

Appendix 3.

Main characteristics and references of included trial-networks

Cases	Source ^ξ	Disease category	Intervention A, B, C	A newer or more intense	Outcome measures	Outcome: Objective=1 subjective=0	No. of trials		
							AvB	AvC	BvC
CD000053 ^{W1}	CSR	Urinary Schistosomiasis	A: Praziquantel; B: Metrifonate; C: Placebo	A: newer	Parasitological failure (1-12mon)	1	5	2	4
CD000146 ^{W2}	CSR	Smokers	A: NRT patch; B: NRT spray; C: Placebo or no-NRT	unclear	Cessation rate	1	2	41	4
CD000165 ^{W3}	CSR	Smokers	A: Multiple visit; B: single visit; C: Usual care	A: more intense	Smoking	1	5	5	18
CD000184 ^{W4}	CSR	Breech presentation	A: Betamimetic; B: Nitric oxide donor; C: Control	unclear	Failed external cephalic version	1	2	6	2
CD000195 ^{W5}	CSR	Asthma (acute exacerbation)	A: Intramuscular corticosteroids; B: Oral corticosteroids; C: Placebo	A: more intense	Relapse rates	1	1	3	1
CD000218 ^{W6}	CSR	Trichomoniasis	A: Metronidazole; B: Nimorazole; C: Ornidazole	unclear	No parasitological cure	1	7	1	1
CD000227 ^{W7}	CSR	Fractures associated with involution or osteoporosis	A: Vitamins D + Calcium; B: Vitamin D; C: Placebo or control	A: added	New hip fracture	1	3	4	4

Cases	Source ^ξ	Disease category	Intervention A, B, C	A newer or more intense	Outcome measures	Outcome: Objective=1 subjective=0	No. of trials		
							AvB	AvC	BvC
CD000256 ^{W8}	CSR	Uncomplicated malaria	A: Artesunate; B: Artemether; C: Chloroquine	unclear	Not parasite clearance at day 7	1	4	1	1
CD000305 ^{W9}	CSR	Deep vein thrombosis	A: LMW heparin; B: Unfractionated heparin; C: Placebo or no heparin	A: newer	Any DVT	1	3	3	10
CD000307 ^{W10}	CSR	Schizophrenia	A: Fluphenazine decanoate; B: Fluphenazine enanthate; C: Oral neuroleptic	unclear	Movement disorders general	0	2	4	1
CD000320 ^{W11}	CSR	Scabies	A: Permethrin; B: Lindane; C: Ivermectin	A: newer	Treatment failure in clinically diagnosed cases	0	5	1	2
CD000402 ^{W12}	CSR	Endometrial hyperplasia	A: Oestrogen+ Progestagen (sequential); B: Oestrogen; C: Placebo	A: added	Endometrial hyperplasia at 12 months	1	4	1	3
CD000527 ^{W13}	CSR	Severe malaria	A: Arestunate; B: Artesmisinin; C: Quinine	unclear	Mortality	1	3	2	1
CD001103 ^{W14}	CSR	Venous leg ulcer	A: Low adherent; B: Hydrocolloid dressing; C: Foam dressing	unclear	Total number of ulcers healed	1	8	2	4
CD001136 ^{W15}	CSR	Caesarean section	A: 2nd/3rd generation cephalosporin; B: 1st generation cephalosporin; C: Ampicillin	A: newer	Endometritis	1	9	1	1

Cases	Source ^ξ	Disease category	Intervention A, B, C	A newer or more intense	Outcome measures	Outcome: Objective=1 subjective=0	No. of trials		
							AvB	AvC	BvC
CD001169 ^{W16}	CSR	Influenza A	A: Rimantadine; B: Amantadine; C: Placebo	A: newer	Influenza cases	1	2	9	1
CD001190 ^{W17}	CSR	Alzheimer's disease	A: Donepezil 10mg/d; B: Donepezil 5mg/d; C: Placebo	A: more intense	Numbers of improved	0	2	2	1
CD001209 ^{W18}	CSR	Urinary tract infection	A: Norfloxacin; B: Nitrofurantoin; C: Placebo	A: newer	Microbiological recurrence	1	1	2	1
CD001217 ^{W19}	CSR	Thromboprophylaxis in colorectal surgery	A: LMW Heparin coverage; B: LD Heparin; C: Placebo or no treatment	A: newer	Deep venous thrombosis (DVT)	1	3	1	3
CD001319 ^{W20}	CSR	Fluid resuscitation	A: Albumin/PPF; B: HES; C: Gelatine	unclear	Death	1	13	1	11
CD001324 ^{W21}	CSR	Unprotected intercourse	A: Mifepristone (25-50 mg); B: Mifeprestone <25mg; C: Levonorgestrel	A: more intense	Pregnancy	1	18	15	8
CD001434 ^{W22}	CSR	Tinea pedis	A: Allylamines; B: Azoles; C: Placebo	unclear	short-term (2 weeks) treatment failure	1	10	9	5
CD001449 ^{W23}	CSR	Hypertension during pregnancy	A: Calcium channel blockers; B: Hyralazine; C: Labetolol	A: newer	Persistent high BP	1	3	1	1
CD001501 ^{W24}	CSR	Menorrhagia	A: Laser ablation; B: TCRE; C: Balloon ablation	unclear	Participant satisfaction at 12 mon	0	1	1	1

