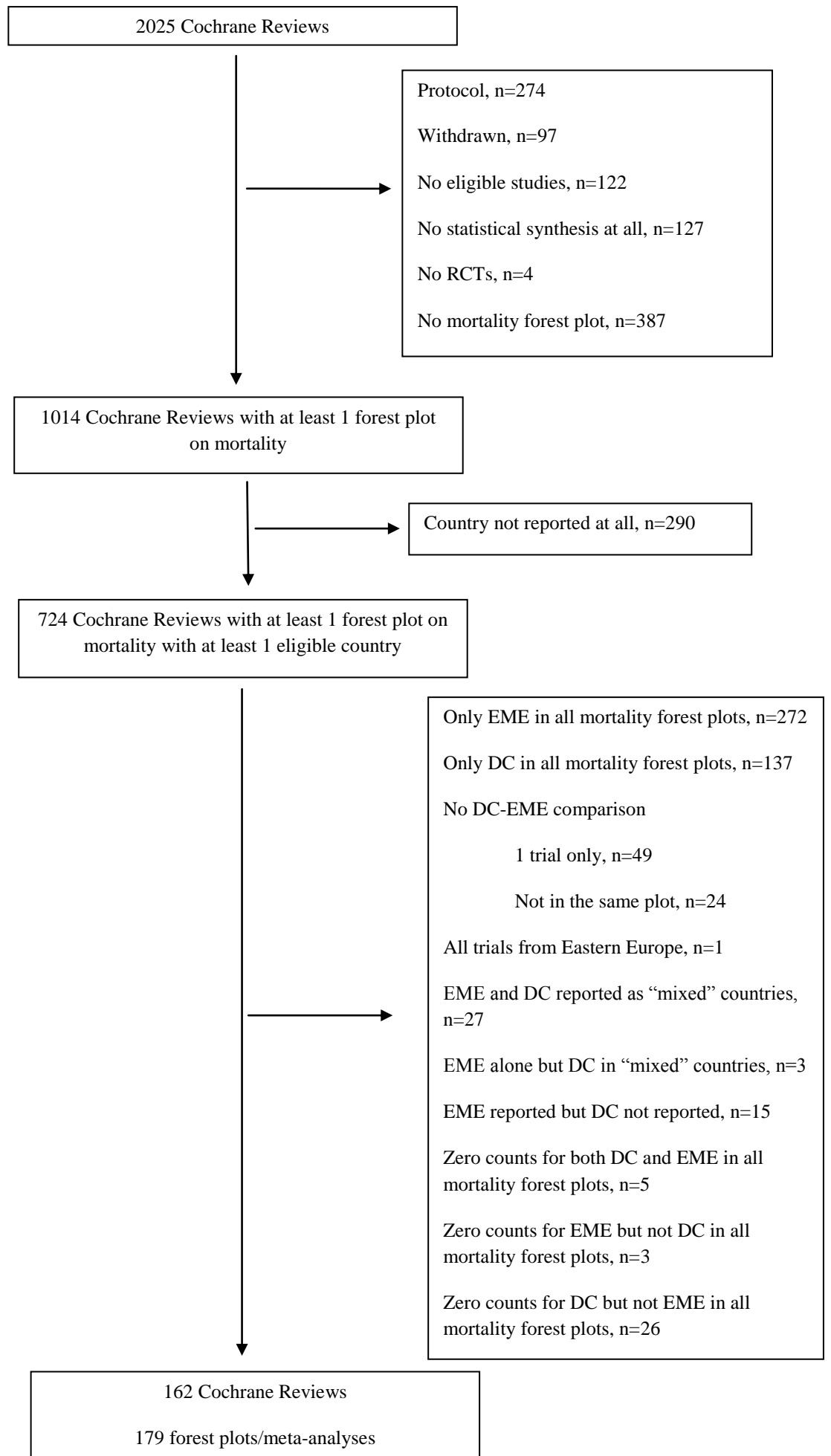


Fig A1. PRISMA flow chart of the eligible Cochrane reviews



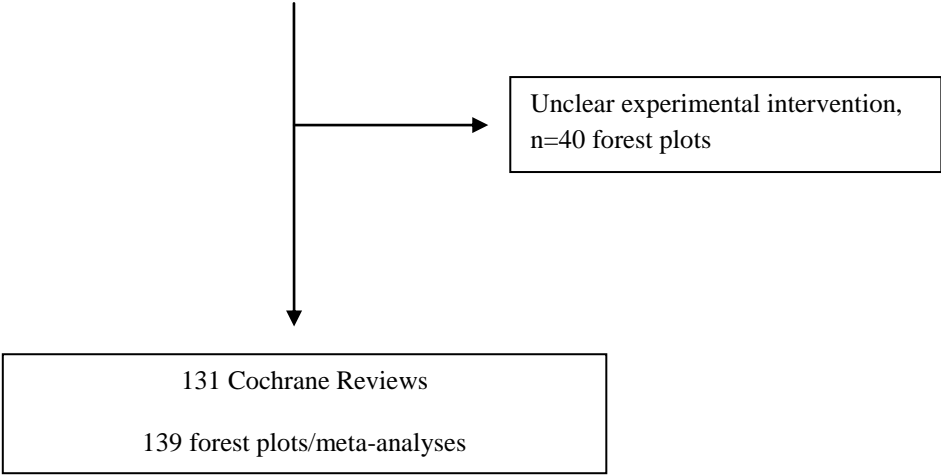


Table A1. Description of the 139 meta-analyses with mortality outcomes

| CDSR | Condition | Experimental intervention | Control intervention | Outcome | Trials from less developed countries, N | Trials from more developed countries, N | All trials, N |
|-------------|---|---|--|---|--|--|----------------------|
| CD000019 | Prevention of neonatal respiratory disease for women at risk of preterm birth | Thyrotropin-releasing hormone plus steroids | Steroids alone | Death prior to hospital discharge | 1 | 5 | 6 |
| CD000024 | Anticoagulants for acute ischaemic stroke | Anticoagulant | Placebo | Death from all causes at final follow up | 2 | 6 | 8 |
| CD000029 | Antiplatelet therapy for acute ischaemic stroke | Antiplatelet | Placebo or no treatment | Deaths from all causes during follow up | 1 | 7 | 8 |
| CD000039 | Interventions for deliberately altering blood pressure in acute stroke | Blood pressure lowering therapy | Placebo | Case fatality within one month | 2 | 7 | 9 |
| CD000064 | Corticosteroids for acute ischaemic stroke | Corticosteroids | Placebo | All deaths | 1 | 6 | 7 |
| CD000091 | Fibrinogen depleting agents for acute ischaemic stroke | Fibrinogen depleting agents | Placebo | Death from all causes at end of follow up | 1 | 4 | 5 |
| CD000102 | Mother-to-child transmission of HIV infection. | Any zidovudine | Placebo or no treatment | Stillbirth | 2 | 1 | 3 |
| CD000110 | Multiple pregnancy | Hospitalisation for bed rest | Routine care | Perinatal death | 4 | 3 | 7 |
| CD000123 | Peripheral arterial disease of the lower limb | Lipid-lowering regimens | Placebo or usual care | All-cause mortality | 2 | 4 | 6 |
| CD000162 | Acute ischaemic stroke | Pentoxifylline or analogue | Placebo | Case fatality early | 2 | 2 | 4 |
| CD000171 | Latent tuberculosis infection in HIV infected persons | Any TB drug | Placebo | Incidence of death (all cause) | 12 | 1 | 13 |
| CD000193 | Acute bleeding oesophageal varices | Somatostatin analogues | Placebo or no treatment | Mortality | 7 | 9 | 16 |
| CD000197 | Organised inpatient (stroke unit) care for stroke | Organised stroke unit care | Alternative service | Death by the end of scheduled follow up | 2 | 14 | 16 |
| CD000213 | Thrombolysis for acute ischaemic stroke | Any thrombolytic agent | Placebo or no intervention | Deaths from all causes during follow up | 2 | 23 | 25 |
| CD000230 | Zinc supplementation for improving pregnancy and infant outcome | Zinc supplementation versus | No zinc (with or without Placebo) | Stillbirth or neonatal death | 2 | 1 | 3 |
| CD000277 | Aneurysmal subarachnoid haemorrhage | Calcium antagonists + magnesium | Placebo or no intervention or conventional treatment | Case fatality | 1 | 2 | 3 |
| | | Calcium antagonists alone | Placebo or no intervention or | Case fatality | 1 | 10 | 11 |

| | | | | | | | |
|----------|---|---|-------------------------------------|---|---|----|----|
| | | | conventional treatment | | | | |
| CD000305 | Prevention of deep vein thrombosis and pulmonary embolism following surgery for hip fractures | Any heparin | Placebo or no intervention | Mortality | 1 | 7 | 8 |
| | | Physical device | Placebo or no intervention | Mortality | 1 | 3 | 4 |
| CD000356 | Early discharge hospital at home | Early discharge hospital at home | Acute hospital in-patient care | Mortality at 6 months - patients recovering from a stroke | 1 | 5 | 6 |
| CD000361 | Prevention of infection in preterm and/or low-birth-weight infants | IVIG | Placebo or no treatment | Mortality (all causes) | 5 | 10 | 15 |
| CD000422 | Prevention of pneumococcal infection in adults | Vaccination | Placebo | Mortality all causes | 2 | 9 | 11 |
| CD000443 | Services for reducing duration of hospital care for acute stroke patients | Early supported discharge service | Conventional care | Death | 1 | 10 | 11 |
| CD000501 | Prevention of mortality and short- and long-term morbidity in very low birth-weight infants | Supplemental vitamin A | Placebo or no supplementation | Death before one month | 1 | 5 | 6 |
| CD000509 | Inhaled nitric oxide for respiratory failure in preterm infants | Inhaled nitric oxide | Placebo or conventional treatment | Death before discharge | 2 | 7 | 9 |
| CD000934 | Low-risk pregnancy | Reduced number of antenatal care visits/goal oriented | Standard antenatal care visits | Perinatal death | 3 | 2 | 5 |
| CD000942 | Preterm rupture of membranes | Transabdominal amnioinfusion | No amnioinfusion | Neonatal death | 1 | 1 | 2 |
| CD001024 | Tamoxifen for hepatocellular carcinoma | Tamoxifen | Placebo or best supportive care | All cause mortality | 1 | 8 | 9 |
| CD001059 | Calcium supplementation during pregnancy for preventing hypertensive disorders and related problems | Routine calcium supplementation | Placebo | Stillbirth or death before discharge from hospital | 6 | 4 | 10 |
| CD001062 | Abdominal decompression in normal pregnancy | Prophylactic abdominal decompression in pregnancy | Dummy decompression or no treatment | Perinatal mortality | 1 | 1 | 2 |
| CD001090 | Treatment of sepsis, severe sepsis and septic shock | IVIG | Placebo or no intervention | All-cause mortality | 9 | 30 | 39 |
| CD001159 | Nerve blocks for hip fractures | Nerve block versus | No block | Mortality | 1 | 7 | 8 |
| CD001239 | Proven infection in neonates | IVIG | Placebo or no intervention | Mortality from any cause | 5 | 2 | 7 |
| | Suspected infection in neonates | IVIG | Placebo or no intervention | Mortality from any cause | 5 | 2 | 7 |
| CD001272 | Antiplatelet agents for intermittent claudication | Antiplatelet agent | Placebo | All cause mortality | 1 | 4 | 5 |

| | | | | | | | |
|----------|--|--|------------------------------------|-------------------------------|----|----|----|
| CD001363 | Tuberculosis prevention in non-HIV infected persons | Isoniazid | Placebo | Total deaths | 2 | 3 | 5 |
| CD001446 | Corticosteroids for Guillain-Barré syndrome | Corticosteroids | Placebo | Death | 3 | 4 | 7 |
| CD001479 | Treatment of measles in children | Vitamin A | Placebo | Mortality | 6 | 1 | 7 |
| CD001556 | Preoperative chemotherapy for resectable thoracic esophageal cancer | Preoperative chemotherapy | Surgery alone | Postoperative deaths | 3 | 5 | 8 |
| CD001730 | Medical day hospital care for the elderly versus alternative forms of care | Day hospital care | Non-day hospital care | Death by the end of follow up | 1 | 12 | 13 |
| CD001800 | Coronary Heart Disease | Exercise-based rehabilitation | Usual care | Total mortality | 1 | 15 | 16 |
| CD001832 | Treatment of acute bacterial meningitis | Third generation cephalosporins | Conventional therapy | Death | 10 | 9 | 19 |
| CD001841 | Hypertension | Thiazide | Placebo | Total Mortality | 1 | 16 | 17 |
| CD002054 | Surfactant for meconium aspiration syndrome in full term/near term infants | Surfactant therapy | Placebo or no therapy | Mortality | 2 | 2 | 4 |
| CD002100 | Prophylactic anastomotic drainage for colorectal surgery | Prophylactic anastomotic drainage | No drainage | Mortality | 1 | 5 | 6 |
| CD002130 | Non-ST segment elevation acute coronary syndromes | Intravenous IIb/IIIa blockers during PCI | Placebo or usual care | 6-month mortality | 3 | 19 | 22 |
| CD002142 | Postoperative radiotherapy (RT) for non-small cell lung cancer | Surgery plus post-operative RT | Surgery alone | Mortality | 2 | 8 | 10 |
| CD002147 | Acute esophageal variceal hemorrhage | Terlipressin | Vasopressin | Mortality | 2 | 3 | 5 |
| CD002209 | Opioid dependence | Methadone maintenance treatment | No methadone maintenance treatment | Mortality | 1 | 3 | 4 |
| CD002243 | Treatment of severe sepsis and septic shock | Corticosteroids | Placebo or supportive treatment | 28-day all-cause mortality | 3 | 16 | 19 |
| CD002309 | Chronic obstructive pulmonary disease | Phosphodiesterase 4 inhibitors | Placebo | Mortality | 1 | 8 | 9 |
| CD002771 | Kangaroo mother care versus conventional neonatal care | Kangaroo mother care | Conventional neonatal care | Mortality at latest follow up | 7 | 2 | 9 |
| CD002772 | Prevention of thrombosis and catheter occlusion in neonates with peripherally placed percutaneous central venous catheters | Heparin | No heparin | Mortality | 1 | 2 | 3 |
| CD002787 | Acute respiratory distress syndrome and acute lung | Inhaled nitric oxide | Placebo or no intervention | Longest follow up mortality | 2 | 12 | 14 |

