overall	4	1020	0.21 [0.07-0.63]	0.006	85%	N/A
Ferritin (MD)	Overall	12	3612	28.45 [18.03-38.86]	<0.00001	98%	N/A
Baseline Hemoglobin	Anemic	4	841	35.73 [22.75-48.70]	<0.00001	86%	Chi ² =1.60; df=2, P=0.5; I ² =0%
	Non-anemic	4	1354	27.94 [-2.04-57.93]	0.07	99%	
	Mixed/unreported	6	1415	25.48 [16.28-34.69]	<0.00001	86%	
Baseline iron status	Iron Deficient	4	707	28.47 [19.60-37.30]	<0.00001	87%	Chi ² =0.15; df=2, P=0.9; I ² =0%
	Iron Replete	2	1270	35.97 [-18.78-90.72]	0.2	100%	
	Mixed/ unreported	8	1633	26.52 [14.34-38.70]	<0.00001	96%	
Baseline Iron Deficiency status	Iron deficiency anemia	3	639	25.45 [16.94-33.95]	<0.00001	86%	Chi ² =3.68; df=3, P=0.3; I ² =18.5%
	Iron deficient not anemic	2	68	39.77 [27.31-52.22]	<0.00001	0%	
	Not replete non anemic	2	1270	35.97 [-18.78-90.72]	0.2	100%	
	Mixed/Unreported	8	1633	27.04 [14.28-39.79]	<0.00001	96%	
Dose	12.5mg or less	3	660	22.09 [6.16-38.03]	0.007	97%	Chi ² =56.61; df=4, P<0.0001; I ² =92.9%
	12.6-30mg	1	63	9.08 [-20.72-38.88]	0.55	N/A	
	31-60mg	5	1390	32.23 [19.05-45.42]	<0.0001	94%	
	>61mg	2	141	23.18 [2.38-43.98]	0.03	90%	
	Dose mixed/ unspecified	1	1358	25.98 [15.39 -36.36]	<0.0001	N/A	
Duration	1 month or less	0	N/A				Chi ² =0.05; df=1, P=0.8; I ² =0%
	>1 month to 3 months	6	1249	27.49 [17.80-37.18]	<0.0001	90%	
	> 3 months	6	2363	30.02 [10.43-49.60]	0.003	99%	
Malaria endemicity	Endemic	3	768	31.62 [11.93-51.31]	<0.0001	95%	Chi ² =0.74; df=2, P=0.7; I ² =0%
	Non-Endemic	4	1996	33.05 [1.59-64.50]	0.04	99%	
	Unstated	5	848	23.58 [13.88-33.27]	<0.0001	88%	
Iron Combination	Iron vs control	7	1288	22.59 [12.58-32.59]	<0.0001	95%	Chi ² =1.06; df=1, P=0.3; I ² =6%
	Iron + X vs X alone	7	2324	33.89 [14.89-52.88]	<0.0001	98%	
Transferrin Saturations (MD)	Overall	5	1856	7.10 [4.51-9.68]	<0.0001	93%	N/A
Baseline Hemoglobin	Anemic	4	295	12.24 [5.04-19.45]	0.0009	99%	Chi ² =12.84; df=2,

	Non-anemic	4	1429	2.70 [0.24-5.16]	0.03	91%	P=0.002; I ² =84.4%
	Mixed/unreported	1	130	8.89 [3.58-11.49]	<0.0001	N/A	
Baseline iron status	Iron Deficient	4	341	11.94 [4.87-19.01]	0.0009	99%	Chi ² =12.96; df=2, P=0.002; I ² =84.6%
	Iron Replete	4	1383	2.68 [0.28-5.09]	0.03	91%	
	Mixed/ unreported	1	130	8.89 [3.58-11.49]	<0.0001	N/A	
Baseline Iron Deficiency status	Iron deficiency anemia	4	295	12.24 [5.04-19.45]	0.0009	99%	Chi ² =13.68; df=3, P=0.003; I ² =78.1%
