

## 5 Summary of findings table

**Source:** Saito K, Nishimura E, Swa T, Cao J, Ramson JA, Namba F, et al. Antenatal corticosteroids for reducing adverse maternal and child outcomes in special populations of women at risk of imminent preterm birth: a systematic review and meta-analysis. Under review.

Certainty assessment							N <sub>e</sub> of patients		Effect		Certainty	Importance
N <sub>e</sub> of studies	Study design	Risk of bias	Inconsistency	Indirectness	Imprecision	Other considerations	Women with growth-restricted fetuses	Placebo	Relative (95% CI)	Absolute (95% CI)		
<b>Chorioamnionitis (histologic and /or clinical)</b>												
5	observational studies	serious <sup>a</sup>	not serious	not serious	serious <sup>b</sup>	none	82/785 (10.4%)	85/1102 (7.7%)	<b>OR 1.39</b> (0.98 to 1.97)	<b>27 more per 1000</b> (from 1 fewer to 64 more)	⊕○○○ VERY LOW	
<b>Chorioamnionitis (histologic and /or clinical) (SGA)</b>												
4	observational studies	serious <sup>a</sup>	not serious	not serious	serious <sup>b</sup>	none	63/702 (9.0%)	83/1094 (7.6%)	<b>OR 1.42</b> (0.99 to 2.03)	<b>29 more per 1000</b> (from 1 fewer to 67 more)	⊕○○○ VERY LOW	
<b>Chorioamnionitis (histologic and /or clinical) (FGR or SGA)</b>												
1	observational study	serious <sup>a</sup>	not serious	not serious	very serious <sup>c</sup>	none	19/83 (22.9%)	2/8 (25.0%)	<b>OR 0.89</b> (0.17 to 4.78)	<b>21 fewer per 1000</b> (from 196 fewer to 364 more)	⊕○○○ VERY LOW	
<b>Neonatal death (FGR)</b>												
2	observational studies	serious <sup>a</sup>	not serious	not serious	very serious <sup>d</sup>	none	15/199 (7.5%)	20/53 (37.7%)	<b>OR 0.69</b> (0.26 to 1.81)	<b>82 fewer per 1000</b> (from 241 fewer to 146 more)	⊕○○○ VERY LOW	
<b>Neonatal death (SGA)</b>												
8	observational studies	not serious	not serious	not serious	not serious	none	*	*	<b>OR 0.61</b> (0.49 to 0.78)	<b>0 fewer per 1000</b> (from 0 fewer to 0 fewer)	⊕⊕○○ LOW	

Certainty assessment							№ of patients		Effect		Certainty	Importance
№ of studies	Study design	Risk of bias	Inconsistency	Indirectness	Imprecision	Other considerations	Women with growth-restricted fetuses	Placebo	Relative (95% CI)	Absolute (95% CI)		
<b>Neonatal death (FGR or SGA)</b>												
1	observational study	serious <sup>a</sup>	not serious	not serious	very serious <sup>c</sup>	none	9/83 (10.8%)	2/8 (25.0%)	<b>OR 0.36</b> (0.06 to 2.09)	<b>143 fewer per 1000</b> (from 230 fewer to 161 more)	⊕○○○ VERY LOW	
<b>Death before discharge home</b>												
5	observational studies	serious <sup>a</sup>	serious <sup>a</sup>	not serious	not serious	none	399/2808 (14.2%)	401/2406 (16.7%)	<b>OR 0.61</b> (0.44 to 0.85)	<b>58 fewer per 1000</b> (from 86 fewer to 21 more)	⊕○○○ VERY LOW	
<b>Death before discharge home (FGR)</b>												
1	observational study	not serious	not serious	not serious	very serious <sup>c</sup>	none	9/62 (14.5%)	15/62 (24.2%)	<b>OR 0.53</b> (0.21 to 1.33)	<b>97 fewer per 1000</b> (from 179 fewer to 56 more)	⊕○○○ VERY LOW	
<b>Death before discharge home (SGA)</b>												
4	observational studies	serious <sup>a</sup>	serious <sup>a</sup>	not serious	serious	none	390/2746 (14.2%)	386/2344 (16.5%)	<b>OR 0.62</b> (0.43 to 0.90)	<b>56 fewer per 1000</b> (from 87 fewer to 14 more)	⊕○○○ VERY LOW	
<b>Respiratory distress syndrome (RDS) and moderate / severe RDS (FGR)</b>												
3	observational studies	serious <sup>a</sup>	not serious	not serious	very serious <sup>d</sup>	none	f	f	<b>OR 0.85</b> (0.57 to 1.26)	<b>0 fewer per 1000</b> (from 0 fewer to 0 fewer)	⊕○○○ VERY LOW	
<b>Respiratory distress syndrome (RDS) and moderate / severe RDS (SGA)</b>												
13	observational studies	serious <sup>a</sup>	not serious	not serious	not serious	none	f	f	<b>OR 0.90</b> (0.81 to 1.00)	<b>1 fewer per 1000</b> (from 1 fewer to 1 fewer)	⊕○○○ VERY LOW	