Cases	Source ^ξ	Disease category	Intervention A, B, C	A newer or more intense	Outcome measures	Outcome: Objective=1 subjective=0	No. of trials		
							AvB	AvC	BvC
CD001535 ^{W25}	CSR	lower urinary tract infections	A: Long course; B: Short course; C: Single	A: more intense	Persistent UIT	1	3	5	3
CD001751 ^{W26}	CSR	Dysmenorrhea	A: Diclofenac; B: Nimesulide; C: Placebo	unclear	Subjective pain relief	0	1	2	1
CD001781 ^{W27}	CSR	Cutaneous warts	A: Cryotherapy; B: Salicylic + lactic acid; C: Placebo/no treatment	unclear	Not cure rate	1	3	2	5
CD001782 ^{W28}	CSR	Photodamage skin	A: Topical tretinoin 0.05%; B: Topical tretinoin 0.01%; C: Placebo	A: more intense	No overall improved - investigator's assessment	0	2	1	1
CD001886 ^{W29}	CSR	Cardiac surgery	A: Tranexamic acid; B: Aprotinin; C: Control	A: newer	Mortality (cardia surgery subgroup)	1	5	28	9
CD001896 ^{W30}	CSR	Dysmenorrhoea	A: Laparoscopic presacral neurectomy; B: Laparoscopic uterine nerve ablation (LUNA); C: Control	unclear	No pain relief up to 12 months	0	1	1	2
CD001951 ^{W31}	CSR	Schizophrenia	A: Haloperidon 15-35 mg/d; B: Haloperidol 7.5-15 mg/d; C: Haloperidol >35mg/d	A: more intense	Leaving study early	1	5	1	2
CD001960 ^{W32}	CSR	Dyspepsia	A: PPI; B: H2RA; C: Antacids	A: newer	No global symptom response	0	2	9	11

Cases	Source ^ξ	Disease category	Intervention A, B, C	A newer or more intense	Outcome measures	Outcome: Objective=1 subjective=0	No. of trials		
							AvB	AvC	BvC
CD001961 ^{W33}	CSR	Dyspepsia	A: PPI; B: H2RA; C: Antacids	A: newer	No global improvement	0	3	3	1
CD002095 ^{W34}	CSR	Reflux disease - positive endoscopy	A: PPI; B: H2RA; C: Placebo	A: newer	Heartburn remission	0	7	2	2
CD002095a ^{W34}	CSR	Reflux disease - negative endoscopy	A: PPI; B: H2RA; C: Placebo	A: newer	Heartburn remission	0	4	7	2
CD002123 ^{W35}	CSR	Dysmenorrhoea	A: High frequency TENS; B: Low frequency TENS; C: Placebo TENS	A: more intense	No pain relief – overall experience	0	1	1	1
CD002251 ^{W36}	CSR	Hypotension during caesarean section	A: Ephedrine; B: Crystalloid; C: Control	unclear	Women with hypotension requiring intervention	1	4	6	1
CD002252 ^{W37}	CSR	Hypertension during pregnancy	A: Beta-blocker; B: Methyldopa; C: Control (none)	A: newer	Proteinuria/pre-eclampsia	1	9	8	2
CD002296 ^{W38}	CSR	Gastroduodenal ulcers	A: PPI; B: H2RA; C: Placebo	A: newer	Total endoscopic ulcers	1	1	5	5
CD002780 ^{W39}	CSR	Dental Caries	A: Fluoride toothpaste; B: Fluoride mouthrinse; C: Fluoride varnish	unclear	Leaving study early	1	5	1	2
CD002898 ^{W40}	CSR	Herpes simplex virus epithelial keratitis	A: Acyclovir; B: Idoxuridine; C: Trifluridine	unclear	Not healing at 14 days	1	11	3	4