	Iron deficient not anemic	1	46	7.70 [2.04-13.36]	0.008	N/A	
	Not replete non anemic	4	1383	2.68 [0.28-5.09]	0.03	91%	
	Mixed/Unreported	1	130	8.89 [3.58-11.49]	<0.0001	N/A	
Dose	12.5mg or less	1	119	11.27 [8.87-13.67]	<0.0001	N/A	Chi ² =54.74; df=3, P<0.0001; I ² =94.5%
	12.6-30mg	0	N/A				
	31-60mg	1	130	8.89 [5.76-12.02]	<0.0001	N/A	
	>61mg	1	119	3.37 [2.56-4.18]	<0.0001	N/A	
	Dose mixed/ unspecified	2	1488	6.36 [5.37-7.35]	<0.0001	0%	
Duration	1 month or less	0	N/A				Chi ² =0.02; df=1, P=0.9; I ² =0%
	>1 month to 3 months	2	238	7.24 [-0.50-14.98]	0.07	97%	
	> 3 months	3	1618	6.68 [5.56-7.80]	<0.0001	15%	
Malaria endemicity	Endemic	1	119	11.27 [8.87-13.67]	<0.0001	N/A	Chi ² =13.98; df=2, P=0.0009; I ² =85.7%
	Non-Endemic	1	1358	6.29 [5.17-7.41]	<0.0001	N/A	
	Unstated	3	379	6.04 [2.75-9.33]	0.0003	89%	
Iron Combination	Iron vs control	3	379	8.89 [5.96-11.81]	<0.0001	75%	Chi ² =3.83; df=1, P=0.05; I ² =73.9%
	Iron + X vs X alone	2	1477	4.80 [1.94-7.66]	0.001	94%	
Serum Iron (MD)	Overall	3	199	3.06 [-0.88-7.00]	0.1	86%	N/A
Soluble Transferrin Receptor	Overall	2	224	-0.15 [-0.41-0.12]	0.28	0%	N/A
Cognition							
Global cognitive performance (SMD)	Overall	9	2355	0.50 [0.11-0.90]	0.01	93%	N/A
Baseline Hemoglobin	Anemic	6	487	0.29 [0.07-0.51]	0.01	22%	Chi ² =6.13; df=2, P=0.05; I ² =67.4%
	Non-anemic	4	1361	0.01 [-0.10-0.11]	0.9	0%	
	Mixed/unreported	3	488	0.86 [-0.63-2.35]	0.3	92%	
Baseline iron status	Iron Deficient	2	204	0.18 [-0.25-0.61]	0.4	51%	Chi ² =4.45; df=2, P=0.1; I ² =55.0%
	Iron Replete	2	1282	0.00 [-0.11-0.11]	1.0	0%	
	Mixed/ unreported	7	867	0.65 [0.02-1.28]	0.04	94%	
Baseline Iron Deficiency status	Iron deficiency anemia	2	158	0.24 [-0.08-0.56]	0.1	2%	Chi ² =6.93; df=3, P=0.07; I ² =56.7%
	Iron deficient not anemic	1	46	-0.31 [0.89-0.27]	0.3	N/A	
	Not replete non anemic	2	1282	0.00 [-0.11-0.11]	1.0	0%	
	Mixed/Unreported	7	867	0.65 [0.02-1.28]	0.04	94%	
Dose	12.5mg or less	0	N/A				Chi ² =5.18; df=2,

	12.6-30mg	2	125	1.62 [0.25-2.99]	0.02	88%	P=0.07; I ² =61.4%
	31-60mg	5	742	0.29 [-0.23-0.80]	0.3	91%	
	>61mg	0	N/A				
	Dose mixed/ unspecified	2	1488	0.07 [-0.15-0.29]	0.5	45%	
Duration	1 month or less	0	N/A				Chi ² =2.32; df=1, P=0.1; I ² =56.8%
	>1 month to 3 months	5	505	0.84 [0.09-1.59]	0.03	93%	
