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## Interleukin 2 receptor antagonists for kidney transplant recipients (Review)

Webster AC, Ruster LP, McGee RG, Matheson SL, Higgins GY, Willis NS, Chapman JR, Craig JC

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Interleukin 2 receptor antagonists for kidney transplant recipients.

*Cochrane Database of Systematic Reviews* 2010, Issue 1. Art. No.: CD003897.

DOI: [10.1002/14651858.CD003897.pub3](https://doi.org/10.1002/14651858.CD003897.pub3).

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**Interleukin 2 receptor antagonists for kidney transplant recipients (Review)**

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[Intervention Review]

# Interleukin 2 receptor antagonists for kidney transplant recipients

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**Editorial group:** Cochrane Kidney and Transplant Group.

**Publication status and date:** Edited (no change to conclusions), published in Issue 5, 2014.

**Citation:** Webster AC, Ruster LP, McGee RG, Matheson SL, Higgins GY, Willis NS, Chapman JR, Craig JC. Interleukin 2 receptor antagonists for kidney transplant recipients. *Cochrane Database of Systematic Reviews* 2010, Issue 1. Art. No.: CD003897. DOI: [10.1002/14651858.CD003897.pub3](https://doi.org/10.1002/14651858.CD003897.pub3).

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## ABSTRACT

### Background

Interleukin 2 receptor antagonists (IL2Ra) are used as induction therapy for prophylaxis against acute rejection in kidney transplant recipients. Use of IL2Ra has increased steadily since their introduction, but the proportion of new transplant recipients receiving IL2Ra differs around the globe, with 27% of new kidney transplant recipients in the United States, and 70% in Australasia receiving IL2Ra in 2007.

### Objectives

To systematically identify and summarise the effects of using an IL2Ra, as an addition to standard therapy, or as an alternative to another immunosuppressive induction strategy.

### Search methods

We searched the Cochrane Renal Group's specialised register, Cochrane Central Register of Controlled Trials (CENTRAL), MEDLINE and EMBASE to identify new records, and authors of included reports were contacted for clarification where necessary.

### Selection criteria

Randomised controlled trials (RCTs) in all languages comparing IL2Ra to placebo, no treatment, other IL2Ra or other antibody therapy.

### Data collection and analysis

Data was extracted and assessed independently by two authors, with differences resolved by discussion. Dichotomous outcomes are reported as relative risk (RR) and continuous outcomes as mean difference (MD) with 95% confidence intervals (CI).

### Main results

We included 71 studies (306 reports, 10,520 participants). Where IL2Ra were compared with placebo (32 studies; 5,854 patients) graft loss including death with a functioning graft was reduced by 25% at six months (16 studies: RR 0.75, 95% CI 0.58 to 0.98) and one year (24 studies: RR 0.75, 95% CI 0.62 to 0.90), but not beyond this. At one year biopsy-proven acute rejection was reduced by 28% (14 studies: RR 0.72, 95% CI 0.64 to 0.81), and there was a 19% reduction in CMV disease (13 studies: RR 0.81, 95% CI 0.68 to 0.97). There was a 64% reduction in early

malignancy within six months (8 studies: RR 0.36, 95% CI 0.15 to 0.86), and creatinine was lower (7 studies: MD -8.18  $\mu\text{mol/L}$  95% CI -14.28 to -2.09) but these differences were not sustained.

When IL2Ra were compared to ATG (18 studies, 1,844 participants), there was no difference in graft loss at any time point, or for acute rejection diagnosed clinically, but there was benefit of ATG therapy over IL2Ra for biopsy-proven acute rejection at one year (8 studies; RR 1.30 95% CI 1.01 to 1.67), but at the cost of a 75% increase in malignancy (7 studies: RR 0.25 95% CI 0.07 to 0.87) and a 32% increase in CMV disease (13 studies: RR 0.68 95% CI 0.50 to 0.93). Serum creatinine was significantly lower for IL2Ra treated patients at six months (4 studies: MD -11.20  $\mu\text{mol/L}$  95% CI -19.94 to -2.09). ATG patients experienced significantly more fever, cytokine release syndrome and other adverse reactions to drug administration and more leucopenia but not thrombocytopenia. There were no significant differences in outcomes according to cyclosporine or tacrolimus use, azathioprine or mycophenolate, or to the study populations baseline risk for acute rejection. There was no evidence that effects were different according to whether equine or rabbit ATG was used.

### Authors' conclusions

Given a 38% risk of rejection, per 100 recipients compared with no treatment, nine recipients would need treatment with IL2Ra to prevent one recipient having rejection, 42 to prevent one graft loss, and 38 to prevent one having CMV disease over the first year post-transplantation. Compared with ATG treatment, ATG may prevent some experiencing acute rejection, but 16 recipients would need IL2Ra to prevent one having CMV, but 58 would need IL2Ra to prevent one having malignancy. There are no apparent differences between basiliximab and daclizumab. IL2Ra are as effective as other antibody therapies and with significantly fewer side effects.

### PLAIN LANGUAGE SUMMARY

#### Interleukin 2 receptor antagonists (IL2Ra) reduce the risk of acute rejection episodes at six and twelve months after kidney transplantation

Acute rejection is a major problem in the early period following kidney transplantation. Immunosuppressive drugs are used to prevent this. IL2Ra, a newer antibody therapy, can be added to a patient's existing immunosuppression to further reduce the risk of rejection. This review found that adding IL2Ra reduced the risk of graft loss or death with a functioning transplant, acute rejection, and early malignancy, but did not improve patient survival. Compared to ATG, another possible antibody option, IL2Ra treatment caused less CMV disease and malignancy and had fewer side effects, but although there was no difference in clinically diagnosed acute rejection, IL2Ra treatment resulted in more biopsy proven rejection at 1 year.

## BACKGROUND

Kidney transplantation is the treatment of choice for patients with end-stage kidney disease (ESKD). In the developed world there are approximately 280 patients per million population (pmp) with a functioning kidney transplant. The transplant rate is around 30 pmp and between 30-50% of transplanted organs come from living donors. Graft survival beyond five years has remained unchanged since the 1970s, with an average annual decline of approximately 5%. Waiting lists for transplantation continue to grow, demand exceeding organ availability. Strategies to increase donor organ availability and to prolong kidney allograft survival have become priorities in kidney transplantation (ANZDATA 2008; OPTN/SRTR 2008; UK National Transplant Database 2009; UK Renal Registry report 2007).

Transplant outcome is influenced by many factors. In the absence of immunosuppression, transplanted organs undergo progressive immune mediated injury (rejection). Standard immunosuppressive therapy consists of initial induction and then maintenance regimens to prevent rejection, with short courses of more intensive immunosuppressive therapy to treat episodes of acute rejection. Standard protocols in use typically involve three drug groups each directed to a site in the T-cell activation and proliferation cascade which is central to the rejection process: calcineurin inhibitors (e.g. cyclosporin, tacrolimus), anti-proliferative agents (e.g. azathioprine, mycophenolate mofetil) and steroids (prednisolone) (Hong 2000).

Short-term graft survival is related to control of the acute rejection process. The risk of graft rejection is greatest in the immediate post-transplant period, and immunosuppression is therefore initiated at high levels. This is either by using higher doses of the agents used in maintenance therapy, or by adding an additional immunosuppressive induction agent. The potential induction agents are an anti-T cell antibody preparation, either a polyclonal anti-lymphocyte antibody (e.g. anti-thymocyte globulin (ATG)) or a monoclonal antibody (e.g. muromonab-CD3), or an interleukin 2 receptor antibody (IL2Ra, also sometimes called anti-CD25 antibodies).

IL2Ra are humanised or chimeric (murine/human) IgG monoclonal antibodies to the alpha subunit of the IL2 receptor present only on activated T lymphocytes. The binding of IL2 to its receptor induces second messenger signals to stimulate the T cell to enter the cell cycle and proliferate, resulting in clonal expansion and differentiation. IL2Ra inhibit this IL2 mediated activation. The rationale for use of IL2Ra has been as induction agents in combination with standard agents to try to prevent acute rejection, or to minimise exposure to the calcineurin inhibitors (particularly in recipients deemed at high risk of delayed initial graft function) thereby ameliorating their short and long-term nephrotoxic side effects (so called calcineurin inhibitor sparing regimens) (Cibrik 2001; Goebel 2000)

Current opinion favours minimising early graft injury by using induction therapy (including IL2Ra) to prevent acute rejection, particularly in patients at high risk of early acute rejection. High-risk groups include young adults and children, recipients of kidney with pancreas transplant, African-Americans, and immunologically 'sensitised' patients. Sensitised patients are those with high titres of preformed circulating anti-HLA antibodies, which can be estimated by testing Panel Reactive Antibodies (PRA) and other

related tests. These circulating anti-HLA antibodies may come about as a result of underlying illness, previous transplantation, previous pregnancy or blood transfusion. However there is no evidence that a decrease in early rejection rates translates into a uniform increase in long-term graft survival for all. There is concern that newer drugs or combinations of drugs, whilst apparently improving early graft outcome by reducing early acute rejection episodes, may in fact increase the risk of malignant or cardiovascular disease in the medium and longer term, thereby curtailing patient survival (i.e. increasing death with a functioning allograft). (Pascual 2001; Vanrenterghem 2001)

There is considerable variability in the use of immunosuppressive agents both geographically and within patient groups. There is also variation in terms of the combinations of agents chosen and the dosage regimens employed. This variation is partly, but not completely, explained by different perceptions of the relative potency and specificity of different immunosuppressive regimens. In the United States in 2007, 27% of new kidney recipients received an IL2Ra as induction therapy, and 45% received an ATG preparation, whereas in Australia 70% received an IL2Ra and only 5% an ATG preparation (ANZDATA 2008; OPTN/SRTR 2008).

We originally reviewed the randomised control trial (RCT) evidence of benefits and harms of IL2Ra, compared with no treatment, or compared with another immunosuppressive strategy, in 2004 (Webster 2004). The aim of this review was to update the short and longer-term benefits and harms of IL2Ra in kidney transplant recipients with new evidence from RCTs.

## OBJECTIVES

To update the evidence and evaluate the benefits and harms of IL2Ra in kidney transplant recipients, when they are added to a standard dual or triple therapy regimen or when compared to another induction agent or immunosuppressive strategy.

To determine whether the benefits and harms vary in absolute or relative terms dependant on the type of IL2Ra (basiliximab or daclizumab), the co-interventions used, or the population sub group of transplant recipients.

## METHODS

### Criteria for considering studies for this review

#### Types of studies

All RCTs and quasi-RCTs, whether published or unpublished, in which IL2Ra were used to treat kidney transplant recipients.

#### Types of participants

Adults and children with ESKD that are the recipient of a first or subsequent cadaveric or living donor kidney transplant. Recipients who received another solid organ in addition to a kidney transplant (e.g. kidney and pancreas) were excluded.

#### Types of interventions

- IL2Ra given in the intra operative period or at any time post-transplantation, in combination with any other immunosuppressive agents for any declared rationale (e.g. induction therapy, or prophylaxis against rejection, or calcineurin sparing etc). All dosage regimens were included.

- Control patients receive no IL2Ra, placebo, a different IL2Ra or a different dosage of IL2Ra, or another agent that the IL2Ra arm did not receive.

### Types of outcome measures

The outcome measures relate to those used by transplant registries to assess patient and graft survival. Outcome events were assessed at one, three and six months, one year, and two to five years post-transplant.

#### Primary outcomes

- Patient mortality (all-cause)
- Graft loss or death with a functioning allograft
- Graft loss censored for death with a functioning graft (loss of graft function resulting in dependence on dialysis)
- Incidence of acute rejection (classified as clinically suspected and treated, or biopsy proven, or steroid resistant)

#### Secondary outcomes

- Incidence of malignancy (all-site)
- Incidence of post-transplant lymphoproliferative disease (PTLD) and lymphoma
- Incidence of Cytomegalovirus (CMV) disease, diagnosed by culture, serology, antigen or antibody testing, or as specified by authors.
- Incidence of new onset post-transplant diabetes mellitus (PTDM)
- Incidence of treatment related adverse reactions (including reactions to drug administration, and also haematological adverse reactions)

**NEW OUTCOMES** added for the review update, but not present in the original review

- Transplant function, measured by
  - \* serum creatinine
  - \* directly measured or estimated glomerular filtration rate (GFR)

### Search methods for identification of studies

#### Initial review

The literature search from the original review used search strategies detailed in [Appendix 1](#), and consisted of;

- Cochrane Renal Group specialised register of RCTs (June 2003). Cochrane Central Register of Controlled Trials (CENTRAL - issue 3, 2003 in *The Cochrane Library*) for any "New" records not yet incorporated in the specialised register,
- MEDLINE and Pre MEDLINE (1966 to November 2002) were searched using the above terms, combined with the optimally sensitive strategy for the identification of RCTs [Dickersin 1994](#).
- EMBASE (1980 to November 2003) was searched using terms similar to those used for MEDLINE and combined with a search strategy for the identification of RCTs [Lefebvre 1996](#).
- Reference lists of nephrology textbooks, review articles and relevant studies.
- Conference proceeding's abstracts from nephrology scientific meetings.

- Letters seeking information about unpublished or incomplete studies to investigators known to be involved in previous studies.

### Review update

For the update of this review, the following sources were used.

- Cochrane Renal Group specialised register of RCTs.
- Cochrane Central Register of Controlled Trials (CENTRAL - issue 4, 2009) in *The Cochrane Library*) for any "New" records not yet incorporated in the specialised register.
- MEDLINE (2009) were searched using the above terms, combined with the optimally sensitive strategy for the identification of RCTs ([Glanville 2006](#)).
- EMBASE (2009) was searched using terms similar to those used for MEDLINE and combined with a search strategy for the identification of RCTs ([Lefebvre 2008](#))

Note: The Cochrane Renal Group's specialised register contains studies identified from:

- Quarterly searched of CENTRAL
- Weekly searches of MEDLINE
- Handsearched results of journals and the proceedings of major conferences ([Renal Group 2009](#)).

The electronic search strategies used are in [Appendix 1](#).

### Data collection and analysis

The review update was undertaken by seven authors (ACW, LPR, RMG, SLM, GYH, NSW, JCC).

### Selection of studies

The search strategy described was performed to identify eligible studies (GYH). The titles and abstracts were independently screened by two authors (of ACW, LPR, SLM, RMG). Where necessary, the full text was independently assessed by two authors. Disagreement about inclusion was resolved by discussion (ACW, NSW).

Where duplicate reports of the same study were suspected, where necessary authors were contacted for clarification. If duplication was confirmed, the initial first complete publication was selected (the 'index' publication) and was the primary data source, but any other additional prior or subsequent reports were also included. These additional prior or subsequent reports containing additional outcome data (such as longer-term follow-up, or different outcomes) also contributed to the meta-analysis. Studies were named using the family name of the first author of the earliest full report of the study to appear in a peer-reviewed journal, together with the year of publication. Where no peer-reviewed journal article was identified, the study was named using the family name of the first author of the earliest report, and the calendar year of that report.

### Data extraction and management

Data extraction was performed independently by two authors (of ACW, LPR, SLM, RMG, NSW) using a standardised form. Authors of published work were contacted for clarification of unclear data, and



any data they provided was incorporated (see acknowledgements). Data was entered into RevMan (AW, SLM, RMG).

### Assessment of risk of bias in included studies

Quality of studies was assessed independently by two authors (of ACW, LPR, SLM, RMG) without blinding to journal or authorship. Discrepancies were resolved by discussion (ACW, JCC, NSW). The quality items were assessed using the risk of bias assessment tool (Higgins 2008) (see Appendix 2), with each of the six risk of bias domain assessed as yes, no or unclear.

- Was there adequate sequence generation?
- Was allocation adequately concealed?
- Was knowledge of the allocated interventions adequately prevented during the study (objective and subjective outcomes)?
- Were incomplete outcome data adequately addressed (intention-to-treat analysis)?
- Are reports of the study free of suggestion of selective outcome reporting?
- Was the study apparently free of other problems that could put it at a risk of bias?

### Measures of treatment effect

For dichotomous outcomes (e.g. malignancy or no malignancy) results were expressed as risk ratio (RR), and continuous outcomes were expressed as mean difference (MD), both with 95% confidence intervals (CI).

### Dealing with missing data

Where a study reported outcome data after excluding some randomised participants from the denominator, if sufficient information was reported elsewhere, or was supplied by the study authors, we re-included missing data in the analyses.

In studies where the standard deviation was not reported, it was calculated where possible (e.g. from the standard error) or inferred from available data by imputation (Higgins 2008).

### Assessment of heterogeneity

Heterogeneity amongst study results was analysed using a Cochran Q test ( $n - 1$  degrees of freedom), with  $P < 0.05$  used to denote statistical significance, and with  $I^2$  calculated to measure the proportion of total variation in the estimates of treatment effect that was due to heterogeneity beyond chance (Higgins 2003).

### Assessment of reporting biases

Potential for publication bias was assessed for the primary outcomes and for CMV disease and malignancy, using funnel plots of the log odds ratio (OR) (Egger 1997).

### Data synthesis

Data was extracted first from individual studies and then pooled for summary estimates using a random effects model. The random effects model was chosen as it provides a more conservative estimate of effect in the presence of known or unknown potential heterogeneity (Deeks 2001).

Meta-regression was performed for the following outcomes: all-cause mortality, graft loss (death censored), acute rejection, CMV disease and malignancy, using data from all studies reporting these outcomes at any time within the first year post-transplantation, with a priori subgroups listed above as explanatory variables (see below). Meta-regression was undertaken on the log RR scale using STATA software (Stata11, StataCorp LP, Texas, USA), each study weighting equal to the inverse of the variance of the estimate for that study, with between study variance estimated using the restricted maximum-likelihood method.

### Subgroup analysis and investigation of heterogeneity

Stratified meta-analysis and meta-regression were used to explore important clinical differences among the studies that might potentially be expected to alter the magnitude of treatment effect, using restricted maximum-likelihood to estimate the between study variance. Subgroups were defined a priori and included.

- Baseline immunological risk for acute rejection of study population (low, mixed, or high)
- Type of calcineurin inhibitor used (cyclosporin or tacrolimus)
- Type of antimetabolite used (azathioprine or mycophenolate)
- Intervention IL2Ra used (basiliximab or daclizumab)
- Whether the calcineurin inhibitor was given from the time of transplantation at standard dose or used differently (e.g. delayed introduction or given in different dosages across the IL2Ra and control arms)

### Sensitivity analysis

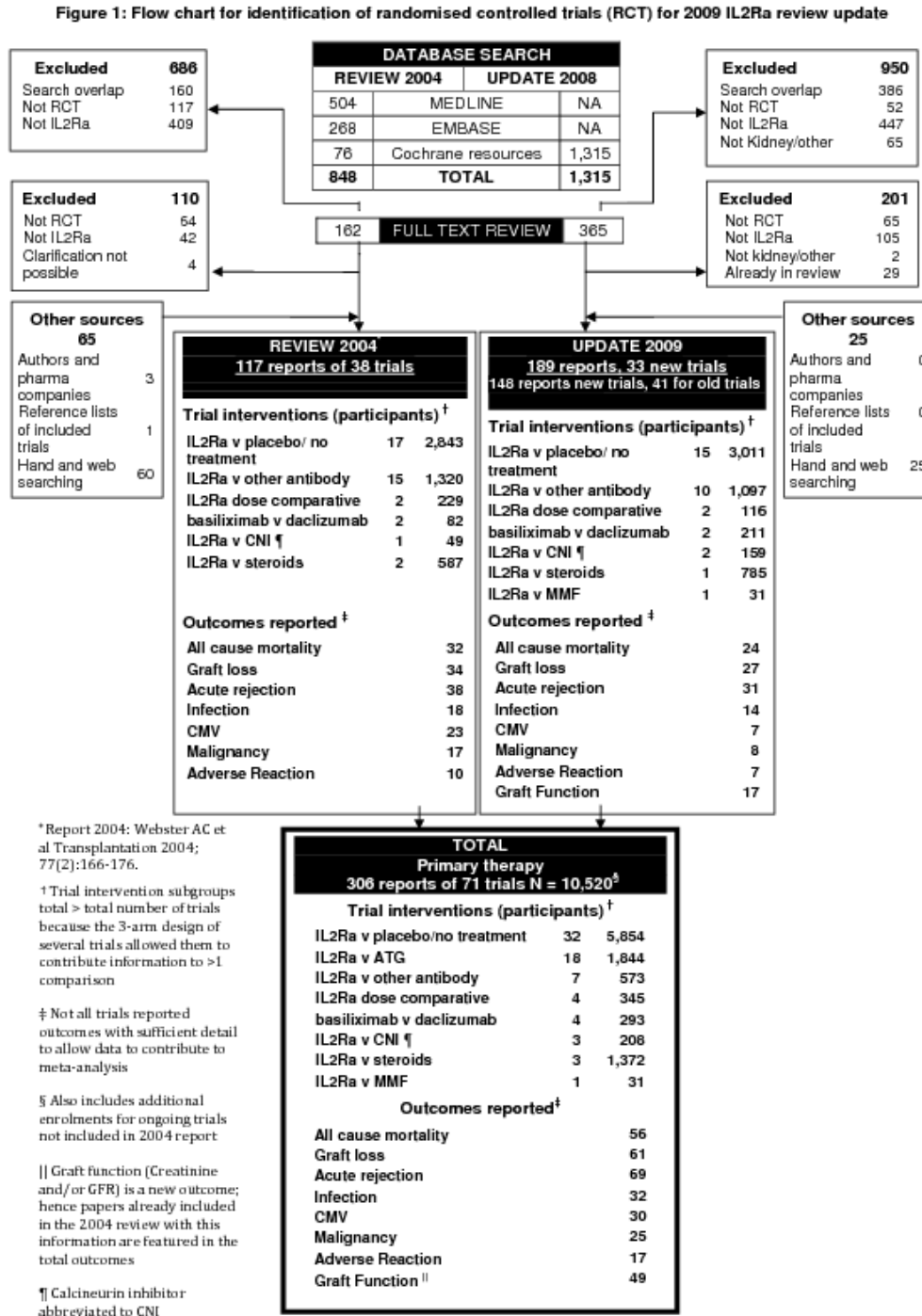
Sensitivity analyses based on publication type (conference abstract or peer reviewed journal) and study methodological quality (whether the study was conducted using an intention to treat analysis judged as adequate versus inadequate/unclear) were undertaken, aiming to establish whether the estimated treatment effects were robust to reasonable assumptions of the influence of these potential biases.

## RESULTS

### Description of studies

The process of identifying reports of RCT for inclusion in the original review and in the review update are outlined in Figure 1. The review update contributed 189 reports from 33 studies. 41 were new reports of studies already included in the original review, 148 were reports of new studies.

Figure 1.



A total of 306 reports (publications and abstracts) of 71 studies qualified for inclusion in the review (Figure 1). The 71 combined studies represented a total of 10,520 randomised participants. Sixteen of these studies (Bernarde 2004; Cerrillos 2006; Chen 2003; de Boccardo 2002; Fangmann 2004; Flechner 2000; Garcia 2002; Hanaway 2008; Khan 2000; Locke 2008; Philosphe 2002; Pourfarziani 2003; Sandrini 2002; Shidban 2000; Shidban 2003;

Yussim 2004) were available in abstract form only (1,705 participants), whilst the remaining 55 (8,815 participants) were published in 15 different journals. Basiliximab was used in 36 studies, daclizumab in 31, and other IL2Ra were used in six studies (either Anti-tac, BT563, 33B3.1 or Lo-tac-1)

### IL2Ra versus placebo/ no treatment

Thirty-two studies (5,854 participants) compared an IL2Ra with placebo or no treatment in a calcineurin inhibitor based treatment regimen (Ahsan 2002; Baczkowska 2002; Bernarde 2004; Bingyi 2003; Cerrillos 2006; Chen 2003; Daclizumab double 1999; Daclizumab triple 1998; de Boccardo 2002; CAESAR (Ekberg) 2007; Fangmann 2004; Folkmane 2001; Grenda 2006; Ji 2007; Kahan 1999; Kirkman 1989; Kirkman 1991; Kyllonen 2007; Lawen 2003; Martin Garcia 2003; Nashan 1997; Offner 2008; Parrott 2005; Pescovitz 2003; Pisani 2001; Ponticelli 2001; Sandrini 2002; Sheashaa 2003; SYMPHONY (Ekberg) 2007; Tan 2004; van Gelder 1995; Yussim 2004).

### IL2Ra versus ATG

Eighteen studies (1,844 participants) compared IL2Ra to an ATG preparation. Of these 12 studies (1,286 participants) used rabbit ATG ("thymoglobulin") (Abou-Ayache 2008; Brennan 2006; Ciancio 2005; Kim 2008a; Lebranchu 2002; Locke 2008; Mourad 2004; Noel 2009; Pourfarziani 2003; Soullou/Cant 1990; Hernandez 2007) and 7 (558 participants) used equine ATG (e.g. "ATGam") (Hourmant 1994; Kriaa 1993; Ruggenenti 2006; Shidban 2003; Sollinger 2001; Tullius 2003; Kyllonen 2007).

### IL2Ra versus other antibody

Four studies (165 participants) compared IL2Ra with muromonab-CD3 (OKT3) and one study (13 participants) compared IL2Ra with rituximab (Clatworthy 2009). Two studies (395 participants) compared IL2Ra with alemtuzumab (Ciancio 2005; Hanaway 2008).

### IL2Ra versus other immunosuppressive strategy

Five studies (293 participants) (Grego 2007; Khan 2000; Lin 2006; Nair 2001; Perrea 2006) compared basiliximab with daclizumab. Four studies (345 participants) (Bernarde 2004; Kumar 2005; Matl 2001; Vincenti 2003) compared different doses of IL2Ra. Four studies (208 participants) (Asberg 2006; Garcia 2002; Gelens 2006; Wilson 2004) compared an IL2Ra with a calcineurin inhibitor, although study design for these four studies was heterogeneous, with co-interventions varying across study arms (Characteristics of included studies). Three studies (1,372 participants) (ATLAS 2003; CARMEN (Rostaing) 2005; ter Meulen 2002) compared IL2Ra with

steroids. One study (31 participants) compared IL2Ra with MMF (Kaplan 2003).

Two studies which had more than two arms were able to contribute data to more than one of the above comparisons (Bernarde 2004; Kyllonen 2007).

### Baseline immunosuppression

Baseline immunosuppression varied both within studies (where three arms were investigated) and amongst studies. Cyclosporin was used in 55 studies (including 29 studies in the IL2Ra with placebo/ no treatment comparison and 14 studies in the IL2Ra with ATG comparison). In 20 of these studies the cyclosporin was stated to be the microemulsion (Neoral) formulation (Abou-Ayache 2008; Asberg 2006; de Boccardo 2002; Grego 2007; Kahan 1999; Kaplan 2003; Lawen 2003; Lebranchu 2002; Lin 2006; Mourad 2004; Nashan 1997; Offner 2008; Parrott 2005; Ponticelli 2001; Sandrini 2002; Shidban 2000; Shidban 2003; Sollinger 2001; SYMPHONY (Ekberg) 2007; Tan 2004). In the remaining studies the cyclosporin formulation was not stated or was in solution (sandimmune). Tacrolimus was used in 22 studies (Ahsan 2002; ATLAS 2003; CARMEN (Rostaing) 2005; Cerrillos 2006; Ciancio 2005; Clatworthy 2009; Garcia 2002; Gelens 2006; Grenda 2006; Hanaway 2008; Hernandez 2007; Khan 2000; Martin Garcia 2003; Noel 2009; Perrea 2006; Philosophe 2002; SYMPHONY (Ekberg) 2007; ter Meulen 2002; Tullius 2003; Vincenti 2003; Wilson 2004; Yussim 2004).

### Reported outcome measures

The reporting of outcome measures was variable across studies (56/71 studies reported patient mortality, 30/71 reported CMV disease, see Figure 1). Reporting of harms was more limited and inconsistent among studies and frequently studies reported incomplete data for harm outcomes. Participants with any serious infection were reported in 32 (45%) studies, however a further 15 (21%) studies also assessed infection, but expressed their results as 'infectious episodes', and so this data could not be easily meaningfully combined.

### Risk of bias in included studies

Reporting of details of study methodology was incomplete for the majority of studies, and are summarised in Figure 2.

**Figure 2. Methodological quality summary: review authors' judgements about each methodological quality item for each included study.**

	Random sequence generation (selection bias)	Allocation concealment (selection bias)	Blinding (performance bias and detection bias): Objective outcomes	Blinding (performance bias and detection bias): Subjective outcomes	Incomplete outcome data (attrition bias)	Selective reporting (reporting bias)	Other bias
Abou-Ayache 2008	?	?	+	-	-	+	-
Ahsan 2002	?	?	?	?	+	+	?
Asberg 2006	?	?	-	-	+	+	-
ATLAS 2003	+	+	-	-	+	+	-
Baczowska 2002	?	?	-	-	?	?	?
Bernarde 2004	?	?	?	?	?	?	?
Bingyi 2003	?	?	?	?	-	-	-
Brennan 2006	+	+	-	-	+	+	-
CAESAR (Ekberg) 2007	+	+	?	?	+	-	-
CARMEN (Rostaing) 2005	+	+	-	-	+	+	-
Cerrillos 2006	?	?	?	?	?	-	?
Chen 2003	?	?	?	?	?	?	?
Ciancio 2005	+	?	-	-	+	+	+
Clatworthy 2009	?	?	?	?		+	-
Dac double & triple							
Daclizumab double 1999	?	?	?	?	+	+	-
Daclizumab triple 1998	?	?	?	?	+	+	-
de Boccardo 2002	?	?	?	?	-	?	?

**Figure 2. (Continued)**

de Boccardo 2002	?	?	?	?	-	?	?
Fangmann 2004	?	?	?	?	?	?	?
Flechner 2000	?	?	?	?	?	?	-
Folkmane 2001	?	?	?	?	+	?	?
Garcia 2002	?	?	?	?	?	?	-
Gelens 2006	?	?	-	-	?	?	-
Grego 2007	?	?	-	-	+	+	?
Grenda 2006	+	+	-	-	+	+	-
Hanaway 2008	?	?	?	?	-	-	-
Hernandez 2007	+	+	-	-	+	+	+
Hourmant 1994	?	?	?	?	+	+	?
Ji 2007	?	?	?	?	+	+	?
Kahan 1999	?	?	?	?	+	+	-
Kaplan 2003	?	?	?	?	?	?	?
Khan 2000	?	?	?	?	?	-	?
Kim 2008a	?	?	-	-	-	+	?
Kirkman 1989	?	+	?	?	+	+	+
Kirkman 1991	?	+	-	-	+	+	+
Kriaa 1993	+	+	?	?	+	+	-
Kumar 2005	+	?	-	-	+	?	?
Kyllonen 2007	+	+	-	-	-	?	+
Lacha 2001	?	?	?	?	?	?	?
Lawen 2003	?	?	?	?	+	+	-
Lebranchu 2002	?	?	-	-	+	+	-
Lin 2006	?	?	-	-	+	+	?
Locke 2008	?	?	?	?	?	-	-
Martin Garcia 2003	?	?	?	?	?	-	?
Matl 2001	?	?	-	-	+	+	-
Mourad 2004	?	?	?	?	+	+	?
Nair 2001	-	-	-	-	+	+	?
Nashan 1997	+	+	?	?	-	+	-

**Figure 2. (Continued)**

Nashan 1997	+	+	?	?	-	+	-
Noel 2009	+	?	?	?	-	+	+
Offner 2008	+	?	?	?	-	+	-
Parrott 2005	+	+	?	+	-	+	-
Perrea 2006	?	?	?	?	+	-	?
Pescowitz 2003	?	?	?	?	?	+	-
Philosophe 2002	?	?	?	?	?	?	?
Pisani 2001	?	?	?	?	?	?	?
Ponticelli 2001	?	?	?	+	+	+	-
Pourfarziani 2003	?	?	?	?	?	-	?
Ruggenenti 2006	?	+	-	-	+	+	+
Sandrini 2002	?	?	?	?	?	?	?
Sheashaa 2003	?	?	?	?	+	-	?
Shidban 2000	?	?	?	?	?	?	?
Shidban 2003	?	?	?	?	?	-	?
Sollinger 2001	?	?	-	-	-	+	-
Soullilou/Cant 1990	?	+	?	?	+	+	+
SYMPHONY (Ekberg) 2007	+	?	-	-	-	+	-
Tan 2004	?	?	?	?	+	+	?
ter Meulen 2002	?	+	-	-	+	+	-
Tullius 2003	?	?	?	?	+	+	?
van Gelder 1995	?	?	?	?	+	+	?
Vincenti 2003	?	?	-	-	-	-	?
Wilson 2004	+	?	-	-	+	+	-
Yussim 2004	?	?	?	?	?	?	?

**Sequence generation and allocation concealment**

Sixteen studies reported adequate sequence generation, and 15 studies reported adequate allocation concealment. One study (Nair 2001) used inadequate methods of sequence generation and allocation concealment. The remainder (54 studies for sequence generation and 55 for allocation concealment) used unclear methodology.

**Blinding of objective and subjective outcomes**

One study (Abou-Ayache 2008) adequately reported blinding of objective outcomes, and two studies (Parrott 2005; Ponticelli 2001) adequately reported blinding of subjective outcomes. Twenty four had inadequate blinding of objective and 25 inadequate blinding of subjective outcomes. The remainder had unclear methods.

**Incomplete outcome data and selective reporting**

Incomplete outcome data was adequately addressed in 36 studies, and inadequately in 13 (the remainder were unclear). Forty one

studies were free of selective reporting, but 12 were inadequate, the remainder unclear.

### Other biases

Eight studies (Kirkman 1989; Kirkman 1991; Hernandez 2007; Ciancio 2005; Kumar 2005; Kyllonen 2007; Noel 2009; Souillou/Cant 1990) declared their funding source to be an independent or academic funding body, and so were judged free of potential other bias. The remainder either declared sponsorship by a pharmaceutical industry company, or included an author who declared a pharmaceutical company as an affiliation, and so were judged as not free of potential bias. Others did not disclose the funding source of the study (judged unclear).

### Effects of interventions

#### IL2Ra versus placebo/no treatment

Results can be found in comparison 1, Analyses 1.1 to 1.21. In general, all effects were homogeneous across all outcomes.

There was no difference in mortality, but graft loss including death with a functioning graft (Analysis 1.2) was reduced by 25% at six months (16 studies, 3017 participants: RR 0.75, 95% CI 0.58 to 0.98) and at one year after transplantation (24 studies, 4672 participants: RR 0.75, 95% CI 0.62 to 0.90). Graft loss censored for death with function showed similar significant reduction favouring IL2Ra (Analysis 1.3) at 6 months and 1 year. Beyond one year, there were fewer studies reporting graft loss outcomes, and so there was uncertainty whether the reduction was sustained beyond the first post-transplant year (Analysis 1.2; Analysis 1.3). Incidence of biopsy-proven acute rejection was reduced by 69% at three months, 32% at six months, and 28% at one year post-transplantation for those treated with an IL2Ra (Analysis 1.5: at 3 months (2 studies): RR 0.31, 95% CI 0.14 to 0.68; at 6 months (15 studies): RR 0.68, 95% CI 0.62 to 0.76; at one year (14 studies): RR 0.72, 95% CI 0.64 to 0.81). This advantage was similar for clinically suspected acute rejection (Analysis 1.4). Treatment with an IL2Ra showed a pronounced effect in preventing early steroid-resistant rejection, reducing incidence at six months by 48% (Analysis 1.6 (9 studies, 1928 participants): RR 0.52, 95% CI 0.39 to 0.68).

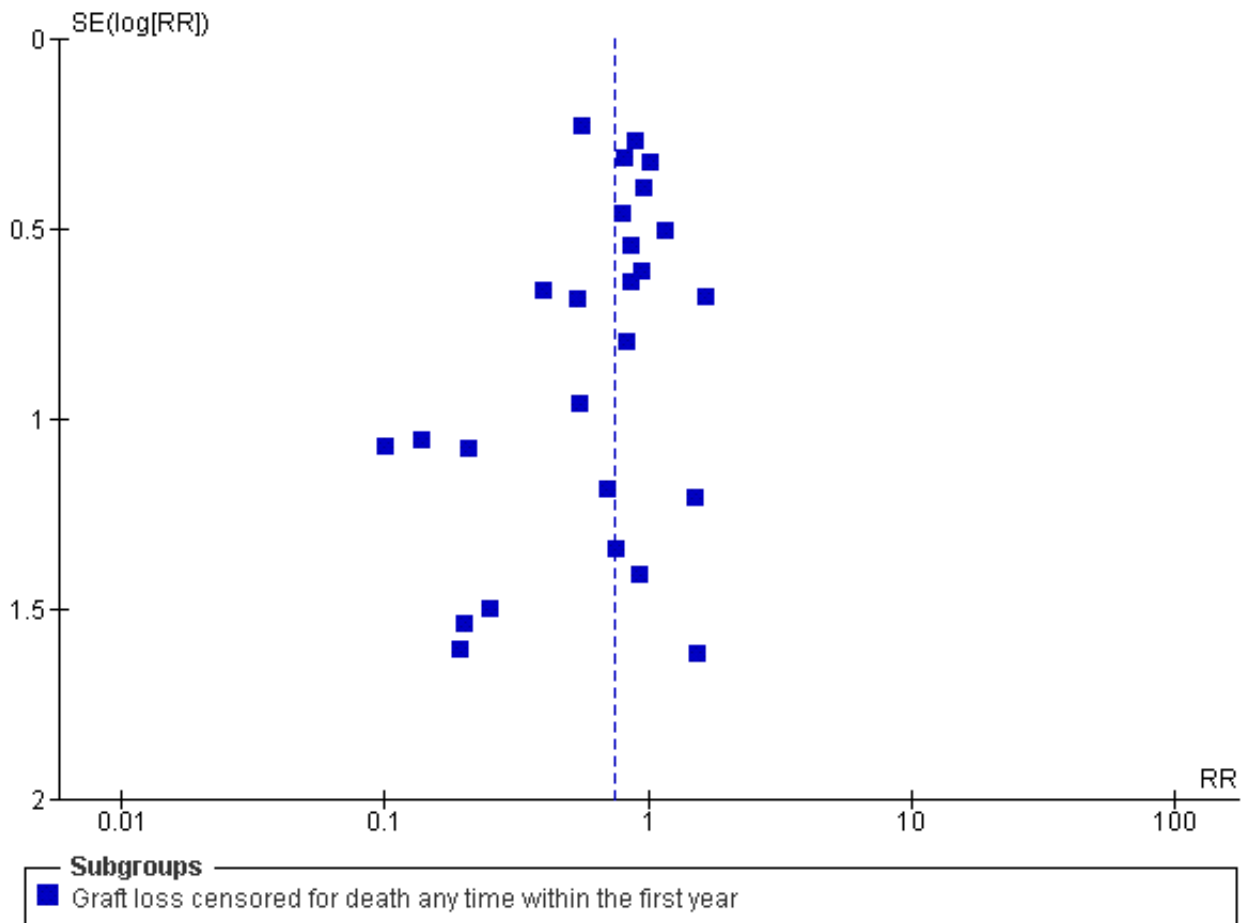
Use of IL2Ra resulted in a 64% reduction in early malignancy within six months of transplantation (Analysis 1.7 (8 studies, 1878

participants): RR 0.36, 95% CI 0.15 to 0.86), but the effect was not sustained beyond six months. CMV infection was reduced in IL2Ra treated patients at three and six months, but not significantly so (Analysis 1.10). At one year, when more studies reported CMV outcomes, there was a 19% reduction in CMV disease for IL2Ra treated recipients (Analysis 1.9 (13 studies, 3169 participants): RR 0.81, 95% CI 0.68 to 0.97).

Serum creatinine was significantly lower for IL2Ra treated patients at one, three and six months post-transplantation (Analysis 1.15: at 1 month (4 studies, 646 participants) MD -21.45  $\mu\text{mol/L}$  95% CI -33.03 to -9.38; at 3 months, (7 studies, 820 participants) MD -7.33  $\mu\text{mol/L}$  95% CI -13.58 to -1.08; and at 6 months (7 studies, 1231 participants) MD -8.18  $\mu\text{mol/L}$  95% CI -14.28 to -2.09), but this effect was not sustained at one year (Analysis 1.15 (8 studies, 1135 participants): MD -5.31  $\mu\text{mol/L}$  95% CI -13.90 to 3.28) or beyond, where there was no difference in creatinine. Few studies reported GFR, and there was no evidence of difference for IL2Ra or placebo (Analysis 1.16). Data was sparse for other outcomes, and there was no difference demonstrated for PTDM (Analysis 1.12), total serious infections (Analysis 1.11) or for adverse reaction to drug administration (Analysis 1.13).

There was no significant heterogeneity of effects for any outcomes when IL2Ra was compared with placebo/no treatment. We performed sensitivity analysis to examine the effect of studies methodology (whether intention-to-treat analysis was used, or not) and publication status (whether the study results were published in a peer-reviewed journal, or not) on the outcomes death, graft loss censored for death, acute rejection (diagnosed clinically or by biopsy), CMV and malignancy, using data from studies reporting these outcomes at any time within the first post-transplant year. Results are summarised in Table 1 and Table 2. There was no evidence to suggest difference in estimates of effect for studies that did not use intention-to-treat analysis or were unclear in how they analysed data. For studies published in non-peer reviewed journals or as conference abstracts, there was a greater benefit in reduction of graft loss using IL2Ra (10 studies, RR 0.36 95% CI 0.18 to 0.71) than for those studies published in peer reviewed journals (19 studies, RR 0.81 95% CI 0.66 to 1.01 (P for difference 0.02), but no significant difference for other outcomes. Figure 3 shows the funnel plot for graft loss within the first year post-transplantation.

Figure 3. IL2Ra vs Placebo/no treatment. Graft loss censored for death at any time within the first year



To investigate the effect of calcineurin inhibitor and antimetabolite co-intervention, and the study population background risk for acute rejection, we performed subgroup analysis using the same outcomes. The results are summarised in Table 1 and Table 2 (forest plots not shown). There was no evidence that effects of IL2Ra were different for any outcome when used with either cyclosporin or tacrolimus, or when used with azathioprine or mycophenolate, except for the outcome CMV disease. For CMV disease, there was more evidence of benefit for reducing CMV disease when used with mycophenolate (7 studies, RR 0.78 95% CI 0.60 to 1.02) than when used with azathioprine (5 studies, RR 1.18 95% CI 0.84 to 1.65) (P for difference 0.05). There was no evidence that the effects of IL2Ra were different depending on the study population baseline risk for acute rejection for death, graft loss, CMV or malignancy, but there was some evidence that higher risk populations benefited more in reduction of acute rejection than those at lower baseline risk (Table 1, respectively 2 studies RR 0.25 95% CI 0.11 to 0.56 and 11 studies RR 0.68 95% CI 0.60 to 0.76; P for difference 0.02)

### IL2Ra versus ATG

When IL2Ra were compared to ATG, there was no evidence of a difference in death (Analysis 2.1), graft loss whether including death with function (Analysis 2.2) or censored for death (Analysis 2.3), at any time point post-transplantation. There was no difference for acute rejection diagnosed clinically at any time point (Analysis 2.4),

at any time within the first year (15 studies, 1571 participants: RR 1.12 95% CI 0.93 to 1.33) or for biopsy-proven rejection at three or six months (Analysis 2.5), but there was benefit of ATG therapy over IL2Ra for biopsy-proven acute rejection at one year, where there was a 30% increase in those treated with IL2Ra (Analysis 2.5 8 studies, 1106 participants: RR 1.30 95% CI 1.01 to 1.67). This effect was not seen for steroid-resistant rejection and any time point, although fewer studies reported this outcome (Analysis 2.6). Recipients treated with IL2Ra showed a 75% reduction in malignancy at one year compared with ATG treated (Analysis 2.7 7 studies, 1067 participants: RR 0.25 95% CI 0.07 to 0.87), although not at other time points. CMV disease was reduced, but not significantly so, for IL2Ra treated recipients at three and six months and one year (Analysis 2.9). When considering CMV disease occurring at any time within the first year post-transplant, IL2Ra treated recipients showed a 32% reduction compared to the ATG treated (Analysis 2.9 13 studies, 1647 participants: RR 0.68 95% CI 0.50 to 0.93). Serum creatinine was significantly lower for IL2Ra treated patients at six months and one year post-transplantation (Analysis 2.15, respectively 4 studies, 244 participants: MD -11.20  $\mu\text{mol/L}$  95% CI -19.94 to -2.09; and 6 studies, 586 participants: MD -8.84  $\mu\text{mol/L}$  95% CI -17.23 to -0.45) but this effect was not certain at other time points where there was no difference demonstrated in mean creatinine. Few studies reported GFR, and there was no evidence of difference for IL2Ra or ATG (Analysis 2.16). Compared with IL2Ra, ATG patients experienced significantly more



fever, cytokine release syndrome and other adverse reactions to drug administration (Analysis 2.12), and more leucopenia but not thrombocytopenia (Analysis 2.13).

Overall, effects among studies were homogeneous. However, as in the original version of the review, significant heterogeneity was demonstrated for the outcome of CMV disease at six months (5 studies: RR 0.60, 95% CI 0.32 to 1.10;  $\text{Chi}^2 = 14.33$ ,  $\text{df} = 4$ ;  $P = 0.006$ ,  $I^2 = 72\%$ ) and similarly at one year (5 studies: RR 0.60, 95% CI 0.32 to 1.10;  $\text{Chi}^2 = 14.33$ ,  $\text{df} = 4$ ;  $P = 0.006$ ,  $I^2 = 72\%$ ) or at any time point within the first year (13 studies: RR 0.68, 95% CI 0.50 to 0.93;  $\text{Chi}^2 = 24.17$ ,  $\text{df} = 11$ ;  $P = 0.01$ ,  $I^2 = 54\%$ ). As in the original review, heterogeneous results were largely attributable to one study (Brennan 2006). Sensitivity analysis, by removal of this study from each analysis, showed more homogeneous results strongly favouring IL2Ra (at six months: RR 0.47, 95% CI 0.29 to 0.77;  $P = 0.13$ ;  $I^2 = 46\%$ ; at any time within the first year: RR 0.62 95% CI 0.49 to 0.77;  $P = 0.34$ ;  $I^2 = 11\%$ ). Sensitivity analysis for outcomes death, graft loss censored for death, acute rejection, CMV disease and malignancy (all reported within the first post-transplant year), demonstrated no differences of effect for intention-to-treat analysis or for publication status (Table 3 and Table 4). There were also no significant differences for the same outcomes, between subgroup analyses when stratified according to whether the studies used cyclosporin or tacrolimus, or azathioprine or mycophenolate, or according to the study population baseline risk for acute rejection (Table 3 and Table 4; forest plots not shown). When comparing the effects of IL2Ra with ATG, there was no evidence that effects were different according to the formulation of ATG used, specifically whether equine or rabbit (Table 3 and Table 4).

### IL2Ra versus other mono- or polyclonal antibody preparations

There was no difference in effect for IL2Ra compared with muromonab-CD3 (OKT3) for all outcomes other than adverse reactions to study drug administration. No statistically significant differences in treatment effect were demonstrated for mortality, graft loss, acute rejection, or CMV infection (Analysis 3.1; Analysis 3.2; Analysis 3.3; Analysis 3.4; Analysis 3.5; Analysis 3.6; Analysis 3.7). Lacha 2001 (28 participants) showed significantly increased adverse reactions to muromonab-CD3 administration over IL2Ra (Analysis 3.8).

There was no difference in effect demonstrated for IL2Ra compared versus alemtuzumab for mortality, graft loss, acute rejection or CMV infection (Analysis 4.1; Analysis 4.2; Analysis 4.3; Analysis 4.4; Analysis 4.5).

The remaining unique study comparing IL2Ra with rituximab did not show any difference in effect for any reported outcome (forest plots not shown; Clatworthy 2009).

### The effect of dose of IL2Ra

The effect of one single dose versus two doses of IL2Ra and of standard versus extended dosing of IL2Ra showed no significant differences for any reported outcome (Analysis 5.1; Analysis 5.2; Analysis 5.3; Analysis 5.4; Analysis 5.5; Analysis 5.6; Analysis 5.7; Analysis 5.8; Analysis 5.9; Analysis 5.10; Analysis 5.11; Analysis 6.1; Analysis 6.2 Analysis 6.3 Analysis 6.4 Analysis 6.5 Analysis 6.6).

### The comparative efficacy of different IL2Ra preparations

The five studies (Grego 2007; Khan 2000; Lin 2006; Nair 2001; Perrea 2006) comparing basiliximab and daclizumab head-to-head were small (total 293 participants). Outcomes were synthesised where they were reported at the same time point (Analysis 7.1; Analysis 7.2; Analysis 7.3; Analysis 7.4; Analysis 7.5 Analysis 7.6; Analysis 7.7; Analysis 7.8; Analysis 7.9). There were no significant differences demonstrated between basiliximab and daclizumab in head-to-head comparison.

Indirect comparison, by stratifying studies according to their intervention (daclizumab or basiliximab), showed no clear difference for any outcomes. Indirect comparison of basiliximab versus daclizumab when compared to placebo/no treatment are shown in Figure 3. An indirect comparison of basiliximab versus daclizumab when compared to ATG is shown in Table 3 and Table 4 (stratified forest plots not shown).

### Additional comparisons

Although four studies compared IL2Ra with calcineurin inhibitors, they were small (total 208 participants), heterogeneous in design and no more than two studies reported any outcomes and the same time point (see Characteristics of included studies for more details of Asberg 2006; Garcia 2002; Gelens 2006; Wilson 2004). There were no differences demonstrated for mortality or graft loss (Analysis 8.1; Analysis 8.2). For acute rejection there was overall benefit favouring the control arms using calcineurin inhibitors compared with IL2Ra (Analysis 8.3: RR 2.26 95% CI 1.50 to 3.41), and at six months and one year, and for study reporting GFR at one year (Analysis 8.7). There were no demonstrated differences in other outcomes (Analysis 8.4; Analysis 8.5; Analysis 8.6).

Where studies compared IL2Ra with steroids there was no difference in mortality or graft loss (Analysis 9.1; Analysis 9.2; Analysis 9.3), but there was a significant difference in acute rejection at one year favouring use of steroids (Analysis 9.4, 2 studies: RR 1.31 95% CI 1.03 to 1.67), although this was not evident when considering only biopsy-proven (Analysis 9.5) or steroid-resistant rejection (Analysis 9.6). There were no differences in malignancy or GFR (Analysis 9.7 and Analysis 9.8 respectively).

The remaining study examined the effect of IL2Ra in a unique comparison (versus MMF, Kaplan 2003), and showed no difference in any outcomes reported, and so no further summary was possible (forest plots not shown).

## DISCUSSION

The use of an IL2Ra in addition to standard calcineurin inhibitor-based dual or triple therapy significantly reduces graft loss, acute rejection and CMV disease within the first year post-transplantation. At six months IL2Ra reduce early malignancy and improve graft function. This is a class effect, as there was no evidence that the effects of basiliximab and daclizumab were different. The use of an IL2Ra in place of ATG showed no difference in graft loss or in clinically diagnosed acute rejection, but did show an increase in biopsy-proven acute rejection at one year (but not at other time points). Compared with ATG, IL2Ra use reduced incidence of CMV disease and malignancy, and improved mean serum creatinine. Recipients receiving ATG had more adverse reactions to drug administration. There was no evidence that the effects differed dependent on immunosuppressive co-

interventions, or whether the ATG was raised in horses or in rabbits. The lack of consistent outcome definitions and varied time of outcome reporting among studies hampered many more meaningful comparisons that could potentially be made.

### Strengths and limitations

This meta-analysis was undertaken with deliberately broad inclusion criteria, to better explore the totality of evidence available, and to make pragmatic comparisons that related to common clinical practice decisions. We undertook an extensive literature search, and sought data from all reports of each study we identified. This update re-organised data comparisons from their presentation in the original review (Webster 2004), by splitting ATG comparisons away from those with other mono- or polyclonal antibodies. We added a succinct exploration of subgroup effects to explore potential differences that might result from other study design features or settings such as co-interventions or population baseline immunological risk. We also added new outcomes relating to transplant function (serum creatinine and GFR). The results demonstrated a remarkable consistency and homogeneity of effect for IL2Ra over a large number of diverse outcomes. The review update was able to confirm differences in effect for important clinical outcomes that were hinted at, but not proven, in the original review. An example is graft loss which moved from 14 studies showing RR of 0.83 (95% CI 0.66 to 1.04) in the original review, to 24 studies showing RR of 0.75 (95% CI 0.62 to 0.90). Hence, new findings include a significant reduction in graft loss, and in CMV disease and malignancy for those treated with IL2Ra compared to placebo/no treatment. Similarly, with new evidence, the comparison of IL2Ra with ATG was more informative.

Despite these strengths, there was still insufficient power to show definite reduction in some important outcomes through all time points, and inconsistent reporting of important outcomes hampered interpretation. Although 16 studies with 2,211 participants compared IL2Ra with ATG, only 10 studies reported acute rejection diagnosed clinically or by biopsy at one year, only eight studies reported biopsy-proven rejection, and only six studies reported steroid-resistant rejection. Hence, we cannot be sure what outcomes were experienced by participants in the studies that provided no data. Although we believe this is the most comprehensive evidence summary on this topic, use of these results must acknowledge the evident limitations of the data available from this study cohort.

As in the original review, the applicability of the meta-analysis results to other populations and settings may be limited by the circumstances of the constituent studies. This update included more data for recipients at higher baseline risk of acute rejection than the original review, but many studies included participants of mixed immunological risk and did not provide stratified results, so power to investigate potential differences was thus reduced. One possible way to clarify these residual doubts and uncertainties, would be through increased access to transparent study outcome dataset, and by use of standardised outcome definitions. Individual patient data meta-analysis would likely be informative. However, the high level of homogeneity of results among RCTs for the majority of outcomes, particularly the primary outcomes of graft loss and acute rejection, suggests that the results are likely to be generalisable to populations of greater and lesser risk. The relative under-reporting of treatment harms compared with treatment benefits, and the incomplete data presented is not a problem

peculiar to this review, and is widely recognised as common to many RCTs and systematic reviews (Cuervo 2003).

In an attempt to minimise publication bias, this meta-analysis included both unpublished data and data from conference abstracts. We also made strenuous efforts to include non-English language sources. In the update, 25/189 (13.2%) new reports came from handsearching conference proceedings over and above those already searched by the specialised register of the Cochrane Renal Group. We examined funnel plots of the key outcomes (mortality, graft loss censored for death, acute rejection, CMV disease and malignancy) for asymmetry that might suggest potential publication bias (not all included other than Figure 3 because of size and complexity constraints on the review as a whole). This was done in recognition that confining a meta-analysis to published data or English language alone has been demonstrated to overestimate positive treatment effects (Egger 1997).

The internal validity of the design, conduct and analysis of the included RCTs was difficult to assess because of the omission of important methodological details in the study reports. No single study adequately reported all domains of the risk of bias assessment (Figure 2), despite using information from many data sources and attempting author contact to try to clarify these details. Thus it is impossible to exclude the possibility that elements of internal biases may be present in the results of the meta-analysis (Begg 1996; Moher 1999).

## AUTHORS' CONCLUSIONS

### Implications for practice

IL2Ra show significant benefit in reducing acute rejection, graft loss, CMV disease and early malignancy, but not mortality in kidney transplant recipients when added to standard calcineurin-based therapy. IL2Ra compared with ATG reduce CMV disease, malignancy and cause significantly fewer side effects, with no differences in graft loss or clinically diagnosed or steroid-resistant rejection, but an increase at one year of biopsy-proven rejection. Basiliximab and daclizumab are equally effective. Thus, the benefits and harms of adding IL2Ra use outweigh standard therapy alone, but choice of IL2Ra over ATG may be different for different patients. The applicability of the findings of this updated review are summarised in Table 5, which demonstrates that in adding IL2Ra to standard calcineurin based therapy, for every 100 people treated, within the first year, two fewer will lose their graft, 11 fewer will experience acute rejection, and two fewer will experience CMV disease. The number needed to treat with IL2Ra to prevent one person losing their graft is 42, nine for acute rejection, and 38 for CMV disease.

In using IL2Ra over ATG, when treating 100 people, there will be no difference in graft loss or overall rejection, but eight fewer with CMV disease (number needed to treat to prevent one case is 16). However, although differences in malignancy are significantly different, within the first year the absolute risk of early malignancy is small, so per 100 people treated there will be no a difference of two, and the number needed to treat to prevent one case of cancer is 58.

In using these relative and absolute measures of effect it is clear that different treatment decisions may be appropriate for different patients.

## Implications for research

The updated review findings will permit a further economic evaluation, using more recent and precise evidence than was previously possible [Morton 2009](#).

Despite the homogeneity of results across the populations of the pooled studies, there was under representation of high risk participants and in particular of children. The availability of the full study datasets would permit individual patient data meta-analysis, and would be an economical way of using existing data more effectively. Failing this, future studies involving younger patients, and those at higher baseline risk of acute rejection would enhance certainty of benefit in this subgroup. The importance of follow-up prolonged beyond one year cannot be over emphasised, particularly to clarify the risks and eventual outcome of harms from differing immunosuppressive treatment strategies. Where this cannot be achieved in an RCT, inclusion of information that could form a linkage key, would permit a hybrid design of RCT with an observational cohort, allowing later linkage with longer term follow-up data, perhaps from a registry or from administrative hospital records. This is an under-exploited method to gain valuable medium and longer term data that would otherwise be unknown.

Many of the uncertainties of the meta-analysis might be clarified if meta-analysis of individual patient data were possible. This would increase the statistical power of the analysis, and thus might clarify the estimates of effect which approach, but do not reach, statistical significance, and clarify subgroups effects are consistent with overall findings. Individual data analysis would also allow time-to-event data to be incorporated more easily, and allow more flexible analysis of patient subgroups and outcomes. However, if complete data were not available from all RCTs, then analysis of only selected data would obviously risk the introduction of bias to the estimates ([Clarke 2001](#)).

## ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

- We are grateful to Dr EG Playford who contributed to the original iteration of this review (Issue 1, 2004), contributing to the design, quality assessment, data collection, entry, analysis and interpretation, and writing.
- The authors wish to thank all report authors who responded to our enquiries about their work, and especially Drs N Ahsan, D Brennan, H Ekberg, I Folkmane, J Kovarik, A Kumar, G Mourad, B Nashan, S Sandrini, H Sheashaa, H Shidban, R Stratta and LB Zimmerhackl, who were particularly helpful in providing additional information and data.

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Vanrenterghem Y. Tailoring immunosuppressive therapy for renal transplant recipients. *Pediatric Transplantation* 2001;**5**(6):467-72. [MEDLINE: 11737774]

## CHARACTERISTICS OF STUDIES

### Characteristics of included studies [ordered by study ID]

#### Abou-Ayache 2008

Methods	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Design: Open-label parallel group RCT</li> <li>• Duration: 12 months</li> </ul>
Participants	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Setting: National multi centre study</li> <li>• Country: France</li> <li>• First cadaveric kidney transplant</li> <li>• Mean age (<math>\pm</math> SD): 44 <math>\pm</math> 12 years</li> <li>• Number (group 1/group 2): 115 (58/57)</li> <li>• Sex (% M/F): 70/30</li> <li>• Exclusions: CMV status (D-/R-); multi-organ transplantation; second transplant or living-related donor; steroids in previous 30 days for autoimmune or kidney disease; significant liver disease; malignancy; potential non-compliance</li> </ul>
Interventions	<p><b>Treatment group 1</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Daclizumab (2mg/kg day 0, 1 mg/kg day 14)</li> </ul> <p><b>Treatment group 2</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• ATG (1-1.5 mg/kg thymoglobulin)</li> </ul> <p><b>Baseline immunosuppression</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• CSA: initial dose 2-4 mg/kg, trough target level - 150-250 ng/mL from day 7 to 2 months, then 125-150 ng/mL (3-6 months), 125- 175 ng/mL (7-12 months)</li> <li>• MMF: 2 g/d</li> <li>• Steroids: Tapered in stages and ceased at 5-6 months post-transplant</li> <li>• CMV prophylaxis</li> </ul>
Outcomes	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Mortality</li> <li>• Acute rejection</li> <li>• Graft loss</li> </ul>

### References to other published versions of this review

#### Webster 2003

Webster AC, Playford EG, Higgins G, Chapman JR, Craig J. Interleukin 2 receptor antagonists for kidney transplant recipients. *Cochrane Database of Systematic Reviews* 2003, Issue 4. [DOI: [10.1002/14651858.CD003897](https://doi.org/10.1002/14651858.CD003897)]

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\* Indicates the major publication for the study

**Abou-Ayache 2008** (Continued)

- CMV infection
- Delayed graft function

Notes

**Risk of bias**

Bias	Authors' judgement	Support for judgement
Random sequence generation (selection bias)	Unclear risk	Stated "centrally randomised", no further information provided
Allocation concealment (selection bias)	Unclear risk	Not stated
Blinding (performance bias and detection bias) Objective outcomes	Low risk	Open-label, however for acute rejection "a blinded centralized analysis was carried out by two pathologists".
Blinding (performance bias and detection bias) Subjective outcomes	High risk	Open-label, blinding of outcome assessors not stated
Incomplete outcome data (attrition bias) All outcomes	High risk	ITT analysis reported, however (1) 3 patients excluded post-randomisation due to no transplant and or treatment, (2) 2 patients excluded after one dose of intervention but no transplant, (3) 1 excluded due to receipt of poor quality graft due to ecstasy abuse, and (4) 8 excluded form "on therapy population" due to protocol violation
Selective reporting (reporting bias)	Low risk	Primary outcomes for this review (death, graft loss and acute rejection) have been reported. No study protocol available to assess secondary outcomes of study
Other bias	High risk	"...supported by a grant from ROCHE - France *Trial name: ECTAZ; protocol identification: 010624; date of registration: 16 July 2001, without restrictions on publication."

**Ahsan 2002**

Methods	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Design: Parallel RCT</li> <li>• Duration: 12 months follow-up</li> </ul>
Participants	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Setting: Single centre</li> <li>• Country: USA</li> <li>• First cadaveric or living-related kidney transplant</li> <li>• Number (treatment/control): 100 (50/50)</li> <li>• Age: &gt; 18 years               <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>* Treatment group (years <math>\pm</math> SEM): 47.0 <math>\pm</math> 2.0</li> <li>* Control group: 47.0 <math>\pm</math> 2.15</li> </ul> </li> <li>• Sex (males)               <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>* Treatment group: 66%</li> <li>* Control group: 64%</li> </ul> </li> <li>• Exclusions: Already received an organ or multiorgan transplant</li> </ul>
Interventions	<b>Treatment group</b>

**Interleukin 2 receptor antagonists for kidney transplant recipients (Review)**

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**Ahsan 2002** (Continued)

- Daclizumab: 2 mg/kg IV administered after induction of anaesthesia

**Control group**

- No treatment

**Baseline immunosuppression**

- Tacrolimus (0.16-0.2 mg/kg/d (trough levels 10-15 ng/mL)
- MMF (500 mg orally twice a day)
- Steroids ((descending dose from 2 to 0.15 mg/kg/d at the end of 180 days)

**Co-interventions**

- Trimethoprim-sulfamethoxazole was administered to both groups
- Oral ganciclovir (500 mg twice daily for 3 months to all patients)

Outcomes	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Mortality</li> <li>• Graft loss</li> <li>• Acute rejection</li> <li>• Infection/CMV</li> <li>• Delayed graft function</li> <li>• Malignancy</li> </ul>
Notes	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Significantly younger donors in control group</li> </ul>

**Risk of bias**

Bias	Authors' judgement	Support for judgement
Random sequence generation (selection bias)	Unclear risk	"Patients were randomly selected" no further information provided
Allocation concealment (selection bias)	Unclear risk	Not stated
Blinding (performance bias and detection bias) Objective outcomes	Unclear risk	For acute rejection "All biopsies were reviewed by a pathologist unaware of the protocol"
Blinding (performance bias and detection bias) Subjective outcomes	Unclear risk	Not stated who assessed the outcomes
Incomplete outcome data (attrition bias) All outcomes	Low risk	All patients followed up or accounted for at 6 months (acute rejection) and 12 months (death and graft loss)
Selective reporting (reporting bias)	Low risk	Primary outcomes for this review (death, graft loss and acute rejection) have been reported. No study protocol available to assess secondary outcomes of study
Other bias	Unclear risk	Funding source not stated

**Asberg 2006**

Methods	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Design: Parallel RCT</li> </ul>
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**Asberg 2006** (Continued)

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Duration: Commenced February 2002 and was to run for 2 years</li> </ul>
Participants	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Setting: Single centre</li> <li>Country: Norway</li> <li>First cadaveric kidney transplant, all low immunogenic risk</li> <li>Mean age (<math>\pm</math> SD)           <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>* Treatment group: 57.7 <math>\pm</math> 14.6</li> <li>* Control group: 58.2 <math>\pm</math> 13.6</li> </ul> </li> <li>Number (treatment/control): 54 (27/27)</li> <li>Sex (M/F)           <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>* Treatment group: 18/9</li> <li>* Control group: 20/7</li> </ul> </li> <li>Exclusions: multiorgan transplant; HLA-identical transplant; PRA &gt; 20%; active peptic ulcer disease; active infection; reabsorption disorders; ongoing malignancies; pregnancy; nursing mothers; WCC &lt; 2.5 x 10<sup>9</sup>/L; platelet count &lt; 100 x 10<sup>12</sup>/L; Hb &lt; 6 g/dL</li> </ul>
Interventions	<p><b>Treatment group</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Daclizumab: 2 mg/kg on day 0, then 1 mg/kg every 2 weeks for a total of 5 doses</li> </ul> <p><b>Control group</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Nothing</li> </ul> <p><b>Baseline immunosuppression</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>CSA           <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>* Treatment group: No CSA</li> <li>* Control group: 10 mg/kg day 0, then C<sub>2</sub> target level of 1500-2000 <math>\mu</math>g/L for first month; 1400-1600 g/L [sic] for second month; 1000-1200 <math>\mu</math>g/L third month; followed by C<sub>0</sub> monitoring tapering initially from 100-200 <math>\mu</math>g/L to 75-125 <math>\mu</math>g/L</li> </ul> </li> <li>MMF           <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>* Treatment group: 3g day 0, trough levels of 2-6 mg/L with dose restrictions between 1-4 g/d</li> </ul> </li> <li>Steroids: IV day 0 and 1 then tapered from 80 to 20 mg/d (first months), 10 mg/d after 2 months and to 5 mg/g within the following months</li> </ul>
Outcomes	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Mortality</li> <li>Graft loss</li> <li>Acute rejection</li> <li>Delayed graft function</li> <li>Infection</li> <li>Adverse reaction</li> </ul>
Notes	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1 year follow-up</li> <li>Stopped by data safety monitoring board when 54/70 (27/27) patients randomised due to unacceptable high rejection rates in DAC-group.</li> </ul>

**Risk of bias**

Bias	Authors' judgement	Support for judgement
Random sequence generation (selection bias)	Unclear risk	Stated "randomized in a 1:1 ratio", no further information provided
Allocation concealment (selection bias)	Unclear risk	Not stated

**Asberg 2006** (Continued)

Blinding (performance bias and detection bias) Objective outcomes	High risk	Open-label, blinding of outcome assessors not stated
Blinding (performance bias and detection bias) Subjective outcomes	High risk	Open-label, blinding of outcome assessors not stated
Incomplete outcome data (attrition bias) All outcomes	Low risk	ITT analysis reported, all patients followed up or accounted for
Selective reporting (reporting bias)	Low risk	Primary outcomes for this review (death, graft loss and acute rejection) have been reported
Other bias	High risk	Supported by a grant from Roche Norway AS

**ATLAS 2003**

Methods	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Multicentre (21) parallel-RCT</li> <li>• Duration: NS</li> <li>• Stratified by centre</li> </ul>
Participants	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Countries: Poland, Czech Republic, Finland, Sweden</li> <li>• First cadaveric (87%) or living donor kidney transplant</li> <li>• Mean age (<math>\pm</math> SD)           <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>* Treatment group: <math>43.2 \pm 11.4</math></li> <li>* Control group 1: <math>43.2 \pm 12.8</math></li> <li>* Control group 2: <math>43.9 \pm 12.1</math></li> </ul> </li> <li>• Number (treatment/control 1/control 2): 457 randomised, 451 analysed (153/151/147)</li> <li>• Sex (% male)           <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>* Treatment group: 62.1%</li> <li>* Control group 1: 61.2%</li> <li>* Control group 2: 65.6%</li> </ul> </li> <li>• Exclusions: PRA <math>\geq</math> 50% in previous 6 months; any organ transplant or kidney re transplant; ongoing immunosuppressive therapy; pregnancy or breast feeding; allergy or intolerance to study medication; HIV infection; significant liver disease; current or history of malignancy; significant uncontrolled infection; severe diarrhoea, vomiting or active peptic ulcer; NHBD</li> </ul>
Interventions	<p><b>Treatment group</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Basiliximab: 2 mg days 0 and 4</li> </ul> <p><b>Control group 1</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• MMF: 2 g/d for up to 14 days then 1 g/d</li> </ul> <p><b>Control group 2</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• MMF: 2 g/d for up to 14 days then 1 g/d</li> <li>• Steroids: 125 mg IV day 1 then orally 20 mg/d (days 2-14), 15 mg/d (days 15-28) 10 mg/d (days 29-42) and 5 mg/d thereafter</li> </ul> <p><b>Baseline immunosuppression</b></p>

**ATLAS 2003** (Continued)

- TAC: Initial dose 0.2 mg/kg/d then adjusted for trough levels of 10-20 ng/mL (days 0-28) then 5-15 ng/mL thereafter
- Steroids: all patients received 500 mg IV on day 0

**Outcomes**

- Mortality
- Graft loss
- Acute rejection
- CMV

**Notes**

- 6 month follow-up

**Risk of bias**

Bias	Authors' judgement	Support for judgement
Random sequence generation (selection bias)	Low risk	"the randomisation list was generated by the Data Operations department" "stratified by centre"
Allocation concealment (selection bias)	Low risk	"each centre received a unique sequence of patient numbers and a set of sealed envelopes" "the corresponding envelopes were opened providing the information for the allocated treatment"
Blinding (performance bias and detection bias) Objective outcomes	High risk	Open-label, blinding of outcome assessors not stated
Blinding (performance bias and detection bias) Subjective outcomes	High risk	Open-label, blinding of outcome assessors not stated
Incomplete outcome data (attrition bias) All outcomes	Low risk	ITT analysis reported, all patients followed up or accounted for. 6/457 excluded - never received transplant or study drug - unlikely to affect results
Selective reporting (reporting bias)	Low risk	Primary outcomes for this review (death, graft loss and acute rejection) have been reported
Other bias	High risk	Sponsored by a grant from Fujisawa GmbH

**Baczowska 2002**
**Methods**

- Design: Parallel RCT
- Duration: 36 months follow-up

**Participants**

- Single centre
- Poland
- Primary kidney transplant recipients
- Age (mean): 42.6 ± 10.8 years
- Sex (M/F): NS
- Number (treatment/control): 42 (21/21)

**Interventions**
**Treatment group**

- Daclizumab: 1mg/kg before transplant and then days 14 and 28
- CSA: Initial dose 5 mg/kg/d ([c2] 700-900 ng/mL) then slowly tapered and withdrawn at 10 months

**Baczowska 2002** (Continued)

**Control group**

- CSA: Initial dose 10 mg/kg/d. At 3 months [c2] 1500-1700 ng/mL and at 4 months [c2] 900-1200 ng/mL

**Baseline immunosuppression**

- MMF: 2 g/d
- Steroids: standard dose

Outcomes	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Acute rejection</li> <li>• Delayed graft function</li> <li>• Death (at 36 months)</li> </ul>
Notes	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Follow-up: 3, 12, 36 and 60 months</li> </ul>

**Risk of bias**

Bias	Authors' judgement	Support for judgement
Random sequence generation (selection bias)	Unclear risk	Stated "randomised, controlled study" no further information provided
Allocation concealment (selection bias)	Unclear risk	Not stated
Blinding (performance bias and detection bias) Objective outcomes	High risk	Open label
Blinding (performance bias and detection bias) Subjective outcomes	High risk	Open label
Incomplete outcome data (attrition bias) All outcomes	Unclear risk	All patients followed or accounted for, however additional patients reported in 2008 abstract
Selective reporting (reporting bias)	Unclear risk	Primary outcomes for this review (death, graft loss and acute rejection) have been reported, however additional patients reported in 2008 abstract. No study protocol available to assess secondary outcomes of study
Other bias	Unclear risk	Funding source not stated

**Bernarde 2004**

Methods	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• RCT</li> </ul>
Participants	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Setting: Single centre</li> <li>• Country: Latvia</li> <li>• First cadaveric kidney transplant.</li> <li>• No significant differences between age, sex, type of donor, native kidney disease, comorbid conditions and HLA mismatches between the 3 groups</li> <li>• Number (treatment/control):104 (69/35)</li> </ul>
Interventions	<b>Treatment groups</b>

**Bernarde 2004** (Continued)

- Basiliximab
  - \* Group 1: 20 mg day 0 and day 4
  - \* Group 2: 20 mg day 0 only

**Control group**

- Nothing

**Baseline immunosuppression**

- CSA: NS
- MMF: NS
- Steroids: NS

Outcomes	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Mortality</li> <li>• Graft loss</li> <li>• Acute rejection</li> <li>• CMV</li> <li>• Delayed graft function</li> </ul>
Notes	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 1 year follow-up</li> <li>• Abstract-only data</li> </ul>

**Risk of bias**

Bias	Authors' judgement	Support for judgement
Random sequence generation (selection bias)	Unclear risk	Stated "randomized", no further information provided
Allocation concealment (selection bias)	Unclear risk	Not stated
Blinding (performance bias and detection bias) Objective outcomes	Unclear risk	Not stated
Blinding (performance bias and detection bias) Subjective outcomes	Unclear risk	Not stated
Incomplete outcome data (attrition bias) All outcomes	Unclear risk	Data only available from conference proceedings abstract
Selective reporting (reporting bias)	Unclear risk	Primary outcomes for this review (death, graft loss and acute rejection) reported, however data only available from conference proceedings abstract
Other bias	Unclear risk	Funding source not stated, data only available from conference proceedings abstract

**Bingyi 2003**

Methods	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• RCT</li> </ul>
Participants	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Setting: Single centre</li> </ul>

**Interleukin 2 receptor antagonists for kidney transplant recipients (Review)**



**Bingyi 2003** (Continued)

- Country: China
- Primary cadaveric kidney transplant
- Age range
  - \* Treatment group: 35-59 years
  - \* Control group: 36-54 years
- Number (treatment/control): 12 (6/6)
- Sex (M/F)
  - \* Treatment group: 4/2
  - \* Control group: 5/1

Interventions	<p><b>Treatment group</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Basiliximab: 20 mg days 0 and 4</li> </ul> <p><b>Control group</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Nothing</li> </ul> <p><b>Baseline immunosuppression</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• CSA: 5-8 mg/kg/d; trough levels NS</li> <li>• AZA: 75-100 mg/d</li> <li>• Steroids: 50 mg/d on day 4 then tapers to 20 mg/d on day 28 and 10 mg/d on day 56</li> </ul>
Outcomes	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Acute rejection</li> <li>• Infection</li> <li>• Delayed graft function</li> </ul>
Notes	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 1 year follow-up</li> </ul>

**Risk of bias**

Bias	Authors' judgement	Support for judgement
Random sequence generation (selection bias)	Unclear risk	Stated "randomly allocated", no further information provided
Allocation concealment (selection bias)	Unclear risk	Not stated
Blinding (performance bias and detection bias) Objective outcomes	Unclear risk	Blinding of outcome assessors not stated
Blinding (performance bias and detection bias) Subjective outcomes	Unclear risk	Blinding of outcome assessors not stated
Incomplete outcome data (attrition bias) All outcomes	High risk	Numbers of patients at end of study not reported
Selective reporting (reporting bias)	High risk	For this review, only acute rejection was reported at 12 months, death and graft loss not stated and numbers at end of study not reported
Other bias	High risk	Supported by Novartis

**Brennan 2006**

Methods	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Parallel RCT</li> </ul>
Participants	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Setting: International, Multicentre (28)</li> <li>Country: USA and Europe</li> <li>Cadaveric kidney transplant recipients (29/278 repeat transplant)</li> <li>Mean age (<math>\pm</math> SD)           <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>* Group 1: 49.7 <math>\pm</math> 13.0</li> <li>* Group 2: 51.3 <math>\pm</math> 13.1</li> </ul> </li> <li>Number (group 1/group 2): 278 (137/141)</li> <li>Sex (M/F)           <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>* Group 1: 82/55</li> <li>* Group 2: 79/62</li> </ul> </li> <li>Exclusions: Immunosuppression; investigation drugs within past 30 days; known contraindication to study drugs; know or suspected infection or seropositive for Hep B, HCV or HIV; cancer with previous 2 years; pregnancy; nursing mothers; women of child bearing age not using contraception</li> </ul>
Interventions	<p><b>Treatment 1 group</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>20 mg IV basiliximab administered before graft perfusion followed by second infusion on day 4</li> </ul> <p><b>Treatment group 2</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1.5 mg/kg ATG IV (days 0-4), initiated before draft perfusion and then daily doses to day 4 for total dose of 7.5 mg/kg</li> <li>Acetaminophen and diphenhydramine given before receiving ATG</li> </ul> <p><b>Baseline immunosuppression</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>CSA: 6-8 mg/kg orally when graft function commenced</li> <li>MMF: 2 g/d orally, initiated intraoperatively and continued once patient tolerated oral medications</li> <li>Steroids: 7 mg/kg IV initiated intraoperatively and tapered to 5 mg by 6 months</li> </ul>
Outcomes	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Mortality</li> <li>Acute rejection</li> <li>Graft loss</li> <li>Delayed graft function</li> <li>Infection/CMV</li> <li>Adverse reactions</li> <li>Malignancy</li> </ul>
Notes	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1 year follow-up</li> <li>Genzyme sponsor</li> </ul>

**Risk of bias**

Bias	Authors' judgement	Support for judgement
Random sequence generation (selection bias)	Low risk	Stated "1:1 variable-block randomization" used
Allocation concealment (selection bias)	Low risk	Stated "The treatment assignments were randomized at an independent centre"
Blinding (performance bias and detection bias)	High risk	Not stated

**Brennan 2006** (Continued)

## Objective outcomes

Blinding (performance bias and detection bias) Subjective outcomes	High risk	Not stated
Incomplete outcome data (attrition bias) All outcomes	Low risk	All patients followed up or accounted for at 12 months
Selective reporting (reporting bias)	Low risk	Primary outcomes for this review (death, graft loss and acute rejection) have been reported. No study protocol available to assess secondary outcomes of study
Other bias	High risk	"The design, data collection, and analysis were performed by a sponsor, Genzyme, which hold the primary data"

**CAESAR (Ekberg) 2007**

Methods	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Open-label, parallel RCT</li> <li>• Randomised 1:1:1</li> <li>• Duration: 12 months</li> </ul>
Participants	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• International multicentre study, 32 centres</li> <li>• Countries: Europe, Australia, Canada, Mexico, USA</li> <li>• First cadaveric kidney transplant</li> <li>• Mean age (range)           <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>* Group 1: 47.2 (19-78)</li> <li>* Group 2: 47.6 (20-77)</li> <li>* Group 2: 48.7 (21-73)</li> </ul> </li> <li>• Number (group 1/group 2/group 3): 536 (179/184/173)</li> <li>• % males (group 1/group 2/group 3): 60/65/65</li> </ul>
Interventions	<p><b>Treatment groups (group 1 and 2)</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Daclizumab (2mg/kg first dose)</li> </ul> <p><b>Control group</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Nothing</li> </ul> <p><b>Baseline immunosuppression</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• CSA           <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>* Group 1: CSA withdrawal. Initial target trough level 50-100 ng/mL. At 4 months dose decreased by 33% every month and withdrawn by 6 months</li> <li>* Group 2: Low-dose CSA. Target trough level 50-100 ng/ML for 12 months</li> <li>* Group 3: Standard-dose CSA. Initial target trough level 150-300 ng/mL. Reduced to 100-200 ng/ml from 4 months to end of study.</li> </ul> </li> <li>• MMF: 2 mg/d</li> <li>• Steroids: As per centre protocol</li> </ul>
Outcomes	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Mortality</li> <li>• Graft loss</li> <li>• Acute rejection</li> </ul>

**CAESAR (Ekberg) 2007** (Continued)

- Delayed graft function

## Notes

- 1 year follow-up
- 1 patient from group 2 was excluded post-randomisation due to refusal to take all study medication.

