Comparison	Number of Studies	Direct Evidence	Random effects model	RR	95%-CI
high−dose dexamethasone vs hydrocortisone					
Direct estimate	0	0			
Indirect estimate				1.18	[0.81; 1.72]
Network estimate				1.18	[0.81; 1.72]
high−dose dexamethasone vs low−dose dexamethasone					
Direct estimate	0	0			
Indirect estimate				0.93	[0.67; 1.29]
Network estimate				0.93	[0.67; 1.29]
high−dose dexamethasone vs placebo					
Direct estimate	3	1.00		1.02	[0.77; 1.35]
Indirect estimate					
Network estimate				1.02	[0.77; 1.35]
hydrocortisone vs low−dose dexamethasone					
Direct estimate	0	0			
Indirect estimate				0.78	[0.58; 1.05]
Network estimate				0.78	[0.58; 1.05]
hydrocortisone vs placebo					
Direct estimate	5	1.00		0.86	[0.67; 1.10]
Indirect estimate					
Network estimate				0.86	[0.67; 1.10]
low−dose dexamethasone vs placebo					
Direct estimate	10	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 including 50 or more infants.