	> 3 months	4	1850	0.15 [-0.30-0.61]	0.50	92a%	
Malaria endemicity	Endemic	1	202	0.10 [-0.18-0.38]	0.5	N/	Chi ² =8.99; df=1, P=0.01; I ² =77.8%
	Non-Endemic	2	1619	-0.24 [-0.72-0.25]	0.3	92%	
	Unstated	6	534	0.88 [0.32-1.44]	0.002	89%	
Iron Combination	Iron vs control	6	534	0.88 [0.32-1.44]	0.0002	89%	Chi ² =9.30; df=1, P=0.002; I ² =89.2%
	Iron + X vs X alone	3	1821	-0.13 [-0.45-0.19]	0.4	86%	
Intelligence Quotient (MD)	Overall	5	1874	5.47 [-3.24-14.18]	0.22	97%	
Baseline Hemoglobin	Anemic	3	186	4.55 [0.16-8.94]	0.04	28%	Chi ² =3.60; df=2, P=0.2; I ² =44.5%
	Non-anemic	2	1328	0.08 [-1.86-2.01]	0.9	0%	
	Mixed/unreported	2	358	7.94 [-19.42-35.30]	0.6	99%	
Baseline iron status	Iron Deficient	2	204	2.55 [-0.45-5.55]	0.1	0%	Chi ² =2.22; df=2, P=0.3; I ² =9.9%
	Iron Replete	2	1282	0.20 [-1.76-2.16]	0.8	0%	
	Mixed/ unreported	3	386	8.92 [-11.79-29.62]	0.4	99%	
Baseline Iron Deficiency status	Iron deficiency anemia	2	158	2.99 [-0.11-6.09]	0.06	0%	Chi ² =4.30; df=3, P=0.2; I ² =30.3%
	Iron deficient not anemic	1	46	-6.00 [-17.09-5.09]	0.3	N/A	
	Not replete non anemic	2	1282	0.20 [-1.76-2.16]	0.8	0%	
	Mixed/Unreported	3	386	8.92 [-11.79-29.63]	0.4	99%	
Dose	12.5mg or less	0	N/A				Chi ² =27.41; df=2, P<0.00001; I ² =92.7%
	12.6-30mg	2	125	17.26 [6.67-27.84]	0.001	80%	
	31-60mg	1	261	-6.00 [(-8.92)-(-3.08)]	<0.0001	N/A	
	>61mg	0	N/A				
	Dose mixed/ unspecified	2	1488	0.95 [-0.70-2.59]	0.3	0%	
Duration	1 month or less	0	N/A				Chi ² =2.96; df=1, P=0.09; I ² =66.3%
	>1 month to 3 months	3	255	11.47 [-3.85-26.79]	0.1	98%	
	> 3 months	2	1619	-2.95 [-8.85-2.95]	0.3	89%	
Malaria endemicity	Endemic	0	N/A				Chi ² =2.96; df=1, P=0.09; I ² =66.3%
	Non-Endemic	2	1619	-2.95 [-8.85-2.95]	0.3	89%	
	Unstated	3	255	11.47 [-3.85-26.79]	0.1	98%	
Iron Combination	Iron vs control	3	255	11.47 [-3.85-26.79]	0.1	98%	Chi ² =2.96; df=1, P=0.09; I ² =66.3%
	Iron + X vs X alone	2	1619	-2.95 [-8.85-2.95]	0.3	89%	

Digit Span (MD)	Overall	5	836	0.14 [-0.55-0.84]	0.7	78%	N/A
Baseline Hemoglobin	Anemic	2	99	0.32 [-0.44-1.07]	0.4	0%	Chi ² =1.36 df=2, P=0.5; I ² =0%
	Non-anemic	2	33	0.34 [-0.72-1.40]	0.5	61%	
	Mixed/unreported	2	678	-0.44 [-1.56-0.69]	0.5	68%	
Baseline iron status	Iron Deficient	0	N/A				N/A
	Iron Replete	0	N/A				
