

Ventilation devices for neonatal resuscitation at birth: a systematic review and meta-analysis

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4 Abstract

5 Initial management of inadequate adaptation to extrauterine life relies on non-invasive
6 respiratory support. Two types of devices are available: fixed pressure devices (FPD; T-pieces
7 or ventilators) and hand driven pressure devices (HDPD; self- or flow-inflating bags). This
8 systematic review and meta-analysis aims to compare clinical outcomes after neonatal
9 resuscitation according to device type.

10 Methods

11 Four databases were searched from inception to 2022, January. Search strategies included
12 Mesh/Emtree terms as well as free language without any restriction. Randomized, quasi-
13 randomized studies and prospective cohorts comparing the use of the two types of devices in
14 neonatal resuscitation were included.

15 Results

16 Nine studies recruiting 3621 newborns were included: 5 RCTs, 2 RCTs with interventions
17 bundles and 2 prospective cohorts. Meta-analysis of the 5 RCTs demonstrated significant
18 reductions in bronchopulmonary dysplasia (RR0,68[0,48-0,96]-NNT 31) and other respiratory
19 outcomes: intubation in the delivery room (RR0,72[0,58-0,88]-NNT 13,4), mechanical
20 ventilation requirements (RR0,81[0,67-0,96]-NNT 17) and duration (MD-1,54 days[-3,03- -
21 0,05]), need for surfactant (RR0,79[0,64-0,96]-NNT 7,3).

22 The overall analysis found a lower mortality in the FPD group (OR0,57[0,47-0,69]-NNT
23 12,7) and confirmed decreases in intubation, surfactant requirement and mechanical
24 ventilation rates (OR 0,56[0,40-0,79]- NNT7,5; OR 0,67[0,55-0,82]-NNT10,7 and
25 OR0,58[0,42-0,80]- NNT 7,4 respectively). The risk of cystic periventricular leukomalacia
26 (cPVL) decreased significantly with FPD (OR0.59[0.41–0.85]–NNT 27). Pneumothorax rates
27 were similar (OR0.82[0.44–1.52]).

28 Conclusion and relevance

29 Resuscitation at birth with FPD improves respiratory transition and decreases BPD with a
30 very low to moderate certainty of evidence. There is suggestion of decreases in mortality and
31 cPVL. Further studies are still needed to confirm those results.

32

33

34 Introduction

35

36 Establishing adequate ventilation is one of the most important steps in perinatal transition.^{1,2}

37 Around 6% of infants require positive pressure ventilation (PPV) at birth.^{3,4} The number of

38 infants at risk of respiratory transition delay increases at lower gestational ages, and reaches

39 100% for extremely preterm infants.³ Effective ventilation is considered the cornerstone of

40 neonatal resuscitation.⁵⁻⁷

41

42 Different devices are used to provide PPV at birth. Hand driven pressure devices (HDPD)

43 include self-inflating bags (SIB) and flow-inflating bags. The manual squeezes of the operator

44 lead to variable insufflation pressures. Adding an expiratory valve on SIB to provide some

45 positive end expiratory pressure (PEEP) remains mostly inadequate.⁸ As the valve between

46 the SIB and the facemask is unidirectional, it impedes spontaneous breathing. Alternatively,

47 T-piece resuscitators (TPR) and conventional ventilators provide fixed insufflatory and end-

48 expiratory pressures (fixed pressure devices- FPD). Variations in pressure occur only with

49 adjustments of device settings and gas flow, and with mask leak.

50

51 Differences between SIB and TPR have been extensively studied in manikins.^{9,10} Pressures

52 provided by TPR were less variable and more often within the target range, with a decreased

53 variability of tidal volumes. However, SIB increased awareness of changes in lung

54 compliance during the dynamic resuscitation process and allowed for faster pressure

55 adjustments. TPR is considered as more technically difficult to prepare and use. Increments in

56 gas flow or inadvertent rotation of the control valve during resuscitation could increase

57 pressures,⁹ leading to barotrauma.

58

59 TPR usage increased with time.¹¹ Two retrospective studies compared TPR and SIB with
60 mixed results.^{12,13} One reported decreased delivery room (DR) intubation rates.¹² The other
61 found higher mortality or oxygen requirement at 36 wGA in the TPR group, with however a
62 high risk of bias given lower gestational ages and birth weight in this group.¹³ A quality
63 improvement process for DR management of VLBW included implementation of TPR, and
64 allowed a reduction in broncho-pulmonary dysplasia (BPD).¹⁴ In contrast, two other
65 retrospective studies considering term infants reported increased pneumothoraxes following
66 the introduction of TPR and face mask CPAP at birth.^{15,16} Currently, ILCOR (International
67 Liaison Committee on Resuscitation) suggests using TPR where possible in order to provide
68 PEEP, with a very-low certainty of evidence, due to paucity of data, serious risk of bias,
69 imprecision and indirectness.^{7,17}

70

71 The aim of this meta-analysis is to assess clinically relevant benefits from ventilation at birth
72 with either FDP or HDPD.

73

74 Methods

75

76 1. Research protocol

77 This systematic review and meta-analysis was conducted in accordance with the Cochrane
78 Handbook for Systematic Reviews of Interventions and reported following the Preferred
79 Reporting Items for Systematic Reviews and Meta-Analyses statement for meta-analysis in
80 health care interventions.¹⁸

81 The protocol was registered after search but in advance of data extraction with the Prospective
82 Register of Systematic Reviews (registered July 11, 2020; CRD42020191685).

83

84 2. Criteria of Eligibility

85 Studies comparing fixed-pressure devices and hand-driven pressure devices for neonatal
86 resuscitation at birth were considered eligible. Subgroup analyses were planned for term and
87 preterm infants.

88 RCTs, quasi-RCTs and prospective cohorts were eligible, without language restriction.

89 Retrospective studies, manikin or animal models, and case reports were excluded.

90

91 3. Search strategy

92 Medline via Ovid, Embase, Scopus and Cochrane Library of Trials were searched between
93 inception and May 20, 2020 without language restriction, filter or limit, with an update on
94 January 20, 2022 (eFig1). The search included Mesh/Emtree terms and free language. Search
95 strategies are available in online supplementary material. Google Scholar was searched for grey
96 literature. References from publications eligible for full-text review and systematic reviews
97 allowed for an additional “snowball search”.

98

99 4. Study selection

100 Rayyan QCRI web app was used for a 2 steps study selection. After exclusion of duplicates,

101 two independent reviewers screened titles and abstracts for potentially relevant studies.

102 Full texts were then independently assessed for eligibility. Conflicts at any step of the

103 selection process were resolved through discussion with a third reviewer.

104

105 5. Outcomes

106 Patient-oriented outcomes were determined in advance.

107 Mortality, hypoxic-ischemic encephalopathy (HIE) in patients born at term and BPD (defined
108 as oxygen requirement at 36 weeks' postmenstrual age) in preterm infants were selected as
109 main outcomes.

110 Secondary outcomes focused on markers of resuscitation efficiency and safety (DR
111 intubation; advanced resuscitation (drug or chest compressions); air leaks; Apgar scores at 5
112 minutes; heart rate > 100 bpm at 2 minutes of life).

113 Secondary outcomes describing respiratory evolution included surfactant needs, mechanical
114 ventilation (MV) requirements and duration as well as oxygen therapy occurrence and
115 duration. Finally, morbidities commonly associated with very preterm birth (patent ductus
116 arteriosus (PDA), severe intraventricular haemorrhage (IVH), cystic periventricular
117 leukomalacia (cPVL), retinopathy of prematurity (ROP) and necrotizing enterocolitis (NEC))
118 were investigated.

119

120 6. Data extraction and analysis

121 Data were independently extracted on a prespecified form by two reviewers and discussed with
122 a third when discordant.

123 Authors were contacted to provide additional data for missing information.

124 Review Manager software (RevMan 5.4; The Nordic Cochrane Centre, Copenhagen,
125 Denmark) were used for data analyses.

126 For the meta-analysis of the RCT, Risk Ratios (RR) and 95% confidence intervals (CI) are
127 reported using the Mantel-Haenszel method for dichotomous data with a fixed-effect model.

128 Given the heterogeneity of study designs and devices, the analysis of all studies evaluated
129 Odds Ratio (OR) with a random-effect model, as it allows for generalization inference.¹⁹

130 For continuous outcomes, mean differences (MD) and 95% CI were computed. When data
131 were communicated in median and interquartile range, mean and standard deviation were
132 mathematically estimated.^{20,21}

133 Numbers needed to treat (NNT) were computed for statistically significant results.²²

134 Heterogeneity was assessed with I^2 statistic.

135

136 7. Bias, quality and GRADE assessment

137 Two independent authors evaluated the risk of bias (RoB) and assessed quality in individual
138 studies using the Revised Cochrane Risk-of-Bias for randomized trials (RoB2) or the
139 Newcastle Ottawa Scales (NOS) for cohort studies. For RCT, the following domains were
140 assessed: randomization process, deviation from intended intervention, missing outcome data,
141 measurement of outcome and selection of reported results. For cohort studies, quality of
142 selection, comparability and outcomes were evaluated.

143 The GRADE (Grading of Recommendations, Assessment, Development, and Evaluation)
144 method²³ was used to assess the strength of evidence across studies for outcome with
145 significant difference. The importance of each outcome was assigned consistently with the
146 ILCOR rating.²⁴

147

148 Results

149

150 1. Literature search and study selection

151 The search strategy allowed identification of 8783 records. After accounting for 3552
152 duplicates, 5231 records were screened by title and abstract, leading to selection of 61 articles.
153 Among these, 9 studies met the inclusion criteria (PRISMA flowchart, Figure 1).

154

155 2. Study Characteristics

156 Studies' characteristics are summarized in table 1.

157 Three randomized controlled trials²⁵⁻²⁷ and two quasi-RCTs were eligible ^{28,29}.

158 Two additional RCTs^{30,31} evaluating bundle of interventions in preterm patients only were
159 included. In both, bag and mask ventilation was compared to the use of TPR for sustained
160 inflation and ventilation. In the TPR group, the interface was a nasopharyngeal tube³¹ or a
161 facemask³⁰.

162 Two prospective observational studies were included.^{32,33} One evaluated prespecified cohorts
163 before and after the implementation of TPR.³² In a large multicentric prospective study in
164 preterm infants³³, the decision to use TPR or SIB was at discretion of resuscitation teams.
165 Eight studies compared TPR versus SIB²⁶⁻³³ and one mask ventilation with a neonatal
166 ventilator versus anaesthetic rebreathing circuits.²⁵

167 One qRCT and one prospective observational study were multicentric.^{28,33}

168

169 3. Patient characteristics

170 In total, 3621 newborns (1271 in the 5 (q)RCT) were included. Studies recruitments ranged
171 from 24 to 1962 infants. Five studies focused on preterm infants.^{25,26,30,31,33} The 4 others
172 included newborns of all gestational ages^{27-29,32}, with a preterm subgroup analysis in 2.^{28,29}

173 In all RCTs and quasi-RCTs, groups were matched in term of gestational ages, birth weight
174 and antenatal steroid exposure.²⁵⁻³¹ In Guinsburg et al., infants in the HDPD group had a
175 significant two days decrease in gestational age and increased antenatal steroids exposure.³³

176 Ng et al. didn't reported mean gestational age.³²

177

178 4. RoB and Grade Assessment

179 The RoB of the RCTs and quasi-RCTs were evaluated as “some concern”^{25,26,31} or high^{27,28,30},
180 given high risks of bias in the randomization process or deviations from the intended
181 intervention.

182 Quality of the cohort studies were assessed as mild, as differences between groups decreased
183 their comparability.^{32,33} Assessments are summarized in online additional data (eFig2).

184 Certainty of evidence was graded as low or moderate for all outcomes in RCTs analysis and
185 as very low for outcomes of overall analysis. (eFig3).

186

187 5. Outcomes analysis

188 Meta-analysis’ results are detailed below, and summarized in figures 2 and 3. All forest plots
189 are available in online supplemental material (eFig4).

190

191 *RCTs and qRCTs analysis*²⁵⁻²⁹

192 Mortality was similar between groups (RR 0,68[0,38-1,20]).²⁵⁻²⁹

193 HIE was reported in populations of all gestational ages, without significant difference
194 between interventions.^{27,28}

195 Statistically less BPD occurred following FPD resuscitation (RR 0,68[0,48-0,96]-NNT 31).²⁵⁻

196 ²⁹

197

198 DR intubation was significantly reduced with FPD (RR 0,72[0,58-0,88]- NNT 13,4).²⁶⁻²⁹ The

199 need for advanced resuscitation(RR 0,50[0,23-1,11]),²⁶⁻²⁸ five minutes Apgar score (MD

200 0,11[-0,19-0,41])²⁶⁻²⁹, occurrences of heart rate >100 bpm at 2 minutes of life (RR 1,04[1,00-

201 1,07])^{27,28} and air leaks (RR 0,98[0,50-1,95])²⁵⁻²⁹ were similar between groups.

202

203 Surfactant needs were lower in the FPD group (RR 0,79[0,64-0,96]- NNT 7,3).^{26,28,29}

204 Following FPD resuscitation, significant reductions in MV requirements (RR 0,81[0,67-0,96]-

205 NNT 17)^{26,28,29} and duration (MD -1,54 days[-3,03- -0,05]) were observed with FPD.^{28,29} The

206 duration of non-invasive ventilation was comparable between groups (MD -0,15 days[-1,46-

207 +1,15]).^{28,29} A shorter duration of oxygenotherapy was also reported in FPD group in Szyld et

208 al. (MD -9,00 days[-13,02- -4,98]).²⁸

209

210 Subgroup analysis focused on preterm infants gave results in the same direction without

211 reaching the level of significance. Preterm infants resuscitated with FPD experienced a trend

212 to decreased DR intubation (RR 0,84[0,69-1,03])^{26,28,29} and MV requirements (RR 0,89[0,76-

213 1,03])^{26,28,29}.