**Risk of bias**

Bias	Authors' judgement	Support for judgement
Random sequence generation (selection bias)	Low risk	"Randomization code... generated in the Oracle Clinical randomization module"
Allocation concealment (selection bias)	Low risk	"Treatment assignment, corresponding to patient number, was provided on a sheet sealed inside a randomization envelope"
Blinding (performance bias and detection bias) Objective outcomes	Unclear risk	Outcomes assessed locally, blinding of outcome assessors not stated
Blinding (performance bias and detection bias) Subjective outcomes	Unclear risk	Outcomes assessed locally, blinding of outcome assessors not stated
Incomplete outcome data (attrition bias) All outcomes	Low risk	All patients followed up or accounted for. Excluded 1 randomised patient from group 2 because of refusal to take medications. Not likely to influence results
Selective reporting (reporting bias)	High risk	Primary outcomes for this review (death, graft loss and acute rejection) have been reported. No study protocol available to assess secondary outcomes of study and not all outcomes outlined in method are reported in results. There is no breakdown of numbers for 18 month data, and many outcomes reported as percentages
Other bias	High risk	Funded by Hoffmann-LaRoche, 4/9 authors are employees of Roche

**CARMEN (Rostaing) 2005**

## Methods

- Multicentre (47) parallel-RCT
- Duration: May 2000 to January 2002
- Stratified by centre

## Participants

- Countries: France, Germany, Italy, Austria, Spain
- Cadaveric or living donor kidney transplant (93% first transplant)
- Mean age ( $\pm$  SD)
  - \* Treatment group:  $46.7 \pm 12.1$
  - \* Control group:  $45.5 \pm 12.3$
- Number (treatment/control) :551 enrolled, 538 analysed (260/278)
- Sex (M/F)
  - \* Treatment group: 179/81
  - \* Control group: 177/101
- Exclusions: PRA > 50%; previous graft loss with 12 months; historic positive cross-match; NHBD; pregnancy or breast feeding; allergy/intolerance to study drugs; use of immunosuppression for reasons other than transplantation; HIV positive; significant liver disease; malignancy or history of; significant

**CARMEN (Rostaing) 2005** *(Continued)*

uncontrolled infection; severe diarrhoea, vomiting or active peptic ulcer; previous other organ transplant

Interventions	<p><b>Treatment group</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Daclizumab: 1 mg/kg days 0 and 14</li> </ul> <p><b>Control group</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Methyl prednisolone: 124 mg IV day 1, 20 mg oral dose (days 2-15), 15 mg (days 15-28), 10 mg (days 29-42) and 5 mg (days 43-183)</li> </ul> <p><b>Baseline immunosuppression</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• TAC: 0.2 mg/kg then adjusted to maintain trough levels of 10-20 ng/mL (days 0-21), 10-15 ng/mL (days 22-41) and 5-10 ng/mL (days 42-183)</li> <li>• MMF: 2 g/d (days 1-14) then 1 g/d (days 15-183)</li> <li>• Steroids: Maximum of 500 mg on day 0</li> </ul>
Outcomes	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Mortality</li> <li>• Graft loss</li> <li>• Acute rejection</li> <li>• Adverse reaction</li> <li>• Malignancy</li> <li>• Delayed graft function</li> </ul>
Notes	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 6 month follow-up</li> </ul>

**Risk of bias**

Bias	Authors' judgement	Support for judgement
Random sequence generation (selection bias)	Low risk	"the randomisation schedule was generated by the Data Operations department, stratified by centre"
Allocation concealment (selection bias)	Low risk	"each patient number having a corresponding sealed envelope containing the randomisation details for that patient" "once assigned the envelope was opened"
Blinding (performance bias and detection bias) Objective outcomes	High risk	Open-label, blinding of outcome assessors not stated
Blinding (performance bias and detection bias) Subjective outcomes	High risk	Open-label, blinding of outcome assessors not stated
Incomplete outcome data (attrition bias) All outcomes	Low risk	ITT analysis reported, all patients followed up or accounted for. 13/551 excluded as never transplanted and/or received study drug. Unlikely to influence results
Selective reporting (reporting bias)	Low risk	Primary outcomes for this review (death, graft loss and acute rejection) have been reported
Other bias	High risk	Supported by a grant from Fujisawa GmbH

**Cerrillos 2006**

Methods	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>RCT</li> </ul>
Participants	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Single centre</li> <li>Country: Mexico</li> <li>First kidney transplant, donor status unknown</li> <li>Age: NS</li> <li>Number (treatment/control): 52 (NS/NS)</li> <li>Sex (M/F): NS</li> </ul>
Interventions	<p><b>Treatment group</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Daclizumab: 2 unknown doses</li> </ul> <p><b>Control group</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>None</li> </ul> <p><b>Baseline immunosuppression</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>CSA or tacrolimus dose: NS</li> <li>MMF dose: NS</li> <li>Steroid dose: NS</li> </ul>
Outcomes	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Mortality</li> <li>Acute rejection</li> <li>Graft loss</li> <li>Delayed graft function</li> </ul>
Notes	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Abstract only</li> <li>No reportable data (numbers not broken down by group and email address not available)</li> </ul>

**Risk of bias**

Bias	Authors' judgement	Support for judgement
Random sequence generation (selection bias)	Unclear risk	Stated "randomly assigned", no further details provided
Allocation concealment (selection bias)	Unclear risk	Not stated
Blinding (performance bias and detection bias) Objective outcomes	Unclear risk	Not stated
Blinding (performance bias and detection bias) Subjective outcomes	Unclear risk	Not stated
Incomplete outcome data (attrition bias) All outcomes	Unclear risk	52 patients randomised, however unclear how many per group and no numbers reported anywhere in the abstract
Selective reporting (reporting bias)	High risk	Primary outcomes for this review reported (death, graft loss and acute rejection), however only percentages given
Other bias	Unclear risk	No funding source provided

**Cerrillos 2006** (Continued)

Abstract only data

**Chen 2003**

Methods	RCT
Participants	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Single centre</li> <li>• China</li> <li>• Sensitised kidney transplant recipients ( PRA &gt; 20%)</li> <li>• Number (treatment/control):50 (17/33)</li> <li>• Age and sex: NS</li> </ul>
Interventions	<p><b>Treatment group</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Daclizumab: 2 doses over 2 weeks</li> </ul> <p><b>Control group</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Nothing</li> </ul> <p><b>Baseline immunosuppression</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• CSA dose: NS</li> <li>• MMF dose: NS</li> <li>• Steroid dose: NS</li> </ul>
Outcomes	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Mortality</li> <li>• Graft loss</li> <li>• Acute rejection</li> </ul>
Notes	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 1 year follow-up</li> <li>• Abstract only data available</li> </ul>

**Risk of bias**

Bias	Authors' judgement	Support for judgement
Random sequence generation (selection bias)	Unclear risk	Stated "randomised", no further information provided
Allocation concealment (selection bias)	Unclear risk	No stated
Blinding (performance bias and detection bias) Objective outcomes	Unclear risk	Not stated
Blinding (performance bias and detection bias) Subjective outcomes	Unclear risk	Not stated
Incomplete outcome data (attrition bias) All outcomes	Unclear risk	Unclear

**Chen 2003** (Continued)

Selective reporting (reporting bias)	Unclear risk	Primary outcomes for this review (death, graft loss and acute rejection) have been reported. Data only available from 2 conference proceedings abstracts
Other bias	Unclear risk	Funding source not stated. Data only available from 2 abstracts

**Ciancio 2005**

Methods	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Parallel, open label, RCT</li> </ul>
Participants	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Setting: Single centre</li> <li>Country: USA</li> <li>Primary cadaveric kidney transplant</li> <li>Mean age <math>\pm</math> SE years           <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>* Group 1: 49.9 <math>\pm</math> 2.4</li> <li>* Group 2: 49.3 <math>\pm</math> 2.5</li> <li>* Group 2: 50.2 <math>\pm</math> 2.1</li> </ul> </li> <li>Number (group 1/group 2/group 3): 90 (30/30/30)</li> <li>Sex (M/F)           <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>* Group 1: 18/12</li> <li>* Group 2: 19/11</li> <li>* Group 3: 19/11</li> </ul> </li> <li>Exclusions: Previous transplant; ABO incompatible donor kidney; seropositive for HIV, HCV, Hep B; malignancy in last 5 years; significant liver disease; uncontrolled concomitant infection and/or GI condition/s; will receive other immunosuppression, requiring warfarin, fluvastatin or herbal supplements; concurrent use of astemizole, pimozide, cisapride, terfenadine or ketoconazole; pregnancy or lactation; substance abuse or psychiatric disorder; low platelet count, WBC count or fasting HDL; high fasting triglycerides, fasting total cholesterol or fasting LDL</li> </ul>
Interventions	<p><b>Treatment group 1</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1 mg/kg daclizumab at surgery and 4 additional doses once every 2 weeks</li> </ul> <p><b>Treatment group 2</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1 mg/kg/d ATG during 1st week, total of 7 doses given</li> </ul> <p><b>Treatment group 3</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>0.3 mg/kg alemtuzumab day 0 and day 4</li> </ul> <p><b>Baseline immunosuppression</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Daclizumab and ATG groups           <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>* Tacrolimus: 0.1 mg/kg twice daily when kidney function had acceptably improved; trough level 8-10 ng/mL</li> <li>* MMF: 2 g/d (~28.6 mg/kg/d)</li> <li>* Steroids: 500 mg/d for 3 days tapered to 03 mg/kg at 1 month and 0.15 mg/kg at 3 months</li> </ul> </li> <li>Alemtuzumab group           <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>* Tacrolimus: 0.1 mg/kg twice daily when kidney function had acceptably improved; trough level 4-7 ng/mL</li> <li>* MMF: 1 g/d (~14 mg/kg/d)</li> <li>* Steroid avoidance after first week</li> </ul> </li> </ul> <p><b>Co-interventions</b></p> <p>CMV prophylaxis</p>



**Ciancio 2005** (Continued)

Outcomes	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Mortality</li> <li>• Graft loss</li> <li>• Acute rejection</li> <li>• Infection</li> <li>• Delayed graft function</li> <li>• Adverse effects</li> </ul>
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Notes	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 1.25 and 2 year follow-up</li> <li>• Groups 2 and 3 combined for comparison group</li> <li>• Funding - University of Miami</li> </ul>
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**Risk of bias**

Bias	Authors' judgement	Support for judgement
Random sequence generation (selection bias)	Low risk	"Standard randomised block design" was used
Allocation concealment (selection bias)	Unclear risk	Not stated
Blinding (performance bias and detection bias) Objective outcomes	High risk	Open-label, biopsy reading for acute rejection not stated
Blinding (performance bias and detection bias) Subjective outcomes	High risk	Open-label
Incomplete outcome data (attrition bias) All outcomes	Low risk	All patients followed up or accounted for at 2 years
Selective reporting (reporting bias)	Low risk	Primary outcomes for this review (death, graft loss and acute rejection) have been reported
Other bias	Low risk	Study supported by the University of Miami and registered at clinical.trials.gov. Unlikely to significantly influence on results

**Clatworthy 2009**

Methods	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Open label randomised trial</li> </ul>
Participants	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Undergoing kidney transplant</li> </ul>
Interventions	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Daclizumab versus rituximab</li> </ul>
Outcomes	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Acute rejection</li> <li>• Delayed graft function</li> <li>• GFR</li> <li>• Infections</li> <li>• Malignancy</li> <li>• Post-transplant diabetes</li> </ul>

**Clatworthy 2009** (Continued)

- Notes
- Planned to recruit 120 patients. Stopped trial after first 13 recruitments
  - Letter to editor only

**Risk of bias**

Bias	Authors' judgement	Support for judgement
Random sequence generation (selection bias)	Unclear risk	"randomised"
Allocation concealment (selection bias)	Unclear risk	Not stated
Blinding (performance bias and detection bias) Objective outcomes	Unclear risk	"open-label"
Blinding (performance bias and detection bias) Subjective outcomes	Unclear risk	"open-label"
Selective reporting (reporting bias)	Low risk	All outcomes reported
Other bias	High risk	Supported by Roche. Authors have received grants and fees from Roche, Wyeth, Astellas and GlaxoSmithKline

**Dac double & triple**

Methods

Participants

Interventions

Outcomes

- Notes
- See [Daclizumab double 1999](#) and [Daclizumab triple 1998](#). Appears here as artefact of data entry - not a separate trial

**Daclizumab double 1999**

Methods

- Parallel RCT

Participants

- International, multi centre study: Europe (15), Australia (2), Canada (2)
- First cadaveric kidney transplant
- Mean age  $\pm$  SD
  - \* Treatment: 44  $\pm$  13
  - \* Control: 46  $\pm$  12
- Number enrolled (treatment/control): 275 (141/134)

**Daclizumab double 1999** *(Continued)*

- Sex (M/F)
  - \* Treatment: 104/36
  - \* Control: 90/43

Interventions	<b>Treatment group</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Daclizumab: 1.0 mg/kg, first dose pre transplant and total of 5 doses every 2 weeks</li> </ul> <b>Control group</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Placebo: first dose pre transplant and total of 5 doses every 2 weeks</li> </ul> <b>Baseline immunosuppression</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• CSA: initial dose 5 mg/kg twice daily and then as per centre's determined blood therapeutic range</li> <li>• Steroids: As per institutional protocol</li> </ul>	
Outcomes	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Mortality</li> <li>• Graft loss</li> <li>• Acute rejection</li> <li>• Infection/CMV</li> <li>• Delayed graft function</li> <li>• Malignancy</li> </ul>	
Notes	Pooled analysis of Daclizumab double and triple therapy studies published after primary studies. Data used only when presented separately for each study. 3 year follow-up	
<b>Risk of bias</b>		
<b>Bias</b>	<b>Authors' judgement</b>	<b>Support for judgement</b>
Random sequence generation (selection bias)	Unclear risk	Stated "randomised, double-blind placebo-controlled" no further information provided
Allocation concealment (selection bias)	Unclear risk	Not stated
Blinding (performance bias and detection bias) Objective outcomes	Unclear risk	Double blind, blinding of outcome assessors not stated
Blinding (performance bias and detection bias) Subjective outcomes	Unclear risk	Double blind, blinding of outcome assessors not stated
Incomplete outcome data (attrition bias) All outcomes	Low risk	ITT analysis reported for the primary analyses of efficacy and safety, all patients followed up or accounted for
Selective reporting (reporting bias)	Low risk	Primary outcomes for this review (death, graft loss and acute rejection) have been reported. No study protocol available to assess secondary outcomes of study
Other bias	High risk	Not stated, but author list includes employees of Hoffmann-LaRoche Inc

**Daclizumab triple 1998**

Methods	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Parallel RCT</li> </ul>
Participants	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>International multi centre study: USA (15), Canada (3), Sweden (3)</li> <li>First cadaveric kidney transplant</li> <li>Mean age <math>\pm</math> SD           <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>* Treatment: 47 <math>\pm</math> 13</li> <li>* Control: 47 <math>\pm</math> 13</li> </ul> </li> <li>Number (treatment/control): 260 (134/126)</li> <li>Sex (M/F)           <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>* Treatment: 74/52</li> <li>* Control: 81/53</li> </ul> </li> </ul>
Interventions	<p><b>Treatment group</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Daclizumab: Five doses of 1 mg/kg. First dose within 24 h prior to transplant and then at 2, 4, 6 and 8 weeks post-transplant</li> </ul> <p><b>Control group</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Placebo: Five doses of 0.2 polysorbate 80/mL. First dose within 24 h prior to transplant and then at 2, 4, 6 and 8 weeks post-transplant</li> </ul> <p><b>Baseline immunosuppression</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>CSA dose: NS</li> <li>Azathioprine dose: NS</li> <li>Steroid dose: NS</li> </ul>
Outcomes	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Mortality</li> <li>Graft loss</li> <li>Acute rejection</li> <li>Infection/CMV</li> <li>Delayed graft function</li> <li>Malignancy</li> </ul>
Notes	Pooled analysis of Daclizumab double and triple therapy studies published after primary studies. Data used only when presented separately for each study. 3 year follow-up

**Risk of bias**

Bias	Authors' judgement	Support for judgement
Random sequence generation (selection bias)	Unclear risk	Stated "randomised, double-blind placebo-controlled" no further information provided
Allocation concealment (selection bias)	Unclear risk	Not stated
Blinding (performance bias and detection bias) Objective outcomes	Unclear risk	Double blind, blinding of outcome assessors not stated
Blinding (performance bias and detection bias) Subjective outcomes	Unclear risk	Double blind, blinding of outcome assessors not stated

**Daclizumab triple 1998** *(Continued)*

Incomplete outcome data (attrition bias) All outcomes	Low risk	ITT analysis reported for the primary analyses of efficacy and safety, all patients followed up or accounted for.
Selective reporting (reporting bias)	Low risk	Primary outcomes for this review (death, graft loss and acute rejection) have been reported. No study protocol available to assess secondary outcomes of study
Other bias	High risk	Supported by a grant from Hoffmann-LaRoche Inc

**de Boccardo 2002**

Methods	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Placebo-controlled RCT</li> </ul>
Participants	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Setting: International Multicentre (31)</li> <li>Countries: Argentina, Brazil, Costa Rica, Chile, Mexico</li> <li>Cadaveric (46%) or living donor kidney transplant</li> <li>Age: 38.0 ± 12.4 years</li> <li>Number (treatment/control): 310 (NS/NS)</li> <li>Sex (% M/F): 58.6/40.4</li> </ul>
Interventions	<p><b>Treatment group</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Basiliximab: 20 mg days 0 and 4</li> </ul> <p><b>Control group</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Placebo</li> </ul> <p><b>Baseline immunosuppression</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>CSA: 10 mg/kg/d (day 0) and dose adjusted to predefine trough levels</li> <li>AZA: 1-2 mg/kg/d</li> <li>Steroids: As per site standards, minimum daily dose of 5 mg at 6 months</li> </ul>
Outcomes	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Mortality</li> <li>Graft loss</li> <li>Acute rejection</li> <li>Malignancy</li> </ul>
Notes	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Number randomised in each group NS, calculated from given proportions</li> <li>6 month follow-up</li> <li>Trial on-going</li> <li>Data from abstract only</li> </ul>

**Risk of bias**

Bias	Authors' judgement	Support for judgement
Random sequence generation (selection bias)	Unclear risk	Stated "randomised", no further information provided
Allocation concealment (selection bias)	Unclear risk	Not stated

**de Boccardo 2002** (Continued)

Blinding (performance bias and detection bias) Objective outcomes	Unclear risk	"Double blind", blinding of outcome assessors not stated
Blinding (performance bias and detection bias) Subjective outcomes	Unclear risk	"Double blind", blinding of outcome assessors not stated
Incomplete outcome data (attrition bias) All outcomes	High risk	Stated ITT, but not all randomised patients were analysed. Data only available from conference proceedings abstract
Selective reporting (reporting bias)	Unclear risk	Primary outcomes for this review (death, graft loss and acute rejection) have been reported, however data only available as percentages from conference proceedings abstract
Other bias	Unclear risk	Funding source not stated, data only available from conference proceedings abstract

**Fangmann 2004**

Methods	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>RCT</li> </ul>
Participants	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>International Multicentre study, 14 centres from 3 countries (Germany, Switzerland, Austria)</li> <li>Number (daclizumab/control): 156 (NS/NS)</li> <li>Cadaveric donors: NS</li> <li>First transplant: NS</li> </ul>
Interventions	<p><b>Treatment group</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Daclizumab: 2mg/kg first dose, followed by 4 additional doses of 1 mg/kg every 2 weeks</li> </ul> <p><b>Control group</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Nothing</li> </ul> <p><b>Baseline immunosuppression</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>CSA trough levels           <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>* Daclizumab group: 75-125 ng/mL</li> <li>* Control group: 50-250 ng/mL</li> </ul> </li> <li>MMF: 2 g/d</li> <li>Steroid dose: NS (tapered identically in both groups)</li> </ul>
Outcomes	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Mortality</li> <li>Graft loss</li> <li>Acute rejection</li> <li>Delayed graft function</li> </ul>
Notes	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Ongoing study</li> <li>Data from abstracts presented for 121 (59/62) completing 3 months follow-up (remainder not yet available)</li> </ul>

**Risk of bias**

**Fangmann 2004** (Continued)

Bias	Authors' judgement	Support for judgement
Random sequence generation (selection bias)	Unclear risk	Stated "randomised", no further information provided
Allocation concealment (selection bias)	Unclear risk	Not stated
Blinding (performance bias and detection bias) Objective outcomes	Unclear risk	Not stated
Blinding (performance bias and detection bias) Subjective outcomes	Unclear risk	Not stated
Incomplete outcome data (attrition bias) All outcomes	Unclear risk	Data only available from 3 conference proceedings abstracts
Selective reporting (reporting bias)	Unclear risk	Primary outcomes for this review (death, graft loss and acute rejection) have been reported. Data only available for 3 conference proceedings abstracts
Other bias	Unclear risk	Funding source not stated. Data only available from 3 abstracts

**Flechner 2000**

Methods	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Single centre (USA)</li> </ul>
Participants	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Setting: Single centre</li> <li>• Country: USA</li> <li>• First or second, cadaveric (91%) or zero haplotype live donor (9%) kidney transplant recipients</li> <li>• Age: NS</li> <li>• Number (group 1/group 2): 45 (23/22)</li> <li>• Sex (M/F): NS</li> </ul>
Interventions	<p><b>Treatment group 1</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Basiliximab: 20 mg days 0 and 4</li> </ul> <p><b>Treatment group 2</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Muromonab-CD3: 2.5 mg for 7-14 days</li> </ul> <p><b>Baseline immunosuppression</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• CSA: NS</li> <li>• MMF: 2 g on day 1</li> <li>• Steroids: tapering</li> </ul>
Outcomes	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Mortality</li> <li>• Graft loss</li> <li>• Acute rejection</li> </ul>
Notes	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Follow-up range 1-12 months (median 6.4)</li> </ul>

**Flechner 2000** (Continued)

- Data contributes to 6 month outcome
- Trial on-going, data from abstract.

**Risk of bias**

Bias	Authors' judgement	Support for judgement
Random sequence generation (selection bias)	Unclear risk	Stated "randomised" no further information provided
Allocation concealment (selection bias)	Unclear risk	Not stated
Blinding (performance bias and detection bias) Objective outcomes	Unclear risk	Not stated
Blinding (performance bias and detection bias) Subjective outcomes	Unclear risk	Not stated
Incomplete outcome data (attrition bias) All outcomes	Unclear risk	Number randomised not reported
Selective reporting (reporting bias)	Unclear risk	Primary outcomes for this review (death, graft loss and acute rejection) have been reported, however data only available from abstract
Other bias	High risk	Funding source not stated; abstract only data available

**Folkmane 2001**

Methods	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• RCT</li> <li>• Duration: 1998 to 2000</li> </ul>
Participants	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Setting: Single centre</li> <li>• Country: Latvia</li> <li>• First (100%) or second cadaveric kidney transplant</li> <li>• Age: NS</li> <li>• Number (group 1/group 2/group 3): 71 (25/23/23)</li> <li>• Sex (M/F): NS</li> </ul>
Interventions	<p><b>Treatment group (group 3)</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Basiliximab: 20 mg days 0 and 4</li> <li>• CSA, AZA, steroids</li> </ul> <p><b>Control groups (group 1 and group 2)</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Group 2           <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>* CSA, MMF, steroids</li> </ul> </li> <li>• Group 3           <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>* CSA, AZA, steroids</li> </ul> </li> </ul> <p><b>Baseline immunosuppression</b></p>



**Folkmane 2001** (Continued)

- CSA: Trough levels 150-350 ng/mL (weeks 1-4) and 150-300 ng/mL thereafter
- AZA: 1-2 mg/kg/d
- MMF: 2 g/d
- Steroids: 0.5 g/kg/d tapered to a minimum dose of 5 g/d at 12 months

- |          |  |
|----------|--|
| Outcomes | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Graft loss</li> <li>• Acute rejection</li> <li>• CMV</li> </ul> |
|----------|--|

- |       |   |
|-------|---|
| Notes | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Group 2 and 3 combined for analysis</li> </ul> |
|-------|---|

**Risk of bias**

Bias	Authors' judgement	Support for judgement
Random sequence generation (selection bias)	Unclear risk	Stated "randomised", no further information provided
Allocation concealment (selection bias)	Unclear risk	Not stated
Blinding (performance bias and detection bias) Objective outcomes	Unclear risk	Not stated
Blinding (performance bias and detection bias) Subjective outcomes	Unclear risk	Not stated
Incomplete outcome data (attrition bias) All outcomes	Low risk	Results presented as mixture of numbers and percentages, however all patients appear to be accounted for
Selective reporting (reporting bias)	Unclear risk	Primary outcomes, graft loss and acute rejection, were reported. Death not reported or mentioned
Other bias	Unclear risk	Funding source not stated

**Garcia 2002**

- |         |   |
|---------|---|
| Methods | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Design: Single centre RCT</li> </ul> |
|---------|---|

- |              |   |
|--------------|---|
| Participants | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Country: Brazil</li> <li>• Low risk first, living related kidney transplant</li> <li>• Mean age: 36.3 ± 10.6</li> <li>• Number (treatment/control): 49 (23/26)</li> <li>• Sex (M/F): 31/18</li> <li>• Race: Black (3)</li> </ul> |
|--------------|---|

- |               |  |
|---------------|--|
| Interventions | <b>Treatment group</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Daclizumab: 1 mg/kg days 0 and 15</li> <li>• MMF: 3 g/d for 15 days, reduced to 2 g/d thereafter</li> <li>• Steroids: Dose not stated</li> </ul> |
|---------------|--|

**Garcia 2002** (Continued)

**Control group**

- TAC: 0-1-1.5 mg/kg/d
- AZA: 2 mg/kg/d
- Steroids: Dose NS

Outcomes	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Mortality</li> <li>• Graft loss</li> <li>• Acute rejection</li> <li>• Infection</li> </ul>
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Notes	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Follow-up range 5-10 months (mean 7.8). Data contributes to 6 month outcome.</li> <li>• On-going trial.</li> <li>• Data from conference proceedings abstract only</li> </ul>
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**Risk of bias**

Bias	Authors' judgement	Support for judgement
Random sequence generation (selection bias)	Unclear risk	Stated "randomised" no further information provided
Allocation concealment (selection bias)	Unclear risk	Not stated
Blinding (performance bias and detection bias) Objective outcomes	Unclear risk	Not stated
Blinding (performance bias and detection bias) Subjective outcomes	Unclear risk	Not stated
Incomplete outcome data (attrition bias) All outcomes	Unclear risk	Data only available from conference proceedings abstract
Selective reporting (reporting bias)	Unclear risk	Primary outcomes for this review (death, graft loss and acute rejection) have been reported, however data only available from conference proceedings abstract
Other bias	High risk	No funding source stated, however 1 author is an employee of Produtos Roche Quimicos e Farmaceuticos

**Gelens 2006**

Methods	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Single centre RCT</li> </ul>
Participants	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Country: Netherlands</li> <li>• Cadaveric (46%) or living donor kidney transplant (91% first transplant)</li> <li>• Median age: 53.2 years</li> <li>• Number (treatment/control): 54 (18/36)</li> <li>• Sex: 67% male</li> </ul>

**Gelens 2006** (Continued)

- Exclusions: Human leukocyte antigen-identical sibling; high immunological risk (PRA > 85% in previous six months; previous graft survival < 1 year due to rejection).

Interventions	<p><b>Treatment group</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Daclizumab: 1 mg/kg day 0 and 14 only</li> <li>• MMF: 2 g/d to day 15, AUC then maintained at <math>\leq 30 \mu\text{g.h/mL}</math> with dose adjustment to 1 g/d if required</li> <li>• Sirolimus: 15 mg days 0 and 1, then 5 mg/d with doses adjusted to maintain target range 10-15 <math>\mu\text{g/L}</math> to 6 months and 5-10 <math>\mu\text{g/L}</math> thereafter</li> </ul> <p><b>Control group (groups 1 and 2)</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Group 1                         <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>* TAC: 0.1 mg/kg with dose adjust for target range of 15-20 <math>\mu\text{g/L}</math> (weeks 1-2), 10-15 <math>\mu\text{g/L}</math> (weeks 3-4), then 5-8 <math>\mu\text{g/L}</math></li> </ul> </li> <li>• Group 2                         <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>* TAC: 0.1 mg/kg with dose adjust for target range of 15-20 <math>\mu\text{g/L}</math> (weeks 1-2), 10-15 <math>\mu\text{g/L}</math> (weeks 3-4), then 5-8 <math>\mu\text{g/L}</math></li> <li>* MMF: 2 g/d to day 15, AUC then maintained at <math>\leq 30 \mu\text{g.h/mL}</math> with dose adjustment to 1 g/d if required</li> <li>* Sirolimus: 3 mg days 0 and 1, then fixed dose of 1 mg/d</li> </ul> </li> </ul> <p>All groups received 135 mg methylprednisolone on days 0 and 1 only</p>
Outcomes	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Mortality</li> <li>• Graft loss</li> <li>• Acute rejection</li> </ul>
Notes	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Group 3 Daclizumab group; Groups 1 and 2 combined for control group</li> <li>• 9 month follow up coded as 6 months as only 4/18 were still on initial treatment by 6 months (all had daclizumab doses)</li> <li>• Interim analysis at the request of the Ethics committee</li> </ul>

**Risk of bias**

Bias	Authors' judgement	Support for judgement
Random sequence generation (selection bias)	Unclear risk	Stated "randomized (1-1-1)", no further information provided
Allocation concealment (selection bias)	Unclear risk	Not stated
Blinding (performance bias and detection bias) Objective outcomes	High risk	Open-label, blinding of outcome assessors not stated
Blinding (performance bias and detection bias) Subjective outcomes	High risk	Open-label, blinding of outcome assessors not stated
Incomplete outcome data (attrition bias) All outcomes	Unclear risk	ITT analysis reported, however interim analysis at the request of the Ethical Committee
Selective reporting (reporting bias)	Unclear risk	Primary outcomes for this review (death, graft loss and acute rejection) have been reported, however results are from an interim analysis
Other bias	High risk	Supported by grants from Fujisawa Benelux and Roche Pharmaceuticals

## Grego 2007

Methods	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Design: Single centre RCT</li> <li>Duration: June 2002 to May 2005</li> </ul>
Participants	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Country: Slovenia</li> <li>First (92%) or second, cadaveric kidney transplant</li> <li>Mean age (<math>\pm</math> SD) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>* Group 1: <math>48 \pm 10</math></li> <li>* Group 2: <math>48 \pm 10</math></li> </ul> </li> <li>Number (group 1/group 2): 127 (62/65)</li> <li>Sex (M/F) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>* Group 1: 42/20</li> <li>* Group 2: 32/33</li> </ul> </li> <li>Exclusions: NS</li> </ul>
Interventions	<p><b>Treatment group 1</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Basiliximab: 20 mg days 0 and 4</li> </ul> <p><b>Treatment group 2</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Daclizumab: 1 mg/kg day 0 and weeks 2, 4, 6 and 8</li> </ul> <p><b>Baseline immunosuppression</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>CSA: 0.8 mg/kg/h day 0; 6 mg/kg/d day 2, then adjusted to maintain trough levels of 100-300 ng/mL (to 3 months) then 70-170 ng/mL</li> <li>MMF: 2.25 g/d</li> <li>Steroids: 0.4 mg/kg/d days 0-3; 0.4 mg/kg/d from day 4 tapered by 4 mg/wk to achieve maintenance dose of 0.08 mg/kg/d</li> </ul> <p><b>Co-interventions</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>CMV prophylaxis: Ganciclovir for high risk patients for 100 days post-transplant</li> <li>Trimethoprim-sulfamethoxazole prophylaxis for 12 months for all patients</li> </ul>
Outcomes	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Mortality</li> <li>Graft loss</li> <li>Acute rejection</li> <li>Delayed graft function</li> <li>Infection/CMV</li> <li>Adverse events</li> </ul>
Notes	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1 year follow-up</li> </ul>

### Risk of bias

Bias	Authors' judgement	Support for judgement
Random sequence generation (selection bias)	Unclear risk	Stated "randomized in a 1:1 ratio", no further information provided
Allocation concealment (selection bias)	Unclear risk	Not stated

**Grego 2007** (Continued)

Blinding (performance bias and detection bias) Objective outcomes	High risk	Open-label, blinding of outcome assessors not stated
Blinding (performance bias and detection bias) Subjective outcomes	High risk	Open-label, blinding of outcome assessors not stated
Incomplete outcome data (attrition bias) All outcomes	Low risk	ITT analysis reported, all patients followed up or accounted for
Selective reporting (reporting bias)	Low risk	Primary outcomes for this review (death, graft loss and acute rejection) have been reported
Other bias	Unclear risk	Funding source not stated

**Grenda 2006**

Methods	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Open-label RCT</li> <li>• Patients stratified by age: &lt; 12 years (children) and ≥ 12 years (adolescents)</li> <li>• Study duration: March 2001 to March 2004</li> </ul>
Participants	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Setting: International multicentre study</li> <li>• Country: European study</li> <li>• First (91%) or re transplant from cadaveric (81%) or living donor with compatible ABO blood type</li> <li>• Mean age (± SD)           <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>* Treatment group: 11.5 ± 4.1</li> <li>* Control group: 11.3 ± 4.0</li> </ul> </li> <li>• Number (treatment/control): 92 (99/93)</li> <li>• Sex (% M/F)           <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>* Treatment group: 62.2/37.4</li> <li>* Control group: 61.3/38.7</li> </ul> </li> </ul>
Interventions	<p><b>Treatment group</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Basiliximab: 10-20 mg days 0 and 4 (dose dependent on weight)</li> </ul> <p><b>Control group</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• None</li> </ul> <p><b>Baseline immunosuppression</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• TAC: initial dose daily 2 x 0.3 mg/kg, then adjusted for trough levels of 10-20 ng/mL (0-21 days), 5-15 ng/mL (22-183 days)</li> <li>• AZA: 1-2 mg/kg/d</li> <li>• Steroids: 300-600 mg/m<sup>2</sup> day 0 then tapered from 60 mg/m<sup>2</sup> on day 1 to ≤ 10 mg/m<sup>2</sup> from day 43 onwards</li> </ul>
Outcomes	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Mortality</li> <li>• Graft loss</li> <li>• Acute rejection</li> <li>• Delayed graft function</li> <li>• Infection/CMV</li> </ul>

**Grenda 2006** (Continued)

- Malignancy

## Notes

- All participants  $\leq$  18 years
- 2 year follow-up data available in conference abstract

**Risk of bias**

Bias	Authors' judgement	Support for judgement
Random sequence generation (selection bias)	Low risk	The "randomisation was stratified by centre using the method of permuted blocks"
Allocation concealment (selection bias)	Low risk	"Allocation to treatment was performed locally using sealed randomisation envelopes"
Blinding (performance bias and detection bias) Objective outcomes	High risk	Open-label, blinding of outcome assessors not stated
Blinding (performance bias and detection bias) Subjective outcomes	High risk	Open-label, blinding of outcome assessors not stated
Incomplete outcome data (attrition bias) All outcomes	Low risk	All patients were followed up or accounted for
Selective reporting (reporting bias)	Low risk	Yes: Primary outcomes for this review (death, graft loss and acute rejection) have been reported
Other bias	High risk	"study was supported by Astellas Pharma, Munich, Germany"

**Hanaway 2008**

Methods	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• RCT</li> </ul>
Participants	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Setting: NS</li> <li>• Country: USA</li> <li>• Randomised and transplanted based on risk profile               <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>* High risk (HR): African-Americans; PRA <math>\geq</math> 20%; re-transplant</li> <li>* Low risk (LR): non-African-Americans; PRA &lt; 20%, primary transplant</li> </ul> </li> <li>• Age: Adults</li> <li>• Number (Bas-LR/CIH-LR/CIH-HR/Thymo-HR): 474 (171/164/70/69)</li> </ul>
Interventions	<p><b>Treatment group</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Basiliximab: 2 doses (20 mg) days 0-4</li> </ul> <p><b>Control group (CIH-LR/CIH-HR/Thymo-HR)</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Other antibodies (HR and LR patients given alemtuzumab)               <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>* Alemtuzumab (CIH): 30 mg, day 0</li> <li>* Thymoglobulin: 15 mg/kg/d, days 0-4</li> </ul> </li> </ul> <p><b>Baseline immunosuppression</b></p>

**Hanaway 2008** (Continued)

- TAC: NS
- MMF: NS
- Steroids: 1 g prior to discharge

- |          |   |
|----------|---|
| Outcomes | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Mortality</li> <li>• Graft loss</li> <li>• Acute rejection</li> <li>• Delayed graft function</li> <li>• Infection/CMV</li> <li>• Malignancy</li> </ul> |
|----------|---|

- |       |   |
|-------|---|
| Notes | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Groups 2 and 3 and 4 combined for comparison IL2R versus other antibody</li> <li>• 1 year follow-up</li> </ul> |
|-------|---|

**Risk of bias**

Bias	Authors' judgement	Support for judgement
Random sequence generation (selection bias)	Unclear risk	Stated "randomized" no further information provided
Allocation concealment (selection bias)	Unclear risk	Not stated
Blinding (performance bias and detection bias) Objective outcomes	Unclear risk	Not stated
Blinding (performance bias and detection bias) Subjective outcomes	Unclear risk	Not stated
Incomplete outcome data (attrition bias) All outcomes	High risk	All patient numbers listed under parameters in results table, however dichotomous results presented as percentages and no SD for continuous outcomes
Selective reporting (reporting bias)	High risk	Primary outcomes only reported as percentages
Other bias	High risk	Funding source not stated, 1 author employee of the pharmaceutical company Astellas Pharma U.S. Abstract only data available

**Hernandez 2007**

- |              |   |
|--------------|---|
| Methods      | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Open-label, 3-arm parallel RCT</li> <li>• Duration: 24 months</li> </ul>   |
| Participants | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Setting: Single centre</li> <li>• Country: Spain</li> <li>• First (91%) cadaveric (46%) kidney transplant; all low immunological risk</li> <li>• Age: &gt; 18 years</li> <li>• Number (group A/group B+C): 240 (80/160)</li> </ul> |

**Hernandez 2007** (Continued)

- Exclusions: PRA > 30% in previous 6 months; significant liver disease; malignancy; HIV; active peptic ulcer disease; intolerance to study drugs; grafts from non-heart beating donors; pregnancy

Interventions	<p><b>Treatment group 1 (B+C)</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Basiliximab (20 mg IV days 0 and 4)</li> </ul> <p><b>Treatment group 2 (A)</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• ATG (Thymoglobulin): 7-day course (1 -1.5mg/kg/d)</li> </ul> <p><b>Baseline immunosuppression</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Group A           <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>* CSA: 4 mg/kg twice daily, trough level 175-300 ng/mL for 3 months and 150-200 ng/mL thereafter</li> <li>* AZA: 1.5 mg/kg/d</li> <li>* Steroids</li> </ul> </li> <li>• Group B           <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>* CSA: 2 mg/kg twice daily, trough level 125-175 ng/mL throughout study</li> <li>* MMF: 2 g/d</li> <li>* Steroids</li> </ul> </li> <li>• Group C           <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>* TAC: 0.05 mg/kg twice daily, trough level 7-10 ng/mL throughout study</li> <li>* MMF: 2 g/d</li> <li>* Steroids</li> </ul> </li> </ul>
Outcomes	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Mortality</li> <li>• Graft loss</li> <li>• Acute rejection</li> <li>• Delayed graft function</li> <li>• Infection</li> <li>• CMV</li> <li>• Malignancy</li> </ul>
Notes	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 1 and 2 year follow-up</li> </ul>

**Risk of bias**

Bias	Authors' judgement	Support for judgement
Random sequence generation (selection bias)	Low risk	A "computer generated random number sequence" was used
Allocation concealment (selection bias)	Low risk	"Sequentially numbered sealed envelopes...concealed from the members who were involved in the enrolment of patients"
Blinding (performance bias and detection bias) Objective outcomes	High risk	"Neither patients nor clinicians were blinded to therapy". Blinding of outcome assessors not stated
Blinding (performance bias and detection bias) Subjective outcomes	High risk	"Neither patients nor clinicians were blinded to therapy". Blinding of outcome assessors not stated
Incomplete outcome data (attrition bias) All outcomes	Low risk	ITT analysis reported, 25% of randomised patients were excluded, however data for all patients has been reported



**Hernandez 2007** (Continued)

Selective reporting (reporting bias)	Low risk	Primary outcomes for this review (death, graft loss and acute rejection) have been reported. No study protocol available to assess secondary outcomes of study
Other bias	Low risk	Supported by grants FIS 02/1350 and FIS 04/0988 from Instituto de Salud Carlos III and RTIC (C03/03), Spanish Ministry of Health

**Hourmant 1994**

Methods	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Stratified RCT           <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>* &gt; 55 years</li> <li>* PRA more or less than 75%</li> <li>* Duration of first transplant more or less than 1 year</li> </ul> </li> </ul>
Participants	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Setting: Single centre</li> <li>Country: France</li> <li>Second kidney transplant</li> <li>Age (&lt; 55 years)           <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>* Treatment group: 85%</li> <li>* Control group: 85%</li> </ul> </li> <li>Number (treatment/control):40 (20/20)</li> <li>Sex (M/F)           <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>* Treatment group: 11/9</li> <li>* Control group: 12/8</li> </ul> </li> <li>Exclusions: 33B3.1 during first transplant; intolerance to ATG</li> </ul>
Interventions	<p><b>Treatment group</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>33B3.1: 10 mg/d for 10 days</li> </ul> <p><b>Control group</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>ATG: 1 mg/kg/d for 10 days</li> </ul> <p><b>Baseline immunosuppression</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>CSA: 8 mg/kg/d on day 9; trough levels 150-250 ng/mL</li> <li>AZA: 2 mg/kg/d</li> <li>Steroids: 10 mg/wk in first week and tapered over 6 weeks</li> </ul>
Outcomes	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Mortality</li> <li>Graft loss</li> <li>Acute rejection</li> <li>CMV</li> </ul>
Notes	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1 year follow-up</li> </ul>

**Risk of bias**

Bias	Authors' judgement	Support for judgement
Random sequence generation (selection bias)	Unclear risk	Stated "randomized" and "allocation stratified" no further information provided

**Hourmant 1994** (Continued)

Allocation concealment (selection bias)	Unclear risk	Not stated
Blinding (performance bias and detection bias) Objective outcomes	Unclear risk	Not stated
Blinding (performance bias and detection bias) Subjective outcomes	Unclear risk	Not stated
Incomplete outcome data (attrition bias) All outcomes	Low risk	All patients followed up or accounted for
Selective reporting (reporting bias)	Low risk	Primary outcomes for this review (death, graft loss and acute rejection) have been reported
Other bias	Unclear risk	Funding source not stated

**Ji 2007**

Methods	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>RCT</li> </ul>
Participants	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Single centre</li> <li>Country: China</li> <li>First cadaveric kidney transplant</li> <li>Mean age (<math>\pm</math> SD)           <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>* Treatment group: <math>35.4 \pm 11.1</math></li> <li>* Control group: <math>35.9 \pm 12.1</math></li> </ul> </li> <li>Number (treatment/control): 118 (58/60)</li> </ul>
Interventions	<p><b>Treatment group</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Daclizumab: Single dose 1mg/kg day 0</li> </ul> <p><b>Control group</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Nothing</li> </ul> <p><b>Baseline immunosuppression</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>CSA: Tapered trough target level - 150-200, 100-150 and 80-100 ng/mL at 1, 3 and 6 months</li> <li>MMF: 1.5 g/d</li> <li>Steroids</li> </ul>
Outcomes	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Mortality</li> <li>Graft loss</li> <li>Acute rejection</li> <li>Graft function</li> <li>Infection</li> <li>Malignancy</li> </ul>
Notes	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1 year follow-up</li> </ul>

**Ji 2007** (Continued)

**Risk of bias**

Bias	Authors' judgement	Support for judgement
Random sequence generation (selection bias)	Unclear risk	Stated "randomized", no further information provided
Allocation concealment (selection bias)	Unclear risk	Not stated
Blinding (performance bias and detection bias) Objective outcomes	Unclear risk	Not stated
Blinding (performance bias and detection bias) Subjective outcomes	Unclear risk	Not stated
Incomplete outcome data (attrition bias) All outcomes	Low risk	All patients followed up and accounted for
Selective reporting (reporting bias)	Low risk	Primary outcomes for this review (death, graft loss and acute rejection) have been reported. No study protocol available to assess secondary outcomes of study
Other bias	Unclear risk	No funding source stated

**Kahan 1999**

Methods	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Placebo controlled RCT</li> <li>• Stratified based on donor source</li> </ul>
Participants	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Setting: National multicentre (21)</li> <li>• Country: USA</li> <li>• First, cadaveric (70%) or living donor kidney transplant</li> <li>• Mean age (<math>\pm</math> SD)               <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>* Treatment group: 44.9 <math>\pm</math> 11.79</li> <li>* Control group: 46.2 <math>\pm</math> 12.00</li> </ul> </li> <li>• Number (treatment/control): 348 randomised, 346 analysed (174/173)</li> <li>• Sex (M/F)               <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>* Treatment group: 117/56</li> <li>* Control group: 106/67</li> </ul> </li> </ul>
Interventions	<p><b>Treatment group</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Basiliximab: 20 mg on days 0 and 4</li> </ul> <p><b>Control group</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Placebo</li> </ul> <p><b>Baseline immunosuppression</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• CSA: trough levels 150-450 ng/mL (weeks 1-4), 100-300 ng/mL for remainder of study</li> </ul>

**Kahan 1999** (Continued)

- Steroids: 0.5-2.0 mg/kg/d taper to 20 mg/d by day 21 and at least 7.5.mg/d by day 90

Outcomes	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Mortality</li> <li>• Graft loss</li> <li>• Acute rejection</li> <li>• Infection/CMV</li> <li>• Delayed graft function</li> <li>• Malignancy</li> </ul>
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Notes	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 1 year follow-up</li> </ul>
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**Risk of bias**

Bias	Authors' judgement	Support for judgement
Random sequence generation (selection bias)	Unclear risk	Stated "randomized" no further information provided
Allocation concealment (selection bias)	Unclear risk	Not stated
Blinding (performance bias and detection bias) Objective outcomes	Unclear risk	Double blind, blinding of outcome assessors not stated
Blinding (performance bias and detection bias) Subjective outcomes	Unclear risk	Double blind, blinding of outcome assessors not stated
Incomplete outcome data (attrition bias) All outcomes	Low risk	ITT analysis reported, 2 patients (1 from each group) were not transplanted. All other patients followed up or accounted for
Selective reporting (reporting bias)	Low risk	Primary outcomes for this review (death, graft loss and acute rejection) have been reported
Other bias	High risk	Supported by a grant from Novartis Pharmaceuticals

**Kaplan 2003**

Methods	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Randomised pilot study</li> <li>• 1 year follow up</li> </ul>
Participants	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Setting: Multicentre (2)</li> <li>• Country: USA</li> <li>• Kidney transplant recipients over 60 years old</li> </ul>
Interventions	<p><b>Treatment group</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Basiliximab (with Neoral and prednisone)</li> </ul> <p><b>Control group</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• MMF, Neoral and prednisone</li> </ul>
Outcomes	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Acute rejection</li> </ul>

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**Kaplan 2003** (Continued)

- Graft survival
- Mortality
- Creatinine
- Infections necessitating hospitalization
- Haemoglobin

Notes

- Abstract only

**Risk of bias**

Bias	Authors' judgement	Support for judgement
Random sequence generation (selection bias)	Unclear risk	Not stated
Allocation concealment (selection bias)	Unclear risk	Not stated
Blinding (performance bias and detection bias) Objective outcomes	Unclear risk	Not stated
Blinding (performance bias and detection bias) Subjective outcomes	Unclear risk	Not stated
Incomplete outcome data (attrition bias) All outcomes	Unclear risk	Not stated
Selective reporting (reporting bias)	Unclear risk	Not stated
Other bias	Unclear risk	Not stated

**Khan 2000**

Methods

- Single centre RCT
- Duration: February 1998 to December 1999

Participants

- Country: USA
- Donor source/recipient status: NS
- Age: NS
- Number (group 1/group 2): 59 (29/30)
- Sex: NS
- Exclusions: NS

Interventions

**Treatment group 1**

- Basiliximab dose: NS

**Treatment group 2**

- Daclizumab dose: NS

**Baseline immunosuppression**
**Interleukin 2 receptor antagonists for kidney transplant recipients (Review)**

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**Khan 2000** (Continued)

- TAC or CSA: Numbers and dosage not stated
- MMF: Three received AZA instead, group not stated
- Steroids: Dosage not stated

Outcomes	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Acute rejection</li> </ul>
Notes	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 3 month follow-up</li> <li>• Trial on-going</li> <li>• Data from abstract only</li> </ul>

**Risk of bias**

Bias	Authors' judgement	Support for judgement
Random sequence generation (selection bias)	Unclear risk	Stated "randomized", not further information provided
Allocation concealment (selection bias)	Unclear risk	No stated
Blinding (performance bias and detection bias) Objective outcomes	Unclear risk	No stated
Blinding (performance bias and detection bias) Subjective outcomes	Unclear risk	No stated
Incomplete outcome data (attrition bias) All outcomes	Unclear risk	All patients followed up or accounted for, however results only available for conference proceedings abstract
Selective reporting (reporting bias)	High risk	Only the primary outcome of acute rejection reported in conference proceedings abstract
Other bias	Unclear risk	Funding source not stated

**Kim 2008a**

Methods	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Single centre, open-label randomised pilot study</li> <li>• Follow up for 2 years</li> </ul>
Participants	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Country: Switzerland</li> <li>• High risk patients recruited</li> <li>• Donor source/recipient status: From deceased (21/22) or living donor (1/22)</li> <li>• Age: Over 18 years. Range 34-68</li> <li>• Number (group 1/group 2): 22 (11/11)</li> <li>• Sex: 6/22 Male (27%)</li> <li>• Exclusions: Graft from a HLA-identical living donor, clinically relevant infections, malignancy except skin tumours, pre-transplant leucopenia (&lt; 2000/mm<sup>3</sup>) or thrombocytopenia (&lt; 50,000/mm<sup>3</sup>), significant hepatic or gastrointestinal disorders, positive human anti-rabbit or anti-mouse antibodies</li> </ul>
Interventions	<b>Treatment group</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Daclizumab 1mg/kg perioperatively and on days 14, 28, 42, 56</li> </ul>

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**Kim 2008a** (Continued)

**Control group**

- ATG-Fresenius 9 mg/kg perioperatively

**Baseline immunosuppression**

- Both groups received MMF, CSA and prednisone

Outcomes	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Mortality</li> <li>• Graft survival</li> <li>• Acute rejection</li> <li>• Creatinine concentration</li> <li>• Urine protein/creatinine ratio</li> <li>• Blood pressure</li> <li>• Adverse events</li> <li>• Cost</li> </ul>
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Notes

**Risk of bias**

Bias	Authors' judgement	Support for judgement
Random sequence generation (selection bias)	Unclear risk	Stated "randomized", not further information provided
Allocation concealment (selection bias)	Unclear risk	Not stated
Blinding (performance bias and detection bias) Objective outcomes	High risk	"open-label"
Blinding (performance bias and detection bias) Subjective outcomes	High risk	"open-label"
Incomplete outcome data (attrition bias) All outcomes	High risk	Patients excluded from analysis post randomisation
Selective reporting (reporting bias)	Low risk	All outcomes reported
Other bias	Unclear risk	Not stated

**Kirkman 1989**

Methods	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Parallel RCT</li> </ul>
Participants	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Setting: Two centres</li> <li>• Country: USA</li> <li>• First cadaveric kidney transplant</li> <li>• Age: NS</li> <li>• Number (treatment/control): 21 (12/9)</li> </ul>

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**Kirkman 1989** (Continued)

- Sex (M/F): NS

Interventions	<p><b>Treatment group</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Anti-Tac (20 mg/d for 10 days from transplantation) + baseline immunosuppression</li> </ul> <p><b>Control group</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Baseline immunosuppression only</li> </ul> <p><b>Baseline immunosuppression (2 regimens)</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Cyclosporin (12 mg/kg/d) + steroids (30 mg/d), OR</li> <li>• Cyclosporin (8 mg/kg/d) + azathioprine (2 mg/kg/d) + steroids (30 mg/d)</li> </ul> <p><b>Co-interventions</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Acute rejection: Steroid pulse 1 g IV every day for 3 days</li> </ul>
Outcomes	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Mortality</li> <li>• Graft loss</li> <li>• Acute rejection</li> </ul>
Notes	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Study has 3 protocols; only data from protocol 1 included here.</li> <li>• Additional data, from protocol 2 and 3, recorded in <a href="#">Kirkman 1991</a>.</li> <li>• Range of follow-up given, 12-21 months, contributes to 1 year outcome data</li> </ul>

**Risk of bias**

Bias	Authors' judgement	Support for judgement
Random sequence generation (selection bias)	Unclear risk	Stated "patients randomized", no further information provided
Allocation concealment (selection bias)	Low risk	"patients were randomized to experimental or control groups by a sealed envelope technique"
Blinding (performance bias and detection bias) Objective outcomes	Unclear risk	Not stated
Blinding (performance bias and detection bias) Subjective outcomes	Unclear risk	Not stated
Incomplete outcome data (attrition bias) All outcomes	Low risk	All patients were followed up for 12 months
Selective reporting (reporting bias)	Low risk	Primary outcomes for this review (death, graft loss and acute rejection) have been reported. No study protocol available to assess secondary outcomes of study
Other bias	Low risk	Study funded by NIH. Unlikely to significantly influence on results



**Kirkman 1991**

Methods	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Parallel RCT</li> </ul>
Participants	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Setting: Two centres</li> <li>Country: USA</li> <li>First cadaveric kidney transplant</li> <li>Mean age (range)           <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>* Treatment group: 43.8 (20-61)</li> <li>* Control group: 44.0 (16.63)</li> </ul> </li> <li>Number (treatment/control): 80 (40/40)</li> <li>Sex (M/F)           <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>* Treatment group: 23/17</li> <li>* Control group: 26/14</li> </ul> </li> </ul>
Interventions	<p><b>Treatment group</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Anti-Tac (20 mg/d for 10 days from transplantation)</li> <li>Immunosuppression:           <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>* CSA: 4 mg/kg/d orally. or 1.5 mg/kg/d IV till day 11 then increased to 8 mg/kg/d orally.</li> <li>* Azathioprine: 2 mg/kg/d IV or orally.</li> <li>* Steroids: 30 mg/d</li> </ul> </li> </ul> <p><b>Control group</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Immunosuppression only           <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>* CSA: 8 mg/kg/d orally. or 3 mg/kg/d IV from day of transplant</li> <li>* Azathioprine: 2 mg/kg/d IV or orally.</li> <li>* Steroids: 30 mg/d</li> </ul> </li> </ul>
Outcomes	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Mortality</li> <li>Graft loss</li> <li>Acute rejection</li> <li>Infection/CMV</li> <li>Delayed graft function</li> </ul>
Notes	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Range of follow-up available overall, 6-26 months</li> <li>Data contributes to time frame stated for each outcome</li> </ul>

**Risk of bias**

Bias	Authors' judgement	Support for judgement
Random sequence generation (selection bias)	Unclear risk	Stated "patients randomized", no further information provided
Allocation concealment (selection bias)	Low risk	"patients were randomized to either the experimental or control groups by a sealed envelope technique"
Blinding (performance bias and detection bias) Objective outcomes	High risk	"study was not blinded to either participants or investigators"
Blinding (performance bias and detection bias) Subjective outcomes	High risk	"study was not blinded to either participants or investigators"

**Kirkman 1991** (Continued)

Incomplete outcome data (attrition bias) All outcomes	Low risk	All patients accounted for and/or data reported
Selective reporting (reporting bias)	Low risk	Primary outcomes for this review (death, graft loss and acute rejection) have been reported. No study protocol available to assess secondary outcomes of study
Other bias	Low risk	Study funded by NIH contract No. I-A1-82512. Unlikely to significantly influence on results

**Kriaa 1993**

Methods	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Single centre RCT</li> <li>• Duration: May 1990 to June 1991</li> </ul>
Participants	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Country: France</li> <li>• Cadaveric kidney transplant (first or subsequent: NS)</li> <li>• Mean age (<math>\pm</math> SD)           <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>* Group 1: 42.1 <math>\pm</math> 12.4</li> <li>* Group 2: 39.3 <math>\pm</math> 11.3</li> </ul> </li> <li>• Number (group 1/group 2): 40 (20/20)</li> <li>• Sex (M/F)           <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>* Group 1: 13/7</li> <li>* Group 2: 10/10</li> </ul> </li> <li>• Exclusions: Previous transplant; active infection</li> </ul>
Interventions	<p><b>Treatment group 1</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Lo-tact-1: 10 mg/d for 14 days</li> </ul> <p><b>Treatment group 2</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• ALG (Thymoglobuline): 15 mg/d for 14 days</li> </ul> <p><b>Baseline immunosuppression</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• CSA: 4 mg/kg day 0 then 8 mg/kg. Dose adjust for trough levels of 400-800 ng/mL (0-6 months), 150-200 ng/mL (at 6 months) and 50-100 ng/mL at 5 years</li> <li>• AZA: 1 mg/kg/d from day 45</li> <li>• Steroids: 2 mg/kg (day 0) 0.5 mg/kg/d (days 1-14) tapered to 10 mg/d at 1 month.</li> </ul> <p>Cointerventions: Prophylactic antibiotics (ampicillin, oxacillin and gentamycin on days 0 and 2; sul-famethozazole-trimethoprim for first month)</p>
Outcomes	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Mortality</li> <li>• Graft loss</li> <li>• Acute rejection</li> <li>• Chronic allograft nephropathy</li> <li>• Infection/CMV</li> <li>• Adverse reaction</li> </ul>
Notes	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 1 and 10 year follow-up</li> </ul>

**Risk of bias**
**Interleukin 2 receptor antagonists for kidney transplant recipients (Review)**

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**Kriiaa 1993** (Continued)

Bias	Authors' judgement	Support for judgement
Random sequence generation (selection bias)	Low risk	Patients were allocated using a "randomization table"
Allocation concealment (selection bias)	Low risk	Sealed envelopes were used
Blinding (performance bias and detection bias) Objective outcomes	Unclear risk	Blinding or outcome assessors not stated
Blinding (performance bias and detection bias) Subjective outcomes	Unclear risk	Blinding of outcome assessors not stated
Incomplete outcome data (attrition bias) All outcomes	Low risk	All patients followed up or accounted for
Selective reporting (reporting bias)	Low risk	Primary outcomes of this review (death, graft loss and acute rejection) were reported
Other bias	High risk	Funding source not stated, 1/7 authors employee of Technopharm

**Kumar 2005**

Methods	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Single centre RCT</li> <li>• Duration: June 2000 to November 2002</li> </ul>
Participants	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Country: USA</li> <li>• First, cadaveric (86%) or living donor, kidney transplant. All non-sensitised</li> <li>• Mean age (<math>\pm</math> SD)               <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>* Group 1: 50 <math>\pm</math> 13</li> <li>* Group 2: 64 <math>\pm</math> 13</li> </ul> </li> <li>• Number (group 1/group 2): 27 (45/32)</li> <li>• Sex (M/F)               <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>* Group 1: 32/13</li> <li>* Group 2: 23/9</li> </ul> </li> <li>• Exclusions: Immunologically sensitised patients (PRA &gt; 10%; seropositive for HIV or HbsAg)</li> </ul>
Interventions	<p><b>Treatment group 1</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Basiliximab               <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>* All received 20 mg on days 0 and 4</li> <li>* First 17 patients also received 20 mg on days 60 and 64</li> </ul> </li> <li>• Steroids               <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>* First 17 patients: 250 mg IV on day 0 and 125 mg IV on day 1, day 2 oral 300 mg/d tapered by 5 mg/d and discontinued on day 7</li> <li>* Remaining patients (28): 250 mg IV on day 0 and 125 mg IV on day 1 only</li> </ul> </li> </ul> <p><b>Treatment group 2</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Basiliximab: 20 mg on days 0 and 4)</li> </ul>

**Kumar 2005** (Continued)

- Steroids: 250 mg IV on day 0 and 125 mg IV on day 1, day 2 oral 300 mg/d tapered to 5 mg/d and then maintained

**Baseline immunosuppression**

- CSA: 4-10 mg/kg/d and adjusted to trough levels of 250-300 ng/mL (days 0-100), 200-250 ng/mL (days 100-365) and 150-200 ng/mL (after 1 year)
- MMF dose: 2 g/d increasing to 3 g/d if tolerated
- Sirolimus: For those intolerant to MMF, 5 mg/d adjusted to target levels 5-10 ng/mL

Outcomes	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Mortality</li> <li>• Graft loss</li> <li>• Acute rejection</li> <li>• Chronic allograft nephropathy</li> </ul>
Notes	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 1 year follow-up</li> <li>• Study unblinded and randomisation stopped after first 77 patients</li> </ul>

**Risk of bias**

Bias	Authors' judgement	Support for judgement
Random sequence generation (selection bias)	Low risk	"Randomization was completed using the First Generator Plan from randomization.com" ( <a href="http://www.randomization.com/">http://www.randomization.com/</a> )
Allocation concealment (selection bias)	Unclear risk	Not stated
Blinding (performance bias and detection bias) Objective outcomes	High risk	After 77 enrolments, patients were shown the results of the interim analyses - no further enrolments took place. Blinding of outcome assessors not stated
Blinding (performance bias and detection bias) Subjective outcomes	High risk	After 77 enrolments, patients were shown the results of the interim analyses - no further enrolments took place. Blinding of outcome assessors not stated
Incomplete outcome data (attrition bias) All outcomes	Low risk	All patients followed up or accounted for
Selective reporting (reporting bias)	Unclear risk	Primary outcomes for this review (death, graft loss and acute rejection) have been reported
Other bias	Unclear risk	"Funded internally from clinical revenue. The manuscript was supported by an unrestricted educational grant from Novartis Pharmaceuticals Corporation"

**Kyllonen 2007**

Methods	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Single centre open RCT</li> <li>• Duration: December 1999 to March 2001</li> <li>• Randomised in a ratio of 5:5:4 initially and then after withdrawals changed to 8:4:2 "to keep group sizes adequate"</li> </ul>
Participants	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Country: Finland</li> <li>• First (82%) or repeat cadaveric kidney transplant</li> </ul>

**Kyllonen 2007** (Continued)

- Mean age (range)
  - \* Group 1: 45.5 (22-65)
  - \* Group 2: 47.8 (22-64)
  - \* Control group: 47.5 (28-64)
- Number (group 1/group 2/control): 168 randomised, 155 analysed (58/53/44)
- Sex (M/F)
  - \* Group 1: 27/31
  - \* Group 2: 14/39
  - \* Control group: 15/29
- Exclusions: Age < 16 years and > 65 years; history of malignant disease; PRA > 50%; previous graft loss with 1 year of transplant for immunological reasons

## Interventions

**Treatment group 1**

- Basiliximab: 20 mg days 0 and 4
- Low dose CSA: 2.5 mg/kg/d day 0, 5 mg/kg/d (to day 7) then adjusted to maintain trough level of 200-300 µg/L

**Treatment group 2**

- ATG bolus: 9 mg/kg day 0
- Low dose CSA: 2.5 mg/kg/d day 0, 5 mg/kg/d (to day 7) then adjusted to maintain trough level of 200-300 µg/L

**Control group**

- CSA: 5 mg/kg/d day 0, 10 mg/kg/d (to day 7) then adjusted to maintain trough level of 200-300 µg/L

**Baseline immunosuppression**

- AZA: 100 mg (day 0), 2 mg/kg/d tapered to 1 mg/kg/d by day 14
- Steroids: 250 mg (day 0), 40 mg/d (days 1-4), tapered to 20 mg/d (day 16) and 10-12 mg/d (by 3 months)

## Outcomes

- Mortality
- Graft loss
- Acute rejection
- Delayed graft function

## Notes

- Group 1 and 3 analysed in IL2Ra versus placebo/no treatment comparison
- Group 1 and 2 analysed in IL2Ra versus other antibody comparison
- 3 year follow-up

**Risk of bias**

Bias	Authors' judgement	Support for judgement
Random sequence generation (selection bias)	Low risk	Block randomisation 5:5:4 then changed to 8:4:2
Allocation concealment (selection bias)	Low risk	Computer-generated numbered randomisation slips were sealed into consecutively numbered envelopes by a person not connected with the study
Blinding (performance bias and detection bias) Objective outcomes	High risk	Open-label, blinding of outcome assessors not reported
Blinding (performance bias and detection bias)	High risk	Open-label, blinding of outcome assessors not reported

**Kyllonen 2007** (Continued)

## Subjective outcomes

Incomplete outcome data (attrition bias) All outcomes	High risk	Not ITT, patients were withdrawn after randomisation
Selective reporting (reporting bias)	Unclear risk	Primary outcomes for this review (death, graft loss and acute rejection) were reported
Other bias	Low risk	Supported by the Helsinki university Hospital Research Fund

