Table 51: Clinical evidence profile: First-line treatment – steroid (oral/IT) versus placebo (oral/IT) [Prednisolone versus placebo]

Quality assessment							No of patients		Effect		Quality	Importance
No of studies	Design	Risk of bias	Inconsistency	Indirectness	Imprecision	Other considerations	Steroid	Placebo	Relative (95% CI)	Absolute		
Change in PTA - Day 8 (follow-up 8 days; Better indicated by higher values)												
1	randomised trials	very serious[1]	no serious inconsistency	no serious indirectness	no serious imprecision	none	47	46	-	MD 0.9 lower (11.73 lower to 9.93 higher)	⊕⊕OO LOW	CRITICAL
Change in PTA - Day 90 (follow-up 90 days; Better indicated by higher values)												
1	randomised trials	very serious[1]	no serious inconsistency	no serious indirectness	no serious imprecision	none	47	46	-	MD 3.9 higher (8.57 lower to 16.37 higher)	⊕⊕OO LOW	CRITICAL
Recovery - Day 8 (oral) (follow-up 8 days[2])												
1	randomised trials	very serious[1]	no serious inconsistency	no serious indirectness	very serious[3]	none	53/51 (103.9%)	17.3%	RR 1.25 (0.56 to 2.75)	43 more per 1000 (from 76 fewer to 303 more)	⊕OOO VERY LOW	CRITICAL
Recovery - 1 month (IT) (follow-up 1 months)												
1	randomised trials	serious[1]	no serious inconsistency	no serious indirectness	no serious imprecision	none	19/25 (76%)	20%	RR 3.8 (1.68 to 8.58)	560 more per 1000 (from 136 more to 1000 more)	⊕⊕⊕O MODERATE	CRITICAL
Recovery - Day 90 (oral) (follow-up 90 days[2])												
1	randomised trials	very serious[1]	no serious inconsistency	no serious indirectness	very serious[3]	none	18/51 (35.3%)	34.6%	RR 1.02 (0.6 to 1.73)	7 more per 1000 (from 138 fewer to 253 more)	⊕OOO VERY LOW	CRITICAL
Adverse events (follow-up 90 days)												

1	randomised trials	very serious[1]	no serious inconsistency	no serious indirectness	very serious[3]	none	15/51 (29.4%)	21.2%	RR 1.39 (0.71 to 2.73)	83 more per 1000 (from 61 fewer to 367 more)	⊕OOO VERY LOW	IMPORTANT

[1] Downgraded by 1 increment if the majority of the evidence was at high risk of bias, and downgraded by 2 increments if the majority of the evidence was at very high risk of bias.
[2] The recovery data are based on the same dataset as the change in PTA, but presented as a dichotomous outcome
[3] Downgraded by 1 increment if the confidence interval crossed one MID or by 2 increments if the confidence interval crossed both MIDs.