214

215 Similar incidence of preterm birth morbidities were reported by Thakur et al.²⁹

216

217 *Overall analysis, including RCTs with bundle interventions and cohort studies*

218 The pooled estimate demonstrates a significant reduction in mortality with FPD compared

219 with HDPD (OR 0,57[0,47-0,69]-NNT 12,7) without heterogeneity.²⁵⁻³³

220 A trend toward reduction of BPD with FPD was found (OR 0,70[0,48-1,02]) with moderate

221 heterogeneity ($I^2 = 38\%$).²⁵⁻³¹

222

223 Improvement of resuscitation efficiency markers with FPD compared to HDPD was

224 confirmed in the overall analysis. DR intubation rates significantly decreased with FPD (OR

225 0,56[0,40-0,79]- NNT 7,5).^{26-31,33} Apgar scores at 5 minutes were higher in the FPD group

226 (MD 0,57[0,20-0,94]).^{26-31,33} Air leaks were similar between groups (OR 0,82[0,44-1,52]).²⁶⁻

227 ^{31,33}

228

229 Early respiratory outcomes were also improved following resuscitation with FPD in the global
230 analysis, with lower needs for surfactant (OR 0,67[0,55-0,82]- NNT 10,7)^{26,28,29,33}, a
231 significant reduction in MV requirements (OR 0,58[0,42-0,80]- NNT 7,4)^{26,28-33} and duration
232 (MD -1,79 days[-2,91- -0,66]). Duration of oxygenotherapy was not significantly different
233 between groups (MD -5,09 days[-12,63-+2,46]).^{28,33}

234

235 The global analysis focused on preterm infants found statistically significant benefits with
236 FPD: decreases in mortality (OR 0,57[0,46-0,69]- NNT 8,7)^{25,26,29,31,33}, DR intubation (OR
237 0,51[0,31-0,82]- NNT6,4)^{26,28-31,33} and MV requirements (OR 0,60[0,46-0,78]- NNT 9,3)<sup>26,28-
238 31,33</sup>.

239

240 Among common morbidities of preterm birth, incidences of PDA requiring treatment^{29-31,33},
241 IVH^{29-31,33}, ROP^{29,31} and NEC^{30,31,33} were similar between groups. According to data from 3
242 publications^{29,31,33}, resuscitation with FPD was associated with a significant reduction in
243 cPVL (OR 0,59[0,41-0,85]- NNT 26,6), without heterogeneity ($I^2 = 0\%$).

244 Discussion

245 This systematic review and meta-analysis of 9 studies, including 3621 infants, demonstrated
246 improved outcomes following support of neonatal transition with “fixed pressure devices”
247 (mostly T-piece resuscitators) compared to “hand-driven pressure devices” (as self-inflating
248 bags). Meta-analysis of 5 RCT demonstrated that FPD resuscitation is associated with
249 significant reductions in BPD, intubation rate in DR, MV requirements and duration, and need
250 for surfactant without increase in pneumothoraxes. Most of these benefits remained when the
251 analysis was extended to RCTs with bundle intervention and cohort studies, with the added

252 benefit of significant reductions in mortality and cPVL (figure 4). Those favourable outcomes
253 were also demonstrated in preterm infants.

254 Differences between the devices potentially explain the benefits associated with FPD
255 resuscitation. The main difference and most likely explanation is the provision of a constant
256 PEEP with FPD. In animal studies, PEEP allows for a faster clearance of lung fluids and
257 improves lung aeration. In contrast, airway collapse and fluid refilling at the end of expiration
258 have been described without PEEP.³⁴ In addition to its impact on ventilation, lung aeration is
259 a key determinant of pulmonary vascular transition.¹ In very preterm infants, early initiation
260 of CPAP after birth compared with intubation reduces the combined risk of death or BPD.^{35,36}
261 Improvements in respiratory transition leading to lower DR intubation rates, and MV
262 requirements and duration, may explain the reduction of BPD. Both mechanical ventilation
263 and iatrogenic hypocapnia are recognized risk factors for cPVL.³⁷

264 More consistent inflation pressures provided by FPD decrease the risk of very high tidal
265 volumes.⁹ Animal studies showed that a few large manual breaths early in resuscitation can
266 initiate an inflammatory process and ultimately lead to BPD and brain injury.^{38,39} Ventilation
267 with high tidal volumes during resuscitation also exacerbated cerebral hemodynamic
268 instability, brain inflammation and injury.^{39,40} This could potentially be an additional factor
269 explaining reductions in cPVL and BPD.

270 Patterns of insufflation pressure waveforms also differ between the types of devices, as
271 illustrated by Tracy et al. in mannikins.⁴¹ With T-piece resuscitators, pressure increase
272 progressively while with self-inflating bags, the pressure rise has a sharp, needle-like aspect.
273 The latter could lead to increased pharyngeal and pulmonary receptors stimulation triggering
274 apnoeic reflexes.⁴²

275 To generate pressure, HDPD require one hand to squeeze the bag, while one finger can
276 occlude a TPR and no hand movement is required for ventilators. Trigemino-cardiac reflexes
277 differences resulting from different handling seems unlikely, as pressures applied to the face
278 were similar in mannikin studies.⁴³ The risk of leaks increased with FPD.⁹ An observational
279 study reported comparable rates of airway obstruction with TPR and SIB.⁴⁴

280 Recently, in parallel with this work, another systematic review and meta-analysis was carried
281 out on behalf of the ILCOR.¹⁷ Benefits from TPR reported in that study were restricted to
282 shorter duration of PPV in DR and decreased risk of BPD, without impact on mortality or
283 intubation in DR.

284 Among the differences between the two meta-analyses, our broad search strategy identified
285 5231 unique entries, compared to 908, and led to the inclusion of 4 additional studies.^{25,30-32}
286 The RCT of Menakaya et al.²⁵ compared a neonatal ventilator with an anaesthetic bag, both
287 with facemasks, and fitted our search definition. Neonatal ventilators rely on a bias flow
288 through a T-Piece for generation of fixed inflation pressures. Ng et al. conducted a small
289 prospective cohort study before and after implementation of TPR in a NICU in Malaysia.³²
290 We retained the RCTs of Te-Pas et al.³¹ and El-Chimi et al.³⁰ where TPR allowed for
291 intervention bundles: sustained inflation (SI) versus standard inflations^{30,31} and mask versus
292 nasopharyngeal tube³¹. Recent meta-analyses found no difference between SI and
293 conventional ventilation for neonatal resuscitation⁴⁵⁻⁴⁷. The largest study so far on SI was
294 stopped following an increase in mortality in the SI group.⁴⁸ Facial mask or nasal tube used as
295 ventilation interfaces led to similar intubation rates. However, airway obstruction and leaks
296 were increased in the nasal tube group.⁴⁹ Hence, the impact of those interventions in the
297 analysis would have been either neutral or unfavourable towards the FPD group, and therefore
298 cannot explain the benefits found with FPD.

299 This systematic review and meta-analysis was conducted with several methodological
300 strengths. We searched 4 databases with indexing terms as well as grey literature. There were
301 no inclusion limits in terms of language.
302 Some limitations remain. The high number of outcomes could statistically lead to false
303 positive results. They however are interrelated, reflect resuscitation effectiveness, respiratory
304 evolution, and preterm infants' morbidities, are consistent with recent recommendations²⁴,
305 and results are biologically plausible. Different study designs and heterogeneity of reported
306 results complicated the realization of the meta-analysis. The potential impact of including
307 studies with multiple interventions has been discussed above. Inclusion of prospective cohorts
308 complement the findings of RCTs and provides evidence based on real-world data. To
309 account for those, a more conservative random-effect analysis was computed in the overall
310 analysis.¹⁹ While the protocol did not plan to include long-term outcomes such as cerebral
311 palsy, blindness and neurodevelopmental impairment, no study reported on those.
312 Use of PEEP-valve or not was not distinguished in our meta-analysis. Szyld et al. performed a
313 subgroup analysis of self-inflating bag with or without a PEEP valve and found results
314 comparable to those from the whole cohort.²⁸

315 Conclusion

316 This review and meta-analysis compared the use of fixed pressure devices (such as T-piece
317 resuscitators) and hand driven pressure devices (such as self-inflating bags). Resuscitation at
318 birth with FPD appears to improve respiratory transition and may contribute to resuscitation
319 strategies aiming to protect lung and brain.
320 We found significant reductions in BPD, DR intubation, mechanical ventilation and need for
321 surfactant without increased morbidity, including pneumothorax. Expanding the analysis with
322 bundled intervention RCT and prospective cohorts additionally suggests decreases in

323 mortality and cPVL. However, the certainty of evidence according to GRADE is very low to
324 moderate and further studies are needed to confirm those results and to complete data about
325 comorbidities of prematurity and HIE. Where possible, FPD should prevail to support
326 neonatal transition.

327

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332 and analyse.

333 Statement of Ethics

334 The research was conducted ethically in accordance with the Declaration of Helsinki ethical
335 principles. The paper is exempt from ethical committee approval. All data were collected and
336 synthesised from previous clinical trials for which informed consent had already been
337 obtained by the trial investigators.

338 The protocol was registered with the Prospective Register of Systematic Reviews (registered
339 July 11,2020;CRD42020191685).

340 Conflict of Interest Statement

341 The authors have no conflicts of interest to declare.

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344 Author Contributions

345 ST and NH: search strategy, data selection and analysis. ST manuscript draft and editions.

346 VR: data interpretation, manuscript editions. All authors reviewed and approved the

347 manuscript.

348 Data Availability Statement

349 All data generated or analysed are included in this article and its supplementary material.

350 Enquiries can be directed to the corresponding author.

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493 Figure and table legends

494

495 Figure 1. Flow chart of study inclusion.

496 Figure 2. Forest plots of main outcomes.

497 Figure 3. Summary of the outcomes of RCTs and qRCTs analysis (summary of the overall

498 analysis are available in online additional data).

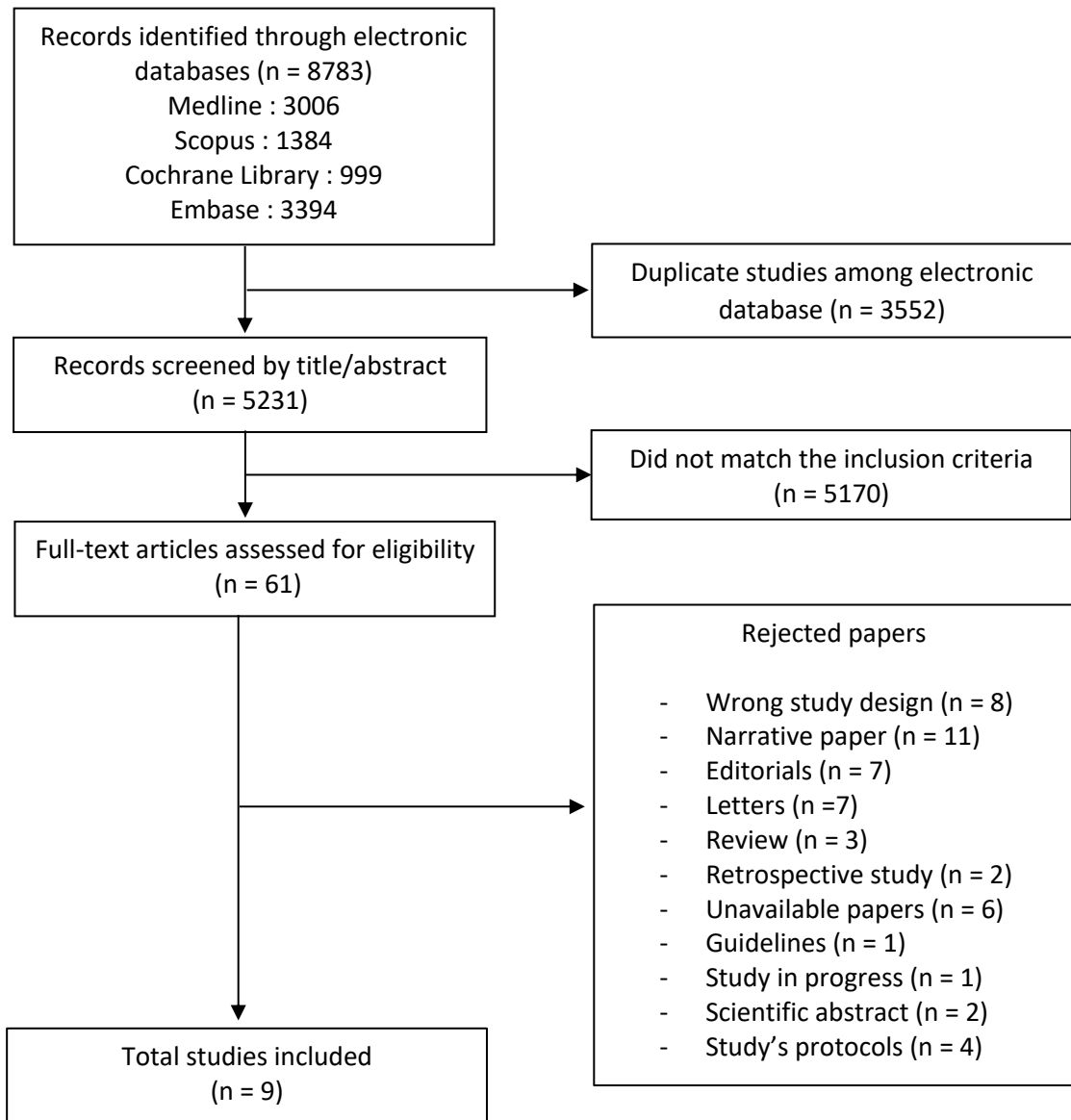
499 Figure 4. Potential pathways explaining the benefits of TPR use.