**Lacha 2001**

Methods	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>open label RCT</li> </ul>
Participants	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Setting: Single centre</li> <li>Country: Czech Republic</li> <li>Immunologically high risk kidney transplant recipients (PRA &gt; 50% or previous graft loss due to rejection during first year)</li> <li>Age: NS</li> <li>Number (group 1/group 2): 72 (38/34)</li> <li>Exclusions: NS</li> </ul>
Interventions	<p><b>Treatment group 1</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Daclizumab: 2 mg/kg then 1 mg/kg on day 7, 14 and 28</li> </ul> <p><b>Treatment group 2</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Muromonab-CD3: 5 mg day 1 then 2.5 mg days 2-7</li> </ul> <p><b>Baseline immunosuppression</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>CSA: 8 mg/kg then tapered according to trough levels (NS)</li> <li>MMF: 2 g/d</li> <li>Steroids: NS</li> </ul>
Outcomes	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Graft loss</li> <li>Acute rejection</li> <li>CMV</li> <li>Adverse reaction</li> </ul>
Notes	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>6 month follow-up</li> <li>New data available from 2004 abstract (more participants)</li> </ul>

**Risk of bias**

Bias	Authors' judgement	Support for judgement
Random sequence generation (selection bias)	Unclear risk	Stated "randomised" no further information provided
Allocation concealment (selection bias)	Unclear risk	Not stated

**Lacha 2001** (Continued)

Blinding (performance bias and detection bias) Objective outcomes	Unclear risk	Open-label, blinding of outcome assessors not stated
Blinding (performance bias and detection bias) Subjective outcomes	Unclear risk	Open-label, blinding of outcome assessors not stated
Incomplete outcome data (attrition bias) All outcomes	Unclear risk	Unclear reporting of numbers in each group
Selective reporting (reporting bias)	Unclear risk	Death not reported, discussion states "...graft outcomes, survival rates and graft function is similar in both groups"
Other bias	Unclear risk	Source of funding not stated

**Lawen 2003**

Methods	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Placebo-controlled RCT</li> <li>• Stratified in each cohort by first or second transplant</li> <li>• Duration: April 1998 to June 1999</li> </ul>
Participants	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Setting: International multicentre (16)</li> <li>• Countries: Austria, Canada, France, Germany, Spain, USA</li> <li>• First (89%) or second, cadaveric (76%) or HLA non identical living-related-unrelated kidney transplant</li> <li>• Mean age (<math>\pm</math> SD)           <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>* Treatment group: 45.4 <math>\pm</math> 13.1</li> <li>* Control group: 45.9 <math>\pm</math> 12.1</li> </ul> </li> <li>• Number (treatment/control): 123 (59/64)</li> <li>• Sex (M/F)           <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>* Treatment group: 45/14</li> <li>* Control group: 41/23</li> </ul> </li> <li>• Exclusions: third or subsequent transplant; previous non-kidney transplant; multiple organ transplant; positive HIV; active hepatitis; history of malignancy in last 5 years; immunosuppression in previous 6 months</li> </ul>
Interventions	<p><b>Treatment group</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Basiliximab: 20 mg on days 0 and 4</li> </ul> <p><b>Control group</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Placebo</li> </ul> <p><b>Baseline immunosuppression</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• CSA: initially 8-10 mg/kg/d, then adjust for trough levels 150-450 ng/mL (days 0-14), 100-400 ng/mL (weeks 3-13) and 100-250 ng/mL (months 4-6)</li> <li>• MMF: 2-3 g/d for 6 months</li> <li>• Steroids: Maximum 500 mg/d (according to local practice), then 20 mg/d for 6 months, tapered according to local practice</li> </ul>
Outcomes	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Mortality</li> <li>• Graft loss</li> </ul>

**Lawen 2003** (Continued)

- Acute rejection
- Infection/CMV
- Delayed graft function
- Malignancy

Notes

- 1 year follow-up

**Risk of bias**

Bias	Authors' judgement	Support for judgement
Random sequence generation (selection bias)	Unclear risk	Stated "randomised" on 1:1 basis and "stratified" based on 1st or 2nd transplant, no further information provided
Allocation concealment (selection bias)	Unclear risk	Not stated
Blinding (performance bias and detection bias) Objective outcomes	Unclear risk	"Participating centres and patients remained blinded up to the end of the 12 month database lock", blinding of outcome assessors not stated
Blinding (performance bias and detection bias) Subjective outcomes	Unclear risk	"Participating centres and patients remained blinded up to the end of the 12 month database lock", blinding of outcome assessors not stated
Incomplete outcome data (attrition bias) All outcomes	Low risk	ITT analysis reported - all patients randomised were analysed (8 did not receive 2nd dose)
Selective reporting (reporting bias)	Low risk	Primary outcomes for this review (death graft loss and acute rejection) have been reported
Other bias	High risk	Supported by Novartis, 2/12 authors employees of Novartis

**Lebranchu 2002**

Methods

- Parallel open label RCT

Participants

- Setting: Multicentre (9)
- Country: France
- First cadaveric kidney transplant
- Age: 18-60 years
  - \* Group 1: Mean 44.1 years ( $\pm$  11.5 SD)
  - \* Group 2: Mean 45.8 years ( $\pm$  10.8 SD)
- Number (group 1/group 2): 100 (50/50)
- Sex (M/F)
  - \* Group 1: 36/14
  - \* Group 2: 32/18
- Exclusions: Previous transplant; planned induction therapy with ALG, ATG, OKT3; malignancy in last 5 years; PRA > 25%; positive T-cell cross match/ABO incompatibility; negative EBV; women not using contraception

Interventions

**Basiliximab group**

- 20 mg IV bolus injection on day 0 and day 4



**Lebranchu 2002** (Continued)

- Baseline immunosuppression

**ATG group**

- 1-1.5 mg/kg/day IV and adjusted to maintain CD2+ or CD3+ counts below 20/mm<sup>3</sup>
- Baseline immunosuppression

**Baseline immunosuppression**

- CSA 6-8 mg/kg (trough levels 150-250 ng/mL, day 0-14; 150-200 ng/mL day 15-week 12; 125-175 ng/mL weeks 13-24)
- Steroids: 250 mg day 0; 1.0 mg/kg days 1-7; 0.5 mg/kg days 8-14 and then tapered
- MMF: 2 g/d throughout the study

Outcomes	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Mortality</li> <li>• Graft loss</li> <li>• Acute rejection</li> <li>• Infection/CMV</li> <li>• Delayed graft function</li> <li>• Adverse reaction</li> <li>• Malignancy</li> </ul>
Notes	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 1 and 5 year follow-up</li> </ul>

**Risk of bias**

Bias	Authors' judgement	Support for judgement
Random sequence generation (selection bias)	Unclear risk	Stated "open randomised" but no further information provided
Allocation concealment (selection bias)	Unclear risk	Not stated
Blinding (performance bias and detection bias) Objective outcomes	High risk	Open-label, blinding of outcome assessors not stated
Blinding (performance bias and detection bias) Subjective outcomes	High risk	Open-label, blinding of outcome assessors not stated
Incomplete outcome data (attrition bias) All outcomes	Low risk	All patients accounted for and/or data reported
Selective reporting (reporting bias)	Low risk	Primary outcomes for this review (death, graft loss and acute rejection) have been reported. No study protocol available to assess secondary outcomes of study.
Other bias	High risk	Study supported by Novartis, France

**Lin 2006**

Methods	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Single centre RCT</li> </ul>
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**Lin 2006** (Continued)

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Duration: NS</li> </ul>
Participants	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Country: China</li> <li>First cadaveric kidney transplant</li> <li>Mean age (<math>\pm</math> SD)           <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>* Group 1: 40.3 <math>\pm</math> 3.5</li> <li>* Group 2: 41.0 <math>\pm</math> 2.8</li> </ul> </li> <li>Number (group 1/group 2): 58 (30/28)</li> <li>Sex (M/F)           <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>* Group 1: 19/11</li> <li>* Group 2: 18/10</li> </ul> </li> <li>Exclusions: NS</li> </ul>
Interventions	<p><b>Treatment group 1</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Basiliximab: 20 mg days 0 and 4</li> </ul> <p><b>Treatment group 2</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Daclizumab: 50 mg days 0 and 15</li> </ul> <p><b>Baseline immunosuppression</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>CSA: Initial dose 6 mg/kg/d tapered to 4 mg/kg/d (3 months) and 3-4 mg/kg/d thereafter based on trough levels (NS)</li> <li>MMF: Initial dose 1.5 g/d reduced to 1 g/d at 1 month</li> <li>Steroids: Initial dose 30 mg/d, reduced to 20 mg/d at 3 weeks and 10-15 mg/d at six months</li> </ul>
Outcomes	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Mortality</li> <li>Graft loss</li> <li>Acute rejection</li> <li>Infection</li> <li>Malignancy</li> </ul>
Notes	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1 year follow-up</li> </ul>

**Risk of bias**

Bias	Authors' judgement	Support for judgement
Random sequence generation (selection bias)	Unclear risk	Stated "randomised", no further information provided
Allocation concealment (selection bias)	Unclear risk	Not stated
Blinding (performance bias and detection bias) Objective outcomes	High risk	Open-label, blinding of outcome assessors not stated
Blinding (performance bias and detection bias) Subjective outcomes	High risk	Open-label, blinding of outcome assessors not stated
Incomplete outcome data (attrition bias) All outcomes	Low risk	All patients followed up or accounted for

**Lin 2006** (Continued)

Selective reporting (reporting bias)	Low risk	Primary outcomes for this review (death, graft loss and acute rejection) were reported
Other bias	Unclear risk	Funding source not stated

**Locke 2008**

Methods	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>RCT</li> </ul>
Participants	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Setting: Not stated</li> <li>Country: USA</li> <li>Highly sensitized ESKD patients, live donor</li> <li>Age: Adults</li> <li>Number (group 1/group 2): 33 (17/16)</li> </ul>
Interventions	<p><b>Treatment group 1</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Daclizumab: Regimen not stated</li> </ul> <p><b>Treatment group 2</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>ATG (Thymoglobulin): Regimen not stated</li> </ul> <p><b>Baseline immunosuppression</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>NS</li> </ul>
Outcomes	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Mortality</li> <li>Graft loss</li> <li>Acute rejection</li> <li>Infection</li> <li>Adverse reactions</li> <li>Malignancy</li> <li>Delayed graft function</li> </ul>
Notes	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>6 month follow-up</li> <li>Ongoing trial, data provided for acute clinical rejection only</li> </ul>

**Risk of bias**

Bias	Authors' judgement	Support for judgement
Random sequence generation (selection bias)	Unclear risk	Stated "randomised" no further information provided
Allocation concealment (selection bias)	Unclear risk	Not stated
Blinding (performance bias and detection bias) Objective outcomes	Unclear risk	Not stated
Blinding (performance bias and detection bias) Subjective outcomes	Unclear risk	Not stated

**Locke 2008** (Continued)

Incomplete outcome data (attrition bias) All outcomes	Unclear risk	Interim results only available from conference proceedings abstract
Selective reporting (reporting bias)	High risk	Acute rejection results at 6 months only available. States "no significant differences at 6 months between the two treatment arms with regards to patient and graft survival, infection, adverse drug events, malignancy, delayed graft function, and length of stay." No numbers provided
Other bias	High risk	Funding source not stated; abstract only data available

**Martin Garcia 2003**

Methods	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Quasi-RCT: no information provided on randomisation</li> </ul>	
Participants	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Setting: Single centre</li> <li>Country: Spain</li> <li>First kidney transplant</li> <li>Mean age <math>\pm</math> SD                             <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>* Group I: 44 <math>\pm</math> 12</li> <li>* Group II: 58 <math>\pm</math> 10</li> <li>* Group III: 53 <math>\pm</math> 13</li> </ul> </li> <li>Number (treatment/control): 95 (60/35)</li> <li>Sex (M/F): NS</li> </ul>	
Interventions	<p><b>Treatment group (groups II and III)</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Basiliximab: 20 mg on day 0 and 4</li> </ul> <p><b>Control group (group I)</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>None</li> </ul> <p><b>Baseline immunosuppression</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Group I                             <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>* CSA: 8 mg/kg/d initially and adjusted according to levels</li> <li>* Steroids: 0.5 mg/kg/d initially and reduced to 10 mg/d by 6th month</li> </ul> </li> <li>Group II                             <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>* CSA: 8 mg/kg/d initially and adjusted according to levels</li> <li>* Steroids: 0.5 mg/kg/d initially and reduced to 10 mg/d by 6th month</li> </ul> </li> <li>Group III                             <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>* TAC: 0.2 mg mg/kg/d initially and adjusted according to levels</li> <li>* Steroids: 0.3 mg/kg/d initially and reduced to 5 mg/d by 3rd month</li> </ul> </li> </ul>	
Outcomes	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Acute rejection</li> <li>Infection - Lip herpes</li> </ul>	
Notes	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Group II and III combined for treatment group</li> </ul>	
<b>Risk of bias</b>		
<b>Bias</b>	<b>Authors' judgement</b>	<b>Support for judgement</b>

**Martin Garcia 2003** (Continued)

Random sequence generation (selection bias)	Unclear risk	Abstract states "patients were included in a random way" and main text states "3 groups were separated, according to the immunosuppressive treatment"
Allocation concealment (selection bias)	Unclear risk	Not stated
Blinding (performance bias and detection bias) Objective outcomes	Unclear risk	Not stated
Blinding (performance bias and detection bias) Subjective outcomes	Unclear risk	Not stated
Incomplete outcome data (attrition bias) All outcomes	Unclear risk	Unclear on initial numbers, if the study was randomised, and only 2 outcomes were reported
Selective reporting (reporting bias)	High risk	Only acute rejection and lip herpes were reported at 1 year
Other bias	Unclear risk	Funding source not stated

**Matl 2001**

Methods	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Parallel, multi centre (6) RCT</li> <li>Duration: September 1997 to April 2000</li> </ul>
Participants	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Countries: Czech Republic, Poland</li> <li>First, mismatched cadaveric kidney transplant</li> <li>Mean age (<math>\pm</math> SD)               <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>* Group 1: 50.1 <math>\pm</math> 11.11</li> <li>* Group 2: 48.3 11.01</li> </ul> </li> <li>Number (group 1/group 2): 202 (102/100)</li> <li>Sex (M/F %)               <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>* Group 1: 64.7/35.3</li> <li>* Group 2: 66/34</li> </ul> </li> <li>Exclusions: Matched cadaveric or living-related kidney; second or subsequent transplant; multi-organ recipient; previous transplant; history of or current PRA <math>\geq</math> 80%; severe, active infection; treated with study drug; positive to HIV or hepatitis B; history of malignancy; alcohol or drug abuse</li> </ul>
Interventions	<p><b>Treatment group 1</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Basiliximab: 20 mg days 0 and 4</li> </ul> <p><b>Treatment group 2</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Basiliximab: 40 mg day 0</li> </ul> <p><b>Baseline immunosuppression</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>CSA: 10 mg/kg/d, adjusted to maintain trough levels of 300-400 ng/mL (days 1-6), 200-300 ng/mL (days 7-28), 150-250 ng/mL (months 206) and 100-200 ng/mL (months 6-12)</li> <li>AZA: 1-2 mg/kg/d</li> <li>Steroids: Started at minimum dose of 30 mg/d and tapered according to local practice</li> </ul>

**Matl 2001** (Continued)

Outcomes	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Mortality</li> <li>• Graft loss</li> <li>• Acute rejection</li> <li>• Infection/CMV</li> <li>• Malignancy</li> </ul>
Notes	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 1 year follow-up</li> </ul>
<b>Risk of bias</b>	
<b>Bias</b>	<b>Authors' judgement</b> <b>Support for judgement</b>
Random sequence generation (selection bias)	Unclear risk    Stated "randomised", no further information provided
Allocation concealment (selection bias)	Unclear risk    Used "code-breaker envelopes" no further information provided
Blinding (performance bias and detection bias) Objective outcomes	High risk    Open-label, blinding of outcome assessors not stated
Blinding (performance bias and detection bias) Subjective outcomes	High risk    Open-label, blinding of outcome assessors not stated
Incomplete outcome data (attrition bias) All outcomes	Low risk    ITT analysis stated, all patients followed up or accounted for
Selective reporting (reporting bias)	Low risk    Primary outcomes for this review (death, graft loss and acute rejection) have been reported
Other bias	High risk    Funding source not stated, however 1/7 authors employee of Novartis Pharma

**Mourad 2004**

Methods	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Open-design RCT</li> </ul>
Participants	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Setting: Multicentre (3)</li> <li>• Country: France</li> <li>• First (89.5%) or second, cadaveric (98.5%) or non-human leukocyte antigen-matched living donor kidney transplant</li> <li>• Mean age (<math>\pm</math> SD)           <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>* Group 1: 45.3 <math>\pm</math> 12.4</li> <li>* Group 2: 45.4 <math>\pm</math> 12.7</li> </ul> </li> <li>• Number (group 1/group 2): 105 (52/53)</li> <li>• Sex (M/F)           <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>* Group 1: 30/22</li> <li>* Group 2: 32/21</li> </ul> </li> <li>• Exclusions: Need other immunosuppressive therapy; severe active infection; significant liver disease; multiple organ transplantation; history of malignancy in last 5 years</li> </ul>
Interventions	<b>Treatment group 1</b>

**Mourad 2004** (Continued)

- Basiliximab: 20 mg on days 0 and 4

**Treatment group 2**

- ATG (thymoglobulin): 1 mg/kg on days 0 and 1, then dose adjusted to keep CD3+ count < 20/mm<sup>3</sup>. Stopped when trough CSA level of 100 ng/mL was reached

**Baseline immunosuppression**

- CSA: 4 mg/kg/d when SCr < 200 µmol/L and adjust to maintain trough 150-200 ng/mL.
- MMF: 2 g/d
- Steroids: 500 mg on day 0 then tapered/discontinued according to usual practice at centres

Outcomes	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Mortality</li> <li>• Graft loss</li> <li>• Acute rejection</li> <li>• CMV</li> <li>• Delayed graft function</li> <li>• Adverse reaction</li> </ul>
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Notes

**Risk of bias**

Bias	Authors' judgement	Support for judgement
Random sequence generation (selection bias)	Unclear risk	Stated "randomized" no further information provided
Allocation concealment (selection bias)	Unclear risk	Not stated
Blinding (performance bias and detection bias) Objective outcomes	Unclear risk	Not stated
Blinding (performance bias and detection bias) Subjective outcomes	Unclear risk	Not stated
Incomplete outcome data (attrition bias) All outcomes	Low risk	ITT analysis reported, 2 patients excluded post randomisation because they never received a transplant, unlikely to influence results
Selective reporting (reporting bias)	Low risk	Primary outcomes for this review (death, graft loss and acute rejection) have been reported. No study protocol available to assess secondary outcomes of study.
Other bias	Unclear risk	Funding source not stated

**Nair 2001**

Methods	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Single centre quasi-RCT ("randomly used in alternate patients")</li> <li>• Duration: NS</li> </ul>
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Participants	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Country: Kuwait</li> </ul>
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**Nair 2001** (Continued)

- First, cadaveric (23%) or living donor, kidney transplant
- Mean age ( $\pm$  SD)
  - \* Group 1: 34.7  $\pm$  19.2
  - \* Group 2: 39.0  $\pm$  10.3
- Number (group 1/group 2): 23 (10/13)
- Sex (M/F)
  - \* Group 1: 5/5
  - \* Group 2: 9/4
- Exclusions: Hepatitis-positive donors; fully matched kidneys; second transplant; PRA > 80%; women of child-bearing potential not using contraception

**Interventions**
**Treatment group 1**

- Basiliximab: 20 mg on days 0 and 4

**Treatment group 2**

- Daclizumab: 1 mg/kg (max 100 mg/dose) day 0 and weeks 2, 4, 6, and 8

**Baseline immunosuppression**

- CSA: 7 mg/kg/d from day 0 tapered to 1-2 mg/kg/d by 6 months (tough levels: NS)
- MMF: 2 g/d
- Steroids: 1 mg/kg from day 0 tapered to 10 mg/kg/d at 6 months

**Cointerventions**

- Acyclovir, cotrimoxazole and mycostatin given as daily prophylaxis for 6 months

**Outcomes**

- Mortality
- Graft loss
- Acute rejection
- Infection

**Notes**

- Follow-up range 9-12 (median 10) months
- Data contributes to 1 year outcomes

**Risk of bias**

Bias	Authors' judgement	Support for judgement
Random sequence generation (selection bias)	High risk	"randomly used in alternate patients" - quasi-RCT
Allocation concealment (selection bias)	High risk	Alternate patients assigned
Blinding (performance bias and detection bias) Objective outcomes	High risk	Open-label, blinding of outcome assessors not stated
Blinding (performance bias and detection bias) Subjective outcomes	High risk	Open-label, blinding of outcome assessors not stated
Incomplete outcome data (attrition bias) All outcomes	Low risk	All patients followed up or accounted for



**Nair 2001** (Continued)

Selective reporting (reporting bias)	Low risk	Primary outcomes for the this review (death, graft loss and acute rejection) have been reported
Other bias	Unclear risk	Funding source not stated

**Nashan 1997**

Methods	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Placebo-controlled RCT</li> <li>Recruitment: Feb 1995 to Feb 1996</li> </ul>
Participants	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>International multicentre study (21 centres)</li> <li>Countries: Canada and European countries</li> <li>First cadaveric kidney transplant</li> <li>Mean age (range)               <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>* Treatment group: 49.0 (18-74)</li> <li>* Control group : 48.0 (18-73)</li> </ul> </li> <li>Number (treatment/control): 380 randomised, 376 analysed (190/186)</li> <li>Sex (M/F)               <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>* Treatment group: 126/64</li> <li>* Control group: 118/68</li> </ul> </li> <li>Exclusions: multiorgan transplant; any previous organ transplant; PRA &gt; 80%; antibiotics for severe active infection; study immunosuppression within previous month</li> </ul>
Interventions	<p><b>Treatment group</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Basiliximab: 20 mg days 0 and 4</li> </ul> <p><b>Control group</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Placebo</li> </ul> <p><b>Baseline immunosuppression</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>CSA: Trough levels 150-450 ng/mL (weeks 1-2), 150-300 ng/mL (weeks 3-4), 100-300 ng/mL for remainder of study</li> <li>Steroids: 0.3-1.0 mg/kg/d tapered to 20 mg/d by day 21 and at least 7.5 mg/d by day 90</li> </ul>
Outcomes	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Mortality</li> <li>Graft loss</li> <li>Acute rejection</li> <li>Infection/CMV</li> <li>Malignancy</li> </ul>
Notes	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1 year follow-up</li> </ul>

**Risk of bias**

Bias	Authors' judgement	Support for judgement
Random sequence generation (selection bias)	Low risk	"Random allocation was done separately within each centre according to a randomisation code generated by Novartis"
Allocation concealment (selection bias)	Low risk	"The trial pharmacist and the principal investigator each held a set of sealed envelopes containing the randomisation code"

**Nashan 1997** (Continued)

Blinding (performance bias and detection bias) Objective outcomes	Unclear risk	Double blind, blinding of outcome assessors not stated
Blinding (performance bias and detection bias) Subjective outcomes	Unclear risk	Double blind, blinding of outcome assessors not stated
Incomplete outcome data (attrition bias) All outcomes	High risk	ITT analysis stated, 42 patients were withdrawn post-transplantation but included in analyses
Selective reporting (reporting bias)	Low risk	Primary outcomes for this review (death, graft loss and acute rejection) have been reported
Other bias	High risk	Funded by Novartis

**Noel 2009**

Methods	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>RCT</li> </ul>
Participants	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Setting: International multi centre study</li> <li>Countries: France and Belgium</li> <li>All high immunological risk; cadaveric donors or first transplant not stated</li> <li>Age: NS</li> <li>Number (group 1/group 2): 227 (114/113)</li> </ul>
Interventions	<p><b>Treatment group 1</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Daclizumab: 1 mg/kg at days 0, 14, 28, 42 and 56</li> </ul> <p><b>Treatment group 2</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>ATG: Thymoglobulin, 1.25 mg/kg/d from days 0 to 7</li> </ul> <p><b>Baseline immunosuppression</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>TAC: NS</li> <li>MMF: NS</li> <li>Steroids: Low dose</li> </ul>
Outcomes	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Mortality</li> <li>Graft loss</li> <li>Acute rejection</li> <li>Delayed graft function</li> </ul>
Notes	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1 year data available</li> </ul>

**Risk of bias**

Bias	Authors' judgement	Support for judgement
Random sequence generation (selection bias)	Low risk	Central randomisation procedure stratified for PRA>80%

**Noel 2009** (Continued)

Allocation concealment (selection bias)	Unclear risk	Not stated
Blinding (performance bias and detection bias) Objective outcomes	Unclear risk	Not stated
Blinding (performance bias and detection bias) Subjective outcomes	Unclear risk	Not stated
Incomplete outcome data (attrition bias) All outcomes	High risk	ITT analysis reported, however percentages only reported for some outcomes
Selective reporting (reporting bias)	Low risk	Primary outcomes for this review (death, graft loss and acute rejection) reported
Other bias	Low risk	Disclosure statement 'none'

**Offner 2008**

Methods	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Placebo controlled RCT</li> <li>• Study duration: May 2001 to January 2006</li> </ul>
Participants	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Setting: International, multi centre study (3 centres)</li> <li>• Countries: Germany, France and Switzerland</li> <li>• First (96%) or second, cadaveric (68%) or living donor kidney transplant</li> <li>• Mean age (<math>\pm</math> SD)           <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>* Treatment group: 10.7 <math>\pm</math> 4.6 years</li> <li>* Control group: 10.8 <math>\pm</math> 4.9 years</li> </ul> </li> <li>• Number (treatment/control): 202 randomised, 193 analysed (100/93)</li> <li>• Sex (% male) treatment/control: 56/67.4</li> <li>• Exclusions: Multiorgan transplant; human leukocyte antigen-identical transplant; cardiac nonfunction donor; previous exposure to study drug; immunosuppressive drug in previous 6 months; PRA &gt; 50%; severe gastrointestinal disorders</li> </ul>
Interventions	<p><b>Treatment group</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Basiliximab: 10 mg (&lt; 35 kg) or 20 mg (<math>\geq</math> 35kg) on days 0 and 4</li> </ul> <p><b>Control group</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Placebo</li> </ul> <p><b>Baseline immunosuppression</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• CSA: as per local practice, with the dose adjusted to achieve trough level of 150-250 ng/mL (months 1-3) and 100-200 ng/mL thereafter</li> <li>• MMF: 1.2 mg/m<sup>2</sup>/d</li> <li>• Steroids: Initial dose 300 mg/m<sup>2</sup> then tapered from 60 mg/m<sup>2</sup> during week 1, to 1-6 mg/m<sup>2</sup> at week 6, and then maintained at 4 mg/m<sup>2</sup>.</li> </ul>
Outcomes	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Mortality</li> <li>• Graft loss</li> </ul>

**Offner 2008** (Continued)

- Acute rejection
- Malignancy
- Infection
- Adverse events

Notes

**Risk of bias**

Bias	Authors' judgement	Support for judgement
Random sequence generation (selection bias)	Low risk	"Randomization numbers were computer generated"
Allocation concealment (selection bias)	Unclear risk	"Investigators were notified by fax"
Blinding (performance bias and detection bias) Objective outcomes	Unclear risk	Double-blind "Investigators remained blinded until all patients had completed the 12-month visit and the database was locked". Blinding of outcome assessors not stated
Blinding (performance bias and detection bias) Subjective outcomes	Unclear risk	Double-blind "Investigators remained blinded until all patients had completed the 12-month visit and the database was locked". Blinding of outcome assessors not stated
Incomplete outcome data (attrition bias) All outcomes	High risk	192/202 analysed. All patients accounted for, however 5 in placebo group were give study drug and analysed in the treatment group, so not ITT as stated
Selective reporting (reporting bias)	Low risk	Primary outcomes for this review (death, graft loss and acute rejection) have been reported
Other bias	High risk	Study funded by Novartis Pharma

**Parrott 2005**

Methods	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Placebo controlled RCT</li> </ul>
Participants	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Setting: National multicentre (4) study</li> <li>• Country: UK</li> <li>• First (93%) or second, cadaveric (88%) or living donor kidney transplant</li> <li>• Mean age (treatment/control): 45.8/47.9 years</li> <li>• Number (treatment/control): 113 randomised, 108 analysed (52/56)</li> <li>• Sex (% male) treatment/control: 67/71</li> <li>• Exclusions: Multiorgan transplant; ABO incompatibility; positive T-cell or B-cell crossmatch against donor</li> </ul>
Interventions	<p><b>Treatment group</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Basiliximab: 20 mg days 0 and 4</li> </ul> <p><b>Control group</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Placebo</li> </ul> <p><b>Baseline immunosuppression</b></p>

**Parrott 2005** (Continued)

- CSA-ME: 10 mg/kg/d, adjust to achieve trough levels of 200-300 ng/mL (month 1), 15-250 ng/mL (2-12 months)
- MMF/AZA: initiated in patients experiencing DGF and discontinued once kidney function established
- Steroids: initiated in patients experiencing DGF and tapered to zero

- |          |   |
|----------|---|
| Outcomes | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Mortality</li> <li>• Graft loss</li> <li>• Acute rejection</li> <li>• DGF</li> </ul> |
|----------|---|

Notes	1 year follow-up
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**Risk of bias**

Bias	Authors' judgement	Support for judgement
Random sequence generation (selection bias)	Low risk	"Computer generated randomization schedule"
Allocation concealment (selection bias)	Low risk	"Study medication was packed sequentially and numbered... and patients were allocated to the next available treatment pack"
Blinding (performance bias and detection bias) Objective outcomes	Unclear risk	Double-blind, blinding of outcome assessors not stated
Blinding (performance bias and detection bias) Subjective outcomes	Low risk	Double-blind, blinding of outcome assessors not stated
Incomplete outcome data (attrition bias) All outcomes	High risk	108/113 analysed. Five excluded, 4 with no transplant, 1 with transplant but no drug. Not ITT analysis as stated
Selective reporting (reporting bias)	Low risk	Primary outcomes for this review (death, graft loss and acute rejection) have been reported
Other bias	High risk	Funded by Novartis Pharmaceuticals, 1/5 authors Novartis employee

**Perrea 2006**

- |              |  |
|--------------|--|
| Methods      | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Single centre RCT</li> <li>• Duration: 2000-2002</li> </ul>   |
| Participants | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Country: Greece</li> <li>• Living-related kidney transplant</li> <li>• Mean age (<math>\pm</math> SD)           <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>* Group 1: 37.78 <math>\pm</math> 11.58</li> <li>* Group 2: 37.0 <math>\pm</math> 9.2</li> </ul> </li> <li>• Number (group 1/group 2): 26 (13/13)</li> <li>• Sex (M/F)           <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>* Group 1: 9/4</li> <li>* Group 2: 11/2</li> </ul> </li> <li>• Exclusions: NS</li> </ul> |

**Perrea 2006** (Continued)

## Interventions

**Treatment group 1**

- Basiliximab: 2 doses (NS) days 0 and 4
- CSA: initial dose 3 mg/kg; C<sub>2</sub> level 900 mg/mL

**Treatment group 2**

- Daclizumab: 5 doses (NS) postoperatively
- TAC: 0.5 or 1.5 0.1 mg/d, blood levels 5 mg/mL

**Baseline immunosuppression**

- MMF: 1.5 or 2 g/d
- Steroids: Progressively diminished dosages; 20 mg/d day 0 and tapered to 8 mg/d (3 months) and 4 mg/d (6 months)

## Outcomes

- Graft function

## Notes

- Six month follow-up
- No usable data

**Risk of bias**

Bias	Authors' judgement	Support for judgement
Random sequence generation (selection bias)	Unclear risk	Stated "randomized" no further information provided
Allocation concealment (selection bias)	Unclear risk	Not stated
Blinding (performance bias and detection bias) Objective outcomes	Unclear risk	Blinding of outcome assessors not stated
Blinding (performance bias and detection bias) Subjective outcomes	Unclear risk	Blinding of outcome assessors not stated
Incomplete outcome data (attrition bias) All outcomes	Low risk	All patients followed up or accounted for
Selective reporting (reporting bias)	High risk	Primary outcomes for this review not reported
Other bias	Unclear risk	Funding source not stated

**Pescovitz 2003**

## Methods

- RCT (2:1)

## Participants

- National multicentre study (5)
- Country: USA
- First living or cadaveric (67%) kidney transplant

**Pescovitz 2003** (Continued)

- Mean age ( $\pm$  SE)
  - \* Treatment group:  $46 \pm 1.8$
  - \* Control group:  $46 \pm 2.4$
- Number (treatment/control): 75 (50/25)
- % male (treatment/control): 56/68

Interventions	<p><b>Treatment group</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Daclizumab: 5 doses every 2 weeks starting 24 h prior to transplant</li> </ul> <p><b>Control group</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Placebo</li> </ul> <p><b>Baseline immunosuppression</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• CSA dose/trough level: NS (according to therapeutic practice at each centre)</li> <li>• MMF dose: 2 g/d</li> <li>• Steroids</li> </ul> <p>Cointervention: CMV prophylaxis</p>
Outcomes	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Mortality</li> <li>• Graft loss</li> <li>• Acute rejection</li> <li>• Delayed graft function</li> <li>• Infection/CMV</li> <li>• Malignancy</li> </ul>
Notes	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 1 year follow-up</li> </ul>

**Risk of bias**

Bias	Authors' judgement	Support for judgement
Random sequence generation (selection bias)	Unclear risk	Stated "randomized" no further information provided
Allocation concealment (selection bias)	Unclear risk	Not stated
Blinding (performance bias and detection bias) Objective outcomes	Unclear risk	Double blind, blinding of outcome assessors not stated
Blinding (performance bias and detection bias) Subjective outcomes	Unclear risk	Double blind, blinding of outcome assessors not stated
Incomplete outcome data (attrition bias) All outcomes	Unclear risk	The data set included all randomized patients who received at least one dose of study medication - Numbers not given for those randomised who did not receive one dose
Selective reporting (reporting bias)	Low risk	Primary outcomes for this review (death, graft loss and acute rejection) have been reported. No protocol but outcomes specified in method reported in results
Other bias	High risk	Funded by 1) Hoffmann-LaRoche Inc. 2) Grant HSMOIRR750

**Philosophe 2002**

Methods	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>RCT</li> </ul>
Participants	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Setting: Single centre</li> <li>Country: USA</li> <li>High risk for delayed graft function. First (92%) or second transplant. African-Americans (63%)</li> <li>Age: NS ("similar for both groups")</li> <li>Sex: NS ("similar for both groups")</li> <li>Number (group 1/group 2): 50 (26/24)</li> </ul>
Interventions	<p><b>Treatment group 1</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Daclizumab: 1 mg/kg day 0 and day 5</li> </ul> <p><b>Treatment group 2</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Muromonab-CD3: administered for 7-14 days</li> </ul> <p><b>Baseline immunosuppression</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>TAC: NS</li> <li>MMF: NS</li> <li>Steroids: NS</li> </ul>
Outcomes	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Mortality</li> <li>Graft loss</li> <li>Acute rejection</li> </ul>
Notes	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1 year follow-up</li> <li>On-going study</li> <li>Data from abstracts</li> </ul>

**Risk of bias**

Bias	Authors' judgement	Support for judgement
Random sequence generation (selection bias)	Unclear risk	Stated "randomized", no further information provided
Allocation concealment (selection bias)	Unclear risk	Not stated
Blinding (performance bias and detection bias) Objective outcomes	Unclear risk	Not stated
Blinding (performance bias and detection bias) Subjective outcomes	Unclear risk	Not stated
Incomplete outcome data (attrition bias) All outcomes	Unclear risk	Interim results only, results presented as percentages and unsure of numbers
Selective reporting (reporting bias)	Unclear risk	Interim 1 year results presented



**Philosophe 2002** (Continued)

Other bias	Unclear risk	Funding source not stated. Abstract only data available
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**Pisani 2001**

Methods	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>RCT</li> </ul>
Participants	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Setting: Single centre</li> <li>Country: Italy</li> <li>First (81%) or second kidney transplant (donor source NS)</li> <li>Mean age (group 1/group 2/control): 45.2/41.1/40.7 years</li> <li>Number (group1/group 2/control): 47 (15/15/17)</li> <li>Sex (M/F)               <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>* Group 1: 7/3</li> <li>* Group 2: 6/3</li> <li>* Control group: 7/6</li> </ul> </li> </ul>
Interventions	<p><b>Treatment groups (group 1 and 2)</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Basiliximab: 20 mg days 0 and 4</li> <li>Group 1: CSA, MMF steroids</li> <li>Group 2: CSA, MMF, steroids withdrawn at 6 months</li> </ul> <p><b>Control group (group 3)</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Placebo</li> </ul> <p><b>Baseline immunosuppression</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>CSA: 8 mg/kg/d, then trough levels of 350-400 ng/mL (first month) and 250-300 ng/mL (third month)</li> <li>MMF: 1.5 mg/d</li> <li>Steroids: 20 mg in first month and tapered to 5 mg at 3 months</li> </ul>
Outcomes	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Mortality</li> <li>Graft loss</li> <li>Acute rejection</li> <li>Infection/CMV</li> <li>Delayed graft function</li> </ul>
Notes	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Study designed to investigate steroid withdrawal from 6 months.</li> <li>Trial on-going</li> <li>Follow-up range 6-13 months; outcome data contributes to 6 month and 12 months time points.</li> </ul>

**Risk of bias**

Bias	Authors' judgement	Support for judgement
Random sequence generation (selection bias)	Unclear risk	Stated "randomly allocated", no further information provided
Allocation concealment (selection bias)	Unclear risk	Not stated
Blinding (performance bias and detection bias)	Unclear risk	No stated

**Pisani 2001** (Continued)

## Objective outcomes

Blinding (performance bias and detection bias) Subjective outcomes	Unclear risk	No stated
Incomplete outcome data (attrition bias) All outcomes	Unclear risk	Total number of patients by group not reported for outcomes, preliminary data only available
Selective reporting (reporting bias)	Unclear risk	Primary outcomes reported (death, graft loss and acute rejection), however preliminary data only available
Other bias	Unclear risk	Funding source not stated

**Ponticelli 2001**

Methods	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Placebo controlled RCT</li> <li>• Stratified according to first or second transplant</li> </ul>
Participants	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Setting: International multicentre (31)</li> <li>• Countries: Europe, Israel, Mexico, South Africa</li> <li>• First (93%) or second, cadaveric (83%) or living donor, kidney transplant</li> <li>• Mean age (<math>\pm</math> SD)           <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>* Treatment group: 44.2 <math>\pm</math> 13.5</li> <li>* Control group: 44.2 <math>\pm</math> 13.0</li> </ul> </li> <li>• Number (treatment/control): 345 randomised, 340 analysed (168/172)</li> <li>• Sex (M/F)           <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>* Treatment group: 110/58</li> <li>* Control group: 150/22</li> </ul> </li> <li>• Exclusions: third or subsequent transplant; PRA &gt; 80%; positive lymphocytotoxic crossmatch</li> </ul>
Interventions	<p><b>Treatment group</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Basiliximab: 20 mg on days 0 and 4</li> </ul> <p><b>Control group</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Placebo</li> </ul> <p><b>Baseline immunosuppression</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• CSA: 10 mg/kg/d, then adjust to maintain trough levels 150-400 ng/mL (days 1-7), 150-300 ng/mL (days 8-28, and 100-250 ng/mL from day 28)</li> <li>• AZA: 1-2 mg/kg/d</li> <li>• Steroids: 20 mg/d and reduced over study period according to standard local regimen to minimum daily dose of 5 mg</li> </ul>
Outcomes	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Mortality</li> <li>• Graft loss</li> <li>• Acute rejection</li> <li>• Infection/CMV</li> <li>• Delayed graft function</li> <li>• Malignancy</li> </ul>

**Ponticelli 2001** (Continued)

Notes

- 1 year follow-up

**Risk of bias**

Bias	Authors' judgement	Support for judgement
Random sequence generation (selection bias)	Unclear risk	Randomised according to a "central list of randomisation" no further information provided
Allocation concealment (selection bias)	Unclear risk	Not stated
Blinding (performance bias and detection bias) Objective outcomes	Unclear risk	Double blind, blinding of outcomes assessors not stated
Blinding (performance bias and detection bias) Subjective outcomes	Low risk	Double blind, blinding of outcomes assessors not stated
Incomplete outcome data (attrition bias) All outcomes	Low risk	ITT analysis reported, 5 patients were not transplanted. All other patients followed up or accounted for
Selective reporting (reporting bias)	Low risk	Primary outcomes for this review (death, graft loss and acute rejection) have been reported
Other bias	High risk	Supported by Novartis, 2/15 authors employees of Novartis

**Pourfarziani 2003**

Methods	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• RCT</li> </ul>
Participants	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Setting: Single centre</li> <li>• Country: Iran</li> <li>• 'immunologically high risk' patients, re-transplants (100%), living donors (100%)</li> <li>• Age: NS</li> <li>• Number (group 1/group 2): 25 (11/14)</li> <li>• Sex: NS</li> </ul>
Interventions	<p><b>Treatment group 1</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Daclizumab: 1mg/kg days 0, 14, 28, 42, 56</li> </ul> <p><b>Treatment group 2</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• ALG: 10 mg/kg from day 0 to day10-14</li> </ul> <p><b>Baseline immunosuppression</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• CSA: NS</li> <li>• MMF: NS</li> <li>• Steroids: NS</li> </ul>
Outcomes	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Graft loss</li> <li>• Acute rejection</li> </ul>

**Pourfarziani 2003** (Continued)

- Adverse reaction

## Notes

- Trial on-going
- 1 year follow-up
- Data from abstract only

**Risk of bias**

Bias	Authors' judgement	Support for judgement
Random sequence generation (selection bias)	Unclear risk	Stated "randomised", no further information provided
Allocation concealment (selection bias)	Unclear risk	Not stated
Blinding (performance bias and detection bias) Objective outcomes	Unclear risk	Not stated
Blinding (performance bias and detection bias) Subjective outcomes	Unclear risk	Not stated
Incomplete outcome data (attrition bias) All outcomes	Unclear risk	Abstract only data, unclear reporting of events and numbers
Selective reporting (reporting bias)	High risk	Death not reported, abstract only data available
Other bias	Unclear risk	Funding source not stated.

**Ruggenenti 2006**

## Methods

- Pilot, exploratory RCT
- Patients stratified based on:
  - \* Group A: living-related transplant, increased immunologic risk (PRA > 50%) or previous transplant
  - \* Group B: delayed graft function (need for dialysis with 3 days of transplant)
- Within each group patients were randomised 1:1
  - \* Group A: randomised at time of transplant
  - \* Group B: randomised at first dialysis session

## Participants

- Setting: Single centre
- Country: Italy
- Sensitized recipients (4); second transplant (8); cadaveric donor (28)
- Age: NS
- Sex (M/F): 11/22
- Number (treatment/control): 33 (17/16)
- Exclusions: previous non-kidney transplant; multiple organ transplants; HLA-identical living donors

## Interventions

**Treatment group**

- Basiliximab: 20 mg, day 0 and 4

**Ruggenti 2006** (Continued)

- Low-dose ATG: 0.5 mg/kg/d, days 0-7

**Control group**

- Standard-dose ATG: 2 mg/kg/d, days 0-7

**Baseline immunosuppression**

- CSA: 3-5 mg/kg/d IV for 24-36 h; orally 8-10 mg/kg/d tapered to 4 mg/kg/day over first month. Trough levels 250-440 ng/mL days 0-7, 200-300 ng/mL days 8-28 and 150-250 ng/mL to study end
- MMF: 2 g/d from day 1
- Steroids: 500 mg day 0 and tapered according to protocol to 8 mg/d from day 120

Outcomes	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Mortality</li> <li>• Acute rejection</li> <li>• Graft loss</li> <li>• Infection</li> <li>• Adverse reaction</li> </ul>
Notes	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 6 month follow-up</li> </ul>

**Risk of bias**

Bias	Authors' judgement	Support for judgement
Random sequence generation (selection bias)	Unclear risk	"Randomly assigned on a 1:1 basis", no further information provided
Allocation concealment (selection bias)	Low risk	Patient allocation was centralized (at the Unit of Biostatistics) under the responsibility of an independent investigator who was not involved in study design or conduct
Blinding (performance bias and detection bias) Objective outcomes	High risk	Open-label, blinding of outcome assessors not stated
Blinding (performance bias and detection bias) Subjective outcomes	High risk	Open-label, blinding of outcome assessors not stated
Incomplete outcome data (attrition bias) All outcomes	Low risk	ITT, all patients accounted for
Selective reporting (reporting bias)	Low risk	Primary outcomes for this review (death, graft loss and acute rejection) were reported
Other bias	Low risk	"No pharmaceutical company involvement", study was initiated and internally funded

**Sandrini 2002**

Methods	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Placebo controlled RCT</li> </ul>
Participants	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Setting: National multi centre</li> <li>• Country: Italy</li> </ul>

**Sandrini 2002** (Continued)

- First kidney transplant (donor source note stated)
- Age: NS
- Number (treatment/control): 157 randomised, 156 analysed (79/77)
- Sex: NS

Interventions	<p><b>Treatment group</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Basiliximab: 20 mg on days 0 and 4</li> </ul> <p><b>Control group</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Placebo</li> </ul> <p><b>Baseline immunosuppression</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• CSA: NS</li> <li>• AZA: NS</li> <li>• Steroids: Reduced to 10 mg by month 5</li> </ul>
Outcomes	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Mortality</li> <li>• Graft loss</li> <li>• Acute rejection</li> <li>• Malignancy</li> </ul>
Notes	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 1 year follow-up</li> <li>• Trial on going</li> <li>• Data from conference proceedings abstracts only</li> </ul>

**Risk of bias**

Bias	Authors' judgement	Support for judgement
Random sequence generation (selection bias)	Unclear risk	Unclear - confirmed randomised by author email but no further details provided
Allocation concealment (selection bias)	Unclear risk	Not mentioned
Blinding (performance bias and detection bias) Objective outcomes	Unclear risk	Confirmed double blind by author email, blinding of outcome assessors not confirmed
Blinding (performance bias and detection bias) Subjective outcomes	Unclear risk	Confirmed double blind by author email, blinding of outcome assessors not confirmed
Incomplete outcome data (attrition bias) All outcomes	Unclear risk	All patients followed up and accounted for, however data only available from conference proceedings abstract
Selective reporting (reporting bias)	Unclear risk	Primary outcomes for this review (death, graft loss and acute rejection) have been reported, however data only available from conference proceedings abstract
Other bias	Unclear risk	Funding source not stated

**Sheashaa 2003**

Methods	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>RCT</li> </ul>
Participants	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Setting: Single centre</li> <li>Country: Egypt</li> <li>First, living related kidney transplant</li> <li>Mean age (<math>\pm</math> SD)           <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>* Treatment group: <math>32.9 \pm 9.9</math></li> <li>* Control group: <math>32.5 \pm 10.8</math></li> </ul> </li> <li>Number (treatment/control): 100 (50/50)</li> <li>Sex (M/F)           <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>* Treatment group: 44/6</li> <li>* Control group: 41/9</li> </ul> </li> </ul>
Interventions	<p><b>Treatment group</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Basiliximab: 20 mg days 0 and 4</li> </ul> <p><b>Control group</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Nothing</li> </ul> <p><b>Baseline immunosuppression</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>CSA: 8 mg/kg/d adjusted to trough levels 200-300 ng/mL (4 weeks) 125-150 ng/mL (6 months) and 100-125 ng/mL thereafter</li> <li>AZA: 1 mg/kg/d</li> <li>Steroids: 0.3 mg/kg/d at 1 month and 1.5 mg/kg/d at the 9th month</li> </ul>
Outcomes	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Mortality</li> <li>Graft loss</li> <li>Acute rejection</li> <li>Chronic allograft nephropathy</li> <li>Infection/CMV</li> <li>Malignancy</li> </ul>
Notes	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>7 year follow-up</li> </ul>

**Risk of bias**

Bias	Authors' judgement	Support for judgement
Random sequence generation (selection bias)	Unclear risk	Stated "randomised", no further information provided
Allocation concealment (selection bias)	Unclear risk	Not stated
Blinding (performance bias and detection bias) Objective outcomes	Unclear risk	Not stated
Blinding (performance bias and detection bias) Subjective outcomes	Unclear risk	Not stated

**Sheashaa 2003** (Continued)

Incomplete outcome data (attrition bias) All outcomes	Low risk	All patients followed up or accounted for
Selective reporting (reporting bias)	High risk	Primary outcomes for this review (death, graft loss and acute rejection) have been reported, however graft loss reported as percentages
Other bias	Unclear risk	Funding source not stated

**Shidban 2000**

Methods	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>RCT</li> </ul>
Participants	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Setting: Single centre</li> <li>Country: USA</li> <li>First cadaveric kidney transplant</li> <li>Age: NS</li> <li>Number (group 1/group 2): 42 (22/20)</li> <li>Sex: NS</li> </ul>
Interventions	<p><b>Treatment group 1</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Basiliximab: 20 mg days 1 and 4</li> </ul> <p><b>Treatment group 2</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Muromonab-CD3: 2.5 mg/d for 7-10 days</li> </ul> <p><b>Baseline immunosuppression</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>CSA: NS</li> <li>MMF: NS</li> <li>Steroids: NS</li> </ul>
Outcomes	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Mortality</li> <li>Graft loss</li> <li>Acute rejection</li> </ul>
Notes	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>6 months follow-up</li> <li>Additional historical controls reported, but excluded from analyses of outcomes here</li> <li>Data from abstract only</li> </ul>

**Risk of bias**

Bias	Authors' judgement	Support for judgement
Random sequence generation (selection bias)	Unclear risk	Stated "randomised", no further information provided
Allocation concealment (selection bias)	Unclear risk	Not stated
Blinding (performance bias and detection bias) Objective outcomes	Unclear risk	Not stated



**Shidban 2000** (Continued)

Blinding (performance bias and detection bias) Subjective outcomes	Unclear risk	Not stated
Incomplete outcome data (attrition bias) All outcomes	Unclear risk	Unclear reporting
Selective reporting (reporting bias)	Unclear risk	Primary outcomes for this review reported (death, graft loss, acute rejection) however data reported as a mixture of numbers and percentages
Other bias	Unclear risk	Funding source not stated. Abstract only data

**Shidban 2003**

Methods	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Phase IV RCT</li> </ul>
Participants	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Setting: Single centre</li> <li>Country: USA</li> <li>First cadaveric kidney transplant</li> <li>Age: NS</li> <li>Number (group 1/group 2): 75 (25/50)</li> </ul>
Interventions	<p><b>Treatment group 1</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Basiliximab: 20 mg days 0 and 4</li> </ul> <p><b>Treatment group 2</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>ATG (thymoglobulin): 1.5 mg/kg/d for 5 days</li> </ul> <p><b>Baseline immunosuppression</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>CSA: NS</li> <li>MMF: NS</li> <li>Steroids: NS</li> </ul>
Outcomes	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Acute rejection</li> <li>Delayed graft function</li> </ul>
Notes	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>6 month follow-up.</li> <li>Trial on-going</li> <li>Data from abstract only</li> </ul>

**Risk of bias**

Bias	Authors' judgement	Support for judgement
Random sequence generation (selection bias)	Unclear risk	Stated "randomised", no further information provided
Allocation concealment (selection bias)	Unclear risk	Not stated
Blinding (performance bias and detection bias)	Unclear risk	Not stated

**Interleukin 2 receptor antagonists for kidney transplant recipients (Review)**

**Shidban 2003** (Continued)

## Objective outcomes

Blinding (performance bias and detection bias) Subjective outcomes	Unclear risk	Not stated
Incomplete outcome data (attrition bias) All outcomes	Unclear risk	Interim analysis, abstract only data available
Selective reporting (reporting bias)	High risk	Death and graft loss not reported
Other bias	Unclear risk	Funding source not stated. Abstract only data available

**Sollinger 2001**

Methods	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Open-label RCT</li> </ul>
Participants	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Setting: National multi centre (6)</li> <li>Country: USA</li> <li>Cadaveric (62%), first (81%) kidney transplant</li> <li>Mean age (<math>\pm</math> SD)           <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>* Group 1: 44.5 <math>\pm</math> 13.7</li> <li>* Group 2: 49.8 <math>\pm</math> 11.9</li> </ul> </li> <li>Number (group 1/group 2):138 (70/68)</li> <li>Sex (M/F)           <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>* Group 1: 37/33</li> <li>* Group 2: 42/23</li> </ul> </li> <li>Exclusions: Human leukocyte antigen (HLA)-identical donor; third or subsequent transplant; previously transplanted with another organ other than kidney; multiple organ transplants</li> </ul>
Interventions	<p><b>Treatment group 1</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Basiliximab: 20 mg days 0 and 4</li> </ul> <p><b>Treatment Group 2</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>ATG (ATGAM): 15 mg/kg/d with 48 hrs for up to 14 days</li> </ul> <p><b>Baseline immunosuppression</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>CSA: Initial dose 3-5 mg/kg and dose then adjusted to therapeutic trough (NS)</li> <li>MMF: 2-3 g/d for minimum of 12 months</li> <li>Steroids: 0.5-1.0 g day 1 then tapered to 20 mg/d by day 28 and then maintained between 5-15 mg/d</li> </ul>
Outcomes	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Mortality</li> <li>Graft loss</li> <li>Acute rejection</li> <li>Infection/CMV</li> <li>Delayed graft function</li> <li>Adverse reaction</li> <li>Malignancy</li> </ul>
Notes	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1 year follow-up</li> </ul>

**Sollinger 2001** (Continued)

**Risk of bias**

Bias	Authors' judgement	Support for judgement
Random sequence generation (selection bias)	Unclear risk	Stated "randomised", no further information provided
Allocation concealment (selection bias)	Unclear risk	Not stated
Blinding (performance bias and detection bias) Objective outcomes	High risk	Open label, blinding of outcome assessors not stated
Blinding (performance bias and detection bias) Subjective outcomes	High risk	Open label, blinding of outcome assessors not stated
Incomplete outcome data (attrition bias) All outcomes	High risk	Not ITT. Six patients excluded: 3 did not receive treatment, 2 withdrew consent and 1 lost to follow-up - all for ATG group
Selective reporting (reporting bias)	Low risk	Primary outcomes for this review (death, graft loss and acute rejection) have been reported
Other bias	High risk	"Supported by Novartis Pharmaceuticals", one author an employee of Novartis

**Soulillou/Cant 1990**

Methods	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Stratified RCT               <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Recipients age more or less than 50 years</li> <li>PRA more or less than 50%</li> </ul> </li> </ul>
Participants	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Setting: National multi centre (3)</li> <li>Country: France</li> <li>First cadaveric kidney transplants</li> <li>Mean age (<math>\pm</math> SD)               <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Group 1: 43.2 <math>\pm</math> 15</li> <li>Group 2: 40 <math>\pm</math> 15</li> </ul> </li> <li>Number (group 1/group 2): 100 (50/50)</li> <li>Sex (% male) group 1/group 2: 56/72</li> </ul>
Interventions	<p><b>Treatment group 1</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>33B3.1: 10mg daily for 10 days</li> </ul> <p><b>treatment group 2</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>ATG (thymoglobulin): 2 mg/kg for 14 days</li> </ul> <p><b>Baseline immunosuppression</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>CSA: 8 mg/kg/d then adjusted according to trough level 300-600 ng/mL. Introduced day 14 both groups</li> <li>AZA: 2.5 mg/kg, tapered and withdrawn by day 45</li> </ul>

**Soulillou/Cant 1990** (Continued)

- Steroids: 1 mg/kg, tapered and withdrawn by day 45

Outcomes	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Mortality</li> <li>• Graft loss</li> <li>• Acute rejection</li> <li>• Infection/CMV</li> <li>• Delayed graft function</li> <li>• Adverse reaction</li> </ul>
Notes	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 1 year follow-up</li> </ul>

**Risk of bias**

Bias	Authors' judgement	Support for judgement
Random sequence generation (selection bias)	Unclear risk	Stated "randomly assigned" no further information provided
Allocation concealment (selection bias)	Low risk	"sealed envelopes" "containing the treatment assignments were prepared"
Blinding (performance bias and detection bias) Objective outcomes	Unclear risk	Blinding of outcomes assessors not stated
Blinding (performance bias and detection bias) Subjective outcomes	Unclear risk	Blinding of outcome assessors not stated
Incomplete outcome data (attrition bias) All outcomes	Low risk	All patients followed up or accounted for
Selective reporting (reporting bias)	Low risk	Primary outcomes for this review (death, graft loss and acute rejection) have been reported
Other bias	Low risk	Grant from the Caisse Nationale d'Assurance Maladie

**SYMPHONY (Ekberg) 2007**

Methods	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Open label RCT</li> </ul>
Participants	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• International multi centre study</li> <li>• Living or cadaveric (64%) first or second kidney transplant</li> <li>• Mean age <math>\pm</math> SD           <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>* Group 1: 45.9 <math>\pm</math> 13.8</li> <li>* Group 2: 47.2 <math>\pm</math> 13.5</li> <li>* Group 3: 45.4 <math>\pm</math> 14.7</li> <li>* Group 4: 44.9 <math>\pm</math> 14.5</li> </ul> </li> <li>• Number randomised/analysed: 1645/1589           <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>* Group 1: 410/390</li> <li>* Group 2: 413/399</li> <li>* Group 3: 411/401</li> <li>* Group 4: 411/399</li> </ul> </li> </ul>

**SYMPHONY (Ekberg) 2007** (Continued)

- % males (group 1/group 2/group 3/group 4): 62.3/66.4/65.8/66.7

Interventions	<p><b>Treatment group</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Daclizumab (2mg/kg day 0) + low-dose Cyclosporine (1-2: 50-100)</li> </ul> <p><b>Control group</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Standard-dose CSA (3-5 mg/kg:100-300) or</li> <li>• low-dose TAC (0.1/kg: 3-7 ng/mL)</li> </ul> <p><b>Baseline immunosuppression</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• MMF 2 g/d</li> <li>• Steroids</li> </ul>
Outcomes	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Mortality</li> <li>• Acute rejection</li> <li>• Graft loss</li> <li>• Delayed graft function</li> <li>• Infections</li> <li>• Malignancy</li> <li>• Adverse reactions</li> </ul>
Notes	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Groups 1 and 3 combined for control group</li> <li>• Group 4: Low dose sirolimus was excluded from data synthesis (all other data synthesised was from studies with calcineurin inhibitor based therapy regimens).</li> <li>• ITT group received transplant and treatment ITT results reported for all outcomes except infections and adverse reactions</li> </ul>

**Risk of bias**

Bias	Authors' judgement	Support for judgement
Random sequence generation (selection bias)	Low risk	Patients underwent randomisation... with the use of a centralized interactive voice response system (ClinIT)
Allocation concealment (selection bias)	Unclear risk	Not stated
Blinding (performance bias and detection bias) Objective outcomes	High risk	Open-label, blinding of outcome assessors not stated
Blinding (performance bias and detection bias) Subjective outcomes	High risk	Open label, blinding of outcome assessors not stated
Incomplete outcome data (attrition bias) All outcomes	High risk	States ITT analysis for main outcomes, however some patients randomised were not included in analysis
Selective reporting (reporting bias)	Low risk	Primary outcomes for this review (death, graft loss and acute rejection) have been reported. No protocol but outcomes specified in method reported in results
Other bias	High risk	Funding for the study was provided by Hoffmann-La Roche, which had advisory input into the study design, collected the data, monitored the conduct of

**SYMPHONY (Ekberg) 2007** (Continued)

the study, performed the statistical analyses, and coordinated the writing of the manuscript with all authors

**Tan 2004**

Methods	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>RCT</li> </ul>
Participants	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Setting: Single centre</li> <li>Country: China</li> <li>Cadaveric kidney transplant</li> <li>Mean age (<math>\pm</math> SD)           <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>* Treatment group: 50 <math>\pm</math> 11.6 years</li> <li>* Control group: 45 <math>\pm</math> 9.3 years</li> </ul> </li> <li>Number (treatment/control):56 (36/20)</li> <li>Sex (M/F)           <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>* Treatment group: 11/15</li> <li>* Control group: 8/12</li> </ul> </li> </ul>
Interventions	<p><b>Treatment group</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Basiliximab: 20 mg days 0 and 4</li> </ul> <p><b>Control group</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Nothing</li> </ul> <p><b>Baseline immunosuppression</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>CSA: Trough level 200-400 ng/mL (to 3 months), 100-250 ng/mL (3-12 months)</li> <li>MMF: 1.5-2 g/d</li> <li>Steroids: 20 mg/d tapered to 10-15/d at 6 months and 5-10 mg/d at 12 months</li> </ul>
Outcomes	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Mortality</li> <li>Graft loss</li> <li>Acute rejection</li> <li>Delayed Graft Function</li> <li>Infection</li> </ul>
Notes	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1 year follow up</li> <li>Highly sensitized sample</li> </ul>

**Risk of bias**

Bias	Authors' judgement	Support for judgement
Random sequence generation (selection bias)	Unclear risk	Stated "randomised", no further information provided
Allocation concealment (selection bias)	Unclear risk	Not stated
Blinding (performance bias and detection bias) Objective outcomes	Unclear risk	No stated

**Tan 2004** (Continued)

Blinding (performance bias and detection bias) Subjective outcomes	Unclear risk	No stated
Incomplete outcome data (attrition bias) All outcomes	Low risk	All patients followed up or accounted for
Selective reporting (reporting bias)	Low risk	Primary outcomes for this review (death, graft loss and acute rejection) have been reported
Other bias	Unclear risk	Funding source not stated

**ter Meulen 2002**

Methods	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Multicentre RCT</li> <li>• Duration: October 1999 to March 2002</li> <li>• Stratified by centre</li> </ul>
Participants	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Country: The Netherlands</li> <li>• First (89%) or subsequent, cadaveric (64%) or living donor kidney transplant</li> <li>• Median age (range) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>* Treatment group: 48 (18-78)</li> <li>* Control group: 49 (19-73)</li> </ul> </li> <li>• Number (treatment/control): 381 enrolled, 364 analysed (86/178)</li> <li>• Sex (% male) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>* Treatment group: 72%</li> <li>* Control group: 57%</li> </ul> </li> <li>• Exclusions: HLA-identical living donor; taking immunosuppressive medication; haemolytic uraemic syndrome; premenopausal women not taking adequate contraception; leukocytopenia or thrombocytopenia</li> </ul>
Interventions	<p><b>Treatment group</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Daclizumab: 1 mg/kg days 0 and 14</li> </ul> <p><b>Control group</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Steroids: 0.3 mg/kg/d for first 2 weeks then dose tapered to zero in 4 months</li> </ul> <p><b>Baseline immunosuppression</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• TAC: 0.3 mg/d and adjust to trough levels 15-20 ng/mL (days 0-14), 10-15 ng/mL (weeks 3-6) and 5-10 ng/mL after week 7</li> <li>• MMF: 2 g/d for 2 weeks then reduced to 1.5 g/d</li> <li>• Steroids: All patients received 100 mg IV for first 3 days</li> </ul>
Outcomes	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Mortality</li> <li>• Graft loss</li> <li>• Acute rejection</li> <li>• Delayed Graft Function</li> <li>• Infection</li> <li>• Malignancy</li> <li>• Adverse reaction</li> </ul>

**ter Meulen 2002** (Continued)

- Notes
- 12 months follow-up

**Risk of bias**

Bias	Authors' judgement	Support for judgement
Random sequence generation (selection bias)	Unclear risk	Stated "randomly assigned" but no further information provided
Allocation concealment (selection bias)	Low risk	"randomisation was carried out by opening a sealed opaque envelope with the lowest available study number at each participating centre"
Blinding (performance bias and detection bias) Objective outcomes	High risk	"both clinicians and patients were aware of the randomised assignment", blinding of outcome assessors not stated
Blinding (performance bias and detection bias) Subjective outcomes	High risk	"both clinicians and patients were aware of the randomised assignment", blinding of outcome assessors not stated
Incomplete outcome data (attrition bias) All outcomes	Low risk	Yes, ITT analysis reported, all patients followed up or accounted for (3 patients lost to follow up at 12 months)
Selective reporting (reporting bias)	Low risk	Primary outcomes for this review (death, graft loss and acute rejection) were reported
Other bias	High risk	Supported by grants from Roche Pharmaceuticals, Mijdrecht, and Fujisawa, Houten

**Tullius 2003**

Methods	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Multicentre RCT</li> <li>• Duration: 12 months follow up</li> </ul>
Participants	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Country: Germany</li> <li>• First (75%) or subsequent, cadaveric kidney transplant</li> <li>• Average age (range group 1/group 2): 48 years (16-69/19-71)</li> <li>• Number (group 1/group 2): 124 (62/62)</li> <li>• Sex (M/F)                             <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>* Group 1: 33/29</li> <li>* Group 2: 35/27</li> </ul> </li> <li>• Exclusions: living related donor; pregnancy; recent history of malignancy; myocardial infarction; arrhythmia, HIV positive</li> </ul>
Interventions	<p><b>Treatment group 1</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Basiliximab: 20 mg days 0 and 4</li> </ul> <p><b>Treatment group 2</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• ATG: 9 mg/kg day 0</li> </ul> <p><b>Baseline immunosuppression</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• TAC: 0.2 mg/kg; trough levels 10 ng/mL</li> </ul>



**Tullius 2003** (Continued)

- Steroids: IV therapy - 500 mg day 0, 250 mg day 1 then tapered to 40 mg on days 2-7. Oral therapy tapered to 20 mg on day 28 and 5-15 mg for remainder of study

Outcomes	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Mortality</li> <li>• Graft loss</li> <li>• Acute rejection</li> <li>• CMV</li> </ul>
Notes	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Basiliximab group significantly greater proportion with PRA &gt; 50%</li> <li>• 1 year follow-up</li> </ul>

**Risk of bias**

Bias	Authors' judgement	Support for judgement
Random sequence generation (selection bias)	Unclear risk	Stated "randomised", no further information provided
Allocation concealment (selection bias)	Unclear risk	Not stated
Blinding (performance bias and detection bias) Objective outcomes	Unclear risk	Not stated
Blinding (performance bias and detection bias) Subjective outcomes	Unclear risk	Not stated
Incomplete outcome data (attrition bias) All outcomes	Low risk	All patients followed up or accounted for
Selective reporting (reporting bias)	Low risk	Primary outcomes for this review (death, graft loss and acute rejection) were reported
Other bias	Unclear risk	Funding source not stated

**van Gelder 1995**

Methods	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Parallel RCT</li> </ul>
Participants	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Setting: Single centre</li> <li>• Country: Netherlands</li> <li>• First or second kidney transplant (100% first transplant, 78% cadaveric)</li> <li>• Median age (range)                             <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>* Treatment group: 43 (22-60)</li> <li>* Control group: 45 (19-65)</li> </ul> </li> <li>• Number (treatment/control): 60 (30/30)</li> <li>• Sex (M/F)                             <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>* Treatment group: 18/12</li> <li>* Control group: 19/11</li> </ul> </li> </ul>
Interventions	<b>Treatment group</b>

**van Gelder 1995** (Continued)

- BT563: 10 mL IV (1 mg/mL) for the first 10 days post-transplant

**Control group**

- Placebo: 10 mL IV (NaCl 0.9%) for the first days post-transplant

**Baseline immunosuppression**

- CSA: 2 mg/kg/d IV for 3 days then 8 mg/kg/d orally and adjusted to maintain trough CSA level 300 ng/mL
- Steroids: tapered from 50 mg IV for the first 2 days to 15 mg orally from day 3

Outcomes	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Mortality</li> <li>• Graft loss</li> <li>• Acute rejection</li> <li>• Infection/CMV</li> <li>• Delayed graft function</li> <li>• Malignancy</li> </ul>
Notes	1, 3 and 10 year follow-up

**Risk of bias**

Bias	Authors' judgement	Support for judgement
Random sequence generation (selection bias)	Unclear risk	Stated "recipients were randomised", no further information provided
Allocation concealment (selection bias)	Unclear risk	Not stated
Blinding (performance bias and detection bias) Objective outcomes	Unclear risk	Stated "double-blind placebo-controlled study", blinding of outcome assessors not stated
Blinding (performance bias and detection bias) Subjective outcomes	Unclear risk	Stated "double-blind placebo-controlled study" blinding of outcome assessors not stated
Incomplete outcome data (attrition bias) All outcomes	Low risk	All participants accounted for and/or data presented
Selective reporting (reporting bias)	Low risk	Primary outcomes for this review (death, graft loss and acute rejection) have been reported. No study protocol available to assess secondary outcomes of study
Other bias	Unclear risk	No funding source stated

**Vincent 2003**

Methods	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Single centre RCT</li> <li>• Duration: NS</li> </ul>
Participants	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Country: USA</li> <li>• First, cadaveric (42%) or living donor, kidney transplant</li> </ul>

**Vincenti 2003** (Continued)

- Age: NS (adults patients)
- Number (group 1/group 2): 12 (6/6)
- Sex: NS
- Exclusions: NS

Interventions	<p><b>Treatment group 1</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Daclizumab: 2 mg/kg day 0 and 1 mg/kg day 14</li> </ul> <p><b>Treatment group 2</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Daclizumab: 2 mg/kg day 0 only</li> </ul> <p><b>Baseline immunosuppression</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• TAC (n = 11) or CSA (n = 1) dose: NS</li> <li>• MMF: 2 g/d</li> <li>• Steroids: First dose 1,000 mg, second dose 500 mg, third dose 250 mg and then tapered to 25 mg by 1 month</li> </ul>
Outcomes	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Acute rejection</li> </ul>
Notes	

**Risk of bias**

Bias	Authors' judgement	Support for judgement
Random sequence generation (selection bias)	Unclear risk	Stated "randomised", no further information provided
Allocation concealment (selection bias)	Unclear risk	Not stated
Blinding (performance bias and detection bias) Objective outcomes	High risk	Not stated, however 1 group received 1 dose and the other 2 doses. Blinding of outcome assessors not stated
Blinding (performance bias and detection bias) Subjective outcomes	High risk	Not stated, however 1 group received 1 dose and the other 2 doses. Blinding of outcome assessors not stated
Incomplete outcome data (attrition bias) All outcomes	High risk	Results only reported as percentages and no final numbers indicated
Selective reporting (reporting bias)	High risk	Only acute rejection reported and only as a percentage
Other bias	Unclear risk	Funding source not stated

**Wilson 2004**

Methods	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Multicentre (2) RCT</li> <li>• Duration: November 2000 to March 2003</li> </ul>
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**Wilson 2004** (Continued)

- Participants
- Country: UK
  - First, NHBD kidney transplant
  - Mean age ( $\pm$  SD)
    - \* Treatment group:  $53 \pm 14$  years
    - \* Control group:  $47 \pm 12$  years
  - Number (treatment/control): 51 (26/25)
  - Sex (M/F)
    - \* Treatment group: 17/8
    - \* Control group: 14/12
  - Exclusions: NS

## Interventions

**Treatment group**

- Daclizumab: 2mg/kg day 0, then 1 mg/kg at 14-day intervals for a maximum of 5 doses
- TAC: given when SCr < 350  $\mu$ mol/L or biopsy evidence of acute rejection (dose 0.2 mg/kg/d) trough levels 8-12 ng/L

**Control group**

- TAC: 0.2 mg/kg/d from day 1, trough levels 8-12 ng/L

**Baseline immunosuppression**

- MMF: 2 g/d
- Steroids: 500 mg day 0, 20 mg/d thereafter

## Outcomes

- Mortality
- Acute rejection
- Infection
- Delayed graft function

## Notes

- 3 month follow-up

**Risk of bias**

Bias	Authors' judgement	Support for judgement
Random sequence generation (selection bias)	Low risk	Randomization was performed using a balanced block-of-four scheme
Allocation concealment (selection bias)	Unclear risk	Not stated
Blinding (performance bias and detection bias) Objective outcomes	High risk	Unblinded
Blinding (performance bias and detection bias) Subjective outcomes	High risk	Unblinded
Incomplete outcome data (attrition bias) All outcomes	Low risk	5 patients were excluded from the analysis due to graft primary non-function, however all data presented
Selective reporting (reporting bias)	Low risk	Primary outcomes for this review (death, graft loss and acute rejection) have been reported

**Wilson 2004** (Continued)

Other bias	High risk	"Funded jointly by Fujisawa and Roche; neither organisation contributed to the preparation of this manuscript"
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**Yussim 2004**

Methods	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>RCT</li> </ul>
Participants	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Single centre</li> <li>Country: Israel</li> <li>Primary kidney transplant</li> <li>Donor status: NS</li> <li>Number (treatment/control): 25 (11/14)</li> </ul>
Interventions	<p><b>Treatment group</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Daclizumab: 2 doses, 1mg/kg day 0 and 14</li> </ul> <p><b>Control group</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Nothing</li> </ul> <p><b>Baseline immunosuppression</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>TAC dose: 0.15 mg/kg tapered to 0.1 mg/kg over 12 months</li> <li>MMF dose: 2 g/kg/d</li> <li>Steroid dose: NS</li> </ul> <p><b>Co-interventions</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>CMV prophylaxis with oral gancyclovir</li> </ul>
Outcomes	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Mortality</li> <li>Graft loss</li> <li>Acute rejection</li> <li>Infection</li> <li>Delayed graft function</li> </ul>
Notes	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1 year follow-up</li> <li>Abstract only data available</li> </ul>

**Risk of bias**

Bias	Authors' judgement	Support for judgement
Random sequence generation (selection bias)	Unclear risk	Stated "randomized", no further information provided
Allocation concealment (selection bias)	Unclear risk	Not stated
Blinding (performance bias and detection bias) Objective outcomes	Unclear risk	Not stated
Blinding (performance bias and detection bias)	Unclear risk	Not stated

**Yussim 2004** (Continued)

## Subjective outcomes

Incomplete outcome data (attrition bias) All outcomes	Unclear risk	Abstract only data available, not all outcome numbers were reported
Selective reporting (reporting bias)	Unclear risk	Primary outcomes for this review (death, graft loss and acute rejection) have been reported
Other bias	Unclear risk	Funding source not stated. Abstract only data available

CSA-ME - cyclosporin micro emulsion; DGF - delayed graft function; IV - intravenous; NHBD - non-heart beating donors; MF - mycophenolate mofetil; NS - not stated; TAC - tacrolimus

Unless otherwise stated in notes, no significant differences in demographic characteristics are reported for any comparative group.

