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**Date:**

**Question:** Heparin compared to placebo for ambulatory patients with cancer who have no therapeutic or prophylactic indication for anticoagulation

**Setting:**

**Bibliography:** Akl EA, Kahale L, Ballout RA, Barba M, Yosucio VE D, van Doormaal FF, Kuipers S, Middeldorp S, Dickinson HO, Bryant A, Schünemann H. Parenteral anticoagulation in ambulatory patients with cancer who have no therapeutic or prophylactic indication for anticoagulation. Cochrane Database of Systematic Reviews [Year], Issue [Issue].

Quality assessment							No of patients		Effect		Quality	Importance
No of studies	Study design	Risk of bias	Inconsistency	Indirectness	Imprecision	Other considerations	Heparin	placebo	Relative (95% CI)	Absolute (95% CI)		
Mortality at 12 months												
13	randomised trials	not serious	not serious	not serious	serious <sup>1</sup>	none	1683/3667 (45.9%)	1580/3346 (47.2%)	RR 0.97 (0.92 to 1.01)	14 fewer per 1000 (from 5 more to 38 fewer)	⊕⊕⊕○ MODERATE	
Mortality at 24 months												
7	randomised trials	not serious	not serious	not serious	serious <sup>1</sup>	none	608/791 (76.9%)	677/830 (81.6%)	RR 0.95 (0.90 to 1.00)	41 fewer per 1000 (from 0 fewer to 82 fewer)	⊕⊕⊕○ MODERATE	
Symptomatic DVT												
9	randomised trials	not serious	not serious <sup>2</sup>	not serious	not serious	none	50/3277 (1.5%)	100/2932 (3.4%)	RR 0.49 (0.28 to 0.86)	17 fewer per 1000 (from 5 fewer to 25 fewer)	⊕⊕⊕⊕ HIGH	
Symptomatic PE												
9	randomised trials	not serious	not serious	not serious	serious <sup>3</sup>	none	29/3294 (0.9%)	46/2951 (1.6%)	RR 0.59 (0.37 to 0.96)	6 fewer per 1000 (from 1 fewer to 10 fewer)	⊕⊕⊕○ MODERATE	
Major bleeding												
15	randomised trials	not serious	not serious	not serious	serious <sup>4</sup>	none	72/3847 (1.9%)	66/3516 (1.9%)	RR 1.14 (0.70 to 1.85)	3 more per 1000 (from 6 fewer to 16 more)	⊕⊕⊕○ MODERATE	
Minor bleeding												
13	randomised trials	not serious	not serious	not serious	serious <sup>3</sup>	none	164/3595 (4.6%)	99/3289 (3.0%)	RR 1.32 (1.02 to 1.71)	10 more per 1000 (from 1 more to 21 more)	⊕⊕⊕○ MODERATE	

CI: Confidence interval; RR: Risk ratio; HR: Hazard Ratio

1. Confidence interval includes values suggesting clinically significant benefit and values suggesting no effect
2. I<sup>2</sup>=50%
3. Confidence interval includes values suggesting clinically significant harm and values suggesting no effect
4. Confidence interval includes values suggesting clinically significant benefit and values suggesting harm