| | | | | | | | |
|----------|---|--|----------------------------|-------------------------------------|---|----|----|
| | injury in children and adults | | | | | | |
| CD002839 | Blood-pressure lowering in acute stroke | Blood pressure lowering therapy | Placebo or no intervention | Death at end of trial | 3 | 37 | 40 |
| CD002848 | Diarrhoea prevention | Rotavirus vaccine | Placebo | All-cause death | 2 | 2 | 4 |
| CD002863 | Mild to moderate hypertension during pregnancy | Beta-blocker | Placebo or no intervention | Maternal death | 1 | 1 | 2 |
| | | | | Perinatal mortality | 1 | 12 | 13 |
| CD002907 | Cirrhotic patients with upper gastrointestinal bleeding | Antibiotic prophylaxis | Placebo or no intervention | Mortality | 5 | 7 | 12 |
| CD002922 | Lupus nephritis | Immunosuppressive agent plus steroids | Steroids alone | All-cause mortality | 1 | 4 | 5 |
| CD003041 | Smoking cessation for the secondary prevention of coronary heart disease | Ceased smoking | Continued smoking | Total deaths | 1 | 18 | 19 |
| CD003066 | G-CSF and GM-CSF for treating or preventing neonatal infections | CSF versus | Control | All cause mortality to 28 days | 2 | 3 | 5 |
| CD003288 | Elderly people at risk from malnutrition | Oral protein and energy | Routine care | Mortality | 1 | 40 | 41 |
| CD003311 | Cooling for newborns with hypoxic ischaemic encephalopathy | Therapeutic hypothermia | Standard care | Mortality by method of cooling | 2 | 5 | 7 |
| CD003317 | Acute stroke | Acupuncture | Placebo or no intervention | Death during whole follow-up period | 6 | 5 | 11 |
| CD003478 | Prevention of invasive fungal infection in very low birth weight infants | Oral/topical non-absorbed antifungal prophylaxis | Placebo or nothing | Mortality | 2 | 1 | 3 |
| CD003481 | Ibuprofen for the treatment of patent ductus arteriosus in preterm and/or low birth weight infants | Ibuprofen | Indomethacin | All cause mortality | 4 | 4 | 8 |
| CD003485 | Meconium aspiration syndrome in newborn infants | Steroid | Placebo | Mortality before hospital discharge | 1 | 1 | 2 |
| CD003628 | Support systems versus standard medical therapy | Support systems | Standard medical therapy | Mortality | 1 | 11 | 12 |
| CD003807 | Prevention of oral candidiasis for patients with cancer receiving treatment | Drugs absorbed from GI tract | Placebo or no treatment | Death | 1 | 2 | 3 |
| CD003850 | Prophylactic systemic antifungal agents to prevent mortality and morbidity in very low birth weight infants | Systemic antifungal agent | Placebo or no treatment | Death prior to hospital discharge | 1 | 3 | 4 |
| CD003897 | Interleukin 2 receptor antagonists for kidney | IL2 receptor antagonists | Placebo or no treatment | Mortality at 1 year | 5 | 15 | 20 |

| | | | | | | | |
|----------|--|--|----------------------------------|---|---|----|----|
| | transplant recipients | | | | | | |
| CD003935 | Repeat doses of prenatal corticosteroids for women at risk of preterm birth for improving neonatal health outcomes | Repeat doses of corticosteroids | Single course of corticosteroids | Neonatal death | 1 | 6 | 7 |
| CD003993 | Thymic peptides for treatment of cancer patients | Synthetic thymic peptides | Placebo or no treatment | Overall survival | 1 | 3 | 4 |
| CD004024 | Aggressive Non-Hodgkin Lymphoma (NHL) in adults | High-dose chemotherapy with autologous stem cell transplantation | Conventional chemotherapy | Overall survival | 2 | 12 | 14 |
| | | | | Treatment related mortality/ Mortality during treatment | 2 | 12 | 14 |
| CD004069 | Vitamin E supplementation in pregnancy | Vitamin E | Placebo or no treatment | Stillbirth | 1 | 1 | 2 |
| CD004072 | Vitamin C supplementation in pregnancy | Vitamin C | Placebo or no treatment | Stillbirth | 2 | 1 | 3 |
| CD004104 | Non-invasive positive pressure ventilation (NPPV) for treatment of respiratory failure due to exacerbations of chronic obstructive pulmonary disease | NPPV +Usual medical care | Usual medical care | Mortality | 3 | 6 | 9 |
| CD004183 | Prevention gastrointestinal cancers | Antioxidants | Placebo | Mortality | 5 | 8 | 13 |
| CD004213 | Ibuprofen for the prevention of patent ductus arteriosus in preterm and/or low birth weight infants | Ibuprofen | Placebo or no intervention | Neonatal mortality (during first 28 days of life) | 1 | 2 | 3 |
| CD004227 | Antioxidants for preventing pre-eclampsia | Any antioxidants | Placebo | Any baby death | 1 | 3 | 4 |
| CD004343 | Ethamsylate for the prevention of morbidity and mortality in preterm or very low birth weight infants | Ethamsylate | Placebo | Mortality to hospital discharge | 3 | 4 | 7 |
| CD004386 | Prophylaxis for bacterial infections in afebrile neutropenic patients following chemotherapy | Quinolone | Placebo or no intervention | All-cause mortality | 2 | 39 | 41 |
| CD004454 | Antenatal corticosteroids for accelerating fetal lung maturation for women at risk of preterm birth | Corticosteroids | Placebo or no intervention | Fetal and neonatal deaths | 3 | 10 | 13 |
| CD004583 | Primary intracerebral haemorrhage | Glucocorticoid treatment | Placebo or standard strategy | Death at the end of follow up | 3 | 2 | 5 |

| | | | | | | | |
|----------|---|-------------------------|---|---|---|----|----|
| CD004659 | Antiplatelet agents for preventing pre-eclampsia and its complications | Antiplatelet agents | Placebo or no intervention | Perinatal deaths | 2 | 11 | 13 |
| CD004733 | Prophylactic oral betamimetics for reducing preterm birth in women with a twin pregnancy | Oral betamimetic | Placebo | Neonatal mortality | 1 | 2 | 3 |
| CD004773 | Primary prevention of cryptococcal disease in adults with HIV | Antifungals | Placebo | Overall mortality | 2 | 2 | 4 |
| CD004776 | Treatment for anemia in people with AIDS. | Epoetin plus HAART | Placebo plus HAART | Death | 1 | 1 | 2 |
| CD004778 | Laparoscopic repair for perforated peptic ulcer disease | Laparoscopic surgery | Open surgery | Mortality | 2 | 1 | 3 |
| CD004787 | Unresectable hepatocellular carcinoma | TACE or TAE | Placebo or no intervention | All-cause mortality | 1 | 8 | 9 |
| CD004791 | Antibiotic prophylaxis for spontaneous bacterial peritonitis in cirrhotic patients with ascites, without gastro-intestinal bleeding | Antibiotic prophylaxis | Placebo or no treatment | Mortality | 1 | 6 | 7 |
| CD004863 | Early erythropoietin (EPO) for preventing red blood cell transfusion in preterm and/or low birth weight infants | Early erythropoietin | Placebo or no treatment | Mortality during initial hospital stay (all causes) | 3 | 12 | 15 |
| CD004868 | Late initiation of EPO (8-28 days) vs placebo or no intervention for preventing red blood cell transfusion in preterm and/or low birth weight infants | Late erythropoietin | Placebo or no treatment | All-cause mortality during initial hospital stay | 3 | 11 | 14 |
| CD004884 | Prevention meningitis in patients with basilar skull fractures | Antibiotic prophylaxis | Placebo or no treatment | All-cause mortality | 2 | 2 | 4 |
| CD004905 | Multiple-micronutrient supplementation for women during pregnancy | Multiple micronutrients | No supplements, placebo or less than two micronutrients | Perinatal mortality | 6 | 1 | 7 |
| CD004920 | Preventing fungal infections in non-neutropenic critically ill patients | Systemic antifungal | Placebo/no antifungal | Mortality | 1 | 9 | 10 |
| CD004945 | Improving birth outcomes for women at or beyond term | Labour induction | Expectant management | Perinatal death | 3 | 7 | 10 |
| CD004977 | Preventing vaccine-type invasive pneumococcal | Pneumococcal vaccine | Placebo or no intervention | All-cause mortality | 3 | 2 | 5 |

| | | | | | | | |
|----------|--|--|--|--|---|----|----|
| | disease and X-ray defined pneumonia in children less than two years of age | | | | | | |
| CD005162 | Terlipressin for hepatorenal syndrome | Octreotide or terlipressin | Placebo | Mortality | 2 | 2 | 4 |
| CD005191 | Brief interventions for heavy alcohol users admitted to general hospital wards | Brief interventions | Assessment/no-intervention or standard treatment | Death | 2 | 5 | 7 |
| CD005413 | Metastatic malignant melanoma | Chemoimmunotherapy | Chemotherapy | Overall survival | 1 | 7 | 8 |
| | | | | Treatment-related mortality | 2 | 9 | 11 |
| CD005415 | Proton pump inhibitor treatment prior to endoscopic diagnosis in upper gastrointestinal bleeding | Proton pump inhibitors | Placebo or no intervention | Mortality - 30 days or at point closest to 30 days | 2 | 2 | 4 |
| CD005444 | Obstructive jaundice | Pre-operative biliary drainage | Direct surgery | Mortality | 3 | 2 | 5 |
| CD005496 | Prevention of necrotizing enterocolitis in preterm infants. | Probiotics | Placebo or no intervention | All cause neonatal mortality | 3 | 7 | 10 |
| CD006001 | ERCP in patients with pancreaticobiliary malignancy, prior to surgery | With stenting | Without stenting | Overall mortality | 1 | 1 | 2 |
| CD006066 | Electronic fetal monitoring for fetal assessment during labour | Continuous cardiotocography | Intermittent auscultation | Perinatal death | 1 | 11 | 12 |
| CD006232 | Routine abdominal drainage for uncomplicated liver resection | Drain | No drain | Mortality at maximal follow-up | 2 | 3 | 5 |
| CD006387 | Oral cavity and oropharyngeal cancer | Altered fractionation radiotherapy | Conventional radiotherapy | Total mortality | 1 | 13 | 14 |
| CD006501 | Immunoglobulin prophylaxis in hematological malignancies and hematopoietic stem cell transplantation | Polyvalent immunoglobulins or hyperimmune CMV-IVIG | Placebo / no intervention | All-cause mortality | 1 | 11 | 12 |
| CD006536 | Stem cell treatment for acute myocardial infarction | Bone marrow-derived stem cells | No bone marrow-derived stem cells | Mortality | 1 | 3 | 4 |
| CD006743 | Early treatment with anti-hypertensive drugs in patients with an acute cardiovascular event | Beta-blockers | Placebo or no treatment | All-cause mortality at 10 days | 1 | 18 | 19 |
| | | Calcium-channel blockers | Placebo or no treatment | All-cause mortality at 10 days | 1 | 15 | 16 |
| | | Nitrates | Placebo or no treatment | All-cause mortality at 10 days | 1 | 14 | 15 |
| CD006870 | Statins for acute coronary syndrome | Statins | Placebo/ usual care | Death from all causes | 2 | 8 | 10 |