**Characteristics of excluded studies** [ordered by study ID]

Study	Reason for exclusion
<a href="#">Andres 2009</a>	IL2Ra received in both treatment arms
<a href="#">Budde 2005</a>	RCT including IL2Ra, but not directly testing IL2Ra
<a href="#">Burke 2005</a>	RCT including IL2Ra, but not directly testing IL2Ra
<a href="#">Chadban 2006</a>	RCT including IL2Ra, but not directly testing IL2Ra
<a href="#">Chan 2008</a>	RCT including IL2Ra, but not directly testing IL2Ra
<a href="#">Flechner-318 2002</a>	RCT including IL2Ra, but not directly testing IL2Ra
<a href="#">FREEDOM Study</a>	RCT including IL2Ra, but not directly testing IL2Ra
<a href="#">Hamdy 2005</a>	RCT including IL2Ra, but not directly testing IL2Ra
<a href="#">Hiesse 1992</a>	NOT RCT or quasi-RCT
<a href="#">Hirose 2004</a>	RCT including IL2Ra, but not directly testing IL2Ra
<a href="#">Kovarik 2003</a>	RCT including IL2Ra, but not directly testing IL2Ra
<a href="#">Kramer-2307 2003</a>	RCT including IL2Ra, but not directly testing IL2Ra
<a href="#">Kreis 2003</a>	RCT including IL2Ra, but not directly testing IL2Ra
<a href="#">Light 2002</a>	RCT including IL2Ra, but not directly testing IL2Ra
<a href="#">Martinez-Mier 2006</a>	RCT including IL2Ra, but not directly testing IL2Ra
<a href="#">McDonald 2008</a>	RCT including IL2Ra, but not directly testing IL2Ra
<a href="#">Meier-Kriesche 2004</a>	RCT including IL2Ra, but not directly testing IL2Ra
<a href="#">Montagnino 2005</a>	RCT including IL2Ra, but not directly testing IL2Ra

Study	Reason for exclusion
Mourad 2005	RCT including IL2Ra, but not directly testing IL2Ra
MyPROMS Study	RCT including IL2Ra, but not directly testing IL2Ra
Nematalla 2007	RCT including IL2Ra, but not directly testing IL2Ra
Painter 2003	Steroid withdrawal not induction study
Pescovitz 2004	RCT including IL2Ra, but not directly testing IL2Ra
Provenzano 2000	RCT including IL2Ra, but not directly testing IL2Ra
Scholten 2006	RCT including IL2Ra, but not directly testing IL2Ra
Tian 2007	IL2Ra laboratory study
Vincenti 2005b	RCT including IL2Ra, but not directly testing IL2Ra
Wang 2008	Not IL2Ra RCT
Zarkhin 2008	Not IL2Ra RCT

## DATA AND ANALYSES

### Comparison 1. IL2Ra versus placebo or no treatment

Outcome or subgroup title	No. of studies	No. of participants	Statistical method	Effect size
<b>1 Mortality</b>	28		Risk Ratio (M-H, Random, 95% CI)	Subtotals only
1.1 at 3 months	2	197	Risk Ratio (M-H, Random, 95% CI)	3.15 [0.13, 75.82]
1.2 at 6 months	15	2919	Risk Ratio (M-H, Random, 95% CI)	0.80 [0.45, 1.40]
1.3 at 1 year	24	4647	Risk Ratio (M-H, Random, 95% CI)	0.77 [0.54, 1.10]
1.4 at 3 years	4	695	Risk Ratio (M-H, Random, 95% CI)	0.62 [0.30, 1.29]
1.5 at ≥ 5 years	3	261	Risk Ratio (M-H, Random, 95% CI)	0.67 [0.34, 1.33]
<b>2 Graft loss or death with functioning allograft</b>	29		Risk Ratio (M-H, Random, 95% CI)	Subtotals only
2.1 at 3 months	2	177	Risk Ratio (M-H, Random, 95% CI)	0.34 [0.11, 1.06]
2.2 at 6 months	16	3017	Risk Ratio (M-H, Random, 95% CI)	0.75 [0.58, 0.98]
2.3 at 1 year	24	4672	Risk Ratio (M-H, Random, 95% CI)	0.75 [0.62, 0.90]

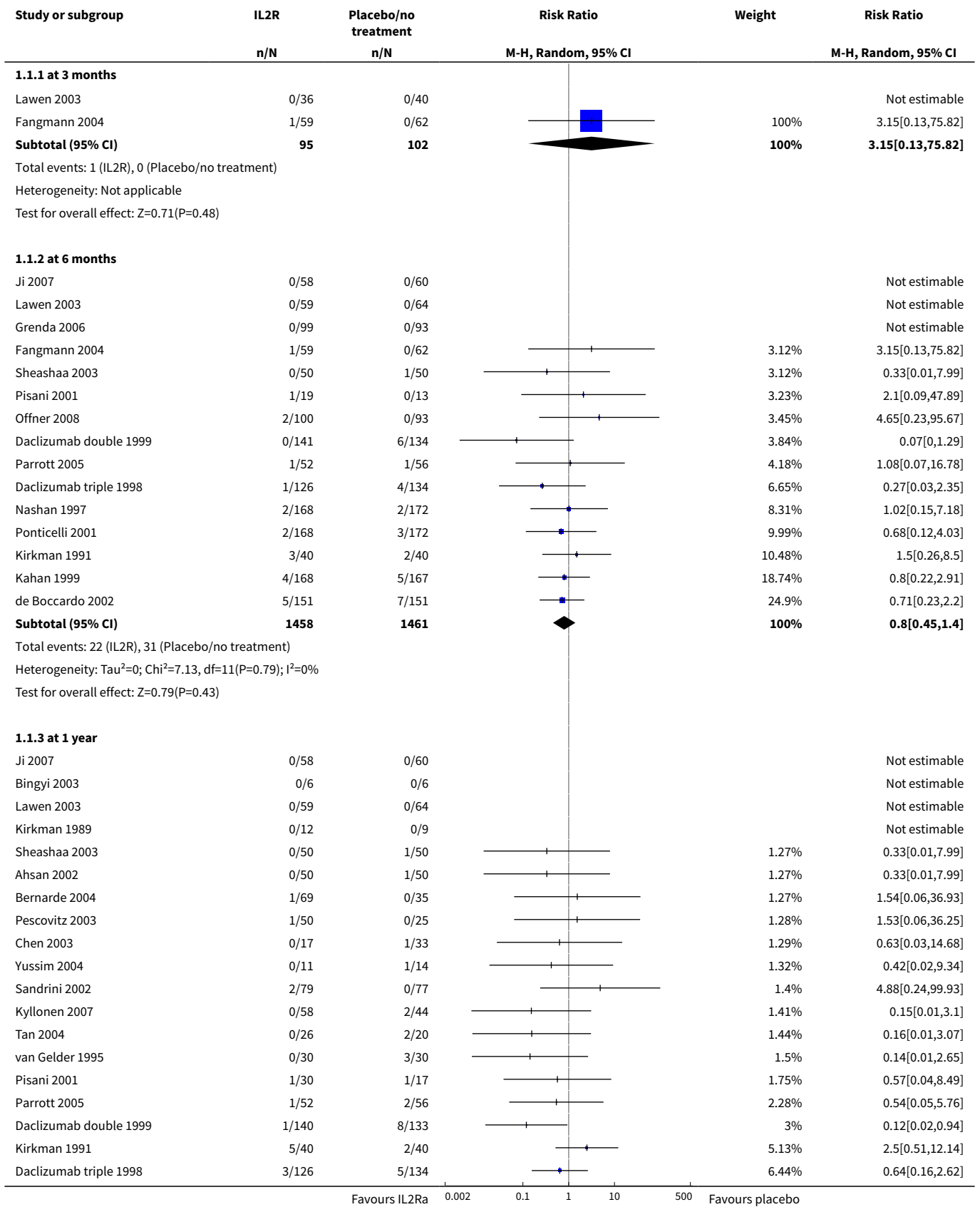
Outcome or subgroup title	No. of studies	No. of participants	Statistical method	Effect size
2.4 at 3-5 years	4	695	Risk Ratio (M-H, Random, 95% CI)	0.88 [0.64, 1.22]
2.5 ≥ 5 years	3	261	Risk Ratio (M-H, Random, 95% CI)	0.89 [0.39, 2.05]
<b>3 Graft loss censored for death with functioning graft</b>	30		Risk Ratio (M-H, Random, 95% CI)	Subtotals only
3.1 at 3 months	2	177	Risk Ratio (M-H, Random, 95% CI)	0.36 [0.09, 1.48]
3.2 at 6 months	17	3048	Risk Ratio (M-H, Random, 95% CI)	0.74 [0.55, 0.99]
3.3 at 1 year	24	4672	Risk Ratio (M-H, Random, 95% CI)	0.75 [0.60, 0.93]
3.4 at 3-5 years	4	695	Risk Ratio (M-H, Random, 95% CI)	1.07 [0.71, 1.59]
3.5 ≥ 5 years	3	261	Risk Ratio (M-H, Random, 95% CI)	1.51 [0.52, 4.37]
3.6 Any time within the first year	29	5527	Risk Ratio (M-H, Random, 95% CI)	0.75 [0.61, 0.92]
<b>4 Acute rejection: clinically suspected or biopsy proven</b>	30		Risk Ratio (M-H, Random, 95% CI)	Subtotals only
4.1 at 3 months	6	364	Risk Ratio (M-H, Random, 95% CI)	0.36 [0.21, 0.59]
4.2 at 6 months	19	4751	Risk Ratio (M-H, Random, 95% CI)	0.69 [0.63, 0.76]
4.3 at 1 year	20	4300	Risk Ratio (M-H, Random, 95% CI)	0.72 [0.66, 0.78]
4.4 Any time within the first year	30	5577	Risk Ratio (M-H, Random, 95% CI)	0.70 [0.64, 0.76]
<b>5 Acute rejection: biopsy-proven</b>	21		Risk Ratio (M-H, Random, 95% CI)	Subtotals only
5.1 at 3 months	2	197	Risk Ratio (M-H, Random, 95% CI)	0.31 [0.14, 0.68]
5.2 at 6 months	15	4451	Risk Ratio (M-H, Random, 95% CI)	0.68 [0.62, 0.76]
5.3 at 1 year	14	3898	Risk Ratio (M-H, Random, 95% CI)	0.72 [0.64, 0.81]
<b>6 Acute rejection: steroid resistant</b>	16		Risk Ratio (M-H, Random, 95% CI)	Subtotals only
6.1 at 3 months	1	55	Risk Ratio (M-H, Random, 95% CI)	0.15 [0.01, 2.74]
6.2 at 6 months	9	1928	Risk Ratio (M-H, Random, 95% CI)	0.52 [0.39, 0.68]
6.3 at 1 year	6	1834	Risk Ratio (M-H, Random, 95% CI)	0.71 [0.54, 0.92]
<b>7 Malignancy: total</b>	19		Risk Ratio (M-H, Random, 95% CI)	Subtotals only
7.1 at 6 months	8	1878	Risk Ratio (M-H, Random, 95% CI)	0.36 [0.15, 0.86]
7.2 at 1 year	15	3898	Risk Ratio (M-H, Random, 95% CI)	0.87 [0.46, 1.67]

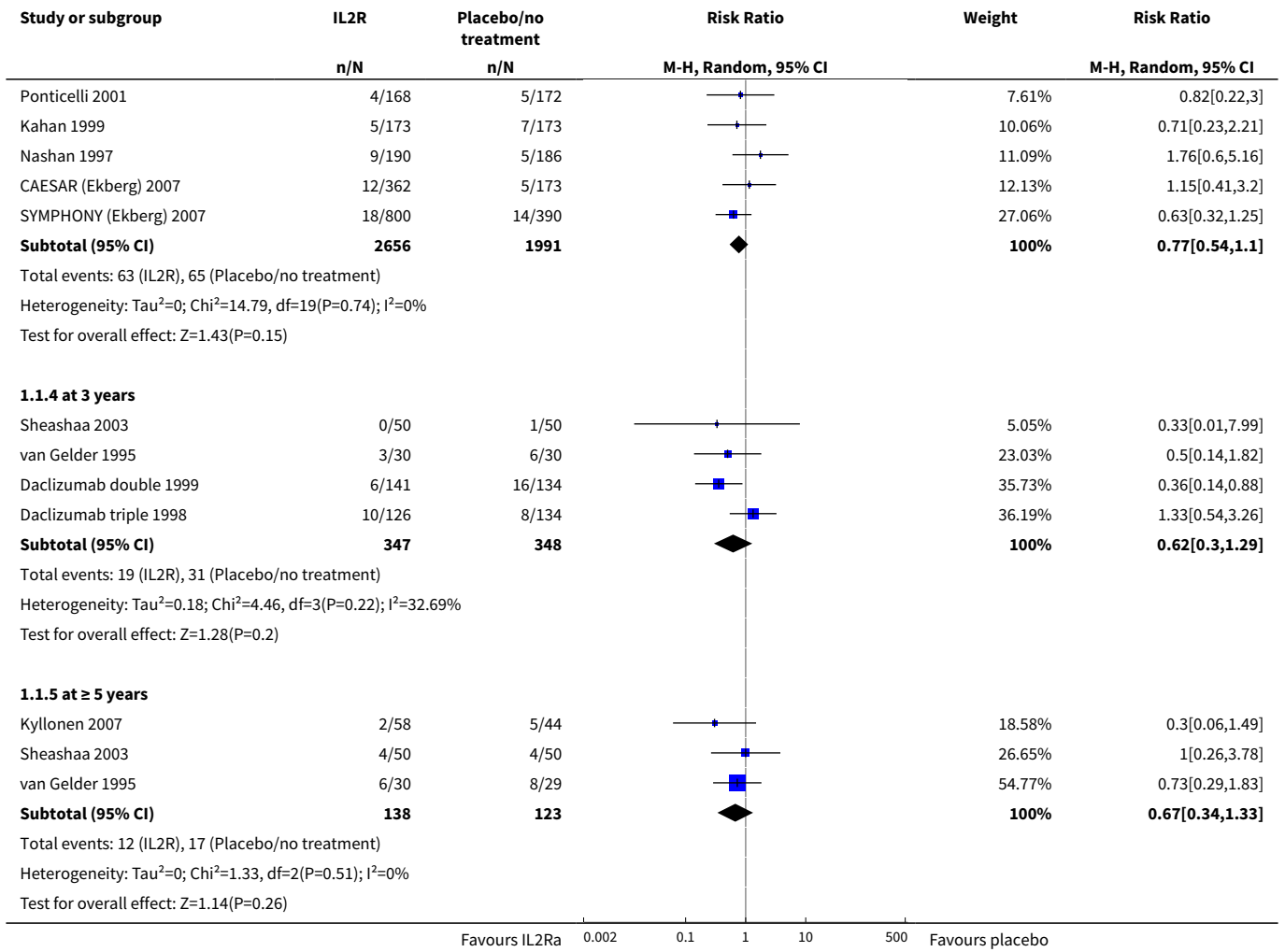


Outcome or subgroup title	No. of studies	No. of participants	Statistical method	Effect size
7.3 at 3-5 years	3	635	Risk Ratio (M-H, Random, 95% CI)	0.83 [0.45, 1.53]
7.4 ≥ 5 years	2	159	Risk Ratio (M-H, Random, 95% CI)	1.09 [0.17, 6.80]
7.5 Any time within the first year	19	4860	Risk Ratio (M-H, Random, 95% CI)	0.73 [0.42, 1.28]
<b>8 PTLD/lymphoma</b>	14		Risk Ratio (M-H, Random, 95% CI)	Subtotals only
8.1 at 3 months	1	76	Risk Ratio (M-H, Random, 95% CI)	0.0 [0.0, 0.0]
8.2 at 6 months	6	1241	Risk Ratio (M-H, Random, 95% CI)	0.32 [0.09, 1.17]
8.3 at 1 year	8	2481	Risk Ratio (M-H, Random, 95% CI)	0.46 [0.10, 2.12]
8.4 at 3 years	1	275	Risk Ratio (M-H, Random, 95% CI)	0.32 [0.01, 7.71]
8.5 ≥ 5 years	1	59	Risk Ratio (M-H, Random, 95% CI)	2.90 [0.12, 68.50]
8.6 Any time within the first year	13	3864	Risk Ratio (M-H, Random, 95% CI)	0.48 [0.18, 1.29]
<b>9 Infection: CMV all</b>	18		Risk Ratio (M-H, Random, 95% CI)	Subtotals only
9.1 at 3 months	2	131	Risk Ratio (M-H, Random, 95% CI)	0.67 [0.09, 5.09]
9.2 at 6 months	9	1735	Risk Ratio (M-H, Random, 95% CI)	0.94 [0.74, 1.21]
9.3 at 1 year	13	3169	Risk Ratio (M-H, Random, 95% CI)	0.81 [0.68, 0.97]
9.4 at 3 years	1	100	Risk Ratio (M-H, Random, 95% CI)	1.0 [0.21, 4.72]
9.5 ≥ 5 years	1	100	Risk Ratio (M-H, Random, 95% CI)	1.0 [0.26, 3.78]
9.6 Any time within the first year	17	3767	Risk Ratio (M-H, Random, 95% CI)	0.85 [0.72, 0.99]
<b>10 Infection: CMV invasive</b>	6		Risk Ratio (M-H, Random, 95% CI)	Subtotals only
10.1 at 6 months	3	613	Risk Ratio (M-H, Random, 95% CI)	1.02 [0.38, 2.78]
10.2 at 1 year	5	1070	Risk Ratio (M-H, Random, 95% CI)	0.93 [0.61, 1.41]
<b>11 Infection: serious all-cause total</b>	17		Risk Ratio (M-H, Random, 95% CI)	Subtotals only
11.1 at 3 months	2	136	Risk Ratio (M-H, Random, 95% CI)	0.97 [0.63, 1.50]
11.2 at 6 months	8	1375	Risk Ratio (M-H, Random, 95% CI)	0.96 [0.85, 1.10]
11.3 at 1 year	9	2333	Risk Ratio (M-H, Random, 95% CI)	0.98 [0.92, 1.05]
<b>12 Post-transplant diabetes mellitus (PTDM)</b>	4	1372	Risk Ratio (M-H, Random, 95% CI)	1.04 [0.51, 2.12]
12.1 at 1 year	3	1272	Risk Ratio (M-H, Random, 95% CI)	1.52 [0.43, 5.33]

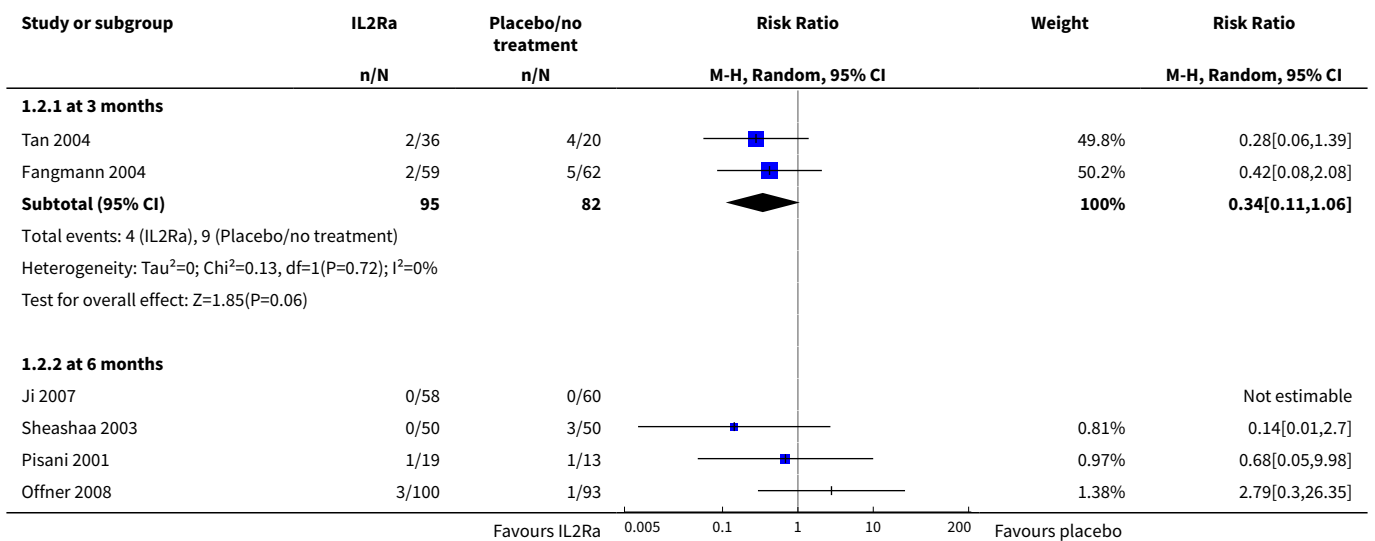
Outcome or subgroup title	No. of studies	No. of participants	Statistical method	Effect size
12.2 at 5 years	1	100	Risk Ratio (M-H, Random, 95% CI)	0.57 [0.18, 1.83]
<b>13 Adverse reaction</b>	2	610	Risk Ratio (M-H, Random, 95% CI)	0.93 [0.70, 1.24]
13.1 All adverse reactions at 6 months	2	610	Risk Ratio (M-H, Random, 95% CI)	0.93 [0.70, 1.24]
<b>14 Creatinine mg/dL</b>	13		Mean Difference (IV, Random, 95% CI)	Subtotals only
14.1 at 1 month	4	654	Mean Difference (IV, Random, 95% CI)	-0.24 [-0.37, -0.11]
14.2 at 3 months	7	831	Mean Difference (IV, Random, 95% CI)	-0.11 [-0.18, -0.03]
14.3 at 6 months	7	1231	Mean Difference (IV, Random, 95% CI)	-0.09 [-0.16, -0.02]
14.4 at 1 year	8	1135	Mean Difference (IV, Random, 95% CI)	-0.06 [-0.15, 0.04]
14.5 at 2 years	1	38	Mean Difference (IV, Random, 95% CI)	-0.40 [-0.74, -0.06]
14.6 at 3 years	1	94	Mean Difference (IV, Random, 95% CI)	-0.05 [-0.23, 0.13]
<b>15 Creatinine <math>\mu\text{mol/L}</math></b>	13		Mean Difference (IV, Random, 95% CI)	Subtotals only
15.1 at 1 month	4	646	Mean Difference (IV, Random, 95% CI)	-21.45 [-33.03, -9.86]
15.2 at 3 months	7	820	Mean Difference (IV, Random, 95% CI)	-7.33 [-13.58, -1.08]
15.3 at 6 months	7	1231	Mean Difference (IV, Random, 95% CI)	-8.18 [-14.28, -2.09]
15.4 at 1 year	8	1135	Mean Difference (IV, Random, 95% CI)	-5.31 [-13.90, 3.28]
15.5 at 2 years	1	38	Mean Difference (IV, Random, 95% CI)	-35.0 [-65.21, -4.79]
15.6 at 3 years	1	94	Mean Difference (IV, Random, 95% CI)	-4.42 [-20.51, 11.67]
<b>16 Glomerular filtration rate (GFR) mL/min/1.73 m<sup>2</sup></b>	6		Mean Difference (IV, Random, 95% CI)	Subtotals only
16.1 at 1 month	1	340	Mean Difference (IV, Random, 95% CI)	4.03 [-1.14, 9.20]
16.2 at 3 months	2	359	Mean Difference (IV, Random, 95% CI)	0.24 [-3.97, 4.45]
16.3 at 6 months	2	571	Mean Difference (IV, Random, 95% CI)	1.81 [-2.27, 5.89]
16.4 at 1 year	5	2247	Mean Difference (IV, Random, 95% CI)	2.61 [0.45, 4.78]

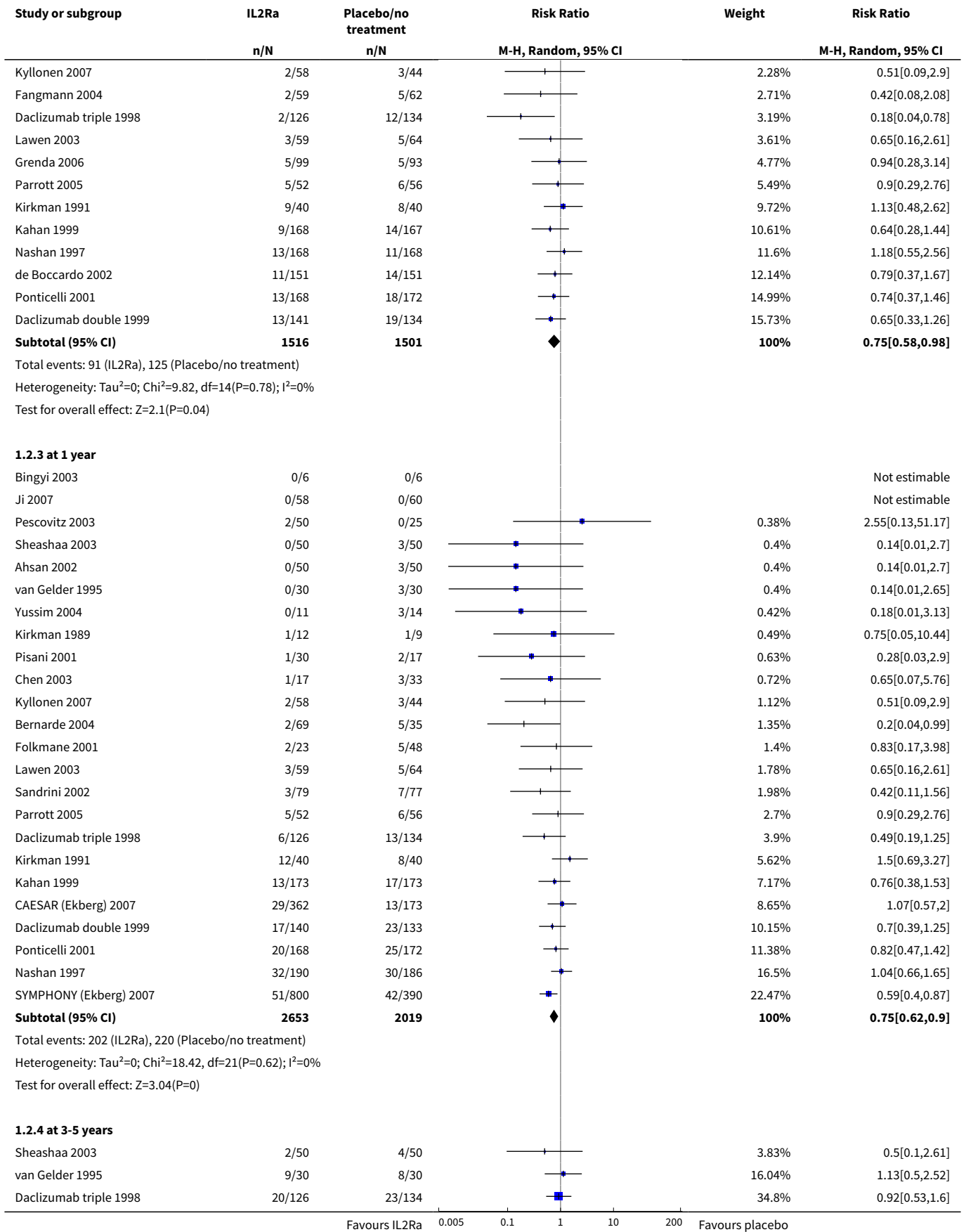
**Analysis 1.1. Comparison 1 IL2Ra versus placebo or no treatment, Outcome 1 Mortality.**

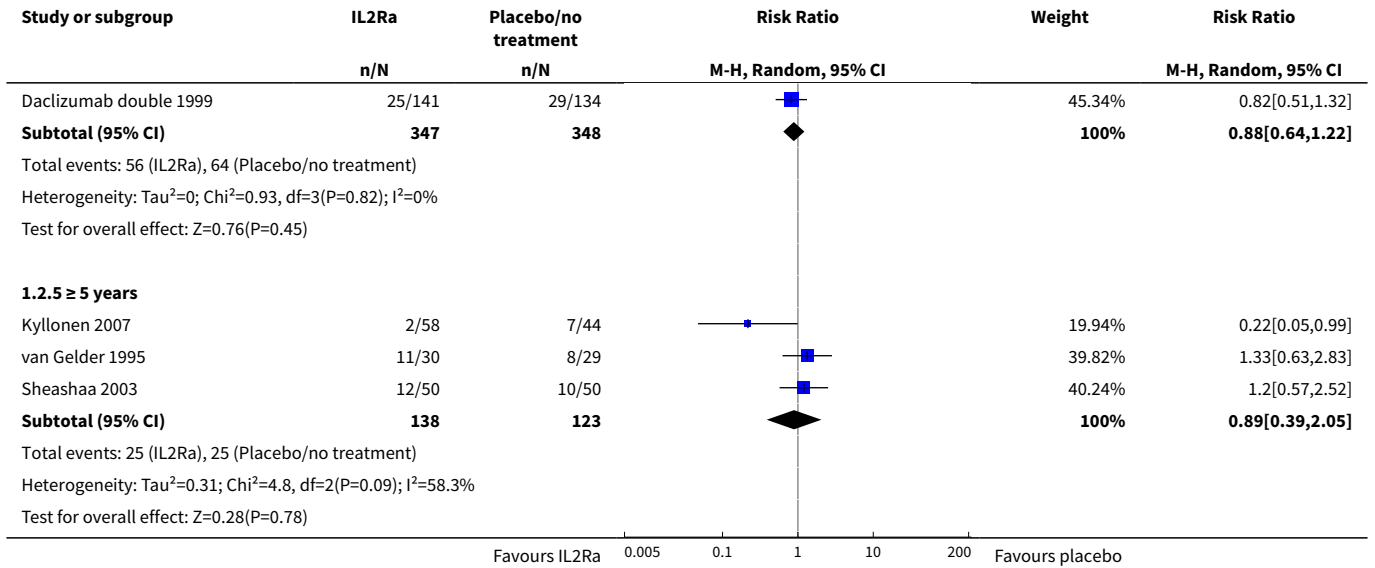




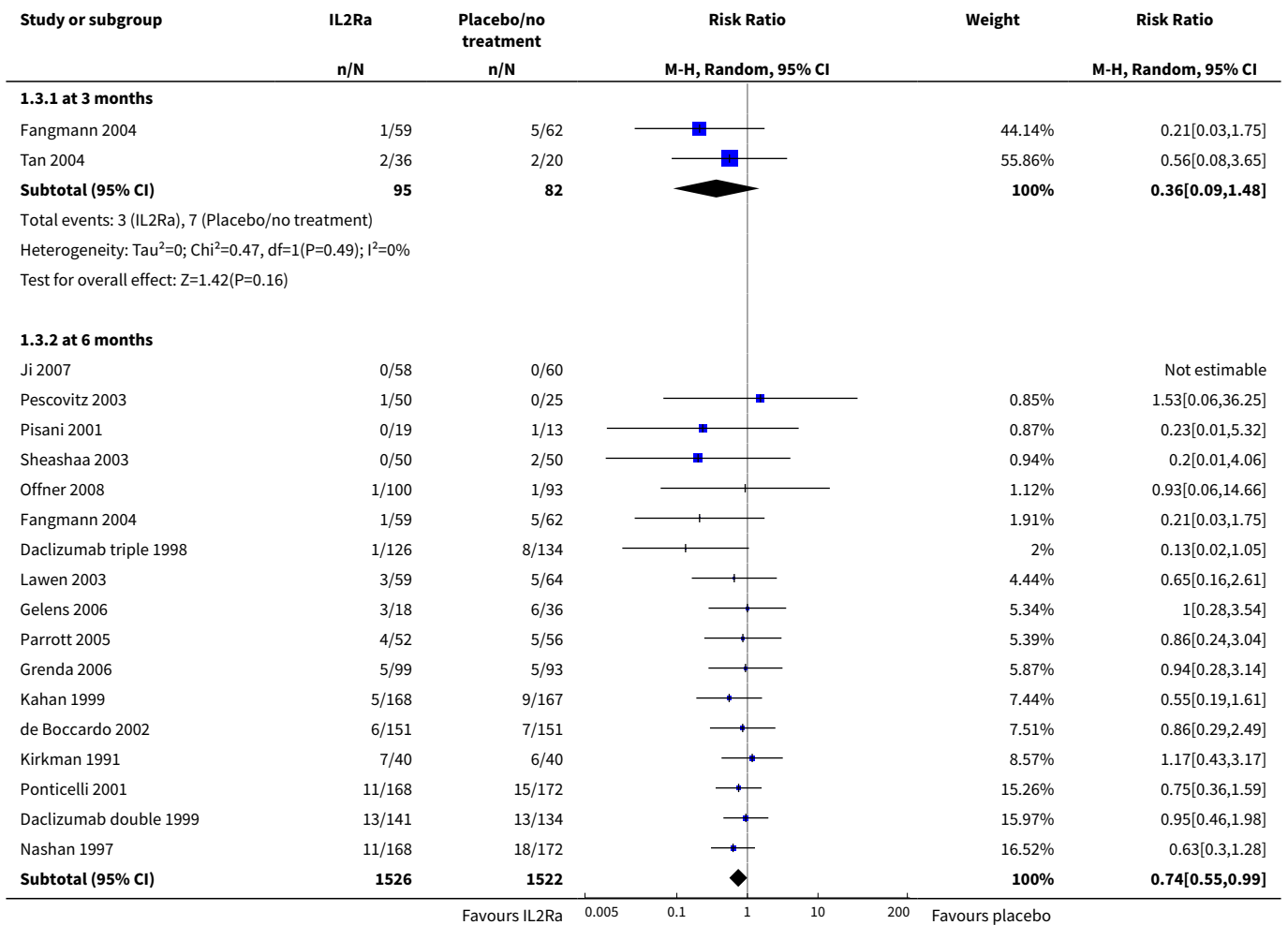
**Analysis 1.2. Comparison 1 IL2Ra versus placebo or no treatment, Outcome 2 Graft loss or death with functioning allograft.**

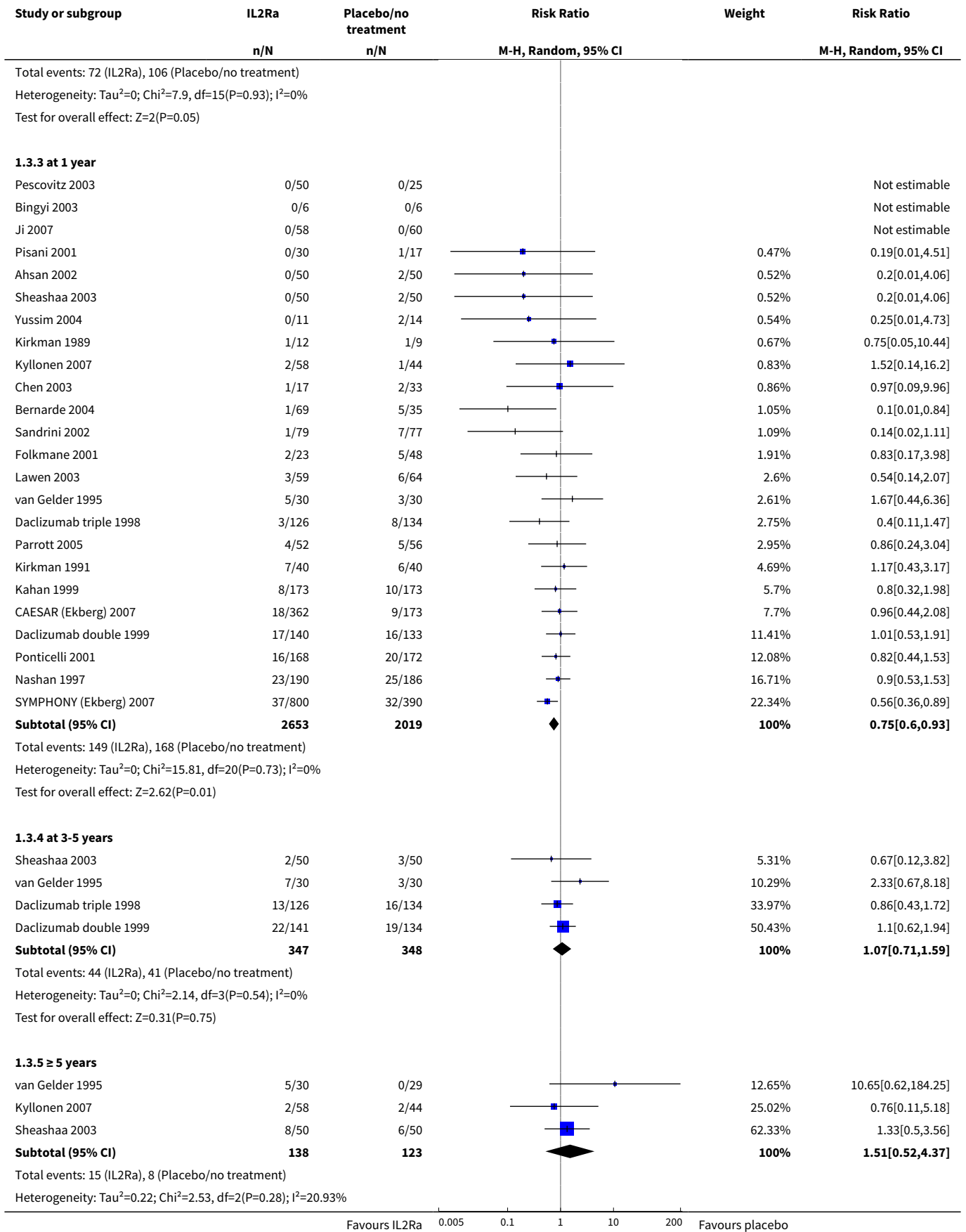


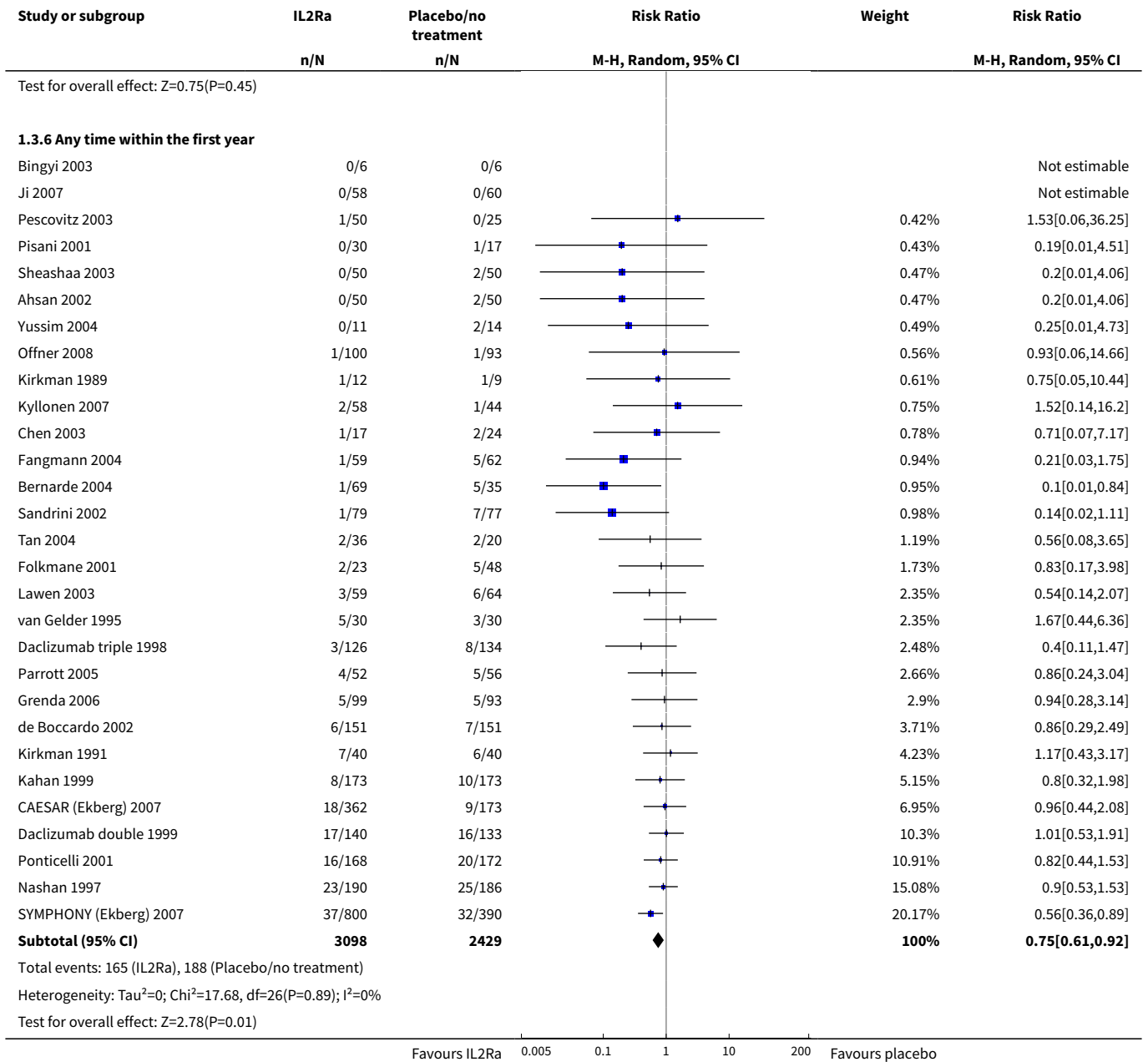




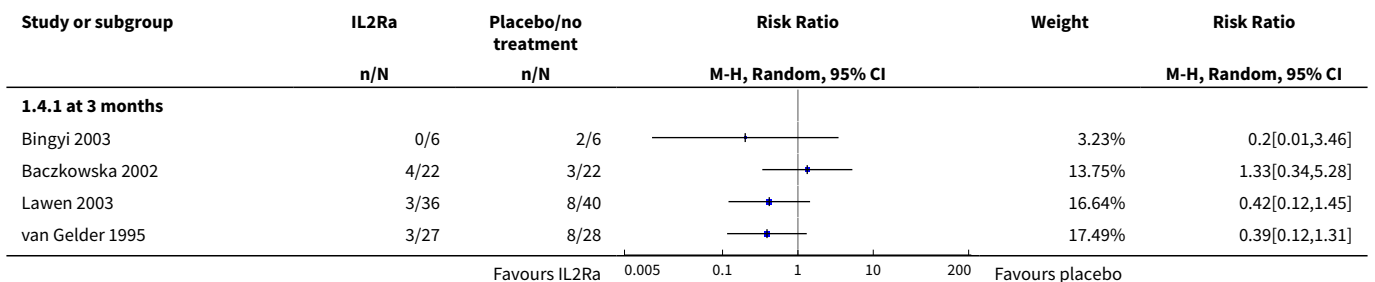
**Analysis 1.3. Comparison 1 IL2Ra versus placebo or no treatment, Outcome 3 Graft loss censored for death with functioning graft.**



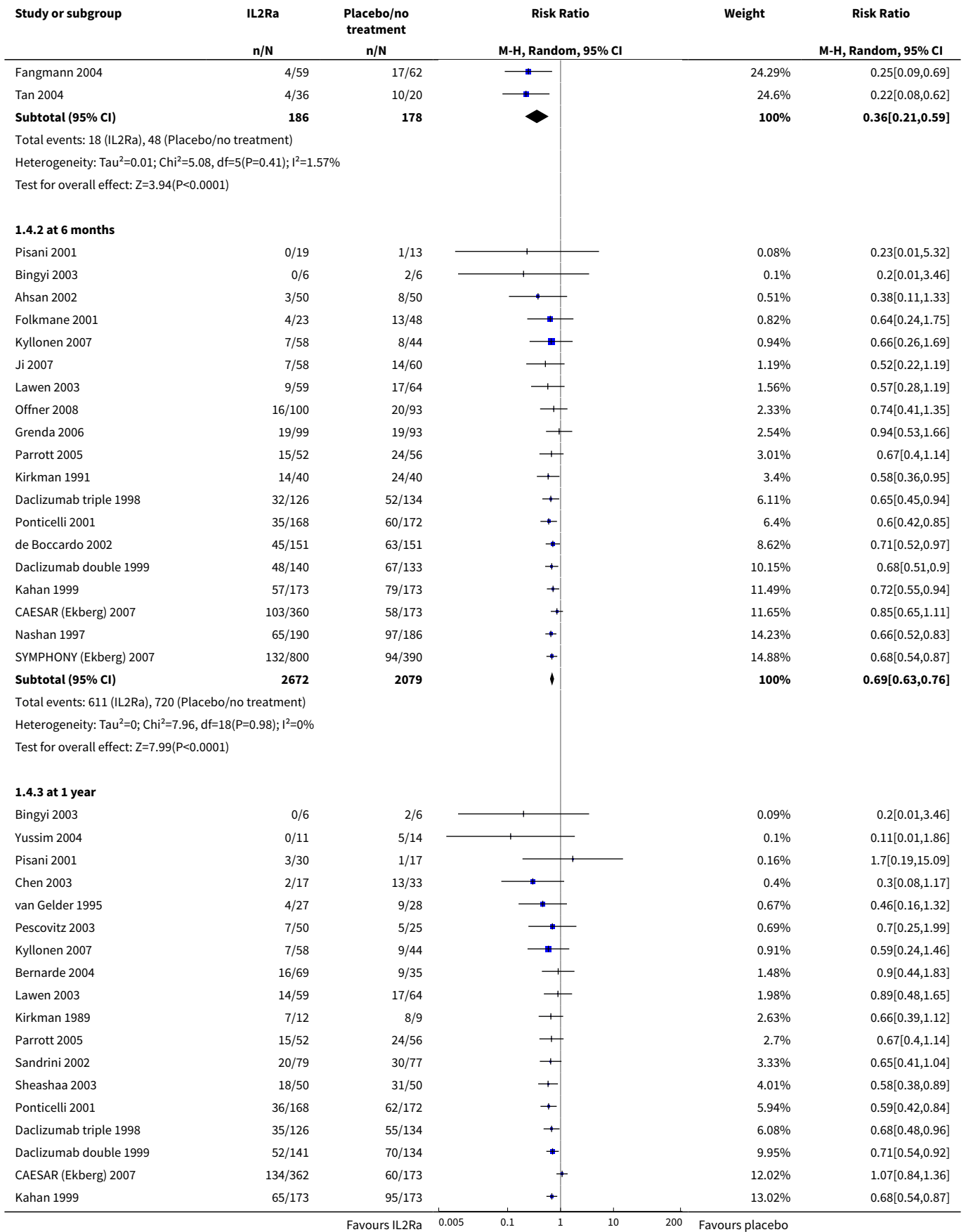


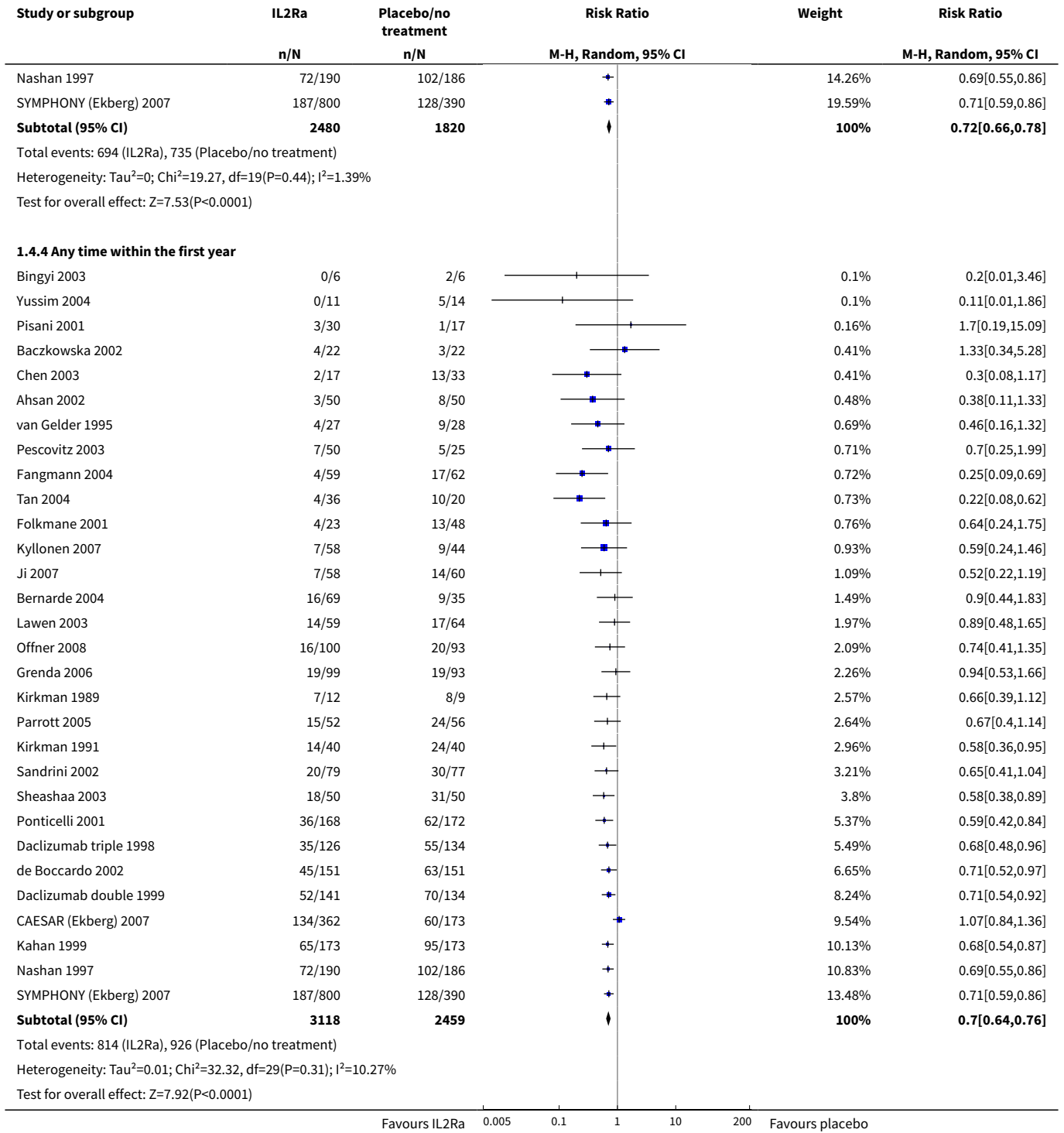


**Analysis 1.4. Comparison 1 IL2Ra versus placebo or no treatment, Outcome 4 Acute rejection: clinically suspected or biopsy proven.**

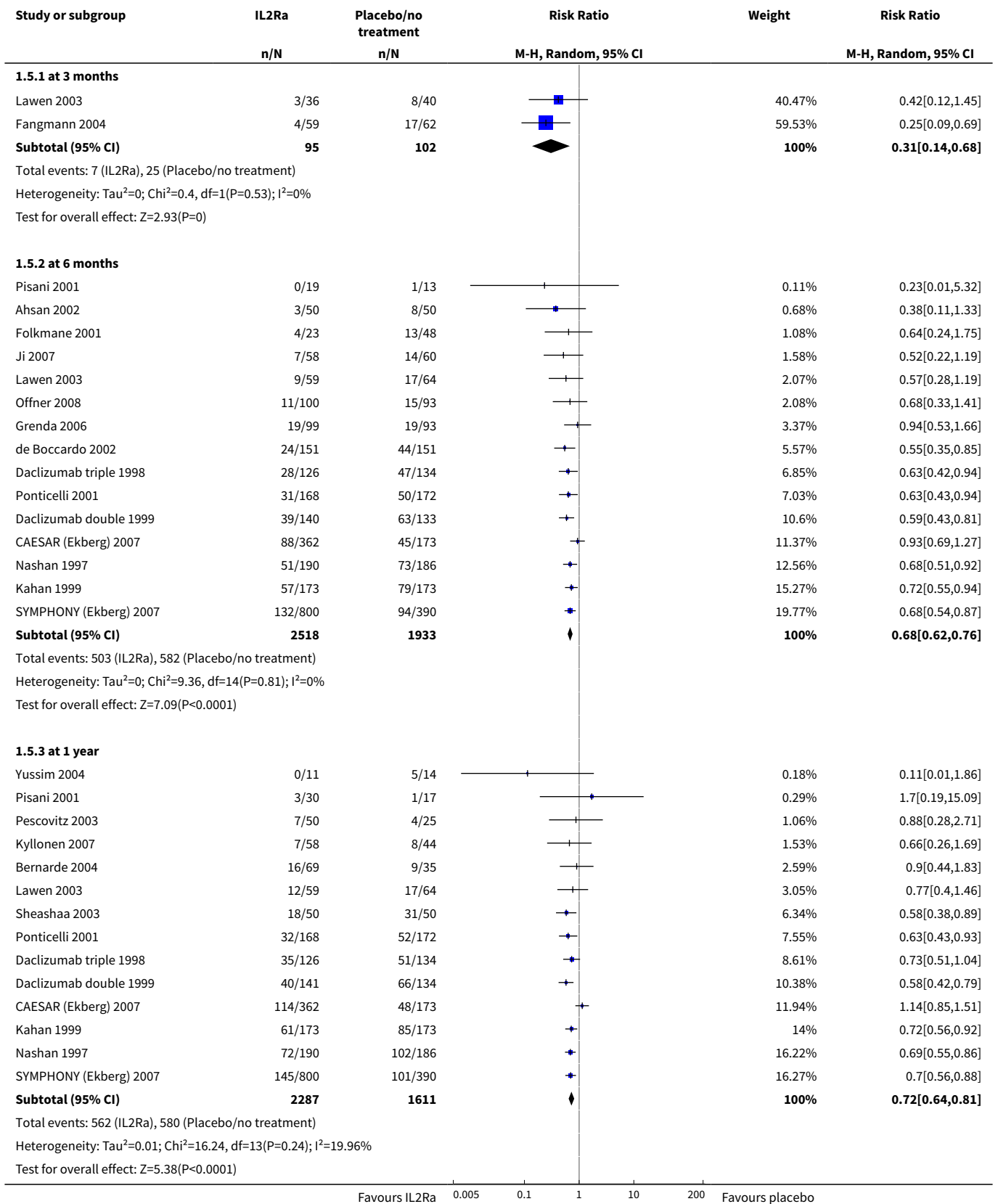




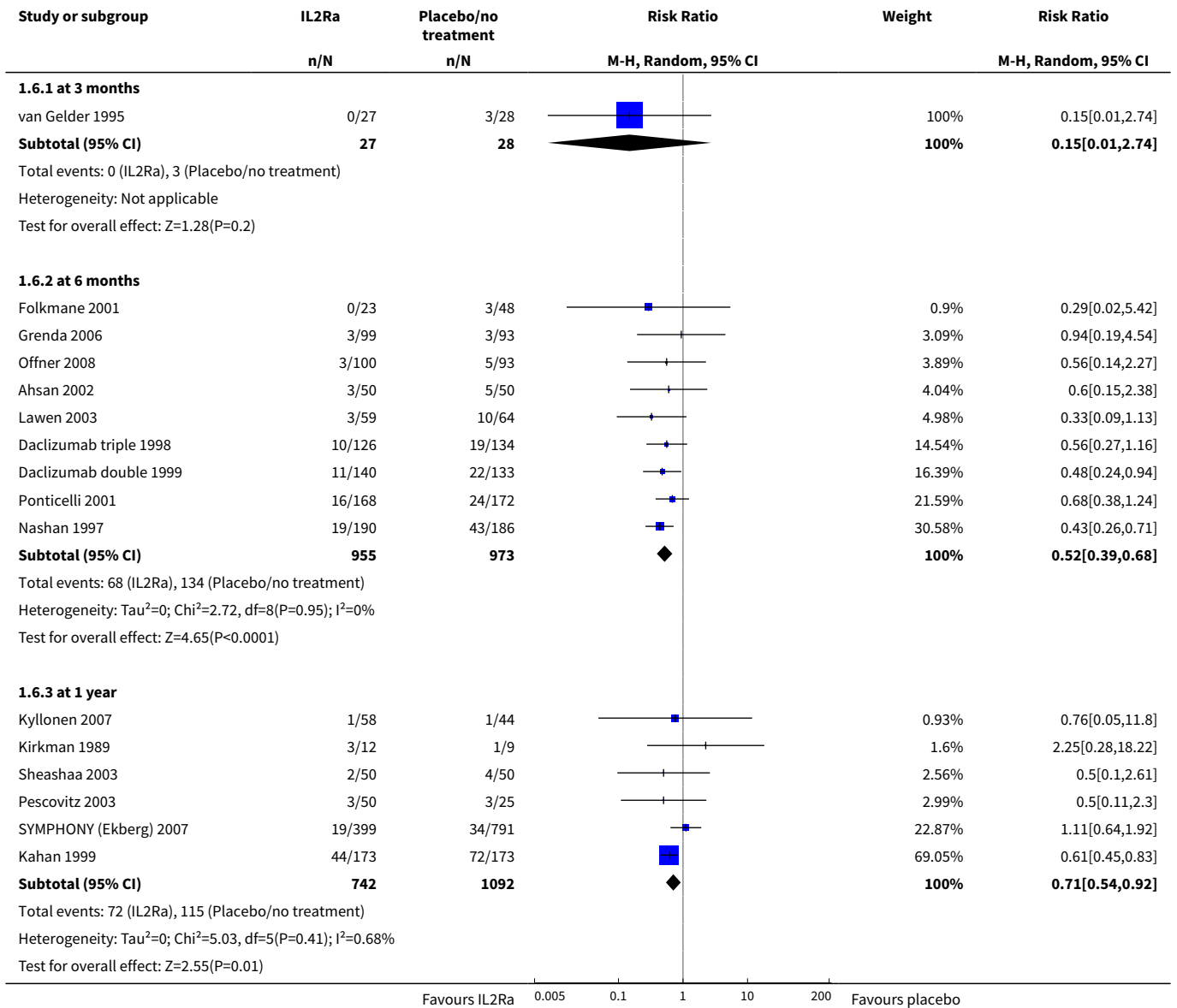




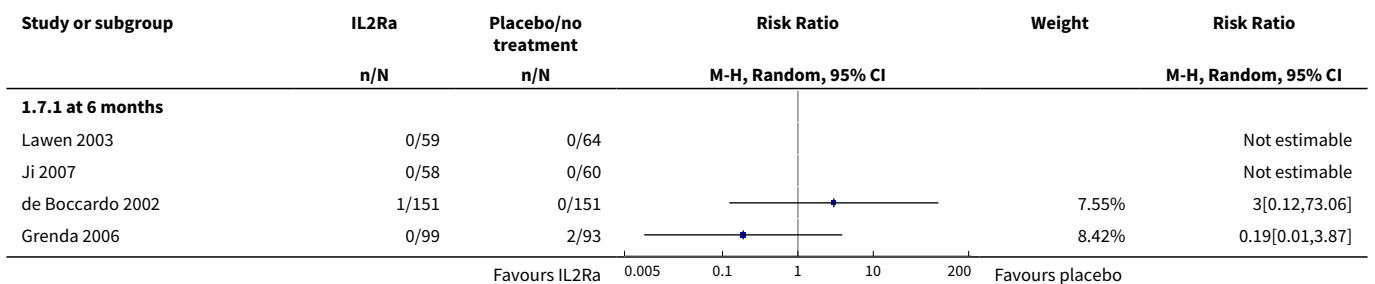
**Analysis 1.5. Comparison 1 IL2Ra versus placebo or no treatment, Outcome 5 Acute rejection: biopsy-proven.**

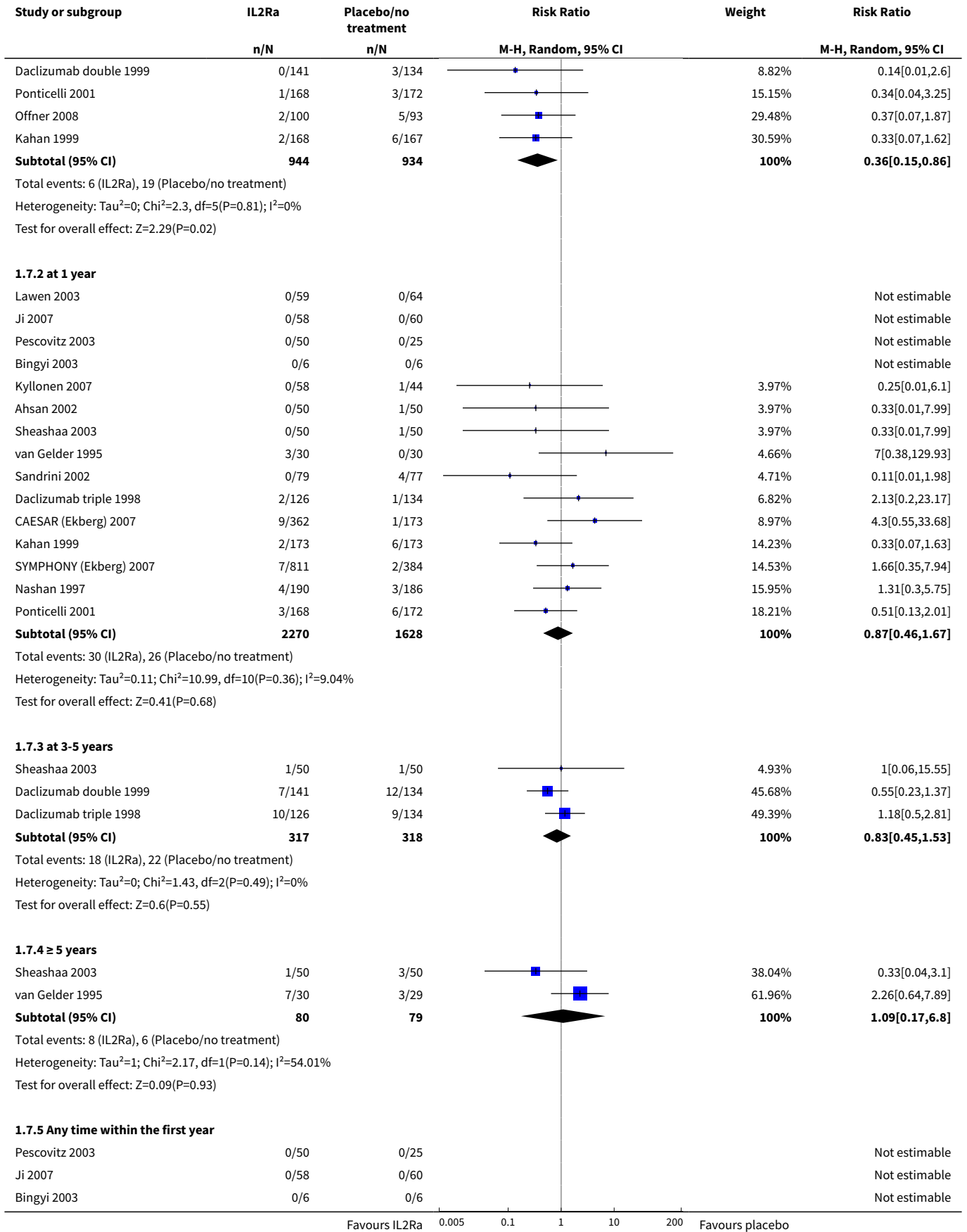


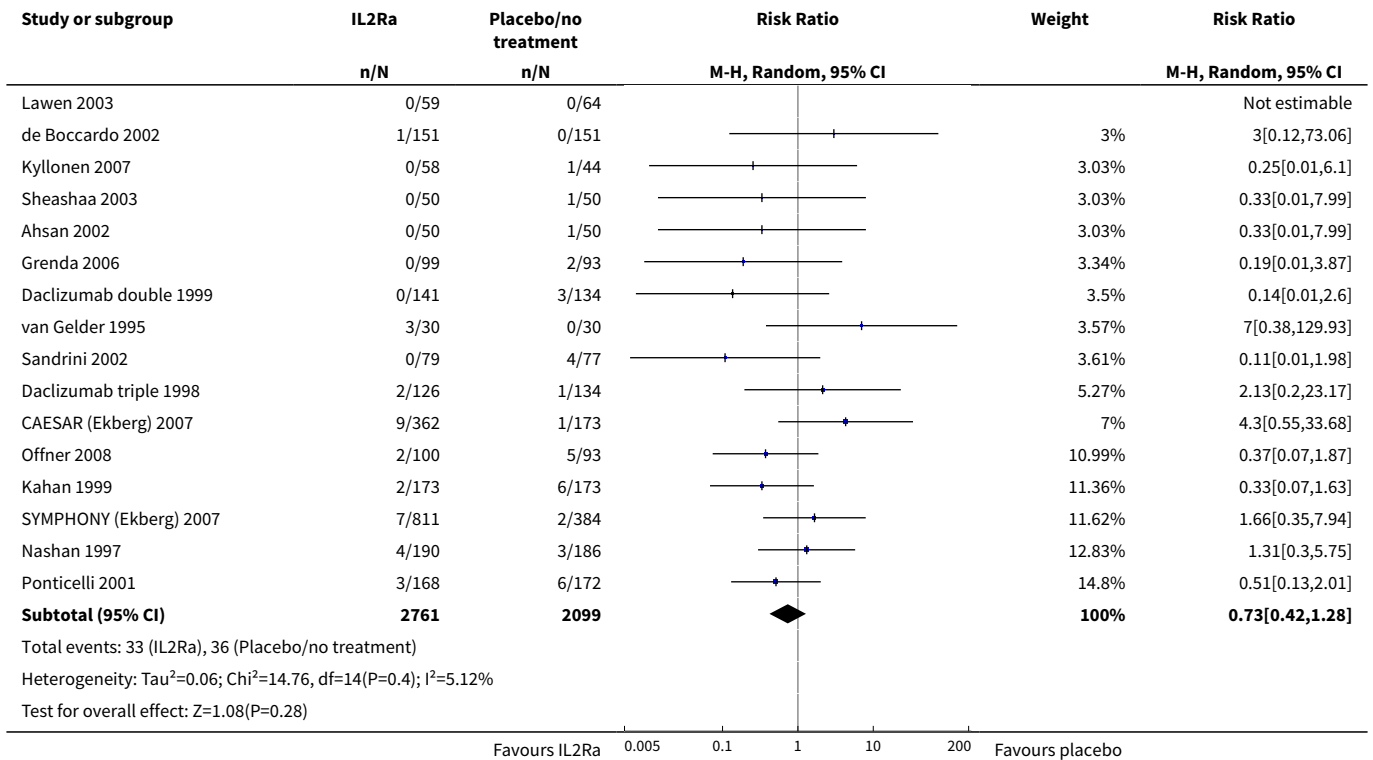
**Analysis 1.6. Comparison 1 IL2Ra versus placebo or no treatment, Outcome 6 Acute rejection: steroid resistant.**



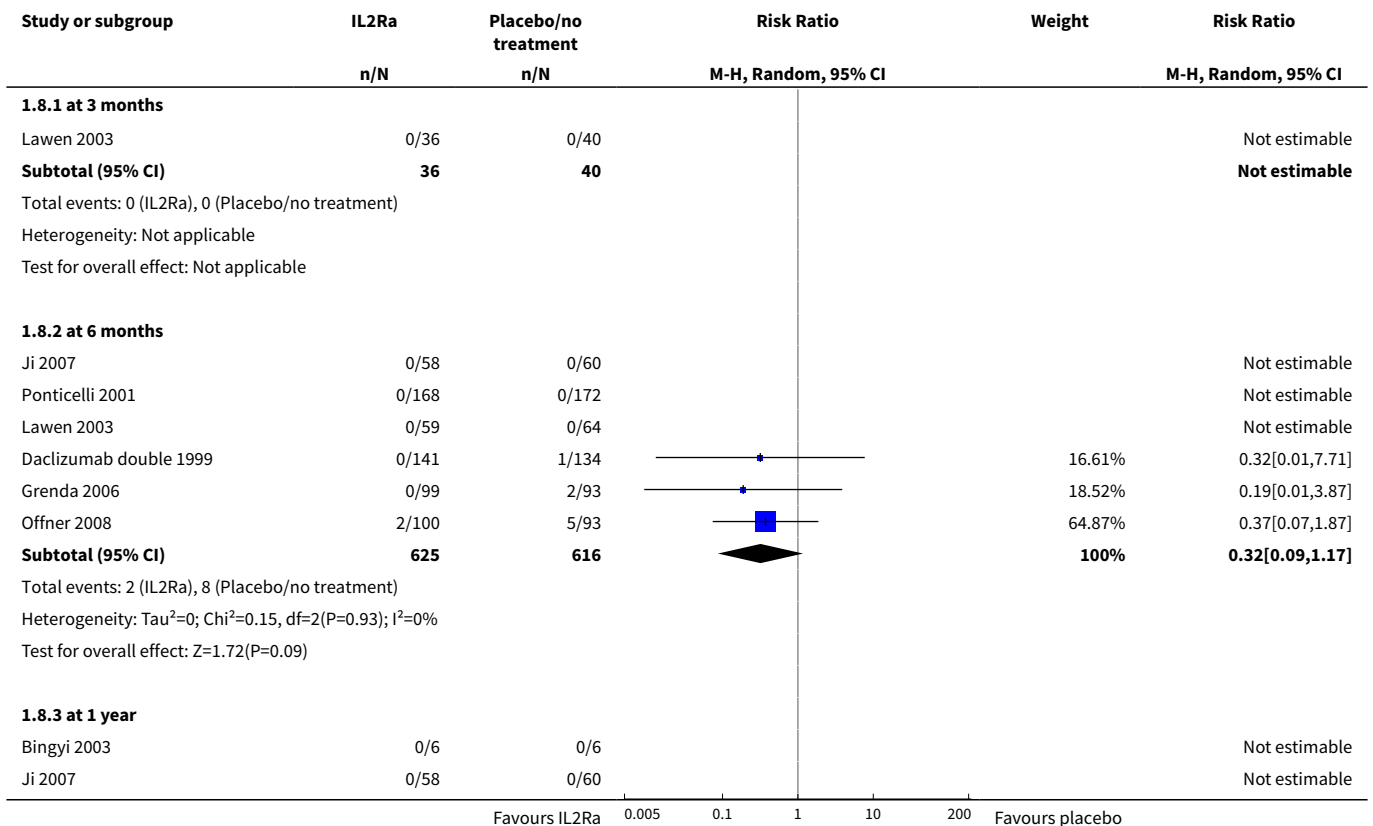
**Analysis 1.7. Comparison 1 IL2Ra versus placebo or no treatment, Outcome 7 Malignancy: total.**

