



SAP

SOCIEDAD ARGENTINA DE PEDIATRÍA

Why we don't always do what trials tell us to do!

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Coordinating Editor, Cochrane Neonatal

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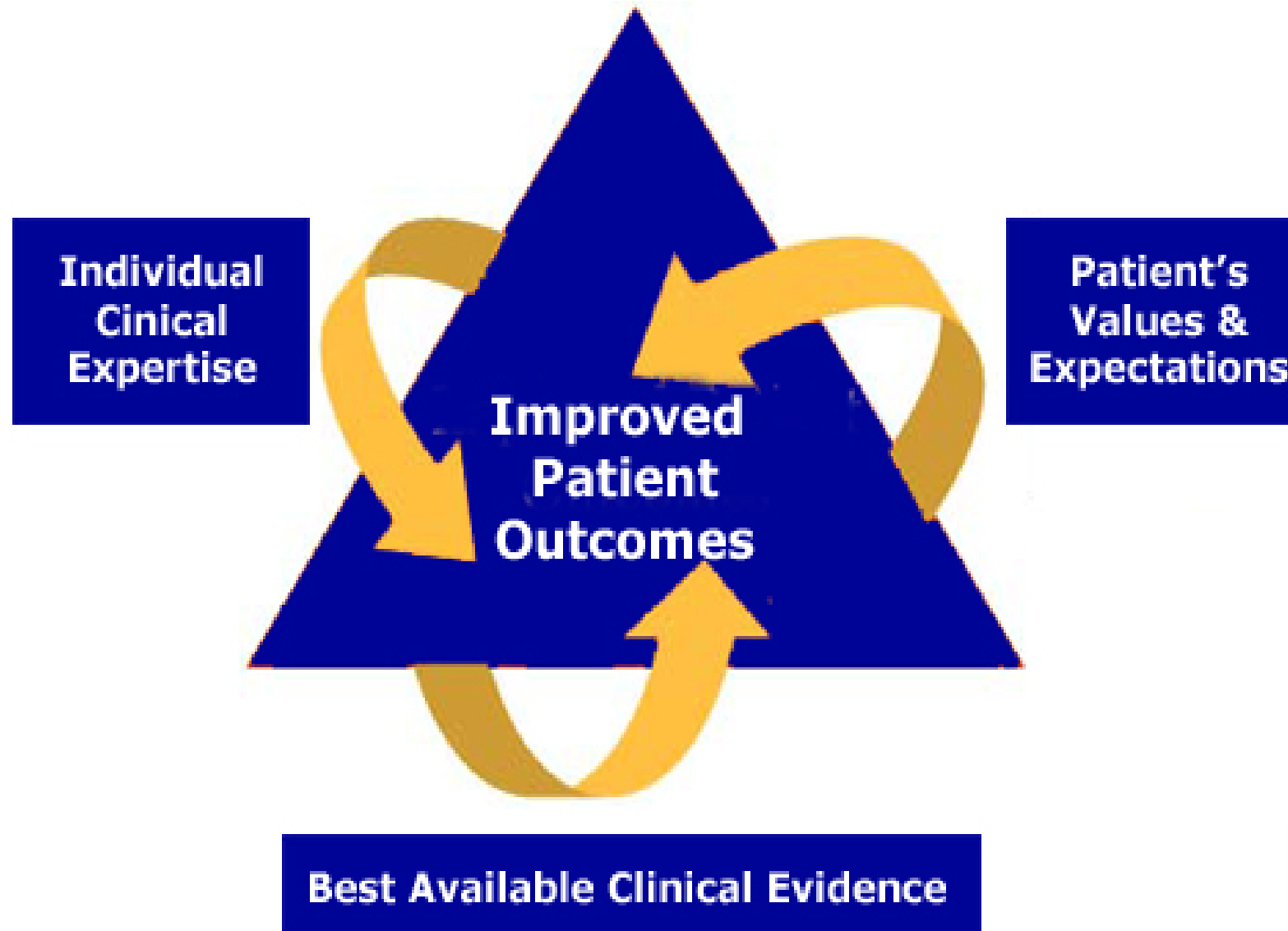
Why we don't always do what trials tell us to do!

Disclosure

Dr. Soll is President of
The Vermont Oxford Network and
Coordinating Editor of Cochrane Neonatal

No other relevant financial issues to disclose.

Evidence Based Medicine



Improvement Formula



Do What?
Evidence Based Medicine

Do How?
Evidence Based Practice

Batalden, PB, Davidoff F. Qual Saf Health Care 2007;16:2-3



Commentary

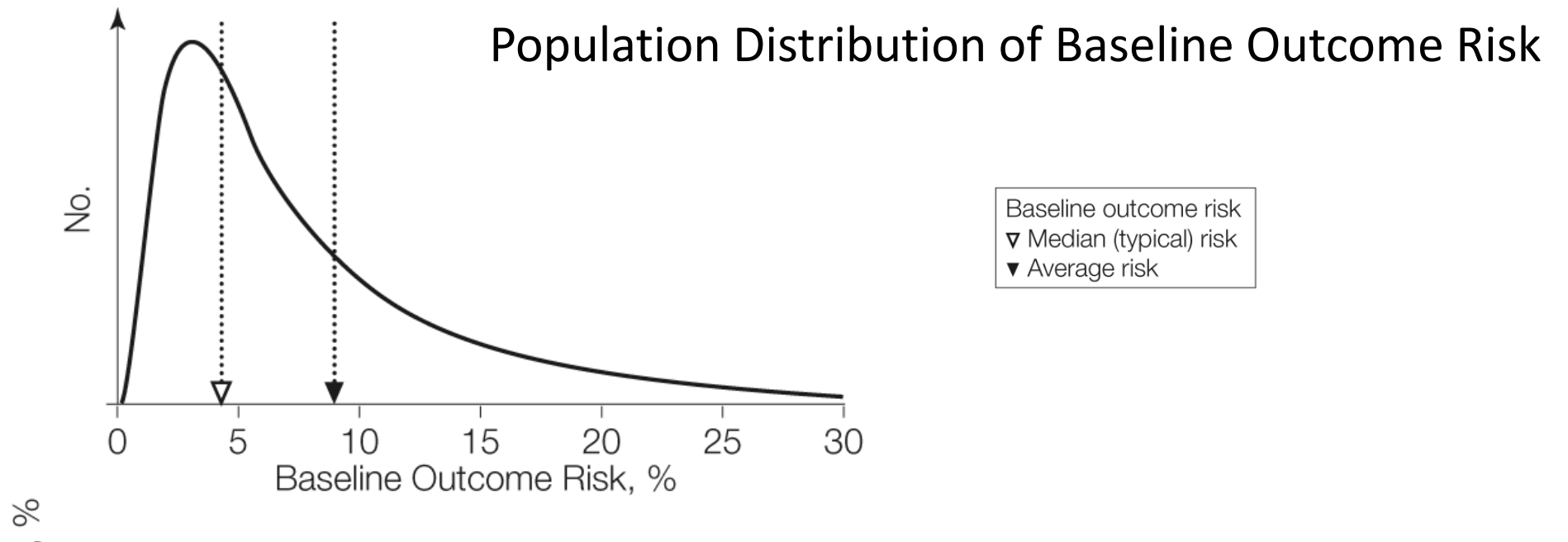
September 12, 2007

Limitations of Applying Summary Results of Clinical Trials to Individual Patients

The Need for Risk Stratification

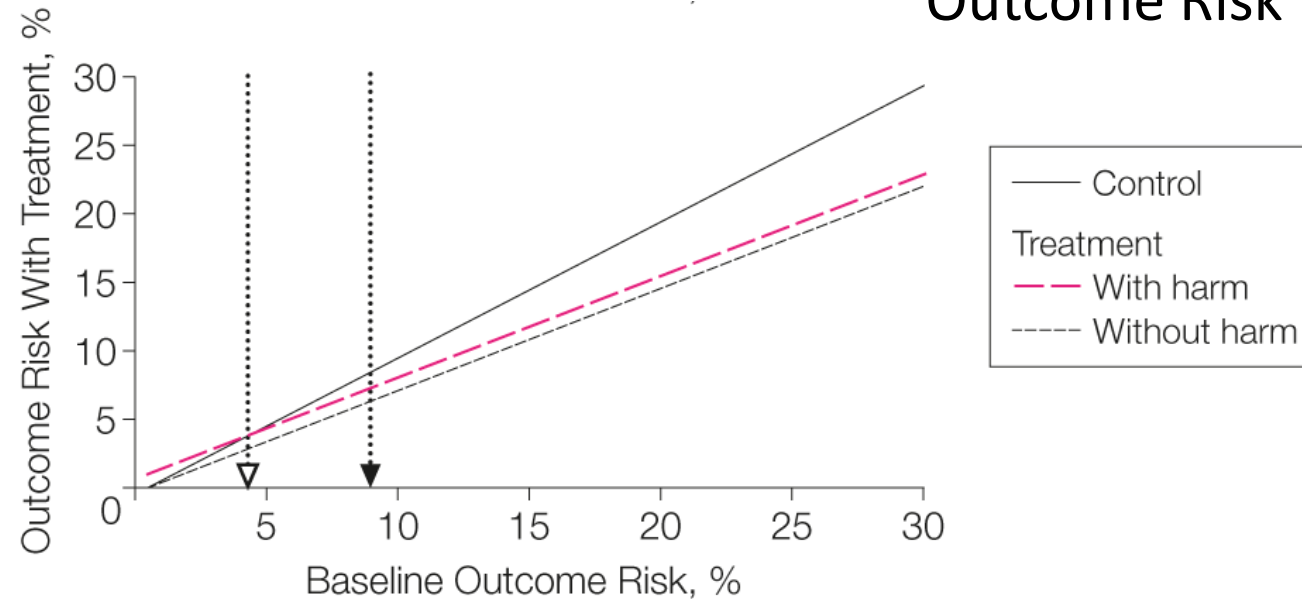
David M. Kent, MD, MS; Rodney A. Hayward, MD

JAMA. 2007;298(10):1209-1212. doi:10.1001/jama.298.10.1209



Patients enrolled in clinical trials often have greatly different baseline risks for the outcome of interest. The risk distribution is often skewed; a relatively small group of high risk patients with multiple risk factors account for a large number of the outcomes and the mean risk might be considerably higher than the risk in the typical (median) patient

Outcome Risk With Treatment



A constant relative risk reduction (25% in this case) leads to increasing benefits as baseline risk increases; treatment and control outcome rates progressively diverge at higher baseline risks.

When a therapy is associated with even a small amount of treatment-related harm, low-risk patients are unlikely to benefit at all.

Patients enrolled in clinical trials often have greatly different baseline risks for the outcome of interest.....

Prophylactic systemic antifungal agents to prevent mortality and morbidity in very low birth weight infants.

Cleminson J, Austin N, McGuire W. Cochrane Database of Systematic Reviews 2015, Issue 10. Art. No.: CD003850. DOI: 10.1002/14651858.CD003850.pub5.

Identified 15 eligible trials enrolling a total of 1690 infants.

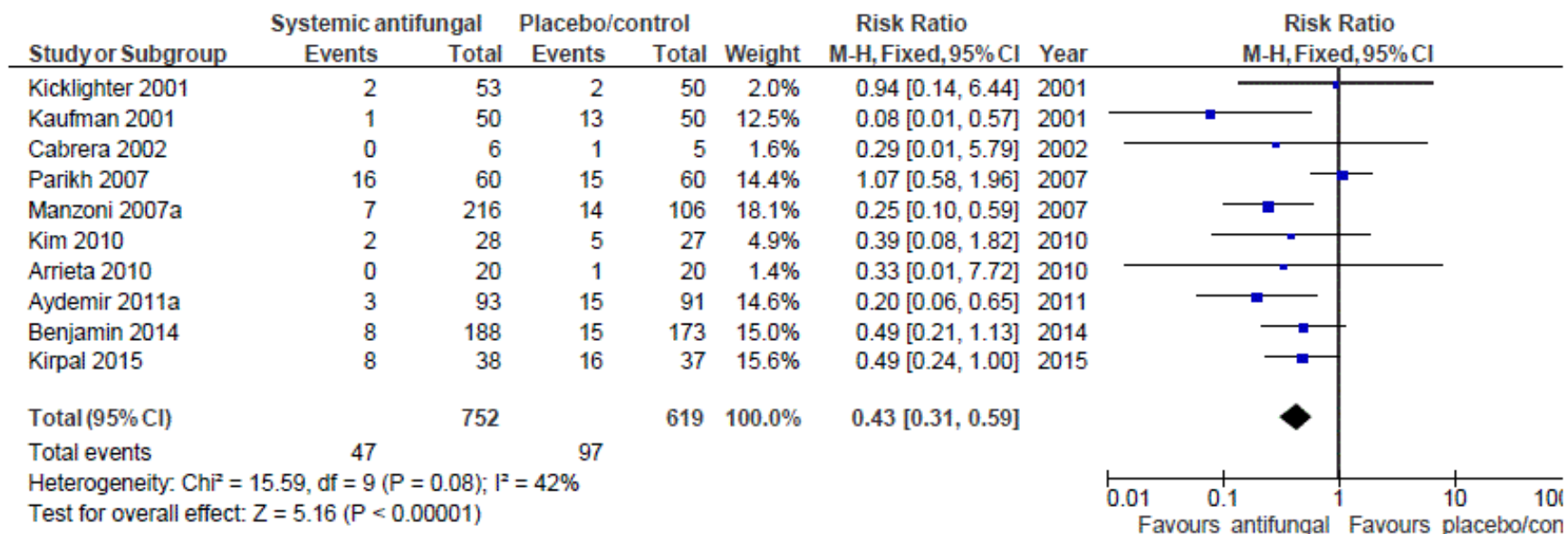
Ten trials (1371 infants) compared systemic antifungal prophylaxis versus placebo or no drug.

These trials were generally of good methodological quality.



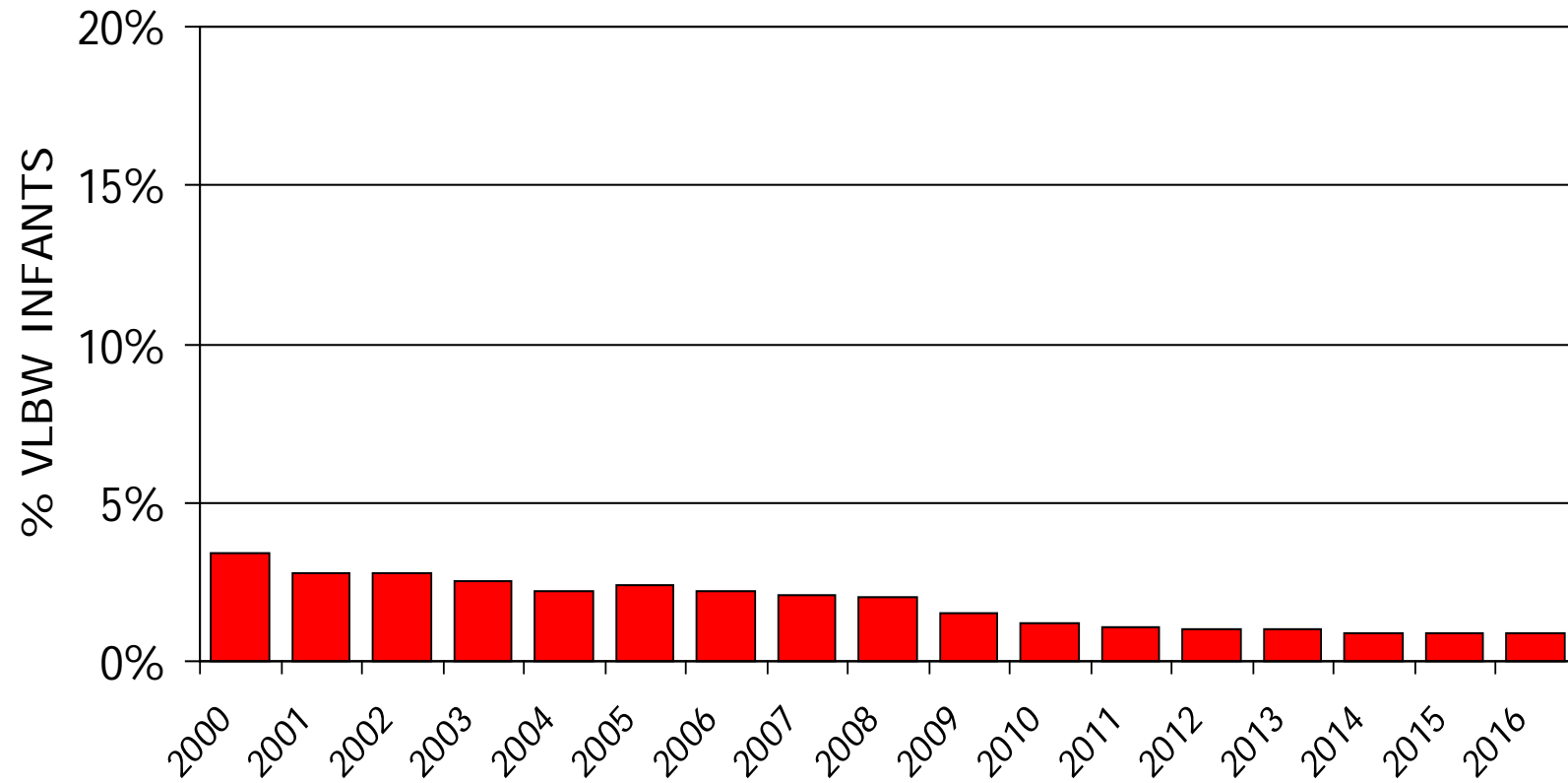
Prophylactic systemic antifungal agents to prevent mortality and morbidity in very low birth weight infants.

