Comparison 2: Delayed first bath (after 6 hours; i.e. at or after 9, 12 or 24 hours) compared with early first bath (at or before 6 hours)

Source: Priyadarshi M, Balachander B, Gupta S, Sankar MJ. Timing of bathing in term healthy newborns: a systematic review (submitted).

№ of studies	Study design	Risk of bias	Inconsistency	Indirectness	Imprecision	Other considerations	Delayed first bath (any time after 6 hours)	Early first bath (at or before 6 hours)	Relative (95% CI)	Absolute (95% CI)	Certainty (GRADE)	Importance
			Certainty assessment				№ of patients		Effect			
Neonatal mortality – after 6 hours vs at or before 6 hours												
1	observational studies	very serious [a]	not serious	not serious	serious [b]	none	Not available	Not available	**RR 0.71** (0.30 to 1.67)	**1 fewer per 1000** (from 2 fewer to 0 fewer)	⊕◯◯◯ VERY LOW	CRITICAL
Hypothermia – at 9, 12 or 24 hours or more vs at or before 6 hours												
4	observational studies	very serious [a]	not serious	not serious	not serious	none	141/1434 (9.8%)	212/1277 (16.6%)	**RR 0.47** (0.36 to 0.61)	**88 fewer per 1000** (from 106 fewer to 65 fewer)	⊕⊕◯◯ LOW	CRITICAL
Hypoglycaemia – at 9, 12 or 24 hours or more vs at or before 6 hours												
3	observational studies	very serious [a]	not serious	not serious	not serious	none	27/1420 (1.9%)	67/1355 (4.9%)	**RR 0.39** (0.23 to 0.66)	**30 fewer per 1000** (from 38 fewer to 17 fewer)	⊕⊕◯◯ LOW	CRITICAL
Exclusive breastfeeding – at 9, 12 or 24 hours or more vs at or before 6 hours												
6	observational studies	very serious [a]	not serious	not serious	not serious	none	2554/4018 (63.6%)	1606/2750 (58.4%)	**RR 1.20** (1.08 to 1.34)	**117 more per 1000** (from 47 more to 199 more)	⊕⊕◯◯ LOW	CRITICAL

CI: confidence interval; RR: risk ratio.

a. Most of the pooled effect provided by studies "C".

b. Wide confidence interval crossing the line of no effect.