	Mixed/ unreported	5	836	0.14 [-0.55-0.84]	0.7	78%	
Baseline Iron Deficiency status	Iron deficiency anemia	0	N/A				N/A
	Iron deficient not anemic	0	N/A				
	Not replete non anemic	0	N/A				
	Mixed/Unreported	5	836	0.14 [-0.55-0.84]	0.7	78%	
Dose	12.5mg or less	1	548	-0.98 [(-1.66)-(-0.29)]	0.005	N/A	Chi ² =15.84 df=2, P=0.0004; I ² =87.4%
	12.6-30mg	0	N/A				
	31-60mg	3	279	0.45 [-0.07-0.83]	0.02	22%	
	>61 mg	1	9	2.06 [-0.10-4.22]	0.06	N/A	
	Dose mixed/ unspecified	0	0				
Duration	1 month or less	0	N/A				Chi ² =3.66 df=1, P=0.06; I ² =72.7%
	>1 month to 3 months	1	48	1.25 [0.14-2.36]	0.03	N/A	
	> 3 months	4	788	-0.05 [-0.80-0.69]	0.09	79%	
Malaria endemicity	Endemic	0	N/A				N/A
	Non-Endemic	0	N/A				
	Unstated	5	836	0.14 [-0.55-0.84]	0.7	78%	
Iron Combination	Iron vs control						
	Iron + X vs X alone						
Mazes Test (MD)	Overall	4	288	1.30 [0.90-1.71]	<0.0001	0%	N/A
Clerical Task (SMD)	Overall	4	290	0.44 [0.14-0.75]	0.005	30%	N/A
Visual Memory score (MD)	Overall	3	279	0.53 [-0.32-1.37]	0.2	78%	N/A
Maths Score (SMD)	Overall	3	2078	-0.05 [-0.17-0.07]	0.4	32%	N/A
Language Score (SMD)	Overall	2	1488	0.32 [-0.30-0.94]	0.3	91%	N/A
Other micronutrients and metals							
Serum Zinc (MD)	Overall	5	1553	0.16 [-0.46-0.79]	0.6	76%	N/A
Baseline Hemoglobin	Anemic	0	N/A				Chi ² =0.23; df=1, P=0.6; I ² =0%
	Non-anemic	1	16	-0.50 [3.24-2.24]	0.7	N/A	
	Mixed/unreported	4	1537	0.19 [-0.46-0.84]	0.6	76%	
Baseline iron status	Iron Deficient	0	N/A				N/A
	Iron Replete	0	N/A				
	Mixed/ unreported	5	1553	0.16 [-0.46-0.79]	0.6	76%	

Baseline Iron Deficiency status	Iron deficiency anemia	0	N/A				N/A
	Iron deficient not anemic	0	N/A				
	Not replete non anemic	0	N/A				
	Mixed/Unreported	5	1553	0.16 [-0.46-0.79]	0.6	76%	
Dose	12.5mg or less	3	654	0.02 [-0.85-0.89]	1.0	77%	Chi ² =0.15; df=1, P=0.7; I ² =0%
	12.6-30mg	2	899	0.30 [-0.80-1.39]	0.6	75%	
	31-60mg	0	N/A				
	>61mg	0	N/A				
	Dose mixed/ unspecified	0	N/A				
Duration	1 month or less	0	N/A				Chi ² =0.31; df=2, P=0.9; I ² =0%
	>1 month to 3 months	1	63	0.06 [-0.86-0.97]	0.9	N/A	
	> 3 months	4	1490	0.18 [-0.59-0.95]	0.7	80%	
Malaria endemicity	Endemic	1	836	0.48 [-1.67-2.64]	0.7	N/A	Chi ² =0.13; df=1, P=0.7; I ² =0%
	Non-Endemic	1	16	-0.50 [-3.24-2.24]	0.7	N/A	
	Unstated	3	701	0.07 [-0.60-0.74]	0.8	70%	
