Table S1: Mortality subgroup analyses for critical care patients

|  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Subgroup | OR [95% CI] | NNTB or [NNTH] | N of studies | p-value |
| **Overall pooled; I2=0%; p=0.45** | **0.82 [0.70-0.97]** | **33** | **12** | **0.019** |
| Study risk of bias\* | High | 0.87 [0.56-1.34] | - | 4  | 0.37 |
| Moderate | 0.79 [0.62-1.01] | - | 8 | 0.11 |
| Patient population | Acute Coronary Syndrome | 4.22 [0.84-21.22] | - | 2 | 0.08 |
| **Acute Upper Gastrointestinal Bleeding** | **0.59 [0.39-0.89]** | **38** | **3** | **0.01** |
| Intensive care unit | 0.86 [0.72-1.03] | - | 7 | 0.09 |
| Transfusion trigger | Hgb 8.0g/dL or higher | 1.20 [0.32-4.48] | - | 4 | 0.79 |
| **Hgb 7.0-7.5g/dL** | **0.82 [0.69-0.97]** | **26** | **8** | **0.02** |
| Statistical model | **Fixed effects** | **0.83 [0.70-0.97]** | **34** | **12** | **0.02** |

\*no studies were deemed to be low risk of bias

Table S2: Mortality subgroup analyses for surgical patients

|  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Subgroup | OR [95% CI] | NNTB or [NNTH] | N of studies | p-value |
| Overall pooled; I2=20%; p=0.23 | 1.31 [0.94-1.82] | - | 15 | 0.12 |
| Study risk of bias\* | High | 0.60 [0.25-1.47] | - | 5 | 0.27 |
| **Moderate** | **1.50 [1.02-2.22]** | **54** | **10** | **0.04** |
| Patient population | Cardiac surgery | 1.28 [0.82-1.98] | - | 5 | 0.27 |
| Non-cardiac surgery | 1.39 [0.82-2.38] | - | 10 | 0.22 |
| Transfusion trigger | Hgb 8.0g/dL or higher | 0.97 [0.71-1.32] | - | 8 | 0.84 |
| **Hgb 7.0-7.5g/dL** | **1.94 [1.24-3.03]** | **48** | **7** | **0.003** |
| Statistical model | Fixed effects | 1.24 [0.97-1.59] | - | 15 | 0.08 |

\*no studies were deemed to be low risk of bias