

Table A1.3 Daily oral supplementation with iron plus folic acid compared to no treatment or placebo for prevention or treatment of iron deficiency anaemia in infants, children, and adolescents**Patient or population:** Infants, children, and adolescents**Setting:** Any country**Intervention:** Iron supplementation**Comparison:** Daily oral supplementation with iron plus folic acid compared to no treatment or placebo for prevention or treatment of iron deficiency anaemia in infants, children, and adolescents

Certainty assessment							Number of patients		Effect		Certainty (GRADE)
Number of studies	Study design	Risk of bias	Inconsistency	Indirectness	Imprecision	Other considerations	Daily oral supplementation with iron + folic acid	No treatment or placebo	Relative (95% CI)	Absolute (95% CI)	
2	Randomized trials	Serious ^a	Not serious	Not serious	Not serious	None	22/120 (18.3%)	87/122 (71.3%)	OR 0.09 (0.05 to 0.17)	530 fewer per 1000 (from 603 fewer to 416 fewer)	⊕⊕⊕⊖ Moderate
1	Randomized trials	Not serious	Not serious	Not serious	Not serious	Publication bias strongly suspected ^b	6/146 (4.1%)	42/159 (26.4%)	OR 0.12 (0.05 to 0.29)	223 fewer per 1000 (from 247 fewer to 170 fewer)	⊕⊕⊕⊖ Moderate
4	Randomized trials	Not serious	Not serious	Not serious	Not serious	Publication bias strongly suspected ^c	279	285	–	MD 13.4 higher (11.09 higher to 15.72 higher)	⊕⊕⊕⊖ Moderate
1	Randomized trials	Not serious	Not serious	Not serious	Not serious	Publication bias strongly suspected ^b	146	159	–	MD 33.99 higher (27.66 higher to 40.32 higher)	⊕⊕⊕⊖ Moderate

CI: confidence interval; GRADE: Grading of Recommendations Assessment, Development and Evaluation; MD: mean difference; OR: odds ratio.

GRADE Working Group grades of evidence**High certainty:** We are very confident that the true effect lies close to that of the estimate of the effect.**Moderate certainty:** We are moderately confident in the effect estimate: the true effect is likely to be close to the estimate of the effect, but there is a possibility that it is substantially different.**Low certainty:** Our confidence in the effect estimate is limited: the true effect may be substantially different from the estimate of the effect.**Very low certainty:** We have very little confidence in the effect estimate: the true effect is likely to be substantially different from the estimate of effect.^a There are some concerns with random sequence generation and allocation concealment. Further, risk of bias is high for blinding of participants and providers but this does not seem to influence outcome assessment and attrition.^b Only one study has been reported.^c All the data points lie on the central line of the funnel plot and are not distributed on either side.