Invasive Fungal Infection (relative risk)



Fungal Sepsis

Vermont Oxford Network Annual Reports 2000-2016



Rates of Fungal Sepsis by Gestational Age Category

Vermont Oxford Network 2016

| <u>GA Category</u> | <u>N</u> | <u>Mean (%)</u> | <u>Q1</u> | <u>Q3</u> |
|--------------------|----------|-----------------|-----------|-----------|
| < 24 Weeks | 2,249 | 3.9% | 0.0% | 0.0% |
| 24 to 26 Weeks | 13,212 | 1.9% | 0.0% | 0.0% |
| 27 to 29 Weeks | 22,625 | 0.6% | 0.0% | 0.0% |
| 30 to 32 Weeks | 16,240 | 0.3% | 0.0% | 0.0% |
| > 32 Weeks | 4,820 | 0.1% | 0.0% | 0.0% |
| ALL INFANTS | 59,146 | 0.9% | 0.0% | 0.7% |

“It’s hard to improve on zero!”

Prophylactic antifungal therapy

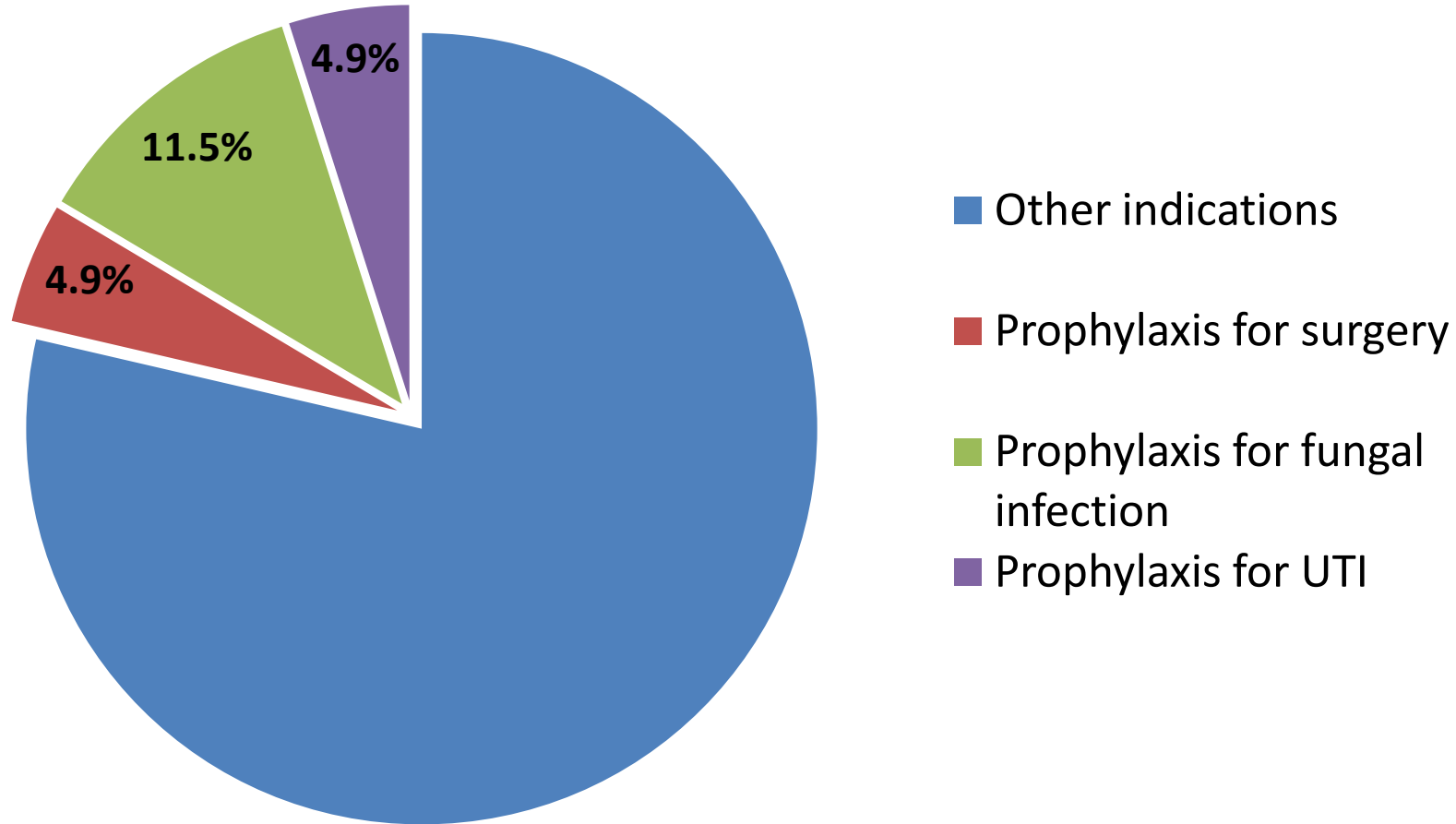
Authors' conclusions

Prophylactic systemic antifungal therapy reduces the incidence of invasive fungal infection in very preterm or very low birth weight infants.

This finding should be interpreted and applied cautiously since the incidence of invasive fungal infection was very high in the control groups of many of the included trials.

Meta-analysis does not demonstrate a statistically significant effect on mortality. There are currently only limited data on the long-term neurodevelopmental consequences for infants exposed to this intervention. **In addition, there is a need for further data on the effect of the intervention on the emergence of organisms with antifungal resistance.**

**Of infants on antibiotics....
22% were being treated “prophylactically”**



Risk factors for fungal infection in preterm infants

| Risk factor | Odds Ratio (95% CI) |
|---|---------------------|
| Gestational age < 25 weeks | 4.15 (3.12 to 6.12) |
| Male | 1.28 (1.01 to 1.62) |
| Central catheter | 3.94 (1.48 to 12.3) |
| Broad-spectrum antibiotics in week before culture | 1.77 (1.33 to 2.29) |
| Cephalosporin use by day of life 3 | 1.77 (1.31 to 2.38) |
| H2 blockers | 2.44 (1.11 to 5.29) |

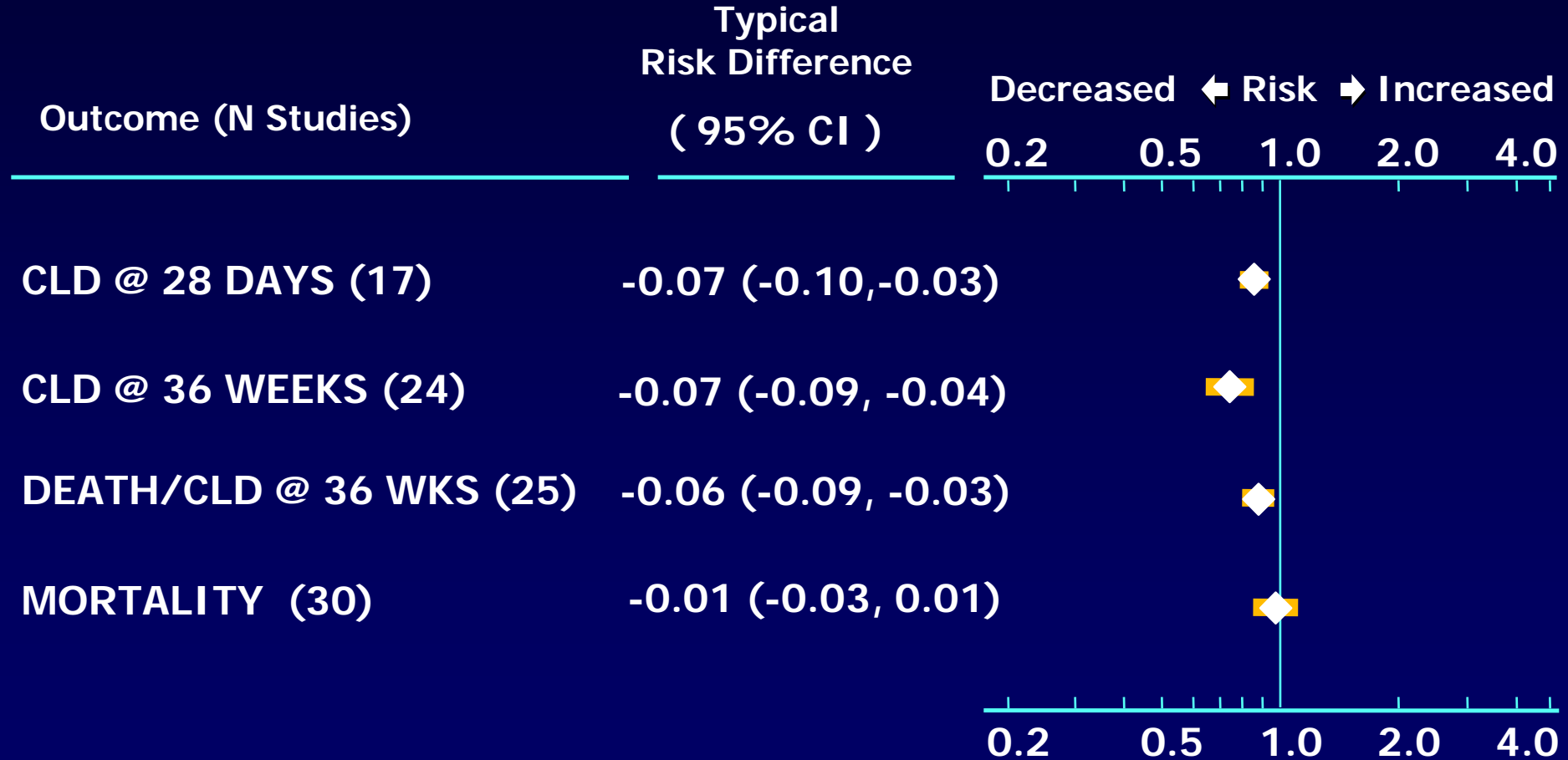
Hsieh, Emily, P. Brian Smith, and Daniel K. Benjamin. "Neonatal Fungal Infections: When to Treat?" *Early human development* 88.Suppl 2 (2012): S6–S10. PMC.

A constant relative risk reduction leads to increasing benefits as baseline risk increases; treatment and control outcome rates progressively diverge at higher baseline risks.

When a therapy is associated with even a small amount of treatment-related harm, low-risk patients are unlikely to benefit at all.