Certainty assessment							No of patients		Effect		Certainty	Importance
No of studies	Study design	Risk of bias	Inconsistency	Indirectness	Imprecision	Other considerations	Women with growth-restricted fetuses	Placebo	Relative (95% CI)	Absolute (95% CI)		
<b>Respiratory distress syndrome (RDS) and moderate / severe RDS (FGR or SGA)</b>												
3	observational studies	not serious	not serious	not serious	serious <sup>b</sup>	none	77/358 (21.5%)	74/241 (30.7%)	<b>OR 0.74</b> (0.51 to 1.07)	<b>60 fewer per 1000</b> (from 123 fewer to 15 more)	⊕○○○ VERY LOW	
<b>Interventricular haemorrhage</b>												
10	observational studies	not serious	not serious	not serious	serious <sup>b</sup>	none	397/3737 (10.6%)	387/2828 (13.7%)	<b>OR 0.76</b> (0.56 to 1.04)	<b>29 fewer per 1000</b> (from 55 fewer to 5 more)	⊕○○○ VERY LOW	
<b>Interventricular haemorrhage (FGR)</b>												
1	observational study	not serious	not serious	not serious	very serious <sup>c</sup>	none	8/62 (12.9%)	9/62 (14.5%)	<b>OR 0.87</b> (0.31 to 2.43)	<b>16 fewer per 1000</b> (from 95 fewer to 147 more)	⊕○○○ VERY LOW	
<b>Interventricular haemorrhage (SGA)</b>												
8	observational studies	not serious	serious <sup>e</sup>	not serious	serious <sup>b</sup>	none	384/3592 (10.7%)	378/2758 (13.7%)	<b>OR 0.75</b> (0.53 to 1.06)	<b>31 fewer per 1000</b> (from 59 fewer to 7 more)	⊕○○○ VERY LOW	
<b>Interventricular haemorrhage (FGR or SGA)</b>												
1	observational study	serious <sup>a</sup>	not serious	not serious	very serious <sup>c</sup>	none	5/83 (6.0%)	0/8 (0.0%)	<b>OR 1.19</b> (0.06 to 23.46)	<b>0 fewer per 1000</b> (from 0 fewer to 0 fewer)	⊕○○○ VERY LOW	
<b>Severe interventricular haemorrhage (grade 3–4)</b>												
9	observational studies	not serious	not serious	not serious	not serious	none	190/3018 (6.3%)	171/1618 (10.6%)	<b>OR 0.54</b> (0.43 to 0.68)	<b>46 fewer per 1000</b> (from 57 fewer to 31 fewer)	⊕⊕○○ LOW	

