

Table 30: Clinical evidence profile: Central antihypertensive drugs (clonidine) versus placebo

| Quality assessment | | | | | | | No of patients | | Effect | | Quality | Importance |
|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------|----------------------|--------------------------|----------------------|----------------------|----------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------|---------|-------------------|-------------------------------------------|------------------|------------|
| No of studies | Design | Risk of bias | Inconsistency | Indirectness | Imprecision | Other considerations | Central antihypertensive drugs (clonidine) versus placebo | Control | Relative (95% CI) | Absolute | | |
| Cognitive function: Stockings of Cambridge - minimum moves (follow-up 30 minutes; Better indicated by lower values) | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| 1 | randomised trials | serious ¹ | no serious inconsistency | serious ² | serious ³ | none | 9 | 9 | - | MD 1.22 lower (3.33 lower to 0.89 higher) | ⊕000 VERY LOW | CRITICAL |
| Cognitive function: Stockings of Cambridge - initial think time (secs) (follow-up 30 minutes; Better indicated by lower values) | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| 1 | randomised trials | serious ¹ | no serious inconsistency | serious ² | serious ³ | none | 9 | 9 | - | MD 1.28 lower (5.19 lower to 2.63 higher) | ⊕000 VERY LOW | CRITICAL |

| Cognitive function: Stockings of Cambridge - subsequent thinking time (secs) (follow-up 30 minutes; Better indicated by lower values) | | | | | | | | | | | | |
|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------|----------------------|--------------------------|----------------------|---------------------------|------|---|---|---|--------------------------------------------|------------------|----------|
| 1 | randomised trials | serious ¹ | no serious inconsistency | serious ² | very serious ³ | none | 9 | 9 | - | MD 0.51 lower (3.08 lower to 2.06 higher) | ⊕000 VERY LOW | CRITICAL |
| Cognitive function: Rapid Visual Information Processing - reaction time (secs) (follow-up 30 minutes; Better indicated by lower values) | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| 1 | randomised trials | serious ¹ | no serious inconsistency | serious ² | very serious ³ | none | 9 | 9 | - | MD 0.15 lower (1.42 lower to 1.12 higher) | ⊕000 VERY LOW | CRITICAL |
| Cognitive function: Intradimensional (IDS) set sift errors (follow-up 30 minutes; Better indicated by lower values) | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| 1 | randomised trials | serious ¹ | no serious inconsistency | serious ² | very serious ³ | none | 9 | 9 | - | MD 0.22 higher (0.34 lower to 0.78 higher) | ⊕000 VERY LOW | CRITICAL |
| Cognitive function: Extradimensional (EDS) set shift errors (follow-up 30 minutes; Better indicated by lower values) | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| 1 | randomised trials | serious ¹ | no serious inconsistency | serious ² | serious ³ | none | 9 | 9 | - | MD 2.66 lower (7.12 lower to 1.8 higher) | ⊕000 VERY LOW | CRITICAL |
| Cognitive function: Spatial working memory: between-search errors (follow-up 30 minutes; Better indicated by lower values) | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| 1 | randomised trials | serious ¹ | no serious inconsistency | serious ² | serious ³ | none | 9 | 9 | - | MD 2.17 lower (7.41 lower to 3.07 higher) | ⊕000 VERY LOW | CRITICAL |
| Cognitive function: Spatial working memory: strategy score (follow-up 30 minutes; Better indicated by lower values) | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| 1 | randomised trials | serious ¹ | no serious inconsistency | serious ² | very serious ³ | none | 9 | 9 | - | MD 0.22 lower (5.92 lower to 5.48 higher) | ⊕000 VERY LOW | CRITICAL |
| Cognitive function: pattern recognition - number correct (follow-up 30 minutes; Better indicated by lower values) | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| 1 | randomised trials | serious ¹ | no serious inconsistency | serious ² | serious ³ | none | 9 | 9 | - | MD 0.9 higher (0.77 lower to 2.57 higher) | ⊕000 VERY LOW | CRITICAL |
| Cognitive function: spatial recognition - number correct (follow-up 30 minutes; Better indicated by lower values) | | | | | | | | | | | | |

| | | | | | | | | | | | | |
|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------|----------------------|--------------------------|----------------------|---------------------------|------|---|---|---|-------------------------------------------|------------------|----------|
| 1 | randomised trials | serious ¹ | no serious inconsistency | serious ² | very serious ³ | none | 9 | 9 | - | MD 0.1 lower (2.44 lower to 2.24 higher) | ⊕000 VERY LOW | CRITICAL |
| Cognitive function: spatial span - length (follow-up 30 minutes; Better indicated by lower values) | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| 1 | randomised trials | serious ¹ | no serious inconsistency | serious ² | very serious ³ | none | 9 | 9 | - | MD 0.3 higher (0.84 lower to 1.44 higher) | ⊕000 VERY LOW | CRITICAL |
| Cognitive function: delayed matching to sample 2 sec delay (follow-up 30 minutes; Better indicated by lower values) | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| 1 | randomised trials | serious ¹ | no serious inconsistency | serious ² | serious ³ | none | 9 | 9 | - | MD 1.22 lower (2.65 lower to 0.21 higher) | ⊕000 VERY LOW | CRITICAL |
| Cognitive function: paired associate learning - sets completed (follow-up 30 minutes; Better indicated by higher values) | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| 1 | randomised trials | serious ¹ | no serious inconsistency | serious ² | very serious ³ | none | 9 | 9 | - | MD 0 higher (0.3 lower to 0.3 higher) | ⊕000 VERY 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 The majority of the evidence included an indirect population (downgraded by one increment) or a very indirect population (downgraded by two increments). Populations were downgraded if the ME/CFS diagnostic criteria used did not include PEM as a compulsory feature

³ Downgraded by 1 increment if the confidence interval crossed one MID or by 2 increments if the confidence interval crossed both MIDs