EARLY (≤ 7 DAYS) POSTNATAL STEROID THERAPY

META-ANALYSIS OF 32 RANDOMIZED CONTROLLED TRIALS

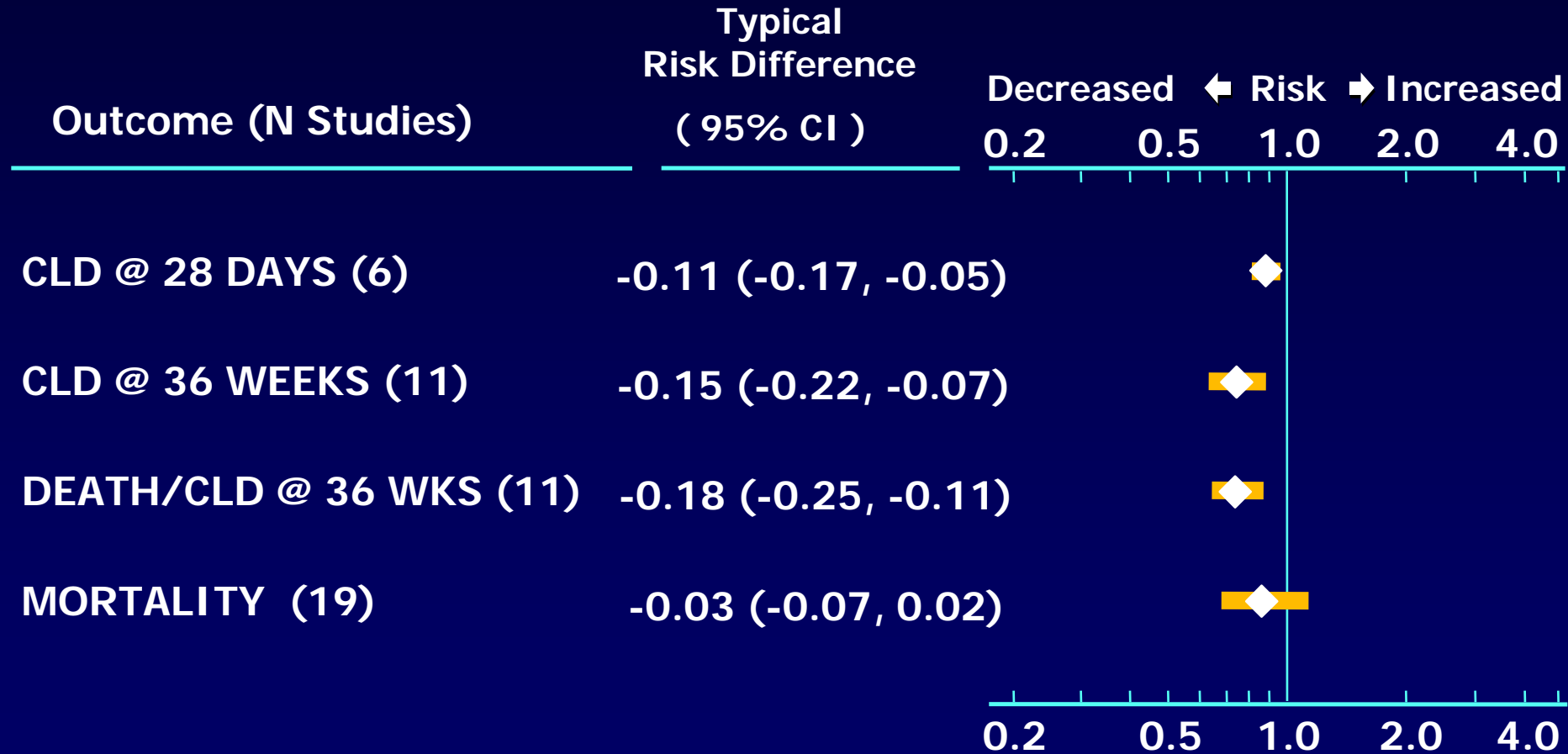


Doyle 2017

Typical Relative Risk and 95% CI

LATE (> 7 DAYS) POSTNATAL STEROID THERAPY

META-ANALYSIS OF 21 RANDOMIZED CONTROLLED TRIALS

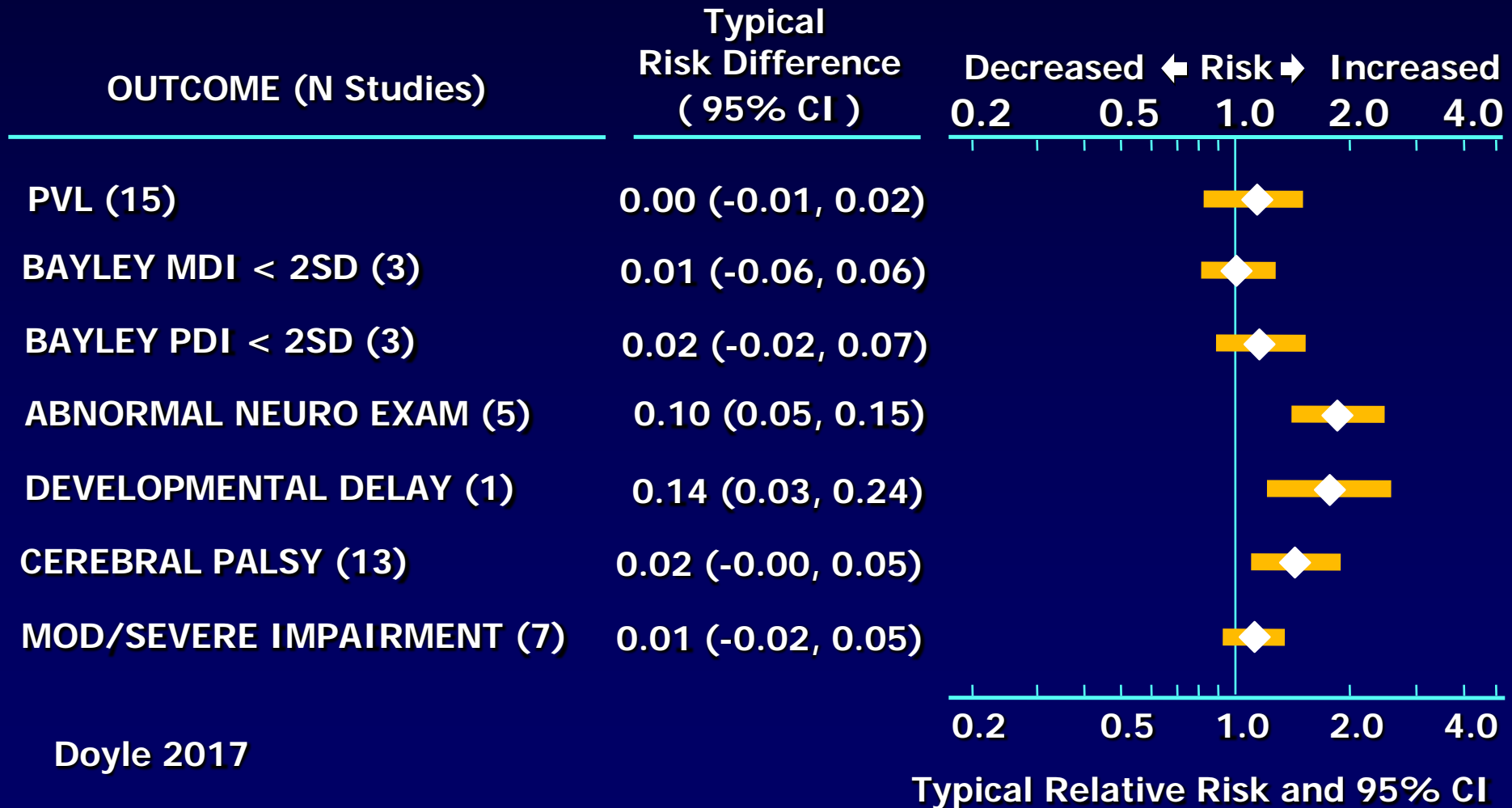


Doyle 2017

Typical Relative Risk and 95% CI

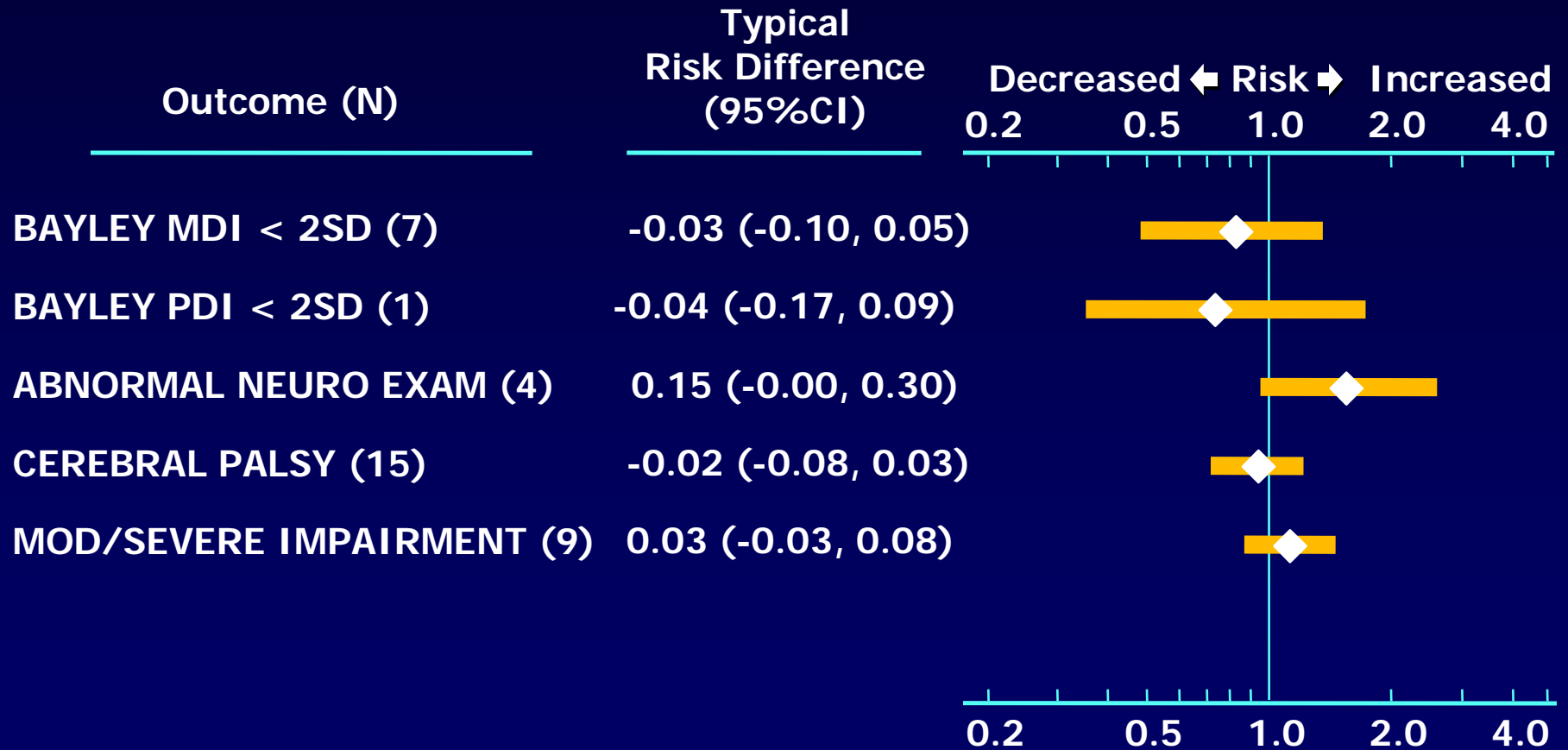
EARLY (≤ 7 DAYS) POSTNATAL STEROID THERAPY

NEURODEVELOPMENTAL OUTCOME IN SURVIVORS



LATE (> 7 DAYS) POSTNATAL STEROID THERAPY

NEURODEVELOPMENTAL OUTCOME IN SURVIVORS



POSTNATAL CORTICOSTEROIDS TO TREAT OR PREVENT CHRONIC LUNG DISEASE IN PRETERM INFANTS

RECOMMENDATIONS FROM THE COMMITTEE ON THE FETUS AND NEWBORN 2002

On the basis of limited short-term benefits, the absence of long-term benefits, and the number of serious short-term and long-term complications, the routine use of systemic dexamethasone for the prevention or treatment of chronic lung disease in infants with very low birth weight is not recommended.

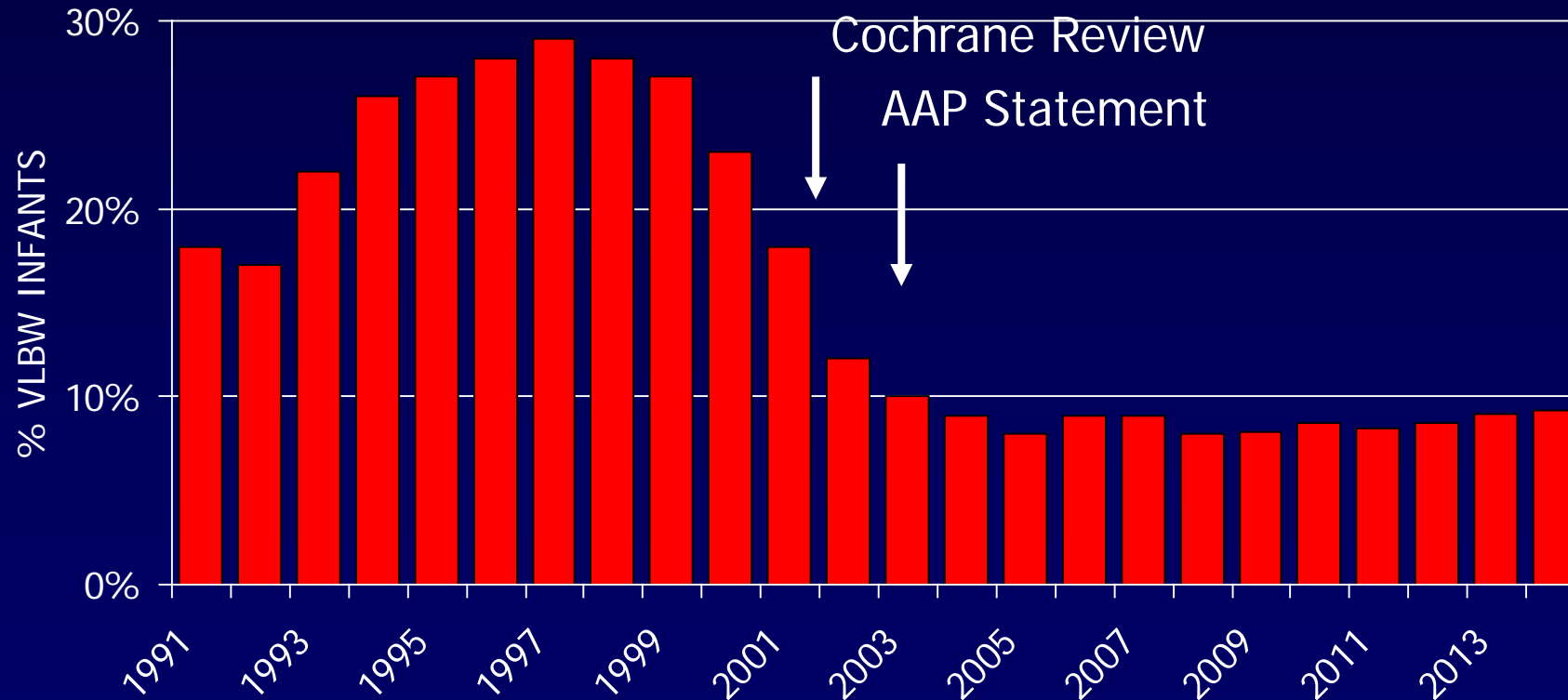
POSTNATAL CORTICOSTEROIDS TO TREAT OR PREVENT CHRONIC LUNG DISEASE IN PRETERM INFANTS

RECOMMENDATIONS FROM THE COMMITTEE ON THE FETUS AND NEWBORN 2002

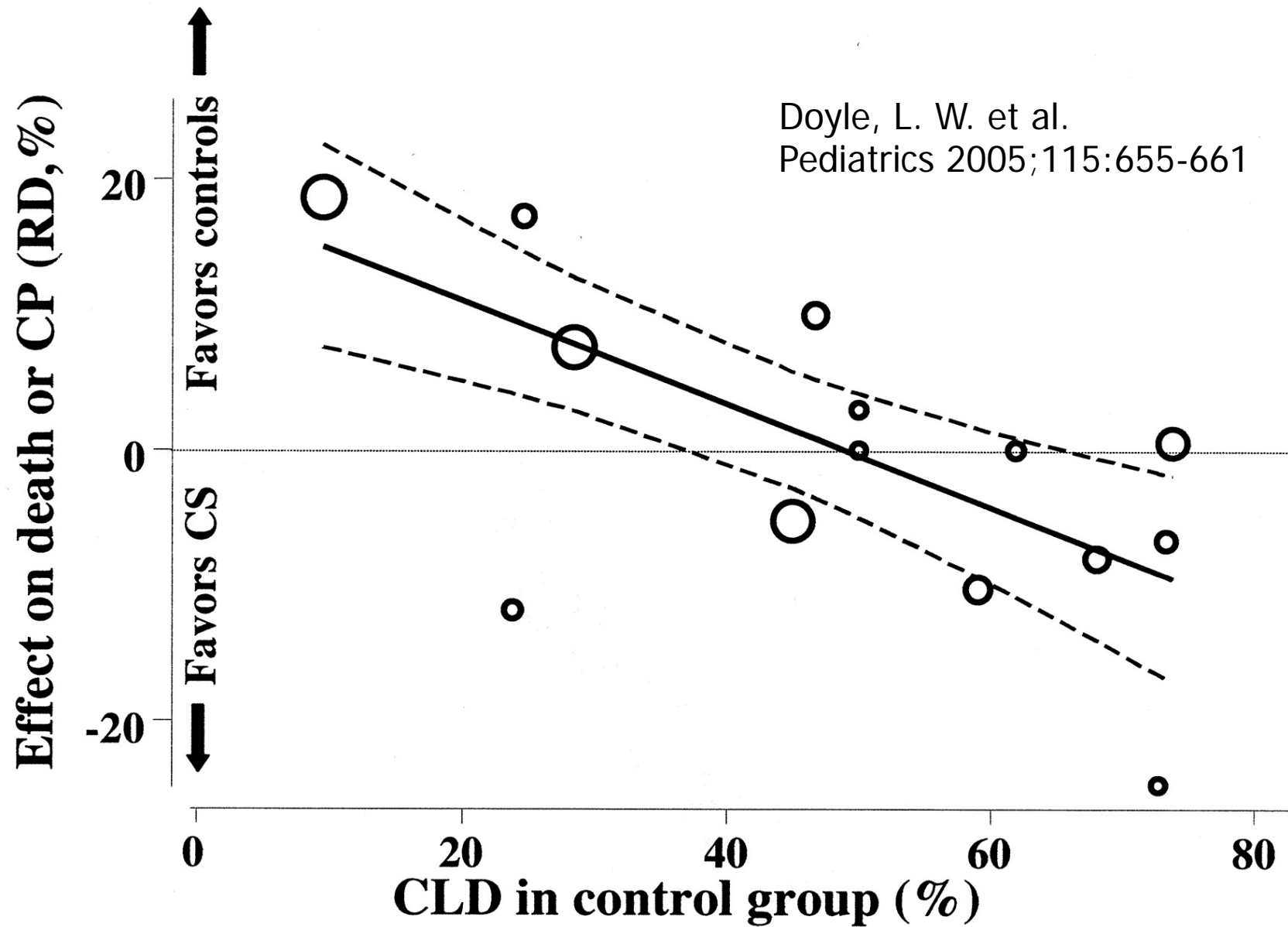
Outside the context of a randomized controlled trial, the use of corticosteroids should be limited to exceptional clinical circumstances (e.g., an infant on maximal ventilatory and oxygen support). In those circumstances, parents should be fully informed about the known short- and long-term risks and agree to treat.

Postnatal Corticosteroid Use in VLBW Infants

VERMONT OXFORD NETWORK ANNUAL REPORTS 1991-2014



**Risk Difference (%) for Death or CP among all participants vs.
rate of CLD (%) in the control group**



Competing Risks

Effects of targeting lower versus higher arterial oxygen saturations on death or disability in preterm infants

Askie LM, Darlow BA, Davis PG, Finer N, Stenson B, Vento M, Whyte R.