| | | | | | | | |
|----------|---|--|---|--|----|----|----|
| CD006894 | Infectious complications in haemodialysis patients with central venous catheters | Topical antimicrobial ointment | No ointment/ placebo | All-cause mortality | 1 | 2 | 3 |
| CD006904 | Reduction of the duration of mechanical ventilation in critically ill adult patients | Protocolized weaning | Non-protocolized weaning | Mortality | 1 | 8 | 9 |
| CD007058 | Ultrasound for fetal assessment in early pregnancy | Selective or concealed ultrasound in early pregnancy | Routine or revealed ultrasound in early pregnancy | Perinatal death | 2 | 8 | 10 |
| CD007125 | Multidisciplinary rehabilitation for older people with hip fractures | Multidisciplinary inpatient rehabilitation | Usual care | Mortality (end of scheduled follow-up) | 1 | 10 | 11 |
| CD007130 | Coronary heart disease | Home-based cardiac rehabilitation | Centre-based cardiac rehabilitation | Mortality | 1 | 3 | 4 |
| CD007176 | Antioxidant supplements for prevention of mortality in healthy participants and patients with various diseases | Antioxidants | Placebo or no intervention | Mortality | 7 | 58 | 65 |
| CD007228 | Structured telephone support or telemonitoring programmes for patients with chronic heart failure | Structured telephone support | Usual care | All-cause mortality | 1 | 13 | 14 |
| CD007339 | Pentoxifylline for alcoholic hepatitis | Pentoxifylline | Placebo or standard treatment | All-cause mortality | 2 | 3 | 5 |
| CD007398 | Intra-aortic balloon pump counterpulsation for myocardial infarction complicated by cardiogenic shock | Intra-aortic balloon pump counterpulsation | No intra-aortic balloon pump counterpulsation | All-cause in-hospital mortality rates | 1 | 3 | 4 |
| CD007530 | Vascular occlusion for elective liver resections | Vascular occlusion | No vascular occlusion | Mortality | 2 | 3 | 5 |
| CD007624 | Rehabilitation interventions for improving physical and psychosocial functioning after hip fracture in older people | Specialist nurse led care | Usual care | Mortality at 3 months | 1 | 1 | 2 |
| CD007749 | Antioxidant supplements for liver diseases | Antioxidants | Placebo or no intervention | All-cause mortality | 1 | 6 | 7 |
| CD007754 | Community-based intervention packages for reducing maternal and neonatal morbidity and mortality and improving neonatal | Community-based intervention | Standard care | Neonatal mortality | 12 | 1 | 13 |

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|----------|--|--|---|--|----|----|----|
| | outcomes. | | | | | | |
| CD007784 | Statins for people with chronic kidney disease not requiring dialysis | Statins | Placebo or no treatment | All-cause mortality | 6 | 15 | 21 |
| CD007871 | Monitoring haemotherapy versus usual care in patients with massive transfusion | Thrombelastography or thromboelastometry | Routine coagulation tests | Longest follow-up mortality | 2 | 3 | 5 |
| CD007966 | Prophylactic phototherapy for preventing jaundice in preterm or low birth weight infants | Prophylactic phototherapy | Standard treatment or no use of prophylactic phototherapy | All-cause mortality | 1 | 3 | 4 |
| CD008076 | Secondary prevention of vascular events after stroke of arterial origin | Cilostazol in patients | Aspirin | Death from any cause during follow-up | 1 | 1 | 2 |
| CD008238 | Prevention and treatment of infectious complications in patients with acute myelogenous leukemia | Colony-stimulating factors | Placebo or no treatment | All-cause mortality at the end of follow up | 1 | 13 | 14 |
| CD008370 | Somatostatin analogues for pancreatic surgery | Somatostatin analogues | No intervention | Perioperative mortality | 1 | 15 | 16 |
| CD008409 | Brain injury | Progesterone | Placebo | Mortality at the end of the follow-up period | 2 | 1 | 3 |
| CD008521 | Rotavirus diarrhoea | Rotarix | Placebo | All-cause death | 17 | 3 | 20 |
| CD008716 | Probiotics for patients with hepatic encephalopathy | Probiotic | Placebo or no intervention | All cause mortality | 1 | 1 | 2 |

BCG: Bacille Calmett-Guerin vaccine; CDSR: Cochrane Database of Systematic Reviews; HIV: human immunodeficiency; IVIG: intravenous immunoglobulin

Table A2. Baseline risks in the control groups. Shown are the risks for the topics where differences in effect sizes between less developed countries and more developed countries were beyond chance.

| Condition Intervention | Intervention* | Outcome | Baseline risk in control groups in more developed countries (%) | Baseline risk in control groups in less developed countries (%) | P for differences in baseline risk |
|---|------------------------------------|--------------------------------|--|--|---|
| Antenatal prevention in preterm birth (CD004454) | Corticosteroids | Fetal and neonatal deaths | 16 (95% CI 12-20) | 33 (95% CI 9-63) | < 0.001 |
| Antioxidant supplements for prevention of various diseases (CD007176) | Antioxidants | Mortality | 8 (95% CI 6-10) | 4 (95% CI 2-8) | < 0.001 |
| Multiple pregnancy (CD000110) | Hospitalization for bed rest | Perinatal death | 3 (95% CI 1-9) | 5 (95% CI 2-11) | 0.206 |
| Treatment of sepsis and septic shock (CD002243) | Corticosteroids | All-cause mortality at 28-days | 34 (95% CI 26-44) | 76 (95% CI 56-92) | < 0.001 |
| Prevention of GI cancers (CD004183) | Antioxidants | Mortality | 12 (95% CI 6-21) | 5 (95% CI 2-8) | < 0.001 |
| Non-neutropenic critically ill patients (CD004920) | Systemic antifungals | Mortality | 28 (95% CI 20-38) | 54 (95% CI 38-69) | < 0.001 |
| Treatment of non-small cell lung cancer (CD002142) | Surgery + PORT vs surgery alone | Mortality | 39 (95% CI 28-50) | 31 (95% CI 16-49) | 0.028 |
| Aneurysmal subarachnoid hemorrhage (CD000277) | Calcium antagonists alone | Case fatality | 17 (95% CI 11-25) | 17 (95% CI 8-29) | 0.990 |
| Prevention of infection in preterm and/or low birth weight infants (CD000361) | IVIG | All-cause mortality | 13 (95% CI 9-18) | 19 (95% CI 8-35) | < 0.001 |
| Unresectable hepatocellular carcinoma (CD004787) | TACE or TAE | All-cause mortality | NP | NP | NP |
| Oral cavity and oropharyngeal cancer (6387) | Altered fractionation radiotherapy | Total mortality | NP | NP | NP |
| Cirrhosis with upper GI bleeding (CD002907) | Antibiotics | Bacterial infections | 43 (95% CI 36-51) | 28 (95% CI 16-42) | < 0.001 |

| | | | | | |
|--|---|--|-------------------|-------------------|---------|
| Prevention of pre-eclampsia (CD004227) | Antioxidants | Pre-eclampsia | 13 (95% CI 6-22) | 12 (95% CI 5-23) | 0.603 |
| Prevention of pre-eclampsia and its complications (CD004659) | Antiplatelet agents | Proteinuric pre-eclampsia | 15 (95% CI 11-20) | 16 (95% CI 10-28) | 0.132 |
| Tuberculosis prevention in non-HIV infected persons (CD001363) | Isoniazid | Rate of development of active tuberculosis | 2 (95% CI 1-4) | 15 (95% CI 6-27) | <0.001 |
| Prophylactic systemic antifungal agents to in very low birth weight infants (CD003850) | Fluconazole | Invasive fungal infection | 15 (95% CI 6-27) | 25 (95% CI 15-37) | 0.070 |
| Peripheral arterial disease of the lower limb (CD000123) | Lipid-lower regimens | Cardiovascular events | 15 (95% CI 8-26) | 23 (95% CI 14-34) | 0.081 |
| Pneumococcal infection in adults (CD000422) | Vaccination | All-cause pneumonia | 9 (95% CI 6-12) | 5 (95% CI 1-11) | < 0.001 |
| Vitamin E supplementation in pregnancy (CD004069) | Vitamin E | Clinical pre-eclampsia | 18 (95% CI 13-23) | 22 (95% CI 13-22) | 0.481 |
| Prevention of GI cancers (CD004183) | Antioxidants | Incidence of GI cancers | 2 (95% CI 1-3) | 3 (95% CI 1-6) | < 0.001 |
| Hypertension during pregnancy (CD002863) | Beta-blockers | Caesarian section | 30 (95% CI 26-33) | 35 (95% CI 25-47) | 0.372 |
| Prevention of infection in preterm and/or low birth weight infants (CD000361) | IVIG | Sepsis | 22 (95% CI 15-29) | 22 (95% CI 9-39) | 0.990 |
| Antenatal care for low-risk pregnancy (CD000934) | Reduced number of visits/goal oriented visits | Preterm birth | NP | NP | NP |
| Diarrhea prevention (CD002848) | Rotavirus vaccine | Episodes of rotavirus diarrhea | 20 (95% CI 17-23) | 22 (95% CI 12-33) | 0.006 |
| Hepatic encephalopathy (CD008716) | Probiotics | No recovery from hepatic encephalopathy | 91 (95% CI 66-99) | 63 (95% CI 31-91) | 0.092 |

NP, not pertinent because number of events in each arm was not available.

Table A3. Primary Binary Outcomes

| CDSR | Condition | Experimental Intervention | Control Intervention | Primary Binary Outcome |
|-------------|---|---|-----------------------------------|--|
| CD000019 | Prevention of neonatal respiratory disease for women at risk of preterm birth | Thyrotropin-releasing hormone plus steroids | Steroids alone | Respiratory distress syndrome |
| CD000024 | Anticoagulants for acute ischaemic stroke | Anticoagulant | Placebo | Death from all causes at final follow up |
| CD000029 | Antiplatelet therapy for acute ischaemic stroke | Antiplatelet | Placebo or no treatment | Death or dependence at end of follow up |
| CD000039 | Interventions for deliberately altering blood pressure in acute stroke | Blood pressure lowering therapy | Placebo | Case fatality within one month |
| CD000064 | Corticosteroids for acute ischaemic stroke | Corticosteroids | Placebo | All deaths |
| CD000091 | Fibrinogen depleting agents for acute ischaemic stroke | Fibrinogen depleting agents | Placebo | Death or disability at the end of the scheduled follow up period |
| CD000102 | Mother-to-child transmission of HIV infection. | Any zidovudine | Placebo or no treatment | HIV infection status in the child |
| CD000110 | Multiple pregnancy | Hospitalisation for bed rest | Routine care | Low birthweight (<2500 g) |
| CD000123 | Peripheral arterial disease of the lower limb | Lipid-lowering regimens | Placebo or usual care | Total cardiovascular events |
| CD000162 | Acute ischaemic stroke | Pentoxifylline or analogue | Placebo | Case fatality early |
| CD000171 | Latent tuberculosis infection in HIV infected persons | Any TB drug | Placebo | Incidence of death (all cause) |
| CD000193 | Acute bleeding oesophageal varices | Somatostatin analogues | Placebo or no treatment | Number failing initial haemostasis |
| CD000197 | Organised inpatient (stroke unit) care for stroke | Organised stroke unit care | Alternative service | Death by the end of scheduled follow up |
| CD000213 | Thrombolysis for acute ischaemic stroke | Any thrombolytic agent | Placebo or no intervention | Deaths from all causes during follow up |
| CD000230 | Zinc supplementation for improving pregnancy and infant outcome | Zinc supplementation versus | No zinc (with or without Placebo) | Pre-term birth |
| CD000305 | Prevention of deep vein thrombosis and pulmonary embolism following surgery for hip fractures | Any heparin | Placebo or no intervention | DVT |
| | | Physical device | Placebo or no intervention | DVT |
| CD000356 | Early discharge hospital at home | Early discharge hospital at home | Acute hospital in-patient care | Mortality at 6 months |
| CD000361 | Prevention of infection in preterm and/or low-birth-weight infants | IVIG | Placebo or no treatment | Sepsis one or more episodes |
| CD000422 | Prevention of pneumococcal infection in adults | Vaccination | Placebo | Pneumonia all causes |
| CD000443 | Services for reducing duration of hospital care for acute stroke patients | Early supported discharge service | Conventional care | Death or requiring institutional care |
| CD000501 | Prevention of mortality and short- and long-term morbidity in very low birth-weight infants | Supplemental vitamin A | Placebo or no supplementation | Chronic lung disease |
| CD000509 | Inhaled nitric oxide for respiratory failure in preterm infants | Inhaled nitric oxide | Placebo or conventional treatment | Death before discharge |
| CD000934 | Low-risk pregnancy | Reduced number of antenatal care visits/goal oriented | Standard antenatal care visits | Preterm birth |
| CD000942 | Preterm rupture of membranes | Transabdominal amnioinfusion | No amnioinfusion | Neonatal death |
| CD001024 | Tamoxifen for hepatocellular carcinoma | Tamoxifen | Placebo or best supportive care | All cause mortality |

