Table 51: Clinical evidence profile: Comparison 2. Prednisolone/ Prednisone *versus* placebo

Quality assessment							No of patients		Effect			
No of studies	Design	Risk of bias	Inconsistency	Indirectness	Imprecision	Other considerations	Prednisone/ Prednisolone	Placebo	Relative (95% CI)	Absolute	Quality	Importance
Absolute change in weight (follow-up 12 weeks; measured with: kg; Better indicated by higher values) [2 mg prednisone]												
1 (Greally 1994)	randomised trials	serious[1]	no serious inconsistency	no serious indirectness	very serious[2]	none	13	12	-	MD 0.34 higher (2.32 lower to 3 higher)	VERY LOW	CRITICAL
Weight at 18 Years of Age - Boys - (measured with: Kg; Better indicated by higher values) [1 mg prednisone]												
1 (Lai 2000)	observational studies	no serious risk of bias	no serious inconsistency	no serious indirectness	serious[3]	none	34	21	-	MD 4.6 lower (9.69 lower to 0.49 higher)	VERY LOW	CRITICAL
Weight at 18 Years of Age - Boys (measured with: Kg; Better indicated by higher values) [2 mg prednisone]												
1 (Lai 2000)	observational studies	no serious risk of bias	no serious inconsistency	no serious indirectness	no serious imprecision	dose response gradient[4]	3	21	-	MD 6.7 lower (11.59 lower to 1.81 lower)	MODERATE	CRITICAL
Weight at 18 Years of Age - Girls (measured with: Kg; Better indicated by higher values) [1 mg prednisone]												

Quality assessment							No of patients		Effect			
No of studies	Design	Risk of bias	Inconsistency	Indirectness	Imprecision	Other considerations	Prednisone/ Prednisolone	Placebo	Relative (95% CI)	Absolute	Quality	Importance
1 (Lai 2000)	observational studies	no serious risk of bias	no serious inconsistency	no serious indirectness	very serious[2]	none	20	23	-	mean 0 higher (7.62 lower to 3.02 higher)	VERY LOW	CRITICAL
Weight at 18 Years of Age - Girls (measured with: Kg; Better indicated by higher values) [2 mg prednisone]												
1 (Lai 2000)	observational studies	no serious risk of bias	no serious inconsistency	no serious indirectness	very serious[2]	none	23	23	-	MD 1.7 higher (3.37 lower to 6.77 higher)	VERY LOW	CRITICAL
Height at 18 Years of Age - Boys (measured with: cm; Better indicated by higher values) [1 mg prednisone]												
1 (Lai 2000)	observational studies	no serious risk of bias	no serious inconsistency	no serious indirectness	serious[3]	none	34	21	-	MD 3.9 lower (7.77 to 0.03 lower)	VERY LOW	CRITICAL
Height at 18 Years of Age - Boys (measured with: cm; Better indicated by higher values) [2 mg prednisone]												

Quality assessment							No of patients		Effect			
No of studies	Design	Risk of bias	Inconsistency	Indirectness	Imprecision	Other considerations	Prednisone/ Prednisolone	Placebo	Relative (95% CI)	Absolute	Quality	Importance
1 (Lai 2000)	observational studies	no serious risk of bias	no serious inconsistency	no serious indirectness	serious[3]	none	31	21	-	MD 4.1 lower (7.82 to 0.38 lower)	VERY LOW	CRITICAL
Height at 18 Years of Age - Girls (measured with: cm; Better indicated by higher values) [1 mg prednisone]												
1 (Lai 2000)	observational studies	no serious risk of bias	no serious inconsistency	no serious indirectness	very serious[2]	none	20	23	-	MD 1 lower (4.54 lower to 2.54 higher)	VERY LOW	CRITICAL
Height at 18 Years of Age - Girls (measured with: cm; Better indicated by higher values) [2 mg prednisone]												
1 (Lai 2000)	observational studies	no serious risk of bias	no serious inconsistency	no serious indirectness	very serious[2]	none	23	23	-	MD 0.5 lower (4.43 lower to 3.43 higher)	VERY LOW	CRITICAL
Adverse effects - Cataracts (follow-up 4 years) [1 mg prednisone]												
1 (Eigen	randomised trials	serious[1]	no serious inconsistency	no serious	very serious[2]	none	3/95 (3.2%)	7/95 (7.4%)	RR 0.43 (0.11	42 fewer per	VERY LOW	CRITICAL

