

A.

Quality assessment							No of patients		Effect		Quality	Importance
No of studies	Design	Risk of bias	Inconsistency	Indirectness	Imprecision	Other considerations			Relative (95% CI)	Absolute		
RR (follow-up median 6 months)												
9	observational studies	serious ¹	serious ¹	no serious indirectness	no serious imprecision	reporting bias strong association ¹ increased effect for RR ~1 ¹	-	-	RR 0.39 (0.28 to 0.55)	-	⊖⊖⊖⊖ VERY LOW	IMPORTANT
								0%		-		

B.

Quality assessment							No of patients		Effect		Quality	Importance
No of studies	Design	Risk of bias	Inconsistency	Indirectness	Imprecision	Other considerations	NPIs		Relative (95% CI)	Absolute		
Relative Risk (follow-up mean 1 years)												
29	observational studies	no serious risk of bias	serious ¹	no serious indirectness	no serious imprecision	strong association ¹ increased effect for RR ~1 ¹	-	-	RR 0.39 (0.28 to 0.55)	-	⊖⊖⊖⊖ MODERATE	CRITICAL
								0%		-		

¹ No explanation was provided

*The basis for the **assumed risk** (e.g. the median control group risk across studies) is provided in footnotes. The **corresponding risk** (and its 95% confidence interval) is based on the assumed risk in the comparison group and the **relative effect** of the intervention (and its 95% CI).

CI: Confidence interval; RR: Risk ratio;

GRADE Working Group grades of evidence

High quality: Further research is very unlikely to change our confidence in the estimate of effect.

Moderate quality: Further research is likely to have an important impact on our confidence in the estimate of effect and may change the estimate.

Low quality: Further research is very likely to have an important impact on our confidence in the estimate of effect and is likely to change the estimate.

Very low quality: We are very uncertain about the estimate.

Supplementary Figure 3. The GRADE assessment for evidence. A and B correspond to different statistical analysis groupings described above.