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| CD001059 | Calcium supplementation during pregnancy for preventing hypertensive disorders and related problems | Routine calcium supplementation | Placebo | Pre-eclampsia |
| CD001062 | Abdominal decompression in normal pregnancy | Prophylactic abdominal decompression in pregnancy | Dummy decompression or no treatment | Perinatal mortality |
| CD001090 | Treatment of sepsis, severe sepsis and septic shock | IVIg | Placebo or no intervention | All-cause mortality |
| CD001159 | Nerve blocks for hip fractures | Nerve block versus | No block | Mortality |
| CD001239 | Suspected infection in neonates | IVIg | Placebo or no intervention | Mortality from any cause |
| CD001272 | Antiplatelet agents for intermittent claudication | Antiplatelet agent | Placebo | All cause mortality |
| CD001363 | Tuberculosis prevention in non-HIV infected persons | Isoniazid | Placebo | Rate of development of active tuberculosis |
| CD001446 | Corticosteroids for Guillain-Barré syndrome | Corticosteroids | Placebo | Improvement by one or more grades after four weeks |
| CD001479 | Treatment of measles in children | Vitamin A | Placebo | Mortality-all patients |
| CD001556 | Preoperative chemotherapy for resectable thoracic esophageal cancer | Preoperative chemotherapy | Surgery alone | Postoperative deaths |
| CD001730 | Medical day hospital care for the elderly versus alternative forms of care | Day hospital care | Non-day hospital care | Death or poor outcome |
| CD001800 | Coronary Heart Disease | Exercise-based rehabilitation | Usual care | Total mortality |
| CD001832 | Treatment of acute bacterial meningitis | Third generation cephalosporins | Conventional therapy | Treatment failure |
| CD001841 | Hypertension | Thiazide | Placebo | Total mortality |
| CD002054 | Surfactant for meconium aspiration syndrome in full term/near term infants | Surfactant therapy | Placebo or no therapy | Mortality |
| CD002100 | Prophylactic anastomotic drainage for colorectal surgery | Prophylactic anastomotic drainage | No drainage | Clinical anastomotic dehiscence |
| CD002130 | Non-ST segment elevation acute coronary syndromes | Intravenous IIb/IIIa blockers during PCI | Placebo or usual care | 6-month mortality |
| CD002142 | Postoperative radiotherapy (RT) for non-small cell lung cancer | Surgery plus post-operative RT | Surgery alone | Mortality |
| CD002147 | Acute esophageal variceal hemorrhage | Terlipressin | Vasopressin | Mortality |
| CD002209 | Opioid dependence | Methadone maintenance treatment | No methadone maintenance treatment | Retention in treatment |
| CD002243 | Treatment of severe sepsis and septic shock | Corticosteroids | Placebo or supportive treatment | 28-day all-cause mortality |
| CD002771 | Kangaroo mother care versus conventional neonatal care | Kangaroo mother care versus | Conventional neonatal care | Mortality at latest follow-up |
| CD002772 | Prevention of thrombosis and catheter occlusion in neonates with peripherally placed percutaneous central venous catheters | Heparin | No heparin | Catheter occlusion |
| CD002787 | Acute respiratory distress syndrome and acute lung injury in children and adults | Inhaled nitric oxide | Placebo or no intervention | Longest follow up mortality |
| CD002839 | Blood-pressure lowering in acute stroke | Blood pressure lowering therapy | Placebo or no intervention | Death at end of trial |
| CD002848 | Diarrhoea prevention | Rotavirus vaccine | Placebo | Rotavirus diarrhoea: episodes |
| CD002863 | Mild to moderate hypertension during pregnancy | Beta-blocker | Placebo or no intervention | Caesarean section |

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| CD002907 | Cirrhotic patients with upper GI bleeding | Antibiotics | | Bacterial infections |
| CD002922 | Lupus nephritis | Immunosuppressive agent plus steroids | Steroids alone | Less than 20% worsening of serum creatinine |
| CD003041 | Smoking cessation for the secondary prevention of coronary heart disease | Ceased smoking | Continued smoking | Total deaths |
| CD003066 | G-CSF and GM-CSF for treating or preventing neonatal infections | CSF versus | Control | All-cause mortality to 28 days |
| CD003288 | Elderly people at risk from malnutrition | Oral protein and energy | Routine care | Mortality |
| CD003478 | Prevention of invasive fungal infection in very low birth weight infants | Oral/topical non-absorbed antifungal prophylaxis | Placebo or nothing | Incidence of invasive fungal infection |
| CD003481 | Ibuprofen for the treatment of patent ductus arteriosus in preterm and/or low birth weight infants | Ibuprofen | Indomethacin | Failure to close a PDA |
| CD003485 | Meconium aspiration syndrome in newborn infants | Steroid | Placebo | Mortality (before hospital discharge) |
| CD003628 | Support systems versus standard medical therapy | Support systems | Standard medical therapy | Mortality |
| CD003807 | Prevention of oral candidiasis for patients with cancer receiving treatment | Drugs absorbed from GI tract | Placebo or no treatment | Oral candidiasis |
| CD003850 | Prophylactic systemic antifungal agents to prevent mortality and morbidity in very low birth weight infants | Systemic antifungal agent | Placebo or no treatment | Invasive fungal infection |
| CD003897 | Interleukin 2 receptor antagonists for kidney transplant recipients | IL2 receptor antagonists | Placebo or no treatment | Graft loss or death with functioning allograft |
| CD003935 | Repeat doses of prenatal corticosteroids for women at risk of preterm birth for improving neonatal health outcomes | Repeat doses of corticosteroids | Single course of corticosteroids | Fetal and neonatal mortality |
| CD003993 | Thymic peptides for treatment of cancer patients | Synthetic thymic peptides | Placebo or no treatment | Overall survival |
| CD004069 | Vitamin E supplementation in pregnancy | Vitamin E | Placebo or no treatment | Clinical pre-eclampsia |
| CD004072 | Vitamin C supplementation in pregnancy | Vitamin C | Placebo or no treatment | Preterm birth (<37 weeks' gestation) |
| CD004104 | Non-invasive positive pressure ventilation (NPPV) for treatment of respiratory failure due to exacerbations of chronic obstructive pulmonary disease | NPPV +Usual medical care | Usual medical care | Tracheal intubation |
| CD004183 | Prevention gastrointestinal cancers | Antioxidants | Placebo | Occurrence of gastrointestinal cancers in trials with a low or high risk of bias |
| CD004213 | Ibuprofen for the prevention of patent ductus arteriosus in preterm and/or low birth weight infants | Ibuprofen | Placebo or no intervention | Presence of PDA on 3rd day of life (72 hours of age) |
| CD004227 | Antioxidants for preventing pre-eclampsia | Any antioxidants | Placebo | Pre-eclampsia |
| CD004343 | Ethamsylate for the prevention of morbidity and mortality in preterm or very low birth weight infants | Ethamsylate | Placebo | Mortality to hospital discharge |
| CD004386 | Prophylaxis for bacterial infections in afebrile neutropenic patients following chemotherapy | Quinolone | Placebo or no intervention | All-cause mortality |
| CD004454 | Antenatal corticosteroids for accelerating fetal lung maturation for women at risk of preterm birth | Corticosteroids | Placebo or no intervention | Respiratory distress syndrome |

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| CD004583 | Primary intracerebral haemorrhage | Glucocorticoid treatment | Placebo or standard strategy | Death at the end of follow up |
| CD004659 | Antiplatelet agents for preventing pre-eclampsia and its complications | Antiplatelet agents | Placebo or no intervention | Proteinuric pre-eclampsia |
| CD004733 | Prophylactic oral betamimetics for reducing preterm birth in women with a twin pregnancy | Oral betamimetic | Placebo | Preterm birth (less than 37 weeks' gestation) |
| CD004773 | Primary prevention of cryptococcal disease in adults with HIV | Antifungals | Placebo | Incidence of invasive cryptococcal disease |
| CD004776 | Treatment for anemia in people with AIDS. | Epoetin plus HAART | Placebo plus HAART | Death |
| CD004778 | Laparoscopic repair for perforated peptic ulcer disease | Laparoscopic surgery | Open surgery | Number of septic abdominal complications |
| CD004787 | Unresectable hepatocellular carcinoma | TACE or TAE | Placebo or no intervention | All-cause mortality |
| CD004791 | Antibiotic prophylaxis for spontaneous bacterial peritonitis in cirrhotic patients with ascites, without gastro-intestinal bleeding | Antibiotic prophylaxis | Placebo or no treatment | Mortality |
| CD004863 | Early erythropoietin (EPO) for preventing red blood cell transfusion in preterm and/or low birth weight infants | Early erythropoietin | Placebo or no treatment | Use of one or more red blood cell transfusions |
| CD004868 | Late initiation of EPO (8-28 days) vs placebo or no intervention for preventing red blood cell transfusion in preterm and/or low birth weight infants | Late erythropoietin | Placebo or no treatment | Use of one or more red blood cell transfusions |
| CD004884 | Prevention meningitis in patients with basilar skull fractures | Antibiotic prophylaxis | Placebo or no treatment | Frequency of meningitis |
| CD004905 | Multiple-micronutrient supplementation for women during pregnancy | Multiple micronutrients | No supplements, placebo or less than two micronutrients | Perinatal mortality |
| CD004920 | Preventing fungal infections in non-neutropenic critically ill patients | Systemic antifungal | Placebo/no antifungal | Mortality |
| CD004945 | Improving birth outcomes for women at or beyond term | Labour induction | Expectant management | Perinatal death |
| CD004977 | Preventing vaccine-type invasive pneumococcal disease and X-ray defined pneumonia in children less than two years of age | Pneumococcal vaccine | Placebo or no intervention | Vaccine serotypes |
| CD005162 | Terlipressin for hepatorenal syndrome | Octreotide or terlipressin | Placebo | Mortality |
| CD005413 | Metastatic malignant melanoma | Chemoimmunotherapy | Chemotherapy | Overall survival |
| | | | | Treatment-related mortality |
| CD005415 | Proton pump inhibitor treatment prior to endoscopic diagnosis in upper gastrointestinal bleeding | Proton pump inhibitors | Placebo or no intervention | Mortality - 30 days or at point closest to 30 days |
| CD005444 | Obstructive jaundice | Pre-operative biliary drainage | Direct surgery | Mortality |
| CD005496 | Prevention of necrotizing enterocolitis in preterm infants. | Probiotics | Placebo or no intervention | Sepsis |
| CD006001 | ERCP in patients with pancreaticobiliary malignancy, prior to surgery | With stenting | Without stenting | Overall mortality |
| CD006066 | Electronic fetal monitoring for fetal assessment during labour | Continuous cardiotocography | Intermittent auscultation | Caesarean section for abnormal FHR pattern and/or acidosis |
| CD006232 | Routine abdominal drainage for uncomplicated liver resection | Drain | No drain | Intra-abdominal collection requiring drain insertion |
| CD006387 | Oral cavity and oropharyngeal cancer | Altered fractionation radiotherapy | Conventional radiotherapy | Total mortality |

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| CD006501 | Immunoglobulin prophylaxis in hematological malignancies and hematopoietic stem cell transplantation | Polyvalent immunoglobulins or hyperimmune CMV-IVIG | Placebo / no intervention | All-cause Mortality |
| CD006536 | Stem cell treatment for acute myocardial infarction | Bone marrow-derived stem cells | No bone marrow-derived stem cells | Mortality |
| CD006743 | Early treatment with anti-hypertensive drugs in patients with an acute cardiovascular event | Beta-blockers | Placebo or no treatment | All-cause mortality at 10 days |
| | | Calcium-channel blockers | Placebo or no treatment | All-cause mortality at 10 days |
| | | Nitrates | Placebo or no treatment | All-cause mortality at 10 days |
| CD006870 | Statins for acute coronary syndrome | Statins | Placebo/ usual care | Combined outcome of nonfatal myocardial infarction, nonfatal stroke, and total number of deaths |
| CD006894 | Infectious complications in haemodialysis patients with central venous catheters | Topical antimicrobial ointment | No ointment/ placebo | Catheter-related bacteraemia |
| CD007058 | Ultrasound for fetal assessment in early pregnancy | Selective or concealed ultrasound in early pregnancy | Routine or revealed ultrasound in early pregnancy | Perinatal death (all babies) |
| CD007125 | Multidisciplinary rehabilitation for older people with hip fractures | Multidisciplinary inpatient rehabilitation | Usual care | Mortality (end of scheduled follow-up) |
| CD007176 | Antioxidant supplements for prevention of mortality in healthy participants and patients with various diseases | Antioxidants | Placebo or no intervention | Mortality |
| CD007228 | Structured telephone support or telemonitoring programmes for patients with chronic heart failure | Structured telephone support | Usual care | All-cause mortality |
| CD007339 | Pentoxifylline for alcoholic hepatitis | Pentoxifylline | Placebo or standard treatment | All-cause mortality |
| CD007398 | Intra-aortic balloon pump counterpulsation for myocardial infarction complicated by cardiogenic shock | Intra-aortic balloon pump counterpulsation | No intra-aortic balloon pump counterpulsation | All-cause mortality |
| CD007530 | Vascular occlusion for elective liver resections | Vascular occlusion | No vascular occlusion | Number needing transfusion |
| CD007624 | Rehabilitation interventions for improving physical and psychosocial functioning after hip fracture in older people | Specialist nurse led care | Usual care | Poor outcome: dead or readmitted or failed to return home |
| CD007749 | Antioxidant supplements for liver diseases | Antioxidants | Placebo or no intervention | All-cause mortality |
| CD007754 | Community-based intervention packages for reducing maternal and neonatal morbidity and mortality and improving neonatal outcomes. | Community-based intervention | Standard care | Neonatal mortality |
| CD007784 | Statins for people with chronic kidney disease not requiring dialysis | Statins | Placebo or no treatment | All-cause mortality |
| CD007871 | Monitoring haemotherapy versus usual care in patients with massive transfusion | Thrombelastography or thromboelastometry | Routine coagulation tests | Longest follow-up mortality |
| CD007966 | Prophylactic phototherapy for preventing jaundice in preterm or low birth weight infants | Prophylactic phototherapy | Standard treatment or no use of prophylactic phototherapy | Exchange transfusion |
| CD008076 | Secondary prevention of vascular events after stroke of arterial origin | Cilostazol in patients | Aspirin | Stroke, MI or vascular death during follow-up |
| CD008238 | Prevention and treatment of infectious complications in | Colony-stimulating factors | Placebo or no treatment | All-cause mortality at the end of follow up |

