

Table 25: Clinical evidence profile: Comparison 2.2. Dornase alfa versus nebulized sodium chloride

Quality assessment							No of patients		Effect		Quality	Importance
No of studies	Design	Risk of bias	Inconsistency	Indirectness	Imprecision	Other considerations	Dornase alfa	Nebulized sodium chloride	Relative (95% CI)	Absolute		
Lung function: mean % change in FEV₁ (follow-up 3 weeks; range of scores: 0-100; Better indicated by higher values)												
1 Ballman 1998	randomised trials ¹	serious ²	no serious inconsistency	no serious indirectness	very serious ³	none	48	-	MD 1.6 higher (7.96 lower to 11.16 higher)	VERY LOW	CRITICAL	
Lung function: mean % change in FEV₁ (follow-up 3 months; range of scores: 0-100; Better indicated by higher values)												
1 Suri 2001	randomised trials ¹	serious ²	no serious inconsistency	no serious indirectness	serious ⁴	none	14	-	MD 8 higher (2 to 14 higher)	LOW	CRITICAL	
Number of days inpatient treatment (follow-up 3 months; Better indicated by lower values)												
1 Suri 2001	randomised trials	serious ²	no serious inconsistency	no serious indirectness	no serious imprecision	none	14	-	MD 0.4 lower (2.32 lower to 1.52 higher)	MODERATE	CRITICAL	

Abbreviations: CI: confidence interval; FEV₁: forced expiratory volume in 1 second; MD: mean difference

1 Cross-over study

2 The quality of the evidence was downgraded by 1 due to unclear blinding, allocation, concealment and reporting

3 The quality of the evidence was downgraded by 2 as the 95% CI crossed 2 clinical MIDs

4 The quality of the evidence was downgraded by 1 as the 95% CI crossed 1 clinical MID