Certainty assessment							No of patients		Effect		Certainty	Importance
No of studies	Study design	Risk of bias	Inconsistency	Indirectness	Imprecision	Other considerations	Women with growth-restricted fetuses	Placebo	Relative (95% CI)	Absolute (95% CI)		
<b>Severe interventricular haemorrhage (grade 3–4) (FGR)</b>												
1	observational study	not serious	not serious	not serious	very serious <sup>c</sup>	none	8/62 (12.9%)	9/62 (14.5%)	<b>OR 0.87</b> (0.31 to 2.43)	<b>16 fewer per 1000</b> (from 95 fewer to 147 more)	⊕○○○ VERY LOW	
<b>Severe interventricular haemorrhage (grade 3–4) (SGA)</b>												
7	observational studies	not serious	not serious	not serious	not serious	none	177/2873 (6.2%)	162/1543 (10.5%)	<b>OR 0.52</b> (0.41 to 0.66)	<b>47 fewer per 1000</b> (from 59 fewer to 33 fewer)	⊕⊕○○ LOW	
<b>Severe interventricular haemorrhage (grade 3–4) (FGR or SGA)</b>												
1	observational study	serious <sup>a</sup>	not serious	not serious	very serious <sup>c</sup>	none	5/83 (6.0%)	0/8 (0.0%)	<b>OR 1.19</b> (0.06 to 23.46)	<b>0 fewer per 1000</b> (from 0 fewer to 0 fewer)	⊕○○○ VERY LOW	
<b>Neonatal infection</b>												
8	observational studies	serious <sup>a</sup>	not serious	not serious	serious <sup>b</sup>	none	191/1437 (13.3%)	165/1847 (8.9%)	<b>OR 1.17</b> (0.92 to 1.50)	<b>14 more per 1000</b> (from 7 fewer to 39 more)	⊕○○○ VERY LOW	
<b>Neonatal infection (FGR)</b>												
2	observational studies	not serious	not serious	not serious	very serious <sup>d</sup>	none	45/115 (39.1%)	36/96 (37.5%)	<b>OR 0.83</b> (0.44 to 1.58)	<b>43 fewer per 1000</b> (from 166 fewer to 112 more)	⊕○○○ VERY LOW	
<b>Neonatal infection (SGA)</b>												
5	observational studies	serious <sup>a</sup>	not serious	not serious	serious <sup>b</sup>	none	128/1239 (10.3%)	126/1743 (7.2%)	<b>OR 1.28</b> (0.98 to 1.68)	<b>18 more per 1000</b> (from 1 fewer to 43 more)	⊕○○○ VERY LOW	

Certainty assessment							№ of patients		Effect		Certainty	Importance
№ of studies	Study design	Risk of bias	Inconsistency	Indirectness	Imprecision	Other considerations	Women with growth-restricted fetuses	Placebo	Relative (95% CI)	Absolute (95% CI)		
<b>Neonatal infection (FGR or SGA)</b>												
1	observational study	serious <sup>a</sup>	not serious	not serious	very serious <sup>c</sup>	none	18/83 (21.7%)	3/8 (37.5%)	<b>OR 0.46</b> (0.10 to 2.12)	<b>159 fewer per 1000</b> (from 318 fewer to 185 more)	⊕○○○ VERY LOW	
<b>Necrotizing enterocolitis</b>												
10	observational studies	serious <sup>a</sup>	not serious	not serious	serious <sup>b</sup>	none	246/3889 (6.3%)	165/3003 (5.5%)	<b>OR 0.82</b> (0.67 to 1.01)	<b>9 fewer per 1000</b> (from 17 fewer to 1 more)	⊕○○○ VERY LOW	
<b>Necrotizing enterocolitis (FGR)</b>												
1	observational study	serious <sup>a</sup>	not serious	not serious	very serious <sup>c</sup>	none	3/53 (5.7%)	2/34 (5.9%)	<b>OR 0.96</b> (0.15 to 6.07)	<b>2 fewer per 1000</b> (from 50 fewer to 216 more)	⊕○○○ VERY LOW	
<b>Necrotizing enterocolitis (SGA)</b>												
8	observational studies	serious <sup>a</sup>	not serious	not serious	serious <sup>b</sup>	none	238/3753 (6.3%)	162/2961 (5.5%)	<b>OR 0.83</b> (0.67 to 1.02)	<b>9 fewer per 1000</b> (from 17 fewer to 1 more)	⊕○○○ VERY LOW	
<b>Necrotizing enterocolitis (FGR or SGA)</b>												
1	observational study	serious <sup>a</sup>	not serious	not serious	very serious <sup>c</sup>	none	5/83 (6.0%)	1/8 (12.5%)	<b>OR 0.45</b> (0.05 to 4.40)	<b>65 fewer per 1000</b> (from 118 fewer to 261 more)	⊕○○○ VERY LOW	
<b>Chronic lung disease / bronchopulmonary dysplasia</b>												
10	observational studies	serious <sup>a</sup>	not serious	not serious	not serious	none	641/3033 (21.1%)	415/2216 (18.7%)	<b>OR 1.22</b> (1.05 to 1.41)	<b>32 more per 1000</b> (from 8 more to 58 more)	⊕○○○ VERY LOW	