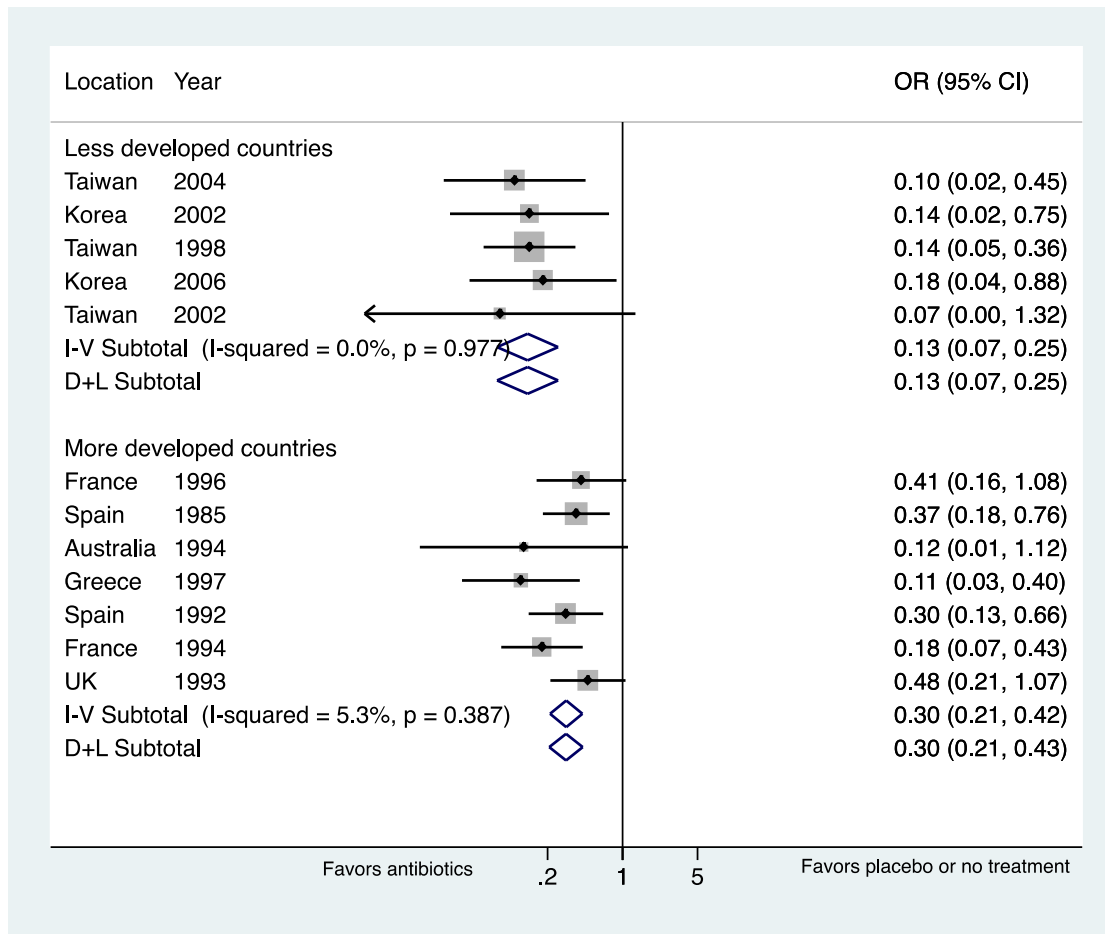
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| | patients with acute myelogenous leukemia | | | |
| CD008370 | Somatostatin analogues for pancreatic surgery | Somatostatin analogues | No intervention | Perioperative mortality |
| CD008409 | Brain injury | Progesterone | Placebo | Death or severe disability (GOS 1 to 3) at the end of the follow-up period |
| CD008521 | Rotavirus diarrhoea | Rotarix | Placebo | Rotavirus diarrhoea of any severity |
| CD008716 | Probiotics for patients with hepatic encephalopathy | Probiotic | Placebo or no intervention | No recovery from hepatic encephalopathy |

BCG: Bacille Galmett-Guerin vaccine; CDSR: Cochrane Database of Systematic Reviews; GCS: Glasgow Coma Scale; HIV: human immunodeficiency; IVIG: intravenous immunoglobulin; MI: myocardial infarction; TB: tuberculosis

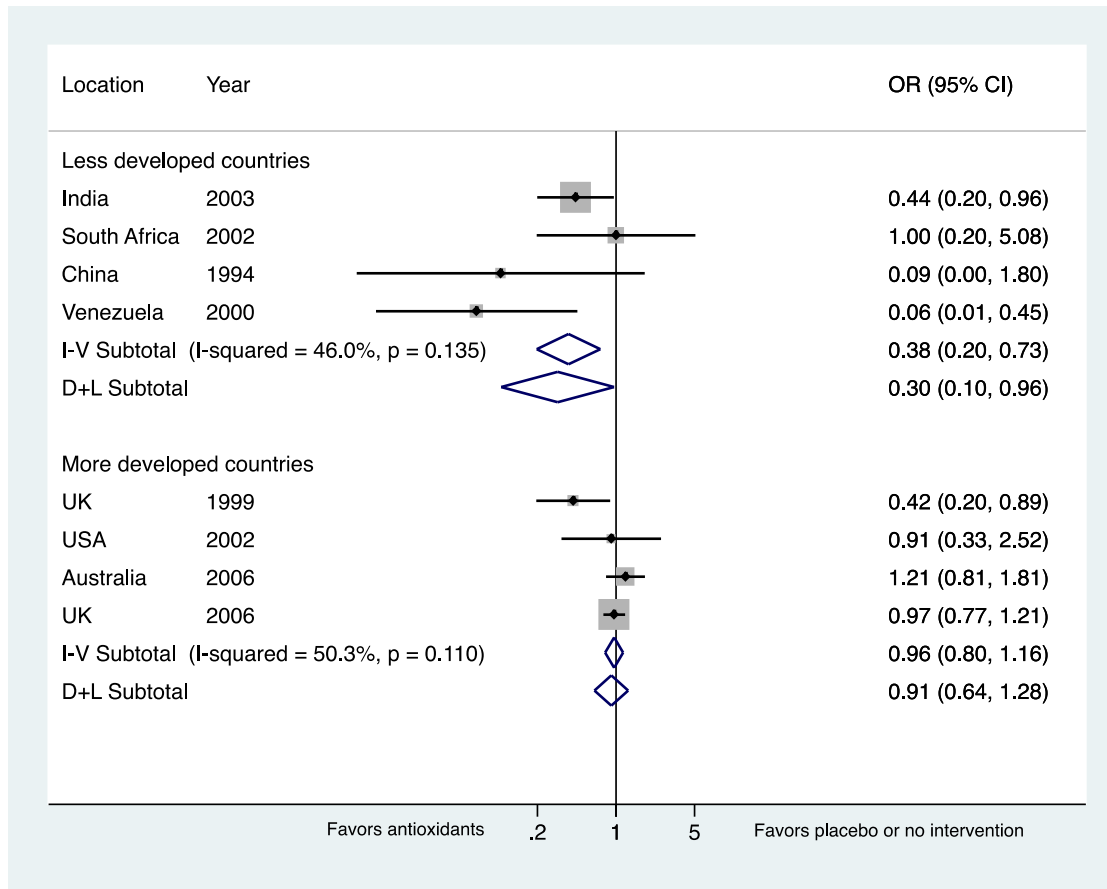
Fig A3. Primary binary outcomes with significant differences in treatments effects between less developed countries and more developed countries (Panels A-N). (A) Bacterial infections with antibiotic prophylaxis in cirrhotic patients with upper GI bleeding. (B) Prevention of pre-eclampsia antioxidants. (C) Prevention of proteinuric pre-eclampsia with antiplatelet agents. (D) Development of active tuberculosis with isoniazid in non-HIV infected persons. (E) Invasive fungal infections with prophylactic usage of fluconazole in very low birth weight infants. (F) Cardiovascular events with lipid-lowering regimens for peripheral arterial disease. (G) All-cause pneumonia with vaccination for preventing pneumococcal infection in adults. (H) Prevention of clinical pre-eclampsia with vitamin E supplementation in pregnancy. (I) Prevention of GI cancers with antioxidants. (J) Need for caesarian section with beta-blockers for hypertension during pregnancy. (K) No recovery from hepatic encephalopathy with probiotics. (L) Sepsis in pre-term and/or low-birth weight infants with intravenous immunoglobulin. (M) Pre-term birth with reduced number of antenatal visits or goal oriented visits. (N) Prevention of diarrhea with rotavirus vaccine.

Shown in each panel are the odds ratio (OR) from each individual trial per country group and the summary OR of all trials within the same country group, for the respective topic, along with their 95% confidence intervals (CIs). The summary ORs of trials within each country group were synthesized both by fixed effect model (I-V subtotal) and by random effect models (D+L subtotal). (I-V: inverse variance [fixed effects] model; D+L: DerSimonian and Laird [random effects] model).

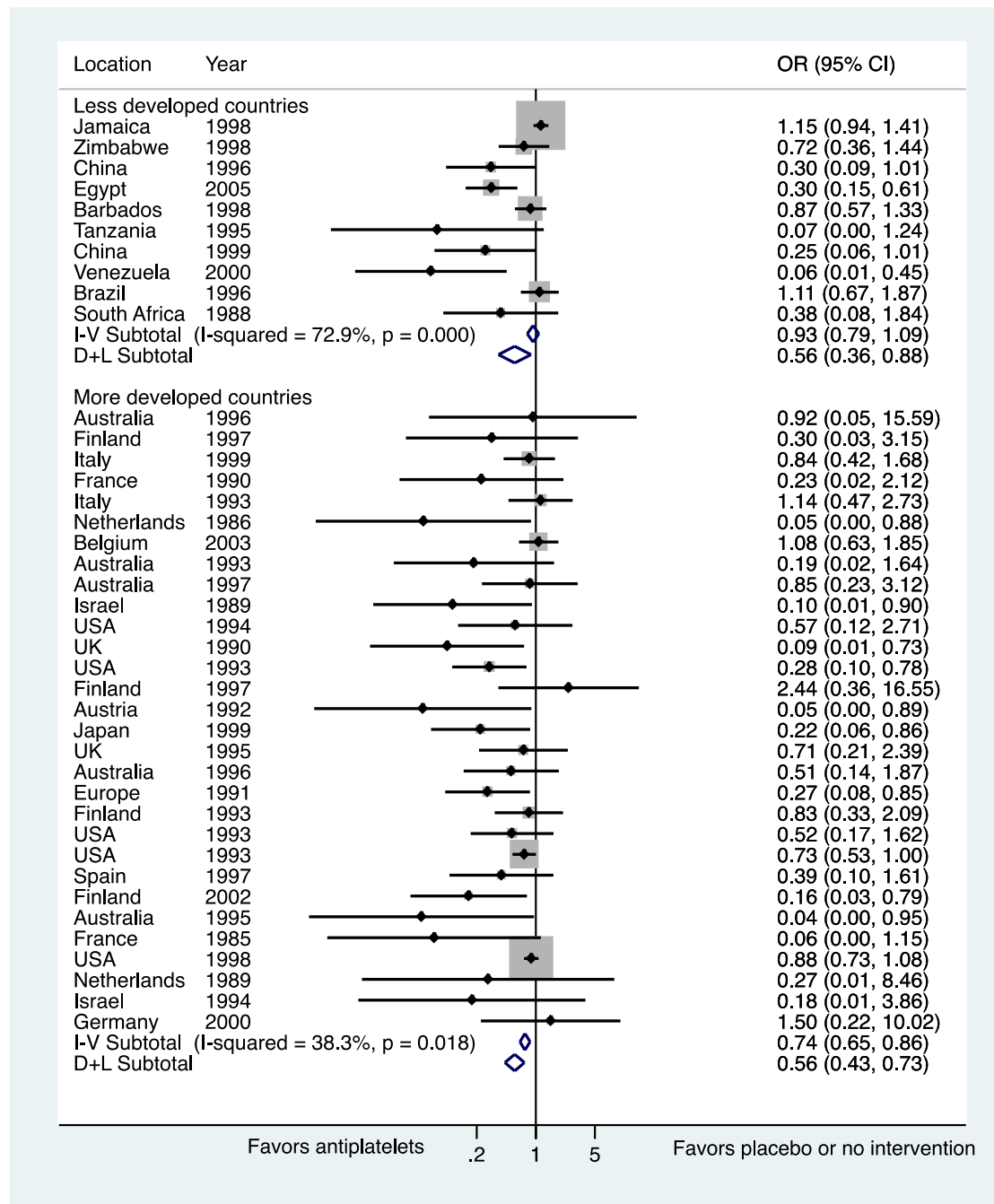
Panel A. Bacterial infections with antibiotic prophylaxis in cirrhotic patients with upper GI bleeding