Cochrane Database of Systematic Reviews 2017, Issue 4. Art. No.: CD011190.

DOI: [10.1002/14651858.CD011190.pub2](https://doi.org/10.1002/14651858.CD011190.pub2).

NeOProM

Askie *et al. BMC Pediatrics* 2011, **11**:6
<http://www.biomedcentral.com/1471-2431/11/6>



STUDY PROTOCOL

Open Access

NeOProM: Neonatal Oxygenation Prospective Meta-analysis Collaboration study protocol

Lisa M Askie^{1*}, Peter Brocklehurst², Brian A Darlow³, Neil Finer⁴, Barbara Schmidt^{5,6}, William Tarnow-Mordi^{7,8},
for the NeOProM Collaborative Group¹

Characteristics of randomized trials included in the NeoProM Collaboration

| Trial acronym | BOOST II-Australia | BOOST II-UK | BOOST-NZ | SUPPORT | COT |
|---|--|---|--|--|---|
| Registration number | ACTRN12605000055606 | ISRCTN00842661 | ACTRN12605000253606 | NCT00233324 | ISRCTN62491227 |
| Planned sample size | 1200 | 1200 | 320 | 1310 | 1200 |
| Countries of recruitment | Australia | United Kingdom | New Zealand | United States | Canada, USA, Argentina, Germany, Israel, Finland |
| Participants | Infants < 28 wks gestation inborn or outborn < 24 hrs old | Infants < 28 wks gestation < 12 hrs old (24 hrs if outborn) | Infants < 28 wks gestation inborn or outborn < 24 hrs old | Infants 24-27 wks gestation < 2 hrs old | Infants 23 0/7-27 6/7 wks gestation < 24 hrs old |
| Masked? | Yes | Yes | Yes | Yes | Yes |
| Intervention | Lower oxygen saturation (85%-89%) | Lower oxygen saturation (85%-89%) | Lower oxygen saturation (85%-89%) | Lower oxygen saturation (85%-89%) | Lower oxygen saturation (85%-89%) |
| Comparator | Higher oxygen saturation (91%-95%) | Higher oxygen saturation (91%-95%) | Higher oxygen saturation (91%-95%) | Higher oxygen saturation (91%-95%) | Higher oxygen saturation (91%-95%) |
| Intervention & comparator duration | Oximeter applied asap after admission to NICU, continued for minimum 2 wks. Thereafter continued until 36 wks corrected age or SpO ₂ > 96% in room air for 95% of time over 3 days. | Oximeter applied from randomisation until postmenstrual age (PMA) of 36 wks or until baby is breathing air. All monitoring at any time prior to 36 wks to be done using study oximeter. BPD defined at 36 wks using a physiological test. | Oximeter applied asap after admission to NICU, continued for minimum 2 wks. Thereafter continued until 36 wks corrected age or SpO ₂ > 96% in room air for 95% of time over 3 days. | Oximeter applied within 2 hrs following admission to NICU until infant has been in room air for 72 hrs or until 36 wks corrected age, assessed by physiologic oxygen test. | Oximeter applied from day of birth until a minimum 36 wks PMA. If breathing room air without any form of respiratory assistance from 35 wks PMA onward, study oximetry discontinued at a 36 wks PMA. If receiving any form of respiratory assistance and/or oxygen therapy from 35 wks PMA onward study oximetry continues until 40 wks PMA. Study oximetry stopped at any time before 40 wks PMA if baby discharged home (with or without respiratory assistance and/or oxygen). |

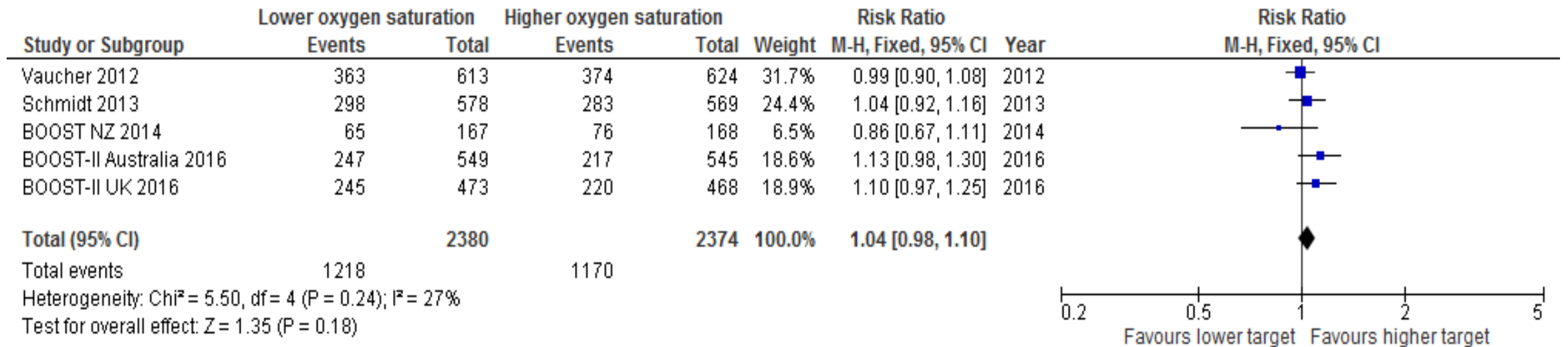
Effects of targeting lower versus higher arterial oxygen saturations on death or disability in preterm infants

Results:

- Five trials, which together enrolled 4965 infants, were eligible for inclusion.
- The investigators of these five trials had prospectively planned to combine their data as part of the NeOProm (Neonatal Oxygen Prospective Meta-analysis) Collaboration.

Effects of targeting lower versus higher arterial oxygen saturations on death or disability in preterm infants

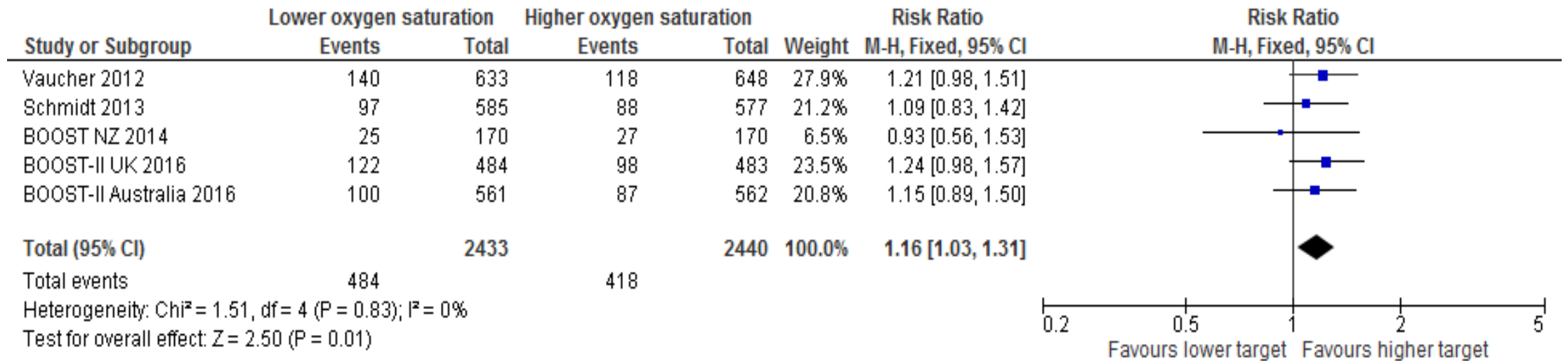
Effect on Death or Major Disability to 18 to 24 months



Typical RR 1.04 (95% CI 0.98 to 1.10)

Effects of targeting lower versus higher arterial oxygen saturations on death or disability in preterm infants

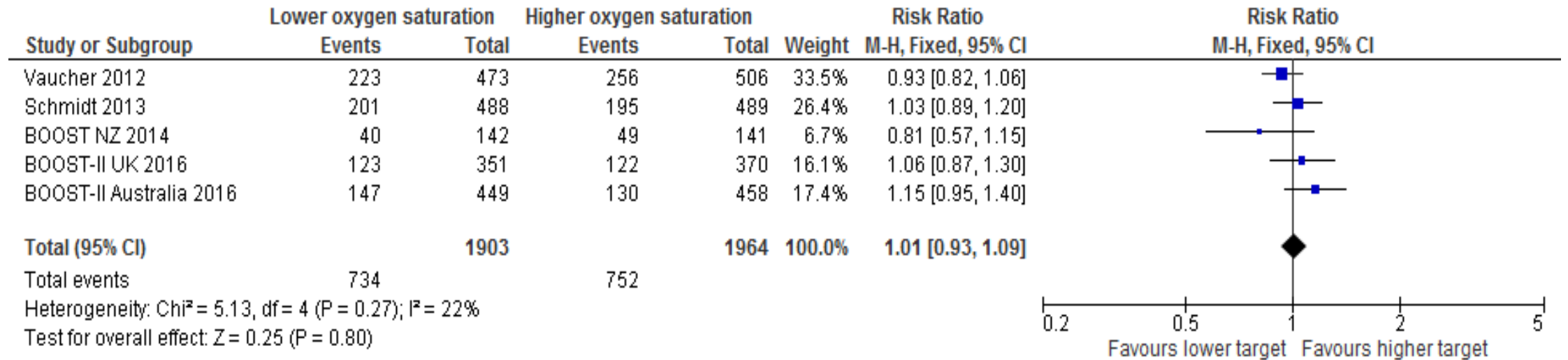
Effect on Death to 18 to 24 months



Typical RR 1.16 (95% CI 1.03 to 1.31)
Typical RD 0.03 (95% CI 0.01 to 0.05)

Effects of targeting lower versus higher arterial oxygen saturations on death or disability in preterm infants

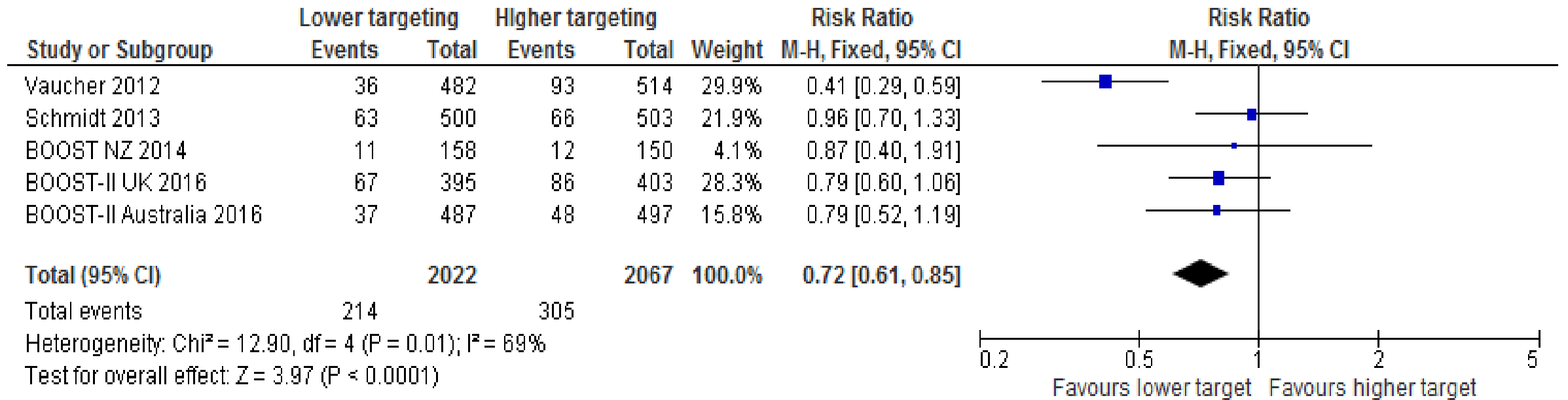
Effect on Major Disability to 18 to 24 months



Typical RR 1.01 (95% CI 0.93 to 1.09)

Effects of targeting lower versus higher arterial oxygen saturations on death or disability in preterm infants

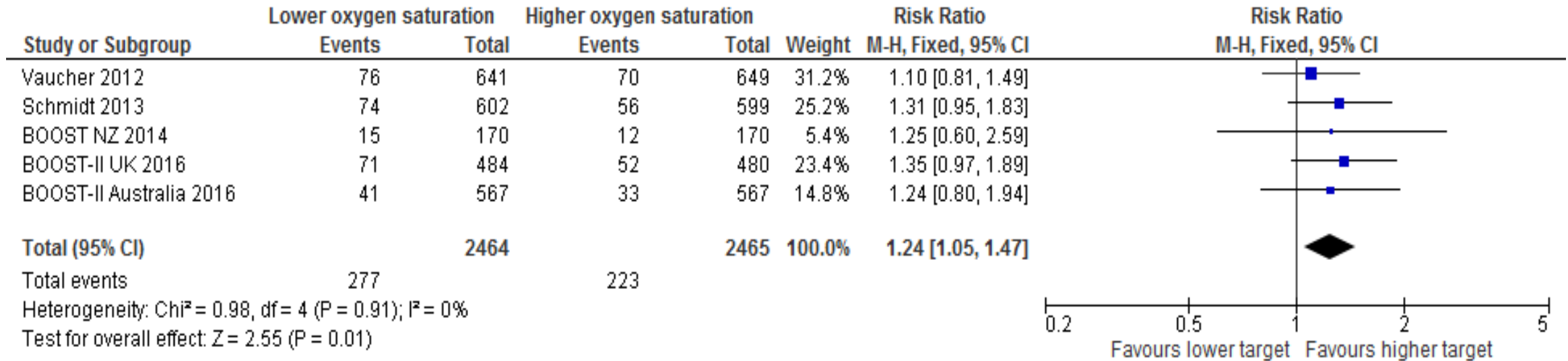
Effect on Severe Retinopathy of Prematurity



Typical RR 0.72 (95% CI 0.61 to 0.85)
Typical RD -0.04 (95% CI -0.06 to -0.02)

Effects of targeting lower versus higher arterial oxygen saturations on death or disability in preterm infants

Effect on Necrotizing Enterocolitis



Typical RR 1.24 (95% CI 1.05 to 1.47)
 Typical RD 0.02 (95% CI 0.01 to 0.04)

Effects of targeting lower versus higher arterial oxygen saturations on death or disability in preterm infants

Author's Conclusions:

In extremely preterm infants, targeting lower (85% to 89%) SpO₂ compared to higher (91% to 95%) SpO₂ had no significant effect on the composite outcome of death or major disability or on major disability alone, including blindness, but increased the average risk of mortality by 28 per 1000 infants treated.

The trade-offs between the benefits and harms of the different oxygen saturation target ranges may need to be assessed within local settings (e.g. alarm limit settings, staffing, baseline outcome risks) when deciding on oxygen saturation targeting policies.

Effects of targeting lower versus higher arterial oxygen saturations on death or disability in preterm infants

“The tradeoff between the potential benefits and risks of lower versus higher saturations may not be the same in each nursery.”

Schmidt B, Whyte RK, Roberts RS. J Pediatr. 2014;165:6-8 .