500 Table 1. Features of included studies.

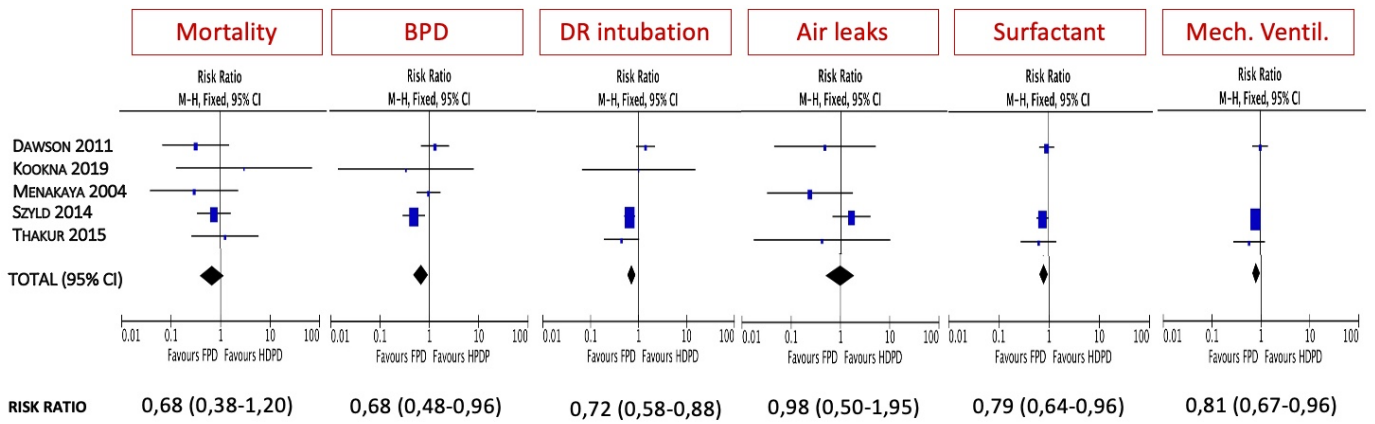
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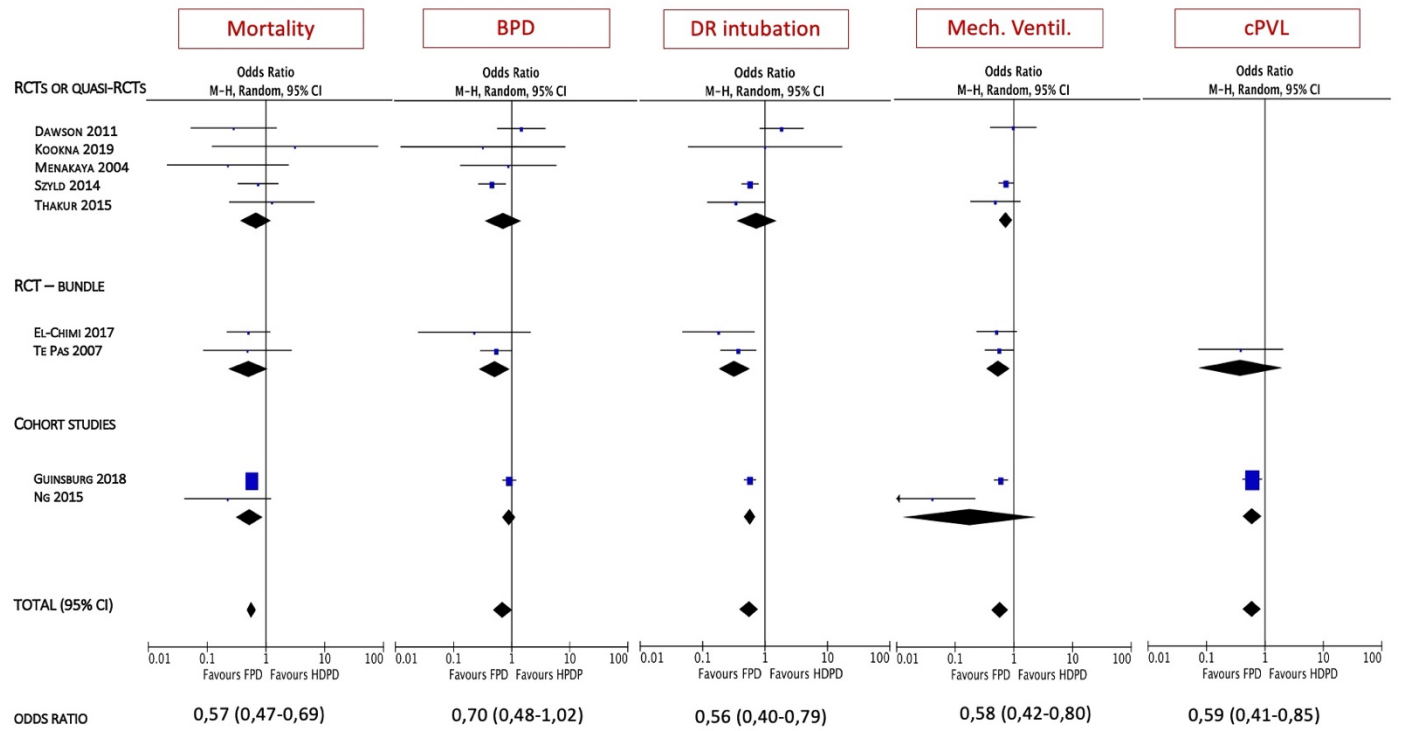
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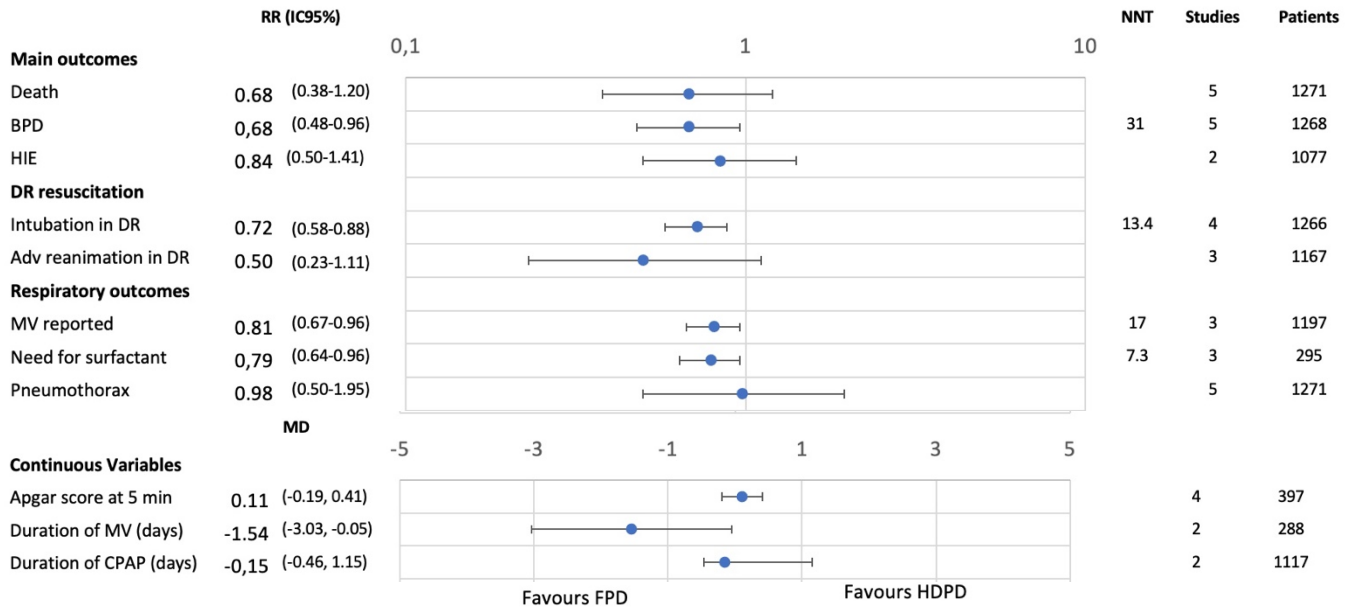
RCTs and qRCTs analysis



Overall analysis, including RCTs with bundle interventions and cohort studies



BPD: bronchopulmonary dysplasia; DR: delivery room; Mech. Ventil.: mechanical ventilation; cPVL: cystic periventricular leukomalacia



RR: risk ratio – IC: interval confidence – BPD: bronchopulmonary dysplasia – HIE: hypoxic-ischemic encephalopathy – DR: delivery room – Adv: advanced – MV: mechanical ventilation – CPAP: continuous positive air pressure



.....> ↓ mortality rate

Improved respiratory transition → = pneumothorax

↓ intubation rate
in DR

↓ mechanical
ventilation

↓ need for surfactant

↓ cPVL

↓ BPD

	<u>Study</u>	<u>N</u>	<u>Study population (Intervention/Control)</u>	<u>Intervention vs control</u>	<u>Inclusion criteria</u>	<u>Outcomes</u>
RCT	Menakaya 2004 [24] Monocentric	24	- n: 11/13 - mean (range) BW (g): 805 (510-1164) / 758 (408-1052) - median (range) GA (weeks): 26 (24-27) / 26 (24-27) - male sex (%): 55/54 - antenatal steroids (%): 100/100	Infant ventilator (Dräger Babylog) versus Standard anesthetic rebreathing bag (500 ml) Randomization before birth	- GA 24-27 wGA - singletons Exclusion criteria: - congenital thoracic abnormalities	- respiratory mechanics (PEEP – PiP – eVt) - age at intubation - PCO ₂ and FIO ₂ on admission - mortality - oxygen at 36 weeks and/or death - airleaks
	Dawson 2011 [25] Monocentric	80	- n: 41/39 - mean ± SD GA (weeks): 27 ± 1/ 27 ± 1 (p=0,71) - mean ± SD BW (g): 873 ± 236/889 ± 206 (p=0,52) - male sex (%): 54/59 (p=0,63)	TPR (Néopuff©) Versus SIB - PEEP-valve (240 ml) Randomization before birth	- GA < 29 wGA - receiving PPV in DR in the first 5 minutes after birth Exclusion criteria: - uncertainty about gestational age - congenital abnormality	- oxygen saturation at 1, 2 and 5 minutes - heart rate at 1 and 5 minutes - oxygen delivery - rate of CPAP, intubation, chest compressions and surfactant administration in DR - in NICU: intubation rate, BPD, mortality, surfactant administration, combined death/IVH - respiratory variables
	Kookna 2019 [26] Monocentric	50	- n: 25/25 - mean ± SD GA (weeks): 38,88 ± 1,56/ 38,28 ± 1,95 (p=0,23) - male sex (%): 68/48 (p=0,25)	TPR (Néopuff©) Versus SIB Randomization before birth	- GA ≥ 28 wGA requiring PPV (apnea, gasping, HR < 100/min, desaturation despite CPAP) Exclusion criteria: - gross congenital malformation, diaphragmatic hernia or heart disease	- HR, SpO ₂ and RR at different time in DR - in DR: intubation and chest compression rate - Apgar at 1, 5 and 10 min - duration of PPV in DR - meconium inhalation syndrome, respiratory distress, HIE, BPD - pneumothorax - sequelae, death
Quasi-RCT	Szyld 2014 [27] Multicentric	1027	- n: 511/516 - mean ± SD GA (weeks): 36 ± 4,1/ 36 ± 4,4 (p=0,539) - mean ± SD BW (g): 2720 ± 1025 / 2686 ± 1069 (p=0,619) - male sex (%): 59/58 (p=0,616) - antenatal steroids (%): 27/30 (p=0,405)	TPR (Néopuff©) Versus SIB +/- PEEP-valve (300 ml) Randomization in a 2-period cross-over trial	- GA ≥ 26 wGA requiring PPV at birth Exclusion criteria: - immediate endotracheal intubation - major congenital malformation - multiple birth	- proportion of infants with HR ≥ 100/min at 2 minutes - elapsed time to HR ≥ 100/min, time to spontaneous breathing, SpO ₂ at 2 min - intubation rate after failure of PPV - chest compression and/or drugs rate - airleaks - duration of oxygen administration, mechanical and non-invasive ventilation - HIE, BPD, mortality
	Thakur 2015 [28] Monocentric	90	- n: 40/50 - mean ± SD GA (weeks): 34,3 ± 3,7/ 35,1 ± 3,6 (p=0,27) - mean ±SD BW (g): 2065 ± 814 / 2264 ± 872 (p=0,26) - male sex (%): 50/64 (p=0,20) - antenatal steroids (%): 68,4/72,2 (p=0,80)	TPR (Néopuff©) Versus SIB - PEEP-valve Randomization before birth	- GA ≥ 26 wGA requiring PPV at birth Exclusion criteria: - chorioamnionitis, meconium amniotic fluid - major congenital anomalies	- duration of PPV in DR - intubation rate in DR - respiratory distress - need for MV within 48h and its duration - need for surfactant - mortality

RCT with bundle interventions	Te-Pas 2013 [30] Monocentric	207 - n: 104/103 - mean ± SD GA (weeks): 29,4 ± 1,9/ 29,5 ± 1,9 - mean ± SD BW (g): 1311 ± 403 / 1290 ± 392 - male sex (%): 54/55 - antenatal steroids (%): 82/81	TPR (Néopuff©) + nasopharyngeal tube with sustained inflation (10 sec) Versus SIB + face mask Randomization before birth	- inborn infants GA < 33 wGA Exclusion criteria: - major congenital anomalies	- intubation rate within 72 hours - intubation rate in DR - need for MV, surfactant administration - death, BPD, IVH, cPVL, ROP, PDA, NEC
	El-Chimi 2017 [29] Monocentric	112 - n: 57/55 - mean ± SD GA (weeks): 31,5 ± 1,7/ 31,3 ± 1,7 (p=0,55) - mean ±SD BW (g): 1561 ± 326 / 1510 ± 319 (p=0,4) - male sex (%): 54/47 (p=0,452) - antenatal steroids (%): 39/34,5 (p=0,323)	TPR (Néopuff©) with sustained inflation (15 sec) Versus SIB Randomization before birth	- preterm requiring PPV at birth	- Success: no need for any further ventilatory support, need for exclusive nCPAP, or need for intubation beyond the first 72 hours after delivery - occurrence of air leaks, BPD, IVH, PDA, NEC
Prospective studies	Ng 2015 [31] Monocentric	50 - n: 25/25 - mean BW (g): 1560/1460	TPR (Néopuff©) with sustained inflation (15 sec) Versus SIB Pre/Post-implementation	- neonates requiring PPV at birth Exclusion criteria: - major congenital anomalies	- intubation rate - need for MV and NIV and duration - mortality - length stay at hospital
	Guinsburg 2018 [32] Multicentric	1962 - n: 1456/506 - mean ±SD GA (weeks): 28,2 ± 2,5/ 27,8 ± 2,7 (p=0,005) - mean ±SD BW (g): 969 ± 277 / 941 ± 279 (p=0,968) - male sex (%): 51/51 (p=0,945) - antenatal steroids (%): 77/69 (p=0,001)	TPR (Néopuff© or Babypuff©) Versus SIB – PEEP-valve At discretion of resuscitation team	- infants 23 ^{0/7} -33 ^{6/7} wGA and BW 400-1499 g requiring PPV at birth Exclusion criteria: - major congenital anomalies - transfer until 27 days of life	- survival to hospital discharge without BPD, IVH grades III–IV and cPVL - Apgar score at 5 minutes - endotracheal or CPAP in DR - airleaks - need for surfactant - need for MV and duration - PDA, BPD, sepsis, IVH, cPVL, ROP, NEC, death

