Homework task: Preparing narrative statements about the main results

1. Look at the ‘Summary of findings’ table below.
2. Write narrative statements for each outcome, using the GRADE narrative statements in the Checklist (see next page).
3. If you struggle with an outcome, note down what the problem is, and move to the next outcome.
4. Also think about: Is there anywhere you would need more information? What information would you need?
5.

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| **Circumcision devices compared to standard surgical techniques in adolescent and adult male circumcisions\*** |
| **Outcomes** | **Anticipated absolute effects\* (95% CI)** | **Certainty of the evidence (GRADE)** | Write narrative statements for each outcome  |
| **Risk with****standard surgical techniques** | **Risk with****circumcision devices** |
| **Moderate Adverse Events** | 27 per 1,000 circumcisions | 35 per 1,000 circumcisions(28 to 84) | LOW |   |
| **Mild Adverse Events** | 110 per 1,000 circumcisions | 120 per 1,000 circumcisions(115 to 140) | VERY LOW |   |
| **Operative time (minutes)** |   | MD 13.43 lower(15,50 lower to 11,26 lower) | HIGH |   |
| **Pain during the first 24 hours (VAS means)** |   | MD 0,5 lower(1,47 lower to 0,45 higher) | VERY LOW |   |
| **Pain during the first seven days (VAS means)** |   | MD 0,11 higher(0.90 lower to 1,13 higher) | VERY LOW |   |
| **Participant satisfaction** | 751 per 1,000 circumcisions | 894 per 1,000 circumcisions(781 to 929 per 1000) | LOW |   |

***\*Thanks very much to the authors of this review for allowing us to adapt their text for the purposes of this workshop:*** *Hohlfeld  A, Ebrahim  S, Shaik  MZ, Kredo  T. Circumcision devices versus standard surgical techniques in adolescent and adult male circumcisions. Cochrane Database of Systematic Reviews 2021, Issue 3. Art. No.: CD012250.*

Appendix: List of narrative statements to communicate results of systematic reviews

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Size of the effect estimate** | **Suggested statements** *(replace X with intervention, replace ‘reduce/increase’ with direction of effect, replace ‘outcome’ with name of outcome, include ‘when compared with Y’ when needed)* |
| **HIGH Certainty of the evidence** |
| **Large effect** | X results in a large reduction/increase in outcome |
| **Moderate effect** | X reduces/increases outcomeX results in a reduction/increase in outcome |
| **Small important effect** | X reduces/increases outcome slightlyX results in a slight reduction/increase in outcome |
| **Trivial, small unimportant effect or no effect** | X results in little to no difference in outcome X does not reduce/increase outcome |
| **MODERATE Certainty of the evidence** |
| **Large effect** | X likely results in a large reduction/increase in *outcome*X probably results in a large reduction/increase in *outcome* |
| **Moderate effect** | X likely reduces/increases *outcome*X probably reduces/increases *outcome*X likely results in a reduction/increase in *outcome*X probably results in a reduction/increase in *outcome* |
| **Small important effect** | X probably reduces/increases *outcome* slightlyX likely reduces/increases *outcome* slightlyX probably results in a slight reduction/increase in *outcome*X likely results in a slight reduction/increase in *outcome* |
| **Trivial, small unimportant effect or no effect** | X likely results in little to no difference in *outcome*X probably results in little to no difference in *outcome*X likely does not reduce/increase *outcome*X probably does not reduce/increase *outcome* |
| **LOW Certainty of the evidence** |
| **Large effect** | X may result in a large reduction/increase in *outcome*The evidence suggests X results in a large reduction/increase in *outcome* |
| **Moderate effect** | X may reduce/increase *outcome*The evidence suggests X reduces/increases *outcome*X may result in a reduction/increase in *outcome*The evidence suggests X results in a reduction/increase in *outcome* |
| **Small important effect** | X may reduce/increase *outcome* slightlyThe evidence suggests X reduces/increases *outcome* slightlyX may result in a slight reduction/increase in *outcome*The evidence suggests X results in a slight reduction/increase in *outcome* |
| **Trivial, small unimportant effect or no effect** | X may result in little to no difference in *outcome*The evidence suggests that X results in little to no difference in *outcome* X may not reduce/increase *outcome* The evidence suggests that X does not reduce/increase *outcome* |
| **VERY LOW Certainty of the evidence** |
| **Any effect** | The evidence is very uncertain about the effect of X on outcome X may reduce/increase/have little to no effect on *outcome* but the evidence is very uncertain  |

(From: Holger J Schünemann, Gunn E Vist, Julian PT Higgins, Nancy Santesso, Jonathan J Deeks, Paul Glasziou, Elie Akl and Gordon H Guyatt on behalf of the Cochrane GRADEing Methods Group, Cochrane Handbook for Systematic Reviews of Interventions version 6.1 (updated September 2020). [Chapter 15: Interpreting results and drawing conclusions](https://training.cochrane.org/handbook/current/chapter-15).