

### Comparison 3: Music compared with usual care (no music)

Source:† Smith CA, Levett KM, Collins CT, Crowther CA. Relaxation techniques for pain management in labour. Cochrane Database Syst Rev. 2011;(12):CD009514.

No. of studies	Study design	Quality assessment					No. of participants		Effect		Certainty (GRADE)	Importance
		Risk of bias	Inconsistency	Indirectness	Imprecision	Other considerations	Music	Control	Relative (95% CI)	Absolute (95% CI)		
<b>Pain intensity (latent phase)</b>												
2	RCTs	very serious <sup>a</sup>	not serious	not serious	serious <sup>b</sup>	none	97	95	-	MD 0.73 lower (1.01 lower to 0.45 lower)	⊕○○○ VERY LOW	critical
<b>Pain intensity (active phase)</b>												
3	RCTs	very serious <sup>a</sup>	serious <sup>c</sup>	not serious	very serious <sup>d</sup>	none	110	107	-	MD 0.51 lower (1.1 lower to 0.07 higher)	⊕○○○ VERY LOW	critical
<b>Use of pharmacological pain relief (epidural)</b>												
1	RCT	serious <sup>e</sup>	not serious	not serious	very serious <sup>d</sup>	none	15/30 (50.0%)	18/30 (60.0%)	RR 0.83 (0.53-1.32)	102 fewer per 1000 (from 192 more to 282 fewer)	⊕○○○ VERY LOW	critical
<b>Anxiety in active phase</b>												
2	RCTs	very serious <sup>a</sup>	serious <sup>c</sup>	not serious	very serious <sup>d</sup>	none	97	95	-	MD 0.3 lower (1.74 lower to 1.13 higher)	⊕○○○ VERY LOW	critical
<b>Assisted vaginal delivery</b>												
1	RCT	very serious <sup>f</sup>	not serious	not serious	very serious <sup>d</sup>	none	2/77 (2.6%)	5/79 (6.3%)	RR 0.41 (0.08-2.05)	37 fewer per 1000 (from 58 fewer to 66 more)	⊕○○○ VERY LOW	critical
<b>Caesarean section</b>												
3	RCTs	very serious <sup>a</sup>	not serious	not serious	very serious <sup>d</sup>	none	10/107 (9.3%)	13/109 (11.9%)	RR 0.78 (0.36-1.70)	26 fewer per 1000 (from 76 fewer to 83 more)	⊕○○○ VERY LOW	critical
<b>Admission to special care</b>												
1	RCT	very serious <sup>f</sup>	not serious	not serious	very serious <sup>d</sup>	none	2/77 (2.6%)	9/78 (11.5%)	RR 0.23 (0.05-1.01)	89 fewer per 1000 (from 1 more to 110 fewer)	⊕○○○ VERY LOW	critical

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

<sup>a</sup> Most of the pooled effect derived from studies with a moderate or high risk of bias without a substantial proportion (i.e. with < 50%) from studies with a high risk of bias.

<sup>b</sup> Small sample size.

<sup>c</sup> Severe unexplained heterogeneity.

<sup>d</sup> Wide confidence interval crossing the line of no effect and small sample size and/or few events.

<sup>e</sup> Effect estimate from single study with a moderate risk of bias.

<sup>f</sup> Effect estimate from study with a high risk of bias.

† Updated for the purpose of this guideline.