TPR: T-piece resuscitation – SIB: self-inflating bag – w GA: weeks of gestational age – PEEP: Positive end-expiratory pressure – PiP: Positive insufflatory pressure – eVt: tidal volume – PPV: positive pressure ventilation – DR: delivery room – HR: heart rate – RR: respiratory rate – MV: mechanical ventilation – NIV: non-invasive ventilation – HIE: hypoxic-ischemic encephalopathy – BPD: bronchopulmonary dysplasia – IVH: intraventricular hemorrhage – NEC: necrotizing enterocolitis – ROP: retinopathy of prematurity – PDA: patent ductus arteriosus – cPVL: cystic periventricular leukomalacia

Additional data

eFig 1. Search strategies

eFig 2. Risk of Bias and quality assessment

eFig 3. GRADE assessment

eFig 4. Forest plots

eFig 1

Database: **Ovid MEDLINE(R)** and Epub Ahead of Print, In-Process, In-Data-Review & Other Non-Indexed Citations, Daily and Versions(R) <1946 to January 19, 2022>

Search Strategy:

-
- 1 (t piece or t-piece or neopuff or neo tee or babypuff or neotee or tom thumb).ti,ab,kf. (675)
 - 2 (((self or flow) adj3 bag*) or mask*).ti,ab,kf. (90664)
 - 3 manual ventilation.ti,ab,kf. (442)
 - 4 (positive adj3 (pressure or ventilation)).ti,ab,kf. (30797)
 - 5 exp Infant/ or (infan* or Neonat* or Newborn* or Prematur* or Preterm or (low adj3 weight*)).ti,ab,kf. (1677278)
 - 6 Delivery Rooms/ or (delivery room* or birth or resuscitation).ti,ab,kf. (387460)
 - 7 exp Positive-Pressure Respiration/ae, is, mt, mo [Adverse Effects, Instrumentation, Methods, Mortality] (10680)
 - 8 Ventilators, Mechanical/ (9422)
 - 9 1 or 2 or 3 or 4 or 7 or 8 (131755)
 - 10 5 and 6 and 9 (3006)

Scopus (1,384 document results)

(TITLE-ABS-KEY (manual AND ventilation) OR TITLE-ABS-KEY (t AND piece OR neopuff OR neo AND tee OR babypuff OR neotee OR tom AND thumb) OR TITLE-ABS-KEY ((self OR flow) W/3 bag*) OR TITLE-ABS-KEY (positive W/3 (pressure OR ventilation)) AND TITLE-ABS-KEY (infan* OR neonat* OR newborn* OR prematur* OR preterm OR (low W/3 weight*)) AND TITLE-ABS-KEY (delivery AND room* OR birth OR resuscitation))

Embase

No. Query Results	Results
#9. #1 AND #7 AND #8	3,394
#8. #2 OR #3 OR #4 OR #5 OR #6	203,473
#7. 'delivery room' OR birth	516,157
#6. 'positive pressure ventilation'	12,839
#5. 'manual emergency ventilator'	754
#4. (self OR flow) AND inflating AND bag	324
#3. 'ventilator'	68,006
#2. t AND piece OR 't piece' OR neopuff OR (neo AND tee) OR babypuff OR neotee OR (tom AND thumb)	7,356
#1. 'infant'/exp OR 'infant' OR 'newborn'/exp OR 'newborn' OR 'prematurity'/exp OR 'prematurity'	1,447,060

eFig 2.

	Menakaya 2004 [24]	Dawson 2011 [25]	Kookna 2019 [26]	Szyld 2014 [27]	Thakur 2015 [28]	Te Pas 2007 [30]	El-Chimi 2016 [29]
Randomisation process	+	+	+	-	-	+	-
Deviations from the intended intervention	?	?	?	?	?	?	?
Missing outcome data	+	+	+	+	+	+	+
Measurement of the outcome	+	+	-	+	+	+	+
Selection of the reported result	+	+	+	+	+	+	+
OVERALL	!	!	-	-	-	!	-

		Ng 2015 [31]	Guinsburg 2018 [32]
A	Representativeness of the exposed cohort	+	+
	Selection of the non-exposed cohort	+	+
	Ascertainment of exposure	+	+
	Demonstration that outcome of interest was not present at start of study	+	+
B	Comparability of cohorts on the gestational age	NC	-
	Comparability of cohorts for any additional factor	+	-
C	Assessment of outcome	+	+
	Was follow-up long enough for outcomes to occur (mortality, HIE, BPD)	+	+
	Adequacy of follow up of cohorts	+	+
TOTAL		!	!

eFig 3. - **Question:** Fixed Pressure Devices compared to Hand Driven Pressure Devices for neonatal resuscitation at birth

Certainty assessment							№ of patients		Effect		Certainty	Importance
№ of studies	Study design	Risk of bias	Inconsistency	Indirectness	Imprecision	Other considerations	Fixed Pressure Devices	Hand Driven Pressure Devices	Relative (95% CI)	Absolute (95% CI)		
Mortality in all studies												
9	observational studies and RCTs	serious	not serious	not serious	not serious	none	490/2270 (21.6%)	282/1332 (21.2%)	OR 0.57 (0.47 to 0.69)	79 fewer per 1 000 (from 100 fewer to 55 fewer)	⊕○○○ Very low	CRITICAL
BPD in RCTs or quasi-RCTs												
5	randomised trials	serious	not serious	not serious	serious (a)	none	43/627 (6.9%)	64/641 (10.0%)	RR 0.68 (0.48 to 0.96)	32 fewer per 1 000 (from 52 fewer to 4 fewer)	⊕⊕○○ Low	IMPORTANT
Intubation in delivery room in RCTs or quasi-RCTs												
4	randomised trials	serious	not serious	not serious	not serious	none	119/625 (19.0%)	171/641 (26.7%)	RR 0.72 (0.58 to 0.88)	75 fewer per 1 000 (from 112 fewer to 32 fewer)	⊕⊕⊕○ Moderate	IMPORTANT
Mechanical ventilation reported in RCTs or quasi-RCTs												
3	randomised trials	serious	not serious	not serious	not serious	none	149/592 (25.2%)	188/605 (31.1%)	RR 0.81 (0.67 to 0.96)	59 fewer per 1 000 (from 103 fewer to 12 fewer)	⊕⊕⊕○ Moderate	IMPORTANT
Airleaks in RCTs or quasi-RCTs												
5	randomised trials	serious	not serious	not serious	not serious	none	15/628 (2.4%)	16/643 (2.5%)	RR 0.98 (0.50 to 1.95)	0 fewer per 1 000 (from 12 fewer to 24 more)	⊕⊕⊕○ Moderate	IMPORTANT
Need for surfactant in RCTs or quasi-RCTs												
3	randomised trials	serious	not serious	not serious	serious (a)	none	70/137 (51.1%)	103/158 (65.2%)	RR 0.78 (0.64 to 0.96)	143 fewer per 1 000 (from 235 fewer to 26 fewer)	⊕⊕○○ Low	NOT IMPORTANT(b)
cPVL in all studies												
3	observational studies	serious	not serious	not serious	not serious	none	97/1353 (7.2%)	51/526 (9.7%)	OR 0.59 (0.41 to 0.85)	37 fewer per 1 000 (from 55 fewer to 13 fewer)	⊕○○○ Very low	CRITICAL

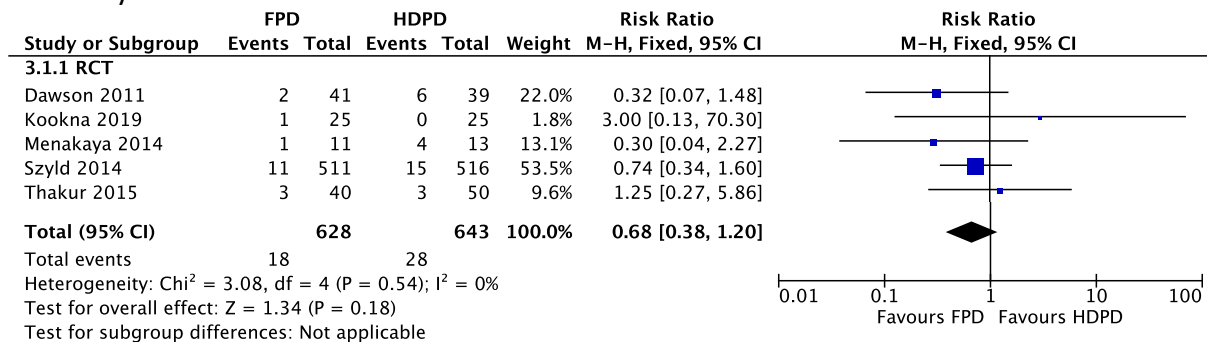
- (a) Number of patients below the optimal information size.
- (b) Important in low resources settings

CI: confidence interval; OR: odds ratio; RR: risk ratio; RCT: randomized controlled trials, BPD bronchopulmonary dysplasia; cPVL: cystic periventricular leukomalacia.

