

Table 16: Clinical evidence profile: 5mg HC 2x daily vs 10 mg HC 2x daily

Certainty assessment							Summary of findings				
Participants (studies) Follow-up	Risk of bias	Inconsistency	Indirectness	Imprecision	Publication bias	Overall certainty of evidence	Study event rates (%)		Relative effect (95% CI)	Anticipated absolute effects	
							With 10mg HC 2x daily	With 5mg HC 2x daily		Risk with 10mg HC 2x daily	Risk difference with 5mg HC 2x daily
Peak cortisol (nmol/L) (follow-up: 1 weeks)											
10 (1 RCT)	Very serious ^a	not serious	serious ^b	serious ^c	none	⊕○○○ Very low	10	10	-	The mean peak cortisol (nmol/L) was 508.6 nmol/L	MD 84.2 nmol/L lower (163.12 lower to 5.28 lower)
Trough cortisol (nmol/L) (follow-up: 1 weeks)											
10 (1 RCT)	Very serious ^a	not serious	serious ^b	very serious ^d	none	⊕○○○ Very low	10	10	-	The mean trough cortisol (nmol/L) was 149.8 nmol/L	MD 15.8 nmol/L higher (38.06 lower to 69.66 higher)
Systolic BP (mmHg) (follow-up: 1 weeks)											

Certainty assessment							Summary of findings				
10 (1 RCT)	Very serious ^a	not serious	serious ^b	Very serious ^e	none	⊕○○○ Very low	10	10	-	The mean systolic BP (mmHg) was 129.5 mmHg	MD 4.8 mmHg higher (7.03 lower to 16.63 higher)
Diastolic BP (mmHg) (follow-up: 1 weeks)											
10 (1 RCT)	Very serious ^a	not serious	serious ^b	Very serious ^f	none	⊕○○○ Very low	10	10	-	The mean diastolic BP (mmHg) was 83.4 mmHg	MD 0.3 mmHg higher (8.25 lower to 8.85 higher)
Plasma sodium (nmol/L) (follow-up: 1 weeks)											
10 (1 RCT)	Very serious ^a	not serious	serious ^b	Very serious ^g	none	⊕○○○ Very low	10	10	-	The mean plasma sodium (nmol/L) was 140.5 mmol/L	MD 0.3 mmol/L lower (1.79 lower to 1.19 higher)

Explanations

- Downgraded by 2 increment due to very high risk of bias arising from the randomisation process
- Downgraded by 1 increment as population includes males only [Female subjects were excluded because of the potential effect of oestrogen status on corticosteroid-binding globulin (CBG) levels]
- Downgraded by 1 increment as confidence interval crossed 1 MID (+/- 43)
- Downgraded by 2 increments as confidence interval crossed both MIDs (+/- 24.55)
- Downgraded by 2 increments as confidence interval crossed both MIDs (+/- 6.2)
- Downgraded by 2 increments as confidence interval crossed both MIDs (+/- 4.35)
- Downgraded by 2 increments as confidence interval crossed both MIDs (+/- 0.85)