Supplement 5 Effect estimates for all adverse events with subgroups

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The tables below report results of meta-analyses for adverse events, organized by organ systems.

Effect estimates were calculated for studies with more than one treatment arm, using risk difference (RD) for all comparative studies and, using Peto odds ratio (pOR) for studies that reported at least one event in at least one treatment arm. Shaded rows indicate all studies contributing to an outcome, for the specified comparison, without subgroup analysis. When data was available, subgroup analyses (non-shaded rows) using study-level data were conducted for dose (single versus multi-dose) and for respiratory condition (e.g., bronchiolitis).

Supplement 5a. Infection & respiratory system

Adverse event	Comparison 1	Subgroup	No.	Comparison	Comparison	RD	l ²	Peto OR	l ²
	vs.		of	1 – no. of	2 – no. of	(95% CI)	(%)	(95% CI)	(%)
	Comparison 2		studies	patients with	patients with				
				events/total	events/total				
				no. of	no. of				
				patients	patients				
Severe infections, overall	Systemic vs.		4	0/552	2/554	0.00 (-0.01, 0.00)	0	0.15 (0.01, 2.45)	0
	placebo								
Severe infections, by dose	Systemic vs.	Single dose	1	0/359	1/361	0.00 (-0.01, 0.00)	NA	0.14 (0.00, 6.86)	NA
	placebo								
	Systemic vs.	Multi-dose	3	0/193	1/193	0.00 (-0.01, 0.01)	0	0.17 (0.00, 8.79)	NA
	placebo								
Severe infections, by	Systemic vs.	Bronchiolitis	2	0/179	0/175	0.00 (-0.01, 0.01)	0	NA	NA
condition	placebo								
	Systemic vs.	Croup	2	0/373	2/379	0.00 (-0.01, 0.00)	0	0.15 (0.01, 2.45)	0
	placebo								
Severe infections, overall	Inhaled vs. placebo		1	2/62	4/67	-0.03 (-0.10,	NA	0.54 (0.11, 2.77)	NA
						0.04)			
Systemic infections, overall	Systemic vs.		4	5/1095	4/1083	0.00 (0.00, 0.00)	0	1.26 (0.34, 4.68)	NA
	placebo								
Systemic infections, by	Systemic vs.	Single dose	2	5/664	4/656	0.00 (-0.01, 0.01)	0	1.26 (0.34, 4.68)	NA
dose	placebo								
	Systemic vs.	Multi-dose	2	0/431	0/427	0.00 (-0.01, 0.01)	0	NA	NA
	placebo								
Systemic infections, by	Systemic vs.	Bronchiolitis	2	0/705	0/695	0.00 (0.00, 0.00)	0	NA	NA
condition	placebo								
	Systemic vs.	Croup	1	5/359	4/361	0.00 (-0.01, 0.02)	NA	1.26 (0.34, 4.68)	NA
	placebo								
	Systemic vs.	Wheeze	1	0/31	0/27	0.00 (-0.07, 0.07)	NA	NA	NA
	placebo								

