

Summary of findings:

## Clowning compared to Midazolam in children undergoing potentially anxiety-provoking procedures

Patient or population: children undergoing potentially anxiety-provoking procedures

Setting: any setting

Intervention: clowning

Comparison: Midazolam

Outcomes	Anticipated absolute effects* (95% CI)		Relative effect (95% CI)	№ of participants (studies)	Certainty of the evidence (GRADE)	Comments
	Risk with Midazolam	Risk with clowning				
Children's anxiety during preoperative time assessed with: m-YPAS Scale from: 0 to 100		The mean children's anxiety during preoperative time in the intervention group was 7.6 lower (11.73 lower to 3.47 lower)	-	93 (2 RCTs)	⊕○○○ VERY LOW <sup>a,b,c,d,e,f</sup>	
Children's anxiety in induction room assessed with: m-YPAS Scale from: 0 to 100		The mean children's anxiety in induction room in the intervention group was 9.63 lower (21.04 lower to 1.77 higher)	-	93 (2 RCTs)	⊕○○○ VERY LOW <sup>a,b,c,d,e,f,g</sup>	
Children's anxiety during mask application assessed with: m-YPAS Scale from: 0 to 100		The mean children's anxiety during mask application in the intervention group was 12.8 higher (3.65 higher to 21.95 higher)	-	43 (1 RCT)	⊕○○○ VERY LOW <sup>a,b,c,d,e,f,h</sup>	
Parental anxiety - State anxiety assessed with: STAI Y-1 Scale from: 20 to 80		The mean parental anxiety - State anxiety in the intervention group was 21.1 higher (13.95 higher to 28.25 higher)	-	50 (1 RCT)	⊕○○○ VERY LOW <sup>a,b,c,d,f,i</sup>	
Parental anxiety - Trait anxiety assessed with: STAI Y-2 Scale from: 20 to 80		The mean parental anxiety - Trait anxiety in the intervention group was 4.2 lower (13.7 lower to 5.3 higher)	-	50 (1 RCT)	⊕○○○ VERY LOW <sup>a,b,c,d,f,i</sup>	

\*The risk in the intervention group (and its 95% confidence interval) is based on the assumed risk in the comparison group and the relative effect of the intervention (and its 95% CI).

CI: Confidence interval; MD: Mean difference

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	Risk with Midazolam	Risk with clowning				

**GRADE Working Group grades of evidence**

**High certainty:** We are very confident that the true effect lies close to that of the estimate of the effect

**Moderate certainty:** We are moderately confident in the effect estimate: The true effect is likely to be close to the estimate of the effect, but there is a possibility that it is substantially different

**Low certainty:** Our confidence in the effect estimate is limited: The true effect may be substantially different from the estimate of the effect

**Very low certainty:** We have very little confidence in the effect estimate: The true effect is likely to be substantially different from the estimate of effect

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## Explanations

- a. Unclear risk of selection bias across the studies reporting this outcome.
- b. High risk of performance bias across the studies reporting this outcome.
- c. High risk of detection bias across the studies reporting this outcome.
- d. Unclear risk of attrition bias across the studies reporting this outcome.
- e. High risk of reporting bias across the studies reporting this outcome.
- f. Sample size less than 400
- g. Substantial heterogeneity
- h. Unclear risk of detection bias across the studies reporting this outcome.
- i. Unclear risk of reporting bias across the studies reporting this outcome.