

Web appendix 6. Characteristics of Included Meta-analyses

Study (year)	Condition studied	Intervention in Active Group	Intervention in Control Group	Outcome	N of RCTs (mITT/ ITT/ “noITT”)	Pooled Odds Ratio	Heterogeneity		
							I ² . %	P value	Tau ²
Birks 2006 [36]	Alzheimer’s disease	Cholinesterase inhibitors	Placebo	Global assessment with carer input (CIBIC-Plus scale)	6 (3/3/0)	0.56 (0.44-0.71)	29.79	0.212	0.028
Brok 2006 [37]	Chronic Hepatitis C Infection	Ribavirin	Placebo	Failure of end of treatment	9 (2/1/6)	0.89 (0.29-2.72)	0.00	1.00	0.00
Dodd 2006 [38]	Preterm birth prevention	Progesterone	Placebo	Perinatal death	3 (1/1/1)	0.66 (0.30-1.45)	34.12	0.219	0.168
Jefferson 2006 [39]	Influenza	Inhaled zanamivir	Placebo	Influenza cases (laboratory-confirmed influenza with or without symptoms)	2 (1/1/0)	0.36 (0.17-0.78)	60.50	0.112	0.18
Obonyo 2006 [40]	Meningitis prevention	Haemophilus influenzae type b vaccination	Placebo or no-treatment	Vaccine efficacy (Haemophilus influenzae isolated from a normally sterile body fluid)	8 (1/3/4)	0.15 (0.08-0.31)	67.72	0.00	0.610
Paul 2006 [41]	Sepsis	Same beta-lactam monotherapy	Beta-lactam monotherapy + combination therapy	All-cause fatality	11(2/1/8)	1.02 (0.70-1.49)	0.00	0.46	0.00
		Different beta-lactam monotherapy	Beta-lactam monotherapy + combination therapy	All-cause fatality	20(3/7/10)	0.77 (0.56-1.05)	31.59	0.104	0.12
Rendell 2006 [42]	Acute mania	Risperidone	Placebo	Failure to complete treatment	4 (2/0/2)	0.39 (0.24-0.63)	68.72	0.022	0.164
Schneider 2006 [43]	Dementia	Atypical antipsychotics (Risperidone)	Placebo	50% improvement (BEHAVE-AD)	3 (2/1/0)	0.56 (0.42-0.75)	12.56	0.319	0.008
Humber 2007 [44]	Endometrial cancer	Addition of doxorubicin or cisplatin	Standard chemotherapy	Progression free survival (definition and time point not reported)	5 (1/2/2)	0.95 (0.32-2.82)	72.53	0.006	0.96
Kosmas 2007 [45]	Pregnancy	GnRH antagonist	No-treatment	Clinical pregnancy (definition not reported)	6(1/1/4)	0.64 (0.43-0.96)	17.77	0.298	0.045
Mariappan 2007 [46]	Urinary incontinence	Duloxetine	Placebo	Symptom improvement (determined by participants’ subjective assessments or clinicians’ observations.)	4 (3/1/0)	0.43 (0.24-0.75)	86.10	0.00	0.27
Rahimi 2007 [47]	Crohn’s disease	Anti-tumor necrosis factors	Placebo	Clinical response after 2 weeks	7 (6/1/0)	0.52 (0.31-0.86)	61.92	0.015	0.27