Systemic infections, overall	Inhaled vs. placebo	Multi-dose, wheeze	2	18/91	20/94	0.00 (-0.06, 0.06)	0	0.96 (0.45, 2.05)	NA
Lung/trachea, overall	Systemic vs. placebo		7	18/955	28/928	-0.01 (-0.02, 0.01)	37	0.61 (0.34, 1.12)	0
Lung/trachea, by dose	Systemic vs. placebo	Single dose	5	6/793	9/761	0.00 (-0.01, 0.00)	0	0.57 (0.20, 1.62)	0
	Systemic vs. placebo	Multi-dose	2	12/162	19/167	-0.09 (-0.29, 0.10)	69	0.63 (0.30, 1.33)	57
Lung/trachea, by condition	Systemic vs. placebo	Bronchiolitis	3	12/542	19/529	-0.02 (-0.05, 0.02)	61	0.61 (0.29, 1.28)	30
	Systemic vs. placebo	Croup	4	6/413	9/399	-0.02 (-0.12, 0.07)	40	0.61 (0.21, 1.76)	6
Lung/trachea, overall	Inhaled vs. placebo	Multi-dose, wheeze	1	13/62	10/67	0.06 (-0.07, 0.19)	NA	1.51 (0.61, 3.70)	NA
URT, overall	Systemic vs. placebo		6	9/671	7/656	0.00 (-0.01, 0.01)	0	1.21 (0.44, 3.33)	0
URT, by dose	Systemic vs. placebo	Single dose	4	1/492	1/480	0.00 (-0.01, 0.01)	0	0.46 (0.02, 10.18)	0
	Systemic vs. placebo	Multi-dose	2	8/179	6/176	0.01 (-0.03, 0.05)	0	1.36 (0.47, 3.96)	NA
URT, by condition	Systemic vs. placebo	Bronchiolitis	1	8/148	6/149	0.01 (-0.03, 0.06)	NA	1.36 (0.47, 3.96)	NA
URT, by condition	Systemic vs. placebo	Croup	4	1/492	1/480	0.00 (-0.01, 0.01)	0	0.46 (0.02, 10.18)	0
	Systemic vs. placebo	Wheeze	1	0/31	0/27	0.00 (-0.07, 0.07)	NA	NA	NA
URT, overall	Inhaled vs. placebo		6	24/495	24/499	0.00 (-0.02, 0.02)	0	1.03 (0.57, 1.85)	21
URT, by dose	Inhaled vs. placebo	Single dose	3	2/140	0/144	0.00 (-0.02, 0.03)	14	7.40 (0.45, 121.47)	NA
	Inhaled vs. placebo	Multi-dose	3	22/355	24/355	-0.01 (-0.04, 0.03)	0	0.93 (0.51, 1.71)	0

URT, by condition	Inhaled vs. placebo	Croup	3	2/140	0/144	0.00 (-0.02, 0.03)	14	7.40 (0.45,	NA
								121.47)	
	Inhaled vs. placebo	Wheeze	3	22/355	24/355	-0.01 (-0.04,	0	0.93 (0.51, 1.71)	0
						0.03)			
Voice complaints, overall	Systemic vs.		1	0/31	0/27	0.00 (-0.07, 0.07)	NA	NA	NA
	placebo								
Voice complaints, overall	Inhaled vs. placebo	All multi-	4	38/343	43/337	-0.01 (-0.10,	64	0.85 (0.53, 1.36)	73
		dose				0.07)			
Voice complaints, by	Inhaled vs. placebo	Asthma	2	4/50	9/49	-0.08 (-0.46,	90	0.39 (0.12, 1.26)	81
condition						0.31)			
	Inhaled vs. placebo	Wheeze	2	34/293	34/288	0.00 (-0.04, 0.04)	0	0.99 (0.59, 1.64)	NA

RD: risk difference; CI: confidence interval; NA not applicable/estimable; no.: number; Peto OR: Peto odds ratio; URT=upper respiratory tract;