Certainty assessment							№ of patients		Effect		Certainty	Importance
№ of studies	Study design	Risk of bias	Inconsistency	Indirectness	Imprecision	Other considerations	Women with growth-restricted fetuses	Placebo	Relative (95% CI)	Absolute (95% CI)		
<b>Chronic lung disease / bronchopulmonary dysplasia (FGR)</b>												
2	observational studies	not serious	not serious	not serious	very serious <sup>d</sup>	none	22/115 (19.1%)	23/96 (24.0%)	<b>OR 0.83</b> (0.42 to 1.63)	<b>32 fewer per 1000</b> (from 123 fewer to 100 more)	⊕○○○ VERY LOW	
<b>Chronic lung disease / bronchopulmonary dysplasia (SGA)</b>												
7	observational studies	serious <sup>a</sup>	not serious	not serious	not serious	none	596/2835 (21.0%)	389/2112 (18.4%)	<b>OR 1.25</b> (1.07 to 1.46)	<b>36 more per 1000</b> (from 10 more to 64 more)	⊕○○○ VERY LOW	
<b>Chronic lung disease / bronchopulmonary dysplasia (FGR or SGA)</b>												
1	observational study	serious <sup>a</sup>	not serious	not serious	very serious <sup>c</sup>	none	23/83 (27.7%)	3/8 (37.5%)	<b>OR 0.64</b> (0.14 to 2.89)	<b>98 fewer per 1000</b> (from 298 fewer to 259 more)	⊕○○○ VERY LOW	
<b>Periventricular leukomalacia (SGA)</b>												
4	observational studies	serious <sup>a</sup>	not serious	not serious	not serious	none	74/2219 (3.3%)	68/1736 (3.9%)	<b>OR 0.54</b> (0.38 to 0.77)	<b>18 fewer per 1000</b> (from 24 fewer to 9 fewer)	⊕○○○ VERY LOW	
<b>Patent ductus arteriosus</b>												
6	observational studies	serious <sup>a</sup>	not serious	not serious	serious <sup>b</sup>	none	367/1330 (27.6%)	378/1748 (21.6%)	<b>OR 1.19</b> (1.00 to 1.42)	<b>31 more per 1000</b> (from 0 fewer to 65 more)	⊕○○○ VERY LOW	
<b>Patent ductus arteriosus (FGR)</b>												
1	observational study	serious <sup>a</sup>	not serious	not serious	very serious <sup>c</sup>	none	10/53 (18.9%)	6/34 (17.6%)	<b>OR 1.09</b> (0.35 to 3.32)	<b>13 more per 1000</b> (from 107 fewer to 239 more)	⊕○○○ VERY LOW	

Certainty assessment							№ of patients		Effect		Certainty	Importance
№ of studies	Study design	Risk of bias	Inconsistency	Indirectness	Imprecision	Other considerations	Women with growth-restricted fetuses	Placebo	Relative (95% CI)	Absolute (95% CI)		
<b>Patent ductus arteriosus (SGA)</b>												
4	observational studies	serious <sup>a</sup>	not serious	not serious	serious <sup>b</sup>	none	315/1194 (26.4%)	368/1706 (21.6%)	<b>OR 1.20</b> (1.00 to 1.43)	<b>32 more per 1000</b> (from 0 fewer to 67 more)	⊕○○○ VERY LOW	
<b>Patent ductus arteriosus (FGR or SGA)</b>												
1	observational study	serious <sup>a</sup>	not serious	not serious	very serious <sup>d</sup>	none	42/83 (50.6%)	4/8 (50.0%)	<b>OR 1.02</b> (0.24 to 4.37)	<b>5 more per 1000</b> (from 306 fewer to 314 more)	⊕○○○ VERY LOW	
<b>Retinopathy of prematurity</b>												
5	observational studies	serious <sup>a</sup>	not serious	not serious	serious <sup>b</sup>	none	135/1978 (6.8%)	44/832 (5.3%)	<b>OR 1.13</b> (0.79 to 1.61)	<b>6 more per 1000</b> (from 11 fewer to 30 more)	⊕○○○ VERY LOW	
<b>Retinopathy of prematurity (SGA)</b>												
4	observational studies	serious <sup>a</sup>	not serious	not serious	serious <sup>b</sup>	none	130/1895 (6.9%)	44/824 (5.3%)	<b>OR 1.13</b> (0.79 to 1.62)	<b>7 more per 1000</b> (from 11 fewer to 30 more)	⊕○○○ VERY LOW	
<b>Retinopathy of prematurity (FGR or SGA)</b>												
1	observational study	serious <sup>a</sup>	not serious	not serious	very serious <sup>c</sup>	none	5/83 (6.0%)	0/8 (0.0%)	<b>OR 1.19</b> (0.06 to 23.46)	<b>0 fewer per 1000</b> (from 0 fewer to 0 fewer)	⊕○○○ VERY LOW	