Iron Combination	Iron vs control	4	754	0.80 [0.06-1.54]	0.03	50%	Chi ² =7.07; df=1, P=0.008; I ² =85.9%
	Iron + zinc vs zinc	4	799	-0.34 [0.74-0.06]	0.1	76%	
Zinc protorphyrin (SMD)	Overall	2	705	-0.16 [-0.40-0.08]	0.2	59%	N/A
Growth							
Height (MD)	Overall	5	1111	-0.37 [-1.14-0.40]	0.3	0%	N/A
Baseline Hemoglobin	Anemic	1	78	2.25 [-0.88-5.38]	0.2	N/A	Chi ² =4.84; df=2, P=0.09; I ² =58.6%
	Non-anemic	1	41	2.31 [-1.59-6.21]	0.3	N/A	
	Mixed/unreported	4	992	-0.61 [-1.42-0.20]	0.1	0%	
Baseline iron status	Iron Deficient	1	78	2.25 [-0.88-5.38]	0.2	N/A	Chi ² =4.84; df=2, P=0.09; I ² =58.6%
	Iron Replete	1	41	2.31 [-1.59-6.21]	0.23	N/A	
	Mixed/ unreported	4	992	-0.61 [-1.42-0.20]	0.1	0%	
Baseline Iron Deficiency status	Iron deficiency anemia	1	78	2.25 [-0.88-5.38]	0.12	N/A	Chi ² =4.84; df=2, P=0.09; I ² =58.6%
	Iron deficient not anemic	1	41	2.31 [-1.59-6.21]	0.3	N/A	
	Not replete non anemic	0	N/A				
	Mixed/Unreported	4	992	-0.61 [-1.42-0.20]	0.1	0%	
Dose	12.5mg or less	2	709	-0.06 [-1.26-1.13]	0.9	42%	Chi ² =0.94; df=2, P=0.6; I ² =0%
	12.6-30mg	0	N/A				
	31-60mg	2	347	-0.99 [-2.92-0.95]	0.3	0%	
	>61mg	1	55	-1.40 [-5.11-2.31]	0.5	N/A	
	Dose mixed/ unspecified	0	N/A				
Duration	1 month or less	0	N/A				Chi ² =3.50; df=1, P=0.06; I ² =71.4%
	>1 month to 3 months	1	119	1.86 [-0.60-4.32]	0.1	N/A	

	> 3 months	4	992	-0.61 [-1.42-0.20]	0.1	0%	
Malaria endemicity	Endemic	3	260	0.06 [-2.13-2.24]	1.0	38%	Chi ² =0.33; df=2, P=0.9; I ² =0%
	Non-Endemic	1	261	-0.90 [-3.45-1.65]	0.5	N/A	
	Unstated	1	590	-0.48 [-1.39-0.44]	0.31	N/A	
Iron Combination	Iron vs control	3	497	-0.11 [-1.82-1.61]	0.9	47%	Chi ² =0.10; df=1, P=0.8; I ² =0%
	Iron + X vs X alone	3	614	-0.42 [-1.50-0.65]	0.4	0%	
Z score for height (MD)	Overall	5	1318	0.09 [0.01-0.17]	0.03	10%	
Baseline Hemoglobin	Anemic	1	78	0.10 [-0.05-0.25]	0.2	N/A	Chi ² =0.03; df=2, P=1.0; I ² =0%
	Non-anemic	2	57	0.08 [-0.21-0.38]	0.6	79%	
	Mixed/unreported	3	1183	0.09 [-0.02-0.19]	0.1	0%	
Baseline iron status	Iron Deficient	1	78	0.10 [-0.05-0.25]	0.2	N/A	Chi ² =2.92; df=2, P=0.23; I ² =31.6%
	Iron Replete	1	41	-0.07 [-0.27-0.13]	0.7	N/A	
	Mixed/ unreported	4	1199	0.12 [0.03-0.21]	0.008	0%	
Baseline Iron Deficiency status	Iron deficiency anemia	1	78	0.10 [-0.05-0.25]	0.2	N/A	Chi ² =2.92; df=2, P=0.2; I ² =31.6%