vs.: versus

Supplement 5b. Gastro-intestinal tract

Adverse event	Comparison 1 vs. Comparison 2	Subgroup	No. of studies	Comparison 1 - no. of patients with events/total no. of patients	Comparison 2 - no. of patients with events/total no. of patients	RD (95% CI)	l ² (%)	Peto OR (95% CI)	l ² (%)
Bleeding, overall	Systemic vs. placebo		7	31/1287	31/1262	0.00 (0.00, 0.00)	0	1.00 (0.60, 1.67)	0
Bleeding, by dose	Systemic vs. placebo	Single dose	4	2/800	1/790	0.00 (0.00, 0.00)	0	1.87 (0.19, 18.27)	NA
	Systemic vs. placebo	Multi-dose	3	29/487	30/472	0.00 (-0.02, 0.02)	0	0.96 (0.57, 1.64)	0
Bleeding, by condition	Systemic vs. placebo	Bronchiolitis	5	31/881	31/852	0.00 (-0.01, 0.01)	0	1.00 (0.60, 1.67)	0
	Systemic vs. placebo	Croup	2	0/406	0/410	0.00 (-0.01, 0.01)	0	NA	NA
Bleeding, overall	Inhaled vs. placebo	Single dose, croup	1	0/48	0/49	0.00 (-0.04, 0.04)	NA	NA	NA
Vomiting, overall	Systemic vs. placebo		7	38/1603	34/1573	0.00 (0.00, 0.01)	0	1.10 (0.69, 1.76)	17
Vomiting, by dose	Systemic vs. placebo	Single dose	4	21/747	23/712	0.00 (-0.02, 0.01)	0	0.87 (0.47, 1.59)	24
	Systemic vs. placebo	Multi-dose	3	17/856	11/861	0.00 (-0.01, 0.02)	37	1.58 (0.75, 3.36)	0
Vomiting, by condition	Systemic vs. placebo	Asthma	1	1/37	5/33	-0.11 (-0.27, 0.06)	33	0.19 (0.03, 1.02)	0
	Systemic vs. placebo	Bronchiolitis	3	24/751	21/718	0.00 (-0.02, 0.02)	0	1.12 (0.62, 2.04)	0
	Systemic vs. placebo	Croup	1	3/359	4/361	0.00 (-0.02, 0.01)	NA	0.75 (0.17, 3.34)	NA

	Systemic vs. placebo	Wheeze	2	10/456	4/461	0.02 (-0.06, 0.11)	87	2.55 (0.87, 7.46)	0
Vomiting, overall	Inhaled vs. placebo		5	28/421	28/420	0.00 (-0.03, 0.04)	0	1.00 (0.58, 1.72)	0
Vomiting, by dose	Inhaled vs. placebo	Single dose	1	2/25	1/25	0.04 (-0.09, 0.17)	NA	2.00 (0.20, 20.20)	NA
	Inhaled vs. placebo	Multi-dose	4	26/396	27/395	0.00 (-0.03, 0.03)	0	0.96 (0.55, 1.67)	0
Vomiting, by condition	Inhaled vs. placebo	Asthma	1	1/28	0/27	0.04 (-0.06, 0.13)	NA	7.13 (0.14, 359.55)	NA
	Inhaled vs. placebo	Croup	2	4/67	4/65	0.00 (-0.08, 0.08)	0	0.97 (0.23, 4.00)	0
	Inhaled vs. placebo	Wheeze	2	23/326	24/328	0.00 (-0.04, 0.04)	0	0.96 (0.53, 1.74)	0
Vomiting, overall	Dexamethasone vs. other steroid		6	12/663	51/710	-0.06 (-0.09, - 0.02)	58	0.29 (0.17, 0.48)	0
Vomiting, by dose	Dexamethasone vs. other steroid	Single dose	5	6/376	39/420	-0.07 (-0.11, - 0.02)	47	0.23 (0.12, 0.42)	0
	Dexamethasone vs. other steroid	Multi-dose	1	6/287	12/290	-0.02 (-0.05, - 0.01)	NA	0.51 (0.20, 1.30)	NA
Vomiting, by condition	Dexamethasone vs. other steroid	Asthma	3	6/466	28/466	-0.05 (-0.11, 0.00)	77	0.26 (0.13, 0.52)	52
	Dexamethasone vs. other steroid	Croup	2	5/111	8/75	-0.04 (-0.16, 0.08)	64	0.46 (0.14, 1.45)	0
	Dexamethasone vs. other steroid	Other conditions	1	1/86	15/169	-0.08 (-0.13, - 0.02)	3	0.25 (0.09, 0.72)	0
Abdominal pain, overall	Systemic vs. placebo	Single dose, croup	1	1/359	1/361	0.00 (-0.01, 0.01)	NA	1.01 (0.06, 16.11)	NA
Abdominal pain, overall	Dexamethasone vs. other steroid		3	29/188	48/264	-0.01 (-0.07, 0.05)	0	0.96 (0.57, 1.61)	0