Certainty assessment							No of patients		Effect		Certainty	Importance
No of studies	Study design	Risk of bias	Inconsistency	Indirectness	Imprecision	Other considerations	Women with growth-restricted fetuses	Placebo	Relative (95% CI)	Absolute (95% CI)		
<b>Neonatal hypoglycaemia<sup>17</sup></b>												
2	observational studies	not serious	not serious	not serious	not serious	none	72/181 (39.8%)	36/148 (24.3%)	<b>OR 2.06</b> (1.27 to 3.32)	<b>155 more per 1000</b> (from 47 more to 273 more)	⊕⊕○○ LOW	
<b>Neonatal hypoglycaemia (SGA)</b>												
1	observational study	not serious	not serious	not serious	very serious <sup>c</sup>	none	17/45 (37.8%)	8/37 (21.6%)	<b>OR 2.20</b> (0.82 to 5.91)	<b>161 more per 1000</b> (from 32 fewer to 404 more)	⊕○○○ VERY LOW	
<b>Neonatal hypoglycaemia (FGR or SGA)</b>												
1	observational study	serious <sup>a</sup>	not serious	not serious	serious <sup>f</sup>	none	55/136 (40.4%)	28/111 (25.2%)	<b>OR 2.01</b> (1.16 to 3.48)	<b>152 more per 1000</b> (from 29 more to 288 more)	⊕○○○ VERY LOW	
<b>Major brain lesion (IVH, ICH, PVH, or PVL)</b>												
5	observational studies	not serious	not serious	not serious	very serious <sup>d</sup>	none	<sup>f</sup>	<sup>f</sup>	<b>OR 0.66</b> (0.37 to 1.16)	<b>1 fewer per 1000</b> (from 1 fewer to 0 fewer)	⊕○○○ VERY LOW	
<b>Major brain lesion (IVH, ICH, PVH, or PVL) (FGR)</b>												
2	observational studies	not serious	not serious	not serious	very serious <sup>c</sup>	none	12/116 (10.3%)	10/96 (10.4%)	<b>OR 0.86</b> (0.35 to 2.10)	<b>13 fewer per 1000</b> (from 65 fewer to 92 more)	⊕○○○ VERY LOW	

<sup>17</sup> While the OR for this outcome exceeded 2, the lower bound of the confidence interval is more modest and there were few studies and women.



Certainty assessment							№ of patients		Effect		Certainty	Importance
№ of studies	Study design	Risk of bias	Inconsistency	Indirectness	Imprecision	Other considerations	Women with growth-restricted fetuses	Placebo	Relative (95% CI)	Absolute (95% CI)		
<b>Major brain lesion (IVH, ICH, PVH, or PVL) (SGA)</b>												
3	observational studies	not serious	not serious	not serious	very serious <sup>c</sup>	none	f	f	<b>OR 0.55</b> (0.27 to 1.14)	<b>1 fewer per 1000</b> (from 1 fewer to 0 fewer)	⊕○○○ VERY LOW	
<b>Surfactant use (FGR)</b>												
1	observational study	serious <sup>a</sup>	not serious	not serious	very serious <sup>c</sup>	none	19/53 (35.8%)	13/34 (38.2%)	<b>OR 0.90</b> (0.37 to 2.20)	<b>25 fewer per 1000</b> (from 196 fewer to 194 more)	⊕○○○ VERY LOW	
<b>Surfactant use (SGA)</b>												
2	observational studies	serious <sup>a</sup>	not serious	not serious	serious <sup>b</sup>	none	62/209 (29.7%)	34/176 (19.3%)	<b>OR 1.66</b> (0.91 to 3.03)	<b>91 more per 1000</b> (from 14 fewer to 227 more)	⊕○○○ VERY LOW	
<b>Surfactant use (FGR or SGA)<sup>18</sup></b>												
3	observational studies	not serious	not serious	not serious	not serious	none	61/358 (17.0%)	58/241 (24.1%)	<b>OR 0.38</b> (0.23 to 0.62)	<b>133 fewer per 1000</b> (from 173 fewer to 76 fewer)	⊕⊕⊕○ MODERATE	
<b>Use of mechanical ventilation (FGR)</b>												
2	observational studies	not serious	not serious	not serious	very serious <sup>d</sup>	none	61/115 (53.0%)	45/96 (46.9%)	<b>OR 1.24</b> (0.72 to 2.14)	<b>54 more per 1000</b> (from 80 fewer to 185 more)	⊕○○○ VERY LOW	