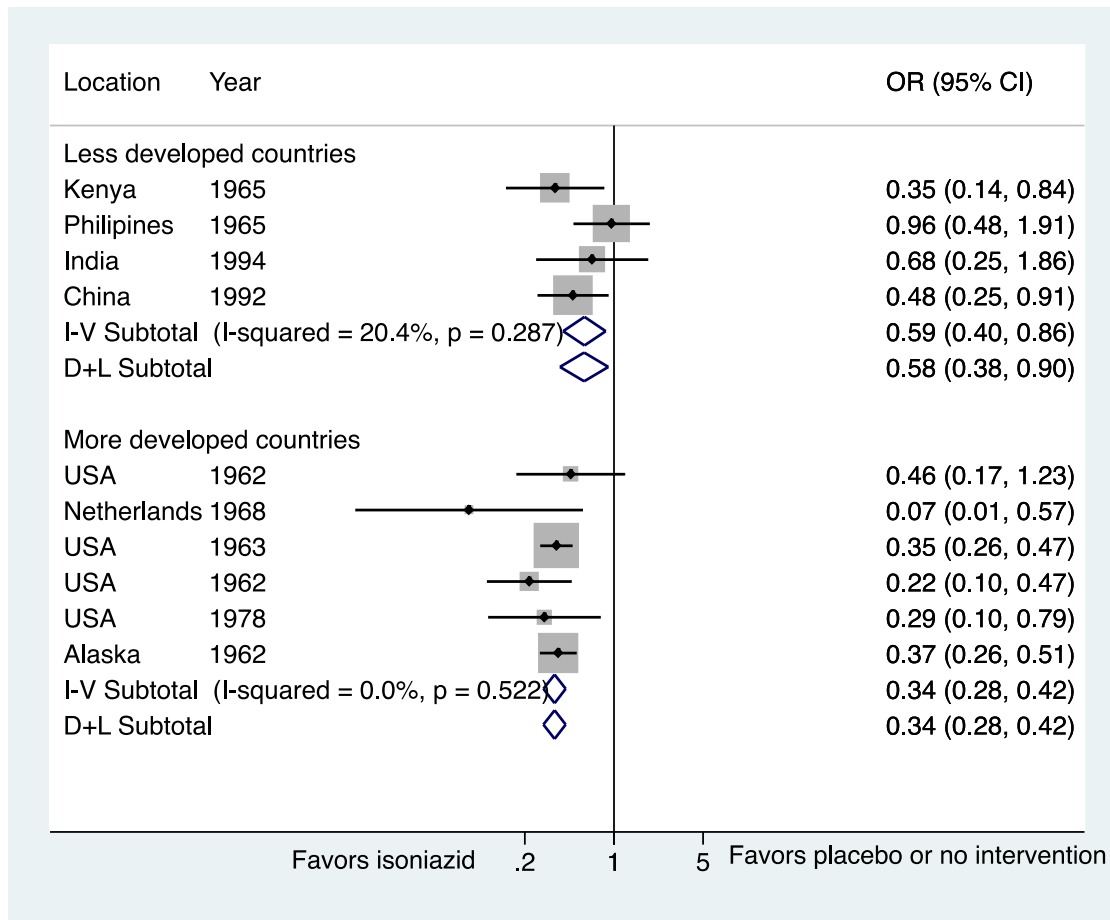
Panel B. Prevention of pre-eclampsia with antioxidants



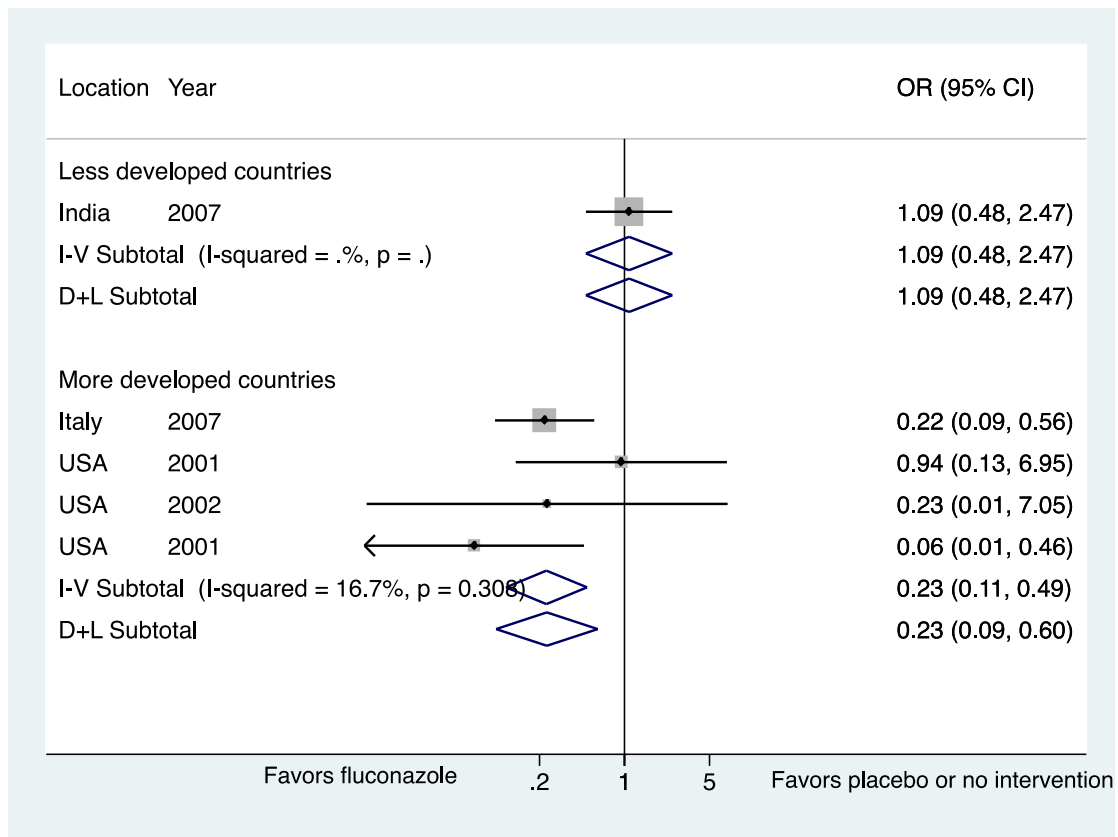
Panel C. Prevention of proteinuric pre-eclampsia with antiplatelet agents



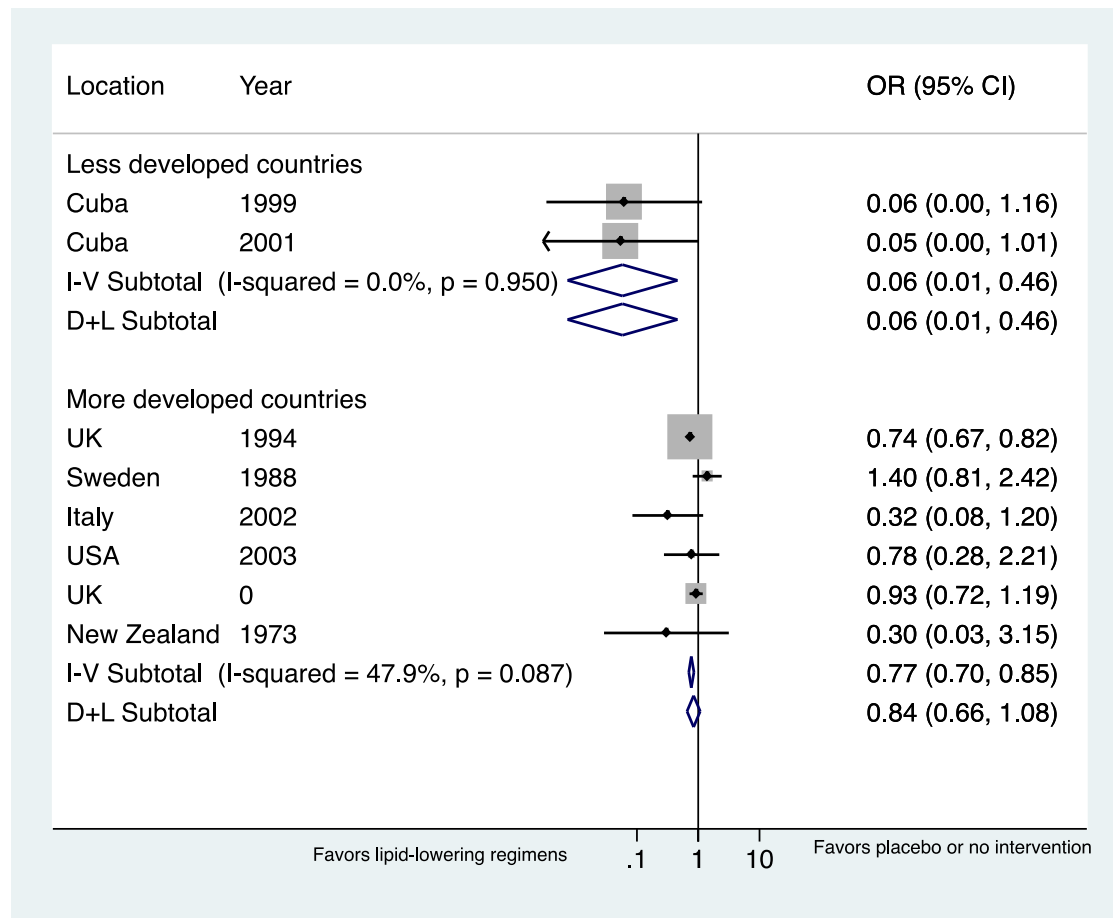
Panel D. Development of active tuberculosis with isoniazid in non-HIV infected persons



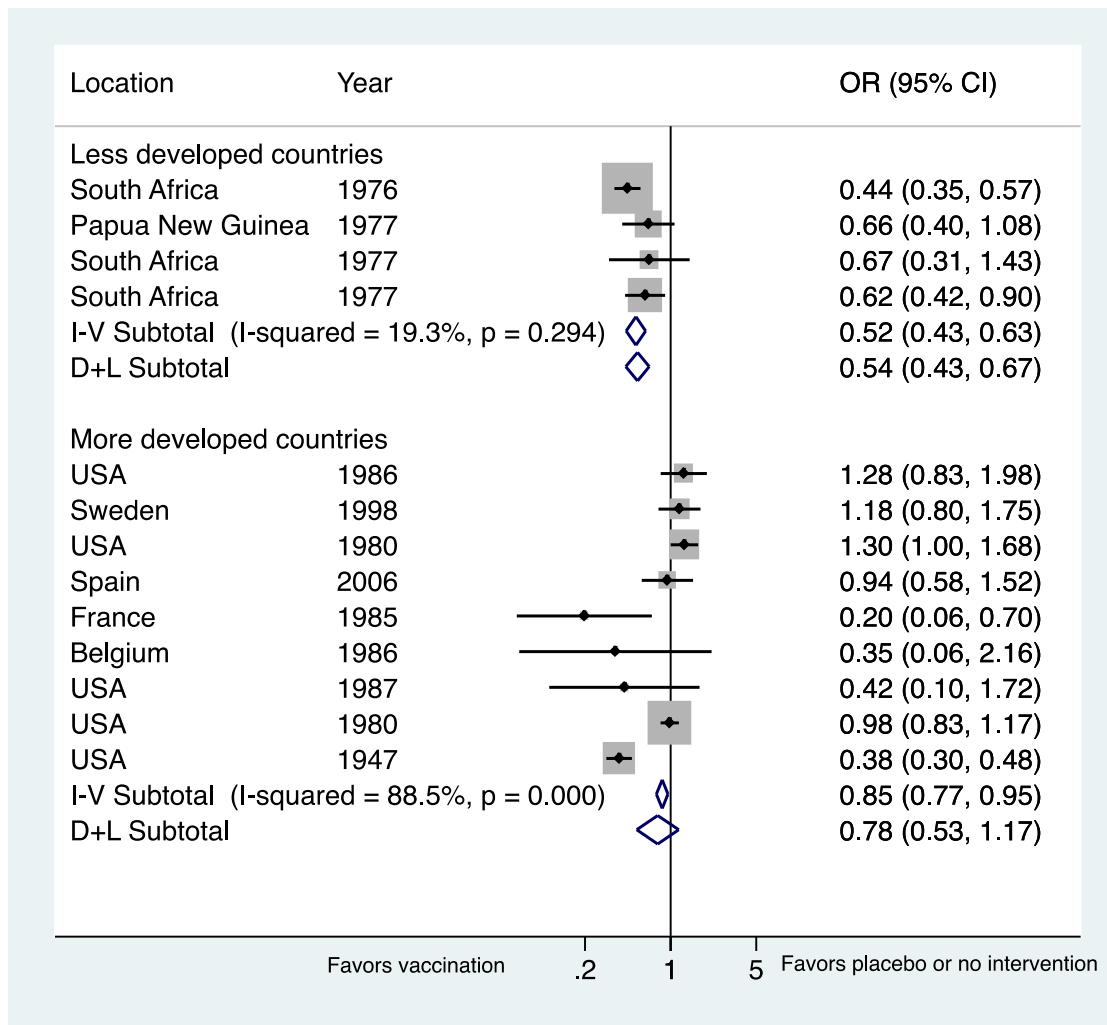
Panel E. Invasive fungal infections with prophylactic usage of fluconazole in very low birth weight infants