Abdominal pain, by	Dexamethasone vs. other	Asthma	1	2/56	3/54	-0.02 (-0.10,	NA	0.64 (0.11, 3.79)	NA
condition	steroid					0.06)			
		Croup	1	9/46	7/41	0.02 (-0.14,	NA	1.18 (0.40, 3.47)	NA
						0.19)			
		Other	1	18/86	38/169	-0.01 (-0.12,	0	0.94 (0.50, 1.77)	0
		conditions				0.10)			
Diarrhea, overall	Systemic vs. placebo		3	10/254	9/230	0.01 (-0.03,	0	1.09 (0.43, 2.73)	0
						0.04)			
Diarrhea, by dose	Systemic vs. placebo	Single dose	1	3/89	3/85	0.00 (-0.06,	NA	0.95 (0.19, 4.84)	NA
						0.05)			
	Systemic vs. placebo	Multi-dose	2	7/165	6/145	0.01 (-0.03,	0	1.16 (0.38, 3.54)	0
						0.05)			
Diarrhea, by condition	Systemic vs. placebo	Bronchiolitis	1	3/89	3/85	0.00 (-0.06,	NA	0.95 (0.19, 4.84)	NA
						0.05)			
	Systemic vs. placebo	Wheeze	2	7/165	6/145	0.01 (-0.03,	0	1.16 (0.38, 3.54)	0
						0.05)			
Diarrhea, overall	Inhaled vs. placebo	Multi-dose,	2	41/326	46/328	-0.01 (-0.09,	37	0.89 (0.57, 1.40)	44
		wheeze				0.08)			

Supplement 5c. CNS & behavior effects

Adverse event Tremor/jitteriness, overall	Comparison 1 vs. Comparison 2 Systemic vs.	Subgroup	No. of studies	Comparison 1 – no. of patients with events/total no. of patients 22/559	Comparison 2 - no. of patients with events/total no. of patients 14/508	RD (95% CI)	l ² (%)	Peto OR (95% CI)	I ² (%)
Tremory ficter filess, overall	placebo			22/333	14/300	0.01 (0.01, 0.03)		1.44 (0.71, 2.32)	
Tremor/jitteriness, by dose	Systemic vs. placebo	Single dose	2	9/83	7/56	0.00 (-0.08, 0.08)	0	1.15 (0.36, 3.66)	0
	Systemic vs. placebo	Multi-dose	3	13/476	7/452	0.01 (-0.01, 0.03)	0	1.65 (0.67, 4.02)	0
Tremor/jitteriness, by condition	Systemic vs. placebo	Asthma	1	9/37	7/33	0.01 (-0.16, 0.18)	0	1.15 (0.36, 3.66)	0
		Bronchiolitis	3	10/470	6/447	0.01 (-0.01, 0.03)	0	1.66 (0.62, 4.46)	0
		Wheeze	1	3/52	1/28	0.02 (-0.07, 0.12)	NA	1.58 (0.19, 12.83)	NA
Tremor/jitteriness, overall	Dexamethasone vs. other steroid	Single dose, croup	1	1/46	0/41	0.02 (-0.04, 0.08)	NA	6.63 (0.13, 336.21)	NA
Behaviour change, overall	Systemic vs. placebo		4	7/588	3/571	0.00 (-0.01, 0.02)	19	1.95 (0.55, 6.92)	0
Behaviour change, by dose	Systemic vs. placebo	Single dose	2	1/423	1/426	0.00 (-0.01, 0.01)	0	1.01 (0.06, 16.11)	NA
	Systemic vs. placebo	Multi-dose	2	6/165	2/145	0.02 (-0.02, 0.06)	11	2.32 (0.56, 9.64)	0
Behaviour change, by condition	Systemic vs. placebo	Croup	2	1/423	1/426	0.00 (-0.01, 0.01)	0	1.01 (0.06, 16.11)	NA
	Systemic vs. placebo	Wheeze	2	6/165	2/145	0.02 (-0.02, 0.06)	11	2.32 (0.56, 9.64)	0
Behaviour change, overall	Inhaled vs. placebo		3	6/134	7/135	-0.01 (-0.04, 0.03)	0	0.81 (0.26, 2.54)	0