<sup>18</sup> While the OR for this outcome is lower than 0.5 (i.e. risk is more than halved), data were available from few studies and women.

Certainty assessment							№ of patients		Effect		Certainty	Importance
№ of studies	Study design	Risk of bias	Inconsistency	Indirectness	Imprecision	Other considerations	Women with growth-restricted fetuses	Placebo	Relative (95% CI)	Absolute (95% CI)		
<b>Use of mechanical ventilation (SGA)</b>												
2	observational studies	not serious	serious <sup>e</sup>	not serious	very serious <sup>d</sup>	none	89/191 (46.6%)	25/56 (44.6%)	<b>OR 1.03</b> (0.37 to 2.90)	<b>7 more per 1000</b> (from 217 fewer to 254 more)	⊕○○○ VERY LOW	
<b>Use of mechanical ventilation (FGR or SGA)<sup>6</sup></b>												
2	observational studies	not serious	not serious	not serious	not serious	none	73/275 (26.5%)	94/233 (40.3%)	<b>OR 0.42</b> (0.26 to 0.66)	<b>182 fewer per 1000</b> (from 254 fewer to 95 fewer)	⊕⊕○○ LOW	
<b>Duration of mechanical ventilation (FGR)</b>												
2	observational studies	not serious	not serious	not serious	very serious <sup>d</sup>	none	115	96	–	<b>MD 1.09 higher</b> (0.86 lower to 3.05 higher)	⊕○○○ VERY LOW	
<b>Oxygen therapy (FGR or SGA)<sup>19</sup></b>												
2	observational studies	not serious	not serious	not serious	not serious	none	79/275 (28.7%)	94/233 (40.3%)	<b>OR 0.48</b> (0.30 to 0.77)	<b>158 fewer per 1000</b> (from 235 fewer to 61 fewer)	⊕⊕○○ LOW	
<b>Admission to neonatal intensive care unit (FGR or SGA)</b>												
1	observational studies	not serious	not serious	not serious	very serious <sup>d</sup>	none	131/136 (96.3%)	107/111 (96.4%)	<b>OR 0.98</b> (0.26 to 3.74)	<b>1 fewer per 1000</b> (from 90 fewer to 26 more)	⊕○○○ VERY LOW	

<sup>19</sup> While the OR for this outcome is lower than 0.5 (i.e. risk is more than halved), data were available from few studies and women.

Certainty assessment							№ of patients		Effect		Certainty	Importance
№ of studies	Study design	Risk of bias	Inconsistency	Indirectness	Imprecision	Other considerations	Women with growth-restricted fetuses	Placebo	Relative (95% CI)	Absolute (95% CI)		
<b>Duration of hospital stay</b>												
2	observational studies	not serious	not serious	not serious	not serious	none	223	173	–	MD 2.32 lower (3.81 lower to 0.83 lower)	⊕⊕○○ LOW	
<b>Duration of hospital stay (SGA)</b>												
1	observational studies	serious <sup>a</sup>	not serious	not serious	very serious <sup>d</sup>	none	87	62	–	MD 4 lower (17.43 lower to 9.43 higher)	⊕○○○ VERY LOW	
<b>Duration of hospital stay (FGR or SGA)</b>												
1	observational studies	not serious	not serious	not serious	serious <sup>f</sup>	none	136	111	–	MD 2.3 lower (3.8 lower to 0.8 lower)	⊕⊕○○ LOW	
<b>Small for gestational age (&lt; 2.3<sup>rd</sup> percentile for gestational age) (FGR)</b>												
1	observational studies	serious <sup>a</sup>	not serious	not serious	very serious <sup>d</sup>	none	63/146 (43.2%)	12/19 (63.2%)	OR 0.44 (0.16 to 1.19)	202 fewer per 1000 (from 416 fewer to 39 more)	⊕○○○ VERY LOW	
<b>Birth weight (g) (SGA)</b>												
2	observational studies	serious <sup>a</sup>	serious <sup>e</sup>	not serious	serious <sup>b</sup>	none	806	1272	–	MD 49.1 lower (110.53 lower to 12.32 higher)	⊕○○○ VERY LOW	
<b>Birth weight (g) (FGR or SGA)</b>												
2	observational studies	not serious	not serious	not serious	serious <sup>b</sup>	none	275	233	–	MD 80.97 higher (20.48 lower to 182.41 higher)	⊕○○○ VERY LOW	