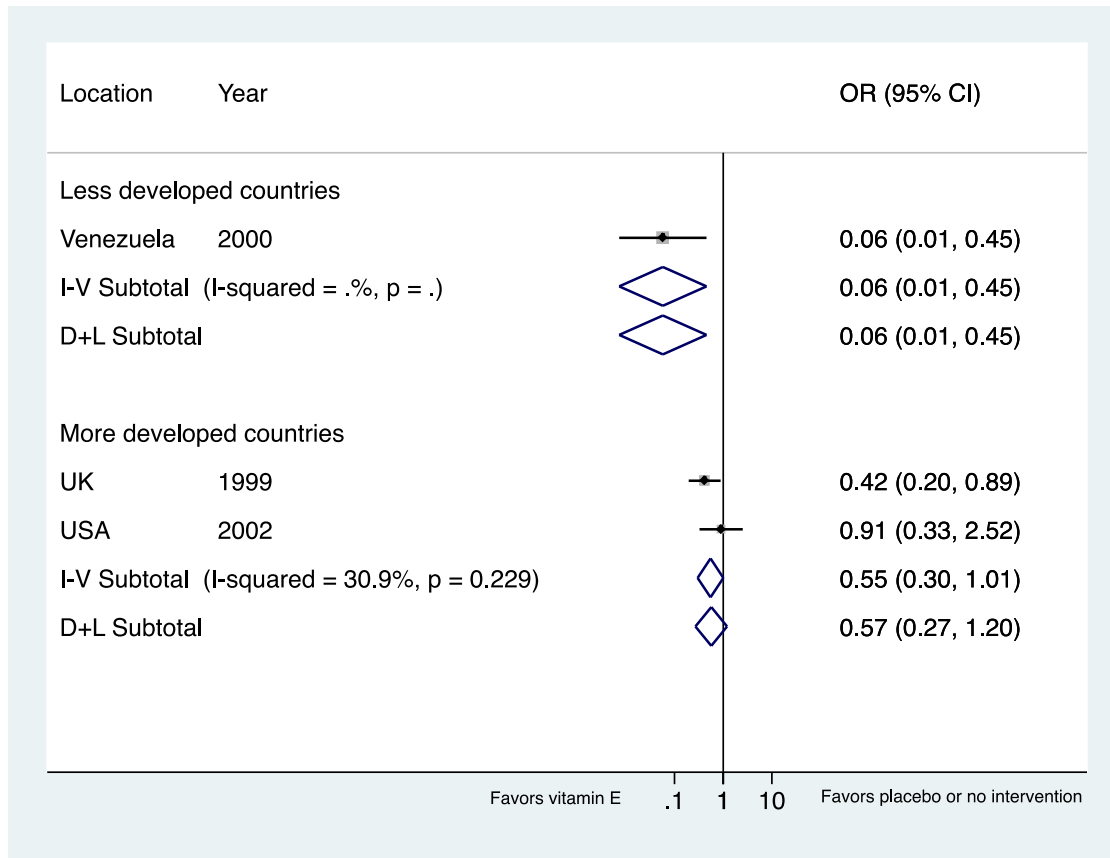
Panel F. Cardiovascular events with lipid-lowering regimens for peripheral arterial disease



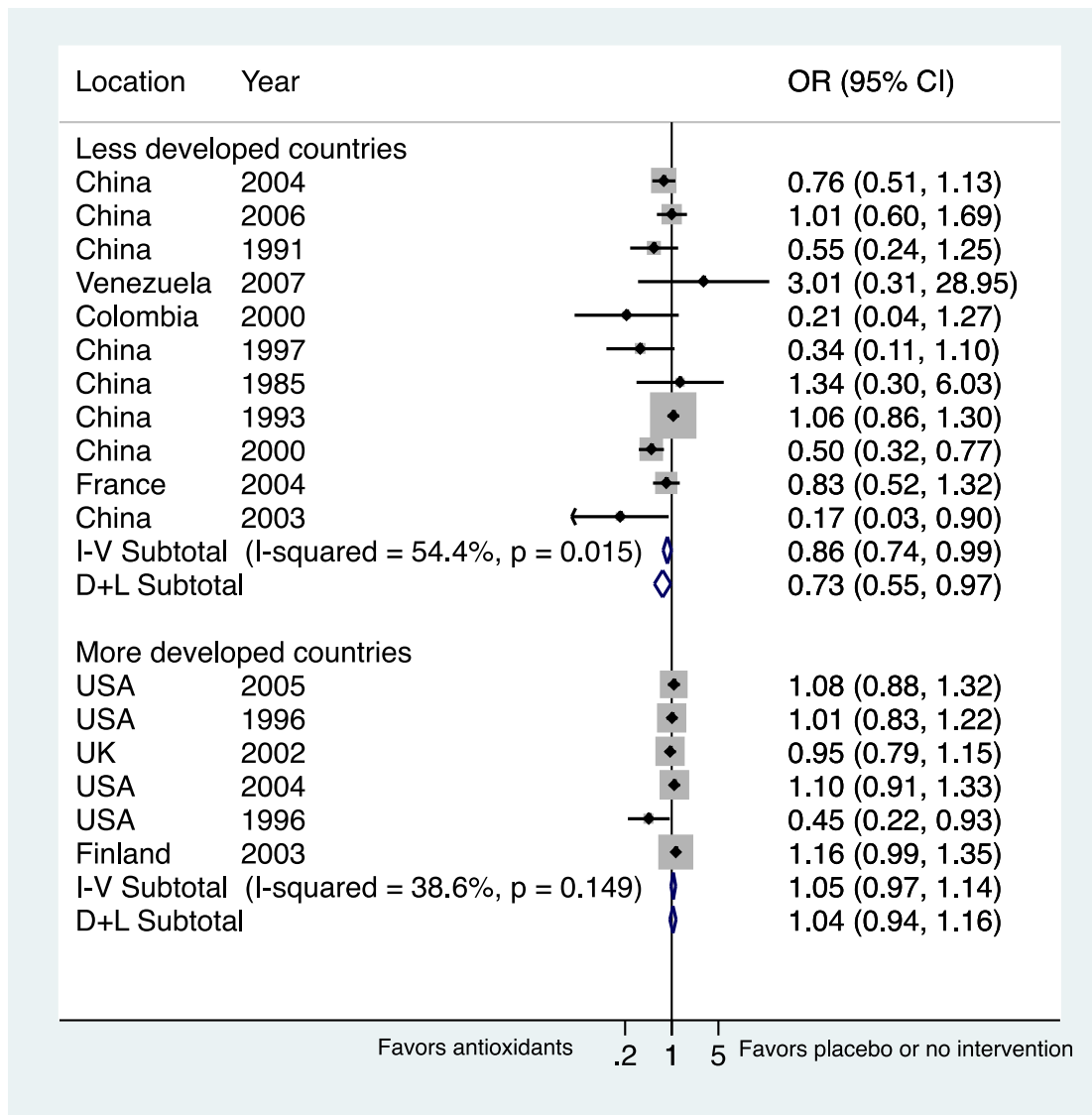
Panel G. All-cause pneumonia with vaccination for preventing pneumococcal infection in adults.



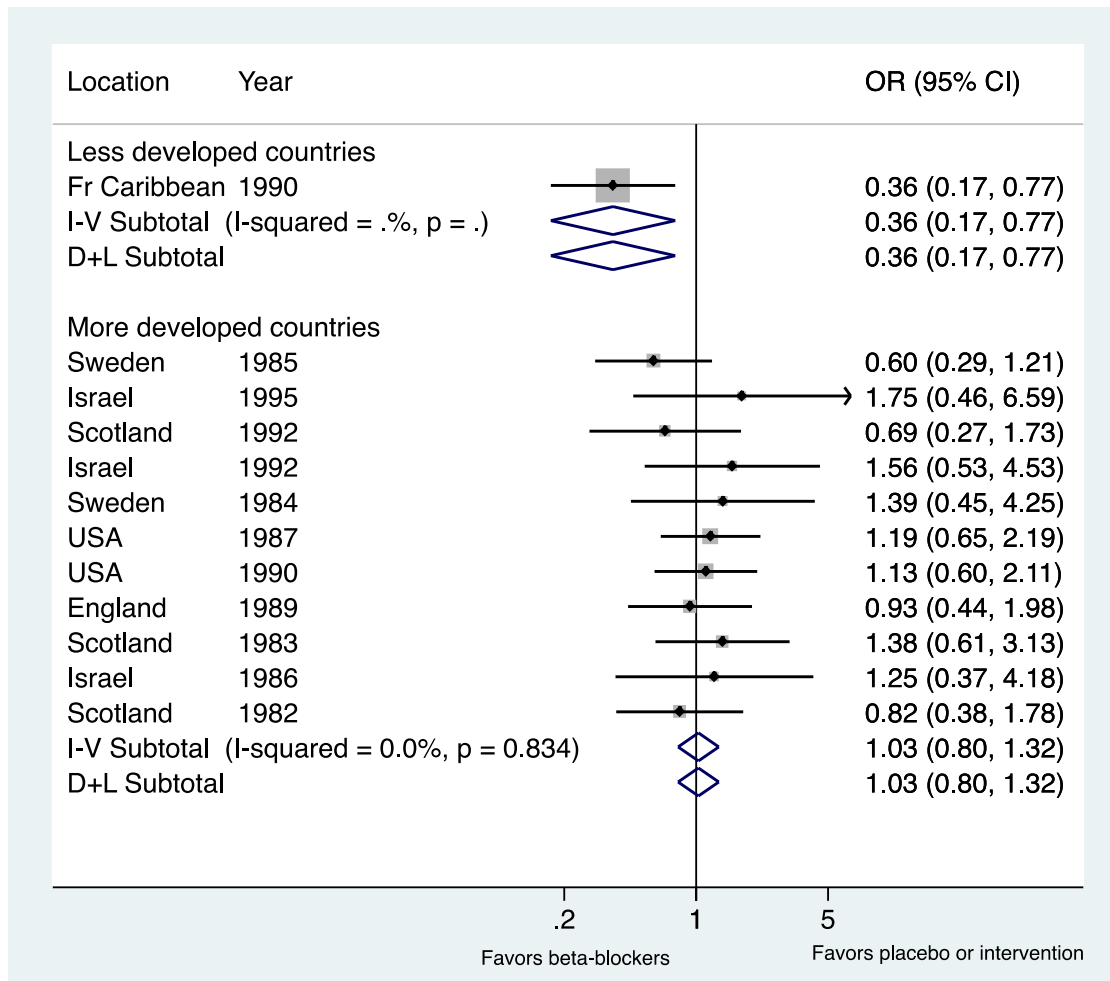
Panel H. Prevention of clinical pre-eclampsia with vitamin E supplementation in pregnancy