No of studies	Design	Risk of bias	Inconsistency	Indirectness	Imprecision	Other considerations	Prednisone/ Prednisolone	Placebo	Relative (95% CI)	Absolute	Quality	Importance
Quality assessment							**No of patients**		**Effect**			
1995)				indirectness					to 1.61)	1000 (from 66 fewer to 45 more)		
Adverse effects - Cataracts (follow-up 3 years) [2 mg prednisone]												
1 (Eigen 1995)	randomised trials	serious[1]	no serious inconsistency	no serious indirectness	very serious[2]	none	11/95 (11.6%)	7/95 (7.4%)	RR 1.57 (0.64 to 3.88)	42 more per 1000 (from 27 fewer to 212 more)	VERY LOW	CRITICAL
Adverse effects - Diabetes mellitus (follow-up 4 years) [1 mg prednisone]												
1 (Eigen 1995)	randomised trials	serious[1]	no serious inconsistency	no serious indirectness	very serious[2]	none	3/95 (3.2%)	1/95 (1.1%)	RR 3 (0.32 to 28.33)	21 more per 1000 (from 7 fewer to 288 more)	VERY LOW	CRITICAL
Adverse effects - Diabetes mellitus (follow-up 3 years) [2 mg prednisone]												
1 (Eigen	randomised trials	serious[1]	no serious inconsistency	no serious	very serious[2]	none	6/95 (6.3%)	1/95 (1.1%)	RR 6.00 (0.74 to	53 more per 1000	VERY LOW	CRITICAL

No of studies	Design	Risk of bias	Inconsistency	Indirectness	Imprecision	Other considerations	Prednisone/ Prednisolone	Placebo	Relative (95% CI)	Absolute	Quality	Importance
Quality assessment							**No of patients**		**Effect**			
1995)				indirectness					48.89)	(from 3 fewer to 504 more)		
Adverse effects - Glycosuria (follow-up 4 years) [1 mg prednisone]												
1 (Eigen 1995)	randomised trials	serious[1]	no serious inconsistency	no serious indirectness	very serious[2]	none	6/95 (6.3%)	4/95 (4.2%)	RR 1.5 (0.44 to 5.15)	21 more per 1000 (from 24 fewer to 175 more)	VERY LOW	CRITICAL
Adverse events - Glycosuria (follow-up 3 years) [2 mg prednisone]												
1 (Eigen 1995)	randomised trials	serious[1]	no serious inconsistency	no serious indirectness	serious[3]	none	10/95 (10.5%)	4/95 (4.2%)	RR 2.5 (0.81 to 7.69)	63 more per 1000 (from 8 fewer to 282 more)	LOW	CRITICAL
Adverse effects - Hyperglycaemia (follow-up 4 years) [1 mg prednisone]												
1 (Eigen	randomised trials	serious[1]	no serious inconsistency	no serious indirectness	very serious[2]	none	3/95 (3.2%)	2/95 (2.1%)	RR 1.5 (0.26	11 more per 1000 (from	VERY LOW	CRITICAL

Quality assessment							No of patients		Effect			
No of studies	Design	Risk of bias	Inconsistency	Indirectness	Imprecision	Other considerations	Prednisone/ Prednisolone	Placebo	Relative (95% CI)	Absolute	Quality	Importance
1995)									to 8.78)	16 fewer to 164 more)		
Adverse effects - Hyperglycaemia (follow-up 3 years) [2 mg prednisone]												
1 (Eigen 1995)	randomised trials	serious[1]	no serious inconsistency	no serious indirectness	serious[3]	none	10/95 (10.5%)	2/95 (2.1%)	RR 5 (1.13 to 22.21)	84 more per 1000 (from 3 more to 447 more)	LOW	CRITICAL
Mortality (follow-up 4 years)												
1 (Auberch 1985)	randomised trials	no serious risk of bias[5]	no serious inconsistency	no serious indirectness	very serious[6]	none	0/21 (0%)	1/24 (4.2%)	RR 0.38 (0.02 to 8.83)	26 fewer per 1000 (from 41 fewer to 326 more)	LOW	IMPORTANT

Abbreviations: CI: confidence interval; kg: kilogrammes; MD: mean difference; mg: milligrams; RR: risk ratio
1 The quality of the evidence was downgraded by 1, as allocation concealment and blinding were unclear.
2 The quality of the evidence downgraded by 2 as 95% CI crossed 2 default MIDs.
3 The quality of the evidence downgraded by 1 as 95% CI crossed 1 default MID.
4 The quality of the evidence was upgraded by 1 as there is evidence of dose-response within study
5 Allocation concealment and blinding were unclear, but the quality of the evidence was not downgraded for this outcome
6 The quality of the evidence was downgraded by 2 as 95%CI crossed the null effect line, and it is very wide.