Cases	Source [§]	Disease category	Intervention A, B, C	A newer or more intense	Outcome measures	Outcome: Objective=1 subjective=0	No. of trials		
							AvB	AvC	BvC
CD002916 ^{W41}	CSR	Malignant pleural effusion	A: Talc; B: Tetracycline; C: Control	unclear	No recurrence of effusions	1	3	2	2
CD003101 ^{W42}	CSR	Induction of labour	A: Prostaglandin E2; B: Prostaglandin F2a (PGF2a); C: Placebo/no treatment	unclear	Caesarean section	1	2	31	2
CD003167 ^{W43}	CSR	Glaucoma and ocular hypertension	A: Betaxolol; B: Timolol; C: Placebo	unclear	Drop-out due to drug-related adverse events	0	3	1	2
CD003187 ^{W44}	CSR	Hodgkin's disease-early stage	A: Radiotherapy; B: Chemotherapy; C: Combined chemo-radiotherapy	unclear	Overall mortality	1	2	11	3
CD003209 ^{W45}	CSR	Distal radial fractures	A: Percutaneous pinning; B: External fixation; C: Plaster cast	unclear	Functional grading - not excellent	0	2	4	8
CD003226 ^{W46}	CSR	Migraine	A: Topiramate 200mg; B: Topiramate 100mg; C: Placebo	A: more intense	No 50% or greater reduction in migraine frequency	1	3	1	2
CD003245 ^{W47}	CSR	Reflux disease	A: PPI; B: H2 RA; C: Placebo	A: newer	Relapse (oesophagitis)	0	10	9	4
CD003261 ^{W48}	CSR	Impetigo	A: Mupirocin; B: Fusidic acid; C: Placebo	A: newer	No cure/improvement	0	4	3	1

Cases	Source ^ξ	Disease category	Intervention A, B, C	A newer or more intense	Outcome measures	Outcome: Objective=1 subjective=0	No. of trials		
							AvB	AvC	BvC
CD003262 ^{W49}	CSR	Rosacea	A: Topical azelaic acid; B: Topical metronidazole; C: Placebo	A: newer	Pphysician's global evaluation of improvement	0	1	3	3
CD003352 ^{W50}	CSR	Cocaine dependence	A: Amantadine; B: Bromocriptine; C: Placebo	unclear	Positive urine sample for cocaine metabolites	1	1	1	1
CD003370 ^{W51}	CSR	Advanced breast cancer	A: Aminoglutethimide; B: Letrozole; C: non-AI	A: newer	No clinical benefit (assessable)	1	1	4	5
CD003385 ^{W52}	CSR	Bulimia Nervosa	A: Antidepressant + Psychotherapy; B: Antidepressant; C: Psychotherapy	A: more intense	Remission	1	4	1	2
CD003388 ^{W53}	CSR	Post traumatic stress disorder (PTSD)	A: EMDR; B: TFCBT; C: Waiting list/usual care	unclear	PTSD diagnosis after treatment	0	7	3	12
CD003431 ^{W54}	CSR	Anal fissure	A: Botox; B: Nitroglycerin ointment (GTN); C: Placebo	A: newer	Non-healing	1	4	3	15
CD003584 ^{W55}	CSR	Tinea pedis	A: Terbinafine; B: Itraconazole; C: Placebo	A: newer	No cure (week 8)	1	3	1	1
CD003592 ^{W56}	CSR	Anxiety disorder	A: Paroxetine; B: Imipramine; C: Placebo	A: newer	No treatment response	0	1	1	1

