

Table 49: Pairwise comparison from NMA. Macrolide antibiotics versus placebo

Quality assessment							No of patients		Effect		Quality	Importance
No of studies	Design	Risk of bias	Inconsistency	Indirectness	Imprecision	Other considerations	Macrolide antibiotics	Placebo	Relative (95% CI)	Absolute		
Rate of exacerbations after short-term (1-10 month) treatment												
3 (Equi 2002, Robinson 2012, Wolter 2002)	Randomised trials	no serious risk of bias	very serious ¹	no serious indirectness	very serious ²	none	114	112	Rate Ratio 0.75 (0.38 to 1.49)	Not calculable	VERY LOW	IMPORTANT

Abbreviations: CI: confidence interval

1 The quality of the evidence was downgraded by 2 due to very serious inconsistency between studies

2 The quality of the evidence was downgraded by 2 due to very serious imprecision as 95%CI crossed 2 default MIDs