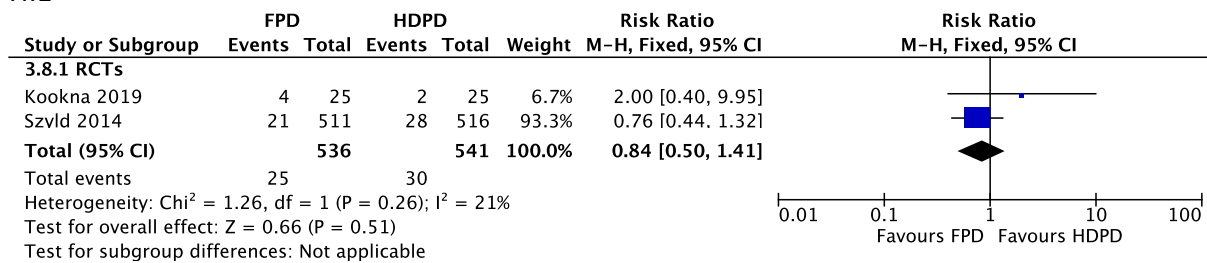
eFig 4 : forest plots

RCTs and qRCTs analysis

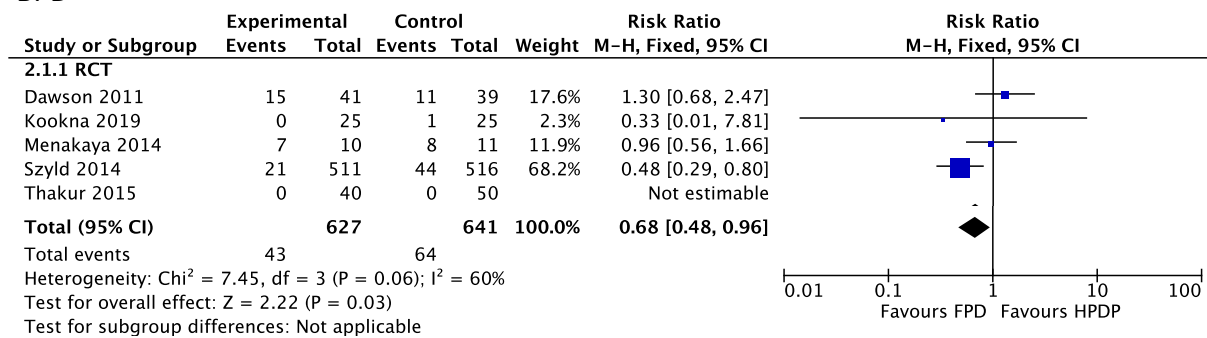
Mortality²⁴⁻²⁸



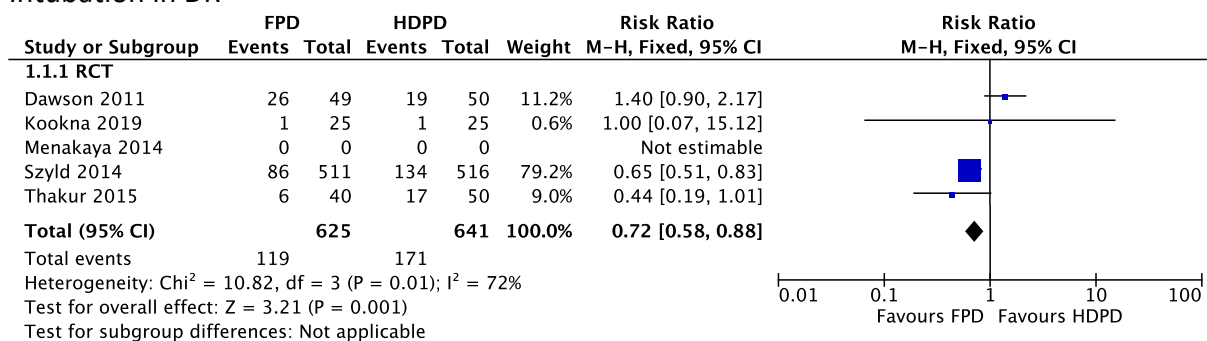
HIE^{26,27}



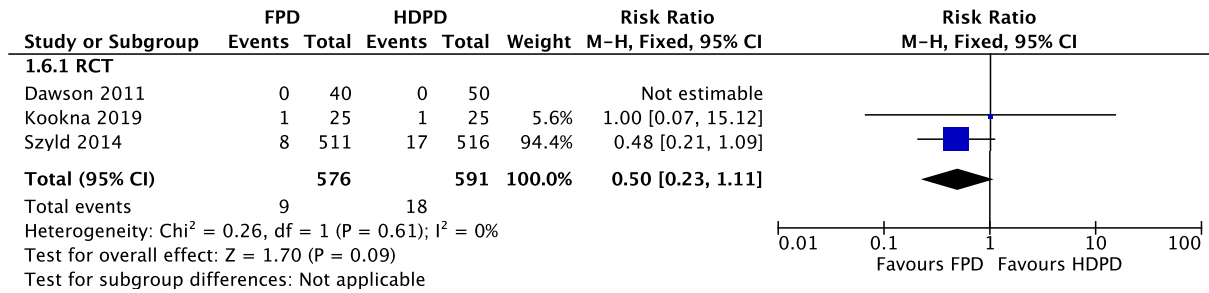
BPD²⁴⁻²⁸



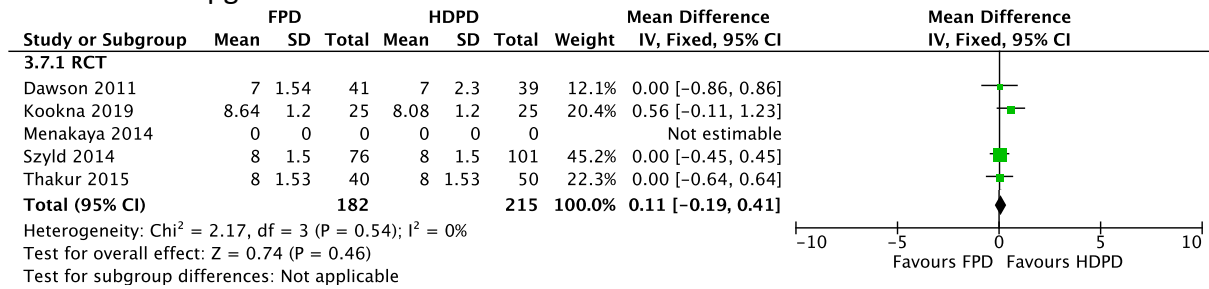
Intubation in DR²⁵⁻²⁸



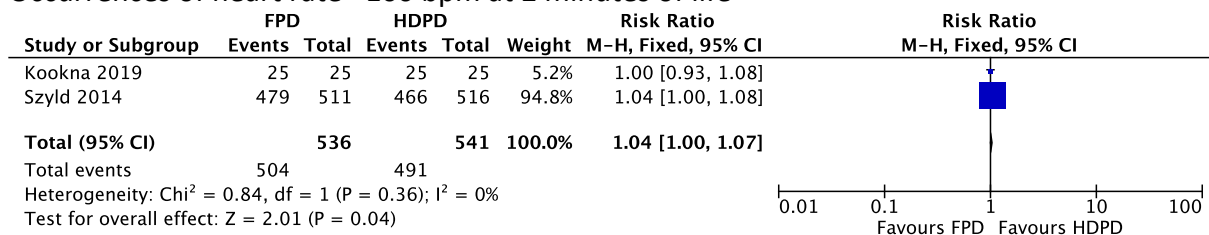
Need for advanced resuscitation²⁵⁻²⁷



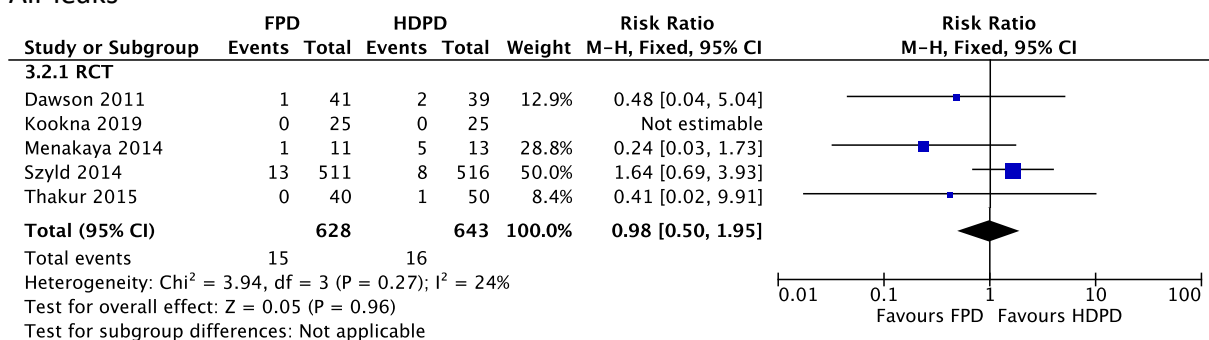
Five minutes Apgar score²⁵⁻²⁸



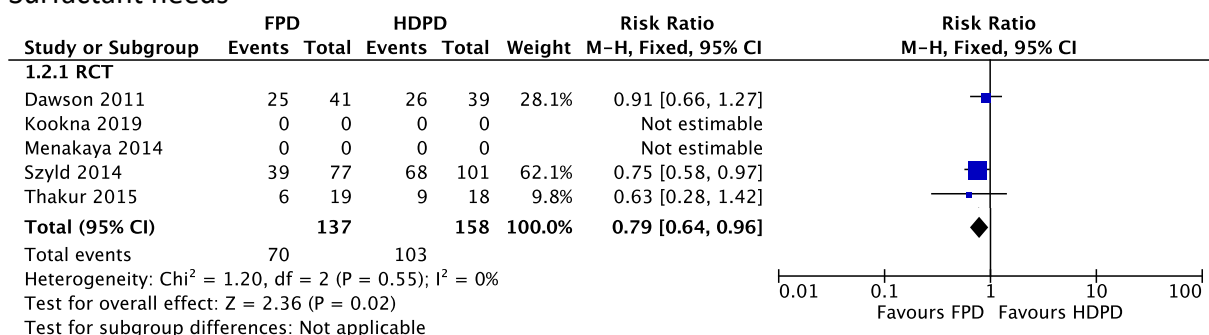
Occurrences of heart rate >100 bpm at 2 minutes of life^{26,27}



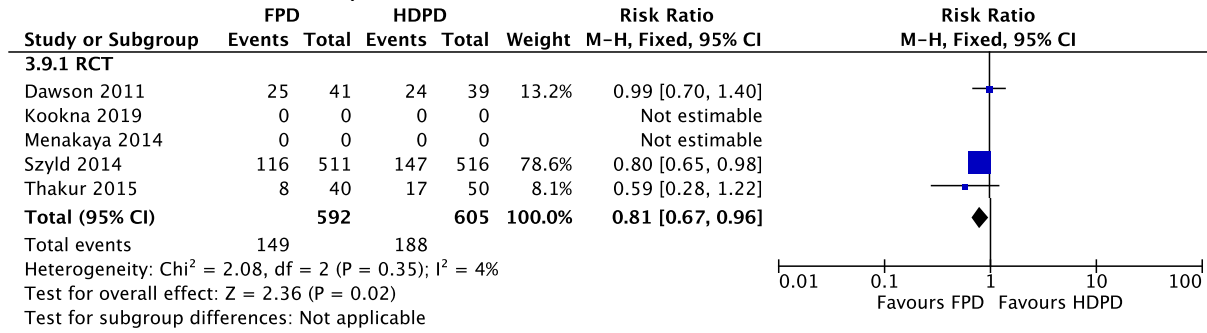
Air leaks²⁴⁻²⁸



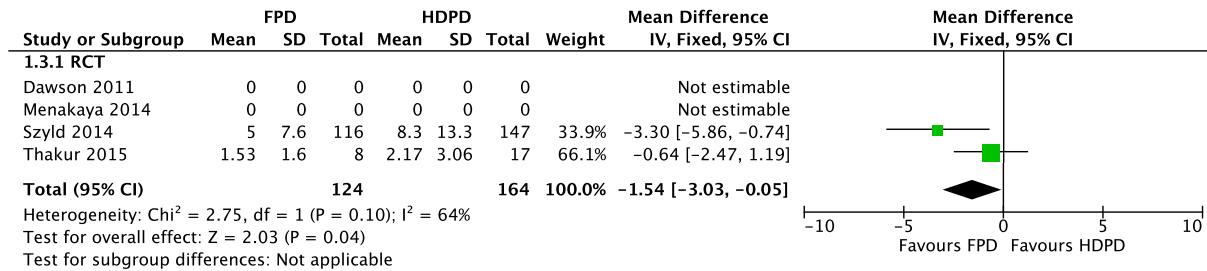
Surfactant needs^{25,27,28}



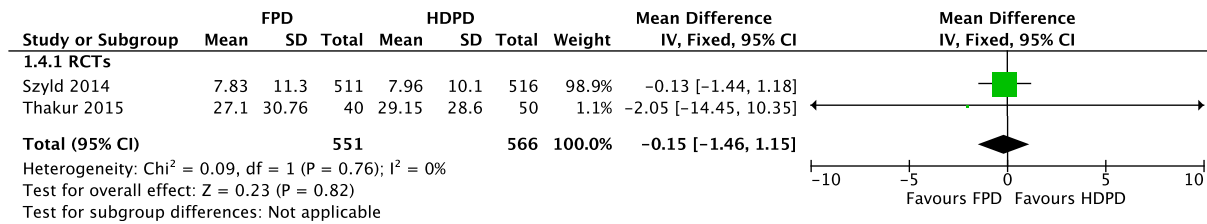
Mechanical ventilation requirements^{25,27,28}



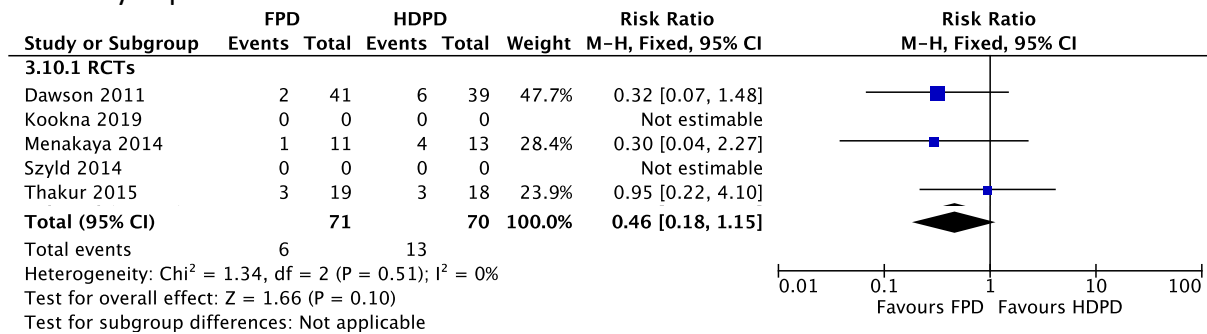
Mechanical ventilation duration^{27,28}



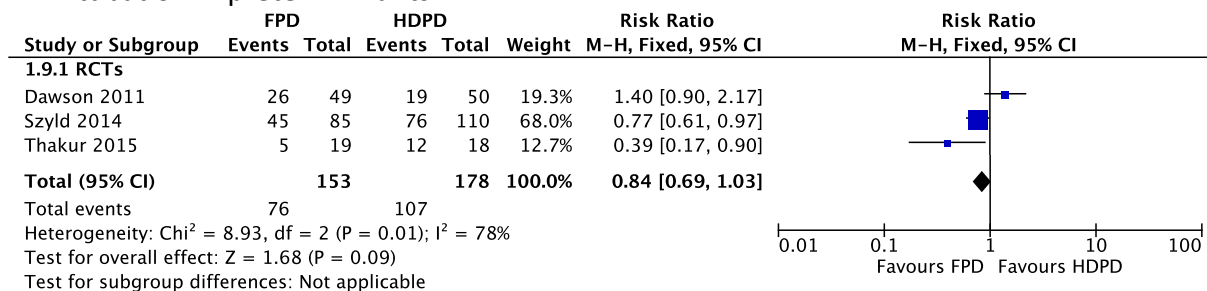
Non-invasive ventilation duration^{27,28}



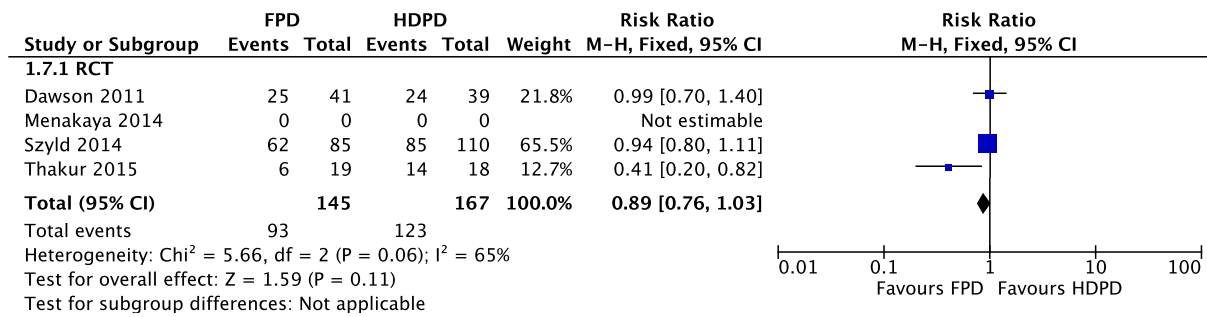
Mortality in preterm infants^{24,25,28}



DR intubation in preterm infants^{25,27,28}

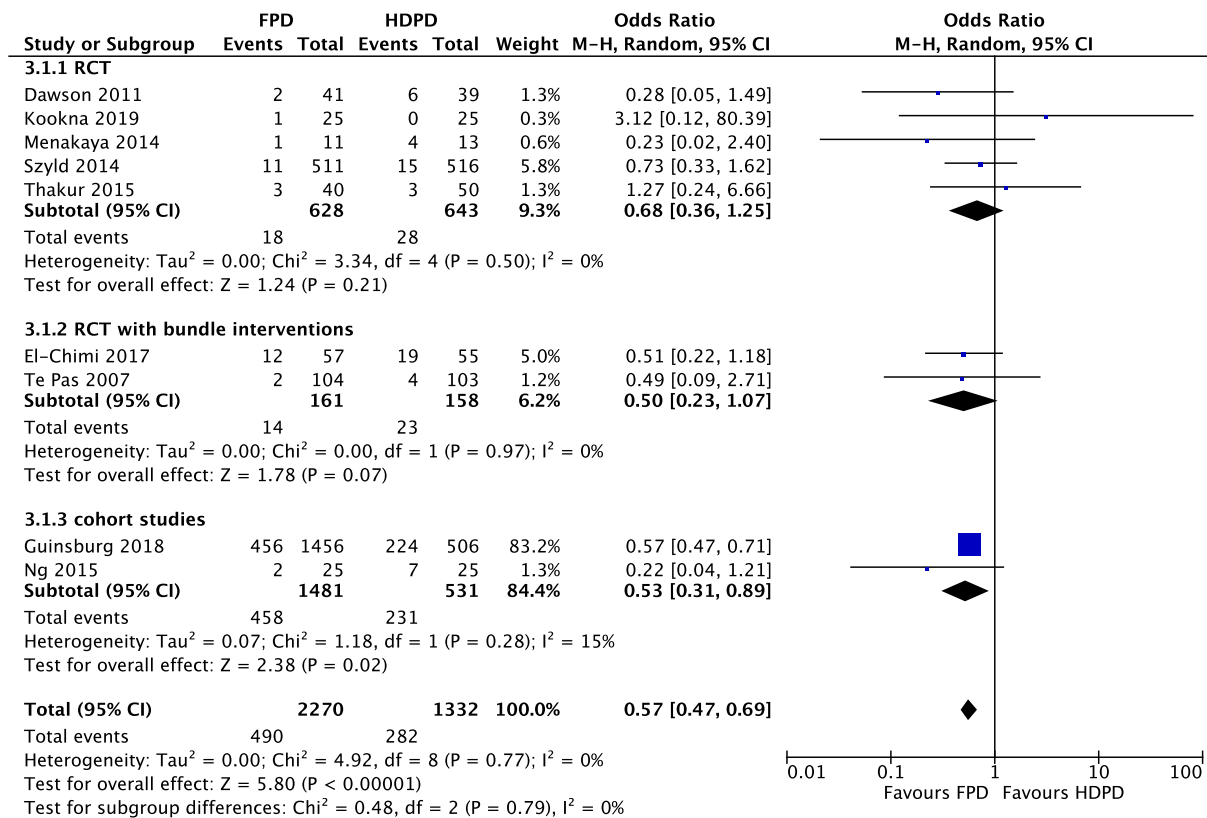


MV requirements in preterm infants (RR 0.89 [0.76-1.03])^{25,27,28}.