Cases	Source [§]	Disease category	Intervention A, B, C	A newer or more intense	Outcome measures	Outcome: Objective=1 subjective=0	No. of trials		
							AvB	AvC	BvC
CD003664 ^{W57}	CSR	Allergy and food intolerance in infants	A: Extensively hydrolysed formula; B: Cow's milk formula; C: Partially hydrolysed formula	A: more intense	Any allergy	1	2	1	5
CD003723 ^{W58}	CSR	Status epilepticus	A: Lorazepam; B: Diazepam; C: Midazolam	unclear	Non-cessation of seizures	1	3	1	1
CD003738 ^{W59}	CSR	Cataract	A: PMMA (polymethyl methacrylate); B: Silicone; C: Acrylic	unclear	YAG rate	1	4	2	5
CD003774 ^{W60}	CSR	Solid organ transplant recipients	A: Ganciclovir; B: Aciclovir; C: Placebo	A: newer	CMV organ involvement	1	7	7	3
CD003807 ^{W61}	CSR	Oral candidiasis in cancer patients	A: Drugs absorbed from GI tract; B: Drugs not absorbed from GI; C: Placebo or no treatment.	unclear	Oral candidiasis present	1	8	6	7
CD003827 ^{W62}	CSR	Central venous catheters required	A: Gauze & tape; B: Highly Perm TP; C: Transparent PU dressing	unclear	Catheter related sepsis	1	2	1	1
CD003842 ^{W63}	CSR	Axillary brachial plexus block	A: Multiple injection; B: Double injection; C: Single injection	A: more intense	Primary anaesthesia failure	1	4	1	1
CD003940 ^{W64}	CSR	Oropharyngeal candidiasis	A: Fluconazole; B: Clotrimazole; C: Itraconazole	unclear	Mycological cure	1	2	3	1

Cases	Source ^ξ	Disease category	Intervention A, B, C	A newer or more intense	Outcome measures	Outcome: Objective=1 subjective=0	No. of trials		
							AvB	AvC	BvC
CD004291 ^{W65}	CSR	Organ transplant	A: Fluconazole; B: Itraconazole; C: Control	unclear	Mortality	1	1	4	2
CD004293 ^{W66}	CSR	Nephropathy	A: Alkylating agents; B: Steroids; C: Placebo/no treatment	unclear	End-stage renal failure or death	1	3	3	3
CD004379 ^{W67}	CSR	Poor responders to ovarian hyperstimulation	A: GnRH antagonist; B: GnRH Flare up protocol; C: Conventional GnRHa long protocol	unclear	Pregnancy	1	2	1	1
CD004386 ^{W68}	CSR	Afebrile neutropenic patients following chemotherapy	A: Quinolones; B: TMP-SMZ (trimethoprim-sulfamethoxole); C: Placebo or no treatment	A: newer	All cause mortality	1	10	14	14
CD004610 ^{W69}	CSR	Diarrhoea	A: Teicoplanin; B: Metronidazole; C: Vancomycin	A: newer	No symptomatic Initial Response	1	1	1	1
CD004618 ^{W70}	CSR	Chronic suppurative otitis media	A: Topical quinolone; B: Topical non-quinolone; C: Topical antiseptic	A: newer	Not discharged at 2-4 weeks	1	6	2	2
CD004679 ^{W71}	CSR	Peritoneal dialysis	A: Mupirocin; B: Rifampin; C: Control	A: newer	Number of patients with Peritonitis	1	1	1	1
CD004756 ^{W72}	CSR	Acute rejection in kidney transplant	A: Anti-thymocyte globulin (ATG); B: Muromonab-CD3; C: Steroid	unclear	Failure of reversal of acute first rejection	1	1	3	1

Cases	Source [§]	Disease category	Intervention A, B, C	A newer or more intense	Outcome measures	Outcome: Objective=1 subjective=0	No. of trials		
							AvB	AvC	BvC
CD004785 ^{W73}	CSR	Meningococcal carrier	A: Ciprofloxacin; B: Rifampin; C: Placebo	A: newer	Failure to eradicate (one week follow up)	1	2	6	3
CD004790 ^{W74}	CSR	Infants of hepatitis B surface antigen-positive mothers	A: RV; B: PDV; C: Control	unclear	HB event	1	2	1	3
CD004861 ^{W75}	CSR	Oral contraception	A: Levonorgestrel; B: Norethindrone (monophasic); C: Gestodene	unclear	Discontinuation	0	2	2	1
CD004879 ^{W76}	CSR	Preventing influenza in healthy children	A: Live attenuated vaccines (one dose); B: Inactivated vaccines (one dose); C: Placebo	unclear	Influenza	1	2	2	3
CD005015 ^{W77}	CSR	Kidney transplant recipients	A: Bisphosphonate; B: Vit D sterol; C: Placebo or no treatment	A: newer	Change in BMD at lumbar spine	1	1	3	1
CD005049 ^{W78}	CSR	Cardioversion of atrial fibrillation	A: Amiodarone; B: Sotalol; C: Placebo	unclear	Atrial fibrillation recurrence	1	3	2	7
CD005115 ^{W79}	CSR	Osteoarthritis	A: Rofecoxib 25mg; B: Rofecoxib 12.5 mg; C: Placebo	A: more intense	Diarrhoea (adverse effect) 6 weeks	1	4	3	1
CD005129 ^{W80}	CSR	Organ transplant recipients	A: IgC; B: CMV IgG; C: Placebo/no treatment	unclear	Cytomegalovirus (CMV) disease	1	1	11	5

