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Question: Should EFV vs NVP be used for initial ART (observational)?

Settings: Multiple locations

Quality assessment							Summary of findings				Quality	Importance
No of studies	Design	Limitations	Inconsistency	Indirectness	Imprecision	Other considerations	No of patients		Effect			
							EFV	NVP	Relative (95% CI)	Absolute		
Mortality (observational)												
5	observational studies	no serious limitations	no serious inconsistency	no serious indirectness	no serious imprecision	none	270/2899 (9.3%)	108/2542 (4.2%)	RR 1.47 (0.67 to 3.22)	20 more per 1000 (from 14 fewer to 94 more)	⊕⊕○○ LOW	CRITICAL
Serious adverse events (observational)												
14	observational studies	no serious limitations	no serious inconsistency	no serious indirectness	no serious imprecision	none	252/3129 (8.1%)	367/3218 (11.4%)	RR 0.64 (0.44 to 0.94)	41 fewer per 1000 (from 7 fewer to 64 fewer)	⊕⊕○○ LOW	CRITICAL
Virological response (observational)												
11	observational studies	no serious limitations	no serious inconsistency	no serious indirectness	no serious imprecision	none	5047/6661 (75.8%)	3440/4731 (72.7%)	RR 1.07 (0.99 to 1.17)	51 more per 1000 (from 7 fewer to 124 more)	⊕⊕○○ LOW	CRITICAL
Adherence/tolerability/retention (observational)												
5	observational studies	no serious limitations	no serious inconsistency	no serious indirectness	no serious imprecision	none	3791/4784 (79.2%)	1894/2635 (71.9%)	RR 1.11 (0.94 to 1.32)	79 more per 1000 (from 43 fewer to 230 more)	⊕⊕○○ LOW	CRITICAL
Immunologic response (observational) (Better indicated by lower values)												
4	observational studies	no serious limitations	no serious inconsistency	no serious indirectness	no serious imprecision ¹	none	1523	1566	-	MD 7.51 higher (0.7 lower to 15.73 higher)	⊕⊕○○ LOW	IMPORTANT

¹ None of the included studies provided standard deviations for the mean outcome so the same estimated SD value was used for all studies.

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