

Table O.37: N-acetylcysteine versus placebo in children and young people

Quality assessment							Summary of findings				
Participants (studies) Follow up	Risk of bias	Inconsistency	Indirectness	Imprecision	Publication bias	Overall quality of evidence	Study event rates (%)		Relative effect (95% CI)	Anticipated absolute effects	
							With placebo	With N-acetylcysteine (NAC)		Risk with placebo	Risk difference with N-acetylcysteine (NAC) (95% CI)
Targeted behaviour that challenges (severity) – post-treatment (Better indicated by lower values)											
29 (1 study)	serious ¹	no serious inconsistency	serious ²	very serious ³	undetected	⊕⊖⊖⊖ VERY LOW ^{1,2,3} due to risk of bias, indirectness, imprecision	15	14	-		The mean targeted behaviour that challenges (severity) – post-treatment in the intervention groups was 0.70 standard deviations lower (1.46 lower to 0.05 higher)
Adverse events (discontinuation due to adverse events, non-occurrence) – post-treatment											
33 (1 study)	serious ¹	no serious inconsistency	serious ²	very serious ³	undetected	⊕⊖⊖⊖ VERY LOW ^{1,2,3} due to risk of bias, indirectness, imprecision	18/18 (100%)	14/15 (93.3%)	RR 0.93 (0.78 to 1.11)	1000 per 1000	70 fewer per 1000 (from 220 fewer to 110 more)
Adverse events (discontinuation due to other reasons, non-occurrence) – post-treatment											
33	serious	no serious	serious ²	very	undetected	⊕⊖⊖⊖	12/18	14/15	RR 1.4	667	267 more per 1000

Quality assessment							Summary of findings				
(1 study)	us ¹	inconsistency		serious ³	ed	VERY LOW ^{1,2,3} due to risk of bias, indirectness, imprecision	(66.7 %)	(93.3%)	(0.98 to 1.99)	per 1000	(from 13 fewer to 660 more)
¹ Crucial limitation for one criterion or some limitations for multiple criteria sufficient to lower ones confidence in the estimate of effect ² Applicability – different populations ³ Optimal information size not met; small, single study											