	Iron deficient not anemic	0	N/A				
	Not replete non anemic	1	41	-0.07 [-0.27-0.13]	0.7	N/A	
	Mixed/Unreported	4	1199	0.12 [0.03-0.21]	0.008	0%	
Dose	12.5mg or less	2	135	0.11 [-0.09-0.32]	0.3	72%	Chi ² =1.17; df=2, P=0.6; I ² =0%
	12.6-30mg	1	836	0.12 [0.00-0.23]	0.05	N/A	
	31-60mg	2	347	0.00 [-0.20-0.29]	1.0	0%	
	>61mg	0	N/A				
	Dose mixed/ unspecified	0	N/A				
Duration	1 month or less	0	N/A				Chi ² =1.64; df=1, P=0.2; I ² =38.8%
	>1 month to 3 months	1	119	0.02 [-0.11-0.15]	0.8	N/A	
	> 3 months	4	1199	0.12 [0.03-0.21]	0.008	0%	
Malaria endemicity	Endemic	3	1041	0.07 [-0.01-0.16]	0.09	0%	Chi ² =0.06; df=1, P=0.8; I ² =0%
	Non-Endemic	2	277	0.11 [-0.15-0.36]	0.1	69%	
	Unstated	0	N/A				
Iron Combination	Iron vs control	4	638	0.12 [0.01-0.23]	0.03	28%	Chi ² =1.00; df=1, P=0.3; I ² =0%
	Iron + X vs X alone	2	680	0.03 [-0.10-0.17]	0.6	0%	
Weight (MD)	Overall	5	1111	0.12 [-0.50-0.75]	0.7	0%	
Baseline Hemoglobin	Anemic	1	78	1.62 [-0.24-3.48]	0.09	N/A	Chi ² =2.55; df=2, P=0.3; I ² =21.6%
	Non-anemic	1	41	0.92 [-1.19-3.03]	0.4	N/A	
	Mixed/unreported	4	992	0.12 [-0.50-0.75]	0.7	0%	
Baseline iron status	Iron Deficient	1	78	1.62 [-0.24-3.48]	0.09	N/A	Chi ² =2.55; df=2, P=0.3; I ² =21.6%
	Iron Replete	1	41	0.92 [-1.19-3.03]	0.4	N/A	

	Mixed/ unreported	4	992	0.12 [-0.50-0.75]	0.7	0%	
Baseline Iron Deficiency status	Iron deficiency anemia	1	78	1.62 [-0.24-3.48]	0.09	N/A	Chi ² =2.55; df=2, P=0.3; I ² =21.6%
	Iron deficient not anemic	1	41	0.92 [-1.19-3.03]	0.4	N/A	
	Not replete non anemic	0	N/A				
	Mixed/Unreported	4	992	0.12 [-0.50-0.75]	0.7	0%	
Dose	12.5mg or less	2	709	0.13 [-0.98-1.23]	0.8	44%	Chi ² =0.26; df=2, P=0.9; I ² =0%
	12.6-30mg	0	N/A				
	31-60mg	2	347	-0.04 [-1.20-1.12]	1.0	0%	
	>61mg	1	55	0.50 [-1.24-2.24]	0.6	N/A	
	Dose mixed/ unspecified	0	N/A				
Duration	1 month or less	0	N/A				Chi ² =2.66; df=1, P=0.1; I ² =62.4%
	>1 month to 3 months	1	119	1.18 [-0.24-2.60]	0.1	N/A	
	> 3 months	4	992	-0.13 [-0.83-0.57]	0.7	0%	
Malaria endemicity	Endemic	3	260	0.59 [-0.29-1.48]	0.2	0%	Chi ² =2.24; df=2, P=0.3; I ² =10.7%
	Non-Endemic	1	261	-0.10 [-1.92-1.72]	0.9	N/A	
	Unstated	1	590	-0.42 [-1.44-0.59]	0.4	N/A	
Iron Combination	Iron vs control	3	497	0.39 [-0.46-1.24]	0.4	0%	Chi ² =0.84; df=1, P=0.4; I ² =0%
	Iron + X vs X alone	3	614	-0.20 [-1.13-0.73]	0.7	0%	