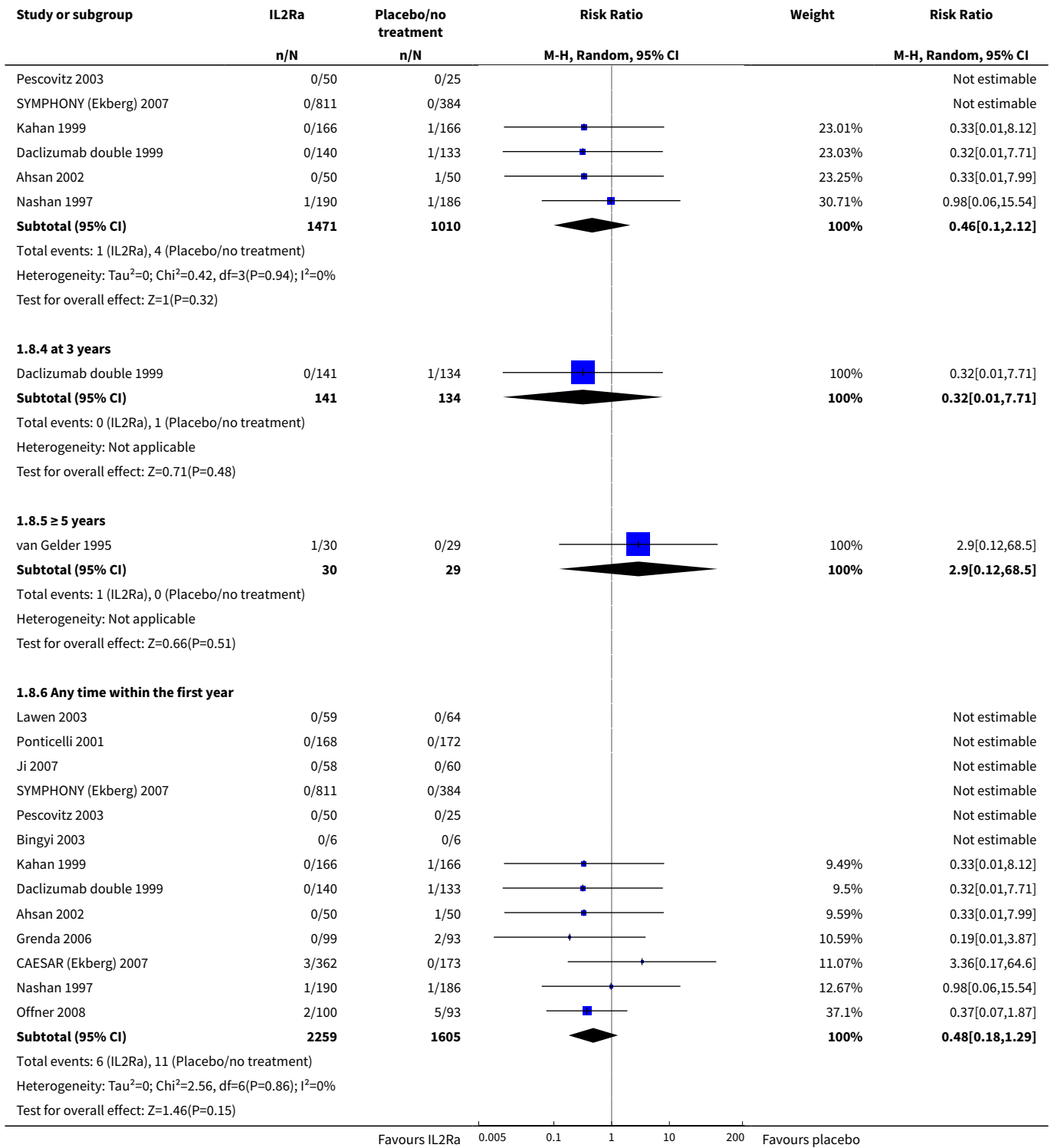




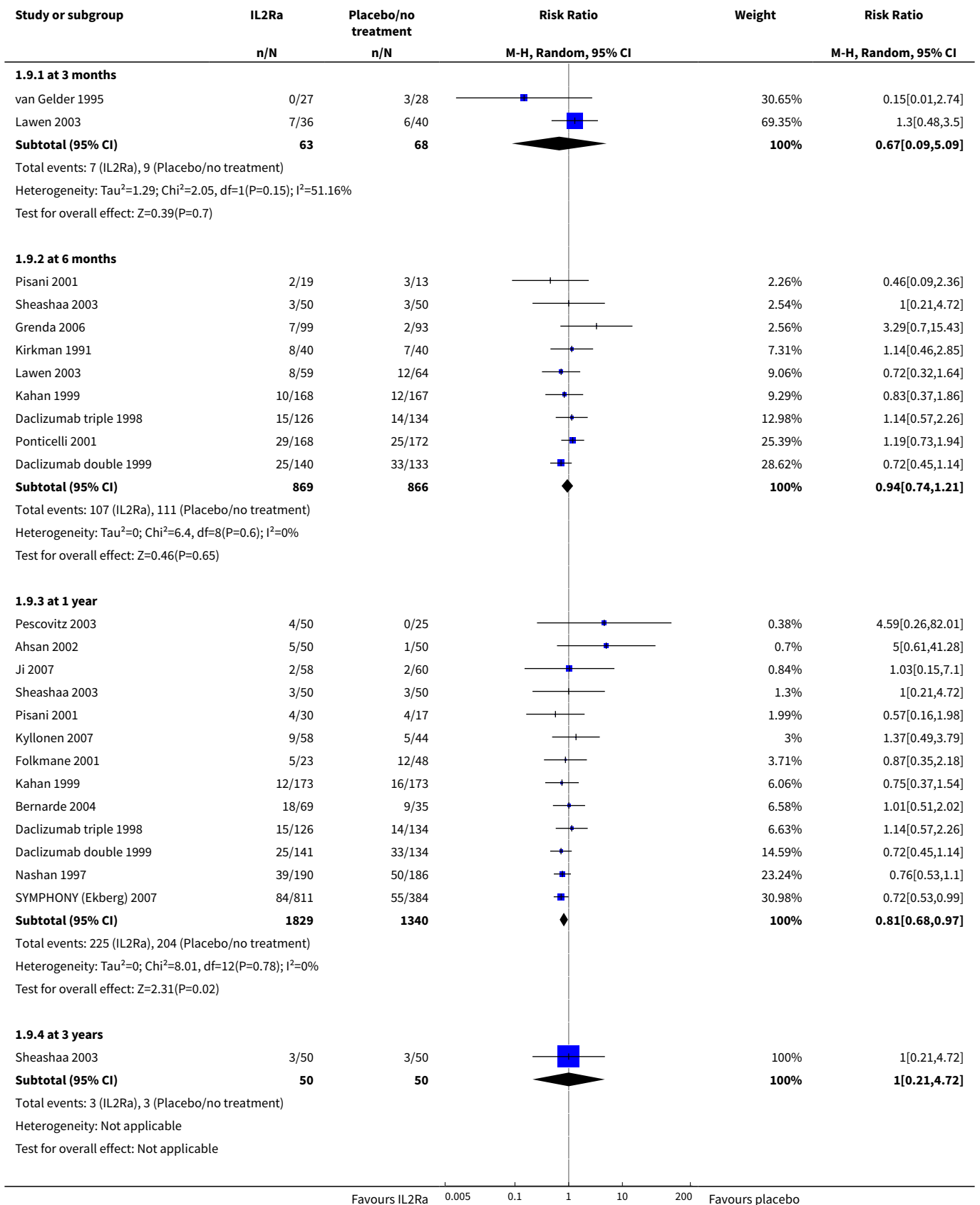


**Analysis 1.8. Comparison 1 IL2Ra versus placebo or no treatment, Outcome 8 PTLD/lymphoma.**

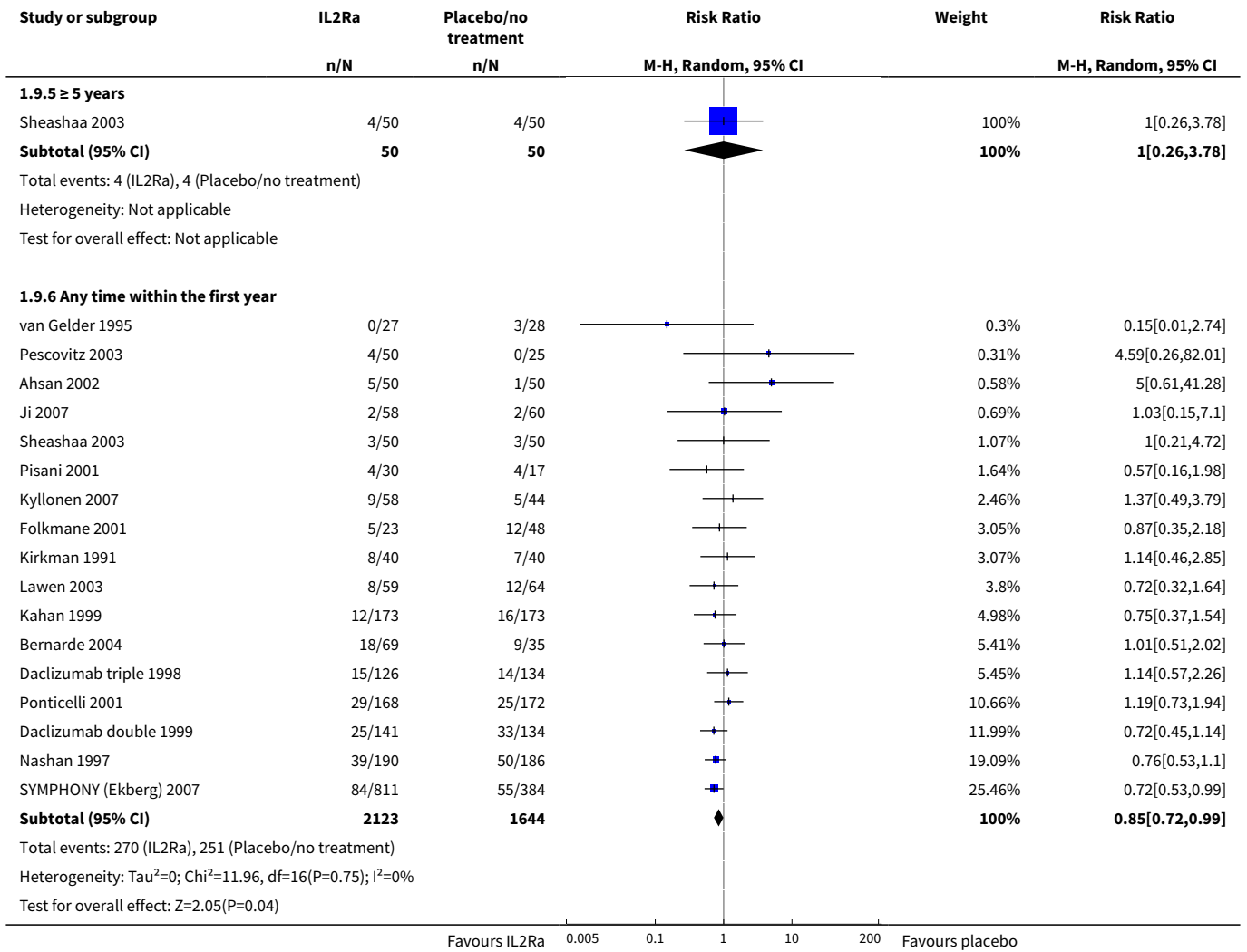




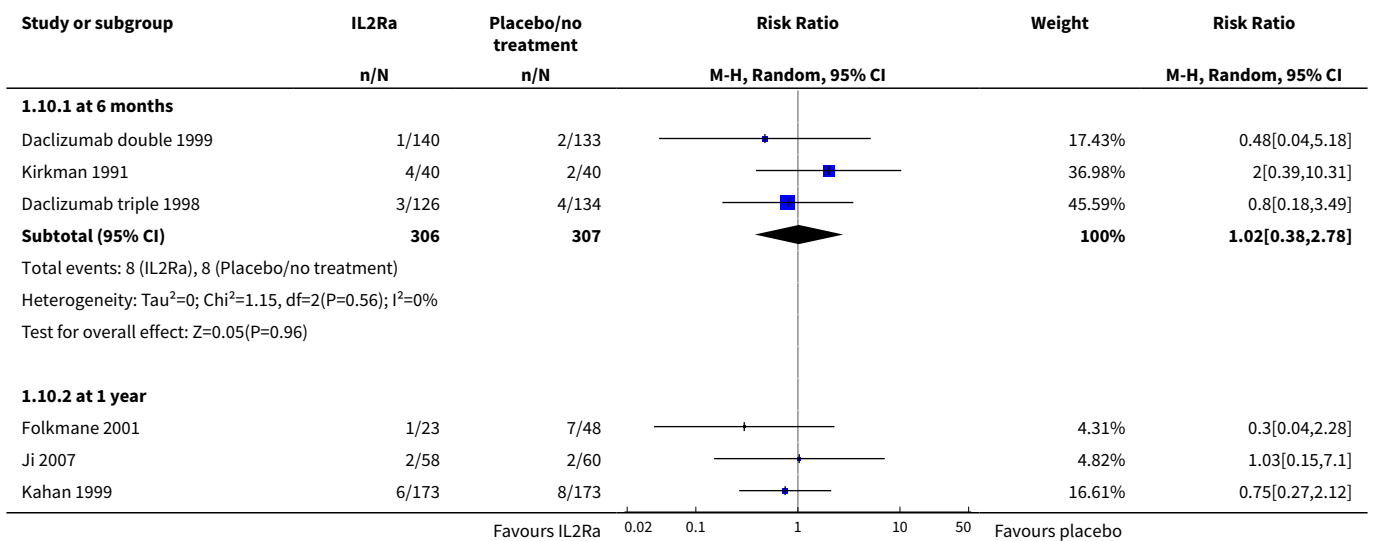
**Analysis 1.9. Comparison 1 IL2Ra versus placebo or no treatment, Outcome 9 Infection: CMV all.**

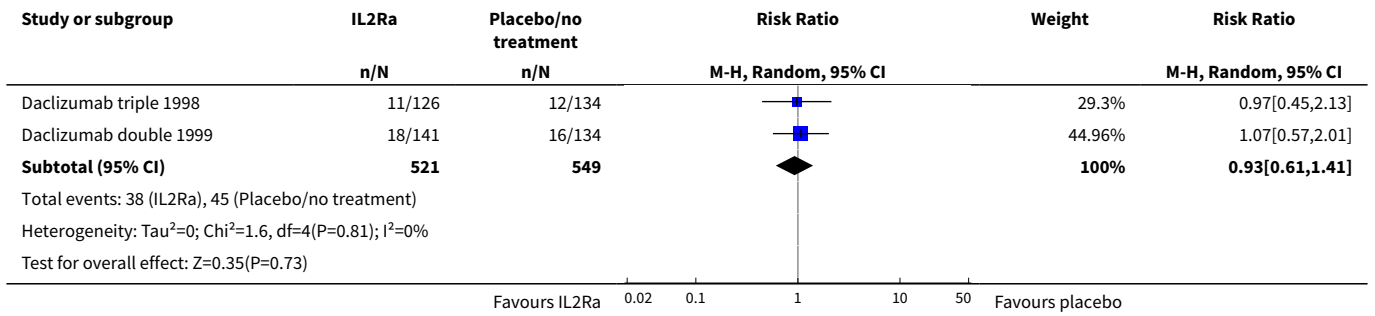




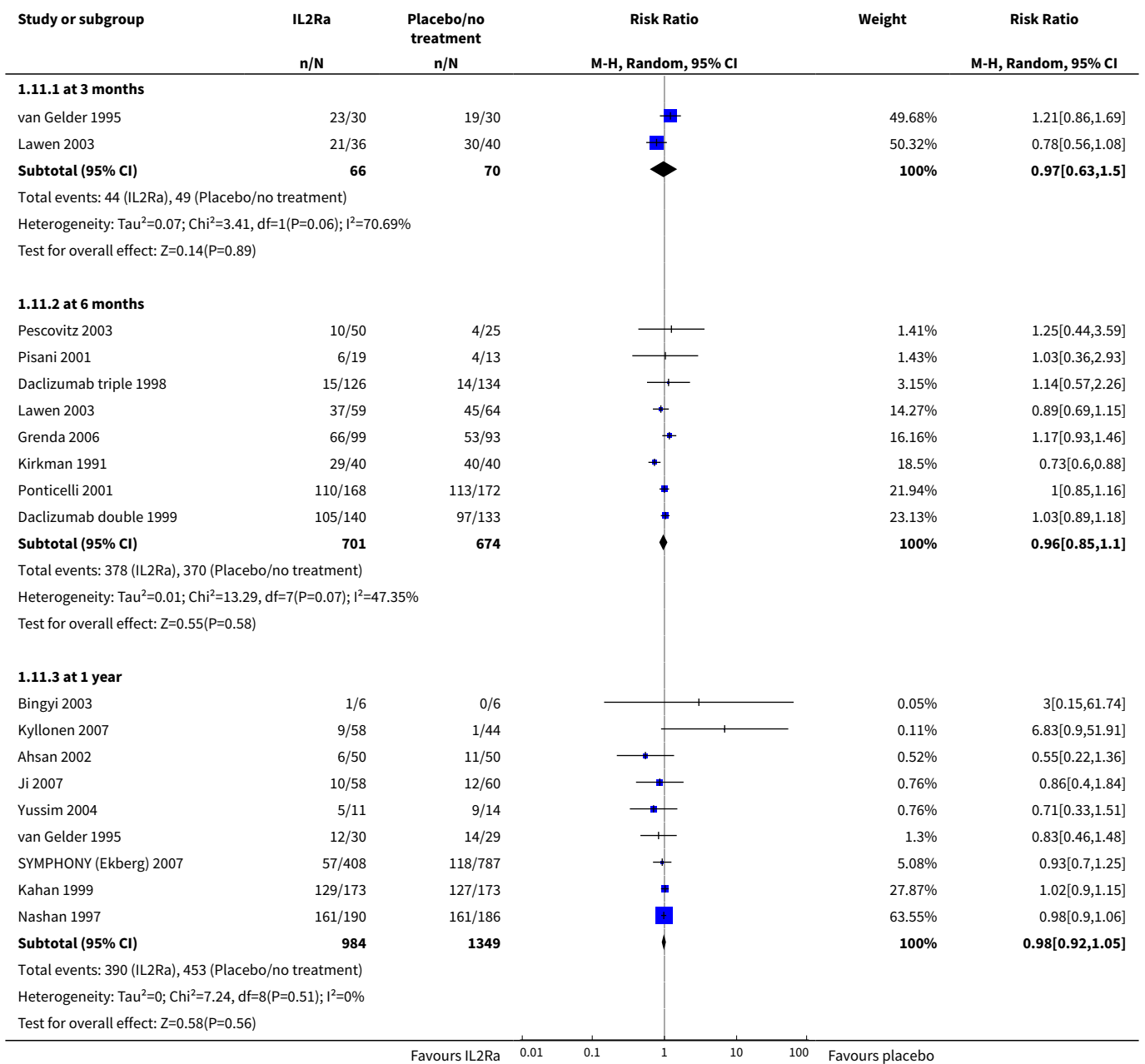


**Analysis 1.10. Comparison 1 IL2Ra versus placebo or no treatment, Outcome 10 Infection: CMV invasive.**

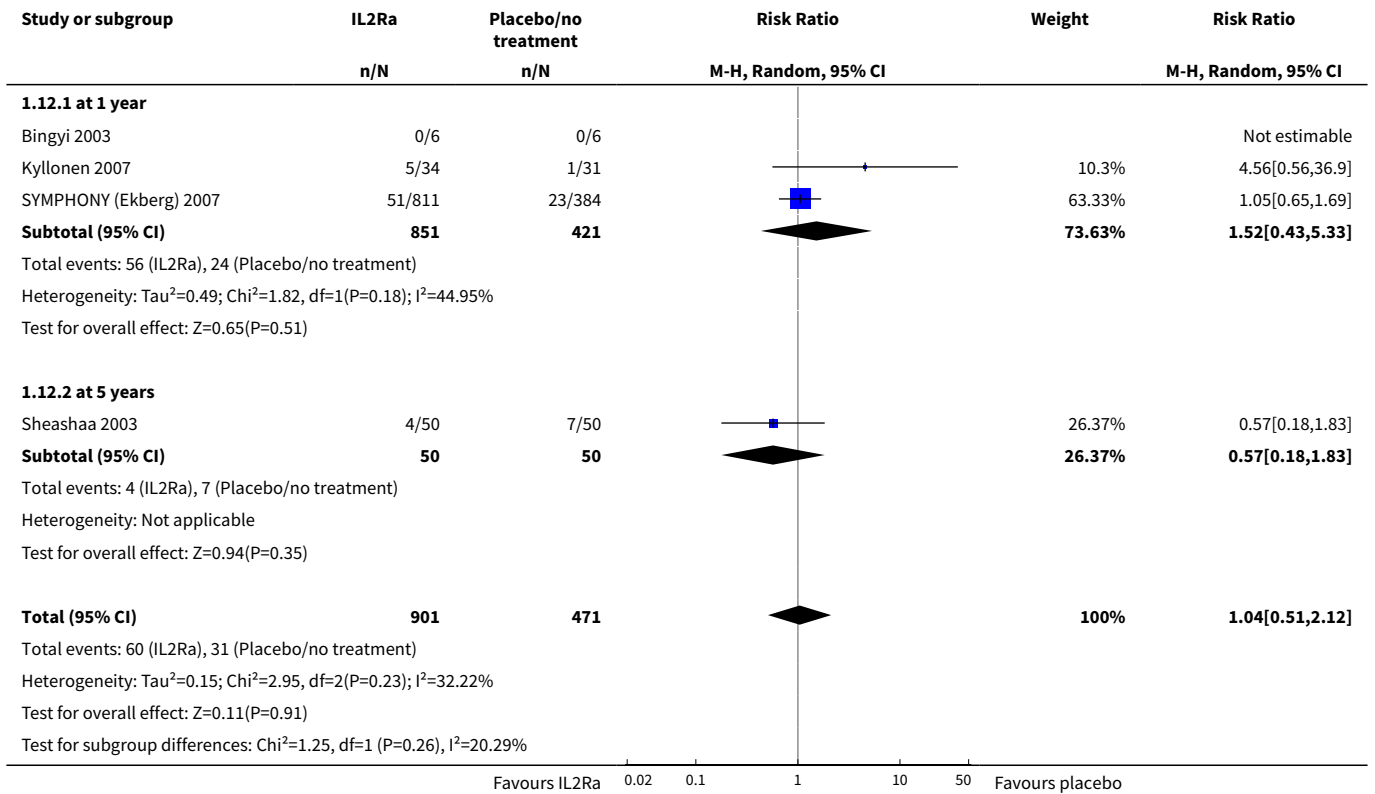




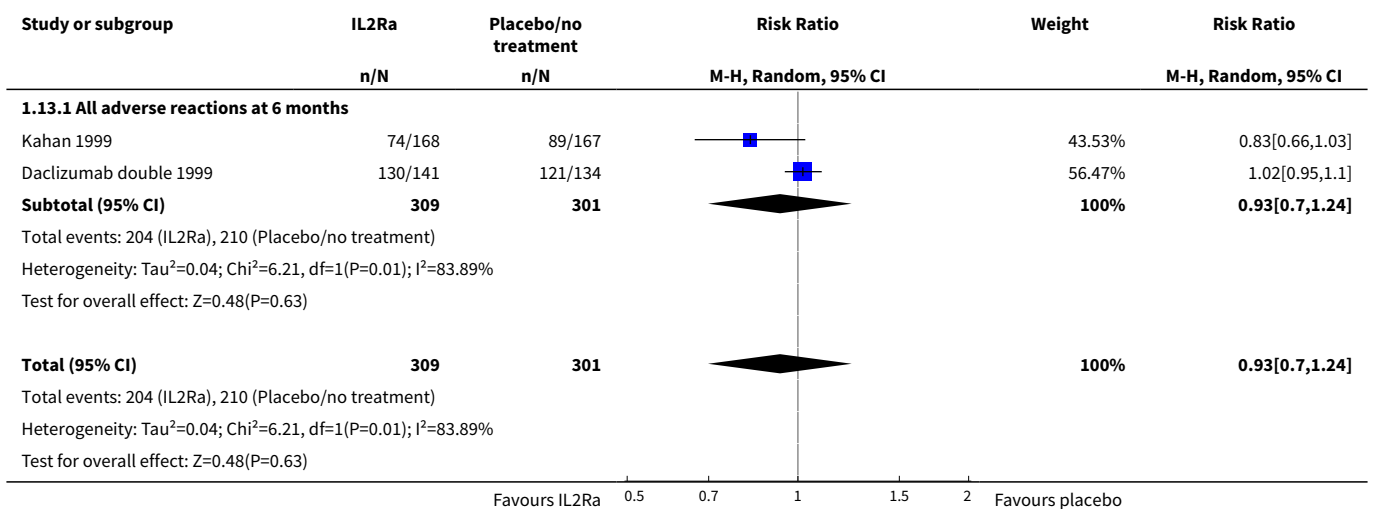
**Analysis 1.11. Comparison 1 IL2Ra versus placebo or no treatment, Outcome 11 Infection: serious all-cause total.**



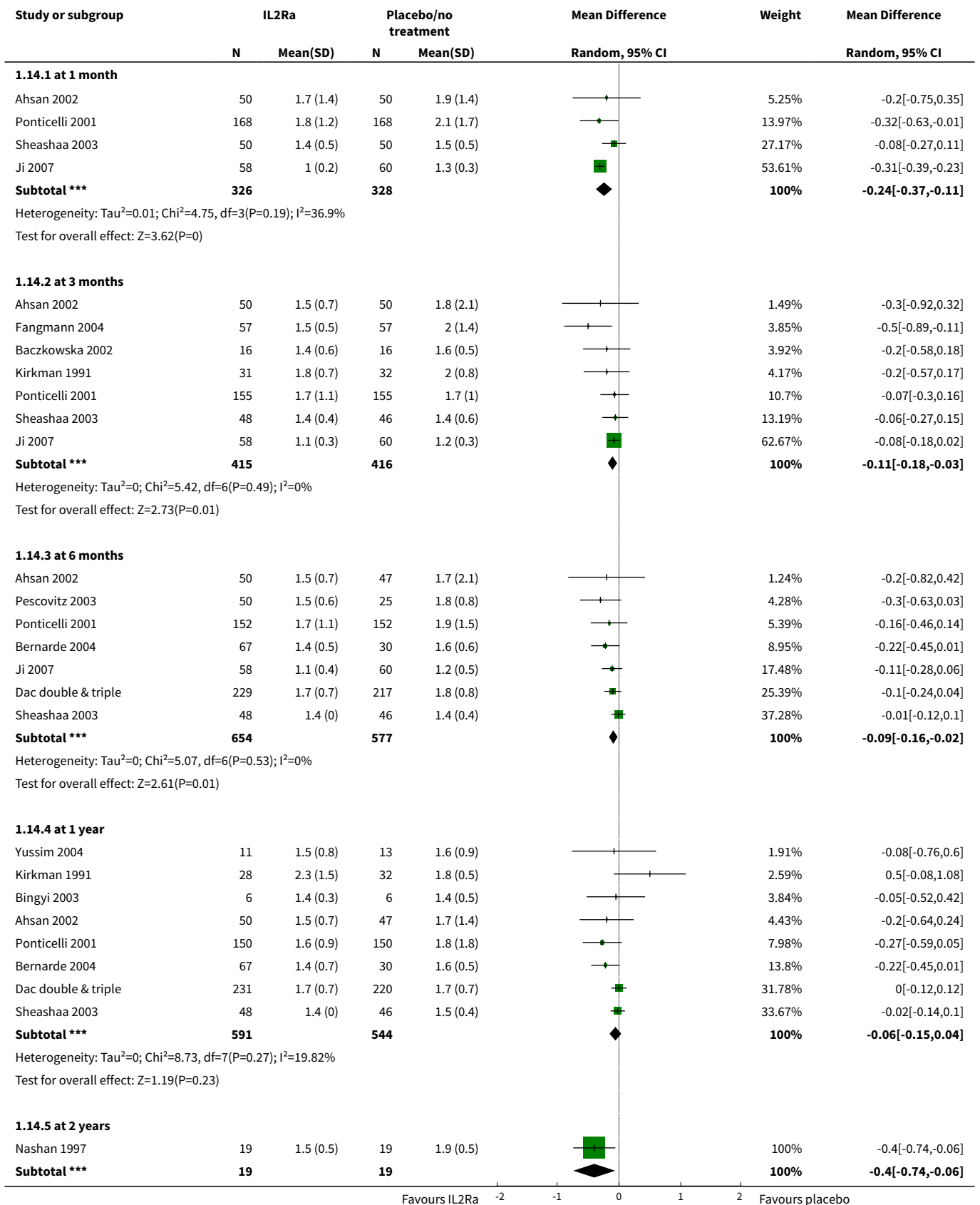
**Analysis 1.12. Comparison 1 IL2Ra versus placebo or no treatment, Outcome 12 Post-transplant diabetes mellitus (PTDM).**

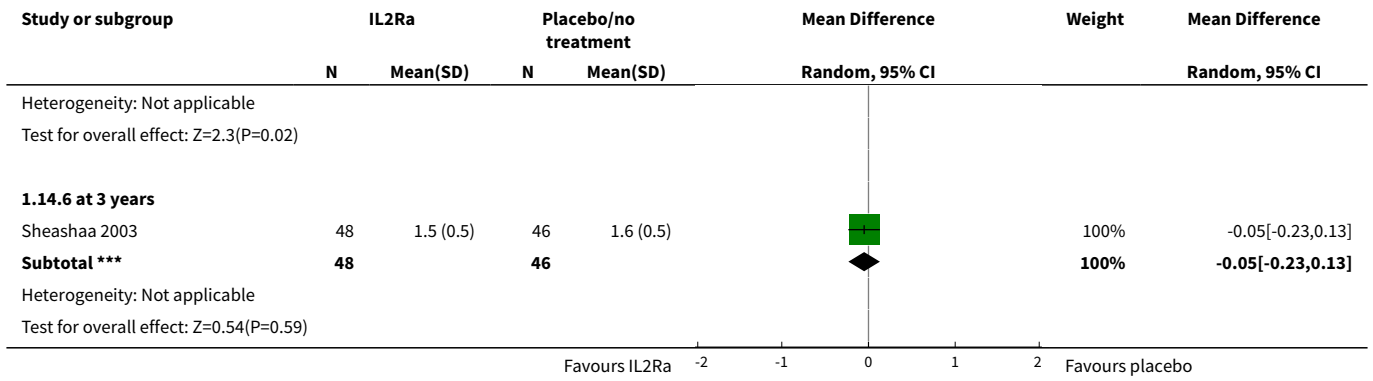


**Analysis 1.13. Comparison 1 IL2Ra versus placebo or no treatment, Outcome 13 Adverse reaction.**

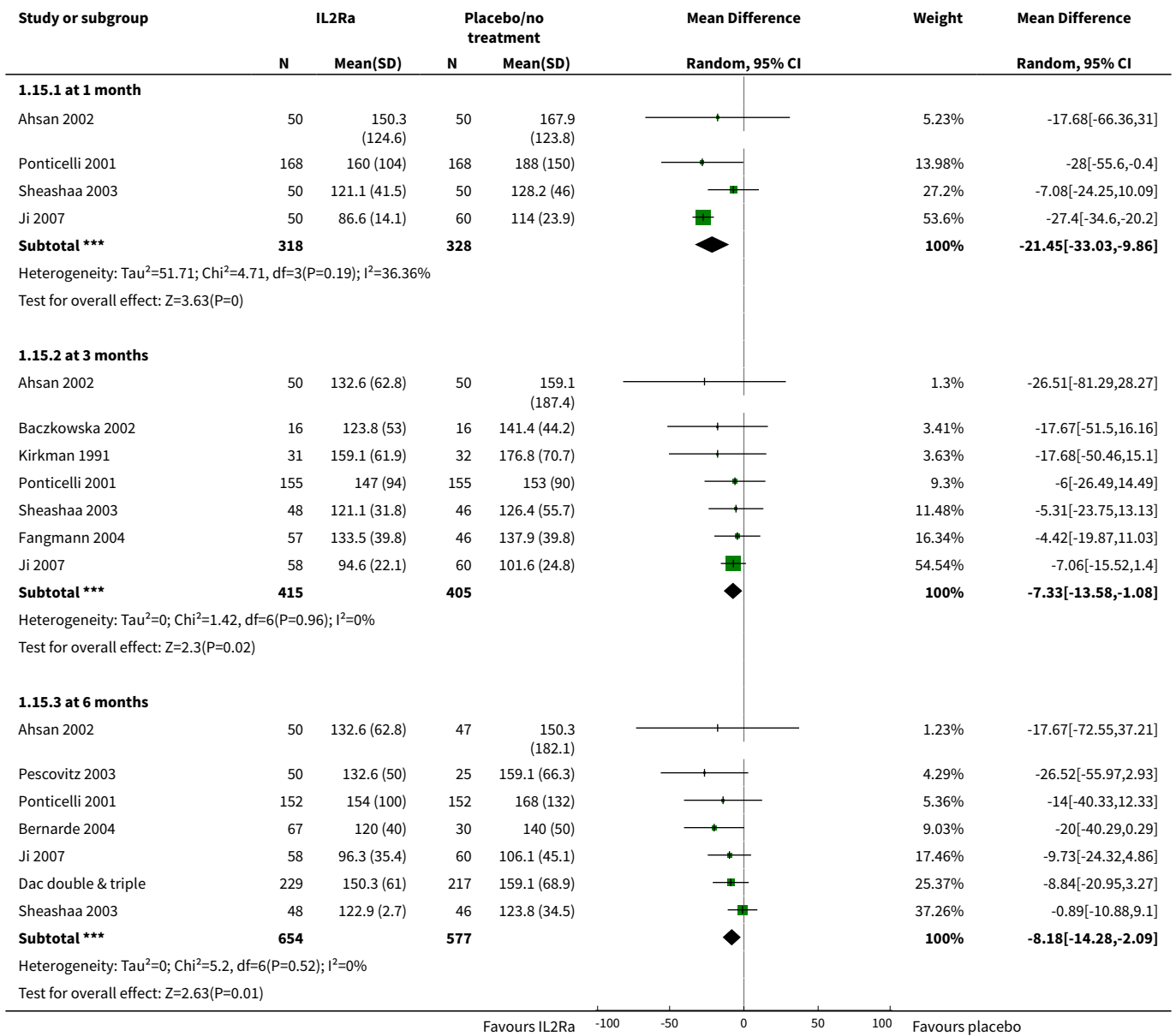


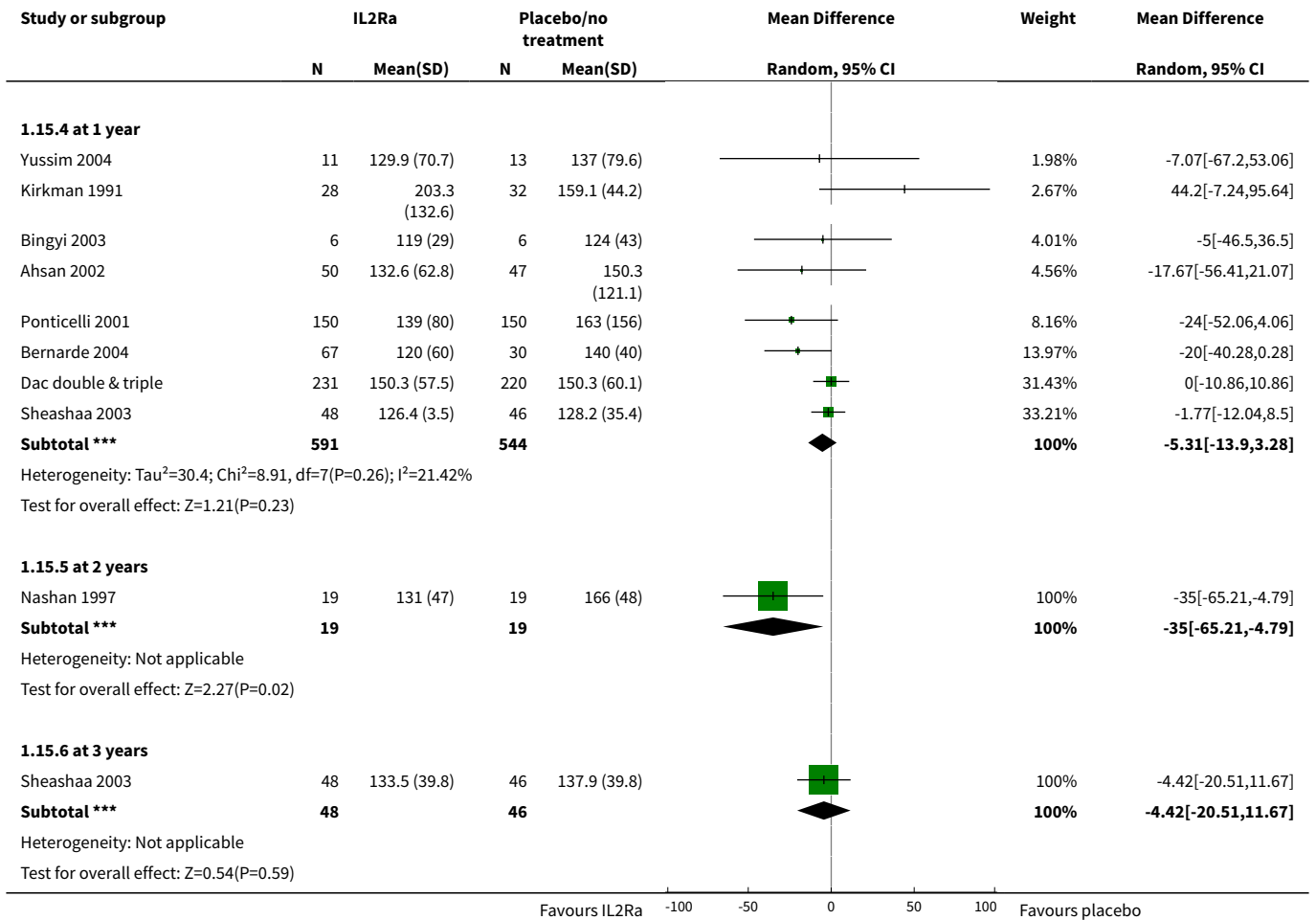
**Analysis 1.14. Comparison 1 IL2Ra versus placebo or no treatment, Outcome 14 Creatinine mg/dL.**



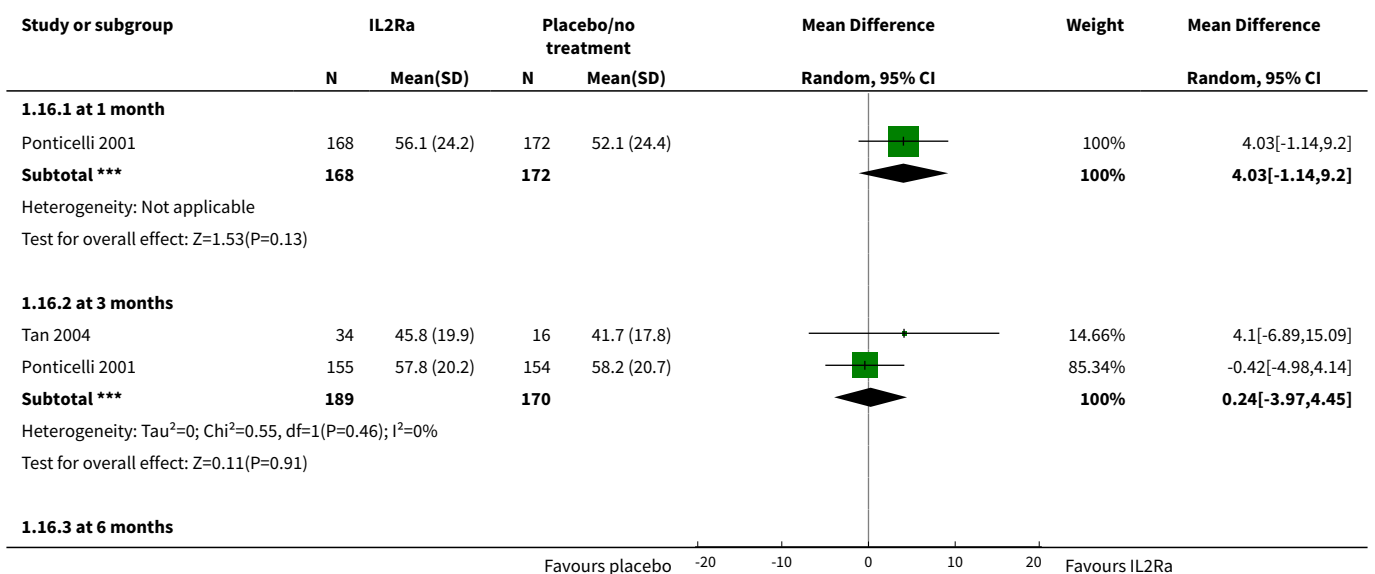


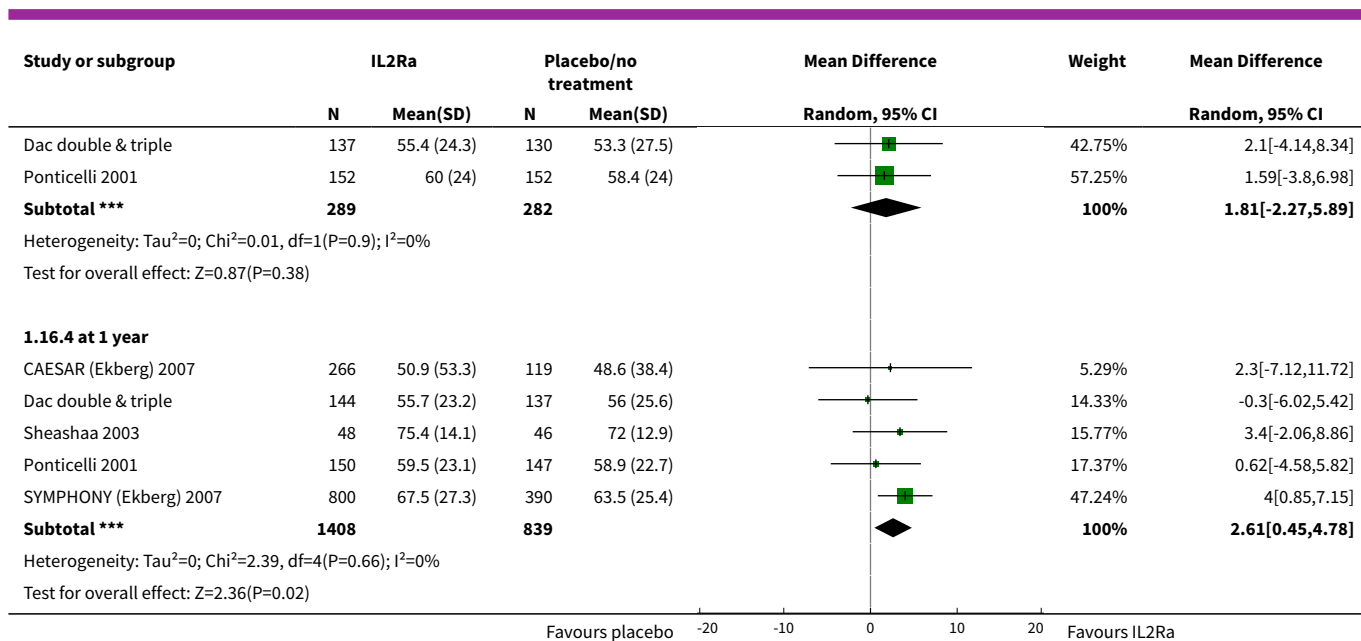
**Analysis 1.15. Comparison 1 IL2Ra versus placebo or no treatment, Outcome 15 Creatinine µmol/L.**





**Analysis 1.16. Comparison 1 IL2Ra versus placebo or no treatment, Outcome 16 Glomerular filtration rate (GFR) mL/min/1.73 m<sup>2</sup>.**





**Comparison 2. IL2Ra versus ATG**

Outcome or subgroup title	No. of studies	No. of participants	Statistical method	Effect size
<b>1 Mortality</b>	14		Risk Ratio (M-H, Random, 95% CI)	Subtotals only
1.1 at 6 months	7	701	Risk Ratio (M-H, Random, 95% CI)	1.75 [0.65, 4.72]
1.2 at 1 year	12	1609	Risk Ratio (M-H, Random, 95% CI)	1.31 [0.77, 2.25]
1.3 at 3-5 years	2	339	Risk Ratio (M-H, Random, 95% CI)	1.79 [0.58, 5.51]
1.4 ≥ 5 years	5	534	Risk Ratio (M-H, Random, 95% CI)	1.00 [0.62, 1.61]
<b>2 Graft loss or death with a functioning graft</b>	14		Risk Ratio (M-H, Random, 95% CI)	Subtotals only
2.1 at 3 months	2	129	Risk Ratio (M-H, Random, 95% CI)	0.91 [0.07, 11.87]
2.2 at 6 months	6	550	Risk Ratio (M-H, Random, 95% CI)	1.65 [0.78, 3.49]
2.3 at 1 year	12	1394	Risk Ratio (M-H, Random, 95% CI)	1.07 [0.76, 1.49]
2.4 at 2 years	3	320	Risk Ratio (M-H, Random, 95% CI)	1.20 [0.64, 2.25]
2.5 at 3-5 years	1	99	Risk Ratio (M-H, Random, 95% CI)	1.53 [0.27, 8.77]
2.6 ≥ 5 years	4	351	Risk Ratio (M-H, Random, 95% CI)	0.84 [0.62, 1.13]
<b>3 Graft loss censored for death with functioning graft</b>	15		Risk Ratio (M-H, Random, 95% CI)	Subtotals only

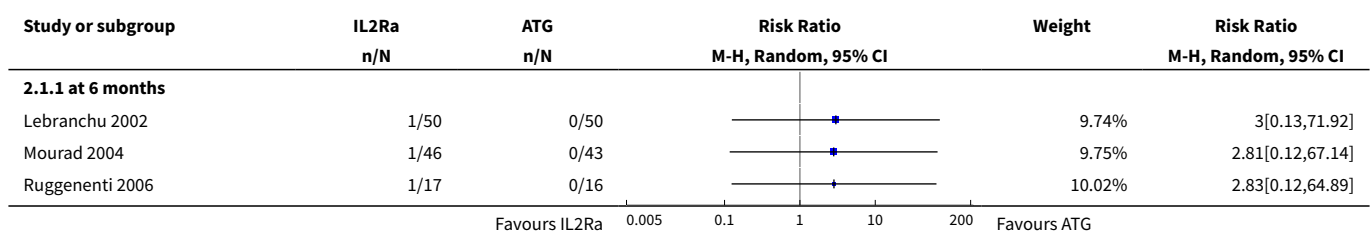
Outcome or subgroup title	No. of studies	No. of participants	Statistical method	Effect size
3.1 at 3 months	2	129	Risk Ratio (M-H, Random, 95% CI)	0.74 [0.08, 6.50]
3.2 at 6 months	5	439	Risk Ratio (M-H, Random, 95% CI)	1.31 [0.51, 3.34]
3.3 at 1 year	12	1394	Risk Ratio (M-H, Random, 95% CI)	0.98 [0.66, 1.45]
3.4 at 2 years	4	341	Risk Ratio (M-H, Random, 95% CI)	1.12 [0.52, 2.41]
3.5 at 3-5 years	1	99	Risk Ratio (M-H, Random, 95% CI)	2.04 [0.19, 21.79]
3.6 ≥ 5 years	4	351	Risk Ratio (M-H, Random, 95% CI)	0.71 [0.47, 1.07]
3.7 Any time within the first year	12	1402	Risk Ratio (M-H, Random, 95% CI)	1.10 [0.73, 1.65]
<b>4 Acute rejection: clinically suspected or biopsy-proven</b>	15		Risk Ratio (M-H, Random, 95% CI)	Subtotals only
4.1 at 3 months	5	318	Risk Ratio (M-H, Random, 95% CI)	1.10 [0.77, 1.59]
4.2 at 6 months	8	753	Risk Ratio (M-H, Random, 95% CI)	0.97 [0.70, 1.34]
4.3 at 1 year	10	1290	Risk Ratio (M-H, Random, 95% CI)	1.17 [0.96, 1.44]
4.4 Any time within the first year	15	1571	Risk Ratio (M-H, Random, 95% CI)	1.12 [0.93, 1.33]
<b>5 Acute rejection: biopsy-proven</b>	10		Risk Ratio (M-H, Random, 95% CI)	Subtotals only
5.1 at 3 months	3	203	Risk Ratio (M-H, Random, 95% CI)	1.16 [0.75, 1.80]
5.2 at 6 months	5	564	Risk Ratio (M-H, Random, 95% CI)	1.26 [0.79, 2.00]
5.3 at 1 year	8	1106	Risk Ratio (M-H, Random, 95% CI)	1.30 [1.01, 1.67]
5.4 at 1-5 years	1	183	Risk Ratio (M-H, Random, 95% CI)	1.77 [0.98, 3.18]
<b>6 Acute rejection: steroid resistant</b>	8		Risk Ratio (M-H, Random, 95% CI)	Subtotals only
6.1 at 6 months	2	235	Risk Ratio (M-H, Random, 95% CI)	0.93 [0.45, 1.95]
6.2 at 1 year	6	915	Risk Ratio (M-H, Random, 95% CI)	2.24 [0.95, 5.27]
6.3 at 3 years	1	240	Risk Ratio (M-H, Random, 95% CI)	1.67 [0.47, 5.89]
<b>7 Malignancy: total</b>	9		Risk Ratio (M-H, Random, 95% CI)	Subtotals only
7.1 at 6 months	2	313	Risk Ratio (M-H, Random, 95% CI)	0.33 [0.04, 3.15]
7.2 at 1 year	7	1067	Risk Ratio (M-H, Random, 95% CI)	0.25 [0.07, 0.87]
7.3 at 3-5 years	2	339	Risk Ratio (M-H, Random, 95% CI)	0.67 [0.15, 2.91]
7.4 ≥ 5 years	2	223	Risk Ratio (M-H, Random, 95% CI)	1.32 [0.30, 5.85]

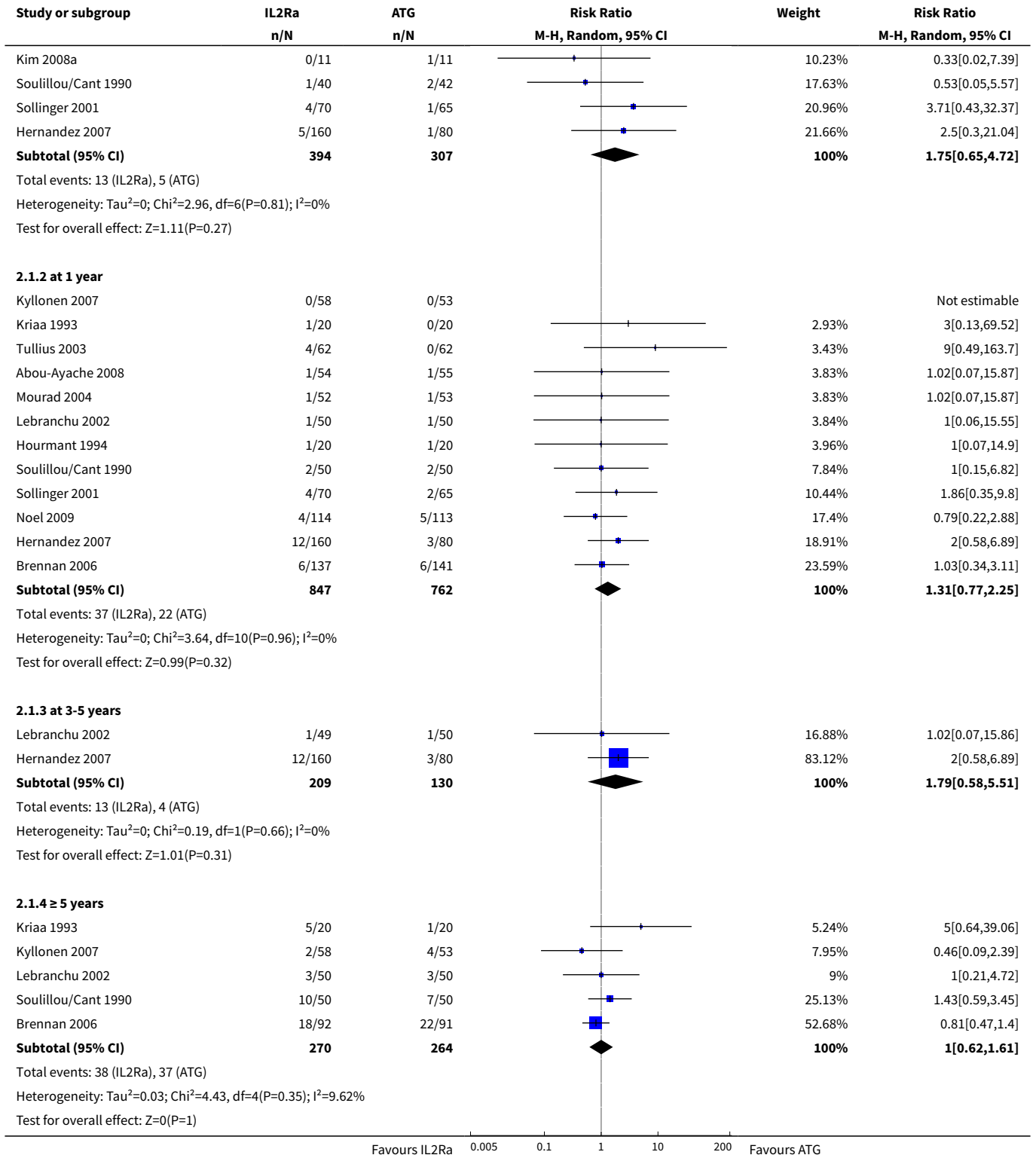


Outcome or subgroup title	No. of studies	No. of participants	Statistical method	Effect size
<b>8 PTLD/lymphoma</b>	8		Risk Ratio (M-H, Random, 95% CI)	Subtotals only
8.1 At 1 year	5	855	Risk Ratio (M-H, Random, 95% CI)	0.15 [0.01, 2.82]
8.2 At 3 years	2	340	Risk Ratio (M-H, Random, 95% CI)	0.10 [0.00, 2.07]
8.3 At ≥ 5 years	2	283	Risk Ratio (M-H, Random, 95% CI)	0.23 [0.04, 1.35]
<b>9 Infection: CMV all</b>	14		Risk Ratio (M-H, Random, 95% CI)	Subtotals only
9.1 at 3 months	3	203	Risk Ratio (M-H, Random, 95% CI)	0.61 [0.29, 1.31]
9.2 at 6 months	5	609	Risk Ratio (M-H, Random, 95% CI)	0.60 [0.32, 1.10]
9.3 at 1 year	9	1230	Risk Ratio (M-H, Random, 95% CI)	0.72 [0.48, 1.07]
9.4 at 2 years	2	262	Risk Ratio (M-H, Random, 95% CI)	0.45 [0.16, 1.27]
9.5 ≥ 5 years	2	223	Risk Ratio (M-H, Random, 95% CI)	1.31 [0.26, 6.56]
9.6 Any within the first year	13	1647	Risk Ratio (M-H, Random, 95% CI)	0.68 [0.50, 0.93]
<b>10 Infection: CMV invasive</b>	5		Risk Ratio (M-H, Random, 95% CI)	Subtotals only
10.1 at 3 months	1	100	Risk Ratio (M-H, Random, 95% CI)	0.2 [0.02, 1.65]
10.2 at 6 months	2	210	Risk Ratio (M-H, Random, 95% CI)	2.31 [0.35, 15.46]
10.3 at 1 year	2	245	Risk Ratio (M-H, Random, 95% CI)	1.89 [0.59, 6.09]
10.4 at 3 years	1	240	Risk Ratio (M-H, Random, 95% CI)	0.86 [0.35, 2.09]
<b>11 Post-transplant diabetes mellitus (PTDM)</b>	3		Risk Ratio (M-H, Random, 95% CI)	Subtotals only
11.1 at 1 year	3	302	Risk Ratio (M-H, Random, 95% CI)	1.01 [0.28, 3.72]
<b>12 Reactions to drug administration</b>	7		Risk Ratio (M-H, Random, 95% CI)	Subtotals only
12.1 Fever	4	281	Risk Ratio (M-H, Random, 95% CI)	0.41 [0.17, 1.00]
12.2 Cytokine release syndrome	4	274	Risk Ratio (M-H, Random, 95% CI)	0.08 [0.01, 0.60]
12.3 Other adverse reactions	5	653	Risk Ratio (M-H, Random, 95% CI)	0.29 [0.09, 0.91]
<b>13 Haematological adverse reactions</b>	4		Risk Ratio (M-H, Random, 95% CI)	Subtotals only
13.1 Leucopenia	4	508	Risk Ratio (M-H, Random, 95% CI)	0.41 [0.28, 0.60]
13.2 Thrombocytopenia	3	423	Risk Ratio (M-H, Random, 95% CI)	0.23 [0.03, 1.67]

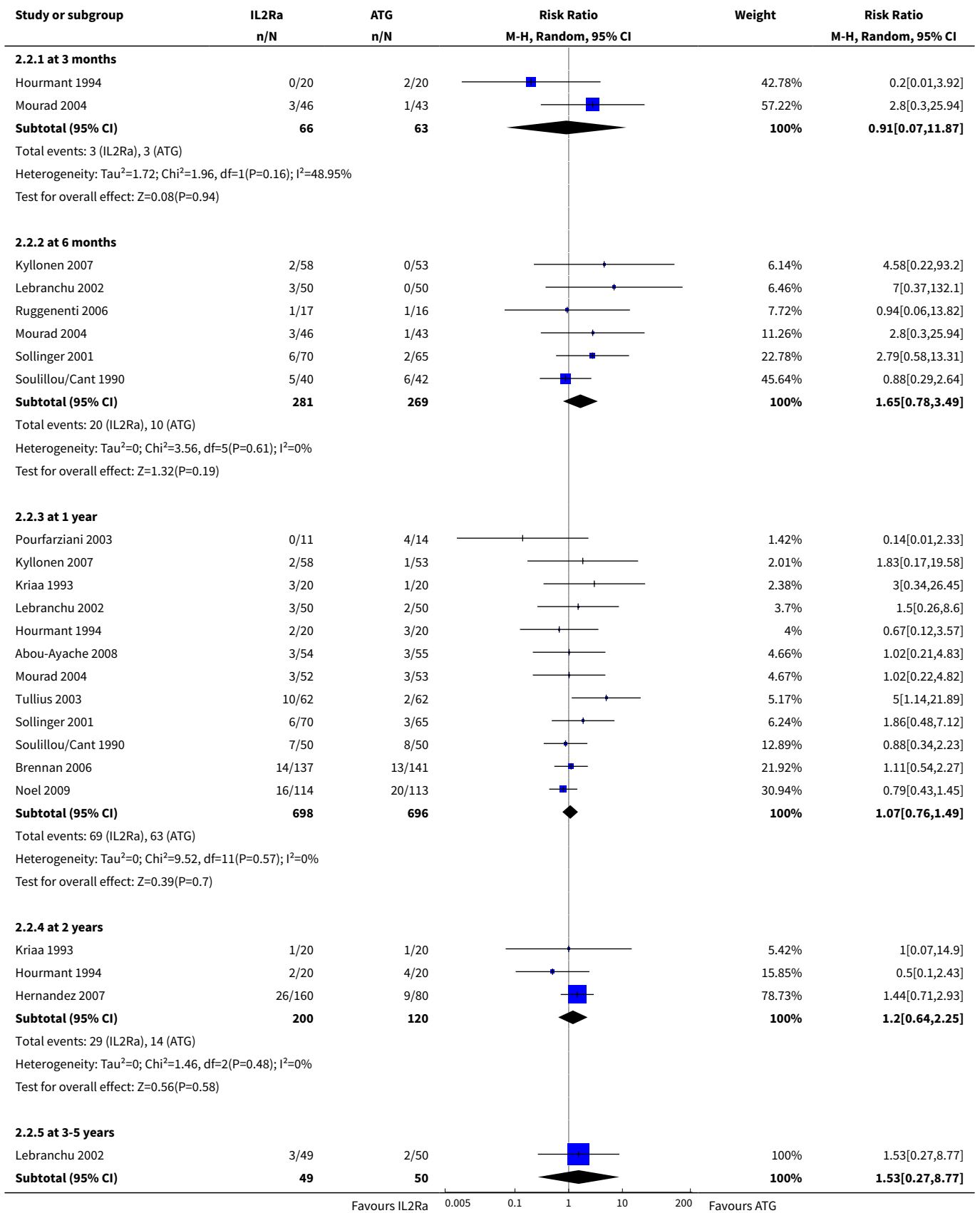
Outcome or subgroup title	No. of studies	No. of participants	Statistical method	Effect size
<b>14 Creatinine mg/dL</b>	9		Mean Difference (IV, Random, 95% CI)	Subtotals only
14.1 at 1 month	3	293	Mean Difference (IV, Random, 95% CI)	-0.14 [-0.32, 0.04]
14.2 at 2 months	1	97	Mean Difference (IV, Random, 95% CI)	-0.15 [-0.34, 0.04]
14.3 at 3 months	3	226	Mean Difference (IV, Random, 95% CI)	-0.04 [-0.18, 0.11]
14.4 at 6 months	4	242	Mean Difference (IV, Random, 95% CI)	-0.13 [-0.23, -0.02]
14.5 at 1 year	6	580	Mean Difference (IV, Random, 95% CI)	-0.10 [-0.20, -0.01]
14.6 at 3 years	2	118	Mean Difference (IV, Random, 95% CI)	-0.00 [-0.19, 0.18]
14.7 at 5 years	3	207	Mean Difference (IV, Random, 95% CI)	0.04 [-0.13, 0.22]
<b>15 Creatinine <math>\mu\text{mol/L}</math></b>	9		Mean Difference (IV, Random, 95% CI)	Subtotals only
15.1 at 1 month	3	293	Mean Difference (IV, Random, 95% CI)	-12.37 [-28.51, 3.76]
15.2 at 2 months	1	97	Mean Difference (IV, Random, 95% CI)	-13.40 [-29.87, 3.07]
15.3 at 3 months	4	289	Mean Difference (IV, Random, 95% CI)	-3.24 [-15.13, 8.66]
15.4 at 6 months	4	244	Mean Difference (IV, Random, 95% CI)	-11.02 [-19.94, -2.09]
15.5 at 1 year	6	586	Mean Difference (IV, Random, 95% CI)	-8.84 [-17.23, -0.45]
15.6 at 3 years	2	118	Mean Difference (IV, Random, 95% CI)	-0.55 [-16.75, 15.66]
15.7 at 5 years	3	211	Mean Difference (IV, Random, 95% CI)	3.45 [-11.84, 18.74]
<b>16 Glomerular filtration rate (GFR) mL/min/1.73 m<sup>2</sup></b>	2	614	Mean Difference (IV, Random, 95% CI)	6.70 [1.63, 11.77]
16.1 at 3 months	1	218	Mean Difference (IV, Random, 95% CI)	8.55 [3.64, 13.46]
16.2 at 1 year	1	191	Mean Difference (IV, Random, 95% CI)	1.60 [-3.38, 6.58]
16.3 at 2 years	1	205	Mean Difference (IV, Random, 95% CI)	10.0 [4.85, 15.15]

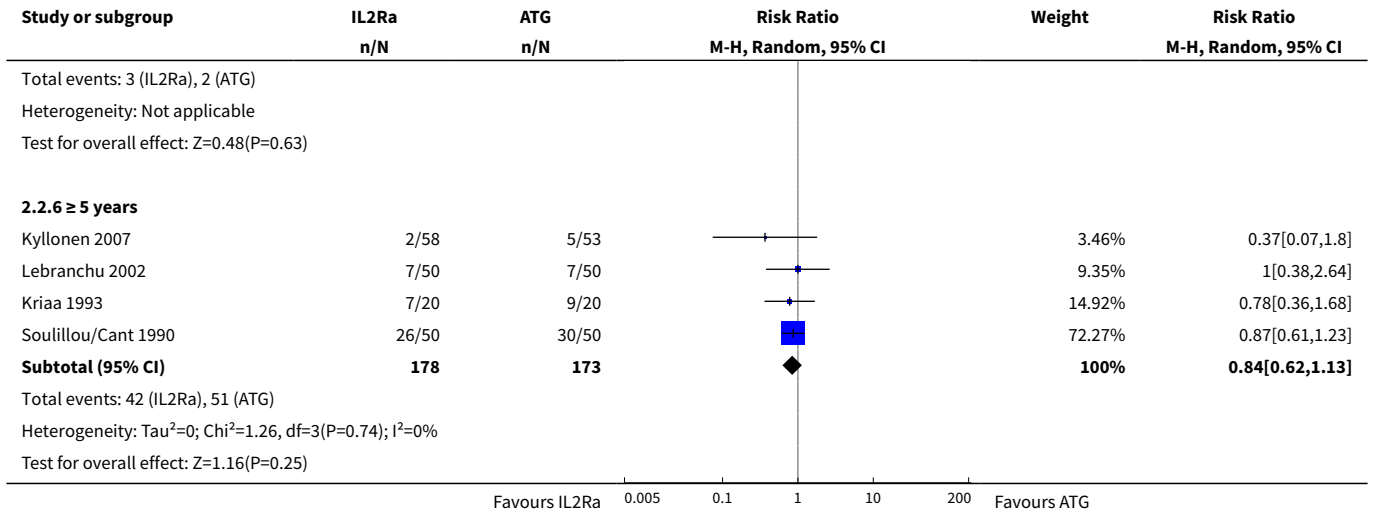
**Analysis 2.1. Comparison 2 IL2Ra versus ATG, Outcome 1 Mortality.**



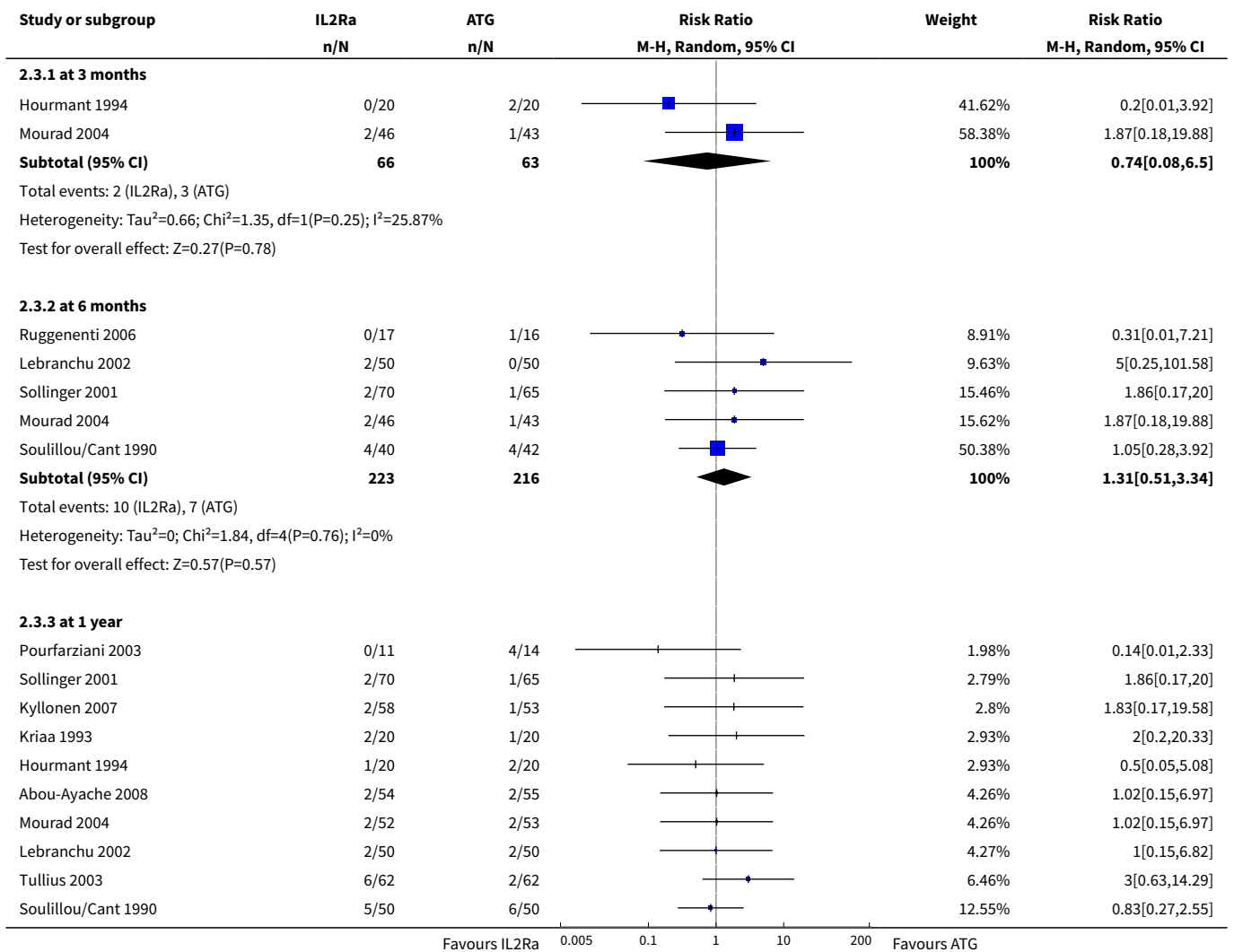


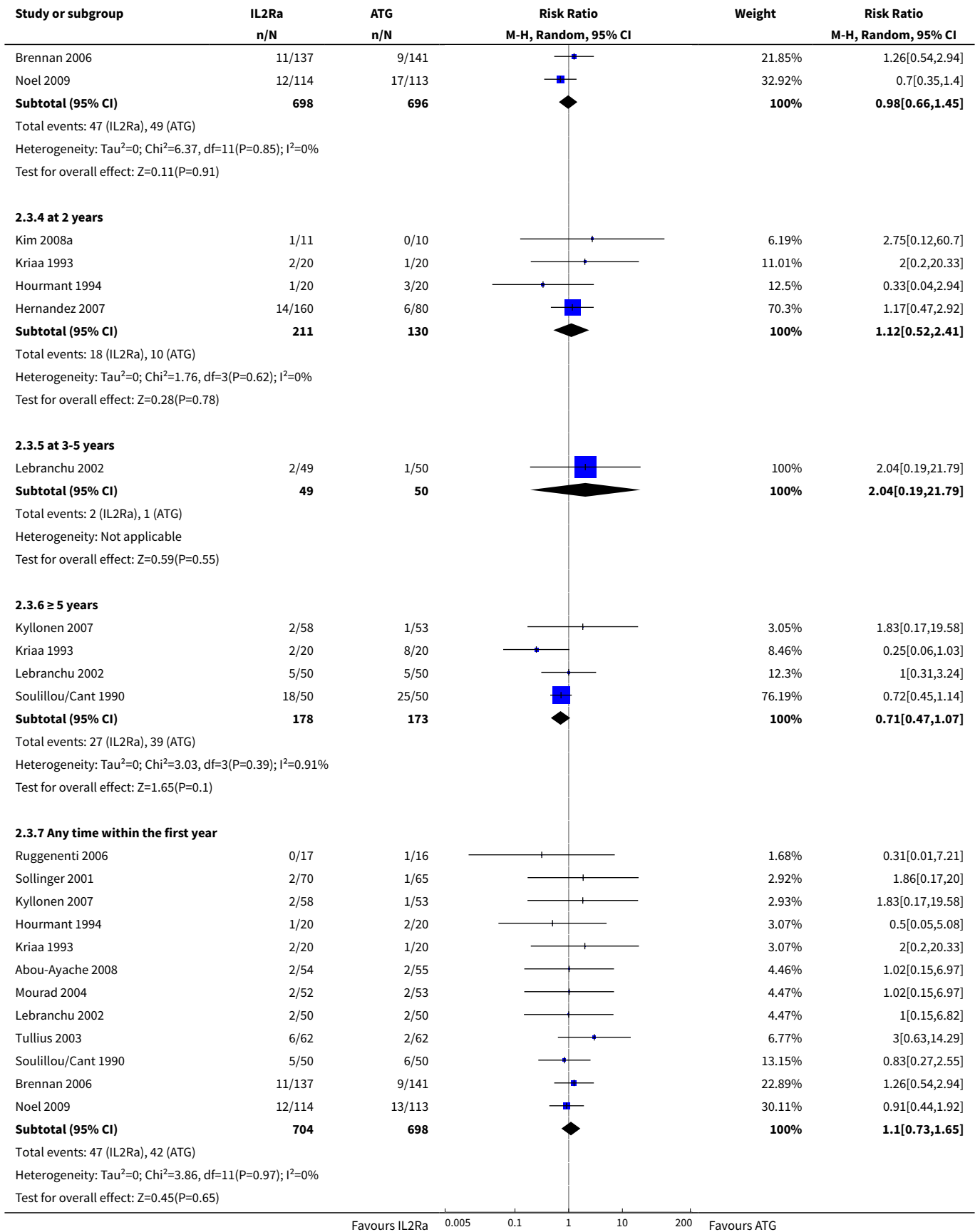
**Analysis 2.2. Comparison 2 IL2Ra versus ATG, Outcome 2 Graft loss or death with a functioning graft.**



