

Table 14: Clinical evidence profile: oral hygiene intervention (three times a day) compared to usual care

Certainty assessment							No of patients		Effect		Certainty	Importance
No of studies	Study design	Risk of bias	Inconsistency	Indirectness	Imprecision	Other considerations	oral hygiene intervention (three times a day)	usual care	Relative (95% CI)	Absolute (95% CI)		

Mortality at ≤3 months (follow-up: 7 days)

1	randomised trials	very serious ^a	not serious	not serious	very serious ^b	none	2/43 (4.7%)	4/41 (9.8%)	RR 0.48 (0.09 to 2.46)	51 fewer per 1,000 (from 89 fewer to 142 more)	⊕○○○ Very low	CRITICAL
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Occurrence of pneumonia at ≤3 months (follow-up: 7 days)

1	randomised trials	very serious ^a	not serious	not serious	serious ^b	none	9/43 (20.9%)	17/41 (41.5%)	RR 0.50 (0.25 to 1.00)	207 fewer per 1,000 (from 311 fewer to 0 fewer)	⊕○○○ Very low	CRITICAL
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CI: confidence interval; RR: risk ratio

Explanations

- a. Downgraded by 2 increments as the majority of the evidence was at very high risk of bias (due to bias arising from the randomisation process and bias due to missing outcome data)
- b. Downgraded by 1 increment if the confidence interval crossed one MID or by 2 increments if the confidence interval crossed both MIDs