

Table 67: Clinical evidence profile: Comparison 2.2. High dose PERT versus low dose PERT in adults

Quality assessment							No of patients		Effect		Quality	Importance
No of studies	Design	Risk of bias	Inconsistency	Indirectness	Imprecision	Other considerations	High dose PERT	Low dose PERT	Relative (95% CI)	Absolute		
Faecal fat excretion (FFE) (follow-up 14 days; measured with: % of intake, or consumed fat that is excreted; Better indicated by lower values)												
1 (Heijerman 1991) ²	randomised trials ¹	serious ³	no serious inconsistency	very serious ⁴	Not calculable ⁵	other ⁶	9 Median: 18 (10 to 34) versus. 20 (12 to 44)		-	p>0.05	VERY LOW	CRITICAL

Abbreviations: CI: confidence interval; FFE: faecal fat excretion;; PERT: pancreatic endocrine enzyme therapy

1 Cross-over trial

2 Treatment details: high-dose 4 capsules x 3 times per day & low-dose 2 capsules x 3 times per day. Constituent enzymes per capsule 5000u lipase, 2900u lipase, 330u protease. Fat intake was not standardized.

3 The quality of the evidence was downgraded by 1 due to unclear randomization and concealment.

4 The quality of the evidence was downgraded by 2 as these doses are not used in current practice. Low-dose is in fact very low dose, and high-dose is just low-dose

5 Imprecision cannot be calculated from medians

6 Reporting bias not detected. Evidence downgraded by 1 due to small sample size (n=9).