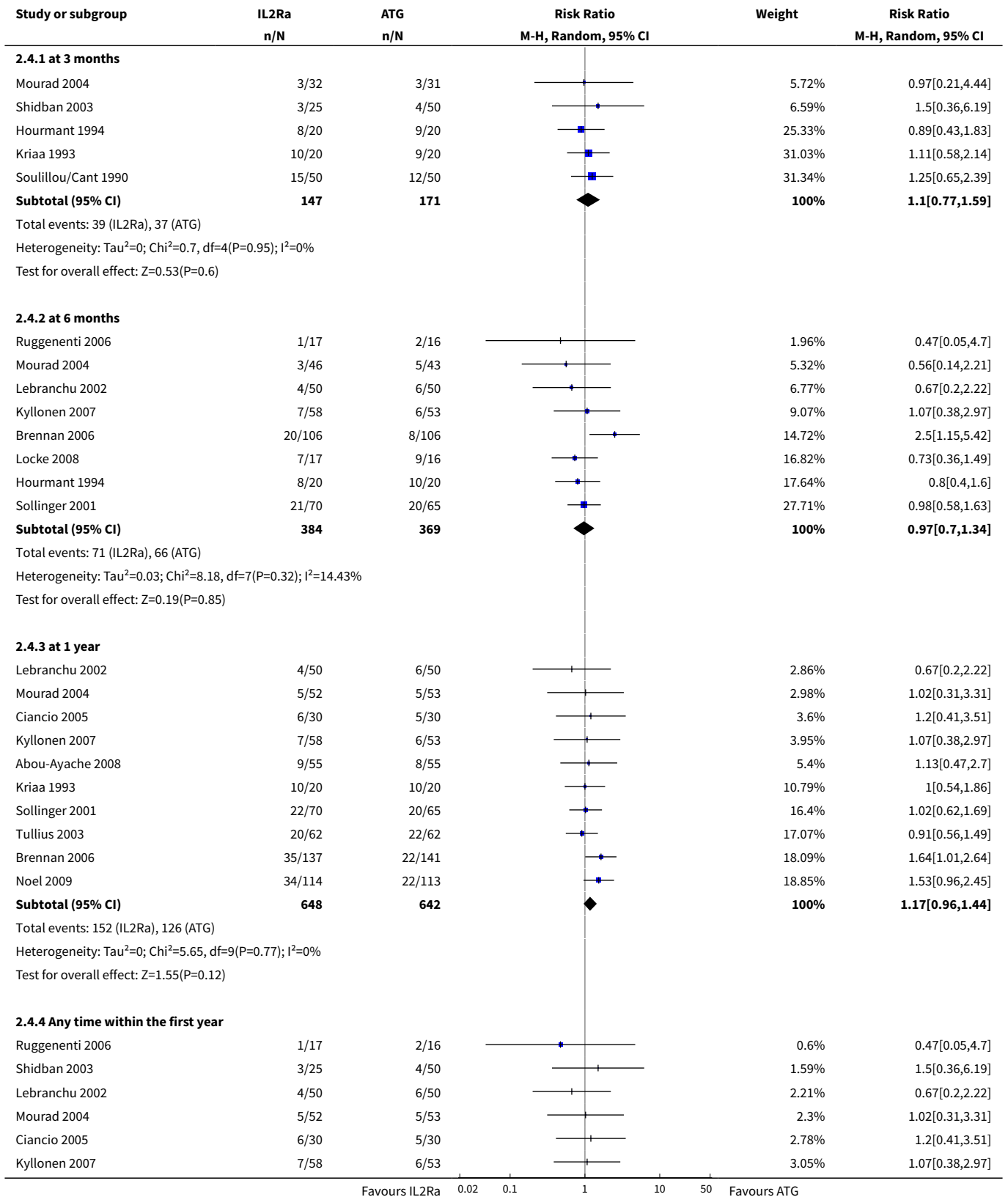


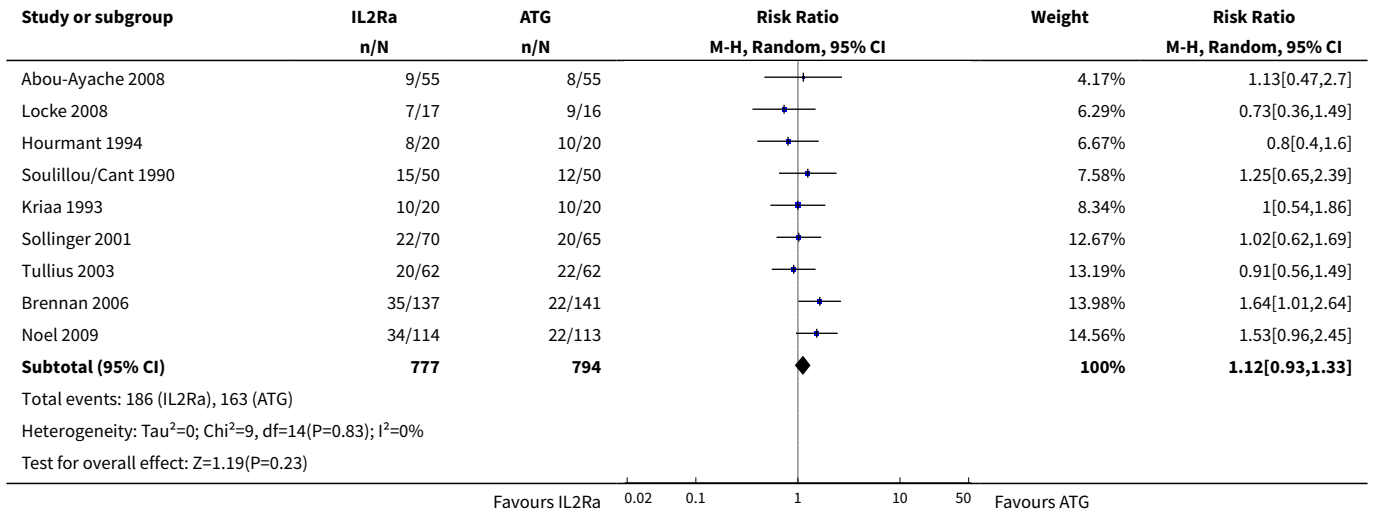
**Analysis 2.3. Comparison 2 IL2Ra versus ATG, Outcome 3 Graft loss censored for death with functioning graft.**



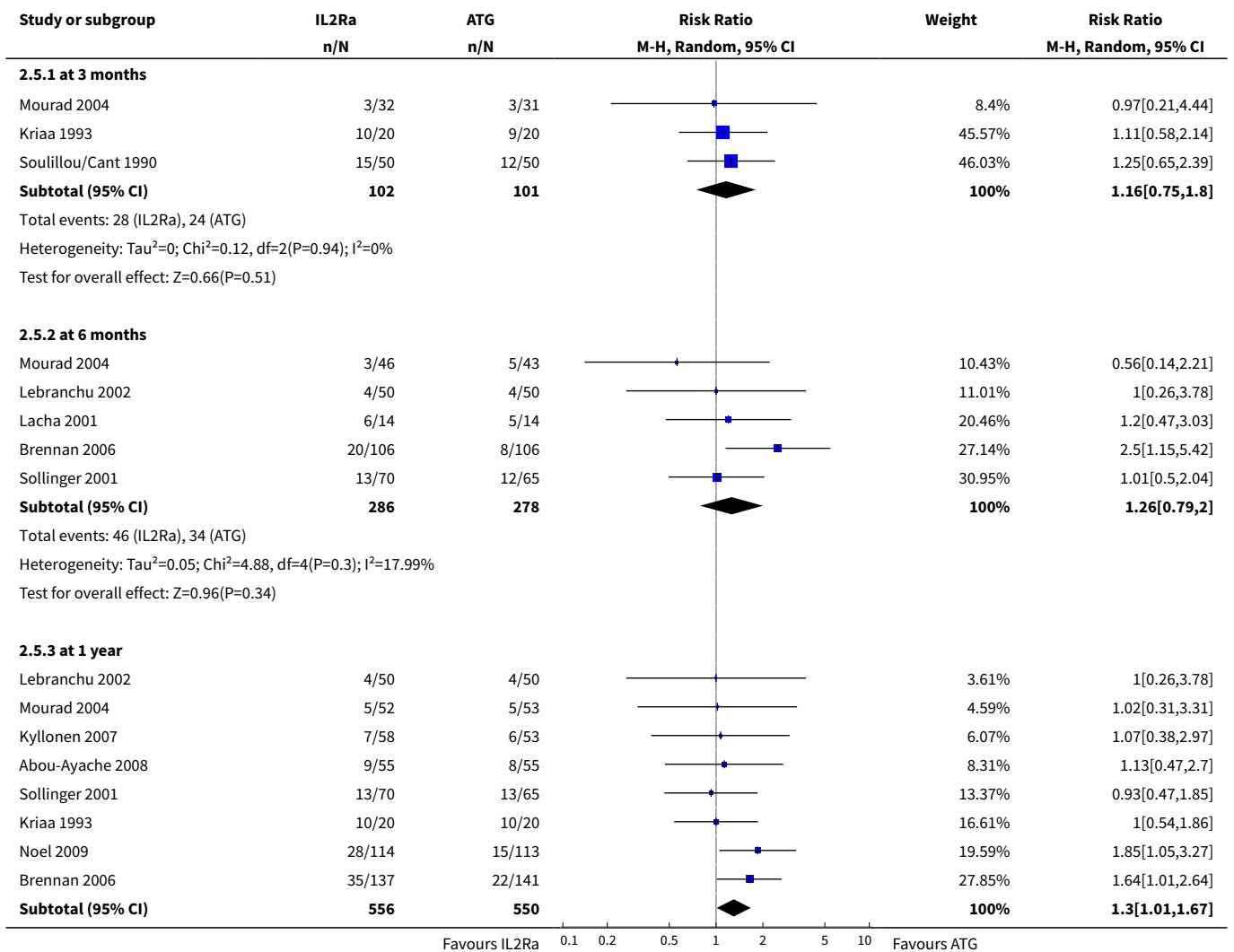


**Analysis 2.4. Comparison 2 IL2Ra versus ATG, Outcome 4 Acute rejection: clinically suspected or biopsy-proven.**

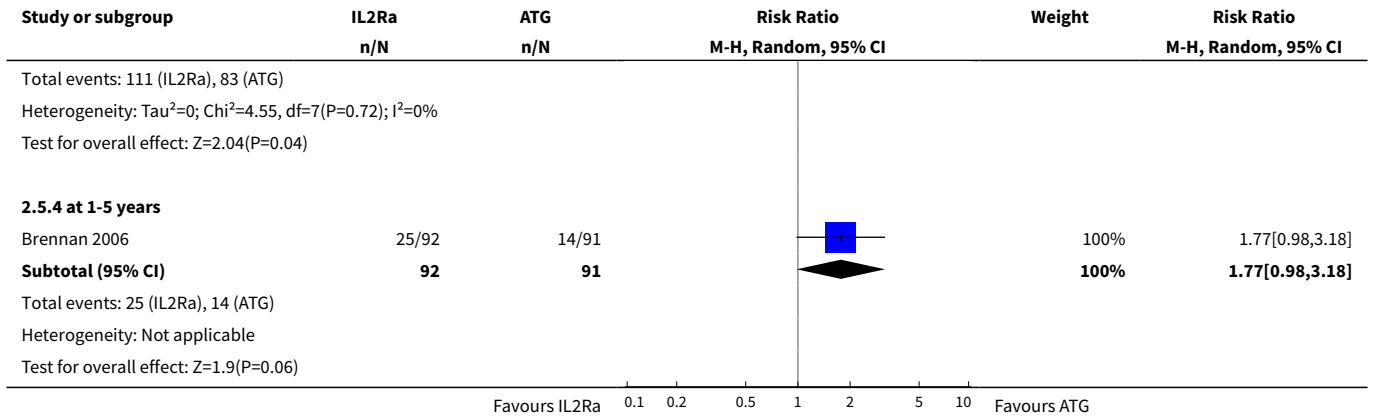




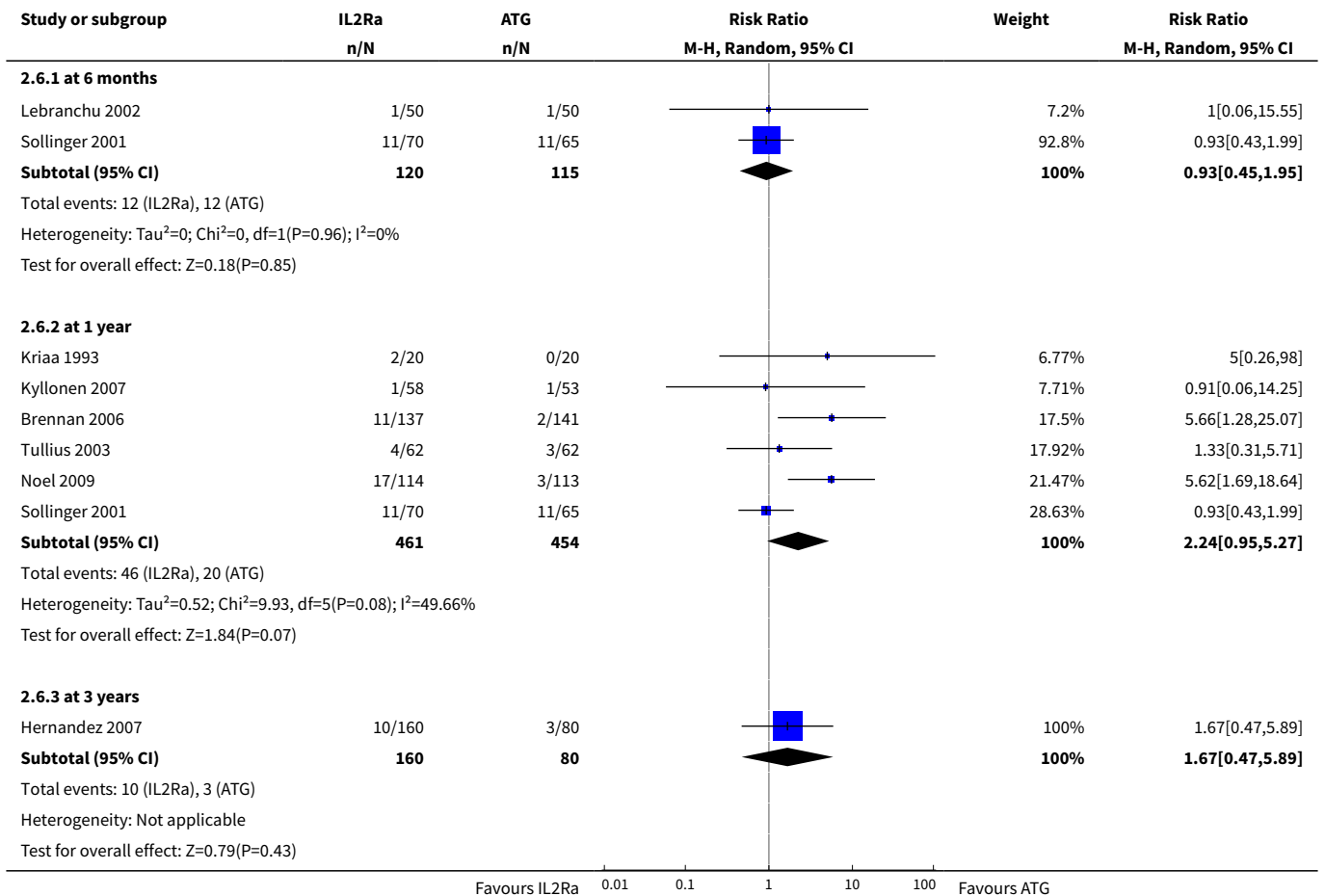
**Analysis 2.5. Comparison 2 IL2Ra versus ATG, Outcome 5 Acute rejection: biopsy-proven.**



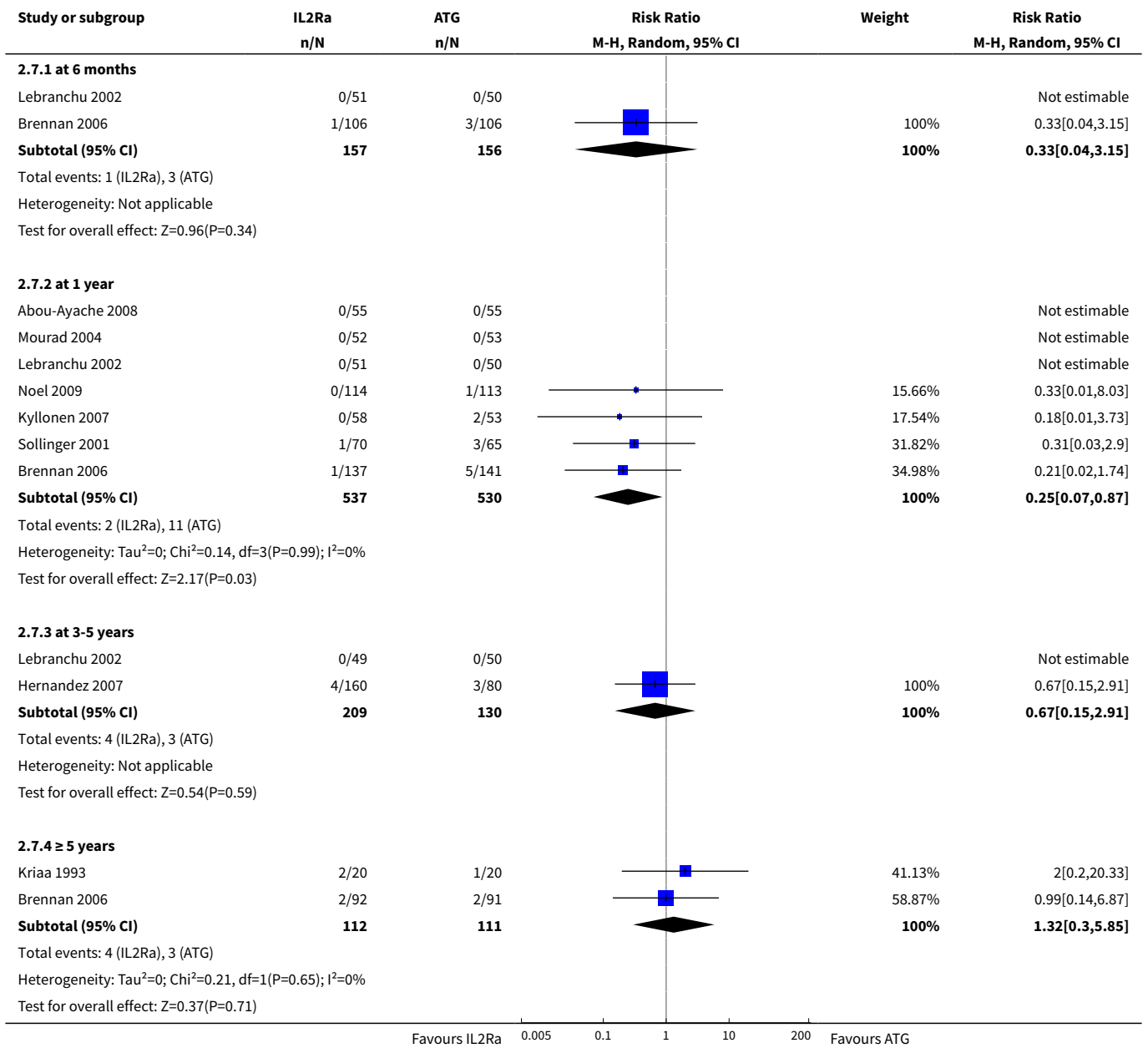




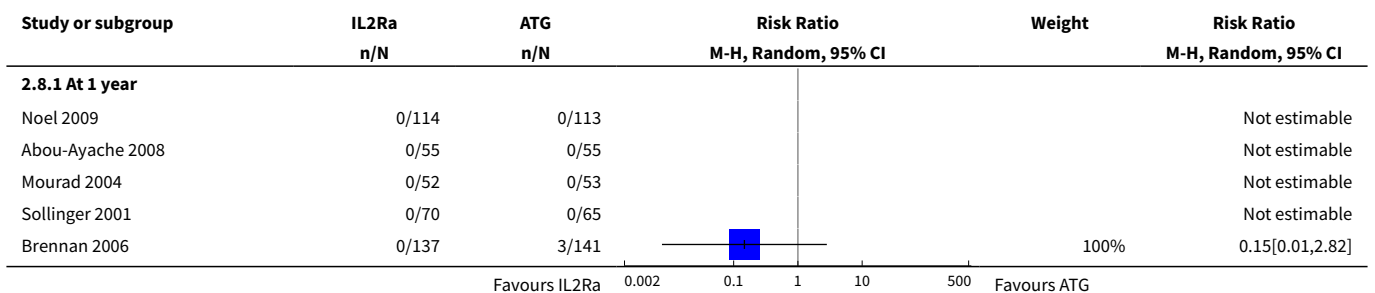
**Analysis 2.6. Comparison 2 IL2Ra versus ATG, Outcome 6 Acute rejection: steroid resistant.**

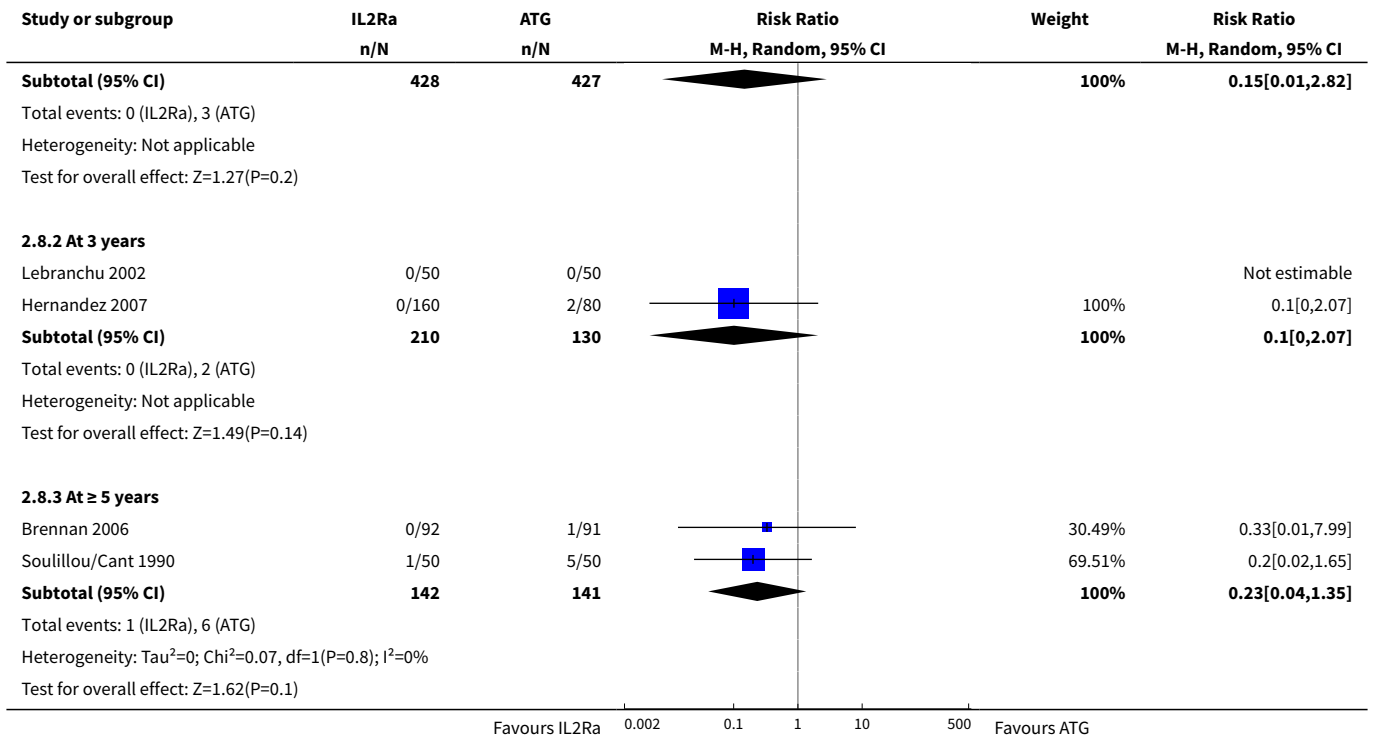


**Analysis 2.7. Comparison 2 IL2Ra versus ATG, Outcome 7 Malignancy: total.**

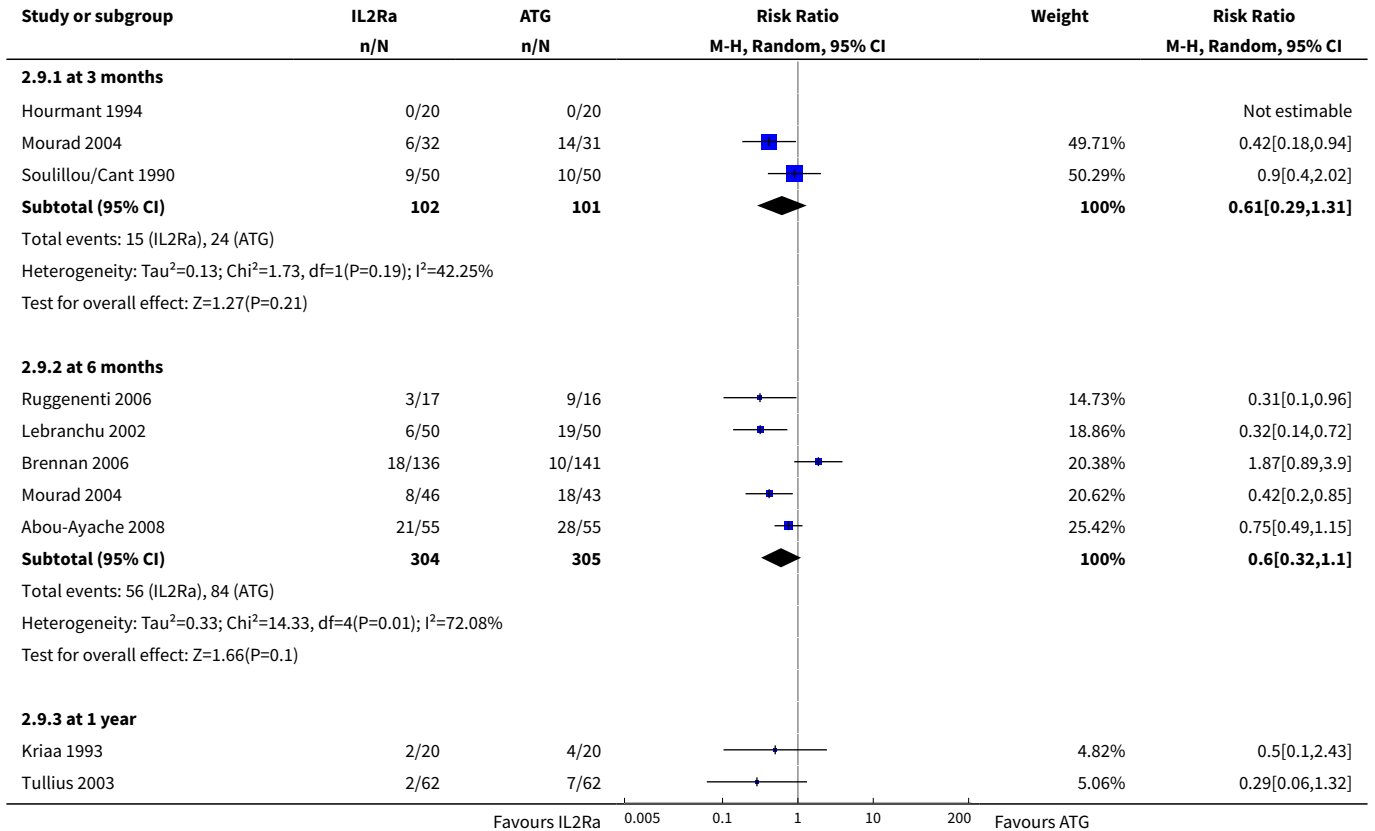


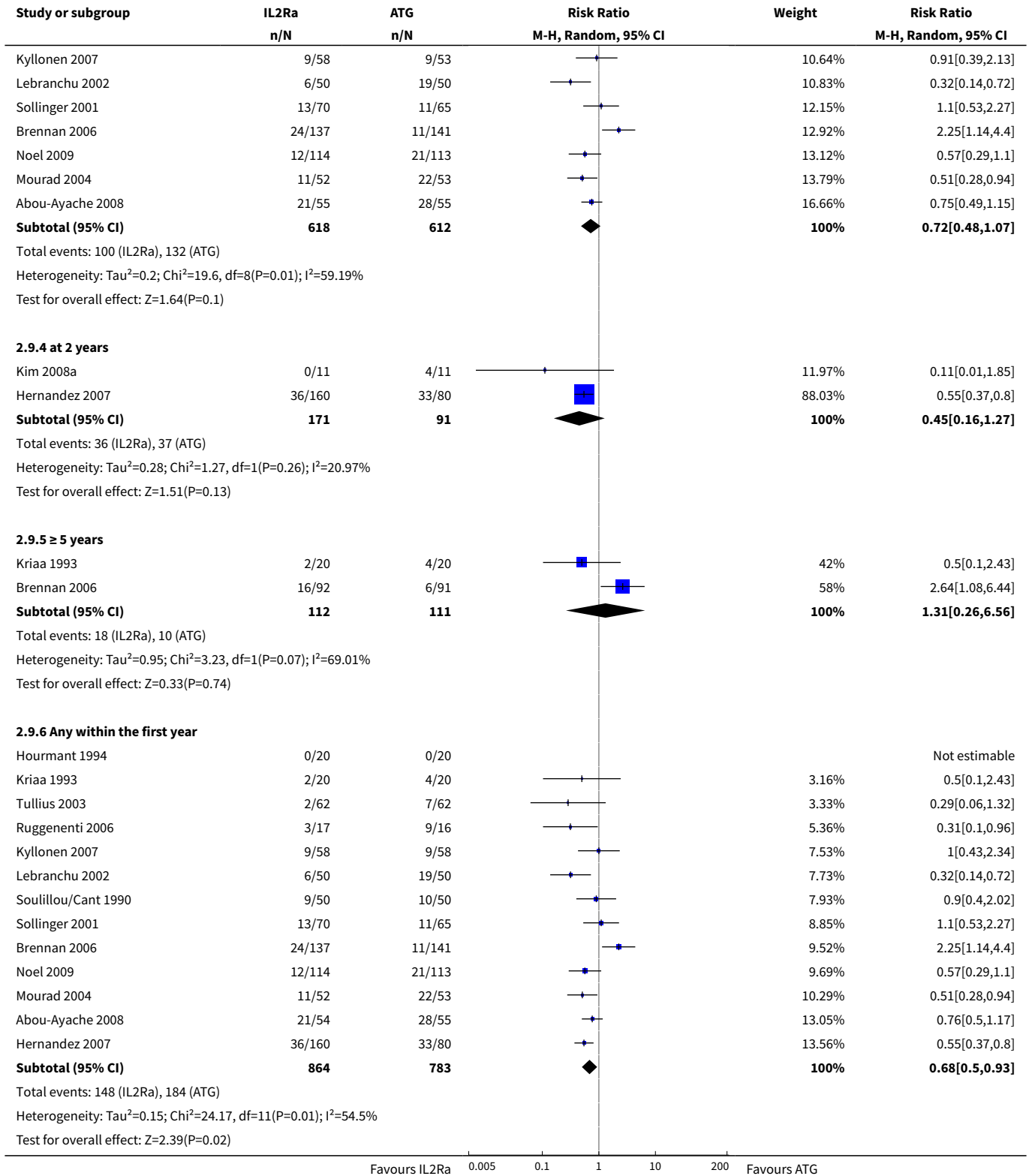
**Analysis 2.8. Comparison 2 IL2Ra versus ATG, Outcome 8 PTLD/lymphoma.**



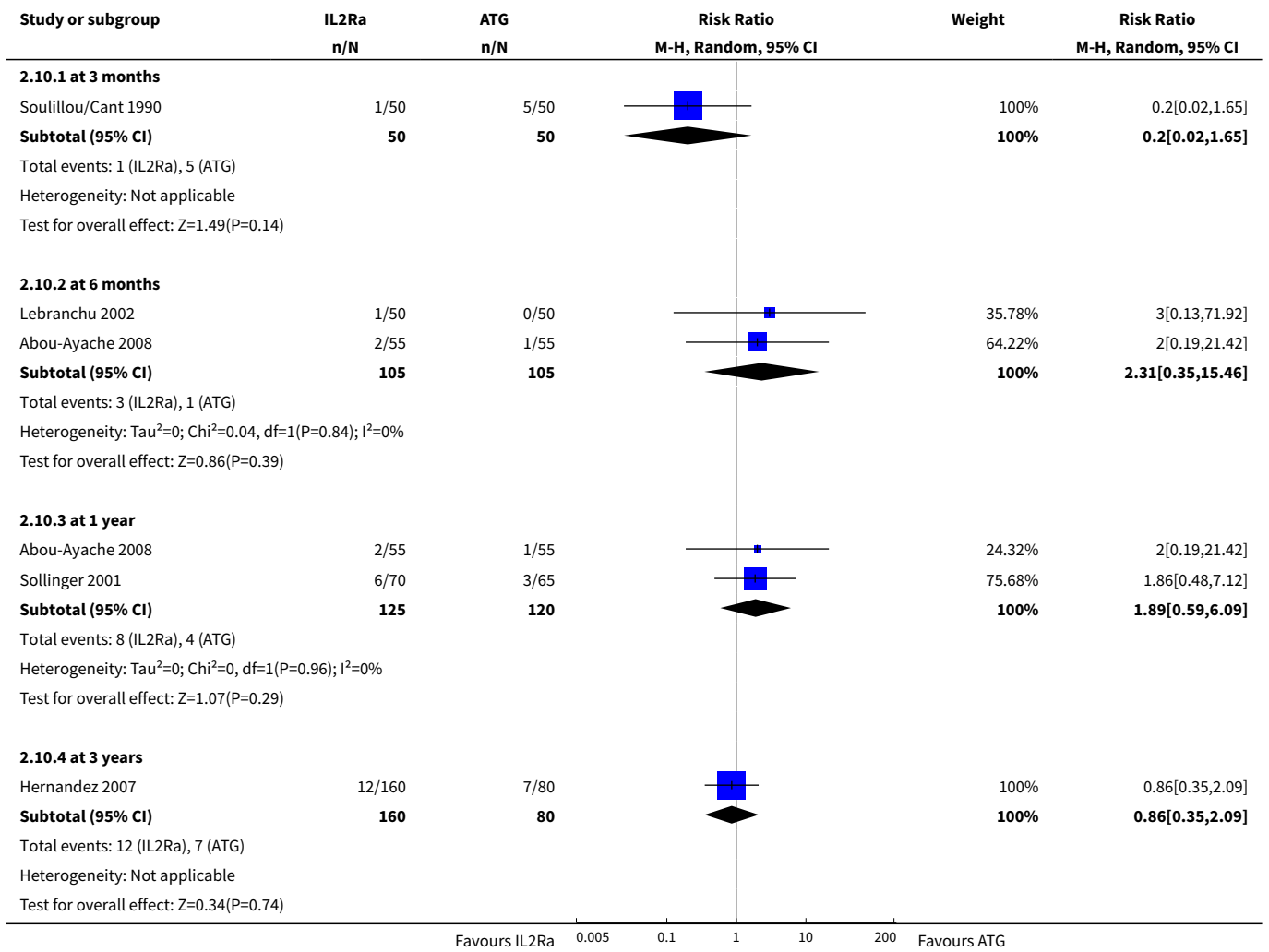


**Analysis 2.9. Comparison 2 IL2Ra versus ATG, Outcome 9 Infection: CMV all.**

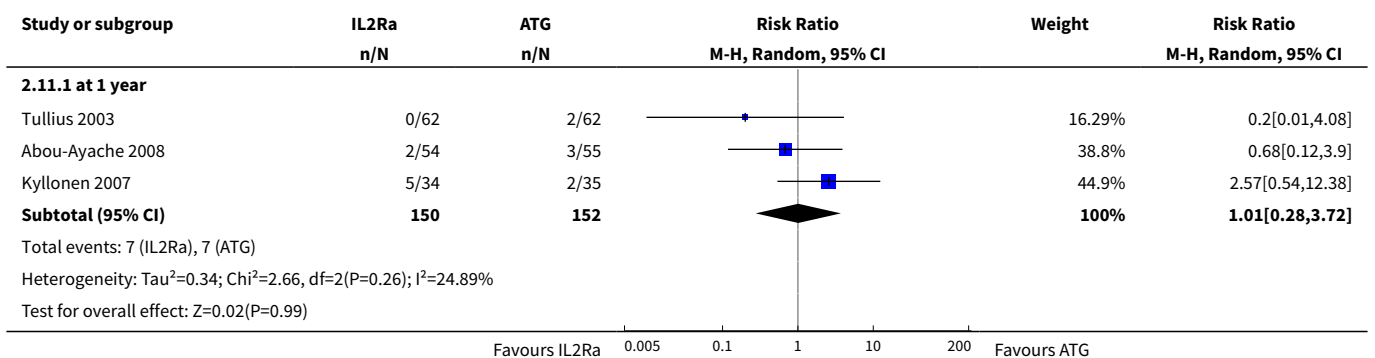




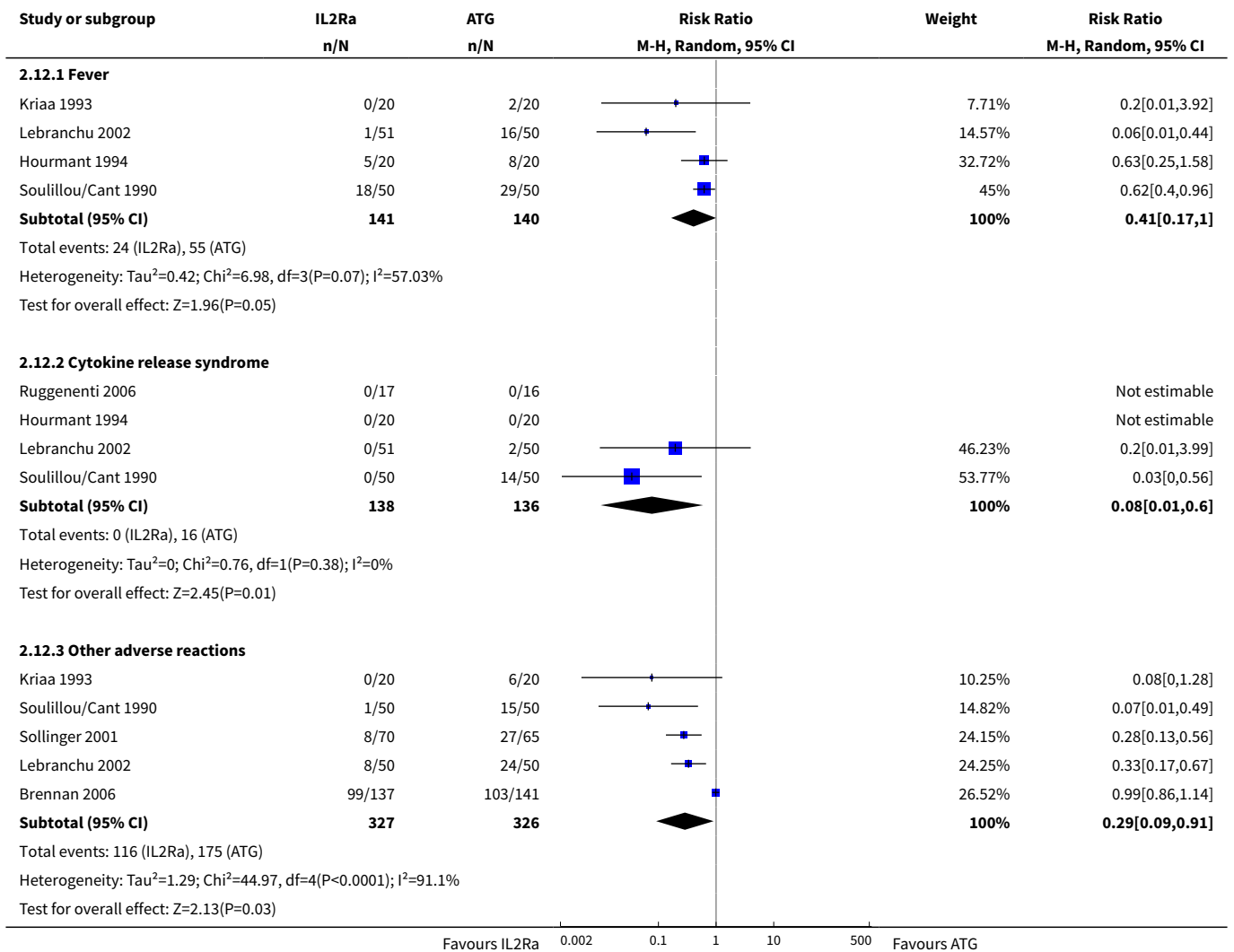
**Analysis 2.10. Comparison 2 IL2Ra versus ATG, Outcome 10 Infection: CMV invasive.**



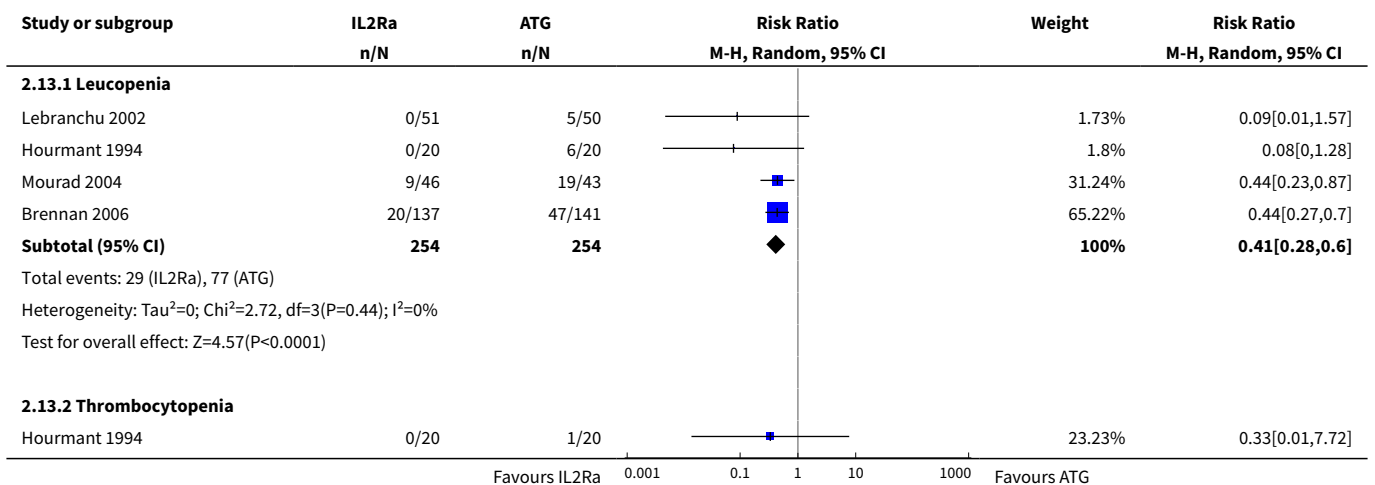
**Analysis 2.11. Comparison 2 IL2Ra versus ATG, Outcome 11 Post-transplant diabetes mellitus (PTDM).**

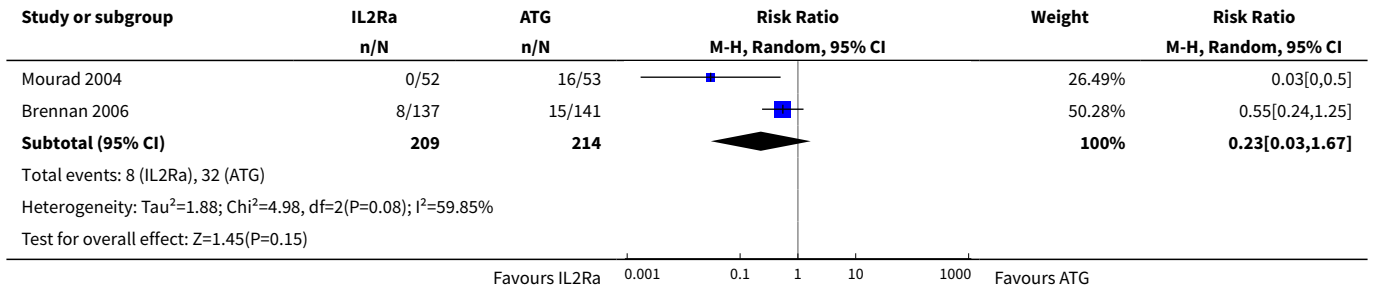


**Analysis 2.12. Comparison 2 IL2Ra versus ATG, Outcome 12 Reactions to drug administration.**

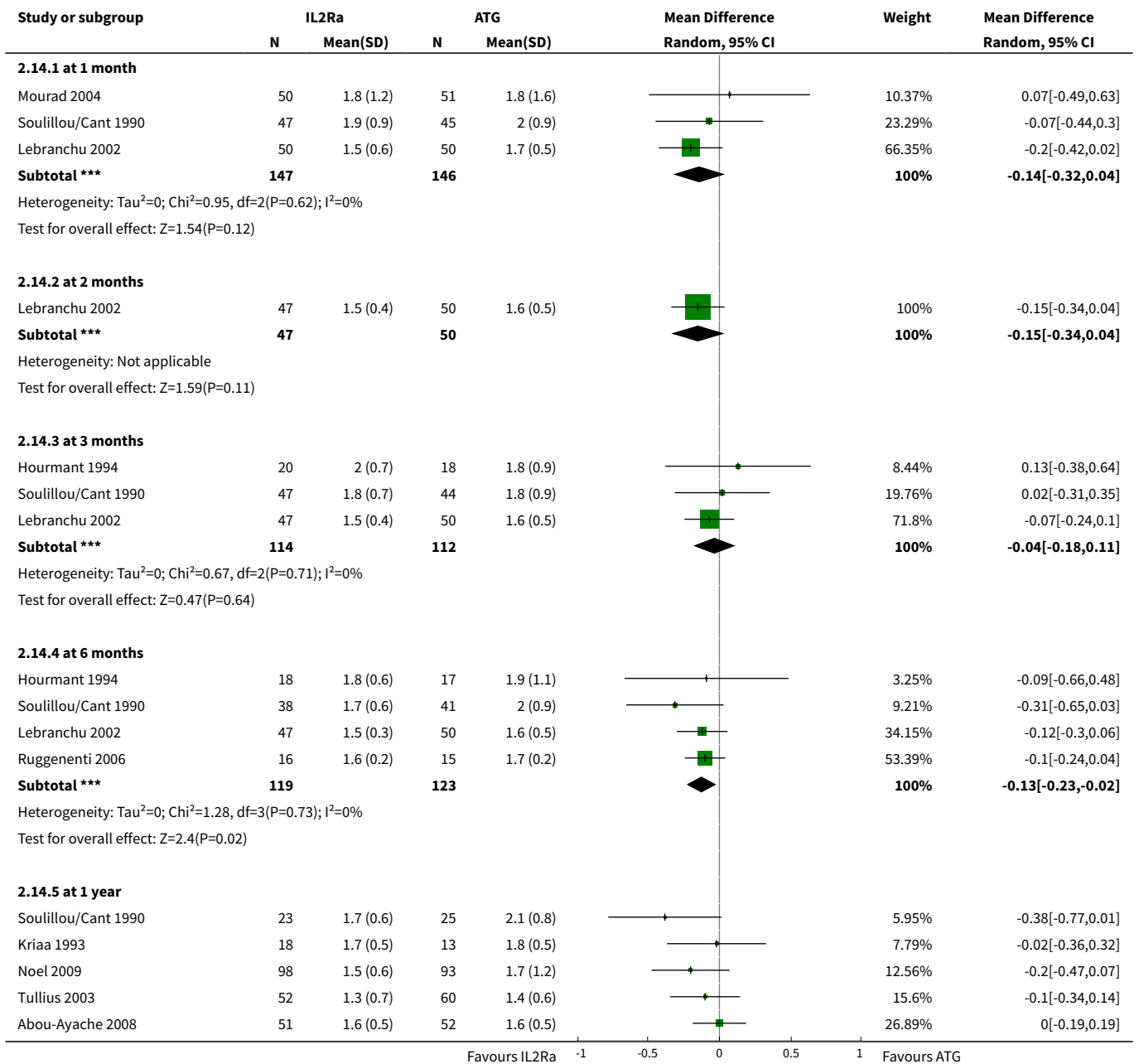


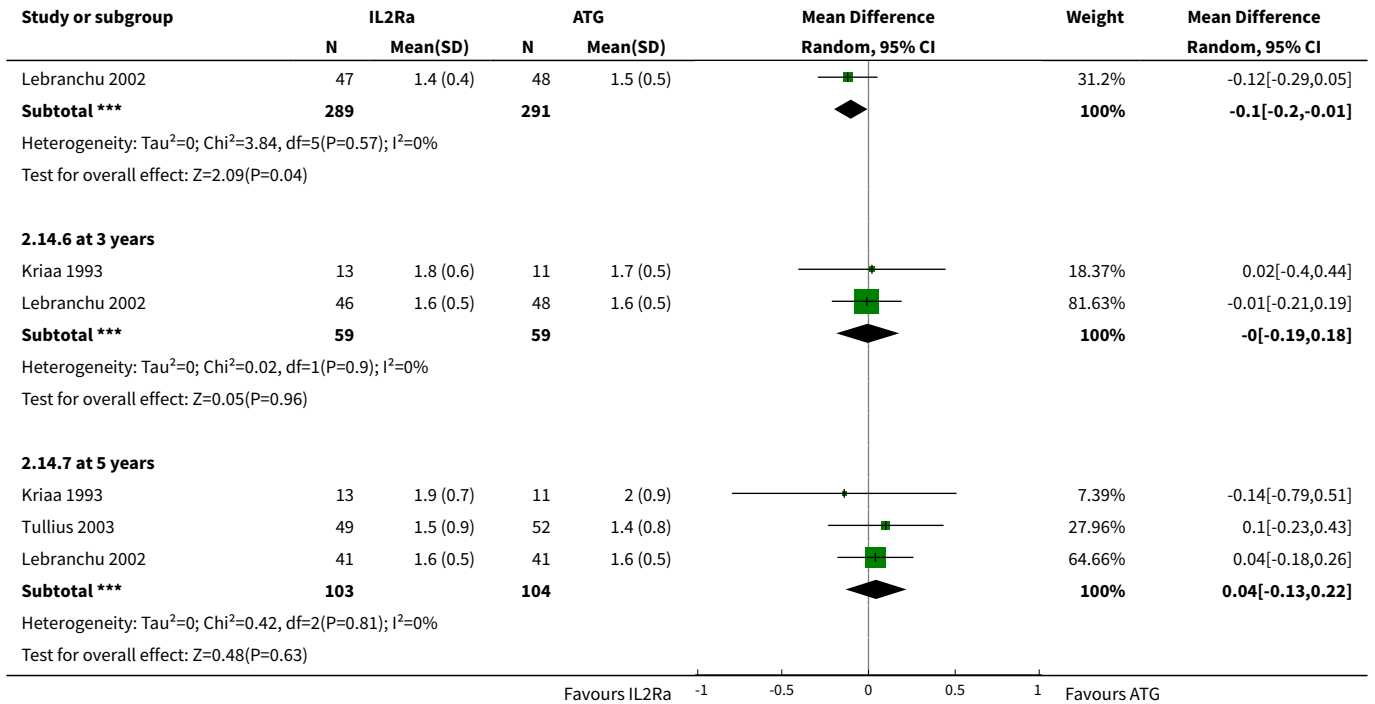
**Analysis 2.13. Comparison 2 IL2Ra versus ATG, Outcome 13 Haematological adverse reactions.**



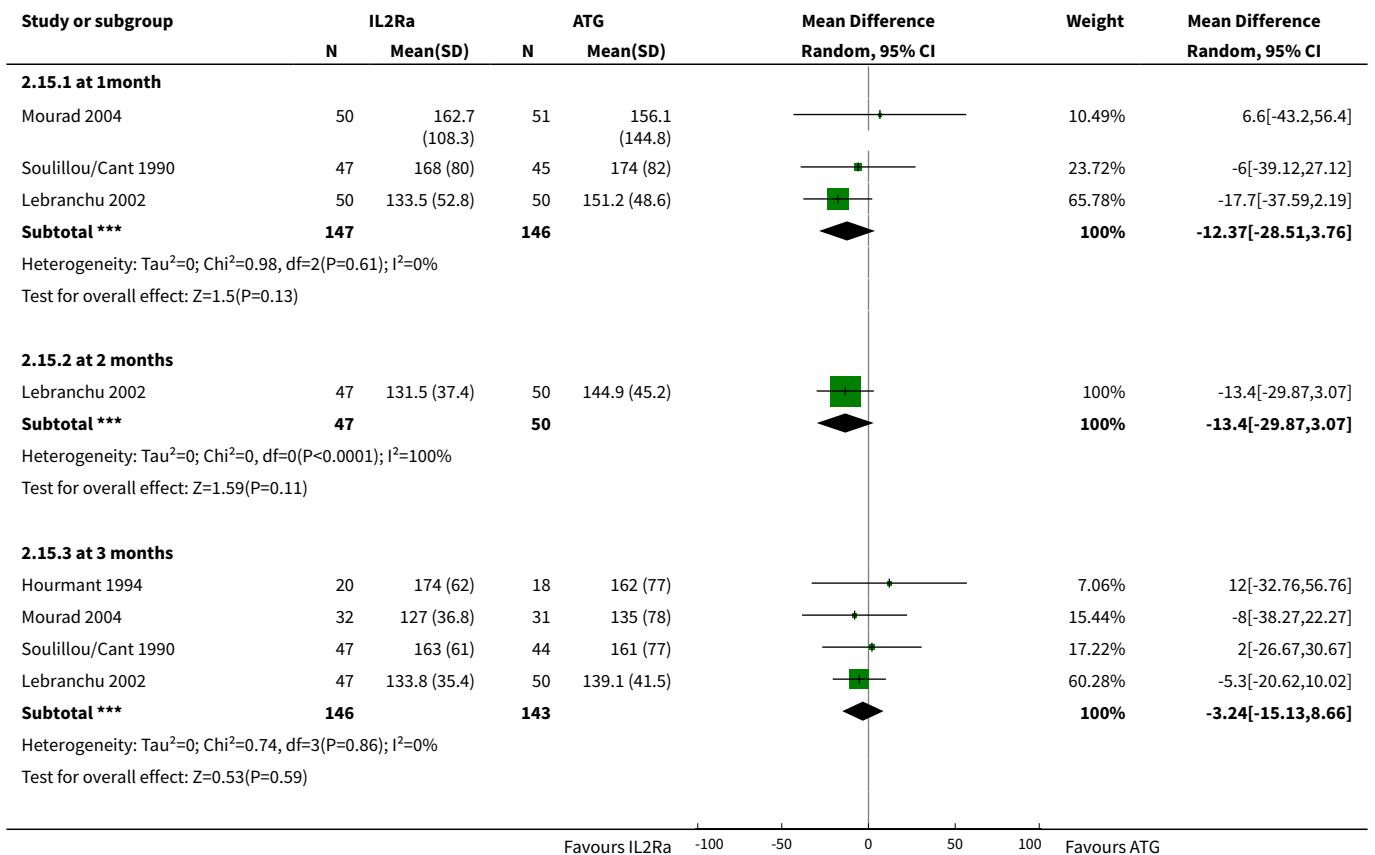


**Analysis 2.14. Comparison 2 IL2Ra versus ATG, Outcome 14 Creatinine mg/dL.**

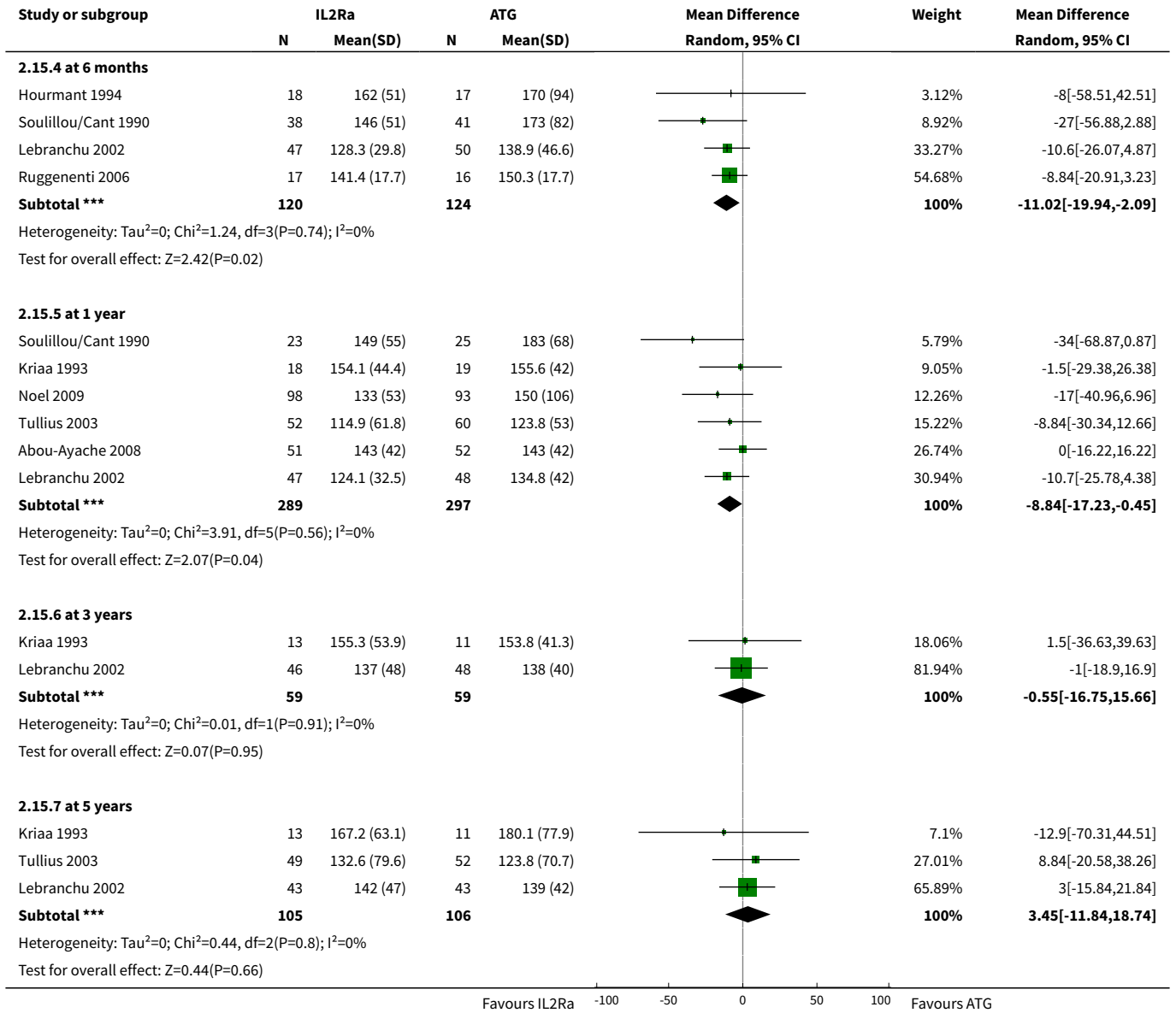




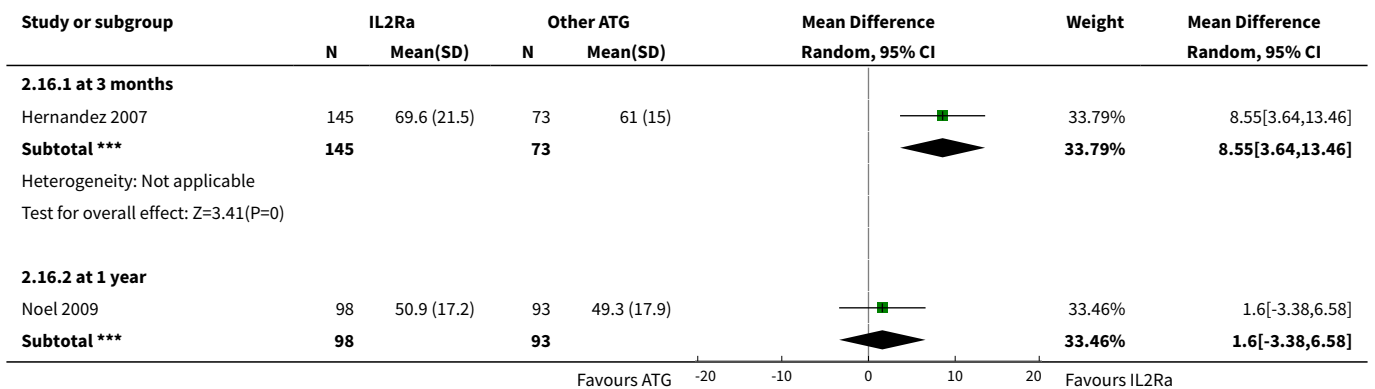
**Analysis 2.15. Comparison 2 IL2Ra versus ATG, Outcome 15 Creatinine μmol/L.**

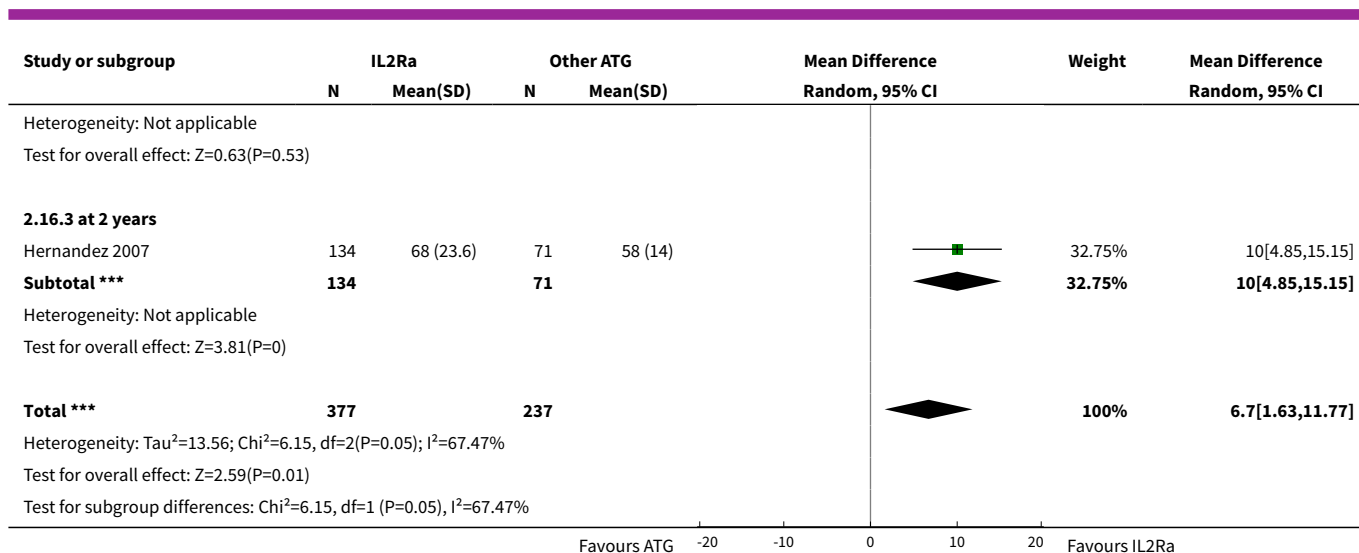






**Analysis 2.16. Comparison 2 IL2Ra versus ATG, Outcome 16 Glomerular filtration rate (GFR) mL/min/1.73 m<sup>2</sup>.**



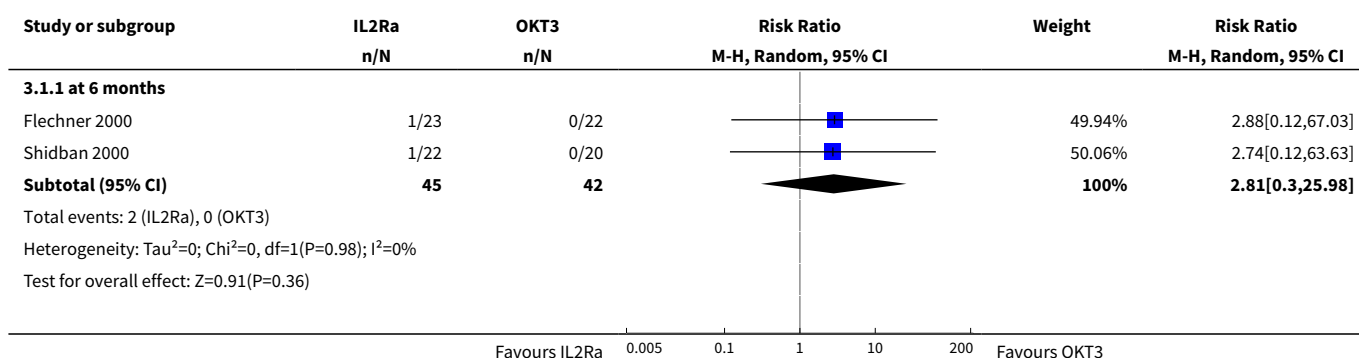


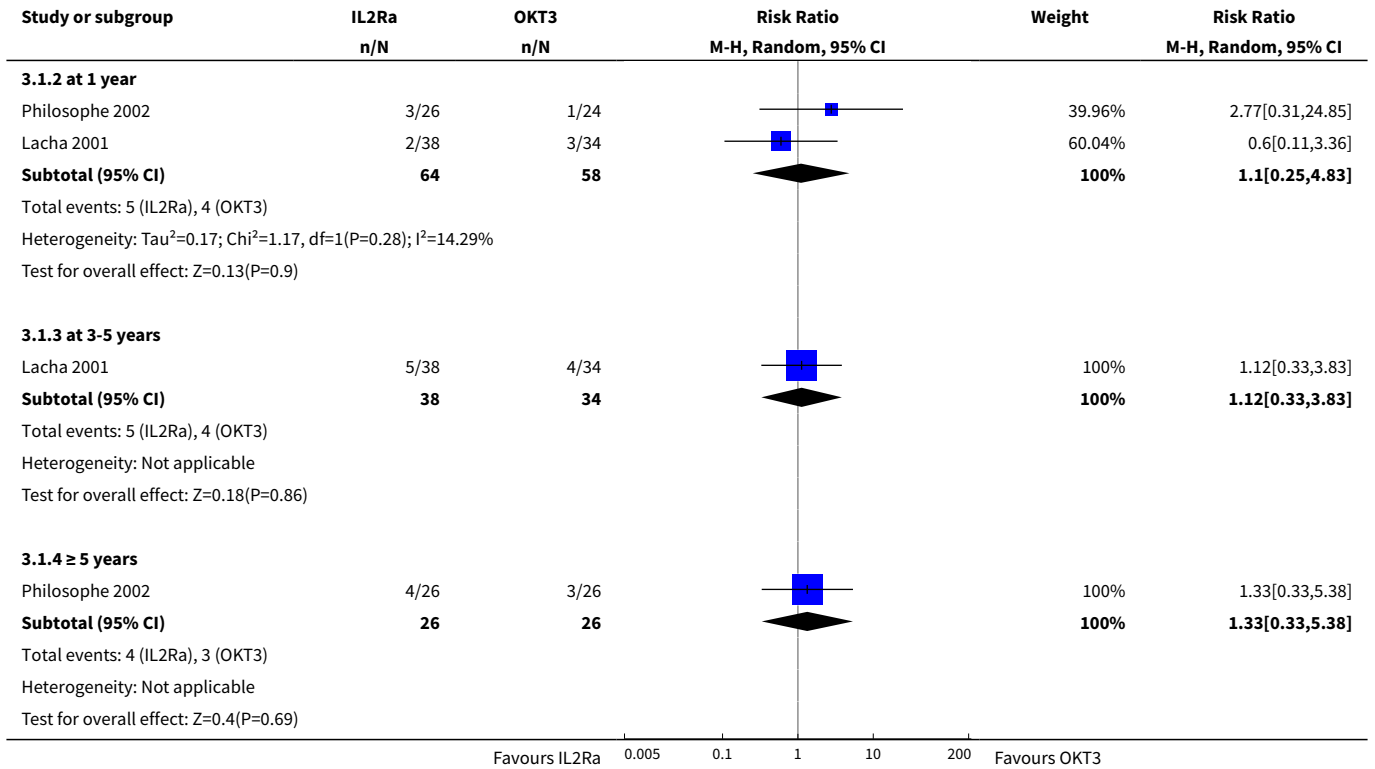
### Comparison 3. IL2Ra versus OKT3

Outcome or subgroup title	No. of studies	No. of participants	Statistical method	Effect size
<b>1 Mortality</b>	4		Risk Ratio (M-H, Random, 95% CI)	Subtotals only
1.1 at 6 months	2	87	Risk Ratio (M-H, Random, 95% CI)	2.81 [0.30, 25.98]
1.2 at 1 year	2	122	Risk Ratio (M-H, Random, 95% CI)	1.10 [0.25, 4.83]
1.3 at 3-5 years	1	72	Risk Ratio (M-H, Random, 95% CI)	1.12 [0.33, 3.83]
1.4 ≥ 5 years	1	52	Risk Ratio (M-H, Random, 95% CI)	1.33 [0.33, 5.38]
<b>2 Graft loss or death with a functioning graft</b>	4		Risk Ratio (M-H, Random, 95% CI)	Subtotals only
2.1 at 6 months	3	115	Risk Ratio (M-H, Random, 95% CI)	1.13 [0.36, 3.50]
2.2 at 1 year	2	122	Risk Ratio (M-H, Random, 95% CI)	0.69 [0.31, 1.53]
2.3 at 3-5 years	1	72	Risk Ratio (M-H, Random, 95% CI)	1.07 [0.53, 2.16]
2.4 ≥ 5 years	1	52	Risk Ratio (M-H, Random, 95% CI)	0.71 [0.26, 1.96]
<b>3 Graft loss censored for death with functioning graft</b>	6		Risk Ratio (M-H, Random, 95% CI)	Subtotals only
3.1 at 6 months	3	115	Risk Ratio (M-H, Random, 95% CI)	0.78 [0.22, 2.78]
3.2 at 1 year	2	122	Risk Ratio (M-H, Random, 95% CI)	0.41 [0.03, 6.16]
3.3 at 3-5 years	1	72	Risk Ratio (M-H, Random, 95% CI)	1.04 [0.39, 2.80]
3.4 ≥ 5 years	3	192	Risk Ratio (M-H, Random, 95% CI)	0.51 [0.23, 1.09]

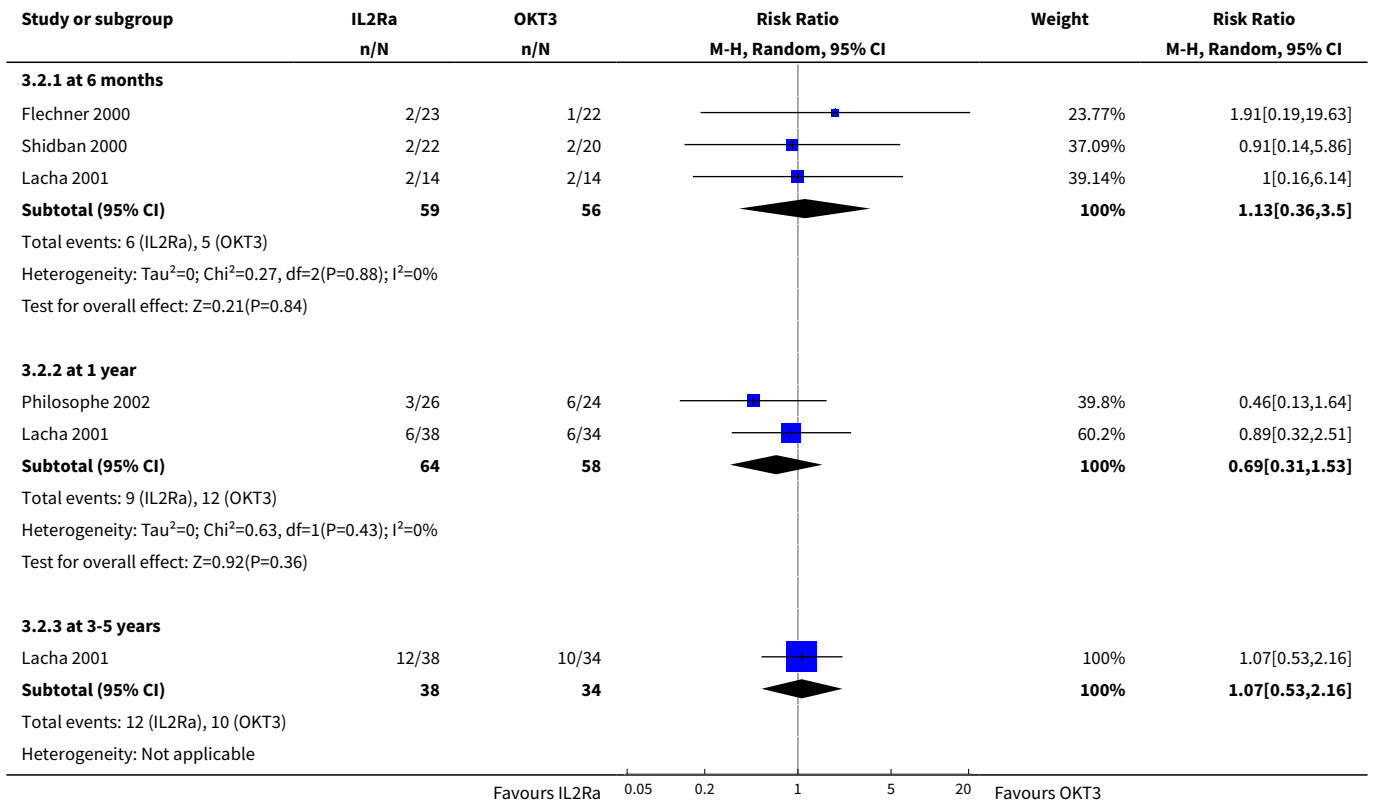
Outcome or subgroup title	No. of studies	No. of participants	Statistical method	Effect size
<b>4 Acute rejection: clinically suspected or biopsy-proven</b>	4		Risk Ratio (M-H, Random, 95% CI)	Subtotals only
4.1 at 3 months	1	42	Risk Ratio (M-H, Random, 95% CI)	0.23 [0.03, 1.87]
4.2 at 6 months	2	117	Risk Ratio (M-H, Random, 95% CI)	0.97 [0.62, 1.50]
4.3 at 1 year	1	50	Risk Ratio (M-H, Random, 95% CI)	0.92 [0.26, 3.29]
<b>5 Acute rejection: biopsy-proven</b>	1		Risk Ratio (M-H, Random, 95% CI)	Totals not selected
5.1 at 6 months	1		Risk Ratio (M-H, Random, 95% CI)	0.0 [0.0, 0.0]
<b>6 Acute rejection: steroid resistant</b>	1		Risk Ratio (M-H, Random, 95% CI)	Totals not selected
6.1 at 6 months	1		Risk Ratio (M-H, Random, 95% CI)	0.0 [0.0, 0.0]
<b>7 Infection: CMV all</b>	1		Risk Ratio (M-H, Random, 95% CI)	Subtotals only
7.1 at 6 months	1	28	Risk Ratio (M-H, Random, 95% CI)	0.33 [0.04, 2.83]
7.2 Any within the first year	1	28	Risk Ratio (M-H, Random, 95% CI)	0.33 [0.04, 2.83]
<b>8 Adverse reaction to study drug</b>	1		Risk Ratio (M-H, Random, 95% CI)	Totals not selected
<b>9 Creatinine mg/dL</b>	1		Mean Difference (IV, Random, 95% CI)	Totals not selected
9.1 at 6 months	1		Mean Difference (IV, Random, 95% CI)	0.0 [0.0, 0.0]
<b>10 Creatinine µmol/L</b>	1		Mean Difference (IV, Random, 95% CI)	Totals not selected
10.1 at 6 months	1		Mean Difference (IV, Random, 95% CI)	0.0 [0.0, 0.0]