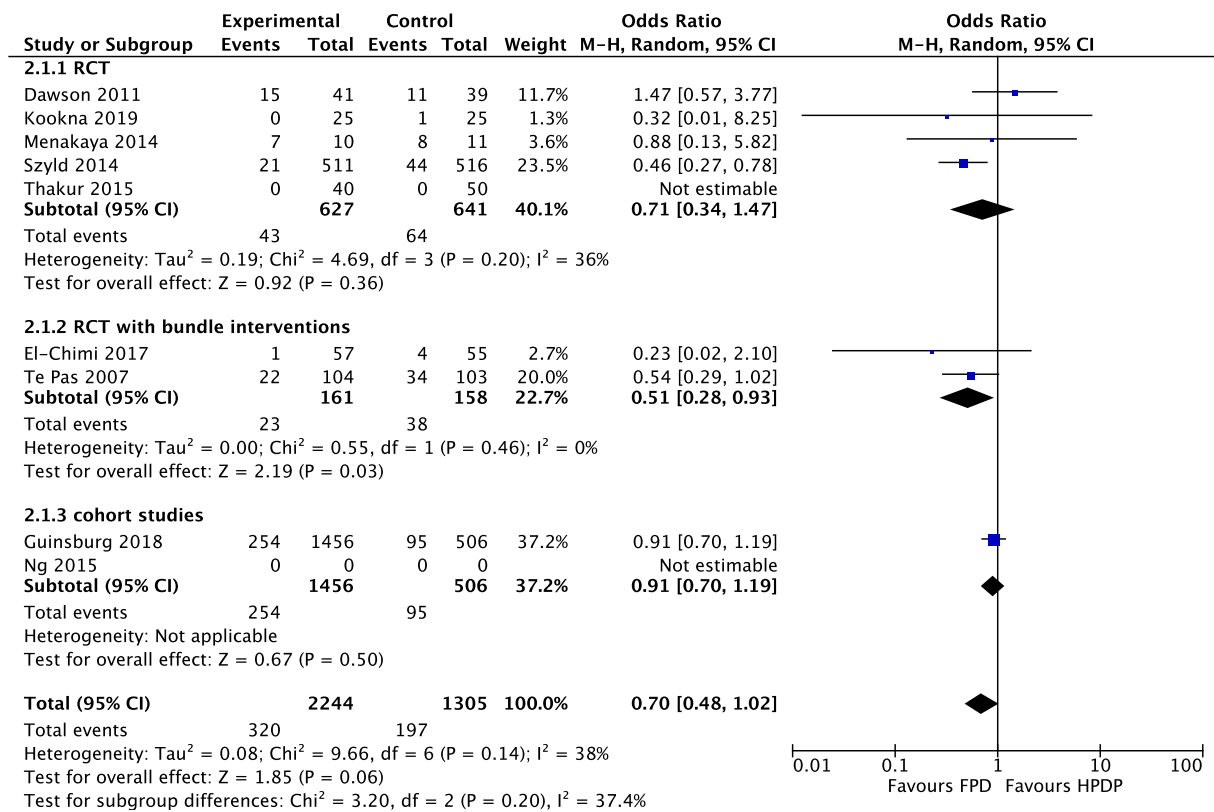


Overall analysis, including RCTs with bundle interventions and cohort studies

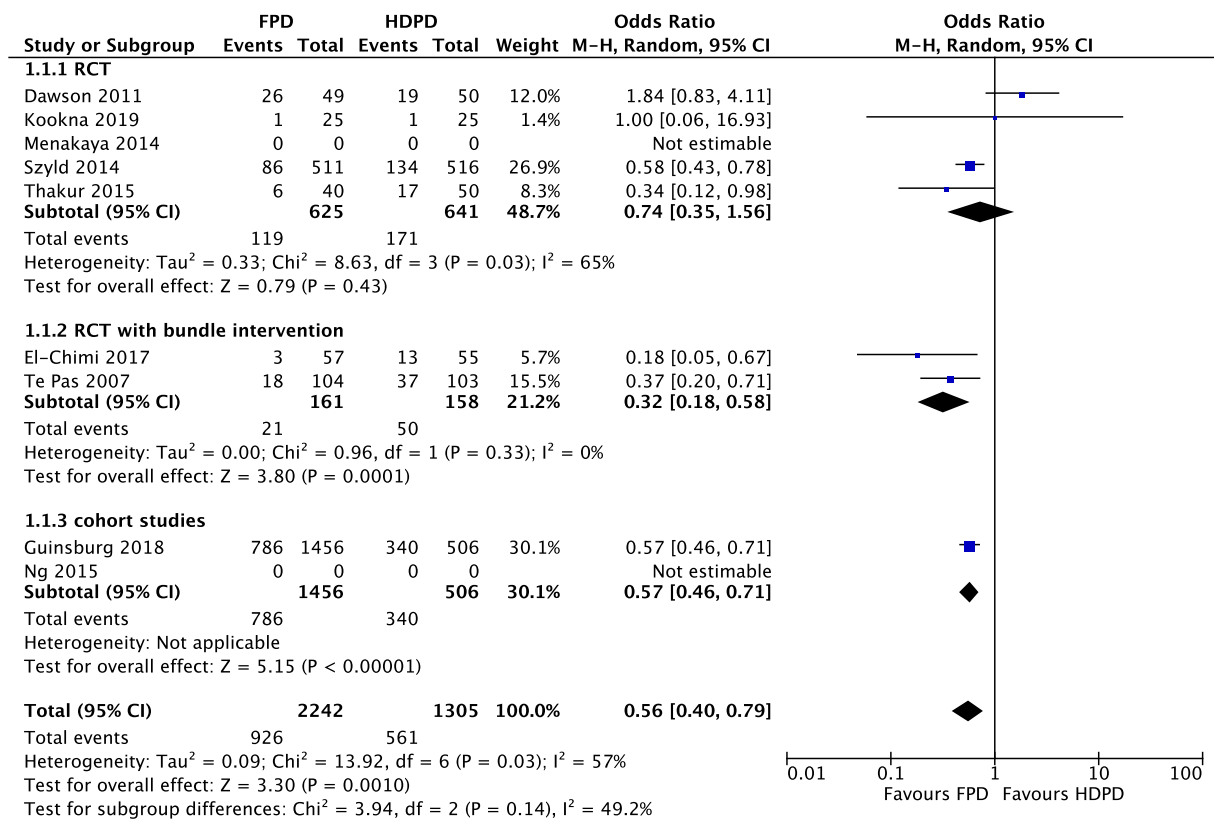
Mortality²⁴⁻³²



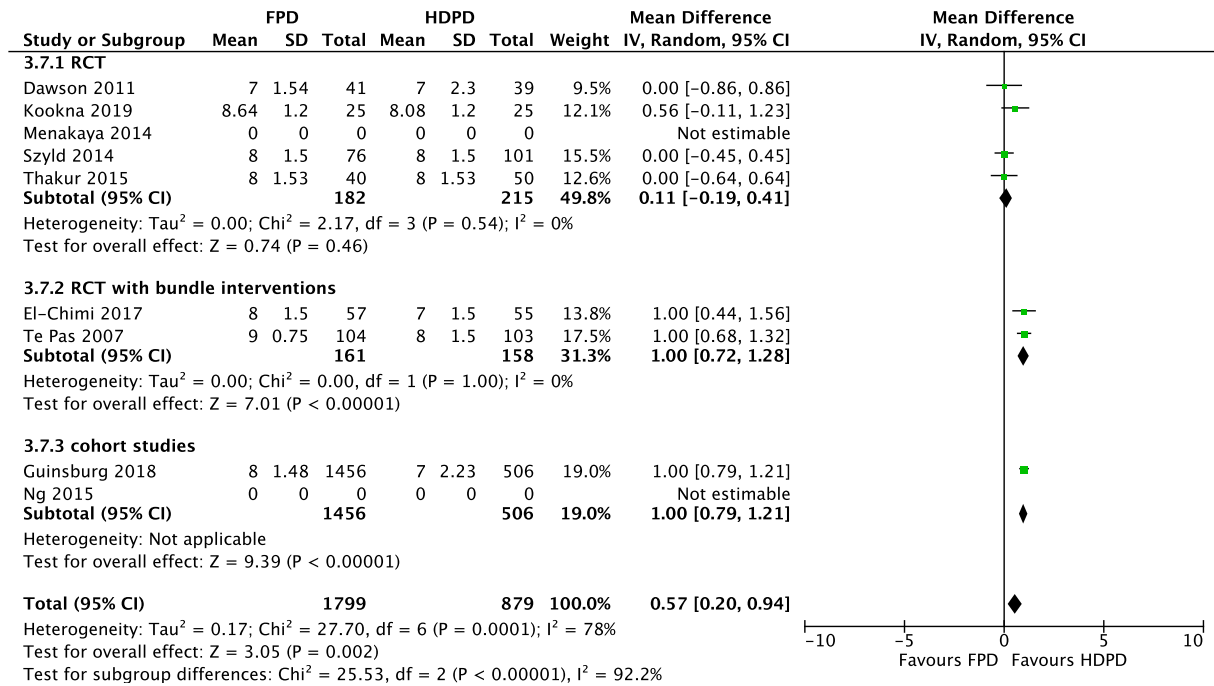
Bronchopulmonary dysplasia²⁴⁻³⁰



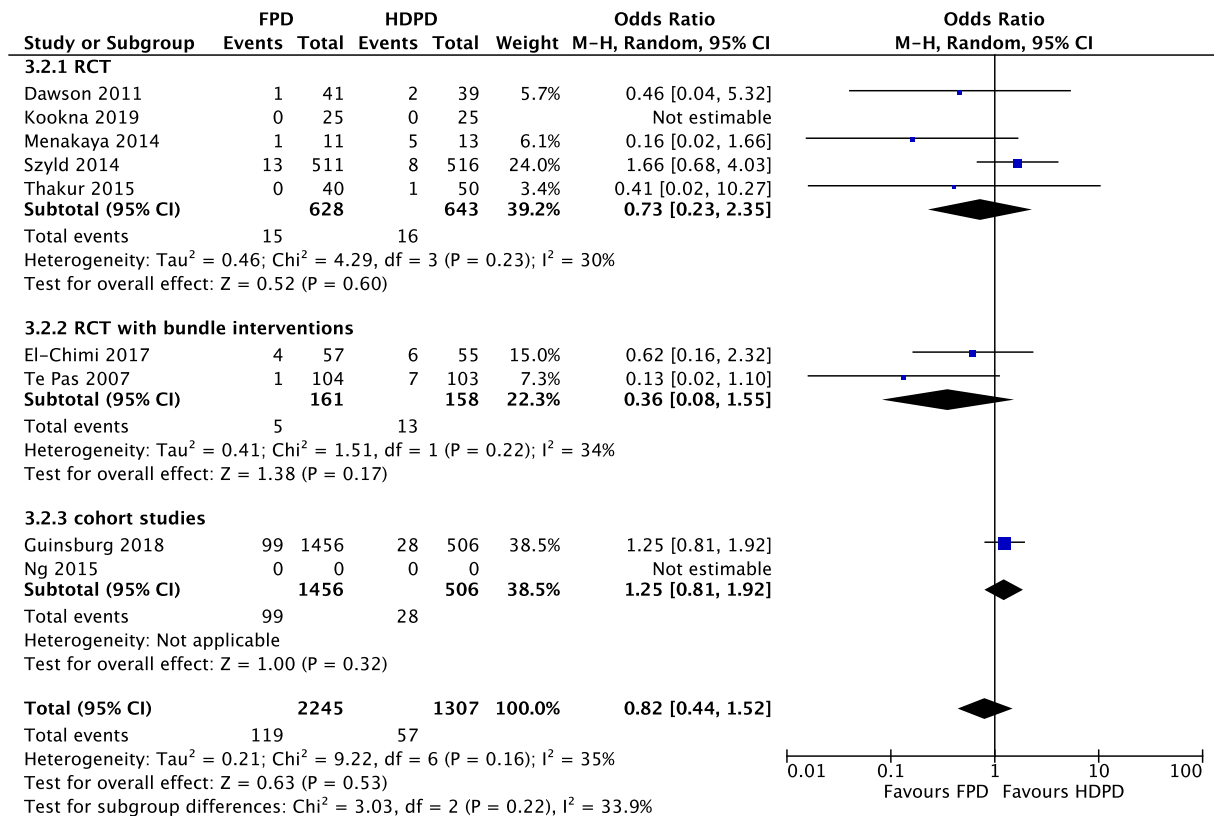
DR intubation rates^{25-30,32}