Effects of targeting lower versus higher arterial oxygen saturations on death or disability in preterm infants

| Outcome of concern | Appropriate choice of saturation range (SpO ₂) |
|--|--|
| Composite outcome of death or major disability | lower (85% to 89%) <i>or</i> higher (91% to 95%) |
| Death | higher (91% to 95%) |
| Retinopathy of Prematurity | lower (85% to 89%) |
| Necrotizing Enterocolitis | higher (91% to 95%) |

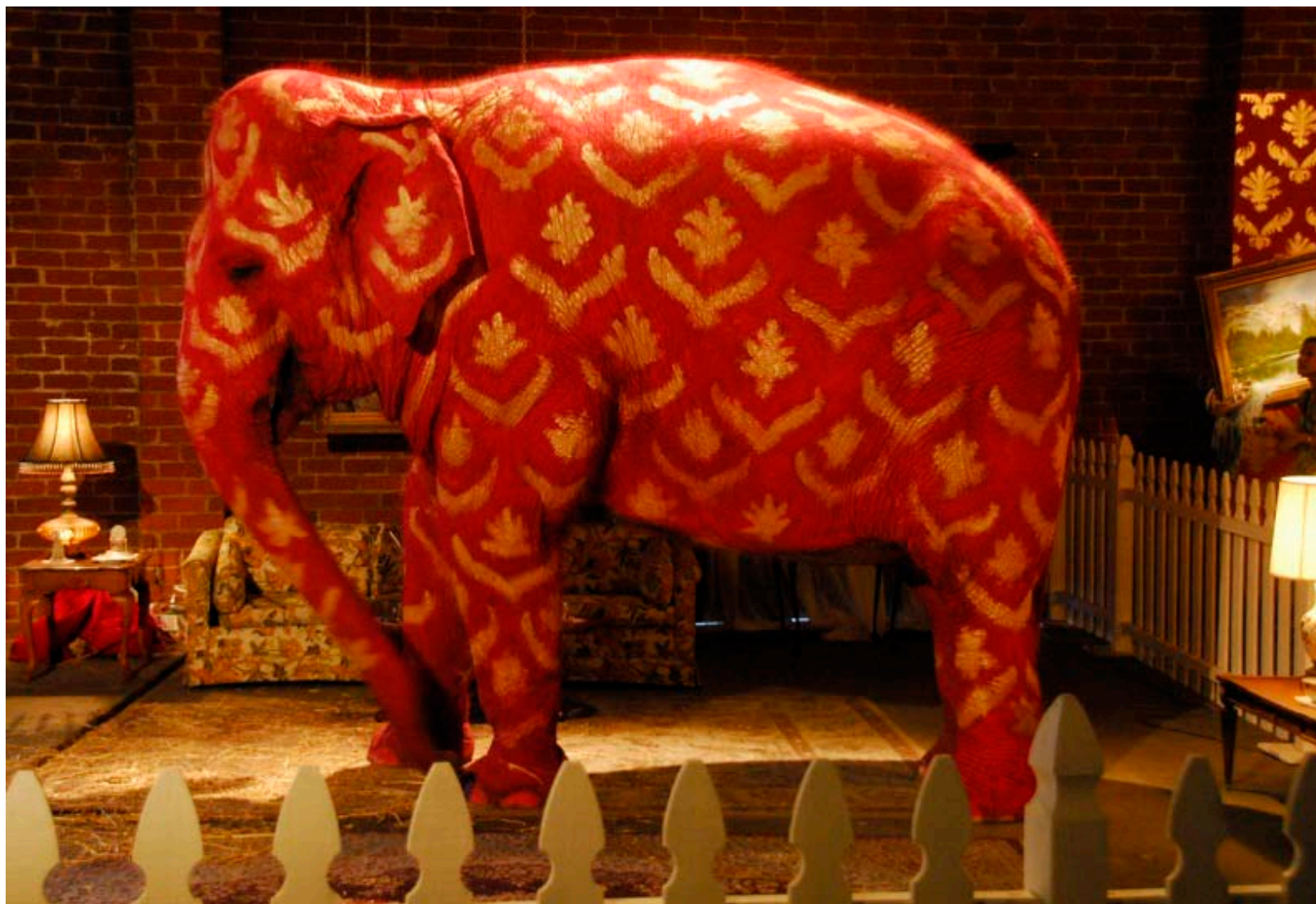
Values

Prophylactic intravenous indomethacin for preventing mortality and morbidity in preterm infants.

Fowlie PW, Davis PG, McGuire W.

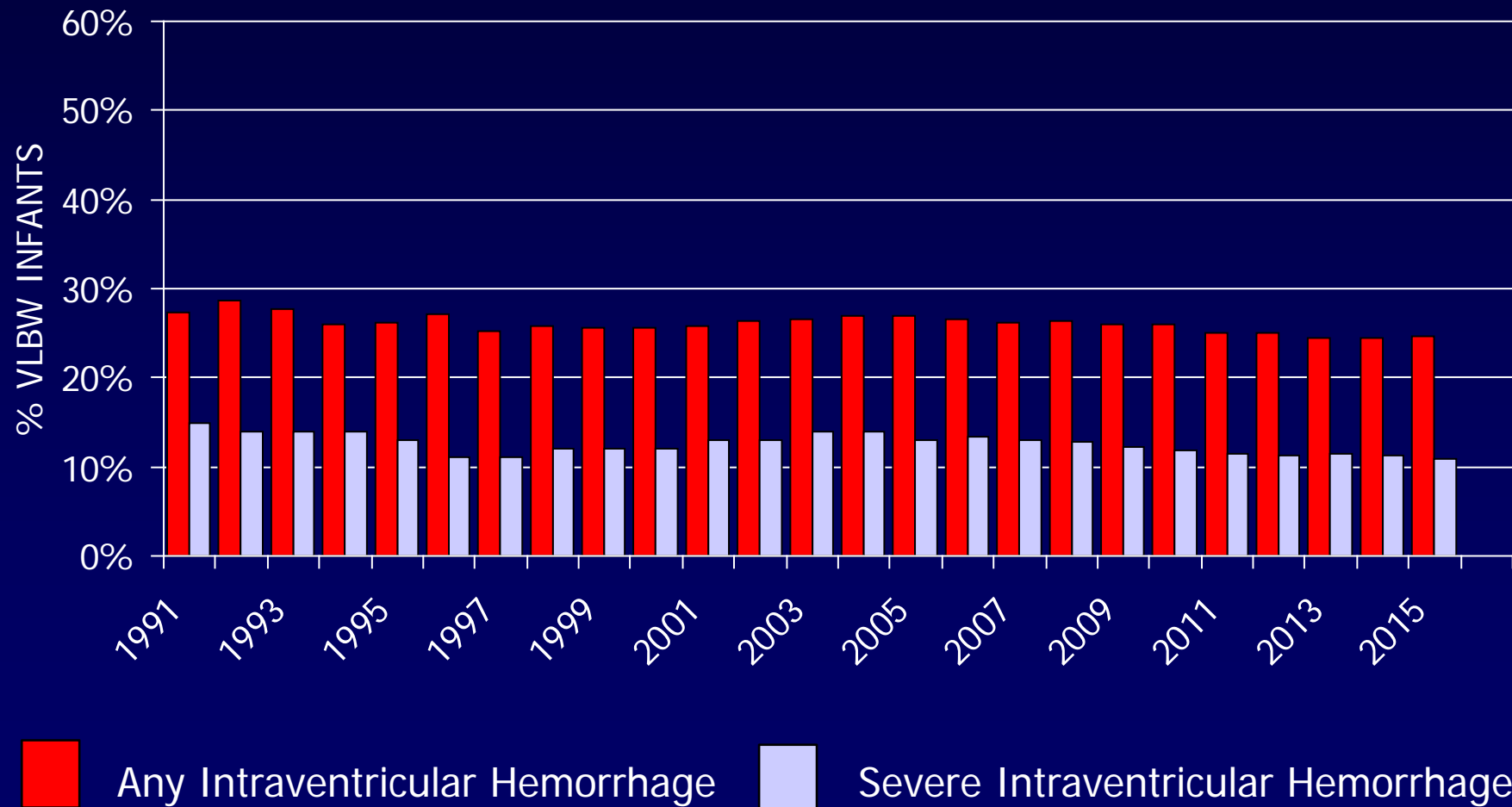


Cochrane Database Syst Rev. 2010 Jul 7;(7):CD000174.
doi: 10.1002/14651858.CD000174.pub2. PMID: 20614421



Intraventricular Hemorrhage

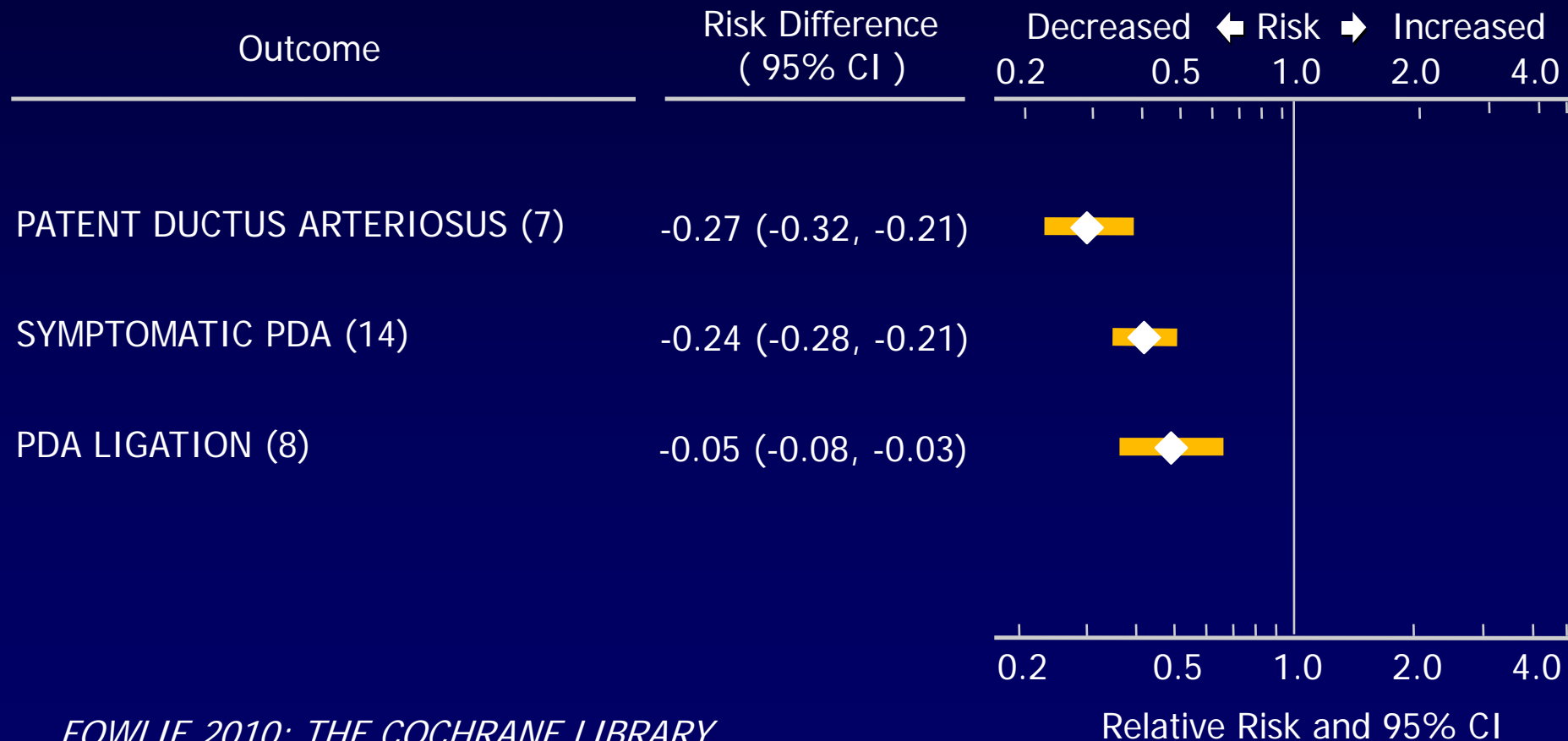
VERMONT OXFORD NETWORK ANNUAL REPORTS 1991-2015



Prophylactic Indomethacin

Meta-analysis of 19 trials

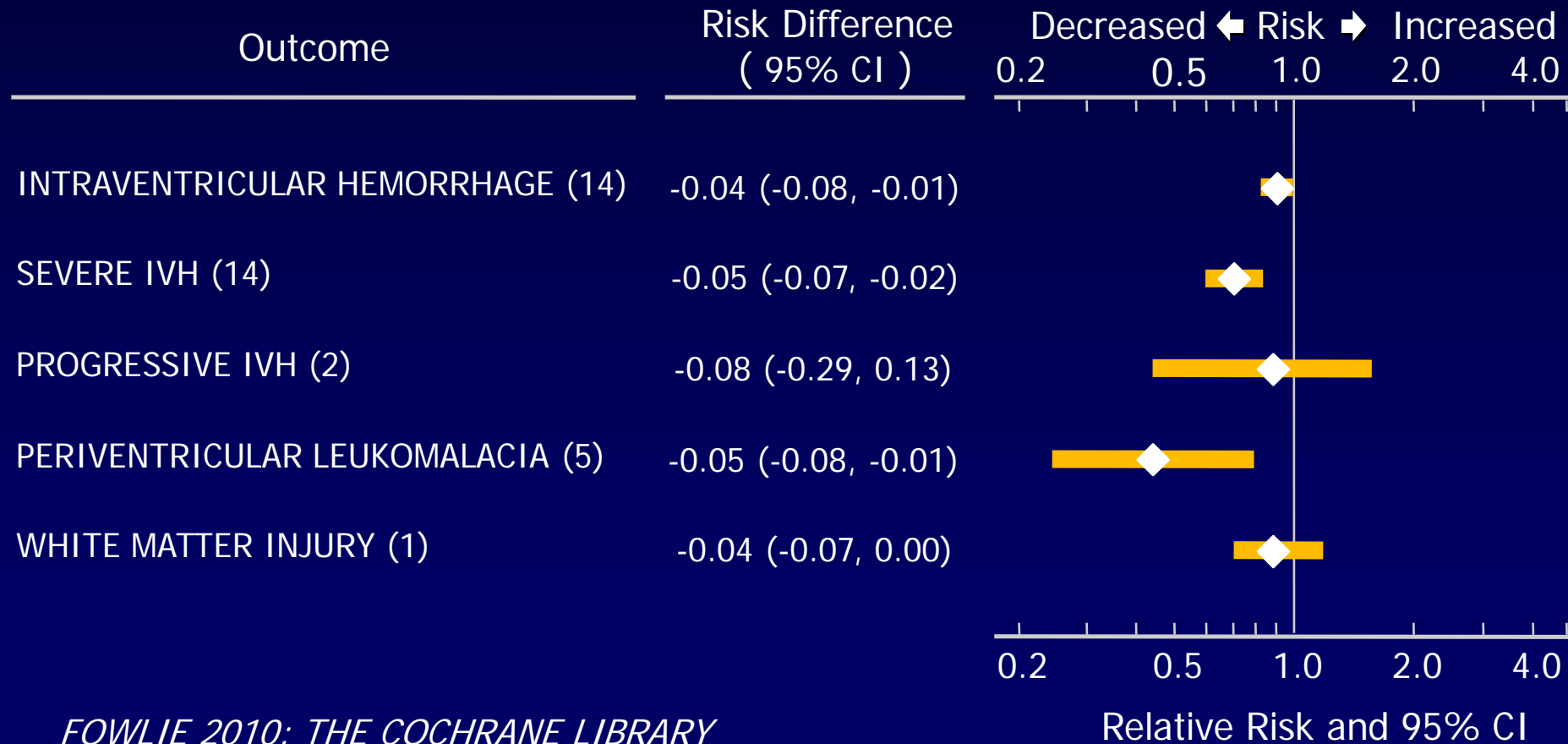
EFFECT ON PATENT DUCTUS ARTERIOSUS (PDA)