Behaviour change, by dose	Inhaled vs. placebo	Single dose	1	0/64	1/68	-0.01 (-0.06, 0.03)	NA	0.14 (0.00, 7.25)	NA
	Inhaled vs. placebo	Multi-dose	2	6/70	6/67	0.02 (-0.06, 0.10)	0	0.95 (0.28, 3.15)	11
Behaviour change, by	Inhaled vs. placebo	Asthma	1	1/28	0/27	0.04 (-0.06, 0.13)	NA	7.13 (0.14, 359.55)	NA
condition									
	Inhaled vs. placebo	Croup	2	5/106	7/108	-0.02 (-0.05, 0.02)	0	0.66 (0.20, 2.18)	0
Behaviour change, overall	Dexamethasone	All single	2	35/60	38/57	-0.08 (-0.25, 0.09)	0	0.73 (0.34, 1.56)	0
	vs. other steroid	dose							
Behaviour change, by	Dexamethasone	Asthma	1	10/14	14/16	-0.16 (-0.45, 0.13)	NA	0.38 (0.06, 2.21)	NA
condition	vs. other steroid								
	Dexamethasone	Croup	1	25/46	24/41	-0.04 (-0.25, 0.17)	NA	0.85 (0.36, 1.97)	NA
	vs. other steroid								
Headache, overall	Systemic vs.	Single dose,	1	0/37	1/33	-0.02 (-0.10, 0.07)	0	0.11 (0.00, 5.68)	NA
	placebo	asthma							
Headache, overall	Dexamethasone	All single	2	7/102	4/95	0.02 (-0.08, 0.11)	51	1.63 (0.46, 5.74)	NA
	vs. other steroid	dose							
Headache, by condition	Dexamethasone	Asthma	1	0/56	0/54	0.00 (-0.03, 0.03)	NA	NA	NA
	vs. other steroid								
		Croup	1	7/46	4/41	0.05 (-0.08, 0.19)	NA	1.63 (0.46, 5.74)	NA

