

Additional file 6

Detailed characteristics of recent meta-analyses.

Ahuja ¹⁴⁹	Topic: multidrug resistant pulmonary tuberculosis treatment People: people with multidrug resistant tuberculosis Intervention: different drug classes Comparison: different drug classes Outcome: treatment success, compared to failure or relapse
Bangalore ¹²⁷	Topic: outcomes with various drug eluting or bare metal stents People: patients with diabetes Intervention: drug eluting stents Comparison: drug eluting stents or bare metal stents Outcome: efficacy (target vessel revascularization) and safety (death, myocardial infarction, stent thrombosis)
Bellemain-Appaix ²³	Topic: clopidogrel pretreatment People: patients scheduled for percutaneous coronary intervention Intervention: clopidogrel Comparison: placebo, no treatment Outcome: mortality and major bleeding
Bischoff-Ferrari ⁵⁴	Topic: vitamin D for fracture prevention People: 65 or older Intervention: vitamin D with or without calcium Comparison: placebo or calcium Outcome: hip and nonvertebral fractures
Boekholdt ²¹⁰	Topic: risk of cardiovascular events and statin treatment People: patients treated with statin Intervention: statins Comparison: LDL, non-HDL cholesterol, and apolipoprotein B levels Outcome: risk of major cardiovascular events
Boussageon ²⁴¹	Topic: metformin efficacy in the treatment of type 2 diabetes People: people with type 2 diabetes Intervention: metformin Comparison: diet alone, placebo, no treatment; metformin as an add-on therapy; and metformin withdrawal Outcome: cardiovascular morbidity or mortality
Caldeira ¹⁶¹	Topic: pneumonia associated with use of angiotensin converting enzyme inhibitors and angiotensin receptor blockers People: all Intervention: of angiotensin converting enzyme inhibitors and angiotensin receptor blockers Comparison: control treatment Outcome: incidence of pneumonia and the secondary outcome was pneumonia related mortality
Chatterjee ¹²	Topic: beta blockers in patients with heart failure and reduced ejection fraction People: patients with heart failure and reduced ejection fraction Intervention: beta blocker Comparison: another beta blocker, standard treatment or placebo Outcome: all cause death
EBCTCG ²⁵⁴	Topic: polychemotherapy regimens for early breast cancer

	<p>People: women with early breast cancer</p> <p>Intervention: any taxane-plusanthracycline-based regimen or one anthracyclinebased regimen versus another or polychemotherapy</p> <p>Comparison: any taxane-plusanthracycline-based regimen or one anthracyclinebased regimen versus another or polychemotherapy or non-taxane chemotherapy or versus cyclo phosphamide, methotrexate, and fluorouracil or no chemotherapy</p> <p>Outcome: breast cancer mortality rate ratios</p>
Fox⁴⁷	<p>Topic: oral anticoagulants for treatment of acute venous thromboembolism</p> <p>People: people with acute venous thromboembolism</p> <p>Intervention: oral anticoagulants (rivaroxaban, dabigatran, ximelagatran, and apixaban)</p> <p>Comparison: other drugs and vitamin K antagonists</p> <p>Outcome: recurrent events, major bleeding, and all-cause mortality</p>
Gómez-Outes¹⁷¹	<p>Topic: dabigatran, rivaroxaban, apixaban</p> <p>People: people with venous thromboembolism after total hip or knee replacement</p> <p>Intervention: dabigatran, rivaroxaban or apixaban</p> <p>Comparison: enoxaparin</p> <p>Outcome: relative risks of symptomatic venous thromboembolism, clinically relevant bleeding, deaths, and a net clinical endpoint</p>
Haas⁶⁴	<p>Topic: tocolytic therapy for preterm delivery</p> <p>People: women at risk of preterm delivery</p> <p>Intervention: tocolytic agents</p> <p>Comparison: placebo</p> <p>Outcome: 48 hour delay in delivery, respiratory distress syndrome, neonatal mortality and all-cause maternal side effects</p>
Haase¹⁶	<p>Topic: hydroxyethyl starch 130/0.38-0.45 versus crystalloid or albumin in patients with sepsis</p> <p>People: patients with sepsis</p> <p>Intervention: hydroxyethyl starch 130/0.38-0.45</p> <p>Comparison: crystalloid or albumin</p> <p>Outcome: mortality, kidney injury, bleeding, and serious adverse events</p>
Harel⁶	<p>Topic: aliskiren and blockers of the renin-angiotensin system in acute kidney injury</p> <p>People: all</p> <p>Intervention: aliskiren and blockers of the renin-angiotensin system</p> <p>Comparison: monotherapy</p> <p>Outcome: hyperkalaemia and acute kidney injury</p>
Hartling⁸⁰	<p>Topic: antipsychotics in adults with schizophrenia</p> <p>People: adults with schizophrenia 18-64yrs</p> <p>Intervention: first- and second-generation antipsychotics</p> <p>Comparison: first- and second-generation antipsychotics</p> <p>Outcome: illness symptoms, diabetes mellitus, mortality, tardive dyskinesia, and a major metabolic syndrome</p>
Hemmingsen²¹⁵	<p>Topic: metformin and insulin versus insulin alone for type 2 diabetes</p> <p>People: people with type 2 diabetes</p> <p>Intervention: metformin and insulin</p> <p>Comparison: insulin with or without placebo</p> <p>Outcome: all-cause mortality, cardiovascular mortality</p>