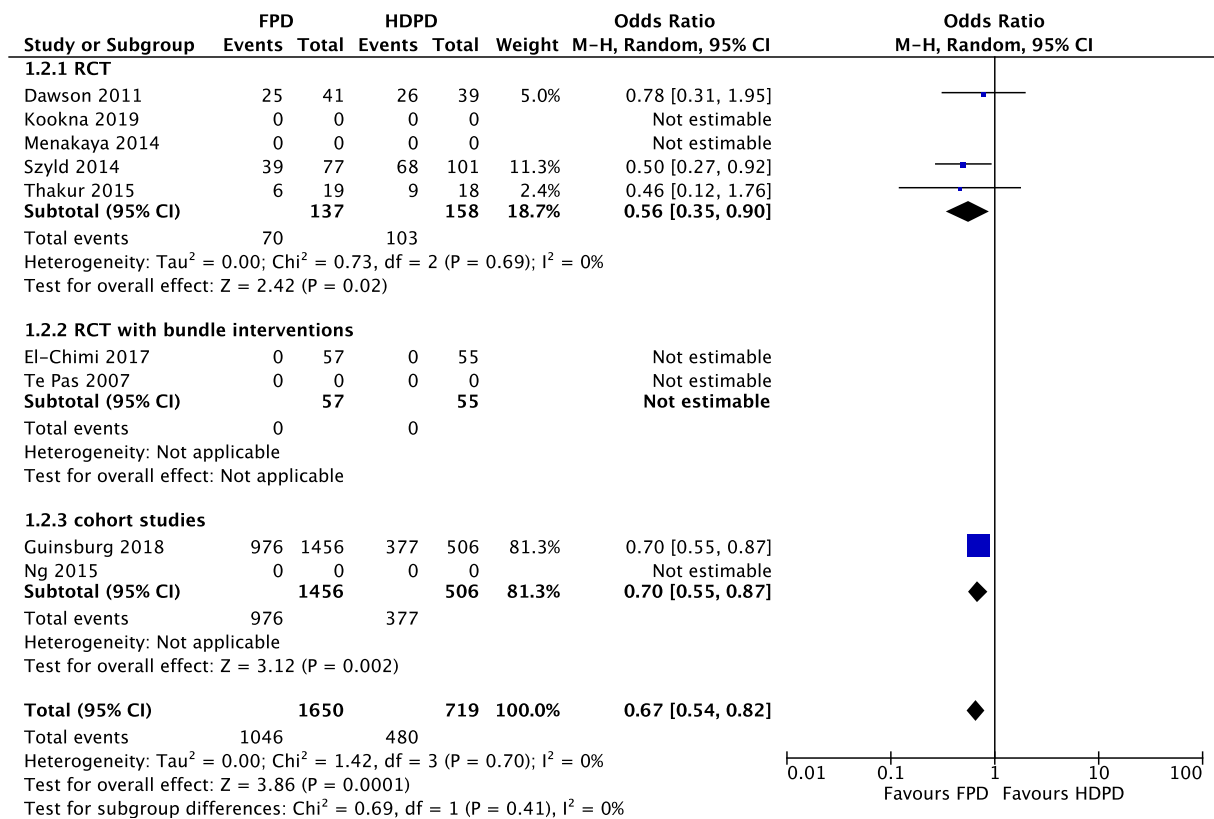
Apgar scores at 5 minutes^{25-30,32}



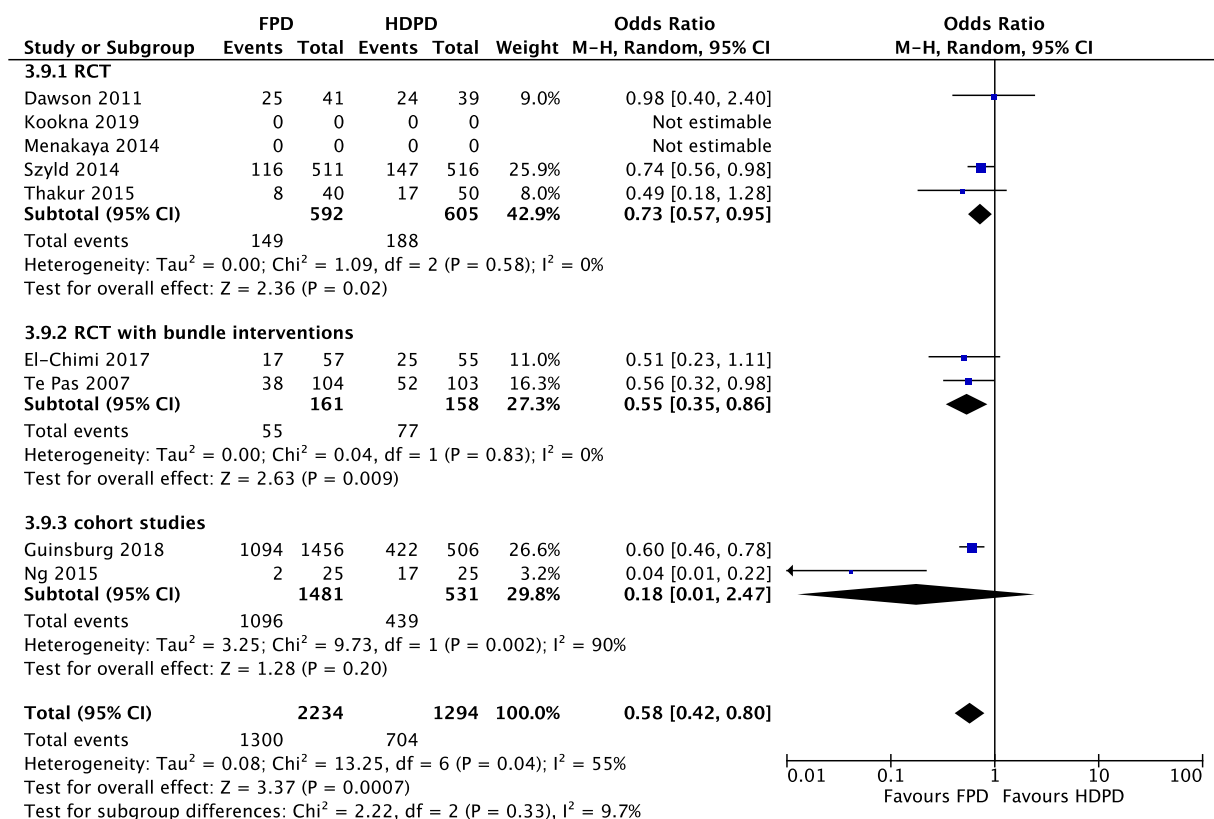
Air leaks^{25-30,32}



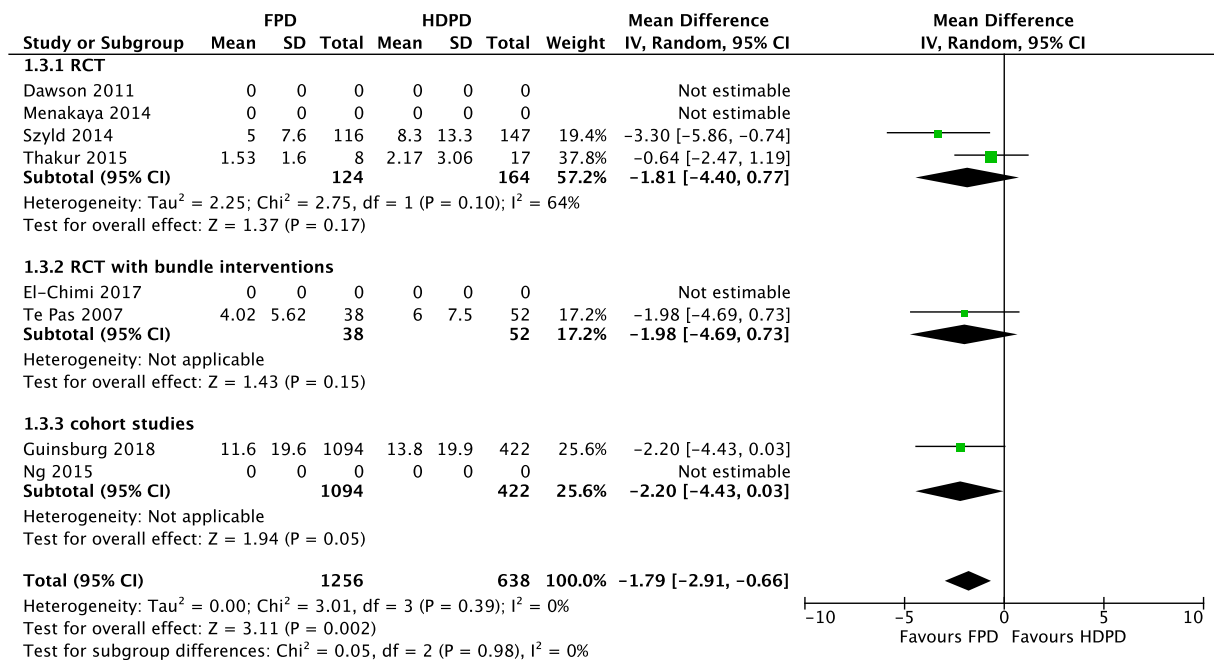
Need for surfactant^{25,27,28,32}



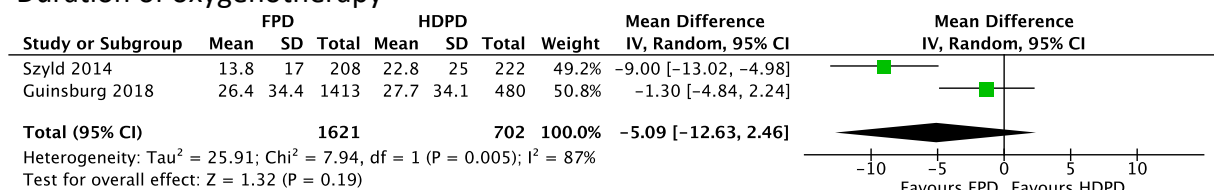
Mechanical ventilation requirements^{25,27-32}



