

Table 60: Clinical evidence summary: Dual steroid (IT plus oral) plus antiviral versus single steroid (oral) plus antiviral [IT dexamethasone plus oral prednisolone plus oral acyclovir versus oral prednisolone plus oral acyclovir] for poor prognosis cases

| Quality assessment | | | | | | | No of patients | | Effect | | Quality | Importance |
|--|--------|--------------|---------------|--------------|-------------|----------------------|-----------------------------|-------------------------------|-------------------|----------|---------|------------|
| No of studies | Design | Risk of bias | Inconsistency | Indirectness | Imprecision | Other considerations | Dual steroid plus antiviral | Single steroid plus antiviral | Relative (95% CI) | Absolute | | |
| Improvement in PTA (follow-up 1 month; Better indicated by lower values) | | | | | | | | | | | | |

| | | | | | | | | | | | | |
|---|-------------------|----------------------|--------------------------|-------------------------|----------------------|------|----|----|---|--|-------------|----------|
| 1 | randomised trials | serious ¹ | no serious inconsistency | no serious indirectness | serious ² | none | 36 | 41 | - | MD 8.8 higher (0.91 lower to 18.51 higher) | ⊕⊕⊕⊕ LOW | CRITICAL |
|---|-------------------|----------------------|--------------------------|-------------------------|----------------------|------|----|----|---|--|-------------|----------|

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 Downgraded by 1 increment if the confidence interval crossed one MID or by 2 increments if the confidence interval crossed both MIDs.