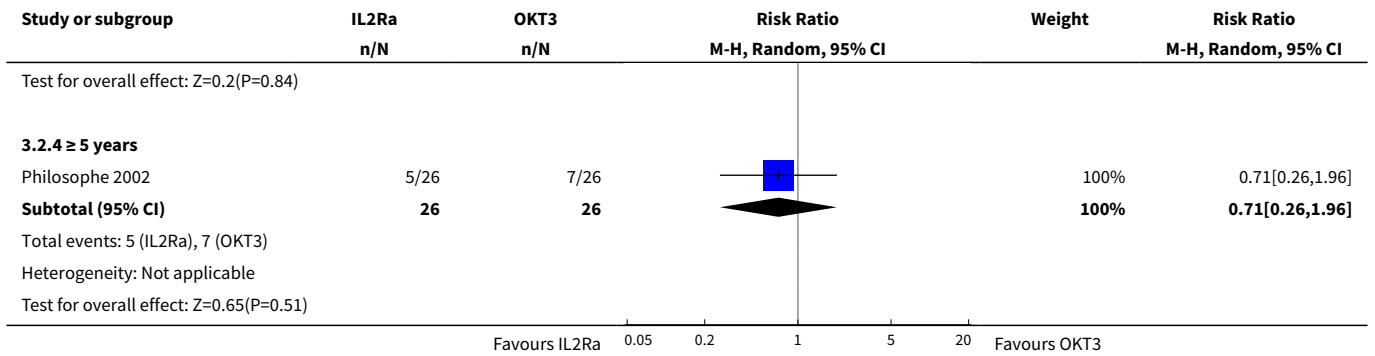
**Analysis 3.1. Comparison 3 IL2Ra versus OKT3, Outcome 1 Mortality.**



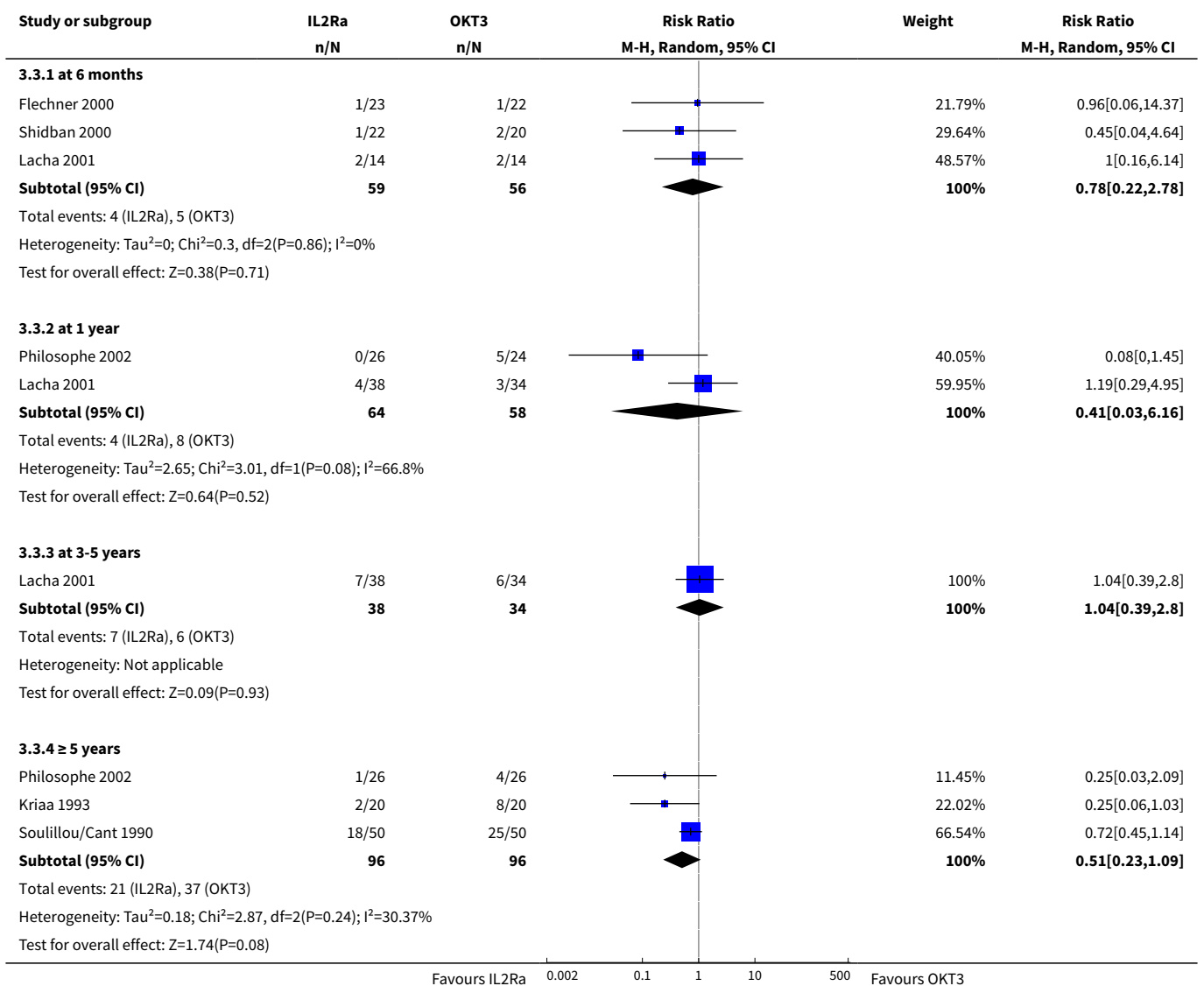


**Analysis 3.2. Comparison 3 IL2Ra versus OKT3, Outcome 2 Graft loss or death with a functioning graft.**

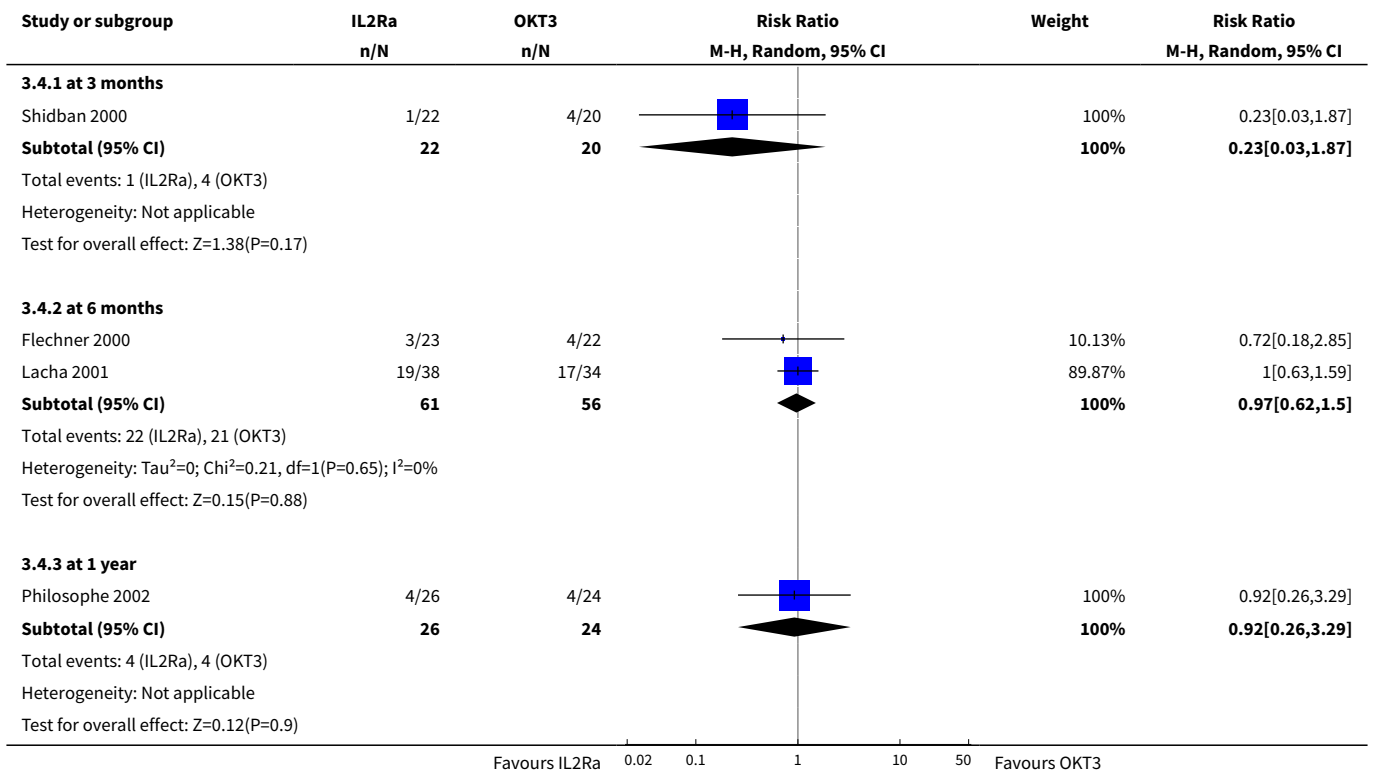




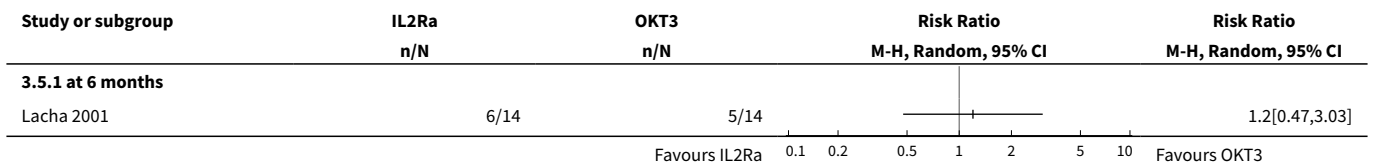
**Analysis 3.3. Comparison 3 IL2Ra versus OKT3, Outcome 3 Graft loss censored for death with functioning graft.**



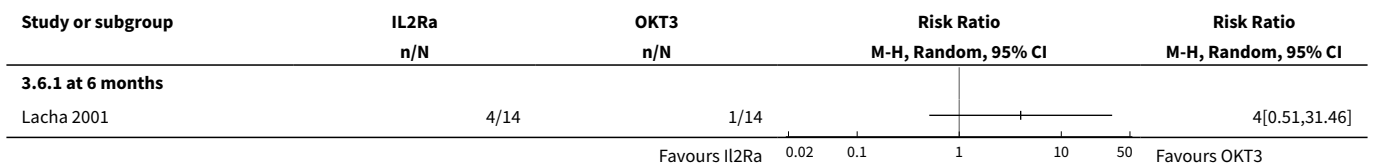
**Analysis 3.4. Comparison 3 IL2Ra versus OKT3, Outcome 4 Acute rejection: clinically suspected or biopsy-proven.**



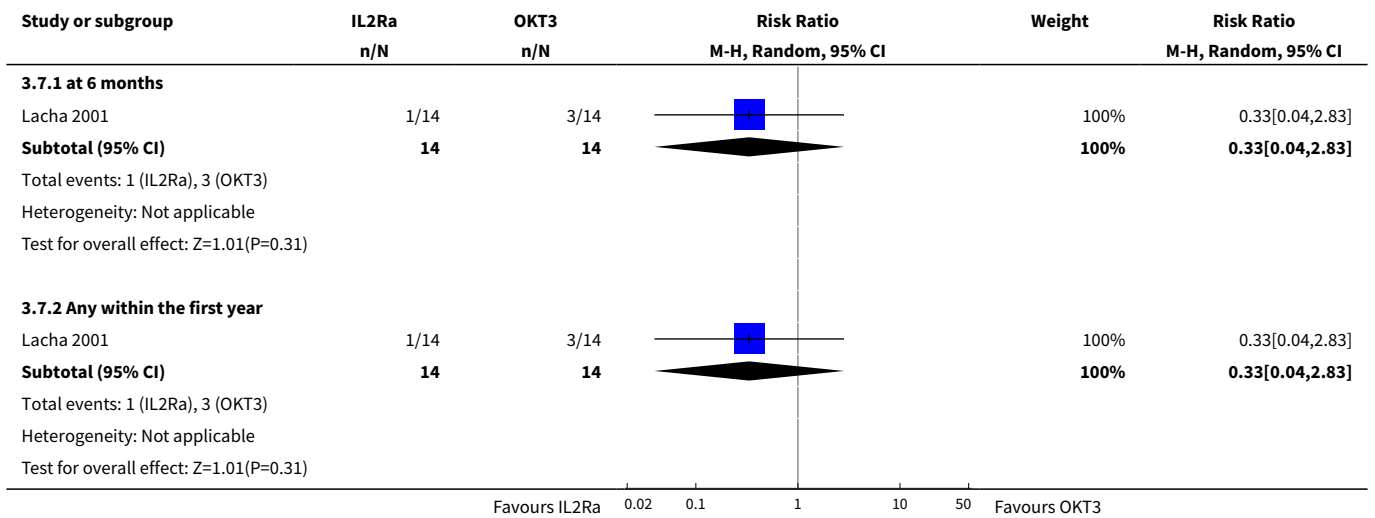
**Analysis 3.5. Comparison 3 IL2Ra versus OKT3, Outcome 5 Acute rejection: biopsy-proven.**



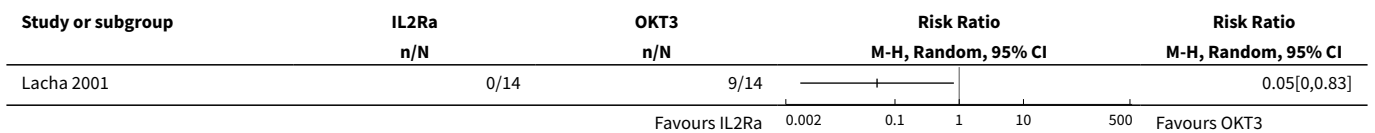
**Analysis 3.6. Comparison 3 IL2Ra versus OKT3, Outcome 6 Acute rejection: steroid resistant.**



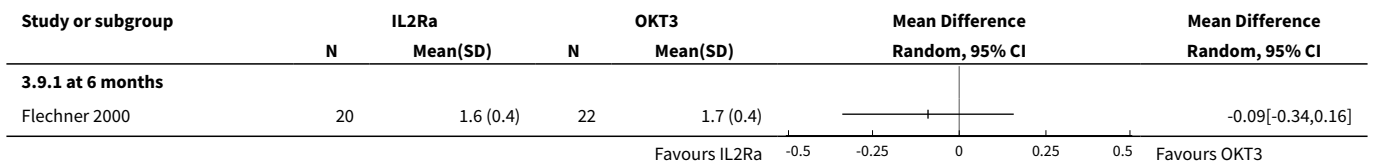
**Analysis 3.7. Comparison 3 IL2Ra versus OKT3, Outcome 7 Infection: CMV all.**



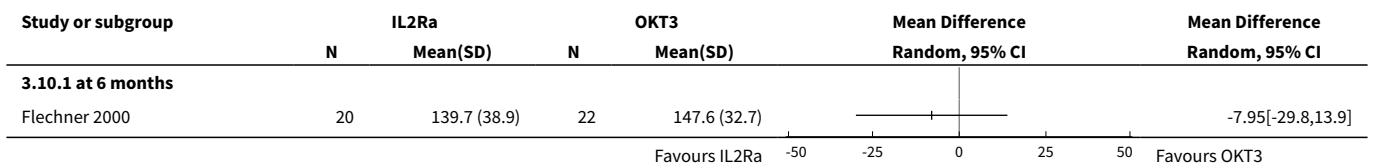
**Analysis 3.8. Comparison 3 IL2Ra versus OKT3, Outcome 8 Adverse reaction to study drug.**



**Analysis 3.9. Comparison 3 IL2Ra versus OKT3, Outcome 9 Creatinine mg/dL.**



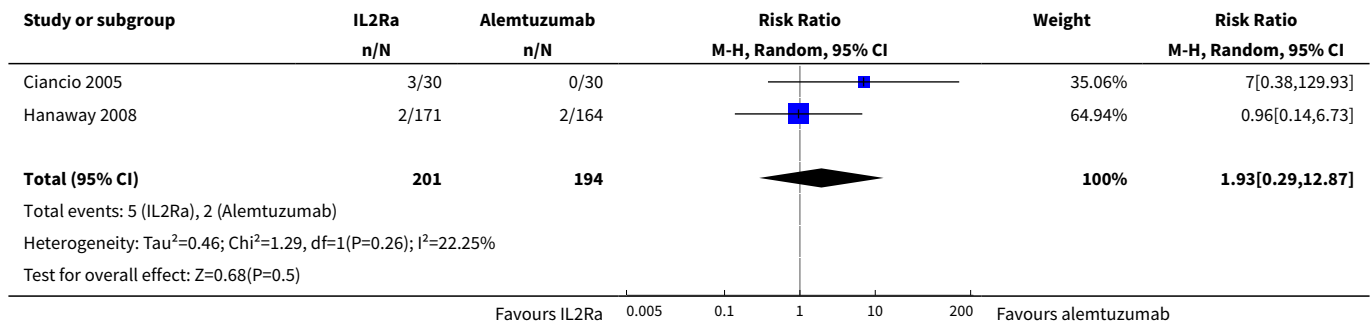
**Analysis 3.10. Comparison 3 IL2Ra versus OKT3, Outcome 10 Creatinine µmol/L.**



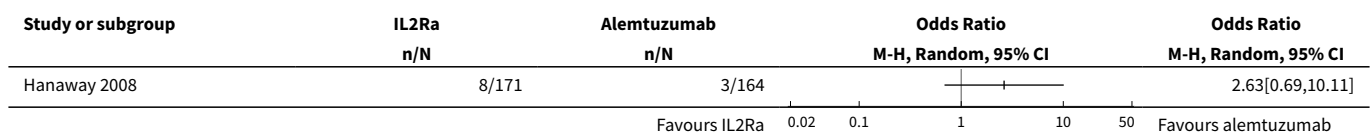
**Comparison 4. IL2Ra versus alemtuzumab**

Outcome or subgroup title	No. of studies	No. of participants	Statistical method	Effect size
1 Mortality	2	395	Risk Ratio (M-H, Random, 95% CI)	1.93 [0.29, 12.87]
2 Graft loss or death with functioning allograft	1		Odds Ratio (M-H, Random, 95% CI)	Totals not selected
3 Graft loss censored for death with a functioning graft	1		Odds Ratio (M-H, Random, 95% CI)	Totals not selected
4 Acute rejection: biopsy-proven	2	395	Risk Ratio (M-H, Random, 95% CI)	2.90 [0.35, 24.29]
5 Infection: CMV all	2		Risk Ratio (M-H, Random, 95% CI)	Totals not selected

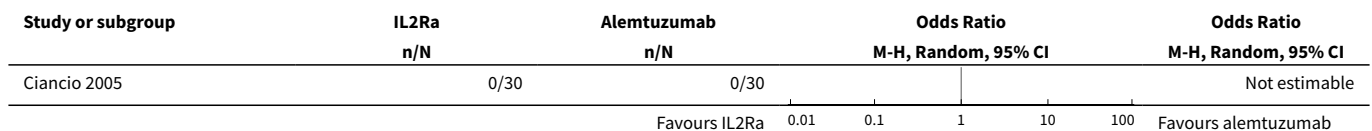
**Analysis 4.1. Comparison 4 IL2Ra versus alemtuzumab, Outcome 1 Mortality.**



**Analysis 4.2. Comparison 4 IL2Ra versus alemtuzumab, Outcome 2 Graft loss or death with functioning allograft.**

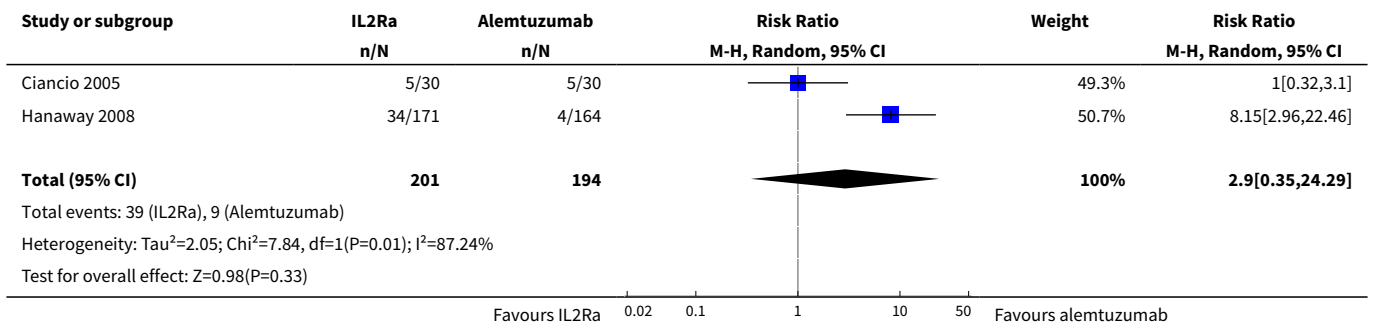


**Analysis 4.3. Comparison 4 IL2Ra versus alemtuzumab, Outcome 3 Graft loss censored for death with a functioning graft.**

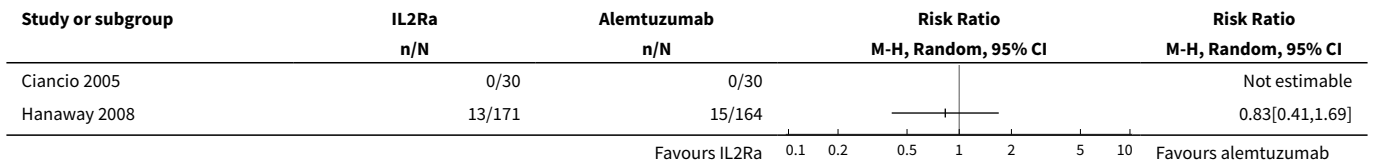




**Analysis 4.4. Comparison 4 IL2Ra versus alemtuzumab, Outcome 4 Acute rejection: biopsy-proven.**



**Analysis 4.5. Comparison 4 IL2Ra versus alemtuzumab, Outcome 5 Infection: CMV all.**

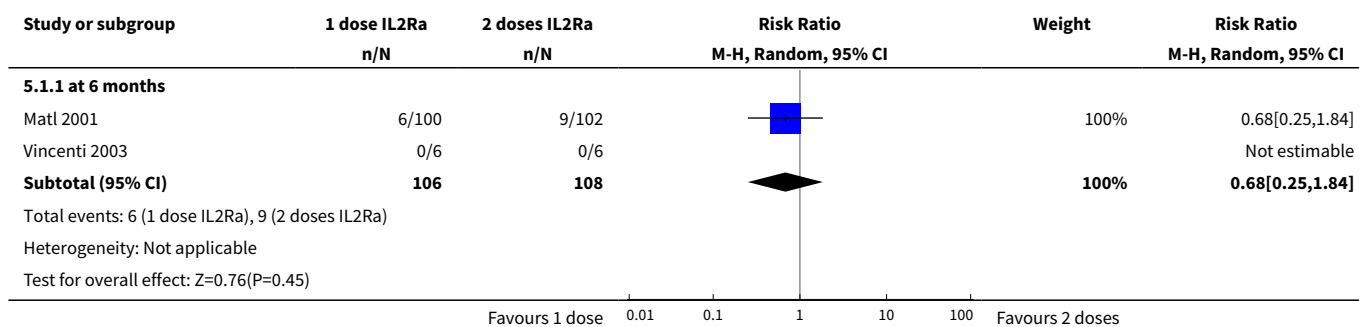


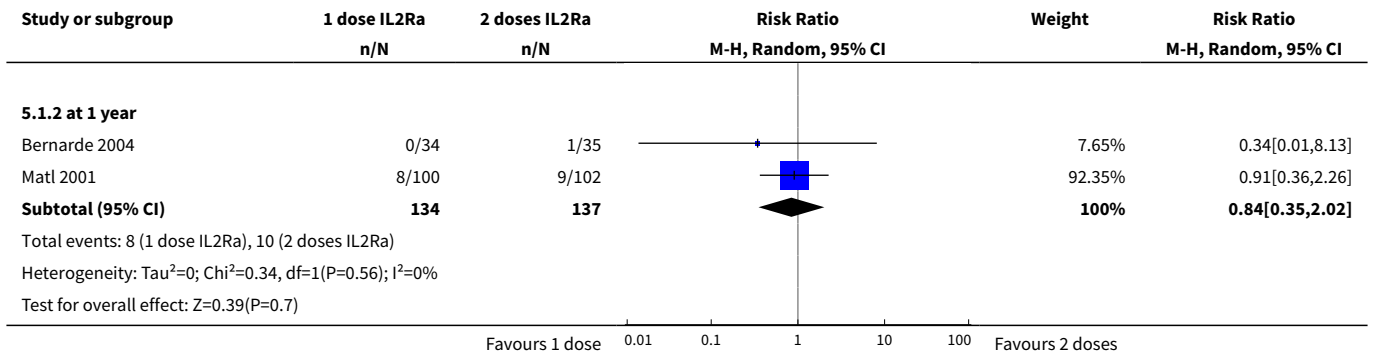
**Comparison 5. One dose of IL2Ra versus two or more doses of IL2Ra**

Outcome or subgroup title	No. of studies	No. of participants	Statistical method	Effect size
<b>1 Mortality</b>	3		Risk Ratio (M-H, Random, 95% CI)	Subtotals only
1.1 at 6 months	2	214	Risk Ratio (M-H, Random, 95% CI)	0.68 [0.25, 1.84]
1.2 at 1 year	2	271	Risk Ratio (M-H, Random, 95% CI)	0.84 [0.35, 2.02]
<b>2 Graft loss or death</b>	3		Risk Ratio (M-H, Random, 95% CI)	Subtotals only
2.1 at 6 months	2	214	Risk Ratio (M-H, Random, 95% CI)	1.60 [0.65, 3.97]
2.2 at 1 year	2	271	Risk Ratio (M-H, Random, 95% CI)	1.18 [0.59, 2.36]
<b>3 Graft loss censored for death</b>	3		Risk Ratio (M-H, Random, 95% CI)	Subtotals only
3.1 at 6 months	2	214	Risk Ratio (M-H, Random, 95% CI)	1.02 [0.30, 3.42]
3.2 at 1 year	2	271	Risk Ratio (M-H, Random, 95% CI)	1.68 [0.70, 4.03]
<b>4 Acute rejection: clinically suspected or biopsy-proven</b>	3		Risk Ratio (M-H, Random, 95% CI)	Subtotals only
4.1 at 6 months	2	214	Risk Ratio (M-H, Random, 95% CI)	0.89 [0.52, 1.51]
4.2 at 1 year	2	271	Risk Ratio (M-H, Random, 95% CI)	0.87 [0.56, 1.35]

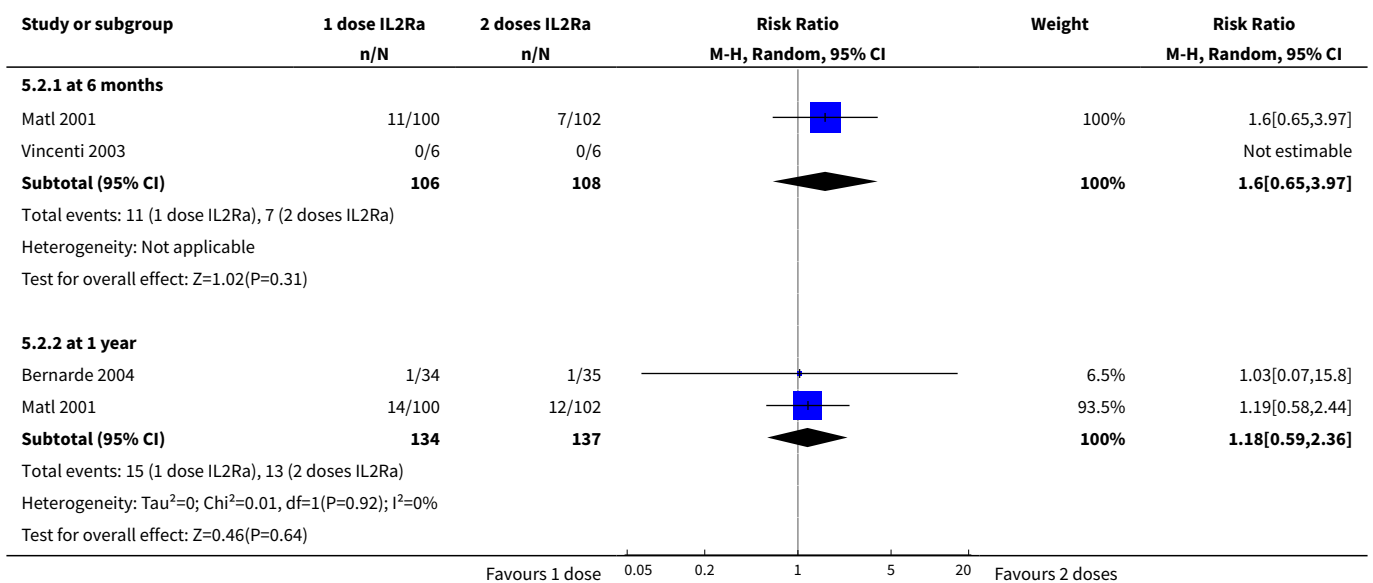
Outcome or subgroup title	No. of studies	No. of participants	Statistical method	Effect size
<b>5 Acute rejection: biopsy-proven</b>	2		Risk Ratio (M-H, Random, 95% CI)	Subtotals only
5.1 at 6 months	1	202	Risk Ratio (M-H, Random, 95% CI)	0.87 [0.48, 1.56]
5.2 at 1 year	2	271	Risk Ratio (M-H, Random, 95% CI)	0.89 [0.56, 1.42]
<b>6 Acute rejection: steroid resistant</b>	1		Risk Ratio (M-H, Random, 95% CI)	Totals not selected
6.1 at 6 months	1		Risk Ratio (M-H, Random, 95% CI)	0.0 [0.0, 0.0]
6.2 at 1 year	1		Risk Ratio (M-H, Random, 95% CI)	0.0 [0.0, 0.0]
<b>7 Malignancy: total</b>	1		Risk Ratio (M-H, Random, 95% CI)	Totals not selected
7.1 at 1 year	1		Risk Ratio (M-H, Random, 95% CI)	0.0 [0.0, 0.0]
<b>8 Infection: CMV all</b>	2		Risk Ratio (M-H, Random, 95% CI)	Subtotals only
8.1 at 1 year	2	271	Risk Ratio (M-H, Random, 95% CI)	0.93 [0.51, 1.68]
<b>9 Post-transplant diabetes mellitus (PTDM)</b>	1		Risk Ratio (M-H, Random, 95% CI)	Totals not selected
9.1 at 1 year	1		Risk Ratio (M-H, Random, 95% CI)	0.0 [0.0, 0.0]
<b>10 Creatinine mg/dL</b>	1		Mean Difference (IV, Random, 95% CI)	Totals not selected
10.1 at 6 months	1		Mean Difference (IV, Random, 95% CI)	0.0 [0.0, 0.0]
10.2 at 1 year	1		Mean Difference (IV, Random, 95% CI)	0.0 [0.0, 0.0]
<b>11 Creatinine µmol/L</b>	1		Mean Difference (IV, Random, 95% CI)	Totals not selected
11.1 at 6 months	1		Mean Difference (IV, Random, 95% CI)	0.0 [0.0, 0.0]
11.2 at 1 year	1		Mean Difference (IV, Random, 95% CI)	0.0 [0.0, 0.0]

**Analysis 5.1. Comparison 5 One dose of IL2Ra versus two or more doses of IL2Ra, Outcome 1 Mortality.**

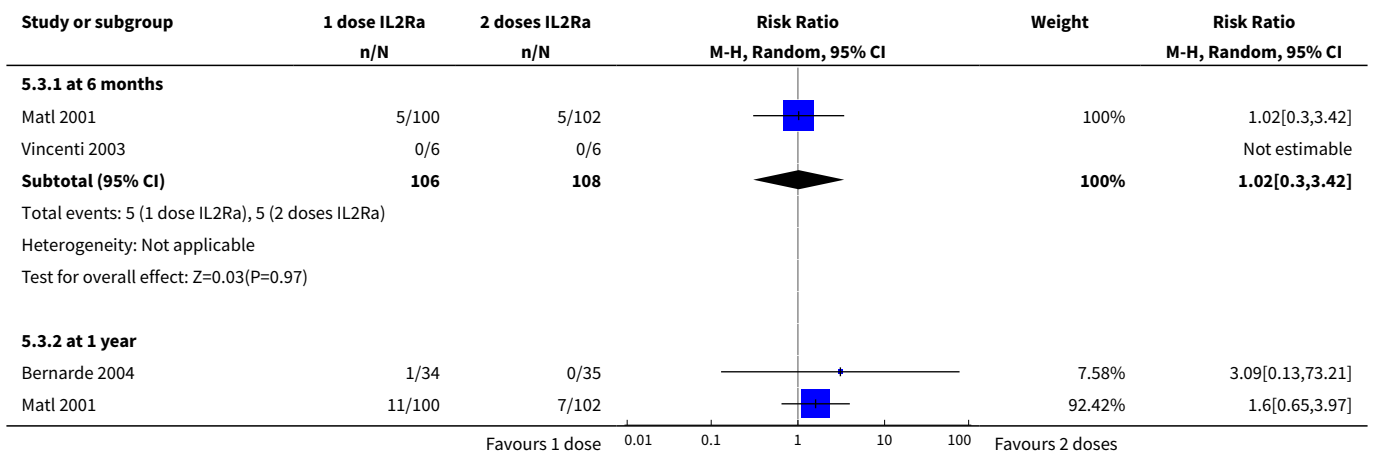


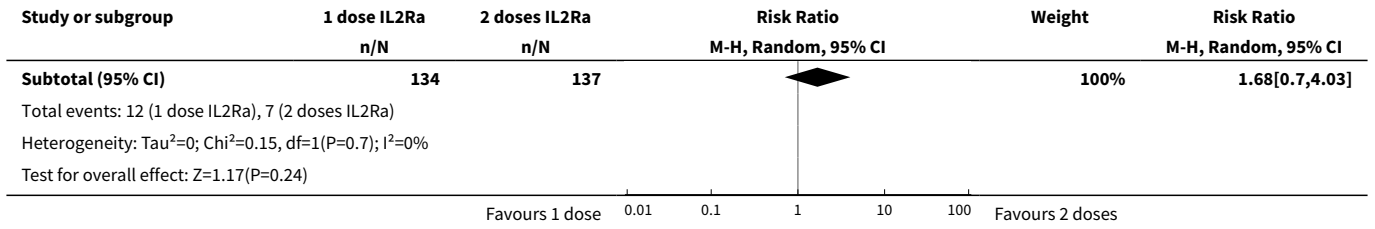


**Analysis 5.2. Comparison 5 One dose of IL2Ra versus two or more doses of IL2Ra, Outcome 2 Graft loss or death.**

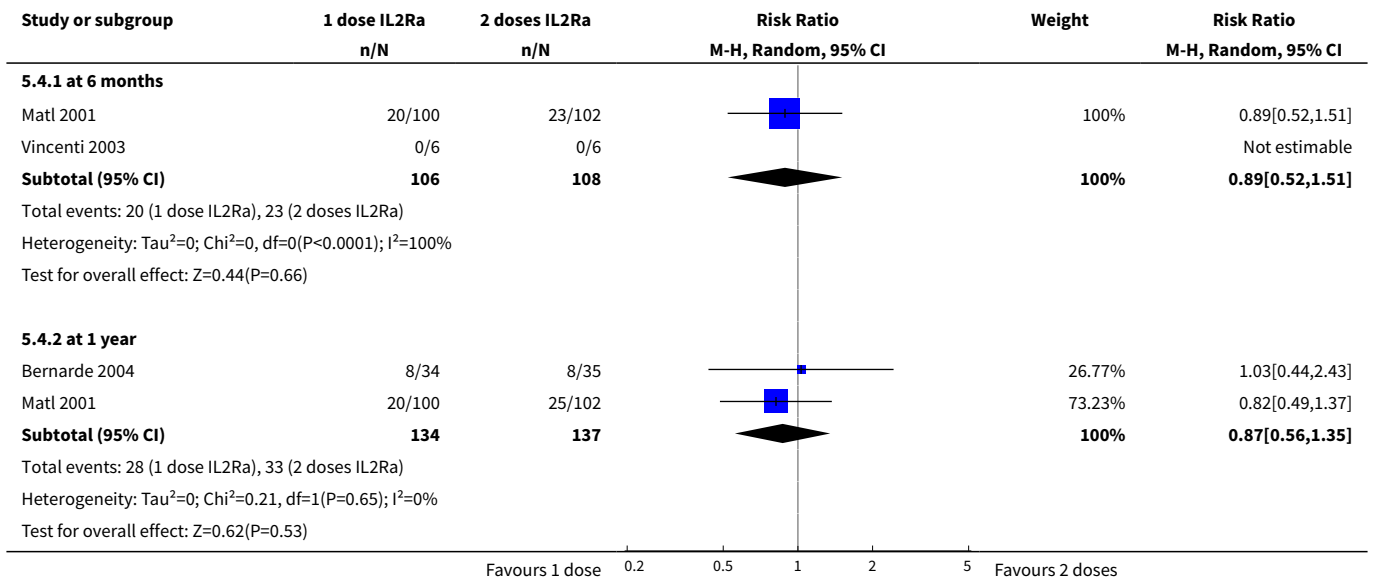


**Analysis 5.3. Comparison 5 One dose of IL2Ra versus two or more doses of IL2Ra, Outcome 3 Graft loss censored for death.**

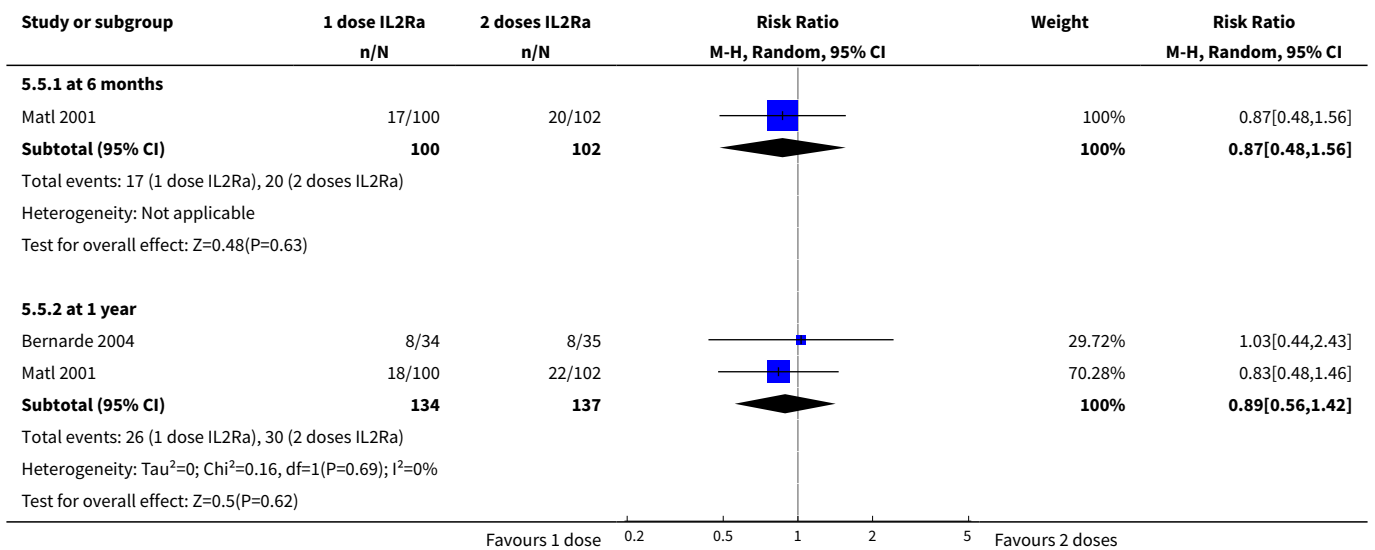




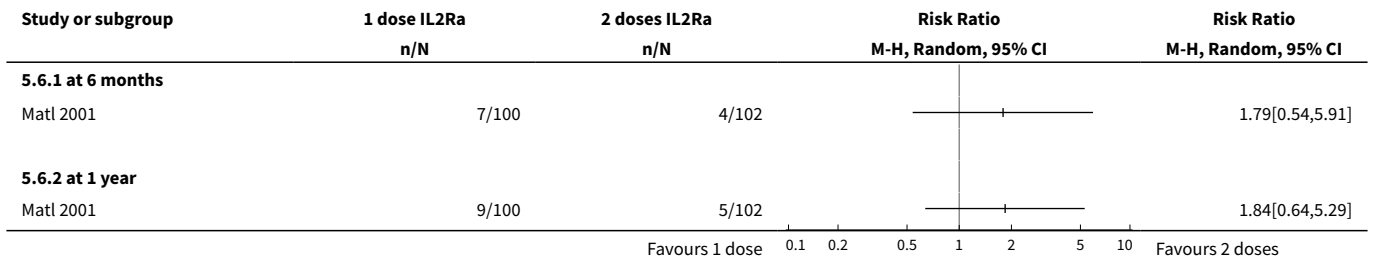
**Analysis 5.4. Comparison 5 One dose of IL2Ra versus two or more doses of IL2Ra, Outcome 4 Acute rejection: clinically suspected or biopsy-proven.**



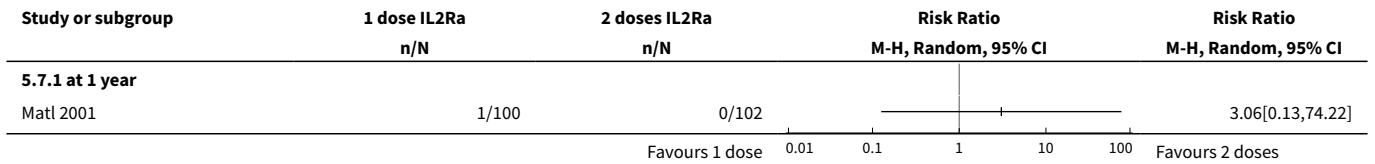
**Analysis 5.5. Comparison 5 One dose of IL2Ra versus two or more doses of IL2Ra, Outcome 5 Acute rejection: biopsy-proven.**



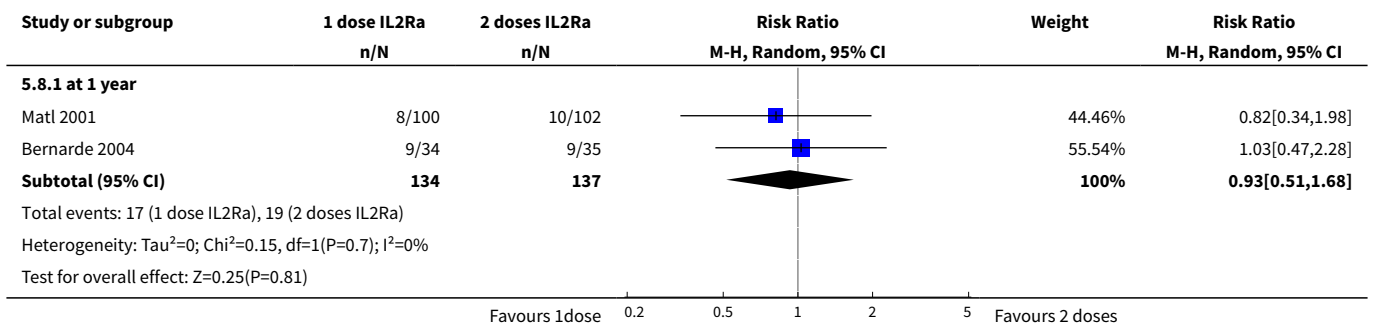
**Analysis 5.6. Comparison 5 One dose of IL2Ra versus two or more doses of IL2Ra, Outcome 6 Acute rejection: steroid resistant.**



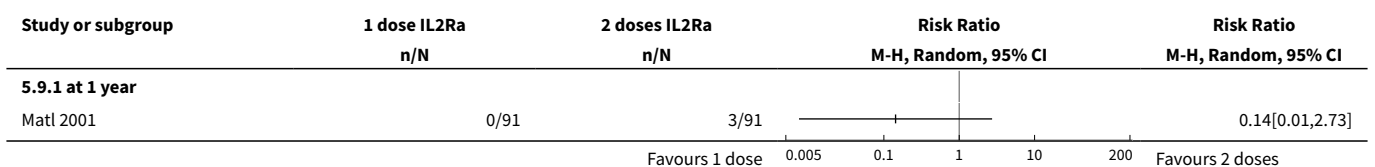
**Analysis 5.7. Comparison 5 One dose of IL2Ra versus two or more doses of IL2Ra, Outcome 7 Malignancy: total.**



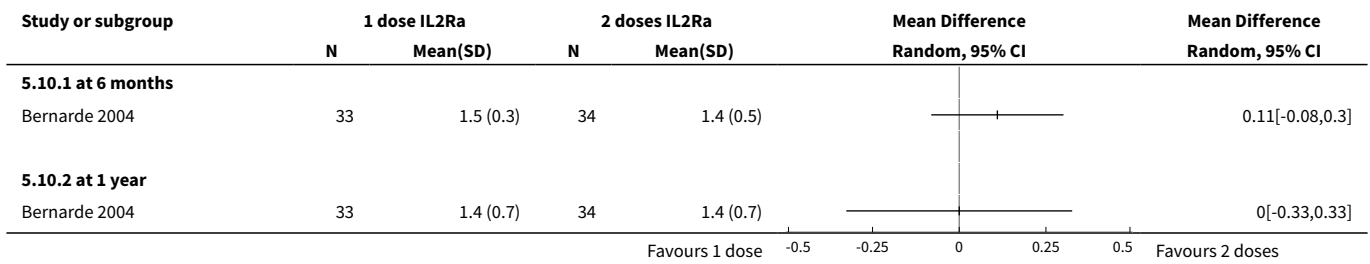
**Analysis 5.8. Comparison 5 One dose of IL2Ra versus two or more doses of IL2Ra, Outcome 8 Infection: CMV all.**



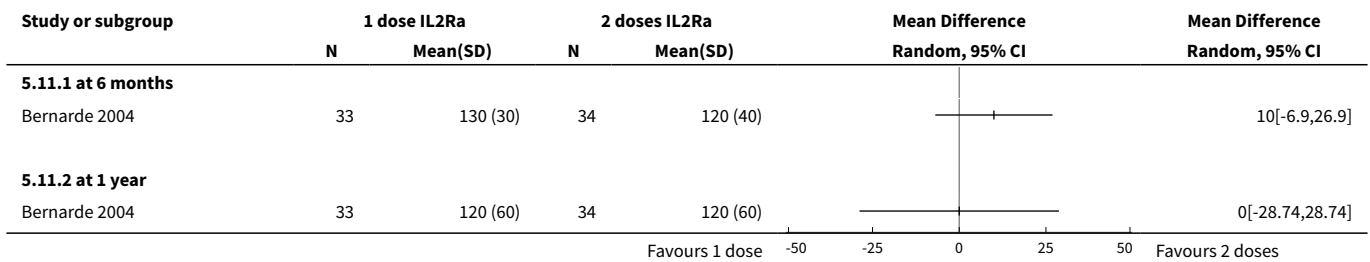
**Analysis 5.9. Comparison 5 One dose of IL2Ra versus two or more doses of IL2Ra, Outcome 9 Post-transplant diabetes mellitus (PTDM).**



**Analysis 5.10. Comparison 5 One dose of IL2Ra versus two or more doses of IL2Ra, Outcome 10 Creatinine mg/dL.**



**Analysis 5.11. Comparison 5 One dose of IL2Ra versus two or more doses of IL2Ra, Outcome 11 Creatinine µmol/L.**



**Comparison 6. Standard versus extended doses of IL2Ra**

Outcome or subgroup title	No. of studies	No. of participants	Statistical method	Effect size
<b>1 Mortality</b>	1		Risk Ratio (M-H, Random, 95% CI)	Totals not selected
1.1 at 6 months	1		Risk Ratio (M-H, Random, 95% CI)	0.0 [0.0, 0.0]
1.2 at 1 year	1		Risk Ratio (M-H, Random, 95% CI)	0.0 [0.0, 0.0]
<b>2 Graft loss or death</b>	1		Risk Ratio (M-H, Random, 95% CI)	Totals not selected
2.1 at 6 months	1		Risk Ratio (M-H, Random, 95% CI)	0.0 [0.0, 0.0]
2.2 at 1 year	1		Risk Ratio (M-H, Random, 95% CI)	0.0 [0.0, 0.0]
<b>3 Graft loss censored for death</b>	1		Risk Ratio (M-H, Random, 95% CI)	Totals not selected
3.1 at 6 months	1		Risk Ratio (M-H, Random, 95% CI)	0.0 [0.0, 0.0]
3.2 at 1 year	1		Risk Ratio (M-H, Random, 95% CI)	0.0 [0.0, 0.0]
<b>4 Acute rejection: clinically suspected or biopsy-proven</b>	1		Risk Ratio (M-H, Random, 95% CI)	Totals not selected
4.1 at 6 months	1		Risk Ratio (M-H, Random, 95% CI)	0.0 [0.0, 0.0]

Outcome or subgroup title	No. of studies	No. of participants	Statistical method	Effect size
4.2 at 1 year	1		Risk Ratio (M-H, Random, 95% CI)	0.0 [0.0, 0.0]
5 Post-transplant diabetes mellitus (PTDM)	1		Risk Ratio (M-H, Random, 95% CI)	Totals not selected
5.1 at 1 year	1		Risk Ratio (M-H, Random, 95% CI)	0.0 [0.0, 0.0]
6 Glomerular filtration rate (GFR) mL/min/1.73 m <sup>2</sup>	1		Mean Difference (IV, Random, 95% CI)	Totals not selected
6.1 at 6 months	1		Mean Difference (IV, Random, 95% CI)	0.0 [0.0, 0.0]

**Analysis 6.1. Comparison 6 Standard versus extended doses of IL2Ra, Outcome 1 Mortality.**

Study or subgroup	Standard dose n/N	Extended dose n/N	Risk Ratio M-H, Random, 95% CI	Risk Ratio M-H, Random, 95% CI
<b>6.1.1 at 6 months</b>				
Kumar 2005	0/17	0/10		Not estimable
<b>6.1.2 at 1 year</b>				
Kumar 2005	0/17	0/10		Not estimable

Favours standard    0.1   0.2   0.5   1   2   5   10   Favours extended

**Analysis 6.2. Comparison 6 Standard versus extended doses of IL2Ra, Outcome 2 Graft loss or death.**

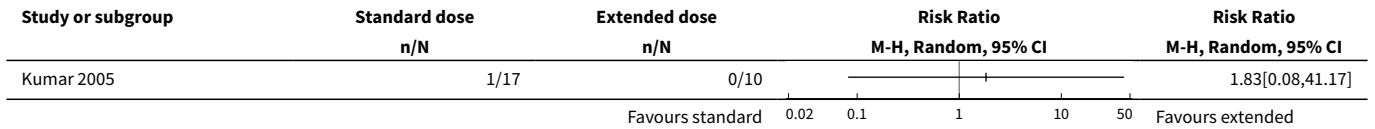
Study or subgroup	Standard dose n/N	Extended dose n/N	Risk Ratio M-H, Random, 95% CI	Risk Ratio M-H, Random, 95% CI
<b>6.2.1 at 6 months</b>				
Kumar 2005	1/17	0/10		1.83[0.08,41.17]
<b>6.2.2 at 1 year</b>				
Kumar 2005	1/17	0/10		1.83[0.08,41.17]

Favours standard    0.02   0.1   1   10   50   Favours extended

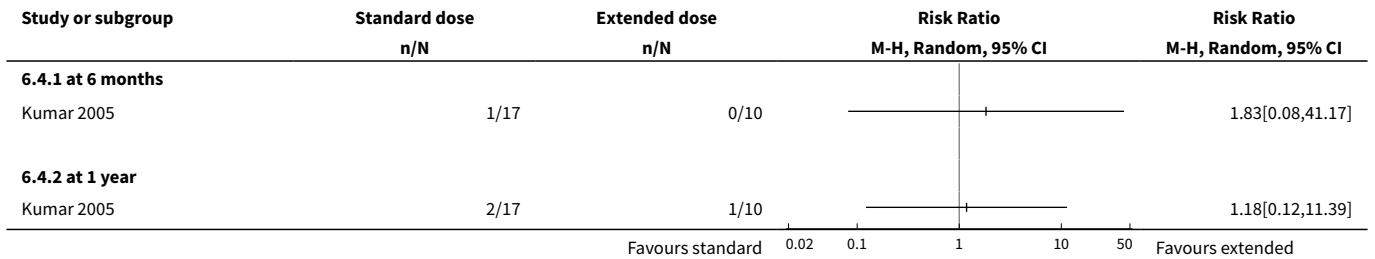
**Analysis 6.3. Comparison 6 Standard versus extended doses of IL2Ra, Outcome 3 Graft loss censored for death.**

Study or subgroup	Standard dose n/N	Extended dose n/N	Risk Ratio M-H, Random, 95% CI	Risk Ratio M-H, Random, 95% CI
<b>6.3.1 at 6 months</b>				
Kumar 2005	0/17	0/10		Not estimable
<b>6.3.2 at 1 year</b>				

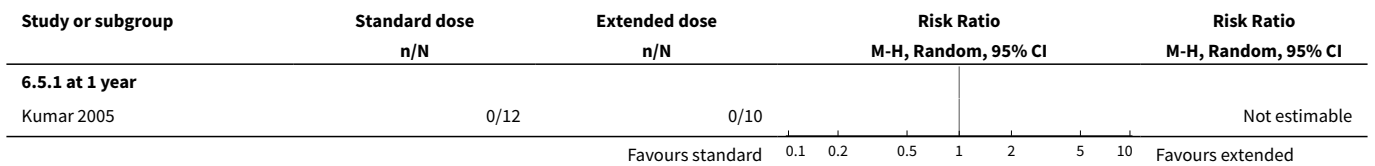
Favours standard    0.02   0.1   1   10   50   Favours extended



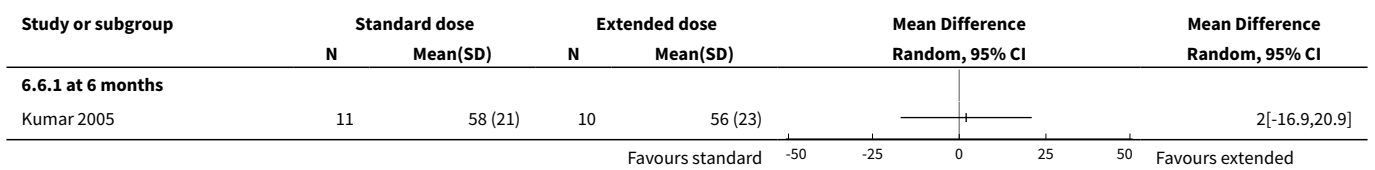
**Analysis 6.4. Comparison 6 Standard versus extended doses of IL2Ra, Outcome 4 Acute rejection: clinically suspected or biopsy-proven.**



**Analysis 6.5. Comparison 6 Standard versus extended doses of IL2Ra, Outcome 5 Post-transplant diabetes mellitus (PTDM).**



**Analysis 6.6. Comparison 6 Standard versus extended doses of IL2Ra, Outcome 6 Glomerular filtration rate (GFR) mL/min/1.73 m².**



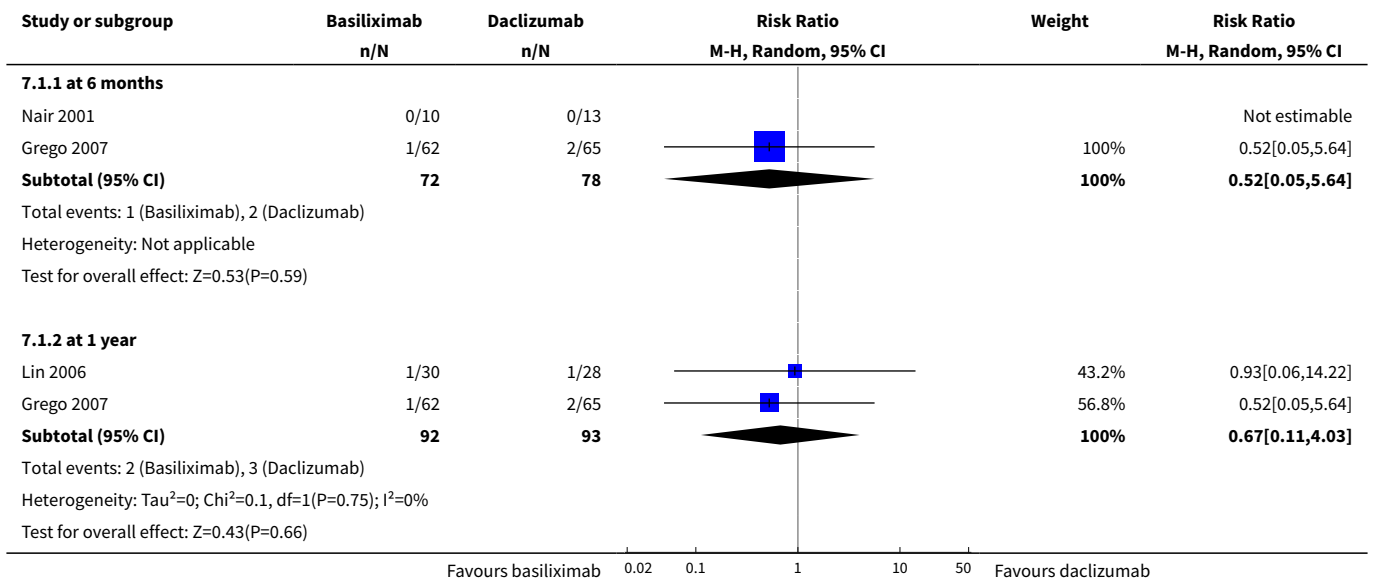
**Comparison 7. Basiliximab versus daclizumab**

Outcome or subgroup title	No. of studies	No. of participants	Statistical method	Effect size
1 Mortality	3		Risk Ratio (M-H, Random, 95% CI)	Subtotals only
1.1 at 6 months	2	150	Risk Ratio (M-H, Random, 95% CI)	0.52 [0.05, 5.64]

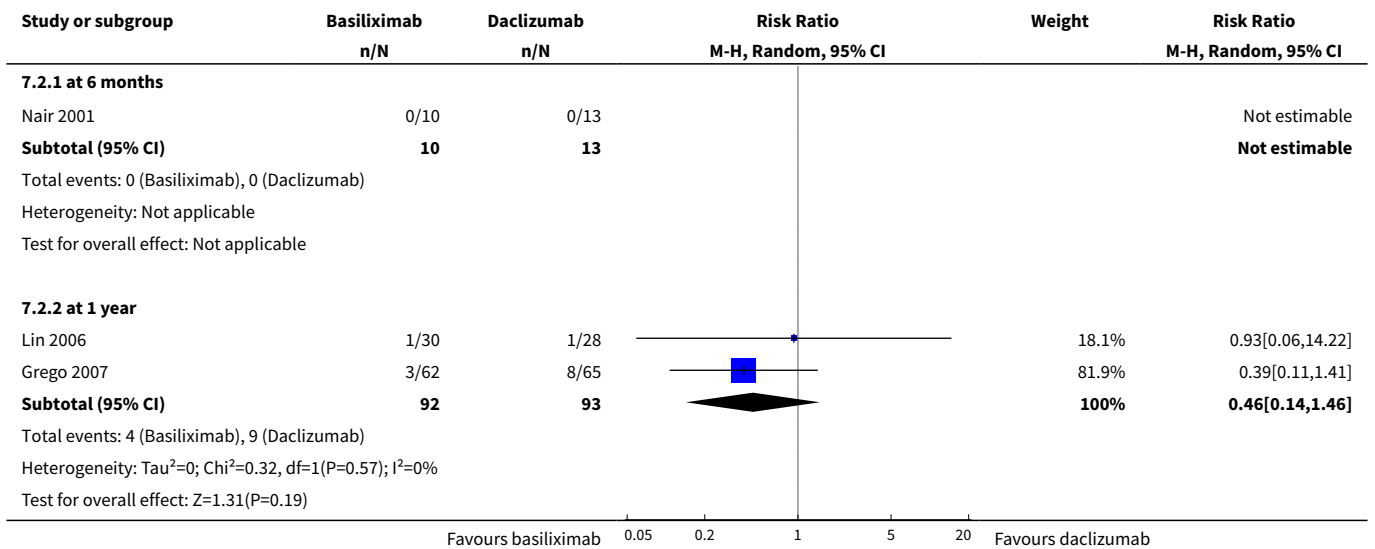


Outcome or subgroup title	No. of studies	No. of participants	Statistical method	Effect size
1.2 at 1 year	2	185	Risk Ratio (M-H, Random, 95% CI)	0.67 [0.11, 4.03]
<b>2 Graft loss or death with functioning allograft</b>	3		Risk Ratio (M-H, Random, 95% CI)	Subtotals only
2.1 at 6 months	1	23	Risk Ratio (M-H, Random, 95% CI)	0.0 [0.0, 0.0]
2.2 at 1 year	2	185	Risk Ratio (M-H, Random, 95% CI)	0.46 [0.14, 1.46]
<b>3 Graft loss censored for death</b>	3		Risk Ratio (M-H, Random, 95% CI)	Subtotals only
3.1 graft loss at 6 months	1	23	Risk Ratio (M-H, Random, 95% CI)	0.0 [0.0, 0.0]
3.2 graft loss at 1 year	2	185	Risk Ratio (M-H, Random, 95% CI)	0.35 [0.07, 1.67]
<b>4 Acute rejection: clinically suspected or biopsy-proven</b>	4		Risk Ratio (M-H, Random, 95% CI)	Subtotals only
4.1 at 3 months	1	59	Risk Ratio (M-H, Random, 95% CI)	0.17 [0.02, 1.35]
4.2 at 6 months	3	208	Risk Ratio (M-H, Random, 95% CI)	0.58 [0.13, 2.61]
<b>5 Acute rejection: biopsy-proven</b>	4		Risk Ratio (M-H, Random, 95% CI)	Subtotals only
5.1 at 3 months	1	59	Risk Ratio (M-H, Random, 95% CI)	0.17 [0.02, 1.35]
5.2 at 6 months	3	208	Risk Ratio (M-H, Random, 95% CI)	0.35 [0.03, 4.53]
<b>6 Acute rejection: steroid resistant</b>	1		Risk Ratio (M-H, Random, 95% CI)	Totals not selected
6.1 at 6 months	1		Risk Ratio (M-H, Random, 95% CI)	0.0 [0.0, 0.0]
<b>7 Malignancy: total</b>	3		Risk Ratio (M-H, Random, 95% CI)	Subtotals only
7.1 at 6 months	1	23	Risk Ratio (M-H, Random, 95% CI)	0.0 [0.0, 0.0]
7.2 at 12 months	2	185	Risk Ratio (M-H, Random, 95% CI)	3.14 [0.13, 75.72]
<b>8 Infection: CMV all</b>	3		Risk Ratio (M-H, Random, 95% CI)	Subtotals only
8.1 at 6 months	1	23	Risk Ratio (M-H, Random, 95% CI)	8.91 [0.51, 154.95]
8.2 at 1 year	2	185	Risk Ratio (M-H, Random, 95% CI)	0.56 [0.22, 1.45]
<b>9 Creatinine <math>\mu\text{mol/L}</math></b>	1		Mean Difference (IV, Random, 95% CI)	Totals not selected
9.1 up to 1 year	1		Mean Difference (IV, Random, 95% CI)	0.0 [0.0, 0.0]

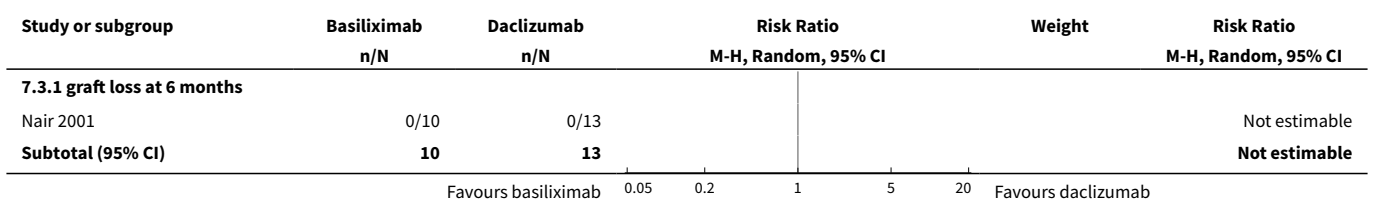
**Analysis 7.1. Comparison 7 Basiliximab versus daclizumab, Outcome 1 Mortality.**

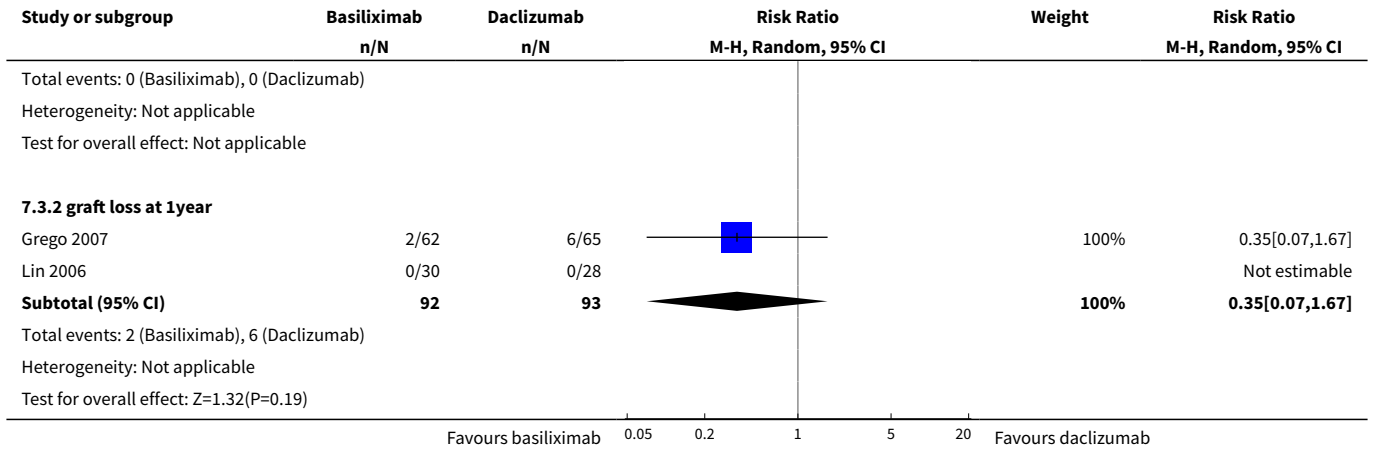


**Analysis 7.2. Comparison 7 Basiliximab versus daclizumab, Outcome 2 Graft loss or death with functioning allograft.**

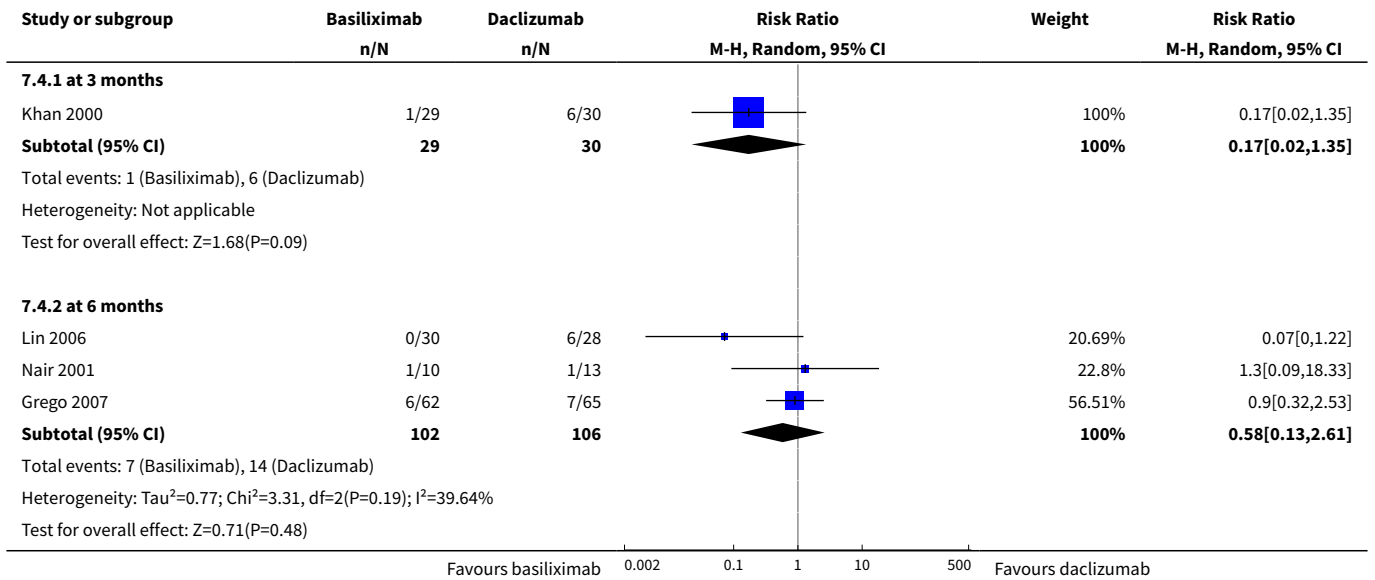


**Analysis 7.3. Comparison 7 Basiliximab versus daclizumab, Outcome 3 Graft loss censored for death.**

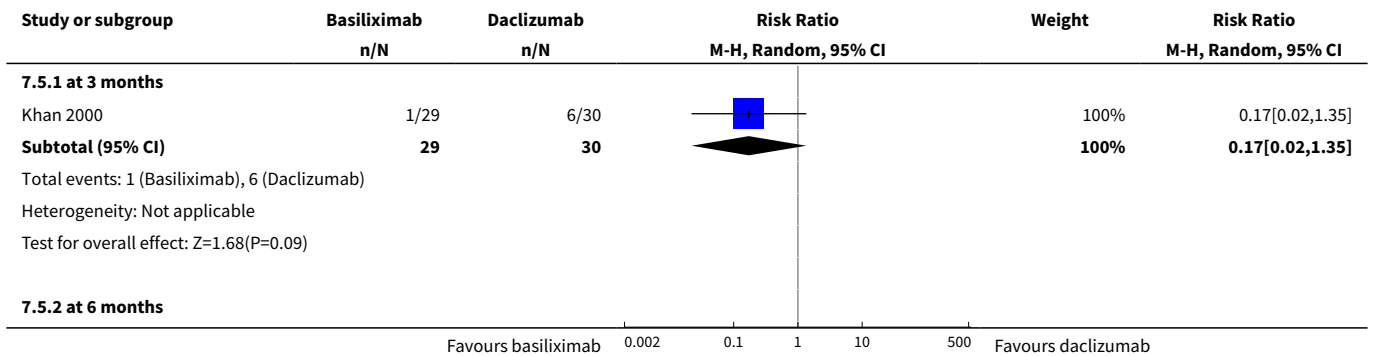


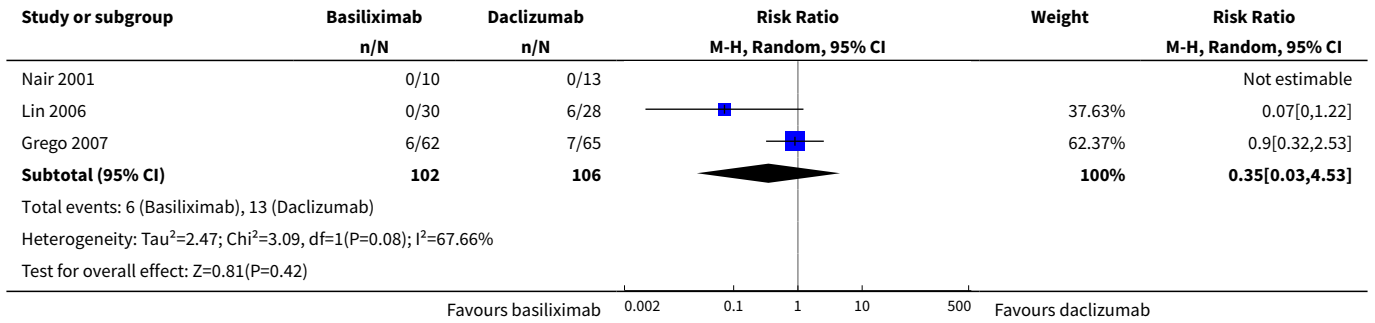


**Analysis 7.4. Comparison 7 Basiliximab versus daclizumab, Outcome 4 Acute rejection: clinically suspected or biopsy-proven.**