Hempel ³¹	<p>Topic: probiotics for the prevention and treatment of antibiotic associated diarrhea (AAD)</p> <p>People: people with AAD</p> <p>Intervention: probiotics (Lactobacillus, Bifidobacterium, Saccharomyces, Streptococcus, Enterococcus, and/or Bacillus)</p> <p>Comparison: no treatment, placebo, or a different probiotic</p> <p>Outcome: reduction in AAD</p>
Hsu ²²⁷	<p>Topic: antivirals for treatment of influenza</p> <p>People: people with influenza or influenza-like illness</p> <p>Intervention: oseltamivir, zanamivir, amantadine, or rimantadine</p> <p>Comparison: no therapy or other antiviral therapy, or no comparator</p> <p>Outcome: mortality, hospitalization, duration of symptoms</p>
Huedo-Medina ⁴²	<p>Topic: non-benzodiazepine hypnotics in treatment insomnia</p> <p>People: adults with insomnia</p> <p>Intervention: non-benzodiazepine hypnotics</p> <p>Comparison: placebo</p> <p>Outcome: efficacy (change scores, sleep latency)</p>
Hutton ⁸⁹	<p>Topic: antifibrinolytics in cardiac surgery</p> <p>People: patients undergoing cardiac surgery</p> <p>Intervention: antifibrinolytics</p> <p>Comparison: no treatment</p> <p>Outcome: risks of death, myocardial infarction, stroke, and renal failure or dysfunction</p>
Jackson ²¹²	<p>Topic: botulinum toxin, migraine and tension headaches</p> <p>People: adults with headaches (episodic or chronic) or migraines</p> <p>Intervention: botulinum toxin A</p> <p>Comparison: placebo or other intervention</p> <p>Outcome: incidence of headaches</p>
Jardine ¹⁷⁷	<p>Topic: folic acid based homocysteine lowering and cardiovascular</p> <p>People: people with chronic kidney disease or transplant, without dialysis</p> <p>Intervention: folic acid based homocysteine</p> <p>Comparison: placebo or usual care or lower vs. higher dose</p> <p>Outcome: cardiovascular events (myocardial infarction, stroke, and cardiovascular mortality, access thrombosis, requirement for renal replacement therapy) and reported adverse events, including haematological and neurological events</p>
Johnston ²⁸	<p>Topic: probiotics for the prevention of clostridium difficile-associated diarrhea (CDAD)</p> <p>People: adult or pediatric patients receiving antibiotics</p> <p>Intervention: probiotics for prevention</p> <p>Comparison: placebo or no treatment</p> <p>Outcome: incidence of CDAD</p>
Karagiannis ¹⁵⁵	<p>Topic: dipeptidyl peptidase-4 inhibitors for treatment of diabetes</p> <p>People: adults with type 2 diabetes mellitus</p> <p>Intervention: dipeptidyl peptidase-4 (DPP-4)</p> <p>Comparison: metformin as monotherapy or other commonly used hypoglycaemic drugs combined with metformin</p> <p>Outcome: change in baseline in glycated haemoglobin, body weight, discontinuation rate because of any adverse event, occurrence of any serious adverse event, all-cause mortality, and incidence of hypoglycaemia, nasopharyngitis, urinary tract</p>

