Table 14: Clinical evidence profile: Comparison 2. Manual physiotherapy techniques versus oscillating devices

Quality assessment							No of patients		Effect			
No of studies	Design	Risk of bias	Inconsistency	Indirectness	Imprecision	Other considerations	Manual physiotherapy	Oscillating device	Relative (95% CI)	Absolute	Quality	Importance
Lung function - FEV$_1$ (follow-up mean 8.8 days; measured with: % change from baseline; range of scores: 0-100; Better indicated by higher values)												
1 (Homnick 1998)	randomised trials	very serious[1]	no serious inconsistency	no serious indirectness	serious[2]	none	22	22	-	MD 7.9 lower (31.04 lower to 15.24 higher)	VERY LOW	IMPORTANT
Lung function - FEV$_1$ (follow-up mean 1 months; measured with: % change from baseline; range of scores: 0-100; Better indicated by higher values)												
1 (Padman 1999)	randomised trials	very serious[3]	no serious inconsistency	no serious indirectness	very serious[4]	none	6	6	-	MD 2.59 higher (6.3 lower to 11.48 higher)	VERY LOW	IMPORTANT
Lung Function - FVC (follow-up mean 2 weeks; measured with: % change from baseline; range of scores: 0-100; Better indicated by higher values)												

Quality assessment							No of patients		Effect			
No of studies	Design	Risk of bias	Inconsistency	Indirectness	Imprecision	Other considerations	Manual physiotherapy	Oscillating device	Relative (95% CI)	Absolute	Quality	Importance
1 (Homnick 1998)	randomised trials	very serious[1]	no serious inconsistency	no serious indirectness	very serious[4]	none	22	22	-	MD 2.9 higher (14.21 lower to 20.01 higher)	VERY LOW	IMPORTANT

Abbreviations: CI: confidence interval; FEV$_1$: forced expiratory volume in 1 second; FVC: forced vital capacity; MD: mean difference
1 The quality of the evidence was downgraded by 2 due to selection bias and attrition bias.
2 The quality of the evidence was downgraded by 1 due to serious imprecision as 95% CI crossed 1 default MID
3 The quality of the evidence was downgraded by 2 due to attrition bias and reporting bias
4 The quality of the evidence was downgraded by 2 due to very serious imprecision as 95% CI crossed 2 default MIDs