Certainty assessment							№ of patients		Effect		Certainty	Importance
№ of studies	Study design	Risk of bias	Inconsistency	Indirectness	Imprecision	Other considerations	Women with growth-restricted fetuses	Placebo	Relative (95% CI)	Absolute (95% CI)		
<b>Survival free from disability (FGR or SGA)</b>												
1	observational studies	not serious	not serious	not serious	very serious <sup>d</sup>	none	108/144 (75.0%)	91/126 (72.2%)	<b>OR 1.15</b> (0.67 to 1.98)	<b>27 more per 1000</b> (from 87 fewer to 115 more)	⊕○○○ VERY LOW	
<b>Cerebral palsy</b>												
2	observational studies	not serious	not serious	not serious	serious <sup>b</sup>	none	25/417 (6.0%)	30/620 (4.8%)	<b>OR 1.31</b> (0.76 to 2.27)	<b>14 more per 1000</b> (from 11 fewer to 55 more)	⊕○○○ VERY LOW	
<b>Cerebral palsy (SGA)</b>												
1	observational studies	serious <sup>a</sup>	not serious	not serious	serious <sup>b</sup>	none	19/278 (6.8%)	25/498 (5.0%)	<b>OR 1.39</b> (0.75 to 2.57)	<b>18 more per 1000</b> (from 12 fewer to 69 more)	⊕○○○ VERY LOW	
<b>Cerebral palsy (FGR or SGA)</b>												
1	observational studies	not serious	not serious	not serious	very serious <sup>c</sup>	none	6/139 (4.3%)	5/122 (4.1%)	<b>OR 1.06</b> (0.31 to 3.55)	<b>2 more per 1000</b> (from 28 fewer to 91 more)	⊕○○○ VERY LOW	
<b>Abnormal behaviour at long-term follow-up at school age (FGR)</b>												
1	observational studies	not serious	not serious	not serious	very serious <sup>d</sup>	none	21/49 (42.9%)	19/42 (45.2%)	<b>OR 0.91</b> (0.40 to 2.08)	<b>23 fewer per 1000</b> (from 204 fewer to 180 more)	⊕○○○ VERY LOW	
<b>Severe hearing impairment (SGA)</b>												
1	observational studies	serious <sup>a</sup>	not serious	not serious	very serious <sup>a</sup>	none	0/277 (0.0%)	5/502 (1.0%)	<b>OR 0.16</b> (0.01 to 2.96)	<b>8 fewer per 1000</b> (from 10 fewer to 19 more)	⊕○○○ VERY LOW	

Certainty assessment							No of patients		Effect		Certainty	Importance
No of studies	Study design	Risk of bias	Inconsistency	Indirectness	Imprecision	Other considerations	Women with growth-restricted fetuses	Placebo	Relative (95% CI)	Absolute (95% CI)		
<b>Visual impairment (SGA)</b>												
1	observational studies	serious <sup>a</sup>	not serious	not serious	very serious <sup>g</sup>	none	1/275 (0.4%)	3/490 (0.6%)	<b>OR 0.59</b> (0.06 to 5.72)	<b>3 fewer per 1000</b> (from 6 fewer to 28 more)	⊕○○○ VERY LOW	

CI: Confidence interval; OR: Odds ratio; MD: Mean difference

*Explanations*

- a. Most studies contributing data had design limitations.
- b. Wide confidence interval crossing the line of no effect.
- d. Wide confidence interval crossing line of no effect; estimate based on small sample size.
- c. Wide confidence interval crossing line of no effect; estimate based on small sample size and few events.
- e. Statistical heterogeneity ( $I^2 \geq 60\%$ ).
- f. Estimate based on small sample size.
- g. Wide confidence interval crossing line of no effect; estimate based on few events.