

Appendix 3: Sensitivity analysis for impact of second order indirect evidence

Fixed effect indirect missing analysis. Weak direct evidence for AB, weak first order indirect and very strong 2nd-order indirect evidence

Note values of precision of evidence are arbitrary and were chosen for convenience. Precision for each order of evidence reported above results

		Scenario 1 Direct evidence= 0.2 1 st order = 0.1 2 nd order = 20			Scenario 2 Direct evidence= 0.2 1 st order = 0.2 2 nd order = 20			Scenario 3 Direct evidence= 0.2 1 st order = 0.5 2 nd order = 20			Scenario 4 Direct evidence= 0.2 1 st order = 0.05 2 nd order = 20		
Fig.	Evidence included in network	Precision gained (% increase)			Precision gained (% increase)			Precision gained (% increase)			Precision gained (% increase)		
		Std MA	NMA	Increase %	Std MA	NMA	Increase %	Std MA	NMA	Increase %	Std MA	NMA	Increase %
2a	AB (AD AE BC BF)	0.20	0.20	0	0.20	0.20	0	0.20	0.20	0	0.20	0.20	0
-	1 2 nd order loop	0.20	0.23	15	0.20	0.27	35	0.20	0.37	85	0.20	0.22	10
-	1 1 st order loop	0.20	0.25	25	0.20	0.30	50	0.20	0.45	125	0.20	0.23	15
2b	1 1 st order & 1 2 nd order loop	0.20	0.30	50	0.20	0.40	100	0.20	0.70	250	0.20	0.25	25
2c	2 2 nd -order loops (2a CD EF)	0.20	0.30	50	0.20	0.40	100	0.20	0.69	245	0.20	0.25	25
2d	2 1 st order loops (2a AC AF)	0.20	0.30	50	0.20	0.40	100	0.20	0.70	250	0.20	0.25	25
2e	2 1 st & 2 2 nd order loops (2c & 2d)	0.20	0.33	65	0.20	0.47	135	0.20	0.86	330	0.20	0.27	35
2f	4 1 st & 2 2 nd order loops (2e BD BE)	0.20	0.40	100	0.20	0.60	200	0.20	1.20	500	0.20	0.30	50
2g	4 1 st order loops (2a AC AF BD BE)	0.20	0.40	100	0.20	0.60	200	0.20	1.20	500	0.20	0.30	50
2h	Fully connected network	0.20	0.40	100	0.20	0.60	200	0.20	1.20	500	0.20	0.30	50