		infection, upper respiratory infection, nausea, vomiting, and diarrhea
Ker ¹⁸⁴	Topic: People: Intervention: Comparison: Outcome:	tranexamic acid and surgical bleeding surgical patients tranexamic acid no tranexamic acid or placebo blood transfusion, thromboembolic events
Leucht ¹⁸²	Topic: People: Intervention: Comparison: Outcome:	Antipsychotic drugs for relapse prevention in schizophrenia people with schizophrenia antipsychotic drugs placebo relapse prevention
Lopez-Olivo ⁹⁴	Topic: People: Intervention: Comparison: Outcome:	malignancies in patients with rheumatoid arthritis patients with rheumatoid arthritis biologic response modifiers other disease-modifying antirheumatic drugs or with placebo risk of malignancies
Low ⁴⁹	Topic: People: Intervention: Comparison: Outcome:	acetazolamide for the prophylaxis of acute mountain sickness all acetazolamide for prevention placebo event rates
Lv ¹⁵²	Topic: People: Intervention: Comparison: Outcome:	intensive blood pressure (BP) lowering all intensive BP lowering regimens standard regimens vascular eye and renal outcomes
MacArthur ⁷⁶	Topic: People: Intervention: Comparison: Outcome:	opiate substitution treatment and HIV people who inject drugs opiate substitution treatment no treatment or methadone incidence of HIV
Makani ¹	Topic: People: Intervention: Comparison: Outcome:	dual blockade of the renin-angiotensin system humans dual blockade monotherapy long term efficacy (all-cause mortality, cardiovascular mortality, and admissions to hospital for heart failure), safety events (hyperkalemia, hypotension, renal failure, and withdrawal owing to drug related adverse events)
Mantha ¹³⁶	Topic: People: Intervention: Comparison: Outcome:	risk of venous thromboembolic events women taking progestin-only contraception progestin-only contraception non-hormone comparator group risk of venous thromboembolic events
McKnight ²⁴⁷	Topic: People: Intervention: Comparison: Outcome:	lithium toxicity profile people with bipolar or mood disorders lithium placebo, no treatment or other drugs adverse events

Mihaylova ¹²⁴	<p>Topic: lowering LDL cholesterol with statin therapy</p> <p>People: people at low risk of vascular disease</p> <p>Intervention: statins</p> <p>Comparison: control treatment or placebo</p> <p>Outcome: coronary vascular stroke cancer mortality</p>
Neumann ²⁰⁹	<p>Topic: oral direct factor xa inhibitors vs. low-molecular-weight heparin</p> <p>People: patients undergoing total hip or knee replacement</p> <p>Intervention: oral direct factor Xa inhibitor</p> <p>Comparison: low-molecular-weight heparin</p> <p>Outcome: mortality at the end of prophylaxis, mortality during the follow-up period, symptomatic DVT, nonfatal pulmonary embolism, major bleeding (as defined by the investigators on each trial), intracranial bleeding</p>
Palmer ¹¹⁸	<p>Topic: statin therapy for persons with chronic kidney disease</p> <p>People: adults with chronic kidney disease</p> <p>Intervention: statins</p> <p>Comparison: placebo, no treatment, or another statin</p> <p>Outcome: mortality and cardiovascular outcomes</p>
Palmer ²⁴⁶	<p>Topic: antiplatelet therapy in chronic kidney disease</p> <p>People: people with chronic kidney disease</p> <p>Intervention: antiplatelet therapy</p> <p>Comparison: standard care, placebo, or no treatment</p> <p>Outcome: mortality and cardiovascular and bleeding outcomes</p>
Palmerini ²¹⁶	<p>Topic: stent thrombosis with drug-eluting and bare-metal stents</p> <p>People: all</p> <p>Intervention: drug-eluting stents</p> <p>Comparison: drug eluting stents or bare-metal stents</p> <p>Outcome: risk of thrombosis</p>
Pinto ³⁹	<p>Topic: epidural corticosteroid injections in the management of sciatica</p> <p>People: people with sciatica</p> <p>Intervention: epidural corticosteroid injection</p> <p>Comparison: placebo</p> <p>Outcome: pain reduction</p>
Pinto ²⁵⁰	<p>Topic: drugs for relief of pain in sciatica</p> <p>People: patients with sciatica</p> <p>Intervention: single, combination or adjuvant: non-steroidal anti-inflammatory drugs (NSAIDs), corticosteroids, antidepressants, anticonvulsants, muscle relaxants, and opioid analgesics</p> <p>Comparison: placebo or other treatment</p> <p>Outcome: pain intensity, disability status, work status, and adverse events</p>
Plante ¹¹³	<p>Topic: effect of systemic steroids on post-tonsillectomy</p> <p>People: patients undergoing tonsillectomy</p> <p>Intervention: systemic steroids</p> <p>Comparison: any other drug</p> <p>Outcome: risk of postoperative bleeding and reintervention</p>
Preiss ¹¹⁶	<p>Topic: lipid-modifying therapies and risk of pancreatitis</p> <p>People: adult patients</p> <p>Intervention: statin or fibrate therapy</p>