Rodrigo 2007 [48]	Chronic obstructive pulmonary disease	Tiotropium	Placebo	COPD-related exacerbations	8 (3/1/4)	0.76 (0.66-0.87)	0.00	0.71	0.00
Bai 2008 [49]	Acute necrotizing Pancreatitis	Antibiotic	Placebo or no treatment	Infection pancreatic necrosis (CT-proven necrosis)	6 (1/1/4)	0.56 (0.27-1.13)	47.9	0.09	0.37
Coomarasamy 2008 [50]	Pregnancy	Urinary hMG	Recombinant FSH	Increase in live birth rate	7 (2/1/4)	0.84 (0.68-1.02)	0.00	0.92	0.00
Imran 2008 [51]	Neutropenia	Fluoroquinolone	Placebo	Mortality	6 (1/2/3)	0.78 (0.53-1.15)	0.00	0.46	0.00
Lee 2008 [52]	Rheumatoid arthritis	Combination of TNF inhibitors plus Methotrexate	Methotrexate monotherapy	ACR 20% response	3 (1/1/1)	0.31 (0.17-0.57)	75.29	0.017	0.206
Papakostas 2008 [53]	Major depressive disorder	Reboxetine	Selective serotonin reuptake inhibitors	Response rate	5 (1/1/3)	0.93 (0.62-1.40)	48.74	0.099	0.100
Ravindran 2008 [54]	Psoriatic arthritis	Biological agents and disease modifying anti-rheumatic drugs	Placebo	Efficacy based on withdrawal due to efficacy	18 (6/3/9)	0.35 (0.22-0.55)	26.9	0.18	0.16
Sjalander 2008 [55]	Thromboembolism	Anticoagulant prophylaxis	Placebo	Asymptomatic deep vein thrombosis	6 (2/2/2)	0.46 (0.35-0.61)	0.00	0.82	0.00
Weinmann 2008 [56]	Major depression	Venlafaxine	Selective serotonin reuptake inhibitors	Remission rates	15 (12/3/0)	0.88 (0.76-1.02)	0.00	0.51	0.00
Azim 2009 [57]	Lung cancer	Third generation triplet therapy	Standard therapy	Response rate	6 (1/3/2)	0.50 (0.36-0.69)	57.5	0.038	0.09
Baker 2009 [58]	Parkinson's disease	Dopamine agonists	Levodopa	Wearing off	6 (1/2/3)	0.53 (0.41-0.69)	30.4	0.21	0.03
Cranney 2009 [59]	Non-vertebral fractures	Ibandronate	Placebo	Prevention of non-vertebral fractures	8(2/5/1)	0.90 (0.71-1.15)	17.84	0.29	0.018
Jang 2009 [60]	Aneurysmal subarachnoid hemorrhage	Tirilazad mesylate	Placebo	Glasgow outcome score	5 (1/1/3)	1.05 (0.91-1.22)	0.0	0.42	0.00
Katchamart 2009 [61]	Rheumatoid arthritis	Methotrexate + non-biological disease-modifying antirheumatic drugs	Methotrexate	20% response in the ACR score	4 (1/1/2)	0.24 (0.17-0.36)	0.00	0.79	0.00
Leucht 2009 [62]	Schizophrenia	Arisulpiride	Placebo	Non responder rate ²	4 (3/1/0)	0.52 (0.38-0.71)	0.00	0.526	0.00
		Haloperidol	Placebo	Non responder rate ²	7 (4/3/0)	0.45 (0.31-0.65)	18.78	0.286	0.045
		Olanzapine	Placebo	Non responder rate ²	2(0/2/0)	0.63 (0.34-1.18)	29.66	0.233	0.066

