

Comparison 1.b. Pethidine (intravenous [IV]) compared with placebo

Source:† Ullman R, Smith LA, Burns E, Mori R, Dowswell T. Parenteral opioids for maternal pain management in labour. Cochrane Database Syst Rev. 2010;(9):CD007396.

No. of studies	Study design	Certainty assessment					No. of participants		Effect		Certainty (GRADE)	Importance
		Risk of bias	Inconsistency	Indirectness	Imprecision	Other considerations	Pethidine IV	Placebo	Relative (95% CI)	Absolute (95% CI)		
Maternal pain score (30 minutes post-analgesia)												
1	RCT	serious ^a	not serious	not serious	not serious	none	120	120	-	MD 4.1 lower (3.64 lower to 4.56 lower)	⊕⊕○○ LOW	critical
Caesarean section												
1	RCT	serious ^a	not serious	not serious	serious ^b	none	15/120 (12.5%)	17/120 (14.2%)	RR 0.88 (0.46 to 1.68)	17 fewer per 1000 (from 77 fewer to 97 more)	⊕○○○ VERY LOW	critical
Assisted vaginal delivery												
1	RCT	serious ^a	not serious	not serious	very serious ^c	none	9/120 (7.5%)	12/120 (10.0%)	RR 0.75 (0.33-1.71)	25 fewer per 1000 (from 67 fewer to 71 more)	⊕○○○ VERY LOW	critical
Nausea and vomiting												
1	RCT	serious ^a	not serious	not serious	serious ^d	none	17/120 (14.2%)	7/120 (5.8%)	RR 2.43 (1.05 to 5.64)	83 more per 1000 (3 more to 269 more)	⊕⊕○○ LOW	critical

CI: confidence interval; MD: mean difference; RCT: randomized controlled trial; RR: risk ratio.

^a Single study with moderate risk of bias.

^b Wide confidence interval crossing the line of no effect.

^c Wide confidence interval crossing the line of no effect and few events (< 30).

^d Few events (< 30).

† Updated for the purpose of this guideline.