Supplement 5d. Dermatologic conditions

Comparison 1	Subgroup	No.	Comparison	Comparison	RD	l ²	Peto OR	l ²
vs.		of	1 – no. of	2 – no. of	(95% CI)	(%)	(95% CI)	(%)
Comparison 2		studies	patients	patients				
			with	with				
			events/total	events/total				
			no. of	no. of				
			patients	patients				
Inhaled vs. placebo	Single dose,	1	0/27	1/27	-0.04 (-0.13, 0.06)	NA	0.14 (0.00, 6.82)	NA
	croup							
Systemic vs.		3	4/536	0/543	0.01 (0.00, 0.01)	0	7.59 (1.07, 54.01)	0
placebo								
Systemic vs.	Single dose	2	2/423	0/426	0.01 (0.00, 0.01)	0	7.45 (0.47, 119.36)	NA
placebo								
Systemic vs.	Multi-dose	1	2/133	0/117	0.02 (-0.01, 0.05)	NA	7.72 (0.48, 124.29)	NA
placebo								
Systemic vs.	Croup	2	2/423	0/426	0.01 (0.00, 0.01)	0	7.45 (0.47, 119.36)	NA
placebo								
Systemic vs.	Wheeze	1	2/113	0/117	0.02 (-0.01, 0.05)	NA	7.72 (0.48, 124.29)	NA
placebo								
Inhaled vs. placebo		4	24/432	27/436	-0.01 (-0.04, 0.02)	11	0.88 (0.50, 1.56)	37
Inhaled vs. placebo	Single dose	1	0/64	1/68	-0.01 (-0.06, 0.03)	NA	0.14 (0.00, 7.25)	NA
Inhaled vs. placebo	Multi-dose	3	24/368	26/368	-0.01 (-0.05, 0.04)	38	0.92 (0.52, 1.63)	49
Inhaled vs. placebo	Croup	2	0/106	3/108	-0.02 (-0.06, 0.01)	0	0.13 (0.01, 1.27)	0
Inhaled vs. placebo	Wheeze	2	24/326	24/328	0.01 (-0.05, 0.07)	46	1.00 (0.56, 1.80)	47
Dexamethasone vs.	Single dose,	1	0/15	0/17	0.00 (-0.11, 0.11)	NA	NA	NA
other steroid	asthma							
	vs. Comparison 2 Inhaled vs. placebo Systemic vs. placebo Systemic vs. placebo Systemic vs. placebo Systemic vs. placebo Systemic vs. placebo Inhaled vs. placebo	Inhaled vs. placebo Systemic vs. placebo Inhaled vs. placebo Single dose Inhaled vs. placebo Unhaled vs. placebo Single dose	Vs. Comparison 2 Inhaled vs. placebo Systemic vs. placebo Inhaled vs. placebo	vs. Comparison 2 Single dose, croup Systemic vs. placebo Inhaled vs. placebo	vs. of studies 1 – no. of patients with events/total no. of patients 2 – no. of patients with events/total no. of patients Inhaled vs. placebo Single dose, croup 1 0/27 1/27 Systemic vs. placebo 3 4/536 0/543 Systemic vs. placebo Single dose 2 2/423 0/426 Systemic vs. placebo Multi-dose 1 2/133 0/117 Systemic vs. placebo Croup 2 2/423 0/426 Systemic vs. placebo Wheeze 1 2/113 0/117 Inhaled vs. placebo 4 24/432 27/436 Inhaled vs. placebo Multi-dose 3 24/368 26/368 Inhaled vs. placebo Croup 2 0/106 3/108 Inhaled vs. placebo Wheeze 2 24/326 24/328 Dexamethasone vs. Single dose, 1 0/15 0/17	vs. of studies 1 - no. of patients with events/total no. of patients 2 - no. of patients with events/total no. of patients Inhaled vs. placebo Single dose, croup 1 0/27 1/27 -0.04 (-0.13, 0.06) Systemic vs. placebo 3 4/536 0/543 0.01 (0.00, 0.01) Systemic vs. placebo Single dose 2 2/423 0/426 0.01 (0.00, 0.01) Systemic vs. placebo Multi-dose 1 2/133 0/117 0.02 (-0.01, 0.05) Systemic vs. placebo Croup 2 2/423 0/426 0.01 (0.00, 0.01) Systemic vs. placebo Wheeze 1 2/113 0/117 0.02 (-0.01, 0.05) Inhaled vs. placebo 4 24/432 27/436 -0.01 (-0.04, 0.02) Inhaled vs. placebo Multi-dose 3 24/368 26/368 -0.01 (-0.05, 0.04) Inhaled vs. placebo Croup 2 0/106 3/108 -0.02 (-0.06, 0.01) Inhaled vs. placebo Wheeze 2 24/326 24/328 0.01 (-0.05, 0.07) Dexamethasone vs.<	vs. Comparison 2 of studies 1 – no. of patients with events/total no. of patients 2 – no. of patients with events/total no. of patients (%) Inhaled vs. placebo Single dose, croup 1 0/27 1/27 -0.04 (-0.13, 0.06) NA Systemic vs. placebo Single dose 2 2/423 0/543 0.01 (0.00, 0.01) 0 Systemic vs. placebo Multi-dose 1 2/133 0/117 0.02 (-0.01, 0.05) NA Systemic vs. placebo Croup 2 2/423 0/426 0.01 (0.00, 0.01) 0 Systemic vs. placebo Croup 2 2/423 0/426 0.01 (0.00, 0.01) 0 Systemic vs. placebo Wheeze 1 2/113 0/117 0.02 (-0.01, 0.05) NA Inhaled vs. placebo 4 2/432 2/7/436 -0.01 (-0.04, 0.02) 1 Inhaled vs. placebo Multi-dose 3 2/4/368 26/368 -0.01 (-0.06, 0.03) NA Inhaled vs. placebo Croup 2 0/106 3/108 -0.02 (-0.06, 0.01) 0	vs. Comparison 2 of studies 1 – no. of patients with events/total no. of patients 2 – no. of patients with events/total no. of patients (95% CI) (%) (95% CI) Inhaled vs. placebo Single dose, croup 1 0/27 1/27 -0.04 (-0.13, 0.06) NA 0.14 (0.00, 6.82) Systemic vs. placebo 3 4/536 0/543 0.01 (0.00, 0.01) 0 7.59 (1.07, 54.01) Systemic vs. placebo Single dose placebo 2 2/423 0/426 0.01 (0.00, 0.01) 0 7.45 (0.47, 119.36) Systemic vs. placebo Croup 2 2/423 0/426 0.01 (0.00, 0.01) 0 7.45 (0.47, 119.36) Systemic vs. placebo Wheeze 1 2/113 0/117 0.02 (-0.01, 0.05) NA 7.72 (0.48, 124.29) Inhaled vs. placebo 4 24/432 27/436 -0.01 (-0.04, 0.02) 1 0.88 (0.50, 1.56) Inhaled vs. placebo Multi-dose 1 0/64 1/68 -0.01 (-0.05, 0.03) NA 0.14 (0.00, 7.25) Inhaled vs. placebo Multi-dose 2 24/326