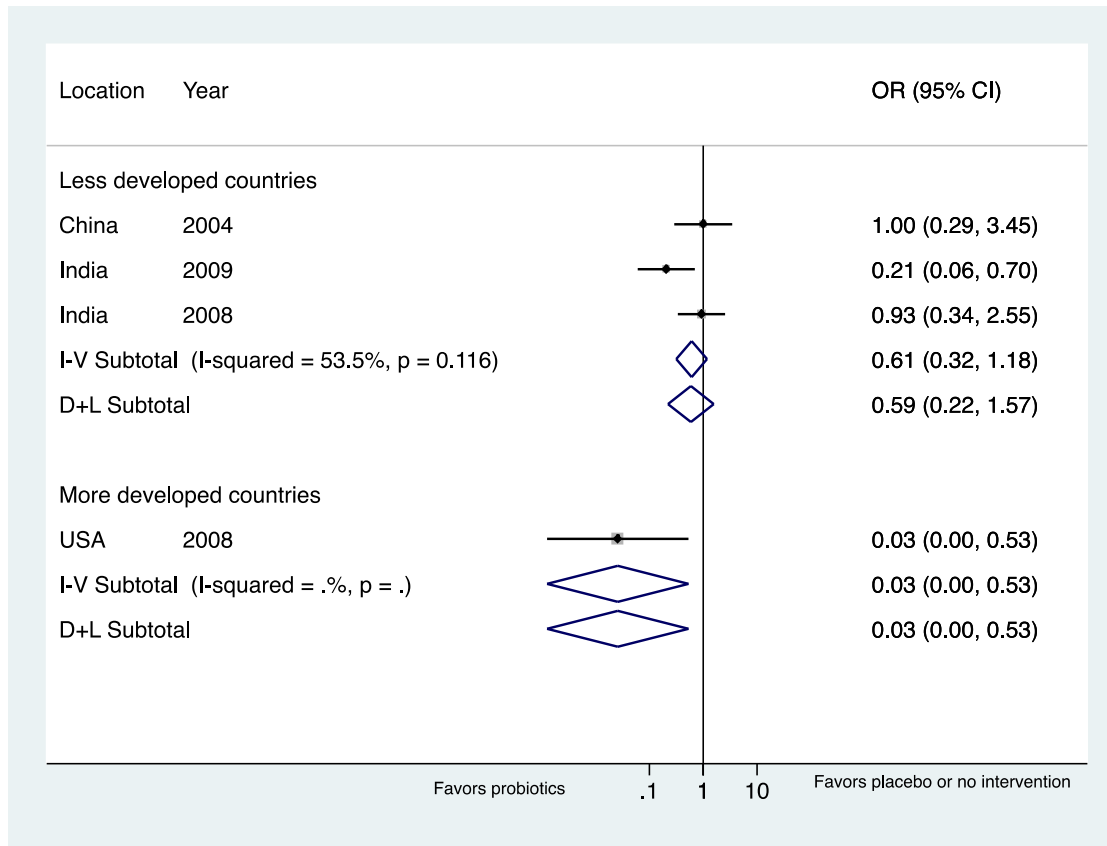
Panel I. Prevention of GI cancers with antioxidants



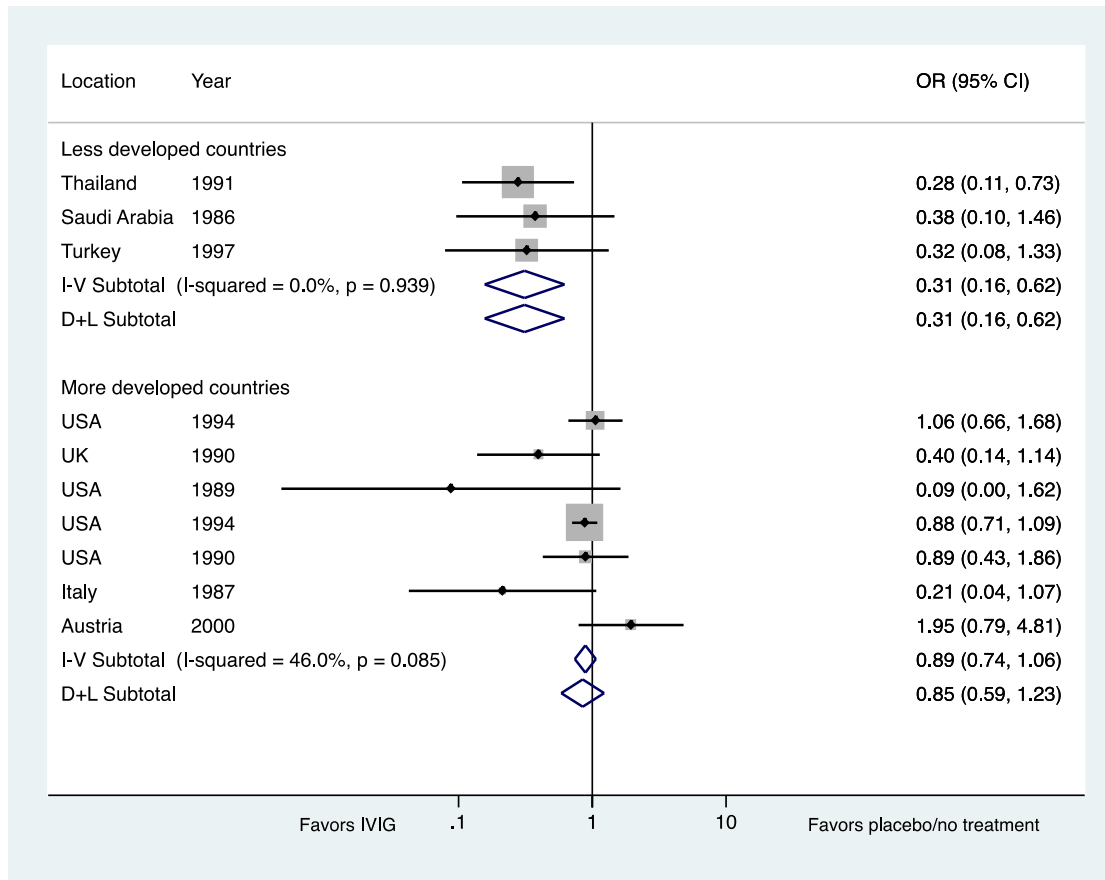
Panel J. Need for caesarian section with beta-blockers for hypertension during pregnancy



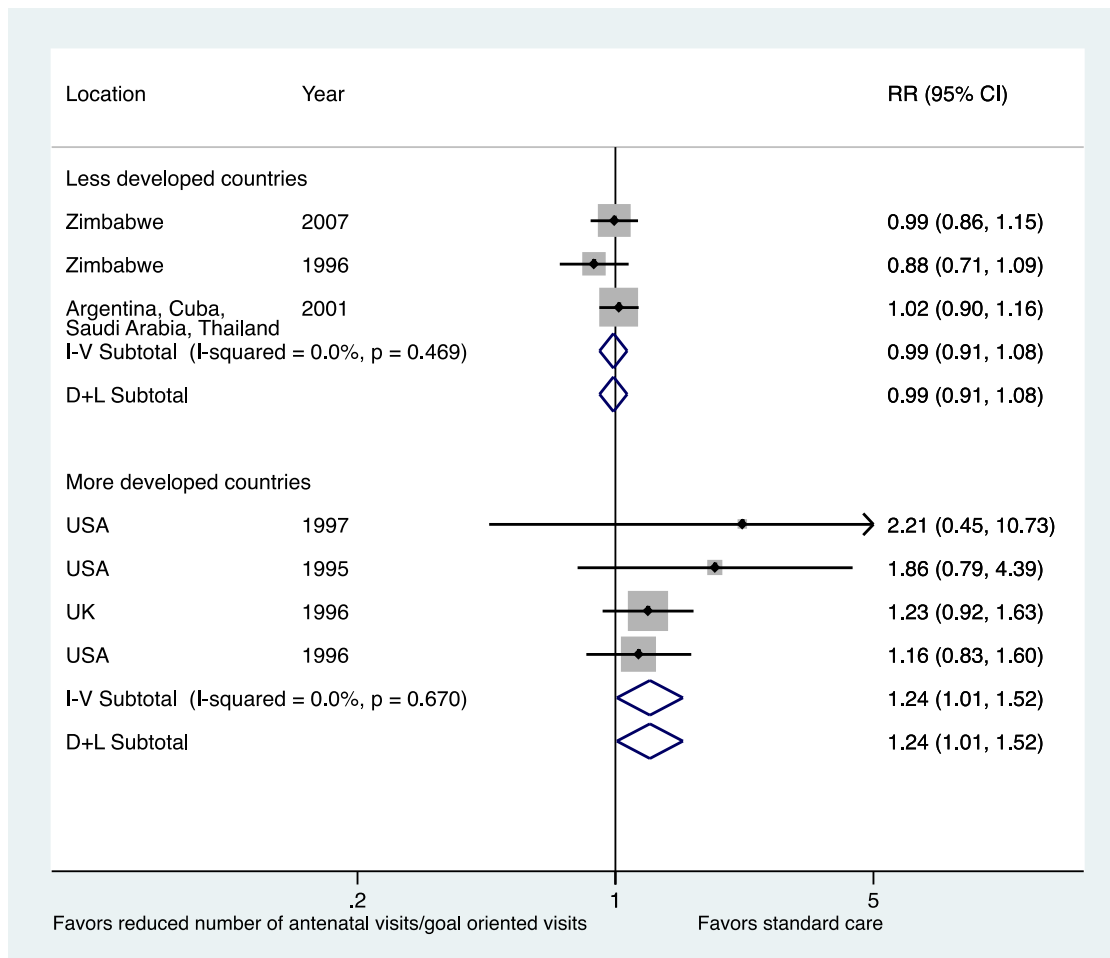
Panel K. No recovery from hepatic encephalopathy with probiotics



Panel L. Sepsis in pre-term and/or low-birth weight infants with intravenous immunoglobulin



Panel M. Pre-term birth with reduced number of antenatal visits or goal oriented visits



Panel N. Prevention of diarrhea with rotavirus vaccine

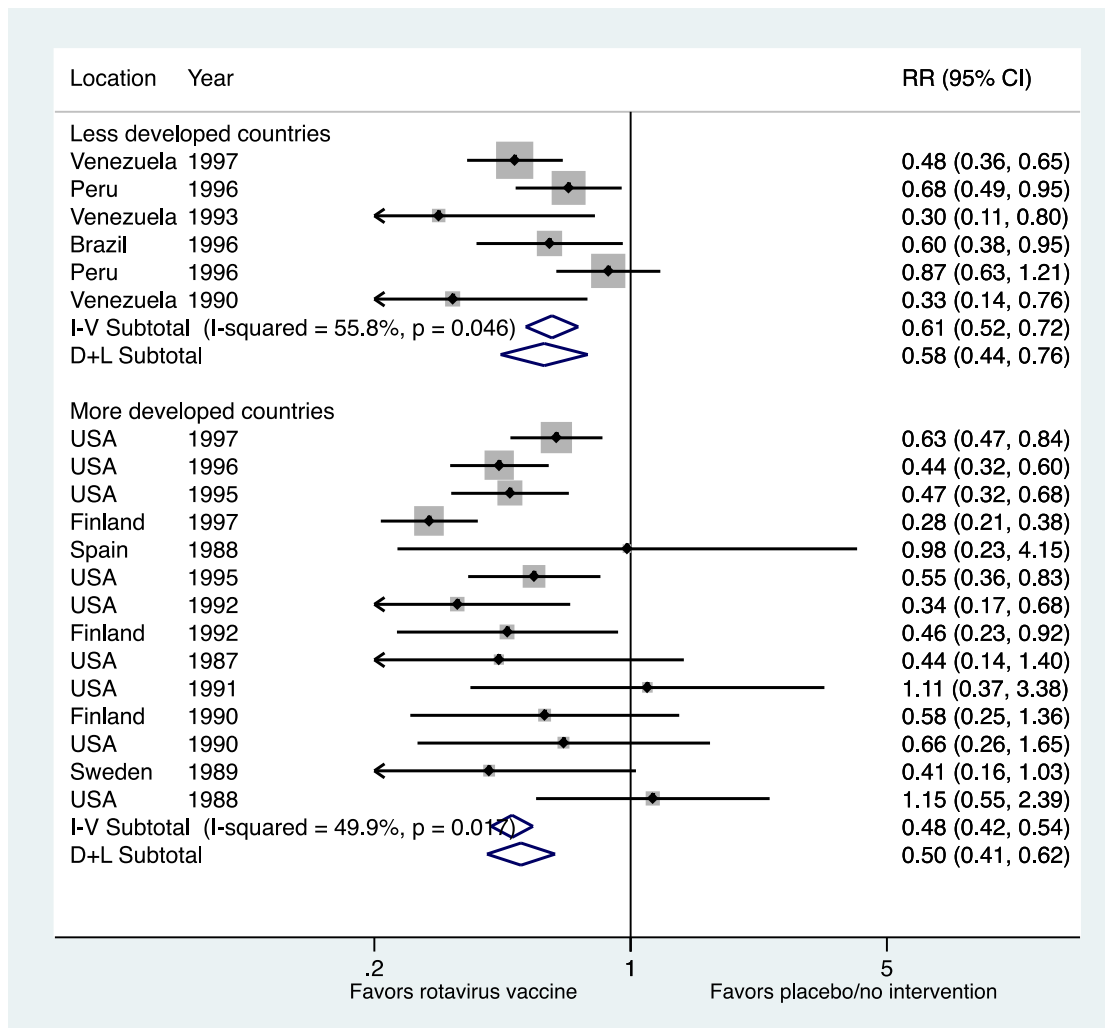


Fig A2 Less developed and more developed countries where eligible randomised trials had been done. Trials conducted in African countries, western European countries, or North America and for which the exact country name could not be dissected from the Cochrane reviews are represented as Africa, Europe, and North America, respectively. USA/Canada: trials recruiting patients from both the United States and Canada; USA/Europe: trials recruiting patients from both the United States and European countries