Cases	Source [§]	Disease category	Intervention A, B, C	A newer or more intense	Outcome measures	Outcome: Objective=1 subjective=0	No. of trials		
							AvB	AvC	BvC
CD005149 ^{W81}	CSR	Acute sinusitis	A: Mometasone 400 mcg; B: Mometasone 200 mcg; C: Placebo	A: more intense	Resolution of symptoms or improved	1	1	1	1
CD005351 ^{W82}	CSR	Cardiogenic pulmonary oedema	A: Bilevel; B: Continuous positive airway pressure; C: Standard medical care	unclear	Hospital mortality	1	6	9	4
CD006003 ^{W83}	CSR	Uncomplicated open cholecystectomy	A: Passive open drain; B: Suction drain; C: no drain	unclear	Wound infection	1	1	6	4
CD006257 ^{W84}	CSR	Diabetic kidney disease	A: AIIRA; B: ACEi; C: Placebo or no treatment	A: newer	All cause mortality	1	1	3	9
ATC-I -2 ^{W85}	Other	Risk of vascular disease	A: Aspirin+Dipyridamole; B: Aspirin; C: Control	A: added	Vascular event	0	16	42	23
ATC-II- 2 ^{W86}	Other	Vascular occlusion	A: Aspirin+Dipyridamole; B: Aspirin; C: Control	A: added	Vasc. occlusion	0	10	7	14
ATC-III ^{W87}	Other	High risk of DVT	A: Aspirin+Dipyridamole; B: Aspirin; C: Control	A: added	DVT	1	9	11	9

Cases	Source ^ξ	Disease category	Intervention A, B, C	A newer or more intense	Outcome measures	Outcome: Objective=1 subjective=0	No. of trials		
							AvB	AvC	BvC
Ballesteros ^{W88}	PubMed	Dysthymia	A: SSRIs; B: TCAs; C: Placebo	A: newer	No clinical response	0	1	4	3
Brophy ^{W89}	PubMed	Percutaneous coronary interventions	A: Abciximab; B: Tirofiban; C: Placebo	A: newer	Death+MI	1	1	8	1
Bucher ^{W90}	Other	HIV-infected patients	A: TMP+SMX (trimethoprim-sulfamethoxazole); B: Dapsone+P (dapsone or dapsonel/ pyrimethamine); C: AP (aerosolized pentamidine)	Unclear	p.c. pneumonia	1	8	9	5
Chou ^{W91}	PubMed	HIV-infected patients	A: NNRTI-based HAART; B: PI-based HAART; C: NRTI	Unclear	Death+ progression	1	11	5	4
Cooper ^{W92}	PubMed	Nonrheumatic atrial fibrillation	A: Standard warfarin; B: Aspirin; C: Placebo	A: more intense	Ischemic stroke	1	7	1	1
JCE08-1 ^{W93}	PubMed	Schizophrenia	A: Risperidone; B: Haloperidol; C: Placebo	A: newer	Dropout	0	13	3	11

Cases	Source ^ξ	Disease category	Intervention A, B, C	A newer or more intense	Outcome measures	Outcome: Objective=1 subjective=0	No. of trials		
							AvB	AvC	BvC
JCE08-2 ^{W93}	PubMed	Depression	A: Fluoxetine; B: Imipramine; C: Placebo	A: newer	Dropout	0	13	14	39
Lam ^{W94}	PubMed	Heart disease	A: Resynchr+ Defibril; B: Defibri; C: Medical	A: added	Death	1	3	4	4
Marshall ^{W95}	Other	Ulcerative colitis	A: Rectal 5-aminosalicylic acid; B: Rectal corticosteroids; C: Rectal budesonide	Unclear	Endoscopic remission	1	7	2	5
Mason ^{W96}	PubMed	Acute pain	A: Indomethacin; B: Piroxicam; C: Placebo	A: newer	No pain relief	0	3	1	1
Moore ^{W97}	Other	Postoperative pain	A: Paracetamol+Codeine; B: Paracetamol; C: Placebo	A: added	No pain relief	0	10	5	7
Pagliari ^{W98}	Other	Cirrhosis, E. varices	A: Paracetamol+Codeine; B: Paracetamol; C: Placebo	A: added	First bleeding	1	2	7	17
Poynard ^{W99}	Other	Viral hepatitis C	A: Interferon 12mon; B: Interferon 6mon; C: Control	A: more intense	No sustained response	1	4	5	6