Z score for weight (MD)	Overall	5	1318	0.10 [-0.03-0.23]	0.	70%	
Baseline Hemoglobin	Anemic	1	78	0.13 [0.04-0.22]	0.005	N/A	Chi ² =3.29; df=2, P=0.2; I ² =39.2%
	Non-anemic	2	57	0.18 [-0.24-0.60]	0.4	93%	
	Mixed/unreported	3	1183	0.01 [-0.10-0.21]	0.9	0%	
Baseline iron status	Iron Deficient	1	78	0.13 [0.04-0.22]	0.005	N/A	Chi ² =3.66; df=2, P=0.2; I ² =45.4%
	Iron Replete	1	41	-0.03 [-0.17-0.11]	0.7	N/A	
	Mixed/ unreported	4	1199	0.10 [-0.03-0.23]	0.1	70%	
Baseline Iron Deficiency status	Iron deficiency anemia	1	78	0.13 [0.04-0.22]	0.005	N/A	Chi ² =3.66; df=2, P=0.2; I ² =45.4%
	Iron deficient not anemic	0	N/A				
	Not replete non anemic	1	41	-0.03 [-0.17-0.11]	0.7	N/A	
	Mixed/Unreported	4	1199	0.10 [-0.03-0.23]	0.1	70%	
Dose	12.5mg or less	2	135	0.23 [-0.10-0.55]	0.1	91%	Chi ² =2.40; df=2, P=0.3; I ² =16.8%
	12.6-30mg	1	836	-0.02 [-0.15-0.10]	0.7	0%	
	31-60mg	2	347	0.08 [-0.11-0.27]	0.4	4%	
	>61mg	0	N/A				
	Dose mixed/ unspecified	0	N/A				
Duration	1 month or less	0	N/A				Chi ² =0.19; df=1, P=0.7; I ² =0%
	>1 month to 3 months	1	119	0.07 [-0.01-0.15]	0.08	N/A	
	> 3 months	4	1199	0.11 [-0.07-0.30]	0.2	75%	
Malaria endemicity	Endemic	3	1041	0.05 [-0.01-0.11]	0.1	0%	Chi ² =0.74; df=1,

	Non-Endemic Unstated	2 0	277 N/A	0.22 [-0.16-0.59]	0.3	86%	P=0.4; I ² =0%
Iron Combination	Iron vs control	4	638	0.15 [-0.04-0.34]	0.1	81%	Chi ² =1.27; df=1, P=0.3; I ² =21.3%
	Iron + X vs X alone	2	680	0.01 [-0.12-0.15]	0.8	0%	
Arm Circumference (MD)	Overall	2	174	0.39 [0.02-0.76]	0.04	0%	N/A
Infection Risk							
Malaria (Risk Ratio)	Overall	4	919	1.10 [0.94-1.29]	0.24	0%	N/A
Rates of Positive Malaria Test (Rate Ratio)	Overall	4	1818	1.05 [0.90-1.21]	0.6	0%	N/A
Rates of positive tests for Plasmodium falciparum (Rate Ratio)	Overall	2	1136	1.02 [0.81-1.29]	0.9	0%	N/A
Rates of positive tests for Plasmodium vivax (Rate Ratio)	Overall	2	1136	1.07 [0.85-1.34]	0.6	0%	N/A
Ascaris infection (Risk Ratio)	Overall	2	270	1.01 [0.78-1.31]	0.9	0%	N/A
Splenomegaly (Risk Ratio)	Overall	2	566	0.90 [0.54-1.50]	0.7	81%	N/A
Side effects							
Gastrointestinal upset (Risk Ratio)	Overall	4	576	1.30 [0.89-1.91]	0.2	0%	N/A
Constipation (Risk Ratio)	Overall	2	202	3.44 [0.66-19.68]	0.12	6%	N/A
Vomiting (Risk Ratio)	Overall	2	202	0.86 [0.13-5.67]	0.9	0%	N/A

N/A = not applicable