

Summary of findings:

Clowning compared to child life program in children undergoing potentially anxiety-provoking procedures

Patient or population: children undergoing potentially anxiety-provoking procedures

Setting: any setting

Intervention: clowning

Comparison: child life program

Outcomes	Anticipated absolute effects* (95% CI)		Relative effect (95% CI)	№ of participants (studies)	Certainty of the evidence (GRADE)	Comments
	Risk with child life program	Risk with clowning				
Children's anxiety in patient room assessed with: m-YPAS Scale from: 0 to 100		The mean children's anxiety in patient room in the intervention group was 1.4 higher (0.25 higher to 2.55 higher)	-	84 (1 RCT)	⊕○○○ VERY LOW ^{a,b,c,d}	
Children's anxiety during physician examination assessed with: m-YPAS Scale from: 0 to 100		The mean children's anxiety during physician examination in the intervention group was 1.2 higher (0.11 lower to 2.51 higher)	-	84 (1 RCT)	⊕○○○ VERY LOW ^{a,b,c,d}	

*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

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

Explanations

- a. High risk of performance bias across the studies reporting this outcome.
- b. High risk of attrition bias across the studies reporting this outcome.
- c. Unclear risk of reporting bias across the studies reporting this outcome.
- d. Sample size less than 400