

Evidence Update

Other Infectious Diseases Series

Do corticosteroids improve survival in people with dengue shock syndrome?

There is no good evidence that corticosteroids improve survival in patients with dengue shock syndrome.

Inclusion criteria

Studies:

Randomized and quasi-randomized controlled trials.

Participants:

People diagnosed with dengue shock syndrome.

Intervention:

Corticosteroids compared with placebo or no corticosteroids.

Outcomes:

Primary: death.

Adverse events: any adverse events.

Results

- Four randomized controlled trials involving 284 participants, all under the age of 15 years, were included. No trials described allocation concealment.
- All four trials (284 participants) had death as an outcome. There was no significant difference between the corticosteroid and comparison groups; however, the number of deaths was small in all groups.
- There was no significant difference between groups in the numbers of participants needing blood transfusion (2 trials, 89 participants), severe complications (1 trial, 63 participants), or days in hospital (1 trial, 63 participants).

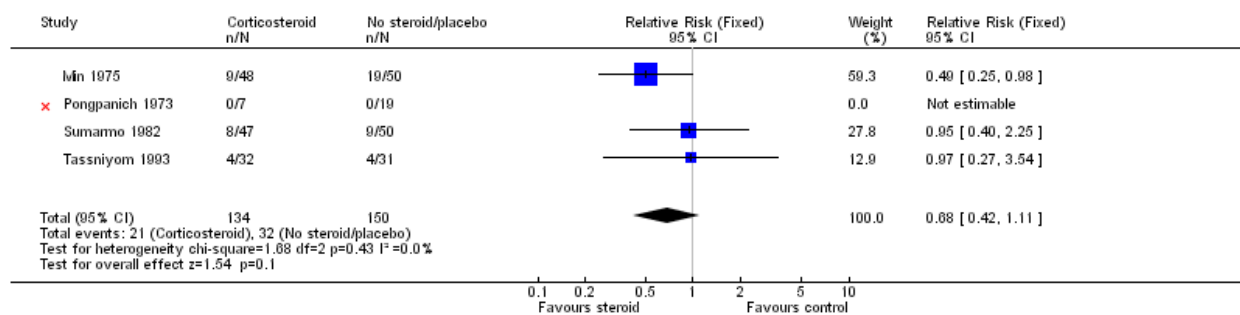


DFID Department for International Development

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Corticosteroids versus control: death



Authors' conclusions

Implications for practice:

There is not enough evidence to justify using corticosteroids in dengue shock syndrome.

Implications for research:

Large, good quality randomized controlled trials of corticosteroids for people with dengue shock syndrome are needed.