| Comparison | Number of Studies | Direct Evidence | Random effects model | RR | 95%–CI |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| **high–dose dexamethasone vs hydrocortisone** | | | | | |
| Direct estimate | 0 | 0 | | | |
| Indirect estimate | | | | 0.92 | [0.61; 1.39] |
| Network estimate | | | | 0.92 | [0.61; 1.39] |
| **high–dose dexamethasone vs low–dose dexamethasone** | | | | | |
| Direct estimate | 0 | 0 | | | |
| Indirect estimate | | | | 0.96 | [0.64; 1.44] |
| Network estimate | | | | 0.96 | [0.64; 1.44] |
| **high–dose dexamethasone vs placebo** | | | | | |
| Direct estimate | 7 | 1.00 | | 0.99 | [0.67; 1.46] |
| Indirect estimate | | | | | |
| Network estimate | | | | 0.99 | [0.67; 1.46] |
| **hydrocortisone vs low–dose dexamethasone** | | | | | |
| Direct estimate | 0 | 0 | | | |
| Indirect estimate | | | | 1.04 | [0.87; 1.26] |
| Network estimate | | | | 1.04 | [0.87; 1.26] |
| **hydrocortisone vs placebo** | | | | | |
| Direct estimate | 7 | 1.00 | | 1.08 | [0.94; 1.24] |
| Indirect estimate | | | | | |
| Network estimate | | | | 1.08 | [0.94; 1.24] |
| **low–dose dexamethasone vs placebo** | | | | | |
| Direct estimate | 11 | 1.00 | | 1.03 | [0.91; 1.16] |
| Indirect estimate | | | | | |
| Network estimate | | | | 1.03 | [0.91; 1.16] |

0.75    1    1.5

Effect of early corticosteroids on sepsis.