Comparison	Number of Studies	Direct Evidence	Random effects model	RR	95%–CI
high–dose dexamethasone vs hydrocortisone					
Direct estimate	0	0			
Indirect estimate				0.85	[0.58; 1.27]
Network estimate				0.85	[0.58; 1.27]
high–dose dexamethasone vs low–dose dexamethasone					
Direct estimate	0	0			
Indirect estimate				0.82	[0.53; 1.28]
Network estimate				0.82	[0.53; 1.28]
high–dose dexamethasone vs placebo					
Direct estimate	3	1.00		0.69	[0.53; 0.91]
Indirect estimate					
Network estimate				0.69	[0.53; 0.91]
hydrocortisone vs low–dose dexamethasone					
Direct estimate	0	0			
Indirect estimate				0.96	[0.62; 1.51]
Network estimate				0.96	[0.62; 1.51]
hydrocortisone vs placebo					
Direct estimate	2	1.00		0.81	[0.61; 1.08]
Indirect estimate					
Network estimate				0.81	[0.61; 1.08]
low–dose dexamethasone vs placebo					
Direct estimate	3	1.00		0.84	[0.59; 1.19]
Indirect estimate					
Network estimate				0.84	[0.59; 1.19]

0.75 1 1.5

Effect of early corticosteroids on failure to extubate (within seven days of treatment