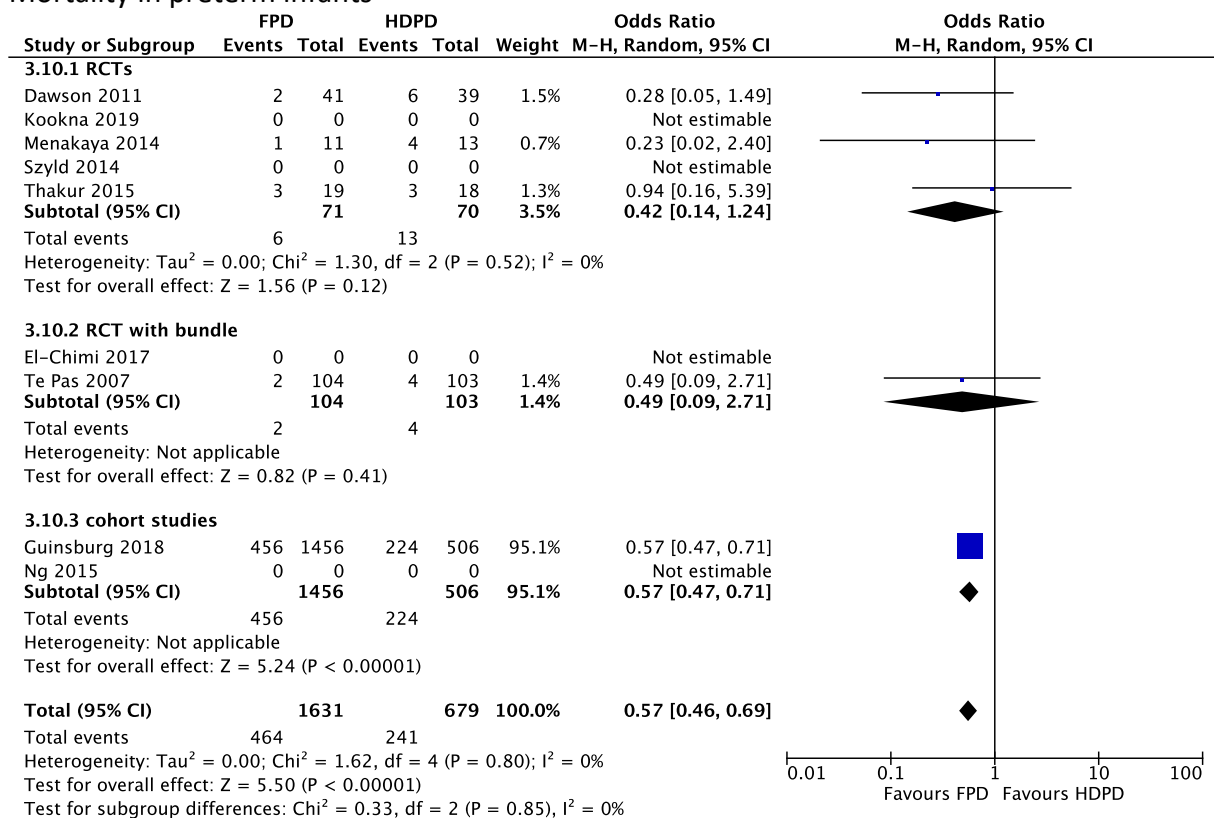
Mechanical ventilation duration



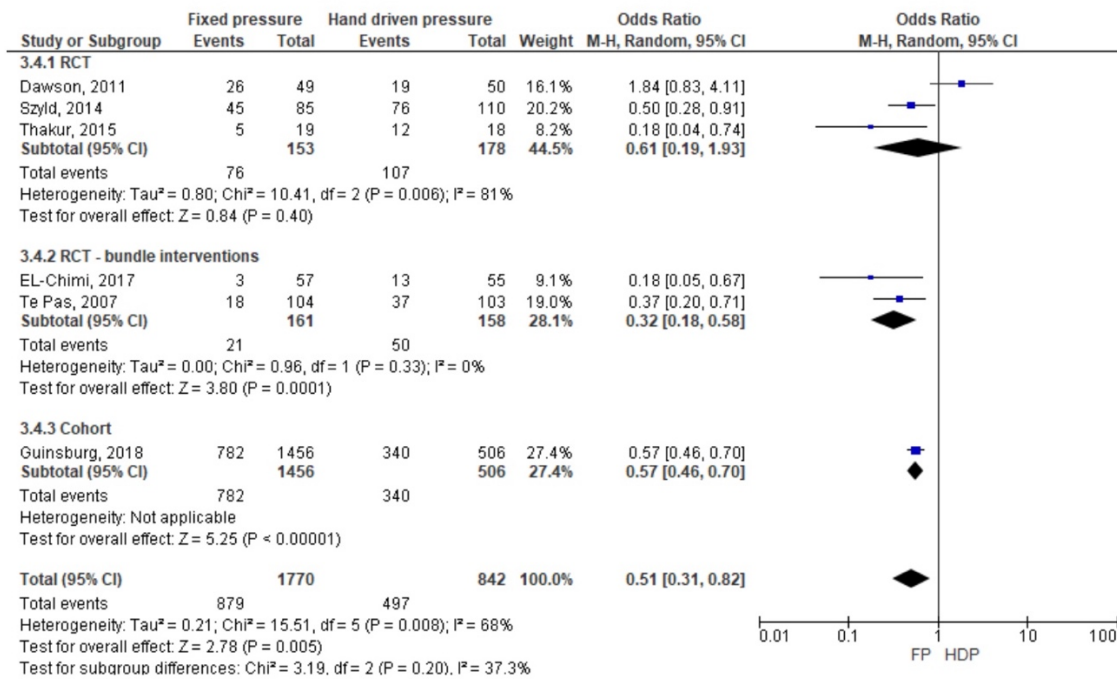
Duration of oxygenotherapy^{27,32}



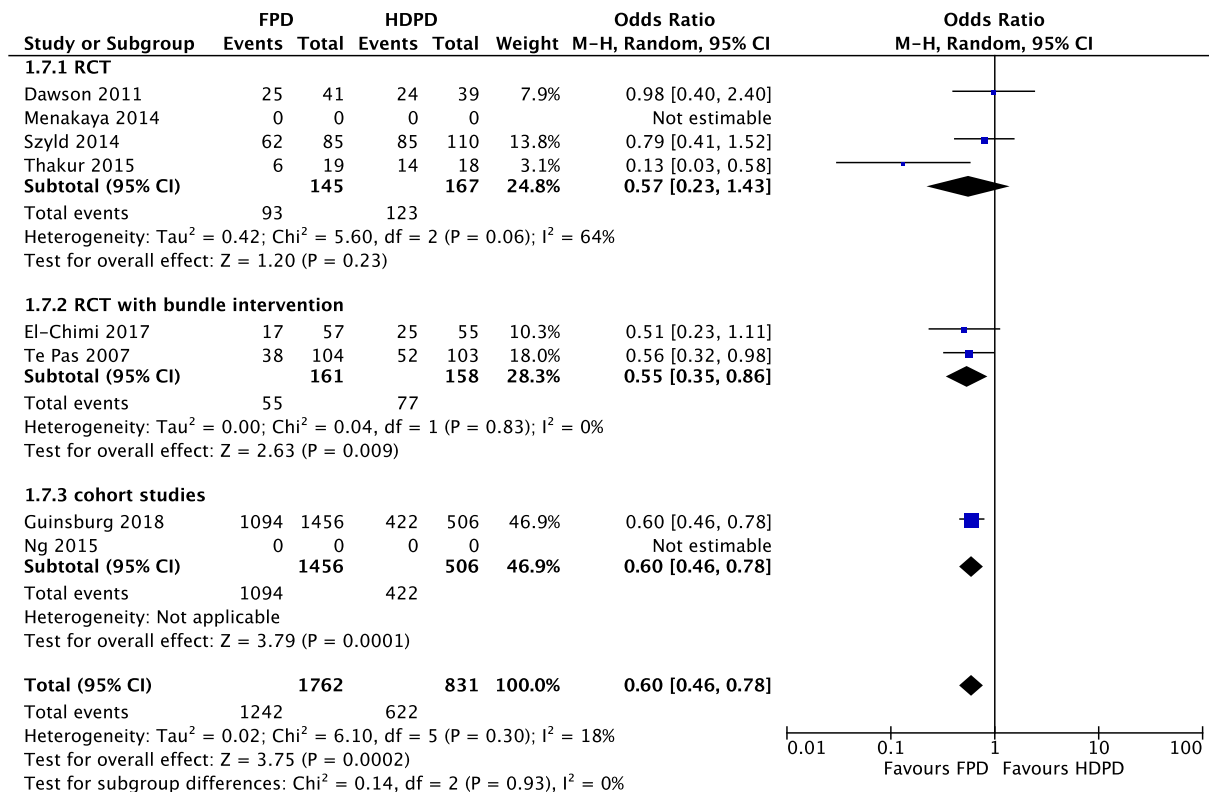
Mortality in preterm infants^{24,25,28,30,32}



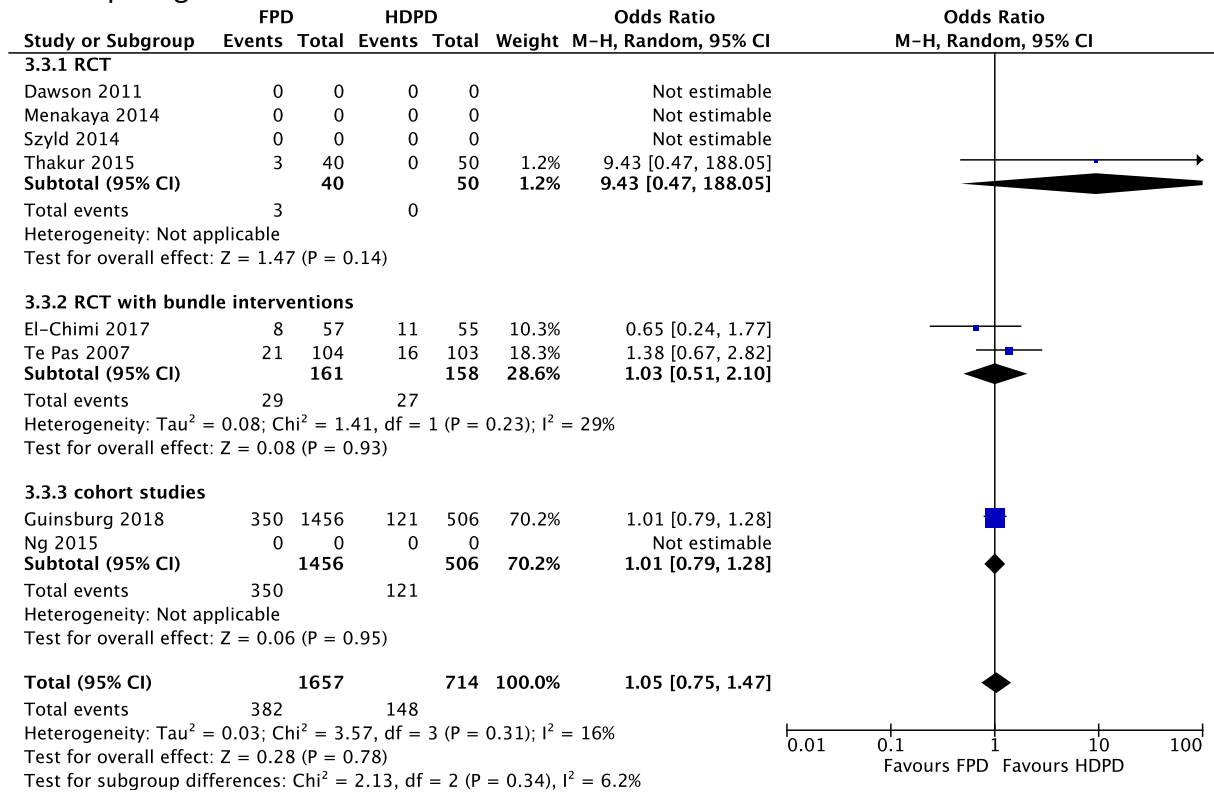
DR intubation in preterm infants^{25,27-30,32}



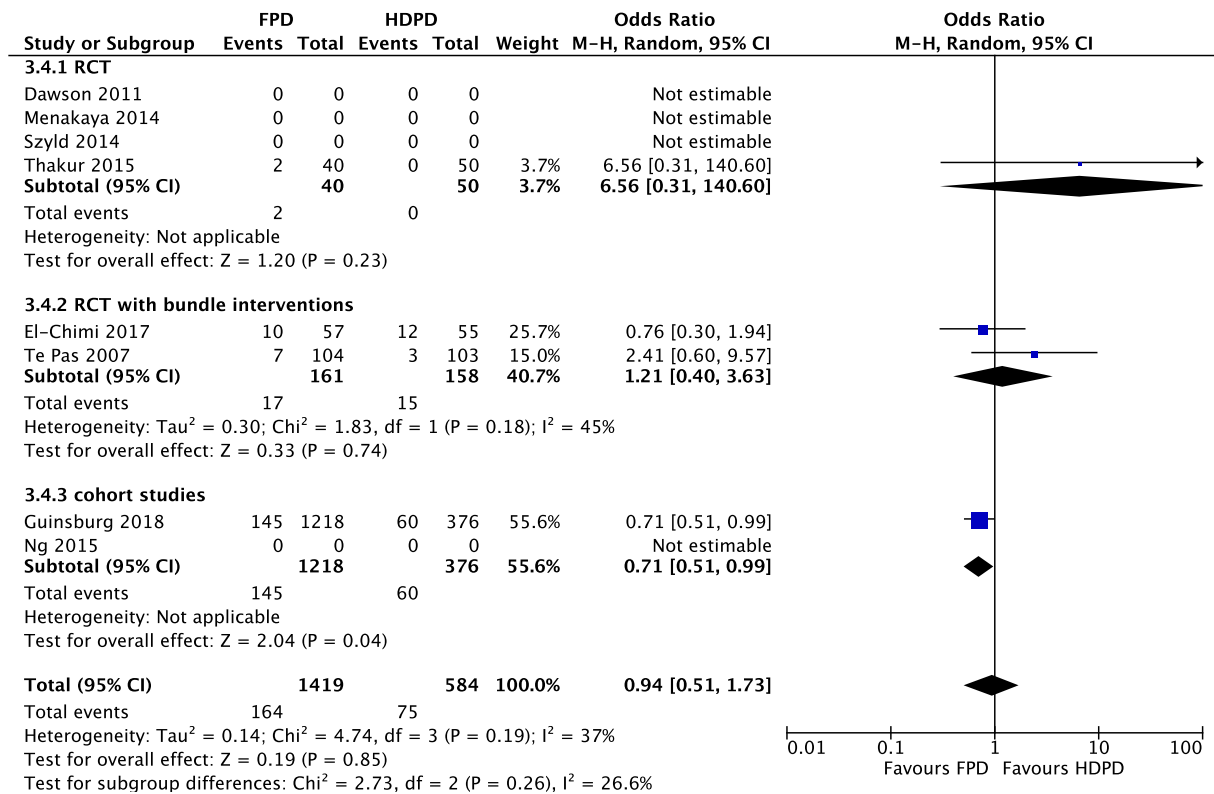
MV requirements in preterm infants^{25,27-30,32}



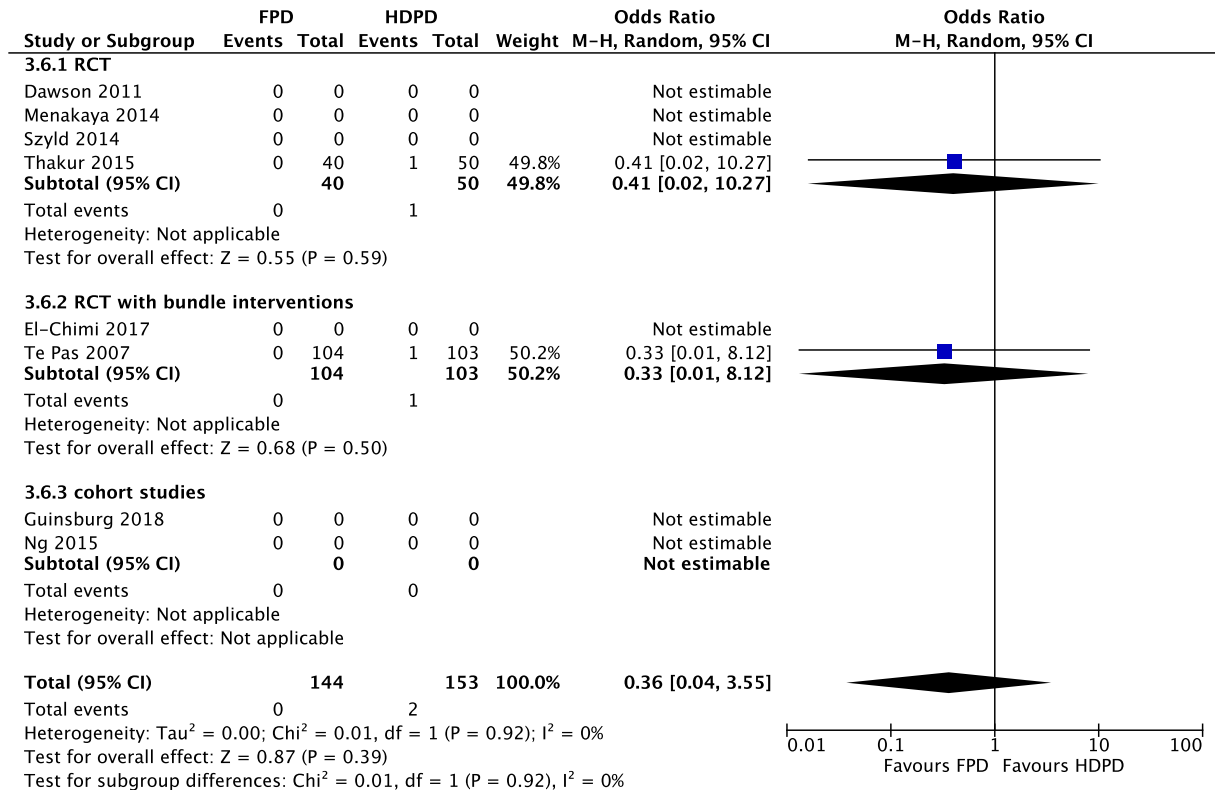
PDA requiring treatment^{28-30,32}



IVH^{28-30,32}



ROP^{28,30}



NEC^{29,30,32}

