

G.7.2.4 Cholinesterase inhibitor withdrawal

Quality assessment						No of patients		Effect estimate	Quality
No of studies	Design	Risk of bias	Indirectness	Inconsistency	Imprecision	Withdrawal	Continuation	Effect size (95% CI)	
Cognition (MMSE): lower values favour continuation									
Hermann 2016; Howard 2012 ^a	RCT	Not serious	Not serious	Serious ¹	Serious ²	73	75	MD -1.84 (-3.74, 0.06)	Low
Activities of daily living (ADCS-ADL/BADLS): higher values favour continuation									
Hermann 2016; Howard 2012 ^a	RCT	Not serious	Not serious	Not serious	Serious ³	74	74	SMD 0.21 (-0.11, 0.54)	Moderate
Behavioural and psychological symptoms (NPI): higher values favour continuation									
Hermann 2016; Howard 2012 ^a	RCT	Not serious	Not serious	Serious ¹	Serious ²	73	75	MD 0.23 (-7.79, 8.26)	Low
Quality of life (DEMQOL): lower values favour continuation									
Howard 2012 ^a	RCT	Not serious	Not serious	Not serious	Serious ²	55	54	MD -0.50 (-5.47, 4.46)	Moderate
GHQ-12: lower values favour continuation									
Howard 2012 ^a	RCT	Not serious	Not serious	Not serious	Serious ²	45	51	MD 0.55 (-0.71, 1.81)	Moderate
Entry to care home: lower numbers favour continuation									
Howard 2012	RCT	Not serious	Not serious	N/A	Serious ²	76	73	HR 1.22 (0.78, 1.90)	Moderate

1. $I^2 > 40\%$
 2. Non-significant result
 3. 95% CI crosses one line of a defined MID interval
- a: extracted from additional data (see appendix E)