Naber 2009 [63]	Urinary infection	Quetapine	Placebo	Non responder rate ²	5 (4/0/1)	0.54 (0.33-0.87)	46.18	0.115	0.136
		Risperidone	Placebo	Non responder rate ²	6 (1/4/1)	0.33 (0.23-0.49)	14.28	0.323	0.027
		OM-89	Placebo	Proportion of patients without recurrent infection (definition not reported)	4 (1/0/3)	0.28 (0.15-0.56)	76.25	0.006	0.35
Nikfar 2009 [64]	Ulcerative Colitis	Olsalazine	Sulfasalazine	Relapse of the disease (clinical activity index alone or + other data (endoscopic, histologic, laboratory	5 (3/0/2)	0.88 (0.66-1.18)	0.00	0.59	0.00
Rhorer 2009 [65]	Influenza	Influenza vaccine	Placebo or inactivated influenza vaccine	Influenza prevention (culture confirmed symptomatic influenza illness)	10 (7/0/3)	0.25 (0.17-0.38)	89.8	0.000	0.34
Seo 2009 [66]	Breast cancer	Aromatase inhibitor	Tamoxifen	Clinical response rate	3 (1/2/0)	0.72 (0.47-1.10)	63.71	0.064	0.092
Van de Broek 2009 [67]	Depressive disorders	Venlafaxine	Tricyclic antidepressants	Response rate (decrease in the depression rating scale HRSD/MADRS)	7 (5/2/0)	0.86 (0.55-1.34)	59.51	0.022	0.212
Zou 2009 [68]	Hypertension	Telmisartan	Enalapril	Response rate in diastolic blood pressure	7 (4/1/2)	0.69 (0.55-0.88)	0.00	0.96	0.00
		Telmisartan	Ramipril	Response rate in diastolic blood pressure	2(1/0/1)	0.55 (0.37-0.82)	72.84	0.055	0.059
Guaiana 2010 [69]	Generalized anxiety disorder	Hydroxyzine	Placebo	Acceptability (the number of patients who failed to complete the study) ³	4 (1/1/2)	0.97 (0.59-1.59)	18.9	0.29	0.04
Harris 2010 [70]	Breast cancer	HER-targeted agents	Standard treatment for breast cancer	Mortality (no time point provided)	4 (1/3/0)	0.80 (0.65-0.98)	0.0	0.93	0.00
Komossa 2010 [71]	Obsessive compulsive disorder	Quetiapine added to antidepressants	Placebo added to antidepressants	No clinically important change - (less than 35% YBOCS reduction)	5 (2/2/1)	0.60 (0.29-1.23)	19.8	0.29	0.13
Michael 2010 [72]	Fall prevention	Vitamin D	Placebo or calcium	Fall ⁴	9 (3/6/0)	0.72 (0.58-0.88)	56.2	0.019	0.05
Nikfar 2010 [73]	Chron's disease	Tacrolimus	Placebo	At least 50% reduction in the number of open actively draining fistulas	4 (3/1/0)	0.18 (0.09-0.38)	0.0	0.82	0.00
Roskell 2010 [74]	Fibromyalgia	Milnacipran	Placebo	30% pain response (visual analog scale)	2(1/1/0)	0.62 (0.42-0.92)	0.0	0.78	0.00
Siler 2010 [75]	Fibromyalgia	Pregabalin	Placebo	Pain reduction of 30% (on an 11-point scale)	4 (3/1/0)	0.70 (0.54-0.91)	0.0	0.71	0.00

Wang 2010 [76]	Liver Transplantation	Basiliximab	Placebo	Incidence of biopsy-proven acute rejection	3 (1/1/1)	0.87 (0.53-1.43)	27.1	0.25	0.05
		Daclizumab	Tacrolimus	Incidence of biopsy-proven acute rejection	8(4/2/2)	0.67 (0.45-0.96)	62.4	0.009	0.15
Xu 2010 [15]	Advanced breast cancer	Taxane-based doublet chemotherapy	Single-agent taxane chemotherapy	Progression free survival (definition and time point not reported)	4 (1/3/0)	0.87 (0.52-1.49)	87.9	0.000	0.25
Ziakas 2010 [77]	Neutropenia	Antifungal therapy	Placebo or no treatment	Systemic proven fungal infections	22 (6/2/14)	0.42 (0.29-0.59)	24.1	0.150	0.16

¹ Effective publication year might vary due to *online first publication*. We attributed the year of publication for each trial according to the year provided by Pubmed filter.

² Response defined as 50% or more reduction from baseline on the PANSS/BPRS scale.

³ This outcome did not consider side effects; for side effects there was tolerability as a specific outcome.

4 Definition of falls not provided but the review underlined that the methods of fall ascertainment between the trials were heterogeneous.

mITT, modified intention-to-treat; ITT, intention-to-treat; CIBIC-Plus, Clinician's Interview-Based Impression of Change scale; GnRH, Gonadotropin Releasing Hormone; COPD, Chronic obstructive pulmonary disease; BEHAVE-AD, Behavioral Pathology in Alzheimer's Disease Rating Scale; CT, Computed Tomography; TNF, Tumor Necrosis Factor; FSH, Follicle-Stimulating Hormone; hGM, Human Menopausal Gonadotropin; ACR, American College of Rheumatology; PANSS, Positive and Negative Syndrome Scale; BPRS, Brief Psychiatric Rating Scale; HRSD, Hamilton Rating Scale for Depression; MADRS, Montgomery and Asberg Rating Scale; HER, Human EGF (Epidermal Growth Factor) Receptor; Y-BOCS, Yale-Brown Obsessive-Compulsive Scale

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