Supplementary Digital Content – Table listing subgroup analyses for the primary outcome. The subgroup analyses combine data from both caudal dexamethasone and IV dexamethasone studies.

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| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Subgroup | Subgroup category | N studies | WMD (95% CI) of duration of analgesia | p-value |
| Overall pooled\* (I2=99.1%) | | 12 | 5.00 (3.75-6.25) | <0.001 |
| Country of origin | Developed (I2=15.7%) | 2 | 3.98 (2.35-5.62) | <0.001 |
| Developing (I2=99.3%) | 10 | 5.09 (3.74-6.45) | <0.001 |
| Patient age | Older (ages 7-17; I2=99.7%) | 4 | 6.21 (2.42-10.00) | 0.001 |
| Younger (ages 1-6; I2=48.7%) | 8 | 3.93 (3.58-4.27) | <0.001 |
| Type of surgery | Lower abdominal  (I2=99.1%) | 11 | 4.63 (3.34-5.93) | <0.001 |
| Lower extremity | 1 | Insufficient studies | - |
| Technique | Landmark (I2=99.3%) | 10 | 5.30 (3.87-6.72) | <0.001 |
| Ultrasound assisted (I2=0.0%) | 2 | 3.73 (3.13-4.32) | <0.001 |
| Risk of bias | Low risk of bias (I2=98.2%) | 7 | 5.55 (3.50-7.60) | <0.001 |
| High risk of bias ( I2=92.9% | 5 | 3.61 (3.00-4.23) | <0.001 |
| Dexamethasone dose | Caudal dexamethasone 0.2mg/kg (I2=0.0%) | 2 | 4.33 (2.96-5.70) | <0.001 |
| Caudal dexamethasone 0.1mg/kg (I2=99.5%) | 7 | 5.59 (3.43-7.75) | <0.001 |
| Intravenous dexamethasone 0.5mg/kg (I2=0.0%) | 2 | 3.88 (2.74-5.02) | <0.001 |
| Intravenous dexamethasone 1.5mg/kg | 1 | Insufficient studies | <0.001 |