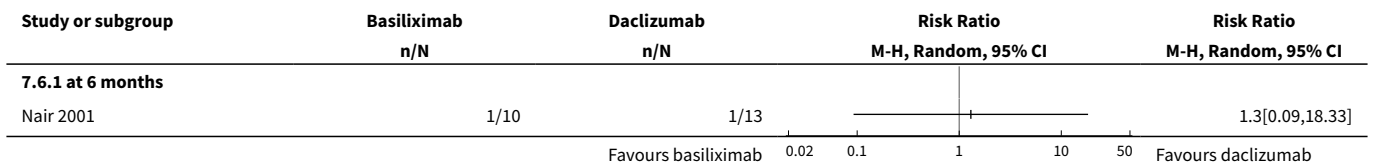


**Analysis 7.5. Comparison 7 Basiliximab versus daclizumab, Outcome 5 Acute rejection: biopsy-proven.**

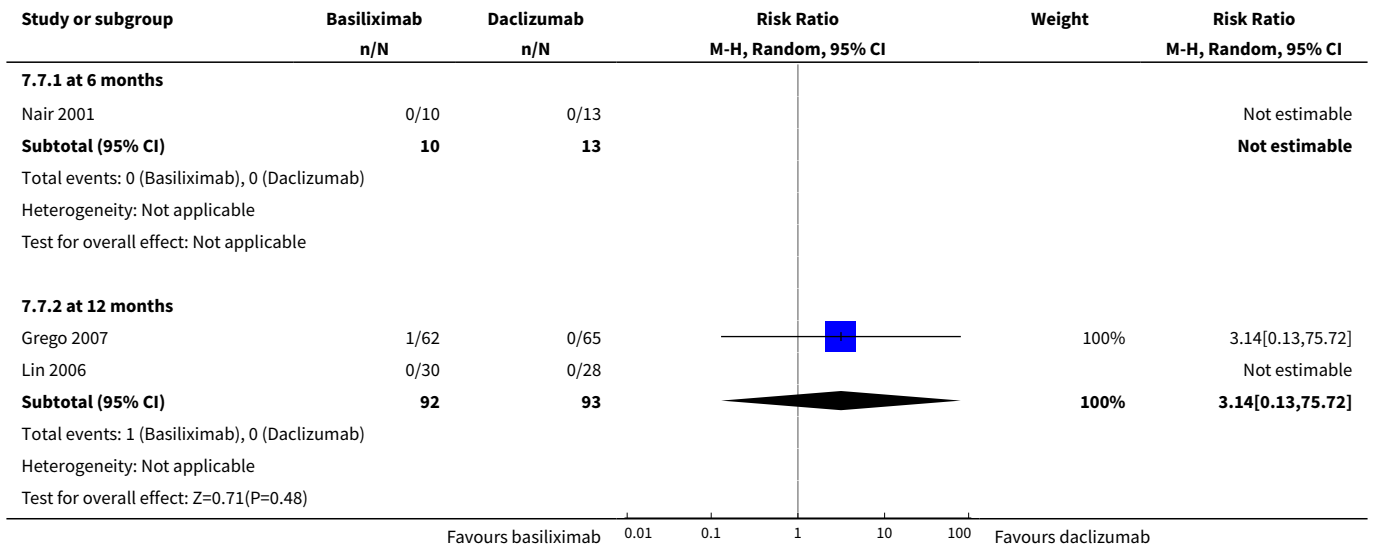




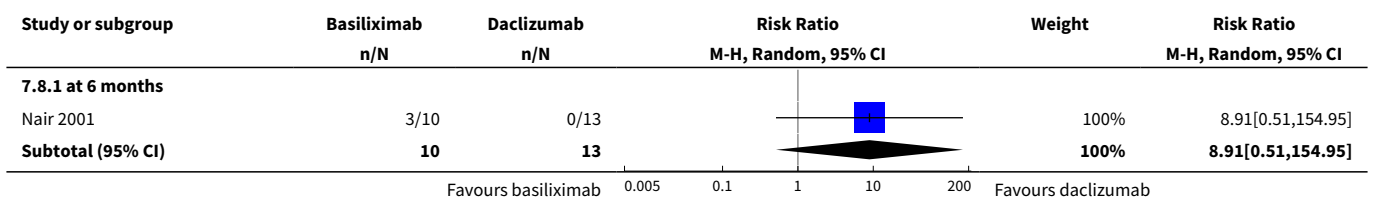
**Analysis 7.6. Comparison 7 Basiliximab versus daclizumab, Outcome 6 Acute rejection: steroid resistant.**

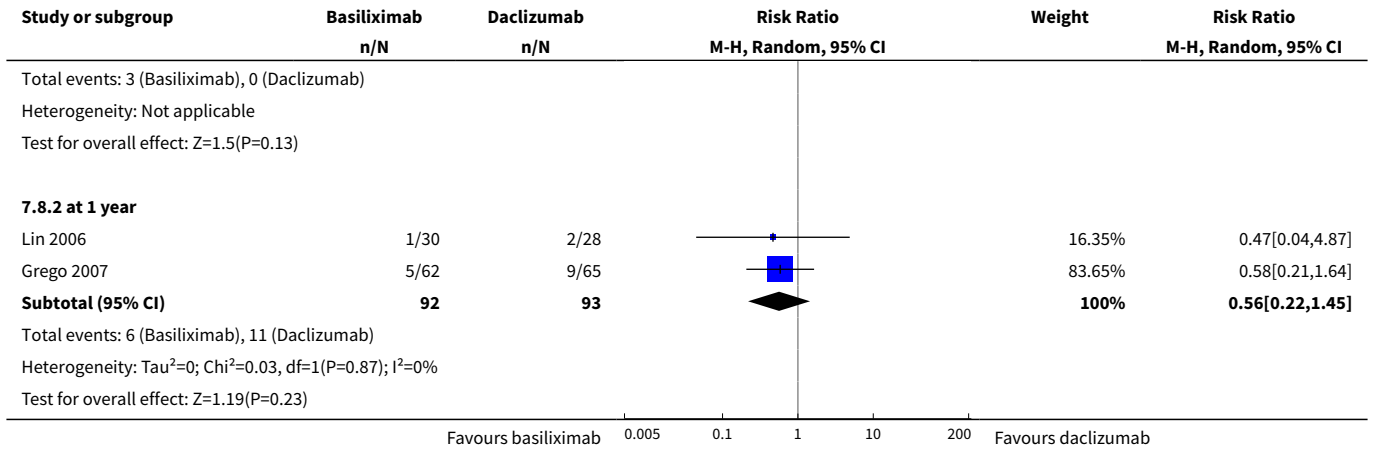


**Analysis 7.7. Comparison 7 Basiliximab versus daclizumab, Outcome 7 Malignancy: total.**

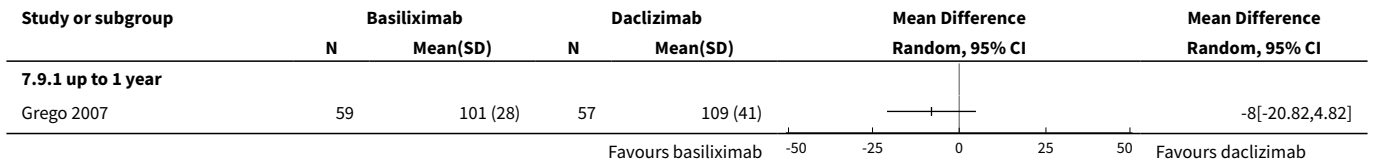


**Analysis 7.8. Comparison 7 Basiliximab versus daclizumab, Outcome 8 Infection: CMV all.**





**Analysis 7.9. Comparison 7 Basiliximab versus daclizumab, Outcome 9 Creatinine µmol/L.**

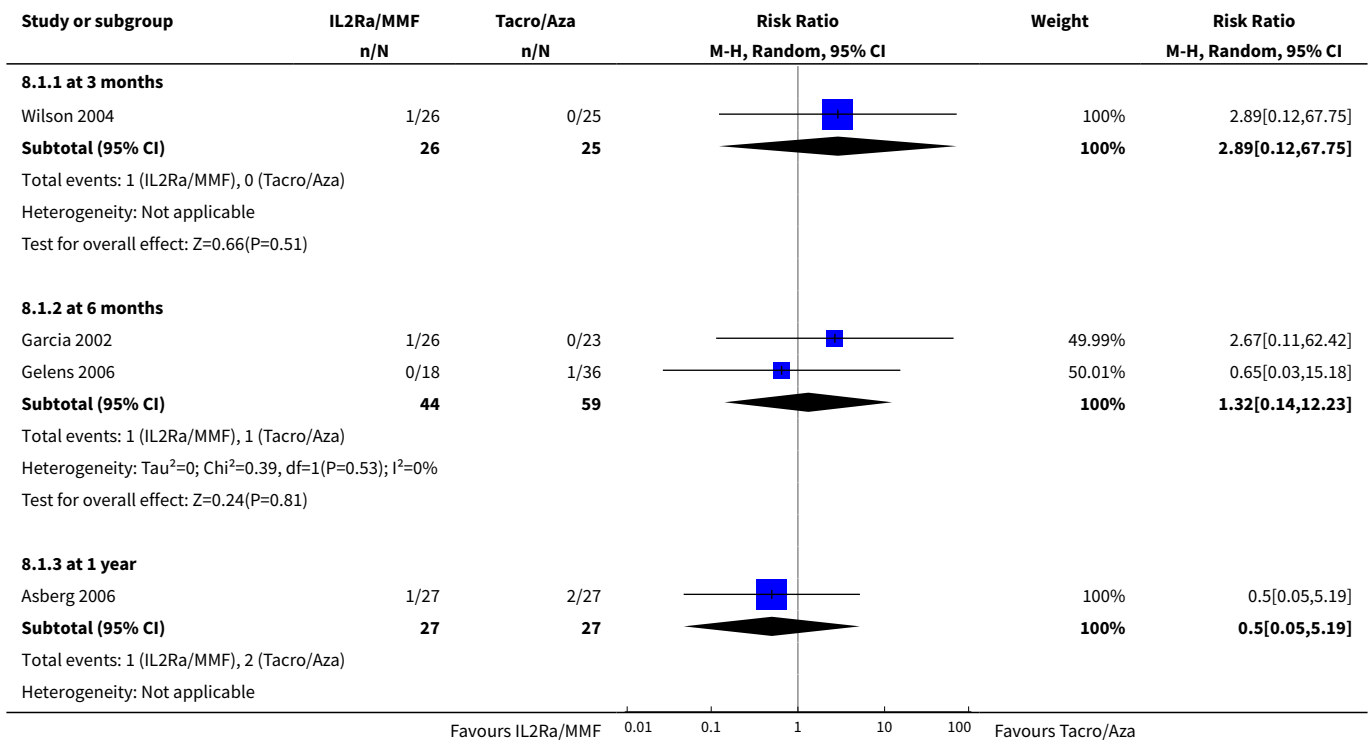


**Comparison 8. IL2Ra versus calcineurin inhibitor**

Outcome or subgroup title	No. of studies	No. of participants	Statistical method	Effect size
<b>1 Mortality</b>	4		Risk Ratio (M-H, Random, 95% CI)	Subtotals only
1.1 at 3 months	1	51	Risk Ratio (M-H, Random, 95% CI)	2.89 [0.12, 67.75]
1.2 at 6 months	2	103	Risk Ratio (M-H, Random, 95% CI)	1.32 [0.14, 12.23]
1.3 at 1 year	1	54	Risk Ratio (M-H, Random, 95% CI)	0.5 [0.05, 5.19]
<b>2 Graft loss</b>	3		Risk Ratio (M-H, Random, 95% CI)	Subtotals only
2.1 at 6 months	2	103	Risk Ratio (M-H, Random, 95% CI)	1.14 [0.37, 3.46]
2.2 at 1 year	1	54	Risk Ratio (M-H, Random, 95% CI)	2.0 [0.19, 20.77]
<b>3 Acute rejection: clinically suspected or biopsy-proven</b>	3	157	Risk Ratio (M-H, Random, 95% CI)	2.26 [1.50, 3.41]
3.1 at 6 months	2	103	Risk Ratio (M-H, Random, 95% CI)	2.15 [1.18, 3.90]
3.2 at 1 year	1	54	Risk Ratio (M-H, Random, 95% CI)	2.37 [1.26, 4.46]
<b>4 Acute rejection: steroid resistant</b>	2		Risk Ratio (M-H, Random, 95% CI)	Totals not selected

Outcome or subgroup title	No. of studies	No. of participants	Statistical method	Effect size
4.1 at 3 months	1		Risk Ratio (M-H, Random, 95% CI)	0.0 [0.0, 0.0]
4.2 at 1 year	1		Risk Ratio (M-H, Random, 95% CI)	0.0 [0.0, 0.0]
5 Creatinine mg/dL	1		Mean Difference (IV, Random, 95% CI)	Totals not selected
5.1 at 6 months	1		Mean Difference (IV, Random, 95% CI)	0.0 [0.0, 0.0]
6 Creatinine µmol/L	1		Mean Difference (IV, Random, 95% CI)	Totals not selected
6.1 at 6 months	1		Mean Difference (IV, Random, 95% CI)	0.0 [0.0, 0.0]
7 Glomerular filtration rate (GFR) creatinine clearance (C-G)	2		Mean Difference (IV, Random, 95% CI)	Subtotals only
7.1 at 3 months	2	100	Mean Difference (IV, Random, 95% CI)	-2.95 [-10.93, 5.03]
7.2 at 1 year	1	51	Mean Difference (IV, Random, 95% CI)	-17.0 [-30.63, -3.37]

**Analysis 8.1. Comparison 8 IL2Ra versus calcineurin inhibitor, Outcome 1 Mortality.**



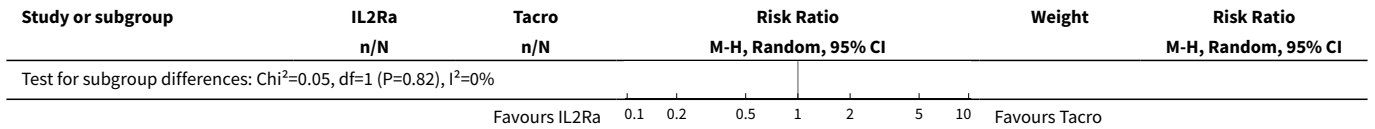
Study or subgroup	IL2Ra/MMF n/N	Tacro/Aza n/N	Risk Ratio M-H, Random, 95% CI	Weight	Risk Ratio M-H, Random, 95% CI
Test for overall effect: Z=0.58(P=0.56)					
Favours IL2Ra/MMF			0.01 0.1 1 10 100	Favours Tacro/Aza	

**Analysis 8.2. Comparison 8 IL2Ra versus calcineurin inhibitor, Outcome 2 Graft loss.**

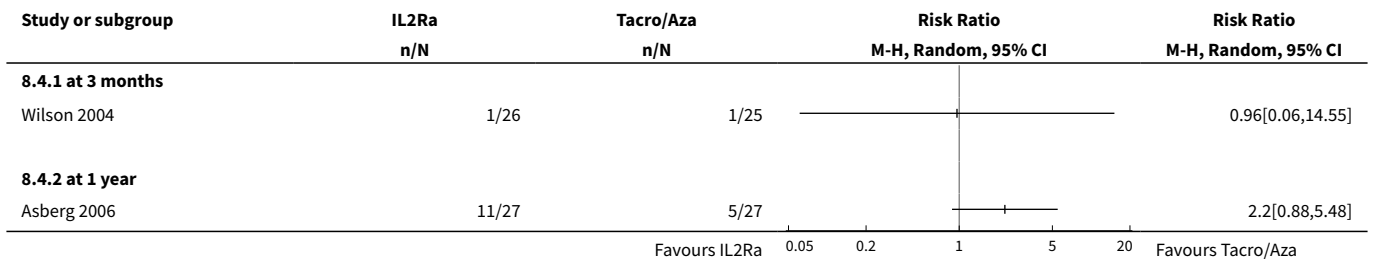
Study or subgroup	IL2Ra/MMF n/N	Tacro/Aza n/N	Risk Ratio M-H, Random, 95% CI	Weight	Risk Ratio M-H, Random, 95% CI
<b>8.2.1 at 6 months</b>					
Garcia 2002	2/26	1/23		22.71%	1.77[0.17,18.26]
Gelens 2006	3/18	6/36		77.29%	1[0.28,3.54]
<b>Subtotal (95% CI)</b>	<b>44</b>	<b>59</b>		<b>100%</b>	<b>1.14[0.37,3.46]</b>
Total events: 5 (IL2Ra/MMF), 7 (Tacro/Aza) Heterogeneity: Tau <sup>2</sup> =0; Chi <sup>2</sup> =0.18, df=1(P=0.67); I <sup>2</sup> =0% Test for overall effect: Z=0.23(P=0.82)					
<b>8.2.2 at 1 year</b>					
Asberg 2006	2/27	1/27		100%	2[0.19,20.77]
<b>Subtotal (95% CI)</b>	<b>27</b>	<b>27</b>		<b>100%</b>	<b>2[0.19,20.77]</b>
Total events: 2 (IL2Ra/MMF), 1 (Tacro/Aza) Heterogeneity: Not applicable Test for overall effect: Z=0.58(P=0.56)					
Favours IL2Ra/MMF			0.02 0.1 1 10 50	Favours Tacro/Aza	

**Analysis 8.3. Comparison 8 IL2Ra versus calcineurin inhibitor, Outcome 3 Acute rejection: clinically suspected or biopsy-proven.**

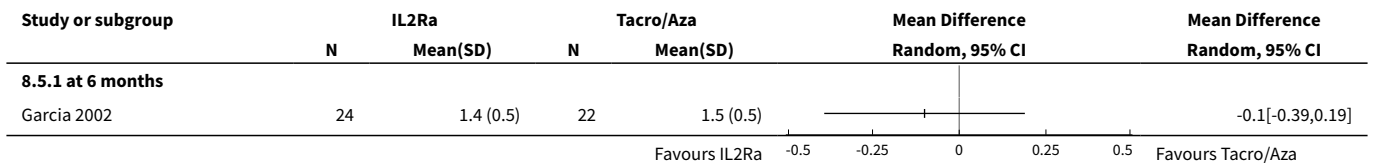
Study or subgroup	IL2Ra n/N	Tacro n/N	Risk Ratio M-H, Random, 95% CI	Weight	Risk Ratio M-H, Random, 95% CI
<b>8.3.1 at 6 months</b>					
Garcia 2002	8/26	5/23		18.07%	1.42[0.54,3.72]
Gelens 2006	12/18	9/36		39.52%	2.67[1.39,5.13]
<b>Subtotal (95% CI)</b>	<b>44</b>	<b>59</b>		<b>57.59%</b>	<b>2.15[1.18,3.9]</b>
Total events: 20 (IL2Ra), 14 (Tacro) Heterogeneity: Tau <sup>2</sup> =0.03; Chi <sup>2</sup> =1.17, df=1(P=0.28); I <sup>2</sup> =14.21% Test for overall effect: Z=2.51(P=0.01)					
<b>8.3.2 at 1 year</b>					
Asberg 2006	19/27	8/27		42.41%	2.38[1.26,4.46]
<b>Subtotal (95% CI)</b>	<b>27</b>	<b>27</b>		<b>42.41%</b>	<b>2.37[1.26,4.46]</b>
Total events: 19 (IL2Ra), 8 (Tacro) Heterogeneity: Not applicable Test for overall effect: Z=2.69(P=0.01)					
<b>Total (95% CI)</b>	<b>71</b>	<b>86</b>		<b>100%</b>	<b>2.26[1.5,3.41]</b>
Total events: 39 (IL2Ra), 22 (Tacro) Heterogeneity: Tau <sup>2</sup> =0; Chi <sup>2</sup> =1.19, df=2(P=0.55); I <sup>2</sup> =0% Test for overall effect: Z=3.9(P<0.0001)					
Favours IL2Ra			0.1 0.2 0.5 1 2 5 10	Favours Tacro	



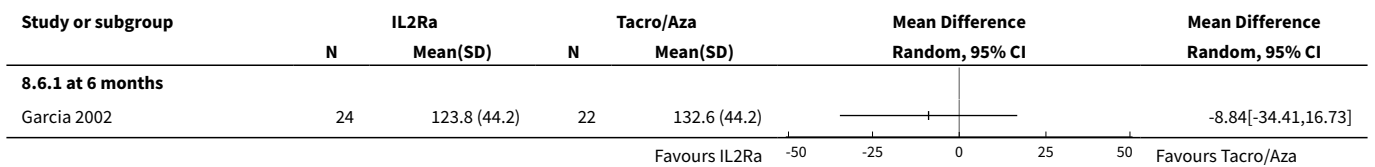
**Analysis 8.4. Comparison 8 IL2Ra versus calcineurin inhibitor, Outcome 4 Acute rejection: steroid resistant.**



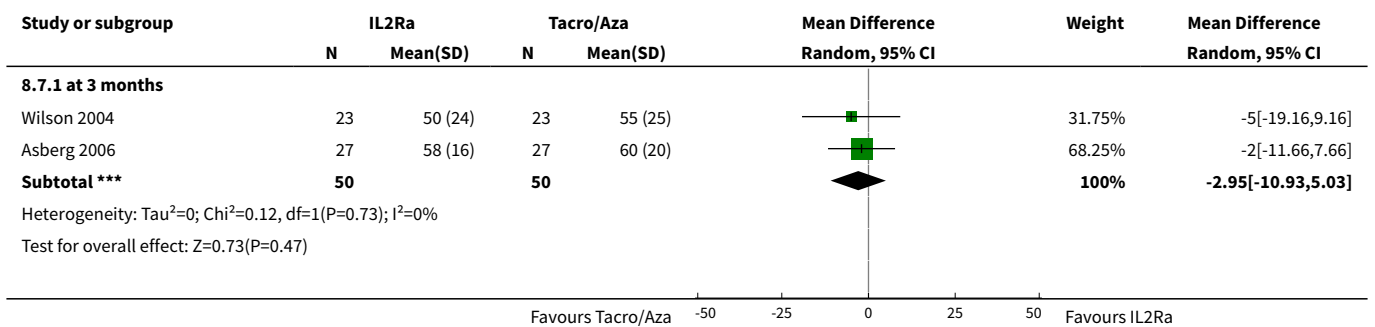
**Analysis 8.5. Comparison 8 IL2Ra versus calcineurin inhibitor, Outcome 5 Creatinine mg/dL.**



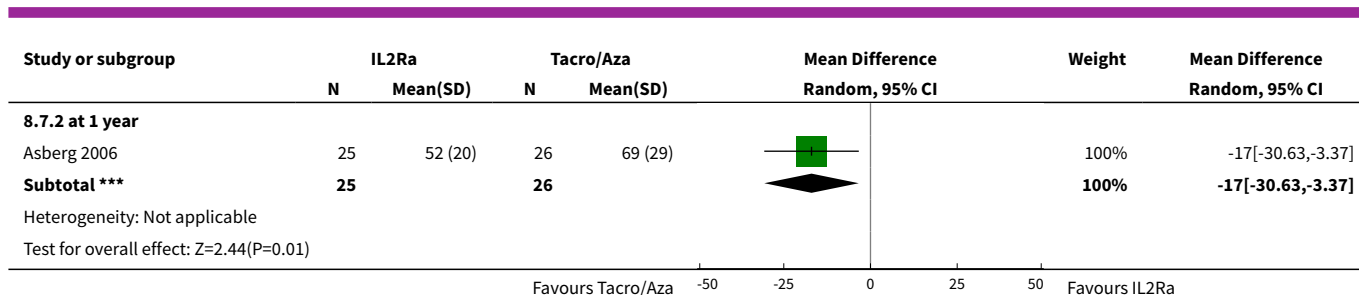
**Analysis 8.6. Comparison 8 IL2Ra versus calcineurin inhibitor, Outcome 6 Creatinine µmol/L.**



**Analysis 8.7. Comparison 8 IL2Ra versus calcineurin inhibitor, Outcome 7 Glomerular filtration rate (GFR) creatinine clearance (C-G).**





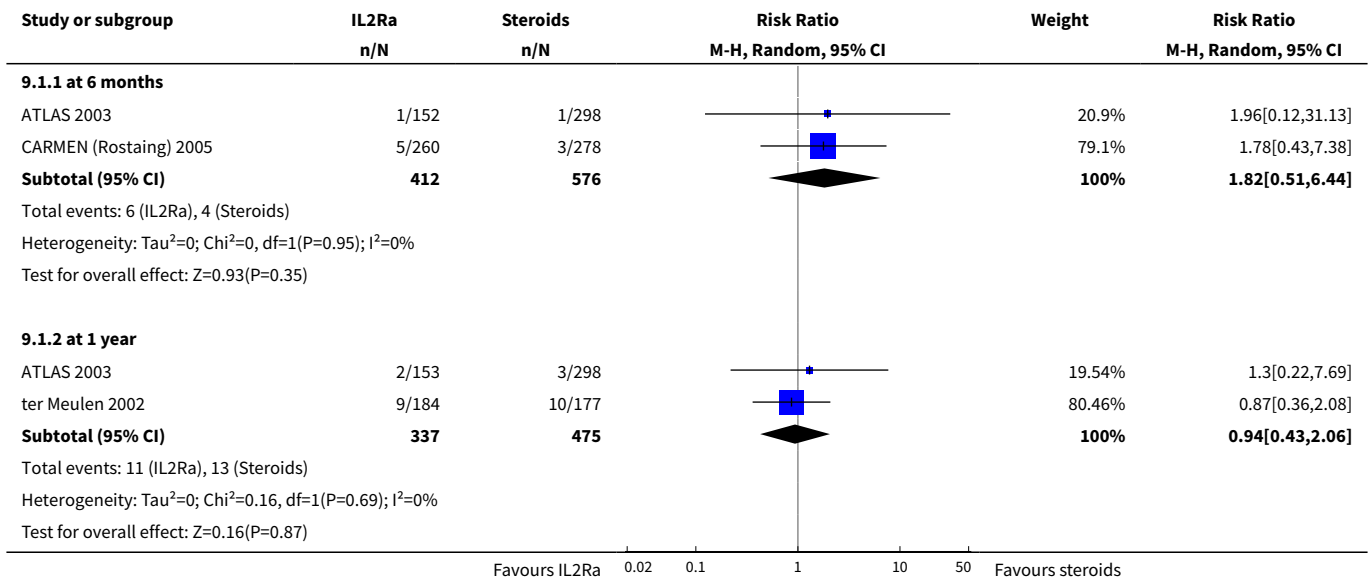


**Comparison 9. IL2Ra versus steroids**

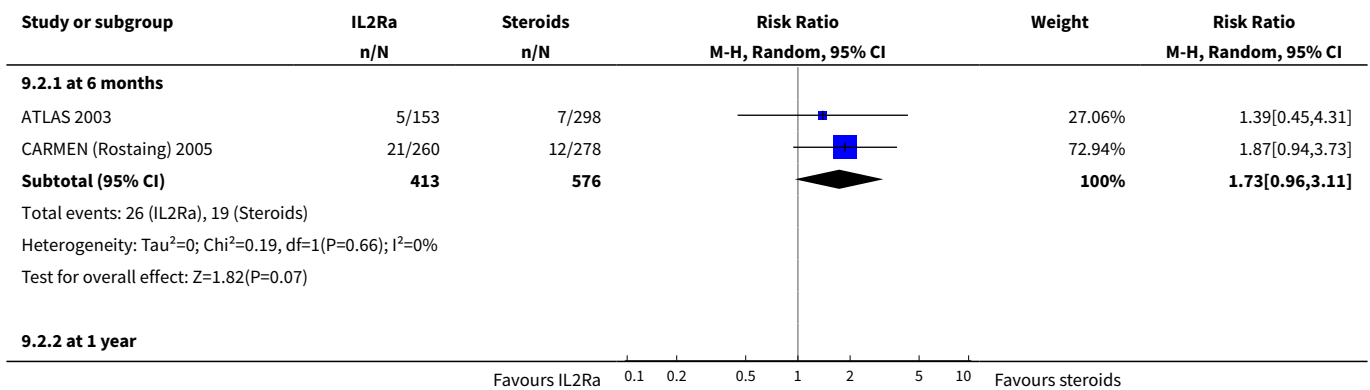
Outcome or subgroup title	No. of studies	No. of participants	Statistical method	Effect size
<b>1 Mortality</b>	3		Risk Ratio (M-H, Random, 95% CI)	Subtotals only
1.1 at 6 months	2	988	Risk Ratio (M-H, Random, 95% CI)	1.82 [0.51, 6.44]
1.2 at 1 year	2	812	Risk Ratio (M-H, Random, 95% CI)	0.94 [0.43, 2.06]
<b>2 Graft loss or death</b>	3		Risk Ratio (M-H, Random, 95% CI)	Subtotals only
2.1 at 6 months	2	989	Risk Ratio (M-H, Random, 95% CI)	1.73 [0.96, 3.11]
2.2 at 1 year	2	812	Risk Ratio (M-H, Random, 95% CI)	1.34 [0.50, 3.62]
<b>3 Graft loss censored for death</b>	3		Risk Ratio (M-H, Random, 95% CI)	Subtotals only
3.1 at 6 months	2	989	Risk Ratio (M-H, Random, 95% CI)	1.70 [0.87, 3.34]
3.2 at 1 year	2	812	Risk Ratio (M-H, Random, 95% CI)	1.48 [0.45, 4.90]
<b>4 Acute rejection: clinically suspected or biopsy-proven</b>	3		Risk Ratio (M-H, Random, 95% CI)	Subtotals only
4.1 at 6 months	3	1352	Risk Ratio (M-H, Random, 95% CI)	1.21 [0.99, 1.47]
4.2 at 1 year	2	814	Risk Ratio (M-H, Random, 95% CI)	1.31 [1.03, 1.67]
<b>5 Acute rejection: biopsy-proven</b>	2		Risk Ratio (M-H, Random, 95% CI)	Subtotals only
5.1 at 6 months	2	902	Risk Ratio (M-H, Random, 95% CI)	1.07 [0.79, 1.46]
5.2 at 1 year	1	364	Risk Ratio (M-H, Random, 95% CI)	1.08 [0.65, 1.79]
<b>6 Acute rejection: steroid resistant</b>	3		Risk Ratio (M-H, Random, 95% CI)	Subtotals only
6.1 at 6 months	3	1118	Risk Ratio (M-H, Random, 95% CI)	1.29 [0.74, 2.26]
6.2 at 1 year	1	228	Risk Ratio (M-H, Random, 95% CI)	0.68 [0.23, 2.00]
<b>7 Malignancy: total</b>	3		Risk Ratio (M-H, Random, 95% CI)	Subtotals only

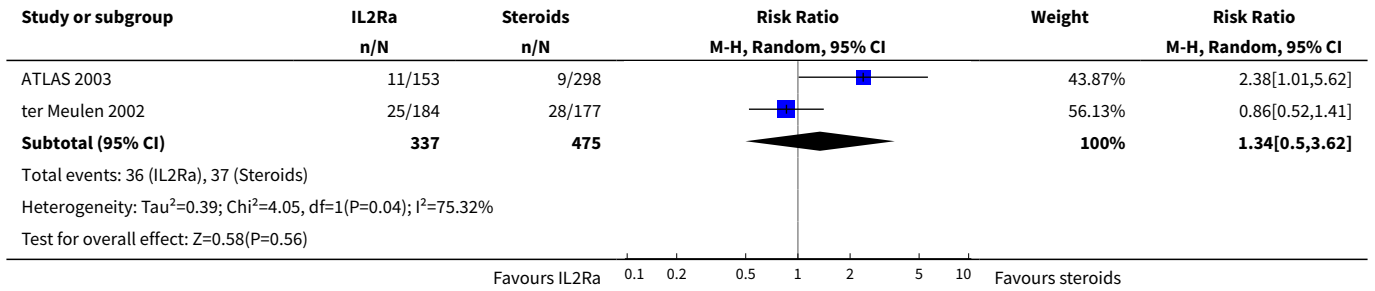
Outcome or subgroup title	No. of studies	No. of participants	Statistical method	Effect size
7.1 at 6 months	2	988	Risk Ratio (M-H, Random, 95% CI)	1.00 [0.05, 19.85]
7.2 at 1 year	1	361	Risk Ratio (M-H, Random, 95% CI)	1.44 [0.41, 5.03]
8 Glomerular filtration rate (GFR) mL/min/1.73 m <sup>2</sup>	2		Mean Difference (IV, Random, 95% CI)	Totals not selected
8.1 at 6 months	1		Mean Difference (IV, Random, 95% CI)	0.0 [0.0, 0.0]
8.2 at 1 year	1		Mean Difference (IV, Random, 95% CI)	0.0 [0.0, 0.0]

**Analysis 9.1. Comparison 9 IL2Ra versus steroids, Outcome 1 Mortality.**

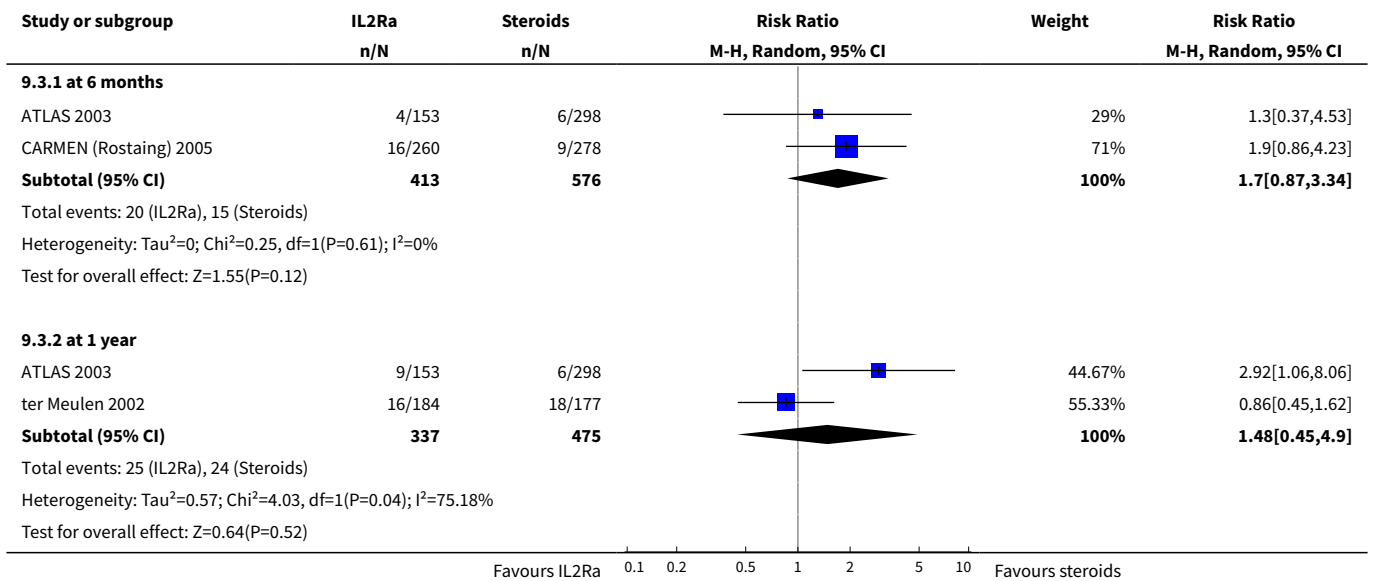


**Analysis 9.2. Comparison 9 IL2Ra versus steroids, Outcome 2 Graft loss or death.**

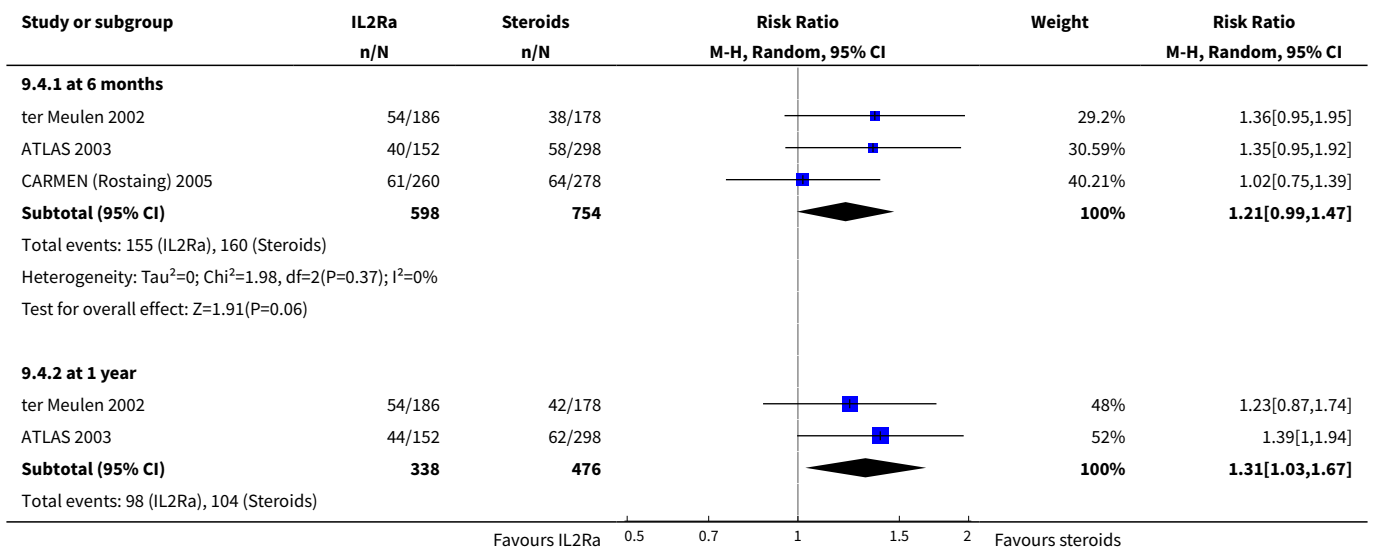


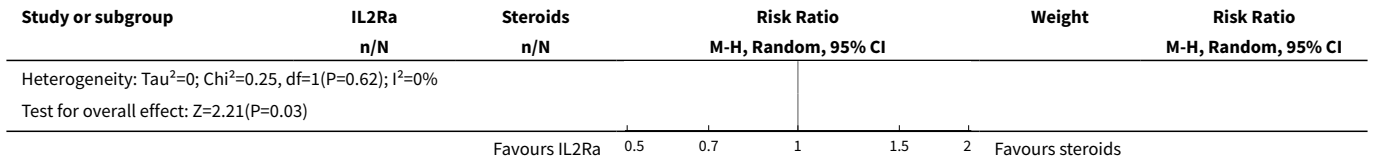


**Analysis 9.3. Comparison 9 IL2Ra versus steroids, Outcome 3 Graft loss censored for death.**

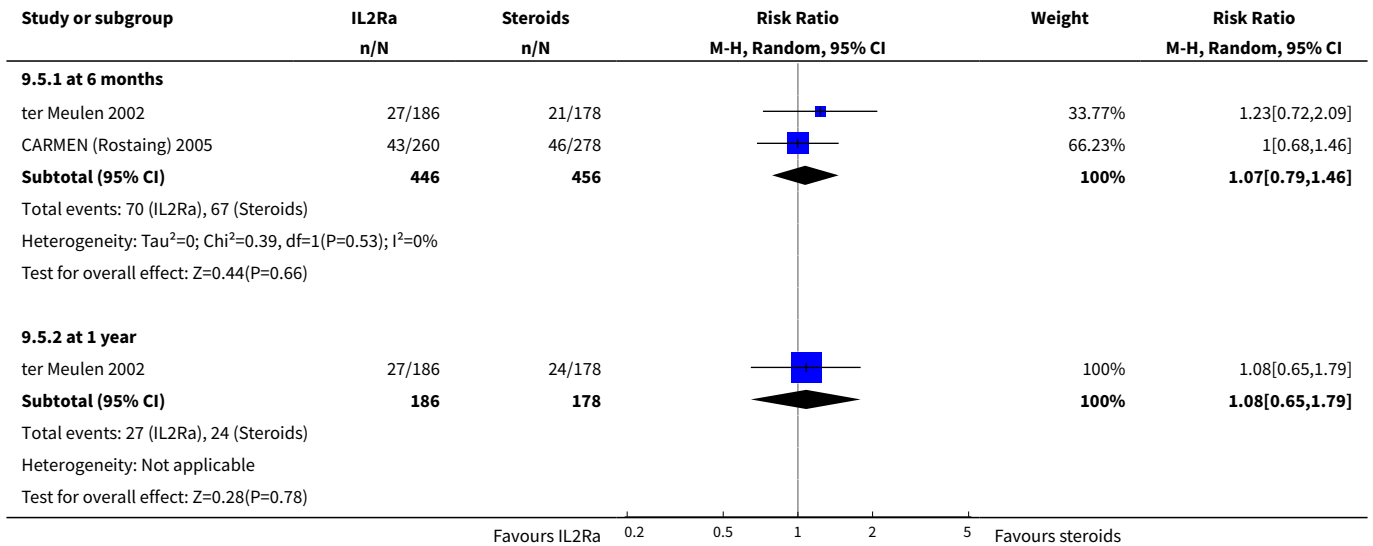


**Analysis 9.4. Comparison 9 IL2Ra versus steroids, Outcome 4 Acute rejection: clinically suspected or biopsy-proven.**

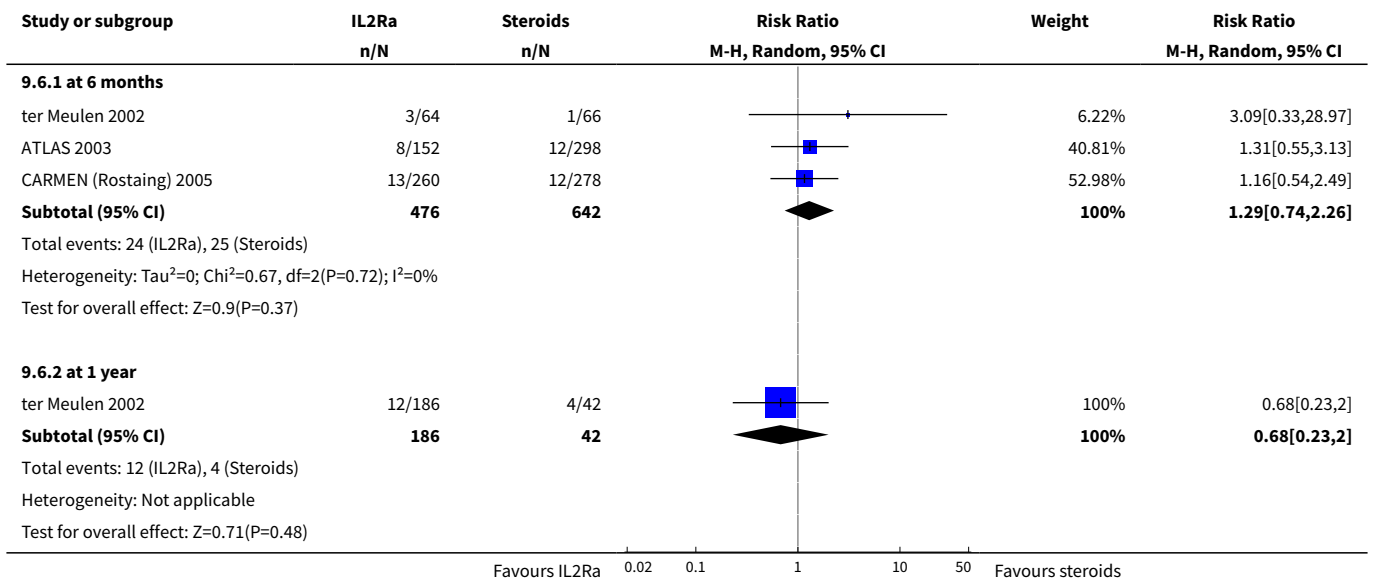




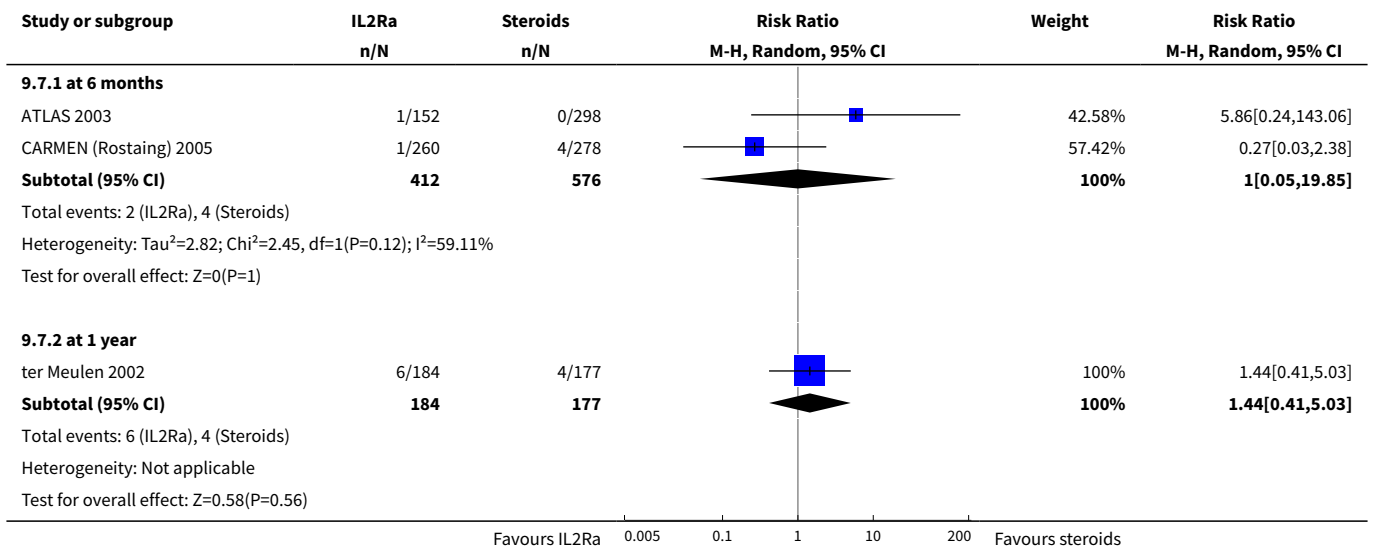
**Analysis 9.5. Comparison 9 IL2Ra versus steroids, Outcome 5 Acute rejection: biopsy-proven.**



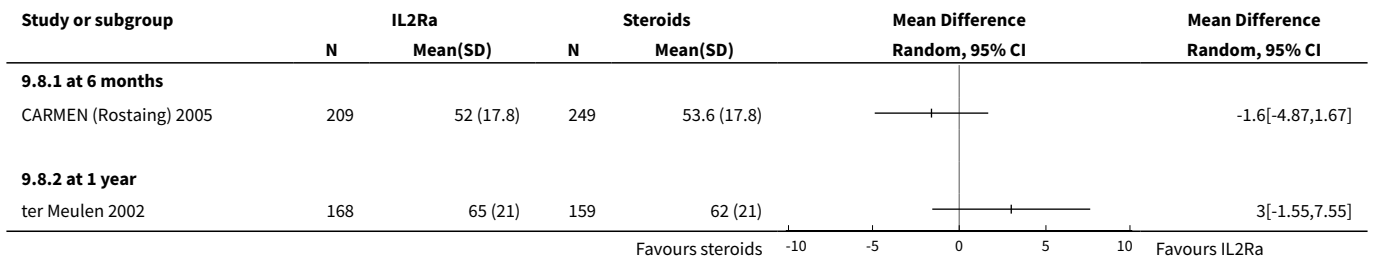
**Analysis 9.6. Comparison 9 IL2Ra versus steroids, Outcome 6 Acute rejection: steroid resistant.**



**Analysis 9.7. Comparison 9 IL2Ra versus steroids, Outcome 7 Malignancy: total.**



**Analysis 9.8. Comparison 9 IL2Ra versus steroids, Outcome 8 Glomerular filtration rate (GFR) mL/min/1.73 m<sup>2</sup>.**



**ADDITIONAL TABLES**

**Table 1. IL2Ra compared with placebo/no treatment: stratified meta-analysis (death, graft loss, acute rejection)**

	Death			Graft loss			Acute rejection		
	N	RR (95% CI)	P	N	RR (95% CI)	P	N	RR (95% CI)	P
<b>Publication status</b>									
Abstract	8	0.70 (0.22, 2.20)	0.81	10	0.36 (0.18, 0.71)	0.02	10	0.61 (0.48, 0.77)	0.20
Journal	16	0.81 (0.54, 1.21)		19	0.81 (0.66, 1.01)		20	0.72 (0.66, 0.79)	
<b>ITT analysis</b>									
ITT used	13	0.80 (0.46, 1.32)	0.90	15	0.87 (0.65, 1.15)	0.17	15	0.69 (0.59, 0.80)	0.80
No/ unclear	11	0.81 (0.48, 1.40)		14	0.65 (0.48, 0.88)		15	0.69 (0.62, 0.78)	
<b>Risk for AR</b>									
Low	10	0.80 (0.42, 1.50)	0.74	10	0.84 (0.59, 1.20)	0.39	11	0.68 (0.60, 0.76)	0.02†
Mixed	7	0.83 (0.52, 1.35)		9	0.73 (0.55, 0.97)		9	0.75 (0.64, 0.88)	
High	2	0.08 (0.01, 7.20)		2	0.61 (0.14, 2.63)		2	0.25 (0.11, 0.56)	
Unclear	5	0.42 (0.03, 7.31)		8	0.57 (0.26, 1.23)		8	0.66 (0.50, 0.88)	
<b>CNI</b>									
Cyclosporine	21	0.90 (0.57, 1.42)	0.37	25	0.82 (0.64, 1.03)	0.17	26	0.69 (0.63, 0.77)	0.69
Tacrolimus	2	0.10 (0.01, 9.76)		3	0.77 (0.24, 2.48)		3	0.66 (0.28, 1.57)	
Unclear/mixed	1	0.63 (0.32, 1.25)		10	0.56 (0.36, 0.89)		1	0.71 (0.59, 0.86)	
<b>Antimetabolite</b>									
Azathioprine	8	0.97 (0.44, 2.14)	0.80	10	0.78 (0.52, 1.16)	0.38	10	0.66 (0.57, 0.76)	0.69
Mycophenolate	12	0.71 (0.42, 1.21)		14	0.59 (0.42, 0.83)		15	0.69 (0.55, 0.88)	
Unclear/mixed	4	0.61 (0.18, 2.12)		5	0.95 (0.67, 1.35)		5	0.69 (0.60, 0.79)	

**Table 1. IL2Ra compared with placebo/no treatment: stratified meta-analysis (death, graft loss, acute rejection)** (Continued)

IL2Ra									
Basiliximab	12	0.93 (0.51, 1.71)	0.95	16	0.77 (0.57, 1.03)	0.67	16	0.68 (0.61, 0.76)	0.88
Daclizumab	9	0.65 (0.39, 1.08)		10	0.68 (0.92, 0.93)		11	0.70 (0.57, 0.87)	
Other	3	1.88 (0.42, 8.48)		3	1.26 (0.59, 2.72)		3	0.60 (0.43, 0.84)	

N = total number of studies reporting given outcome, RR = risk ratio, P = P for difference among strata, ITT = analysis by intention-to-treat principle, CNI= calcineurin inhibitor, IL2Ra= interleukin 2 receptor antibody

† Test for low/mixed risk versus high risk

**Table 2. IL2Ra compared with placebo/no treatment: stratified meta-analysis (cytomegalovirus disease, malignancy)**

	Cytomegalovirus disease			Malignancy		
	N	RR (95% CI)	P	N	RR (95% CI)	P
<b>Publication status</b>						
Abstract	5	0.97 (0.65, 1.44)	0.47	4	1.18 (0.15, 9.62)	0.70
Journal	12	0.82 (0.69, 0.98)		15	0.76 (0.41, 1.42)	
<b>ITT analysis</b>						
ITT used	11	0.93 (0.73, 1.18)	0.30	11	0.71 (0.31, 1.61)	0.72
No/ unclear	6	0.78 (0.63, 0.97)		8	0.89 (0.37, 2.10)	
<b>Risk of AR</b>						
Low	8	0.82 (0.65, 1.05)	0.47	9	0.70 (0.28, 1.81)	0.82
Mixed	5	0.83 (0.66, 1.06)		6	0.93 (0.41, 2.11)	
High	0	No data		0	No data	
Unclear	4	1.02 (0.63, 1.65)		4	0.22 (0.01, 5.99)	
<b>CNI</b>						
Cyclosporine	15	0.88 (0.73, 1.06)	0.34	16	0.73 (0.38, 1.40)	0.43
Tacrolimus	1	5.00 (0.61, 41.3)		2	0.06 (0.01, 5.84)	
Unclear/mixed	1	0.72 (0.53, 0.99)		1	1.66 (0.35, 7.94)	
<b>Antimetabolite</b>						
Azathioprine	5	1.18 (0.84, 1.65)	0.05	8	0.58 (0.20, 1.72)	0.81
Mycophenolate	7	0.78 (0.60, 1.02)		7	1.10 (0.42, 2.87)	
Unclear/mixed	5	0.75 (0.58, 0.97)		4	0.70 (0.18, 2.74)	



**Table 2. IL2Ra compared with placebo/no treatment: stratified meta-analysis (cytomegalovirus disease, malignancy) (Continued)**

IL2Ra						
Basiliximab	9	0.88 (0.71, 1.10)	0.74	11	0.51 (0.25, 1.05)	0.05
Daclizumab	6	0.81 (0.61, 1.08)		7	1.81 (0.63, 5.20)	
Other	2	0.81 (0.10, 6.32)		1	7.00 (0.38, 129.9)	

N = total number of studies reporting given outcome, RR = risk ratio, P = P for difference among strata, ITT = analysis by intention to treat principle, CNI= calcineurin inhibitor, IL2Ra= interleukin 2 receptor antibody

**Table 3. IL2Ra versus ATG: stratified meta-analysis (death, graft loss, acute rejection)**

	Death			Graft loss			Acute rejection		
	N	RR (95% CI)	P	N	RR (95% CI)	P	N	RR (95% CI)	
<b>Publication status</b>									
Abstract	2	21.64 (0.24, 930.90)	0.21	2	2.64 (0.72, 9.65)	0.17	4	0.98 (0.66, 1.27)	
Journal	10	1.19 (0.68, 2.07)		10	1.01 (0.66, 1.55)		11	1.21 (0.98, 1.50)	
<b>ITT analysis</b>									
ITT used	8	1.33 (0.68, 2.62)	0.56	8	1.18 (0.69, 2.00)	0.62	10	0.40 (0.87, 1.39)	
No/ unclear	4	1.08 (0.42, 2.79)		4	1.03 (0.54, 1.94)		4	0.96 (0.68, 1.37)	
<b>Risk for AR</b>									
Low	5	1.53 (0.62, 3.78)	0.56	4	0.99 (0.44, 2.23)	0.82	6	1.06† (0.78, 1.55)	
Mixed	3	1.20 (0.44, 3.28)		4	1.15 (0.61, 2.18)		4	1.12 (0.84, 1.49)	
High	2	1.03 (0.37, 2.85)		2	1.13 (0.51, 2.50)		3	1.04 (0.60, 1.80)	
Unclear	2	1.01 (0.07, 13.86)		2	1.29 (0.29, 5.72)		2	1.05 (0.48, 2.27)	



**Table 3. IL2Ra versus ATG: stratified meta-analysis (death, graft loss, acute rejection)** (Continued)

<b>CNI</b>								
Cyclosporine	10	1.33 (0.72, 2.45)	0.62	10	1.10 (0.65, 1.84)	0.93	11	0.70 (0.90, 1.41)
Tacrolimus	2	1.65 (0.08, 33.44)		2	1.35 (0.45, 4.01)		3	1.19 (0.84, 1.70)
Unclear/mixed	0	No data		0	No data		1	0.73 (0.36, 1.50)
<b>Antimetabolite</b>								
Azathioprine	4	1.14 (0.25, 5.08)	0.41	4	0.97 (0.41, 2.30)	0.42	4	0.67 (0.71, 1.45)
Mycophenolate	6	1.05 (0.54, 2.07)		6	1.07 (0.66, 1.74)		8	1.30 (1.02, 1.66)
Unclear/mixed	2	2.24 (0.67, 7.53)		0	No data		3	0.83 (0.56, 1.24)
<b>IL2Ra</b>								
Basiliximab	7	1.45 (0.73, 2.88)	0.58	7	1.41 (0.77, 2.58)	0.34	8	0.70 (0.87, 1.44)
Daclizumab	2	0.83 (0.26, 2.66)		2	0.93 (0.47, 1.85)		4	1.21 (0.86, 1.70)
Other	3	1.14 (0.25, 5.23)		3	0.88 (0.35, 2.23)		3	1.01 (0.69, 1.47)
<b>ATG formulation</b>								

**Table 3. IL2Ra versus ATG: stratified meta-analysis (death, graft loss, acute rejection)** (Continued)

Equine	5	1.95 (0.51, 7.42)	0.47	6	1.69 (0.67, 4.27)	0.33	7	0.98 (0.73, 1.24)
Rabbit -thymoglob- ulin	7	1.13 (0.62, 2.07)		6	1.00 (0.64, 1.58)		8	1.27 (1.00, 1.62)

N = total number of studies reporting given outcome, RR = risk ratio, P = P for difference among strata, ITT = analysis by intention to treat principle, CNI= calcineurin inhibitor, IL2Ra= interleukin 2 receptor antibody, N/A = not applicable. † Test for low/mixed risk versus high risk

**Table 4. IL2Ra versus ATG: stratified meta-analysis (cytomegalovirus disease, malignancy)**

	Cytomegalovirus disease			Malignancy		
	N	RR (95% CI)	P	N	RR ((95% CI)	P
<b>Publication status</b>						
Abstract	2	0.38 (0.13, 1.13)	0.33	0	No data	N/A
Journal	11	0.71 (0.52, 0.98)		7	0.25 (0.07, 0.87)	
<b>ITT analysis</b>						
ITT used	9	0.60 (0.37, 0.97)	0.65	3	0.24 (0.03, 1.83)	0.91
No/ unclear	4	0.79 (0.59, 1.07)		4	0.24 (0.03, 1.72)	
<b>Risk of AR</b>						
Low	5	0.61 (0.45, 0.82)	0.34	2	0.99 (0.01, 84.05)	0.64
Mixed	4	0.58 (0.32, 1.04)		2	0.27 (0.03, 2.25)	
High	2	2.24 (1.14, 4.38)		1	0.21 (0.02, 1.74)	
Unclear	2	0.67 (0.35, 1.28)		2	0.13 (0.01, 21.76)	
<b>CNI</b>						
Cyclosporine	11	0.72 (0.51, 1.02)	0.39	6	0.26 (0.06, 1.08)	0.76
Tacrolimus	2	0.51 (0.28, 0.93)		1	0.09 (0.01, 58.07)	
Unclear/mixed	0	No data		0	No data	
<b>Antimetabolite</b>						

**Table 4. IL2Ra versus ATG: stratified meta-analysis (cytomegalovirus disease, malignancy) (Continued)**

Azathioprine	4	0.88 (0.51, 1.52)	0.81	1	0.04 (0.01, 24.49)	0.59
Mycophenolate	6	0.76 (0.47, 1.23)		6	0.27 (0.06, 1.12)	
Unclear/mixed	3	0.50 (0.35, 0.71)		0	No data	
<b>IL2Ra</b>						
Basiliximab	8	0.66 (0.41, 1.07)	0.86	5	0.25 (0.06, 1.06)	0.96
Daclizumab	2	0.70 (0.49, 1.00)		2	0.21 (0.01, 38.31)	
Other	3	0.80 (0.39, 1.64)		0	No data	
<b>ATG formulation</b>						
Equine	6	0.70 (0.43, 1.15)	0.86	2	0.25 (0.03, 2.05)	0.97
Rabbit -thymoglobulin	7	0.69 (0.47, 1.03)		5	0.24 (0.04, 1.57)	

N = total number of studies reporting given outcome, RR = risk ratio, P = P for difference among strata, ITT = analysis by intention to treat principle, CNI= calcineurin inhibitor, IL2Ra= interleukin 2 receptor antibody, N/A = not applicable.

**Table 5. Applicability in clinical practice**

	Graft loss				Acute rejection			
	IL2Ra	Control	Difference	NNT#	IL2Ra	Control	Difference	NNT
IL2Ra versus placebo	6	8	↓ 2	42	27	38	↓ 11	9
IL2Ra versus ATG	7	6	ns	-	24	21	ns	-
	Cytomegalovirus disease				Malignancy			
	IL2Ra	Control	Difference	NNT#	IL2Ra	Control	Difference	NNT
IL2Ra versus placebo	13	15	↓ 2	38	1	2	ns	-
IL2Ra versus ATG	16	24	↓ 8	16	0	2	2	58

Projected numbers of transplant recipients\* experiencing graft loss censored for death, acute rejection, experiencing cytomegalovirus disease and their malignancy within 1 year of transplantation per hundred patients treated with IL2Ra.

\* calculated as absolute risk reduction/increase per 100 people treated with IL2Ra using summary rate in control (comparator) arms of studies compared to that in the investigative (IL2Ra) arm of studies. 'ns' = difference not statistically significant (i.e. summary RR confidence intervals cross 1.00).

# number needed to be treated with IL2Ra to cause 1 person to experience difference in the direction noted. Number needed not given where difference between IL2Ra and comparator arms was not significantly different.

## APPENDICES

### Appendix 1. Electronic search strategies

Database searched	Search terms
Cochrane Renal Group Specialised Register	The following terms were used: Kidney transplant, kidney allograft, graft rejection, interleukin 2 receptor antagonists, basiliximab, daclizumab, simulect, zenapax together with register codes used to identify studies relevant to this review.
CENTRAL	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. MeSH descriptor Kidney Transplantation</li> <li>2. "interleukin 2" near (antagonist* or antibod* or inhibit* or block*) in Clinical Trials</li> <li>3. interleukin-2 near (antagonist* or antibod* or inhibit* or block*) in Clinical Trials</li> <li>4. "interleukin 2 receptor*" in All Fields, in Clinical Trials</li> <li>5. "interleukin-2 receptor*" in All Fields, in Clinical Trials</li> <li>6. il2 or il2r* in All Fields, in Clinical Trials</li> <li>7. il-2 or il-2r* or il-2-r* in All Fields, in Clinical Trials</li> <li>8. basiliximab in All Fields in Clinical Trials</li> <li>9. daclizumab in All Fields in Clinical Trials</li> <li>10.cd25 or cd-25 or "cd 25" in All Fields in Clinical Trials</li> <li>11.bt563 or bt-563 or "bt 563" in All Fields in Clinical Trials</li> <li>12.simulect in All Fields in Clinical Trials</li> <li>13.zenapax in All Fields in Clinical Trials</li> <li>14.(2 or 3 or 4 or 5 or 6 or 7 or 8 or 9 or 10 or 11 or 12 or 13)</li> <li>15.(1 and 4)</li> </ol>
MEDLINE	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Kidney Transplantation/</li> <li>2. basiliximab.tw.</li> <li>3. daclizumab.tw.</li> <li>4. zenapax.tw.</li> <li>5. cd25.tw.</li> <li>6. cd 25.tw.</li> <li>7. bt563.tw.</li> <li>8. simulect.tw.</li> <li>9. exp Receptors, Interleukin-2/</li> <li>10. exp Antibodies, Monoclonal/</li> <li>11. interleukin-2 receptor\$.tw.</li> <li>12. (interleukin 2 adj10 antagoni\$).tw.</li> <li>13. il2.tw.</li> <li>14. il 2.tw.</li> <li>15. il2R.tw.</li> <li>16. il 2R.tw.</li> <li>17. il 2 R.tw.</li> <li>18. monoclonal antibod\$.tw.</li> <li>19. or/2-18</li> <li>20. 1 and 19</li> </ol>
EMBASE	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. exp Interleukin 2 Receptor Antibody/</li> <li>2. basiliximab.tw.</li> <li>3. daclizumab.tw.</li> <li>4. dacliximab.tw.</li> <li>5. cd25.tw.</li> <li>6. cd 25.tw.</li> <li>7. bt563.tw.</li> <li>8. simulect.tw.</li> </ol>



(Continued)

9. zenapax.tw.
10. interleukin-2 receptor\$.tw.
11. (interleukin 2 adj10 antagonist\$.tw.
12. (interleukin-2 adj10 antibod\$.tw.
13. il2.tw.
14. il-2.tw.
15. il2r.tw.
16. il-2r.tw.
17. il-2-r.tw.
18. or/1-17
19. exp Kidney Transplantation/
20. 18 and 19

## Appendix 2. Risk of bias assessment tool

Potential source of bias	Assessment criteria
<b>Was there adequate sequence generation?</b>	<i>Yes (low risk of bias):</i> Random number table; computer random number generator; coin tossing; shuffling cards or envelopes; throwing dice; drawing of lots; minimization (minimization may be implemented without a random element, and this is considered to be equivalent to being random).
	<i>No (high risk of bias):</i> Sequence generated by odd or even date of birth; date (or day) of admission; sequence generated by hospital or clinic record number; allocation by judgement of the clinician; by preference of the participant; based on the results of a laboratory test or a series of tests; by availability of the intervention.
	<i>Unclear:</i> Insufficient information about the sequence generation process to permit judgement.
<b>Was allocation adequately concealed?</b>	<i>Yes (low risk of bias):</i> Randomisation method described that would not allow investigator/participant to know or influence intervention group before eligible participant entered in the study (e.g. central allocation, including telephone, web-based, and pharmacy-controlled, randomisation; sequentially numbered drug containers of identical appearance; sequentially numbered, opaque, sealed envelopes).
	<i>No (high risk of bias):</i> Using an open random allocation schedule (e.g. a list of random numbers); assignment envelopes were used without appropriate safeguards (e.g. if envelopes were unsealed or non-opaque or not sequentially numbered); alternation or rotation; date of birth; case record number; any other explicitly unconcealed procedure.
	<i>Unclear:</i> Randomisation stated but no information on method used is available.
<b>Was knowledge of the allocated interventions adequately prevented during the study?</b>	<i>Yes (low risk of bias):</i> No blinding, but the review authors judge that the outcome and the outcome measurement are not likely to be influenced by lack of blinding; blinding of participants and key study personnel ensured, and unlikely that the blinding could have been broken; either participants or some key study personnel were not blinded, but outcome assessment was blinded and the non-blinding of others unlikely to introduce bias.
	<i>No (high risk of bias):</i> No blinding or incomplete blinding, and the outcome or outcome measurement is likely to be influenced by lack of blinding; blinding of key study participants and personnel attempted, but likely that the blinding could have been broken; either participants or some key study personnel were not blinded, and the non-blinding of others likely to introduce bias.
	<i>Unclear:</i> Insufficient information to permit judgement of 'Yes' or 'No'

(Continued)

**Were incomplete outcome data adequately addressed?**

*Yes (low risk of bias):* No missing outcome data; reasons for missing outcome data unlikely to be related to true outcome (for survival data, censoring unlikely to be introducing bias); missing outcome data balanced in numbers across intervention groups, with similar reasons for missing data across groups; for dichotomous outcome data, the proportion of missing outcomes compared with observed event risk not enough to have a clinically relevant impact on the intervention effect estimate; for continuous outcome data, plausible effect size (difference in means or standardized difference in means) among missing outcomes not enough to have a clinically relevant impact on observed effect size; missing data have been imputed using appropriate methods.

*No (high risk of bias):* Reason for missing outcome data likely to be related to true outcome, with either imbalance in numbers or reasons for missing data across intervention groups; for dichotomous outcome data, the proportion of missing outcomes compared with observed event risk enough to induce clinically relevant bias in intervention effect estimate; for continuous outcome data, plausible effect size (difference in means or standardized difference in means) among missing outcomes enough to induce clinically relevant bias in observed effect size; 'as-treated' analysis done with substantial departure of the intervention received from that assigned at randomisation; potentially inappropriate application of simple imputation.

*Unclear:* Insufficient information to permit judgement of 'Yes' or 'No'.

**Are reports of the study free of suggestion of selective outcome reporting?**

*Yes (low risk of bias):* The study protocol is available and all of the study's pre-specified (primary and secondary) outcomes that are of interest in the review have been reported in the pre-specified way; the study protocol is not available but it is clear that the published reports include all expected outcomes, including those that were pre-specified (convincing text of this nature may be uncommon).

*No (high risk of bias):* Not all of the study's pre-specified primary outcomes have been reported; one or more primary outcomes is reported using measurements, analysis methods or subsets of the data (e.g. subscales) that were not pre-specified; one or more reported primary outcomes were not pre-specified (unless clear justification for their reporting is provided, such as an unexpected adverse effect); one or more outcomes of interest in the review are reported incompletely so that they cannot be entered in a meta-analysis; the study report fails to include results for a key outcome that would be expected to have been reported for such a study.

*Unclear:* Insufficient information to permit judgement of 'Yes' or 'No'.

**Was the study apparently free of other problems that could put it at a risk of bias?**

*Yes (low risk of bias):* The study appears to be free of other sources of bias.

*No (high risk of bias):* Had a potential source of bias related to the specific study design used; stopped early due to some data-dependent process (including a formal-stopping rule); had extreme baseline imbalance; has been claimed to have been fraudulent; had some other problem.

*Unclear:* Insufficient information to permit judgement of 'Yes' or 'No'.

## WHAT'S NEW

Date	Event	Description
2 May 2014	Amended	Study names amended to match the Renal Group's Specialised Register

## HISTORY

Protocol first published: Issue 4, 2002

Review first published: Issue 1, 2004

**Interleukin 2 receptor antagonists for kidney transplant recipients (Review)**

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Date	Event	Description
18 February 2010	Amended	New data available, no change to conclusions
31 October 2009	New citation required and conclusions have changed	Complete update of review, 33 new studies added

## CONTRIBUTIONS OF AUTHORS

- ACW: Developed protocol, developed search strategy, screened titles and abstracts, identified studies and coordinated study results, resolved disagreement about study inclusion, performed data abstraction, assessed study quality, RevMan data entry, and authored final review
- LPR: Screened titles and abstracts, performed data abstraction and assessed study quality
- RMG: Screened titles and abstracts, performed data abstraction, RevMan data entry and assessed study quality,
- SLM: Screened titles and abstracts, performed data abstraction, RevMan data entry and assessed study quality,
- GYH: Reviewed search strategy, performed search and combined search results, identified studies and resolved disagreement about study inclusion
- NSW: Resolved disagreement about study inclusion and performed data abstraction
- JRC: Reviewed protocol, final results, and co-authored manuscript
- JCC: Reviewed protocol, identified studies, final results, and review and resolved disagreement about study inclusion

## DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

- Dr Jeremy Chapman: has advisory board and clinical trial involvement with Novartis, Roche, Janssen-Cilag, Fujisawa and Wyeth, and has also been an invited speaker at national and international meetings sponsored by these companies.
- ACW, JCC, NW, GYH, LPR, RMG, SLM - none declared

## NOTES

- Issue 3, 2010: New data available, no change to conclusions
- Issue 1, 2010: The risk of bias assessment tool was used for this update and applied to all 71 studies (38 from original review and 33 new studies)

## INDEX TERMS

### Medical Subject Headings (MeSH)

\*Kidney Transplantation; Creatinine [blood]; Cytomegalovirus Infections [prevention & control]; Glomerular Filtration Rate; Graft Rejection [\*prevention & control]; Immunosuppressive Agents [\*therapeutic use]; Randomized Controlled Trials as Topic; Receptors, Interleukin-2 [\*antagonists & inhibitors]

### MeSH check words

Humans