

Webappendix 2: Additional results

All results relate to a 10 cm visual analogue scale for pain intensity.

Comparison of results from primary network meta-analysis and meta-analysis of direct comparisons

	Network meta-analysis (95%-CI)	Standard meta-analysis of direct comparisons (95%-CI)
Glucosamine vs placebo	-0.4 (-0.7 to -0.1)	-0.4 (-0.7 to 0.0)
Between-trial τ^2	0.04	0.07
Between-timepoint τ^2	0.04	0.03
Chondroitin vs placebo	0.3 (-0.7 to 0.0)	-0.4 (-1.0 to 0.2)
Between-trial τ^2	0.04	0.04
Between-timepoint τ^2	0.04	0.05

Analysis including a linear term for time

	Network meta-analysis (95%-CI)	Standard meta-analysis of direct comparisons (95%-CI)
Glucosamine vs placebo	-0.20 (-0.50 to 0.12)	-0.18 (-0.54 to 0.21)
Between-trial τ^2	0.04	0.08
Between-timepoint τ^2	0.03	0.02
Timetrend (per month)	0.02 (-0.03 to 0.0)	-0.02 (-0.03 to 0.0)
Chondroitin vs placebo	-0.13 (-0.49 to 0.23)	-0.15 (-0.84 to 0.58)
Between-trial τ^2	0.04	0.06
Between-timepoint τ^2	0.03	0.04
Timetrend (per month)	0.02 (-0.03 to 0.0)	-0.02 (-0.04 to 0.01)

Sensitivity analysis 1: uniform prior for between trial standard deviation

Glucosamine vs placebo: -0.41 (-0.7 to -0.1)

Chondroitin vs placebo: -0.3 (-0.7 to 0.0)

Combination vs placebo: -0.5 (-0.9 to 0.0)

Between-trial τ^2 : 0.05Between-timepoint τ^2 : 0.04**Sensitivity analysis 2: Longest follow-up available only**

Glucosamine vs placebo: -0.5 (-0.8 to -0.1)

Chondroitin vs placebo: -0.3 (-0.7 to 0.1)

Combination vs placebo: -0.4 (-0.8 to 0.0)

Between-trial τ^2 : 0.08Between-timepoint τ^2 : n/a