	Comparison:	placebo or treatment as usual
	Outcome:	incidents of pancreatitis
Rahimi ¹⁰⁹	Topic:	statins and venous thromboembolic events
	People:	all
	Intervention:	statin or high dose
	Comparison:	no statin or standard dose
	Outcome:	risk of venous thromboembolic events
Rutjes ¹³⁸	Topic:	viscosupplementation for osteoarthritis of the knee
	People:	adults with symptomatic knee osteoarthritis
	Intervention:	viscosupplementation
	Comparison:	sham or nonintervention control
	Outcome:	pain intensity and flare-ups adverse events
Silvain ²⁵⁸	Topic:	enoxaparin versus unfractionated heparin during percutaneous coronary intervention
	People:	patients having percutaneous coronary intervention
	Intervention:	enoxaparin
	Comparison:	unfractionated heparin
	Outcome:	mortality and major bleeding
Stafford ⁹	Topic:	early interventions to prevent psychosis
	People:	people at high risk of psychosis
	Intervention:	any psychological, pharmacological, nutritional or combined
	Comparison:	usual services or another treatment
	Outcome:	transition to psychosis, symptoms of psychosis, depression, and mania; quality of life; weight; and discontinuation of treatment
Suthar ¹⁶⁵	Topic:	antiretroviral therapy for prevention of tuberculosis
	People:	adults with HIV
	Intervention:	antiretroviral therapy
	Comparison:	no antiretroviral drug
	Outcome:	incidence of tuberculosis
Upadhyay ¹²³	Topic:	lipid-lowering therapy
	People:	persons with chronic kidney disease
	Intervention:	lipid-lowering therapy
	Comparison:	control treatment or placebo
	Outcome:	cardiovascular and kidney outcomes, and adverse events
Varadhan ²²¹	Topic:	antibiotics compared with appendectomy for treatment of uncomplicated acute appendicitis
	People:	people with uncomplicated acute appendicitis
	Intervention:	antibiotics
	Comparison:	appendectomy
	Outcome:	complications, efficacy of treatment, length of stay, and incidence of complicated appendicitis and readmissions
Vilsboll ²⁶²	Topic:	glucagon-like peptide-1 receptor agonists and weight loss
	People:	overweight or obese patients (body mass index of 25 or higher) with or without type 2 diabetes mellitus.
	Intervention:	glucagon-like peptide-1 receptor agonists (exenatide, liraglutide)
	Comparison:	placebo, oral antidiabetic drugs, or insulin
	Outcome:	weight loss
Wardlaw ¹⁶⁷	Topic:	recombinant tissue plasminogen activator (rt-PA)
	People:	people within 6 h of onset of acute ischaemic stroke

Intervention: intravenous rt-PA
Comparison: control
Outcome: odds of being alive, benefit

Zarychanski⁵²

Topic: hydroxyethyl starch in critically ill requiring volume resuscitation
People: critically ill
Intervention: hydroxyethyl starch
Comparison: crystalloids, albumin, or gelatin
Outcome: mortality and acute kidney injury