

Comparison: Neonatal vitamin A supplementation compared with placebo or no vitamin A supplementation

Source: Imdad A, Rehman F, Davis E, Ranjit D, Surin GSS, Attia SL, et al. Effects of neonatal nutrition interventions on neonatal mortality and child health and development outcomes: a systematic review. *Campbell Syst Rev.* 2019;17(1):e1141. doi:10.1002/cl2.1021.

Certainty assessment							No of patients		Effect		Certainty (GRADE)	Importance
No of studies	Study design	Risk of bias	Inconsistency	Indirectness	Imprecision	Other considerations	Vitamin A	Placebo or no supplementation	Relative (95% CI)	Absolute (95% CI)		
All-cause neonatal mortality												
6	randomized trials	not serious	not serious	not serious	not serious	none	-/63 371	-/63 177	RR 0.99 (0.90 to 1.08)	not estimable ^a	⊕⊕⊕⊕ HIGH	CRITICAL
All-cause infant mortality at 6 months of age												
12	randomized trials	not serious	not serious	not serious	not serious	publication bias strongly suspected ^b	-/77 505	-/77 435	RR 0.98 (0.89 to 1.07)	not estimable ^a	⊕⊕⊕○ MODERATE	CRITICAL
All-cause infant mortality at 12 months of age												
8	randomized trials	not serious	not serious	not serious	not serious	none	-/60 071	-/58 305	RR 1.04 (0.94 to 1.14)	not estimable ^a	⊕⊕⊕⊕ HIGH	CRITICAL
Adverse effects – bulging fontanel												
6	randomized trials	not serious	serious ^c	not serious	not serious	none	-/50 459	-/49 797	RR 1.53 (1.12 to 2.09)	not estimable ^a	⊕⊕⊕○ MODERATE	CRITICAL
Adverse effects – vomiting												
5	randomized trials	not serious	not serious	not serious	not serious	none	-/49 904	-/49 678	RR 1.00 (0.93 to 1.07)	not estimable ^a	⊕⊕⊕⊕ HIGH	CRITICAL

CI: confidence interval; RR: risk ratio.

a. It was not possible to calculate the absolute risks because data on the number of events were not available.

b. Evident asymmetry in the funnel plot.

c. Statistical heterogeneity (I^2 65%).