Cases	Source ^ξ	Disease category	Intervention A, B, C	A newer or more intense	Outcome measures	Outcome: Objective=1 subjective=0	No. of trials		
							AvB	AvC	BvC
Psaty ^{W100}	PubMed	Hypertension	A: Calcium channel blocker; B: Low dose diuretics; C: Placebo	A: newer	Death	1	5	2	5
Small ^{W101}	PubMed	CMV infection in organ transplantation	A: Preemptive ganciclovir; B: Prophylactic ganciclovir; C: Mixed active	Unclear	CMV disease	1	1	9	16
Soares ^{W50}	PubMed	Bipolar disorder	A: Valproate; B: Lithium; C: Olanzapine	A: newer	Relapse	1	2	1	1
Stettler ^{W102}	PubMed	Coronary artery disease	A: Sirolimus-eluting stent; B: Paclitaxel-eluting stent; C: Bare-metal stent	Unclear	Death+ MI	1	15	16	7
SWI-02 ^{W103}	PubMed	Surgical wound infection	A: Cefuroxime+ Metronidazole; B: Metronidazole; C: Ampicillin+ Metronidazole	A: newer	Wound infection	1	4	1	2
SWI-06 ^{W103}	PubMed	Surgical wound infection	A: Mezlocillin; B: Timentin; C: Cefotaxime	Unclear	Wound infection	1	1	1	1
SWI-07 ^{W103}	PubMed	Surgical wound infection	A: Cefotetan; B: Cefoxitin; C: Piperacillin	Unclear	Wound infection	1	2	1	1

Cases	Source [§]	Disease category	Intervention A, B, C	A newer or more intense	Outcome measures	Outcome: Objective=1 subjective=0	No. of trials		
							AvB	AvC	BvC
SWI-10 ^{W103}	PubMed	Surgical wound infection	A: Ciprofloxacin+ Metronidazole; B: Gentamicin+ Metronidazole; C: Moxalac	A: newer	Wound infection	1	1	1	1
Trinidad ^{W104}	Other	Depression	A: Paroxetine; B: Fluvoxamine; C: Placebo+active	A: newer	Dropout	0	1	8	12
Wu ^{W105}	PubMed	Smoking	A: Varenicline; B: Bupropion; C: Placebo	A: newer	Smoking	1	3	1	9
Zhang ^{W106}	Other	Dysmenorrhoea	A: Naproxen; B: Ibuprofen; C: Placebo	A: newer	No pain relief	0	3	17	10

Notes to Appendix 3:

ξ - CSR refers to Cochrane Database of Systematic Reviews; and Other refers to two previous studies.

Outcomes are classified using methods by Wood et al (Wood L, Egger M, Gluud LL, et al. Empirical evidence of bias in treatment effect estimates in controlled trials with different interventions and outcomes: meta-epidemiological study. *BMJ*. 2008 Mar 15;336(7644):601-5.2008): “The definition of objective and subjective outcomes was based on the extent to which outcome assessment could be influenced by investigators’ judgment. Objectively assessed outcomes included all cause mortality, measures based on a recognised laboratory procedure (such as measurement of haemoglobin concentrations), other objective measures (such as preterm birth), and surgical or instrumental outcomes (all of these were concerned with childbirth, such as caesarean section or instrumental delivery). Note that such surgical outcomes (classified as objectively assessed) depend on doctors’ decisions, which could, in the absence of blinding, be affected by knowledge of the intervention received.”

“Subjectively assessed outcome measures included patient reported outcomes, physician assessed disease outcomes (such as vascular events, pyelonephritis, or respiratory distress syndrome), measures combined from several outcomes, and withdrawals or study dropouts.”

References to Appendix 3 (sources of included trial-networks)

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