Supplement 5e. Endocrine/metabolic & musculoskeletal systems

Adverse event	Comparison 1	Subgroup	No.	Comparison	Comparison	RD	l ²	Peto OR	l ²
	vs.		of	1 – no. of	2 – no. of	(95% CI)	(%)	(95% CI)	(%)
	Comparison 2		studies	patients	patients				
				with	with				
				events/total	events/total				
				no. of	no. of				
				patients	patients				
Fluid & electrolyte	Systemic vs. placebo		4	5/832	1/818	0.00 (0.00, 0.01)	0	3.08 (0.60, 15.94)	0
abnormalities, overall									
Fluid & electrolyte	Systemic vs. placebo	Single dose	1	1/359	0/361	0.00 (0.00, 0.01)	NA	7.43 (0.15, 374.47)	NA
abnormalities, by dose									
	Systemic vs. placebo	Multi-dose	3	4/473	1/457	0.00 (-0.01, 0.01)	0	2.56 (0.42, 15.61)	0
Fluid & electrolyte	Systemic vs. placebo	Bronchiolitis	2	4/448	1/432	0.00 (-0.01, 0.01)	0	2.56 (0.42, 15.61)	0
abnormalities, by condition									
	Systemic vs. placebo	Croup	2	1/384	0/386	0.00 (0.00, 0.01)	0	7.43 (0.15, 374.47)	NA
Fluid & electrolyte	Dexamethasone vs.	Multi-dose,	1	1/33	2/15	-0.10 (-0.28, 0.08)	NA	0.18 (0.01, 2.17)	NA
abnormalities, overall	other steroid	bronchiolitis							
Adrenal suppression, overall	Inhaled vs. placebo	Multi-dose,	1	5/6	4/10	0.43 (0.01, 0.86)	NA	5.21 (0.72, 37.57)	NA
		asthma							

Adverse event	Comparison 1	Subgroup	No.	Comparison	Comparison	Mean	l ²
	vs.		of	1 – total	2 – total	Difference	(%)
	Comparison 2		studies	no. of	no. of	(95% CI)	
				patients	patients		
Linear growth	Inhaled vs. placebo	Multi-dose, wheeze	2	154	109	0.10 (-0.47, 0.67)	9

