TABLE 1

Question: Should antibiotics (amoxicillin/cefdinir) be used in children with uncomplicated severe acute malnutrition?

Settings: Community

Number of studies	Quality assessment						Number (%) of patients		Effect		Quality	Importance
	Design	Risk of bias	Inconsistency	Indirectness	Imprecision	Other consid-erations	Antibiotics (amoxicillin/ cefdinir)	Control	Relative (95% CI)	Absolute		
Mortality up to 6 weeks (follow-up median 6 weeks)												
1	Randomized trials	Serious[a]	No serious inconsistency	No serious indirectness	No serious imprecision	None	82/1847 (4.4)	68/920 (7.4%)	RR 1.46 (1.19 to 1.80)	34 more per 1000 (from 14 more to 59 more)	+++ MODERATE	CRITICAL
										–		
Time to recovery												
1	Randomized trials	Serious[a]	No serious inconsistency[2]	No serious indirectness	No serious imprecision	None	–	–	MD –0.50 (–2.11 to 1.11)	–	+++ MODERATE	CRITICAL
							–	–		–		
Weight gain (g/kg/day)												
1	Randomized trials	Serious[a]	No serious inconsistency[b]	No serious indirectness	No serious imprecision	None	–	–	MD 0.55 (0.18 to 0.92)	–	+++ MODERATE	CRITICAL
										–		
Mortality up to 12 weeks (follow-up median 12 weeks)												
1	Observational studies	Very serious[c]	No serious inconsistency[b]	No serious indirectness	Serious[d]	None	13/498 (2.6)	34/1955 (1.7)	RR 1.50 (0.80 to 2.82)	–	+ VERY LOW	CRITICAL
Recovery at 12 weeks (follow-up median 12 weeks)												
1	Observational studies	Very serious[c,e]	No serious inconsistency[b]	No serious indirectness	No serious imprecision	None	417/498 (83.7)	1673/1955 (85.6)	RR 0.98 (0.94 to 1.02)	–	+ VERY LOW	CRITICAL

CI: confidence interval; RR: relative risk; MD: mean difference.

[a] Double blind study conducted in a setting of high HIV prevalence and most children had kwashiorkor. The response to antibiotics could be modified by these two factors.

[b] Only one study.

[c] Comparison of two different cohorts from different parts of Malawi. There were also significant differences in baseline characteristics between the cohorts.

[d] Few events and wide confidence intervals.

[e] Participants and researchers not blinded to the interventions.