Comparison	Number of Studies	Direct Evidence	Random effects model	RR	95%–CI
high–dose dexamethasone vs hydrocortisone					
Direct estimate	0	0			
Indirect estimate				1.19	[0.83; 1.70]
Network estimate				1.19	[0.83; 1.70]
high–dose dexamethasone vs low–dose dexamethasone					
Direct estimate	0	0			
Indirect estimate				0.94	[0.68; 1.30]
Network estimate				0.94	[0.68; 1.30]
high–dose dexamethasone vs placebo					
Direct estimate	4	1.00		1.03	[0.78; 1.36]
Indirect estimate					
Network estimate				1.03	[0.78; 1.36]
hydrocortisone vs low–dose dexamethasone					
Direct estimate	0	0			
Indirect estimate				0.79	[0.59; 1.05]
Network estimate				0.79	[0.59; 1.05]
hydrocortisone vs placebo					
Direct estimate	9	1.00		0.87	[0.69; 1.09]
Indirect estimate					
Network estimate				0.87	[0.69; 1.09]
low–dose dexamethasone vs placebo					
Direct estimate	9	1.00		1.10	[0.93; 1.30]
Indirect estimate					
Network estimate				1.10	[0.93; 1.30]

0.75   1   1.5

Effect of early corticosteroids on death at 36 weeks' PMA, studies with low or no risk of bias.