

Task 2: Preparing narrative statements about the main results – trainers’ suggestions

Although these are our suggestions for narrative statements to summarise the findings, these are subjective and there may be other suitable statements.

Thanks to the authors of this review¹ for allowing us to adapt their summary of findings table for the purposes of this training activity.

Circumcision devices compared to standard surgical techniques in adolescent and adult male circumcisions				
Outcomes	Anticipated absolute effects* (95% CI)		Certainty of the evidence (GRADE)	Suggestions for narrative statements
	Risk with standard surgical techniques	Risk with circumcision devices		
Serious Adverse Events	0 per 1,000 circumcisions	0 per 1,000 circumcisions (0 to 0)	MODERATE	<p>Circumcision devices probably make little or no difference to the number of men who suffer serious adverse events such as hospitalisation or permanent damage</p> <p><i>Note: If there had been an effect it would be important to understand what is meant by ‘serious adverse events’. Here we have gone back to the report to get more detail. However, where possible, it would be helpful for review authors to provide information in the summary of findings table.</i></p>
Moderate Adverse Events	27 per 1,000 circumcisions	35 per 1,000 circumcisions (28 to 84)	LOW	<p>Circumcision devices may make little or no difference to the number of men who suffer moderate adverse events (events requiring an intervention such as suturing or antibiotics)</p> <p><i>Note: If there had been an effect it would be important to understand what is meant by ‘moderate adverse events’. Here we have gone back to the report to get more detail. However, where possible, it would be helpful for review authors to provide information in the summary of findings table.</i></p>
Mild Adverse Events	110 per 1,000 circumcisions	120 per 1,000 circumcisions (115 to 140)	VERY LOW	<p>We don’t know if circumcision devices make any difference to the number of men who suffer mild adverse events (events requiring minor intervention, such as minimal bleeding)</p>

Operative time (minutes)		MD 13.43 lower (15,50 lower to 11,26 lower)	HIGH	Circumcision with circumcision devices is faster than with standard surgical techniques
Pain during the first 24 hours (VAS means)		MD 0,5 lower (1,47 lower to 0,45 higher)	VERY LOW	We don't know if circumcision devices make any difference to pain during the first 24 hours Note: if the evidence had been of a higher certainty, it would be important to know whether what scale the pain was measured on. If the scale was 1-100 the statement may be very different to if the scale was 1-10.
Pain during the first seven days (VAS means)		MD 0,11 higher (0.90 lower to 1,13 higher)	VERY LOW	We don't know if circumcision devices make any difference to pain during the first seven days
Participant satisfaction	751 per 1,000 circumcisions	894 per 1,000 circumcisions (781 to 929)	LOW	Circumcision devices may make little or no difference to participant satisfaction

1. 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. DOI: 10.1002/14651858.CD012250.pub2. Accessed 07 June 2021.