Prophylactic Indomethacin

Meta-analysis of 19 trials

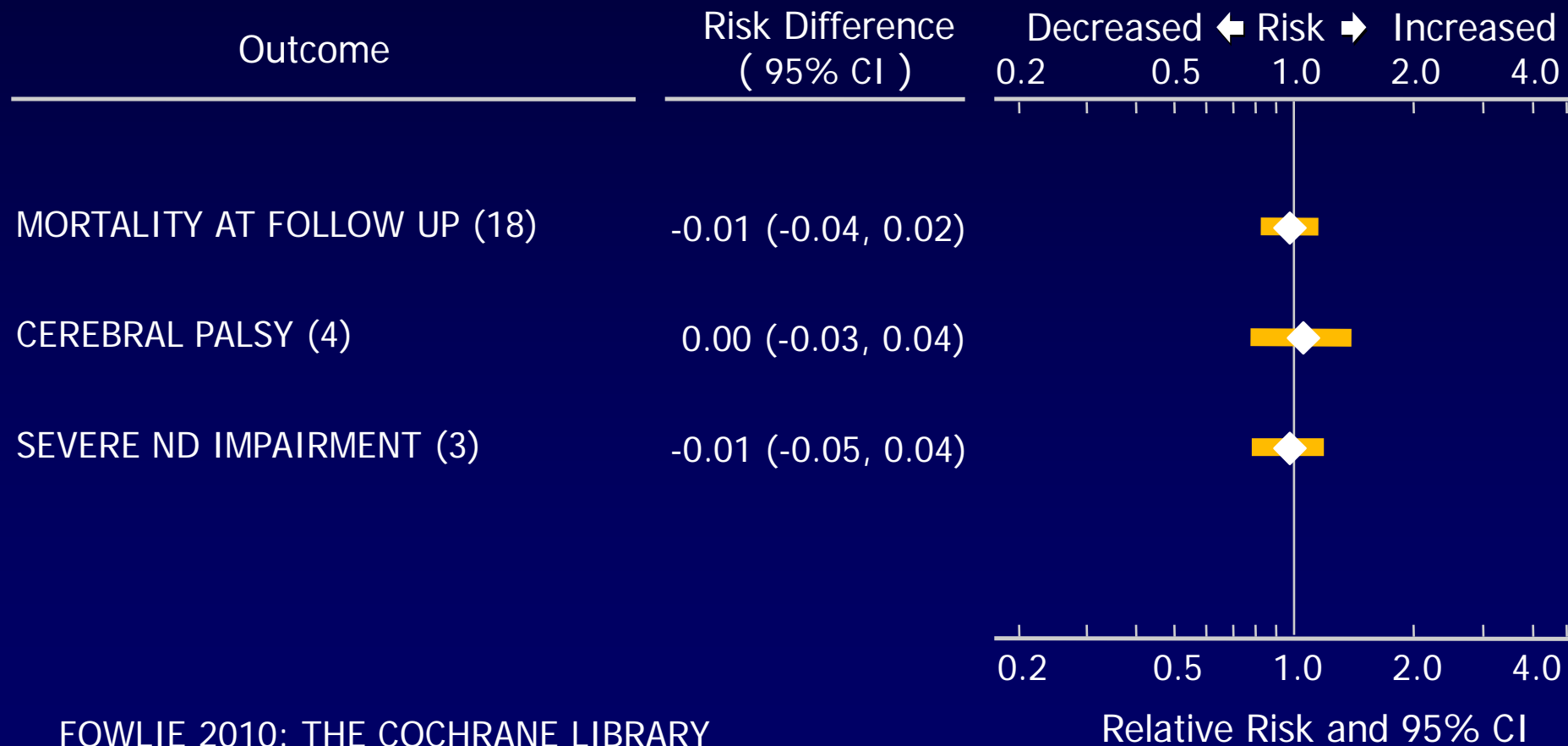
EFFECT ON CENTRAL NERVOUS SYSTEM INJURY



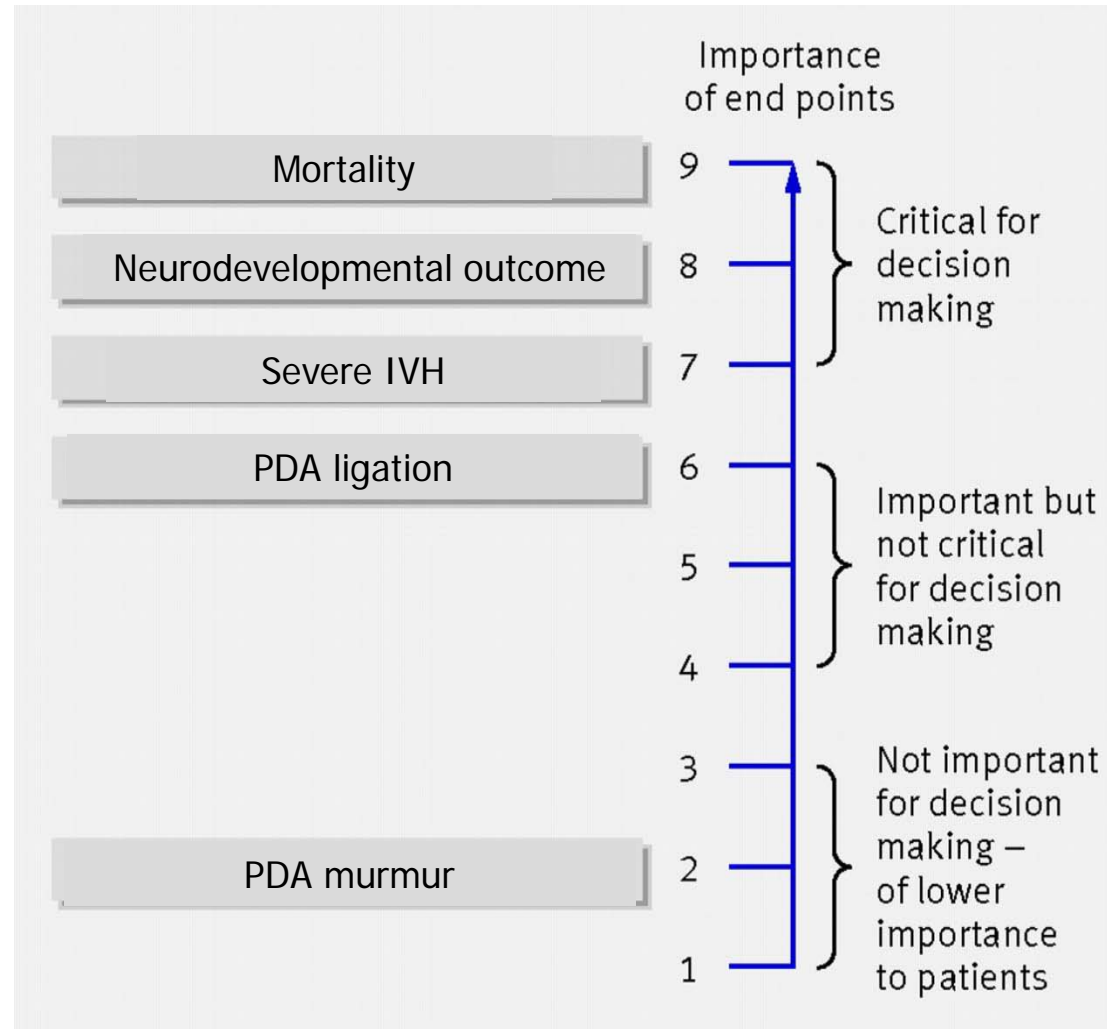
Prophylactic Indomethacin

Meta-analysis of 19 trials

STATUS AT LATEST FOLLOW UP

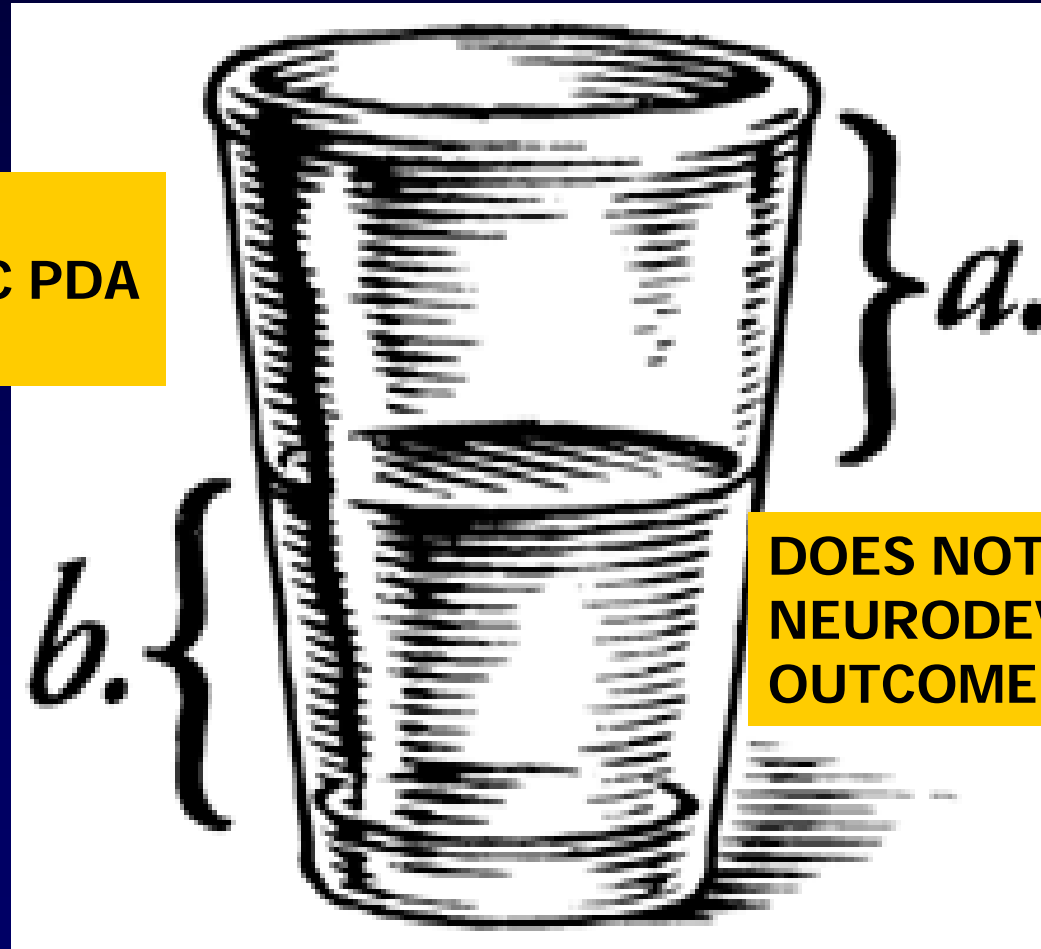


Hierarchy of outcomes according to importance to patients to assess effect of prophylactic indomethacin



Prophylactic Indomethacin: Glass half full or half empty?

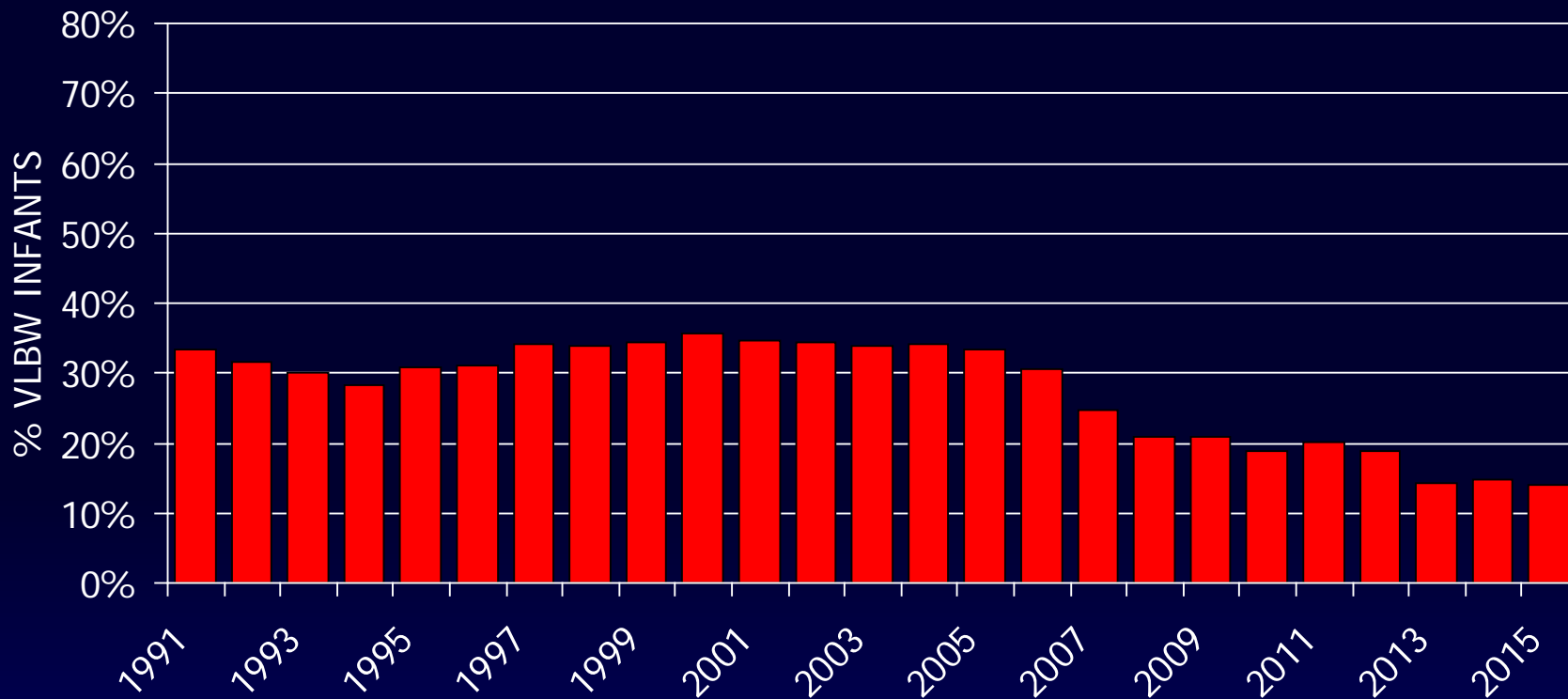
**PREVENTS:
SYMPTOMATIC PDA
SEVERE IVH**



**DOES NOT ALTER
NEURODEVELOPMENTAL
OUTCOME**

Indomethacin

VERMONT OXFORD NETWORK ANNUAL REPORTS 1991-2015

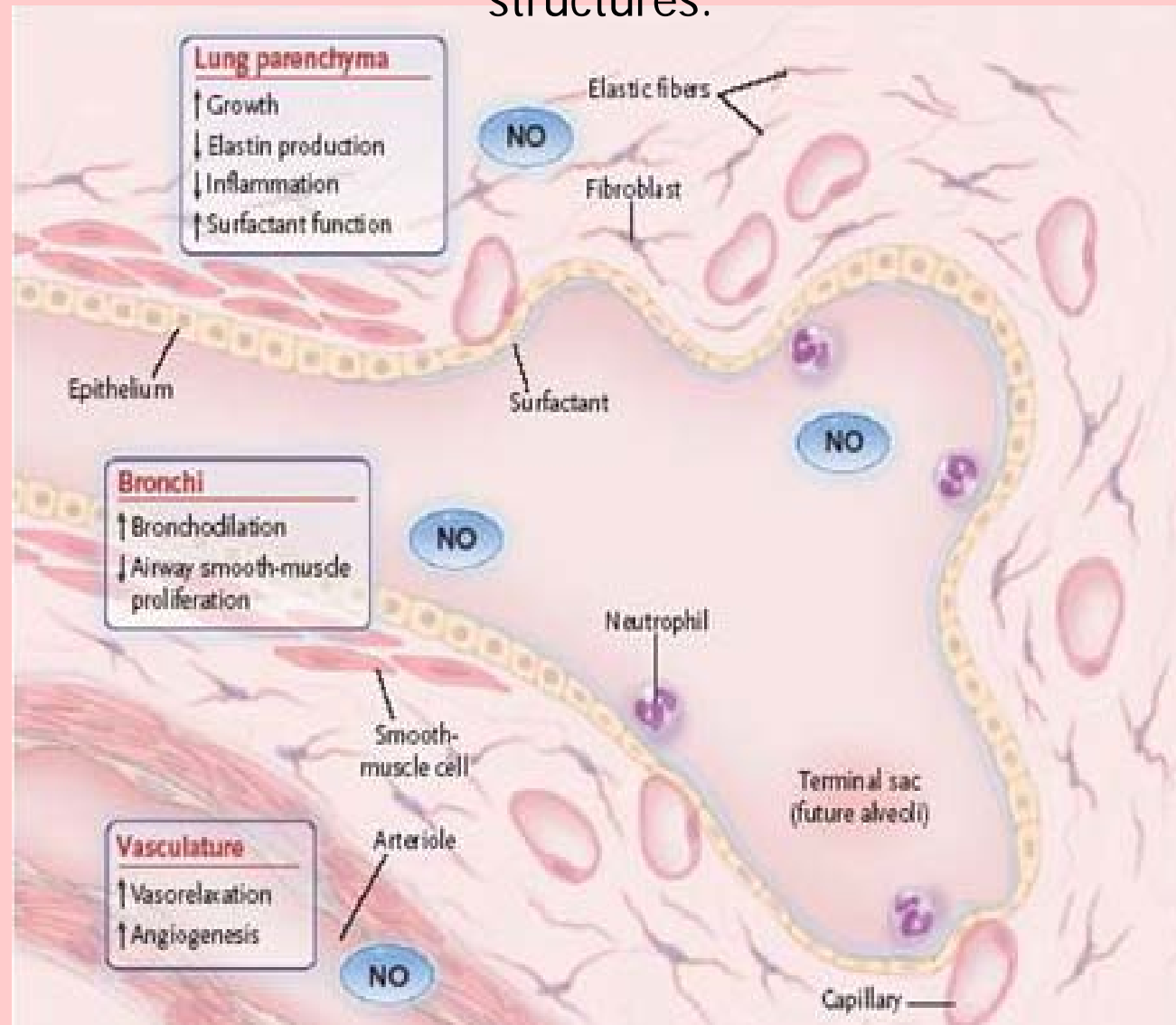


False precision/false optimism

Individual Patient Data Meta-analysis

“There must be a pony in here someplace!”

