

Appendix 5. GRADE Table

Quality assessment							№ of patients		Effect		Quality
№ of studies	Study design	Risk of bias	Inconsistency	Indirectness	Imprecision	Other considerations	Microbial sealant	Standard surgical site preparation	Relative (95% CI)	Absolute (95% CI)	
Surgical site infection											
9	RCTs *	serious ¹	not serious	not serious	very serious ₂	none	83/975 (8.5%)	108/999 (10.8%)	OR: 0.69 (0.38-1.25)	31 fewer per 1000 (from 23 more to 64 fewer)	⊕○○○ VERY LOW

*includes one quasi-randomized trial

1. Risk of performance bias, detection bias, attrition bias and reporting bias
2. Optimal information size not met and CI includes both appreciable benefit and harm

RCT: randomized controlled trial; OR: odds ratio; CI: confidence interval