A

Study or Subgroup	alpha blocker Mean	SD	Total	Control Mean	SD	Total	Weight	Mean Difference IV, Random, 95% CI
1.1.1 Alfuzosin 10 mg 1st week								
Beddingfield et al	21	6.69	26	23	6.82	29	19.0%	-2.00 [-5.57, 1.57]
Dellis et al	18.1	8.4	50	21.4	8.4	50	22.4%	-3.30 [-6.59, -0.01]
Nazim et al	19.25	5.92	65	22.75	5.92	65	58.6%	-3.50 [-5.54, -1.46]
Subtotal (95% CI)			141			144	100.0%	-3.17 [-4.73, -1.61]
Heterogeneity: Tau² = 0.00; Chi² = 0.52, df = 2 (P = 0.77); I² = 0%								
Test for overall effect: Z = 3.99 (P < 0.0001)								
1.1.2 Tamsulosin 0.4 mg 1st week								
Damiano et al	14.1	6.2	38	26.4	6.2	37	32.7%	-12.30 [-15.11, -9.49]
Dellis et al	17.9	8.8	50	21.4	8.8	50	30.3%	-3.50 [-6.95, -0.05]
Wang et al*	20.96	3.38	79	31.59	4.69	75	37.0%	-10.63 [-11.93, -9.33]
Subtotal (95% CI)			167			162	100.0%	-9.01 [-13.15, -4.88]
Heterogeneity: Tau² = 11.60; Chi² = 17.06, df = 2 (P = 0.0002); I² = 88%								
Test for overall effect: Z = 4.27 (P < 0.0001)								
1.1.3 Alfuzosin 10 mg 4th or 6th week								
Deliveliotis et al	21.6	7.3	50	28.1	7.7	50	50.0%	-6.50 [-9.44, -3.56]
Dellis et al	15.44	9.65	50	19.26	9.65	50	30.2%	-3.82 [-7.60, -0.04]
Park et al	22.1	5	20	28.1	7.3	12	19.8%	-6.00 [-10.68, -1.32]
Subtotal (95% CI)			120			112	100.0%	-5.59 [-7.67, -3.51]
Heterogeneity: Tau² = 0.00; Chi² = 1.24, df = 2 (P = 0.54); I² = 0%								
Test for overall effect: Z = 5.27 (P < 0.00001)								
1.1.4 Tamsulosin 0.4 mg 4th or 6th week								
Dellis et al	14.9	11	50	19.26	11	50	100.0%	-4.36 [-8.67, -0.05]
Subtotal (95% CI)			50			50	100.0%	-4.36 [-8.67, -0.05]
Heterogeneity: Not applicable								
Test for overall effect: Z = 1.98 (P = 0.05)								

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Favours alpha blocker Favours control

B

Study or Subgroup	alpha blocker Mean	SD	Total	Control Mean	SD	Total	Weight	Mean Difference IV, Random, 95% CI
1.2.1 Alfuzosin 10 mg 1st week								
Beddingfield et al	26.89	17.48	26	34.89	15.1	29	13.7%	-8.00 [-16.68, 0.68]
Dellis et al	14.8	8.83	50	18.3	8.83	50	86.3%	-3.50 [-6.96, -0.04]
Subtotal (95% CI)			76			79	100.0%	-4.12 [-7.33, -0.90]
Heterogeneity: Tau² = 0.00; Chi² = 0.89, df = 1 (P = 0.35); I² = 0%								
Test for overall effect: Z = 2.51 (P = 0.01)								
1.2.2 Tamsulosin 0.4 mg 1st week								
Damiano et al	4.2	8.7	38	21.6	8.7	37	33.6%	-17.40 [-21.34, -13.46]
Dellis et al	13.4	12.4	50	18.3	12.4	50	32.5%	-4.90 [-9.76, -0.04]
Wang et al*	9.94	9.65	79	13.3	13.3	75	33.9%	-3.36 [-7.05, 0.33]
Subtotal (95% CI)			167			162	100.0%	-8.58 [-17.69, 0.53]
Heterogeneity: Tau² = 60.21; Chi² = 29.15, df = 2 (P < 0.00001); I² = 93%								
Test for overall effect: Z = 1.85 (P = 0.06)								
1.2.3 Alfuzosin 10 mg 4th or 6th week								
Deliveliotis et al	14.6	6.4	50	17.45	6.4	50	69.9%	-2.85 [-5.36, -0.34]
Dellis et al	12	11.06	50	16.38	11.06	50	23.4%	-4.38 [-8.72, -0.04]
Park et al	8.2	10.48	20	16.2	11.9	12	6.6%	-8.00 [-16.15, 0.15]
Subtotal (95% CI)			120			112	100.0%	-3.55 [-5.65, -1.45]
Heterogeneity: Tau² = 0.00; Chi² = 1.59, df = 2 (P = 0.45); I² = 0%								
Test for overall effect: Z = 3.32 (P = 0.0009)								
1.2.4 Tamsulosin 0.4 mg 4th or 6th week								
Dellis et al	11.17	13.16	50	16.38	13.16	50	100.0%	-5.21 [-10.37, -0.05]
Subtotal (95% CI)			50			50	100.0%	-5.21 [-10.37, -0.05]
Heterogeneity: Not applicable								
Test for overall effect: Z = 1.98 (P = 0.05)								

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SUPPLEMENTARY FIG. S2. Urinary symptoms (**A**) and pain (**B**) index score of the Ureteral Stent Symptom Questionnaire in subgroup analyses. CI = confidence interval; SD = standard deviation.