Nitric oxide may influence many facets of lung development, including lung parenchyma, bronchi, and vascular structures.



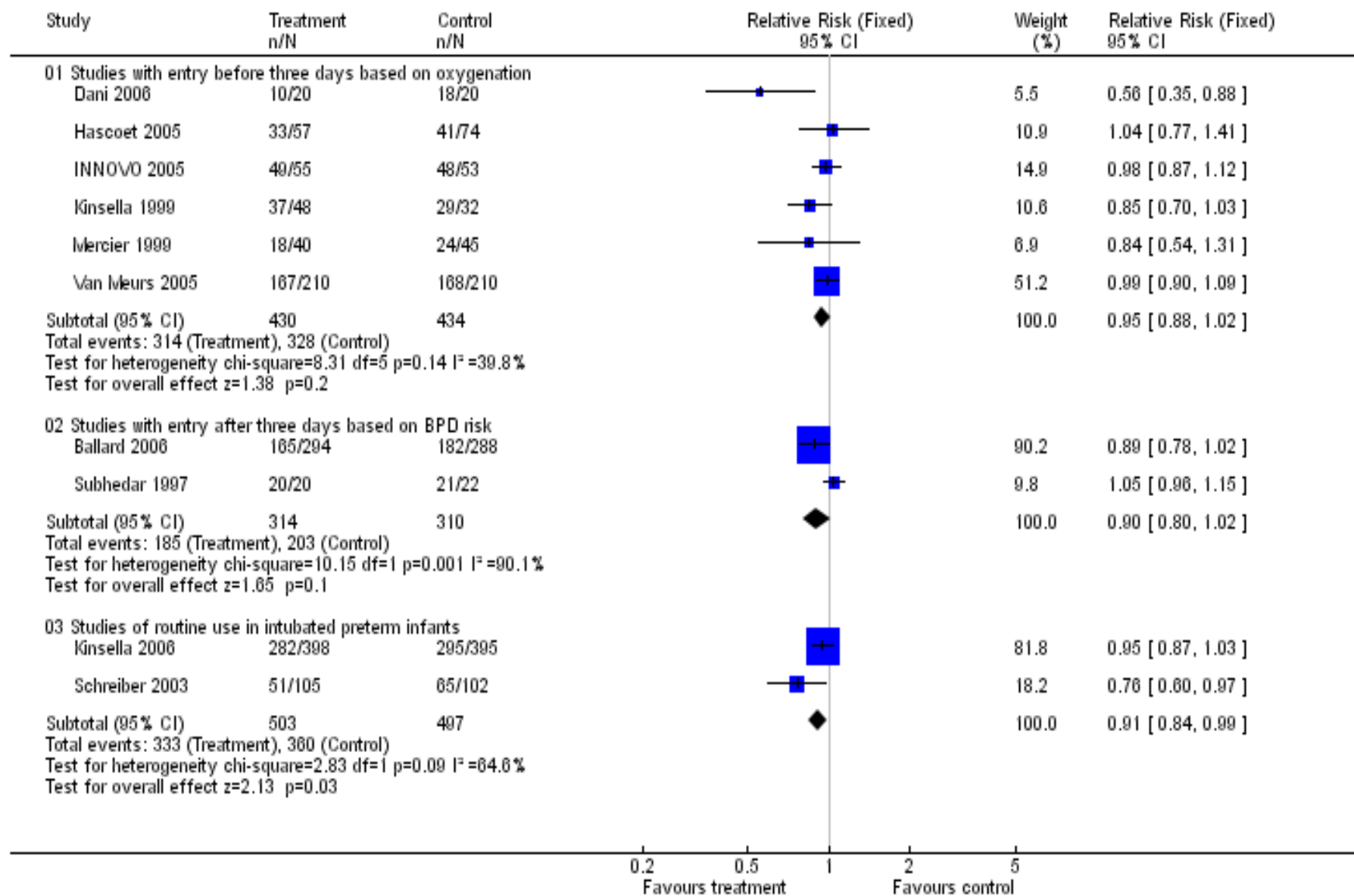
Inhaled nitric oxide for respiratory failure in preterm infants

KJ Barrington, NN Finer

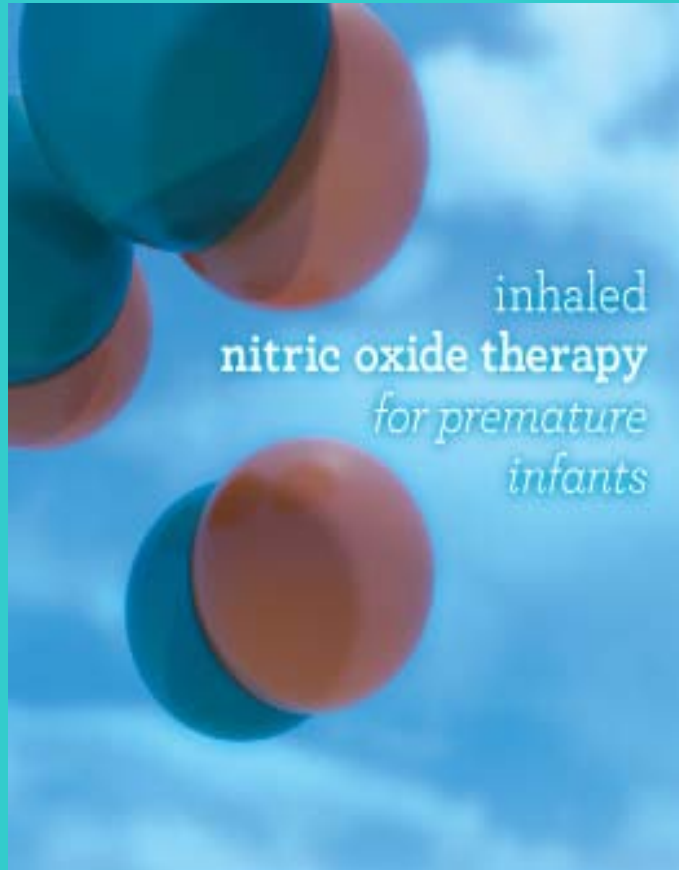
Cochrane Database of Systematic Reviews 2007, Issue 3. Art. No.:
CD000509. DOI: 10.1002/14651858.CD000509.pub3.

NITRIC OXIDE FOR RESPIRATORY FAILURE IN PRETERM INFANTS

EFFECT ON DEATH OR BPD AT 36 WEEKS PMA



NIH Consensus Development Conference Statement: Inhaled Nitric-Oxide Therapy for Premature Infants



Taken as a whole, the available evidence does not support use of iNO in early-routine, early-rescue, or later-rescue regimens in the care of premature infants of <34 weeks' gestation who require respiratory support.

There are rare clinical situations, including pulmonary hypertension or hypoplasia, that have been inadequately studied in which iNO may have benefit in infants of <34 weeks' gestation.

In such situations, clinicians should communicate with families regarding the current evidence on its risks and benefits as well as remaining uncertainties.



CLINICAL REPORT

Use of Inhaled Nitric Oxide in Preterm Infants

The results of randomized controlled trials, traditional meta-analyses, and an individualized patient data meta-analysis study indicate that neither rescue nor routine use of iNO improves survival in preterm infants with respiratory failure (Evidence quality, A; Grade of recommendation, strong).

The preponderance of evidence does not support treating preterm infants who have respiratory failure with iNO for the purpose of preventing/ameliorating BPD, severe intraventricular hemorrhage, or other neonatal morbidities (Evidence quality, A; Grade of recommendation, strong).

Off-label use of inhaled nitric oxide after release of NIH consensus statement.

Ellsworth MA, Harris MN, Carey WA, Spitzer AR, Clark RH.

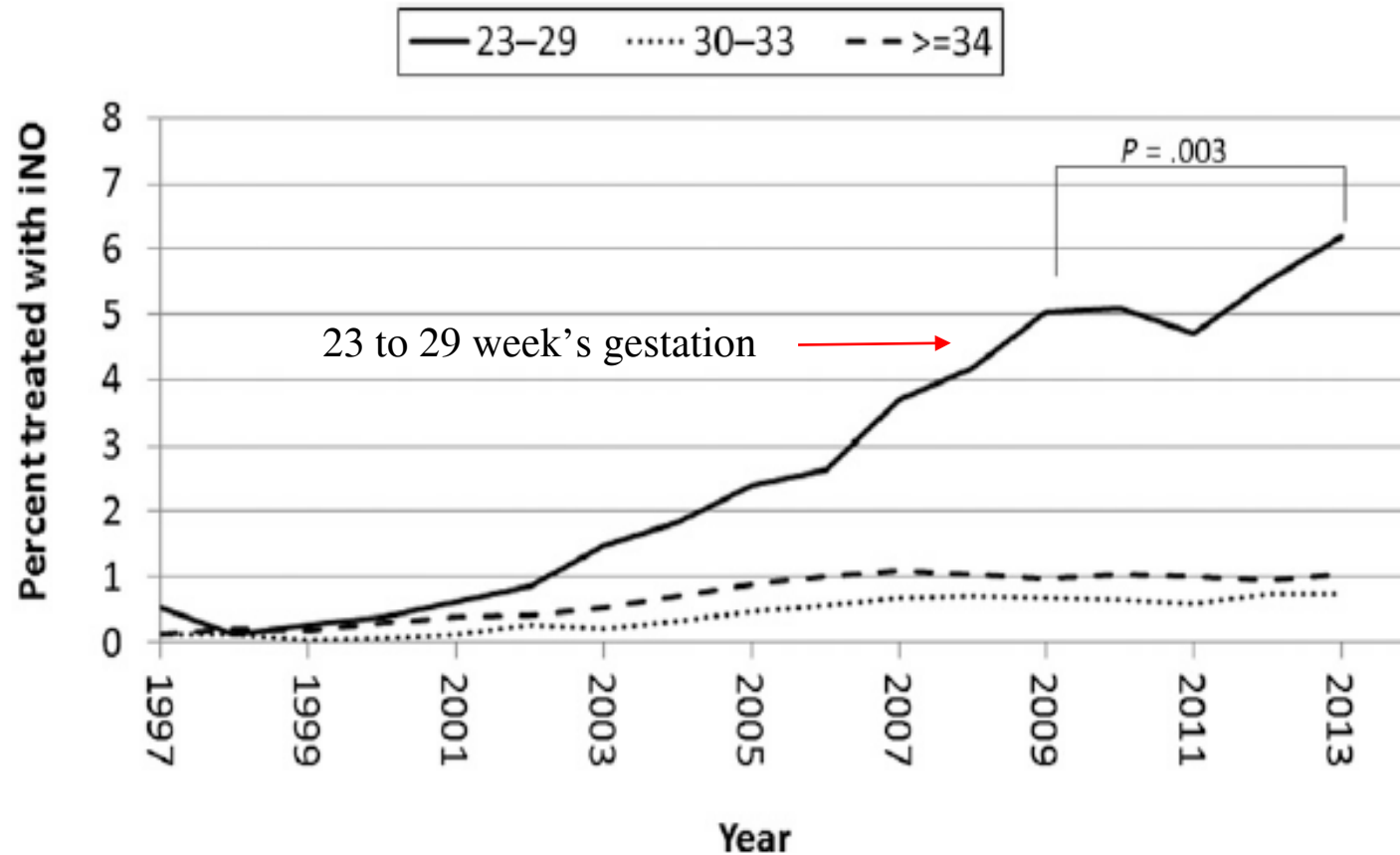
Pediatrics. 2015 Apr;135(4):643-8. doi: 10.1542/peds.2014-3290. Epub 2015 Mar 9.

Ellsworth et al. Off-label use of inhaled nitric oxide after release of NIH consensus statement. *Pediatrics*. 2015 Apr;135(4):643-8.

The objective of this study was to describe utilization patterns of iNO in American NICUs in the years surrounding the release of the National Institutes of Health statement.

The Pediatrix Medical Group Clinical Data Warehouse was queried for the years 2009 to 2013 to describe first exposure iNO use among all admitted neonates stratified by gestational age.

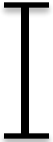
Change in percentage of infants treated with iNO from 1997 to 2013

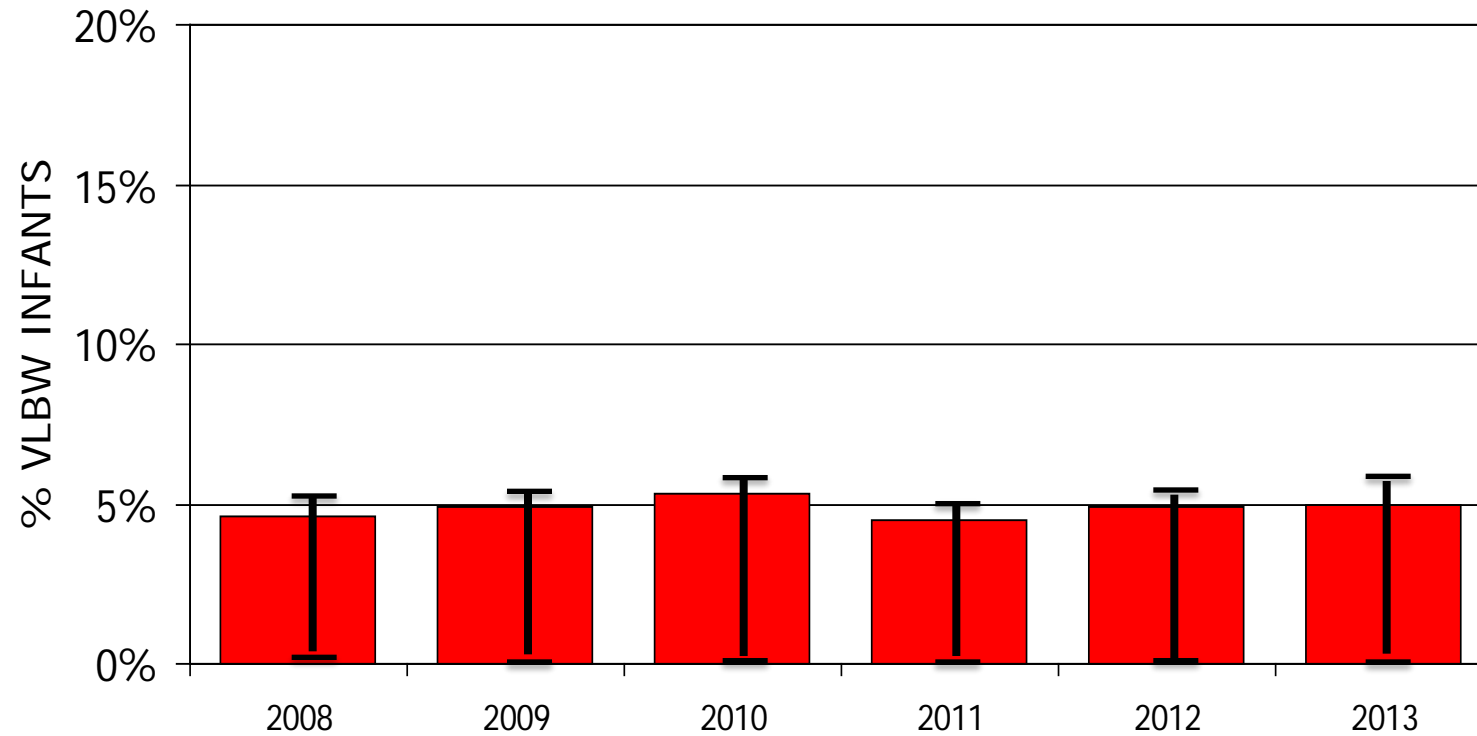


Of all neonates who received iNO therapy in 2013, nearly half were < 34 weeks' gestation.