CI: confidence interval; no.: number; vs.: versus

Supplement 5f. Cardiovascular system

Adverse event	Comparison 1 vs. Comparison 2	Subgroup	No. of studies	Comparison 1 - no. of patients with events/total no. of patients	Comparison 2 - no. of patients with events/total no. of patients	RD (95% CI)	l ² (%)	Peto OR (95% CI)	l ² (%)
Arrhythmia, overall	Systemic vs. placebo	Multi-dose, wheeze	1	0/31	0/27	0.00 (-0.07, 0.07)	NA	NA	NA
Arrhythmia, overall	Inhaled vs. placebo	Multi-dose, wheeze	1	0/29	0/27	0.00 (-0.07, 0.07)	NA	NA	NA
Arrhythmia, overall	Dexamethasone vs. other steroid	Multi-dose, asthma	1	0/56	0/54	0.00 (-0.03, 0.03)	NA	NA	NA
Hypertension, overall	Systemic vs. placebo	All bronchiolitis	3	1/727	1/714	0.00 (-0.01, 0.01)	0	1.00 (0.06, 15.99)	50
Hypertension, by dose	Systemic vs. placebo	Single dose	1	0/305	0/295	0.00 (-0.01, 0.01)	NA	NA	NA
	Systemic vs. placebo	Multi-dose	2	1/422	1/419	0.00 (-0.01, 0.01)	0	1.00 (0.06, 15.99)	50
Hypertension, overall	Dexamethasone vs. other steroid	Single dose, asthma	1	0/15	0/17	0.00 (-0.11, 0.11)	NA	NA	NA
Congestive heart failure, overall	Systemic vs. placebo	Multi-dose, croup	1	0/25	0/25	0.00 (-0.07, 0.07)	NA	NA	NA

Supplement 5g. General adverse events/ other symptoms

Adverse event	Comparison 1 vs. Comparison 2	Subgroup	No. of studies	Comparison 1 - no. of patients with events/total no. of patients	Comparison 2 - no. of patients with events/total no. of patients	RD (95% CI)	(%)	Peto OR (95% CI)	l ² (%)
General complaints ¹ , overall	Systemic vs. placebo	All bronchiolitis	2	38/446	38/423	0.00 (-0.04, 0.04)	0	1.00 (0.62, 1.60)	0
General complaints, by dose	Systemic vs. placebo	Single dose	1	0/46	0/23	0.00 (-0.09, 0.09)	0	NA	NA
	Systemic vs. placebo	Multi-dose	1	38/400	38/400	0.00 (-0.04, 0.04)	0	1.00 (0.62, 1.60)	0
General complaints ² , overall	Dexamethasone vs. other steroid		2	3/102	3/95	-0.01 (-0.06, 0.03)	0	0.90 (0.18, 4.61)	11
General complaints, by condition	Dexamethasone vs. other steroid	Asthma	1	0/56	1/54	-0.02 (-0.07, 0.03)	NA	0.13 (0.00, 6.58)	NA
	Dexamethasone vs. other steroid	Croup	1	3/46	2/41	0.01 (-0.08, 0.11)	NA	1.29 (0.21, 7.81)	NA

¹Two studies reported pallor

²One study reported excessive urination; one study reported dizziness

Supplement 5h. Immune system & oncology

Adverse event	Comparison 1	Subgroup	No.	Comparison	Comparison	RD	l ²	Peto OR	l ²
	vs.		of	1 -no.# of	2 – no. of	(95% CI)	(%)	(95% CI)	(%)
	Comparison 2		studies	patients	patients				
				with	with				
				events/total	events/total				
				no. of	no. of				
				patients	patients				
Immunosuppression, overall	Systemic vs. placebo		1	0/47	0/48	0.00 (-0.04, 0.04)	NA	NA	NA