Inhaled Nitric Oxide in VLBW Infants

Vermont Oxford Network Annual Reports 2000-2012

Range  3rd quartile
1st quartile



**The evidence does not
extend far enough!**

Antenatal corticosteroids for accelerating fetal lung maturation for women at risk of preterm birth.

Roberts D, Brown J, Medley N, Dalziel SR.

Roberts D, Brown J, Medley N, Dalziel SR. Antenatal corticosteroids for accelerating fetal lung maturation for women at risk of preterm birth. *Cochrane Database Syst Rev.* 2017 Mar 21;3:CD004454. doi: 10.1002/14651858.CD004454.pub3. Review. PMID: 28321847

Antenatal corticosteroids for accelerating fetal lung maturation for women at risk of preterm birth.

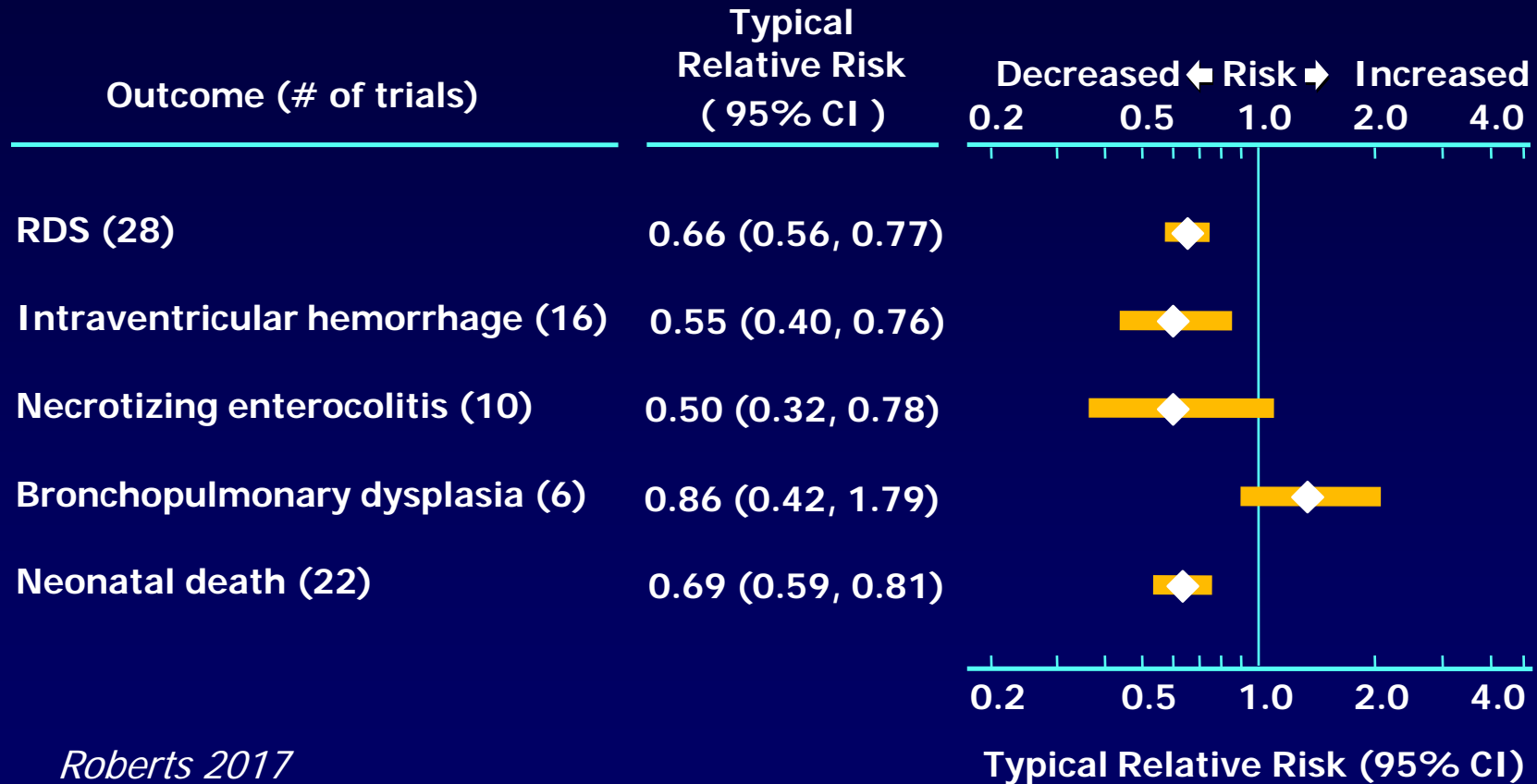
This update includes 30 studies
(7774 women and 8158 infants).

Risk of bias: Most studies are of low or unclear risk
for most bias domains.

Roberts D, Brown J, Medley N, Dalziel SR. Antenatal corticosteroids for accelerating fetal lung maturation for women at risk of preterm birth. *Cochrane Database Syst Rev.* 2017 Mar 21;3:CD004454. doi: 10.1002/14651858.CD004454.pub3. Review. PMID: 28321847

PROPHYLACTIC CORTICOSTEROIDS PRIOR TO PRETERM BIRTH

OVERVIEW OF 30 RANDOMIZED CONTROLLED TRIALS



Roberts 2017

NIH Consensus Statement

Volume 12, Number 2
February 28–March 2, 1994



***Effect of Corticosteroids
for Fetal Maturation on
Perinatal Outcomes***

NATIONAL INSTITUTES OF HEALTH
Office of the Director

CORTICOSTEROIDS FOR PRETERM BIRTH

“Antenatal corticosteroid therapy is indicated for women at risk of premature delivery with few exceptions and will result in a substantial decrease in neonatal morbidity and mortality, as well as substantial savings in health care costs”

Current ACOG Guidelines



The American College of
Obstetricians and Gynecologists
WOMEN'S HEALTH CARE PHYSICIANS



Society for
Maternal-Fetal
Medicine

| | 22 Weeks | 23 Weeks | 24 Weeks |
|--------------------|----------|----------|----------|
| Resuscitation | Consider | Consider | YES |
| Antenatal Steroids | NO | Consider | YES |

(2017) Obstetric Care Consensus No. 6: Preterm Birth. *Obstet Gynecol.* Oct;130(4): e187-199.



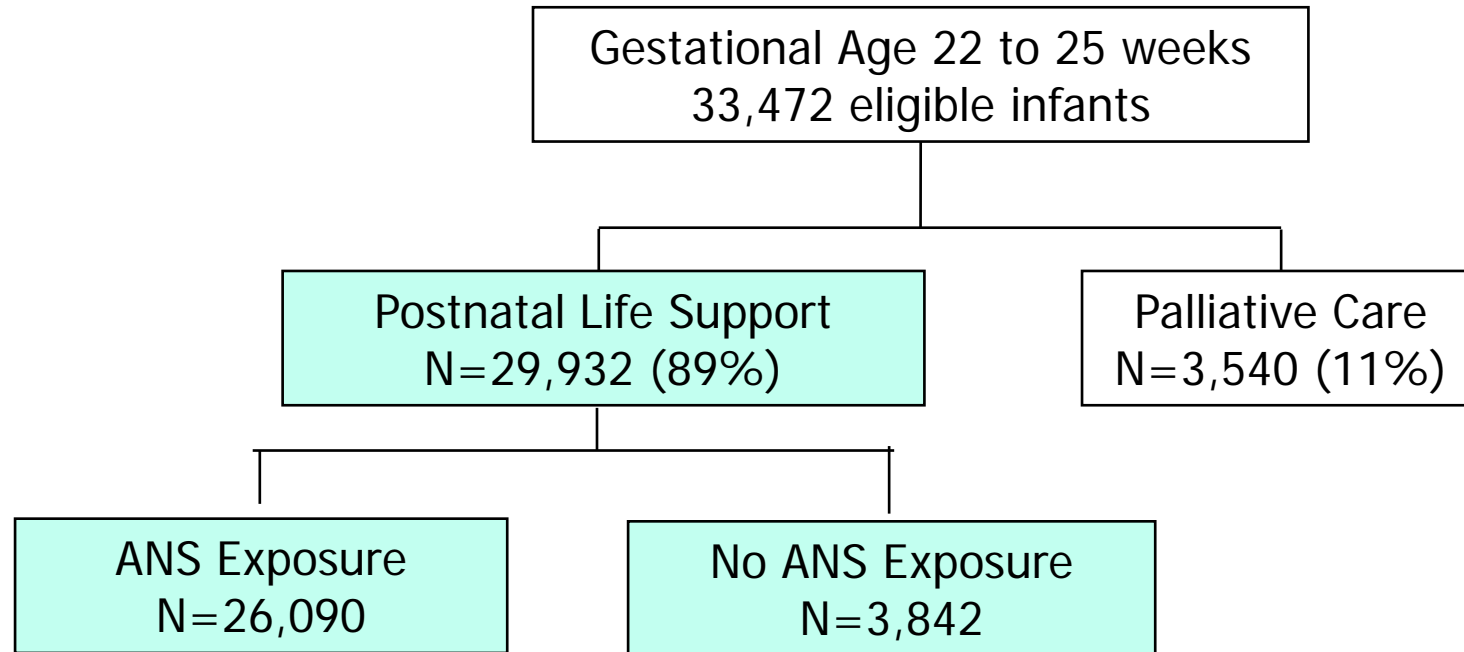
Original Investigation | Pediatrics

Association of Antenatal Steroid Exposure with Survival Among Infants Receiving Postnatal Life Support at 22 to 25 Weeks' Gestation

Danielle E. Y. Ehret, MD, MPH, Erika M. Edwards, PhD, MPH, Lucy T. Greenberg, MS, Ira M. Bernstein, MD, Jeffrey S. Buzas, PhD, Roger F. Soll, MD, Jeffrey D. Horbar, MD

JAMA Network Open 2018

Postnatal Life Support and Antenatal Steroids Vermont Oxford Network 2012-2016



Exclusions: Outborn Infants; Infants with Major Congenital Anomalies

Postnatal Life Support and Antenatal Steroids

Vermont Oxford Network 2012-2016

| Gestational Age | Proportion of infants receiving postnatal life support with ANS exposure |
|-----------------|--|
| 22 weeks | 52% |
| 23 weeks | 83% |
| 24 weeks | 89% |
| 25 weeks | 91% |

Postnatal Life Support and Antenatal Steroids

Vermont Oxford Network 2012-2016

| Survival | | | |
|-----------------|-----------------------------|--|-------------------------|
| Gestational Age | Postnatal Life Support Only | Postnatal Life Support with ANS Exposure | aRR (95% CI) |
| 22 weeks | 17.7% | 38.5% | 2.11 (1.68-2.65) |
| 23 weeks | 35.6% | 55.4% | 1.54 (1.40-1.70) |
| 24 weeks | 59.6% | 71.3% | 1.18 (1.12-1.25) |
| 25 weeks | 75.7% | 83.0% | 1.11 (1.07-1.14) |
| | | | |
| 22-25 weeks | 51.9% | 72.3% | 1.37 (1.32-1.42) |

Postnatal Life Support and Antenatal Steroids

Vermont Oxford Network 2012-2016

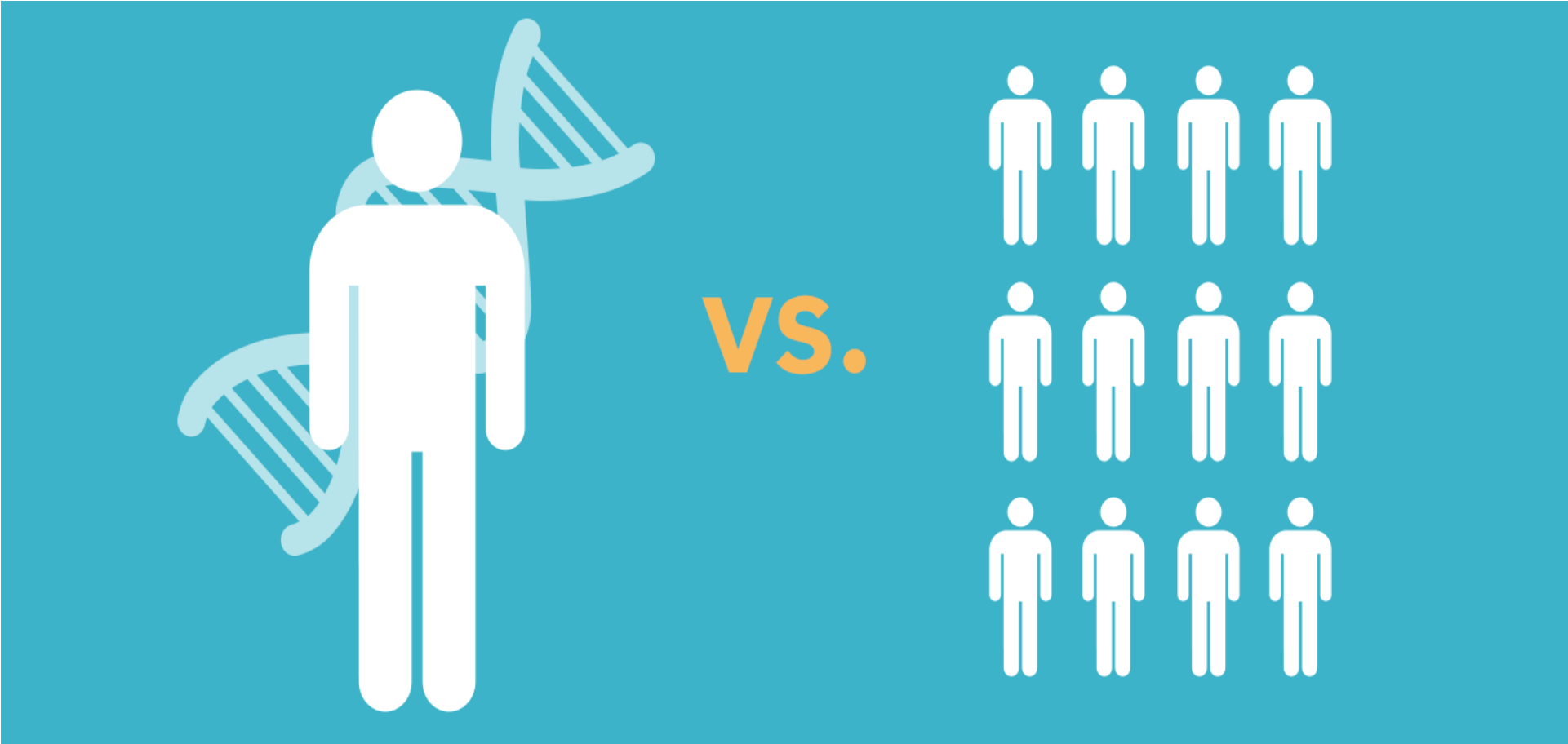
Survival without Major Morbidity

| Gestational Age | Postnatal Life Support Only | Postnatal Life Support with Antenatal Steroid Exposure | aRR (95% CI) |
|-----------------|-----------------------------|--|--------------------------|
| 22 weeks | 1.0% | 4.4% | 4.35 (1.84-10.28) |
| 23 weeks | 2.8% | 5.9% | 2.19 (1.48-3.25) |
| 24 weeks | 9.5% | 11.4% | 1.27 (1.04-1.56) |
| 25 weeks | 18.8% | 22.2% | 1.26 (1.10-1.44) |
| | | | |
| 22-25 weeks | 9.1% | 14.6% | 1.67 (1.49-1.87) |

Postnatal Life Support and Antenatal Steroids

Vermont Oxford Network 2012-2016

- Many infants born at 22 and 23 weeks' gestation received postnatal life support but lacked exposure to ANS
- Receipt of ANS was associated with higher survival and survival without major morbidities
- Should recommendations change?
- Should further trials be conducted?



Tension between treating individual patients and populations

