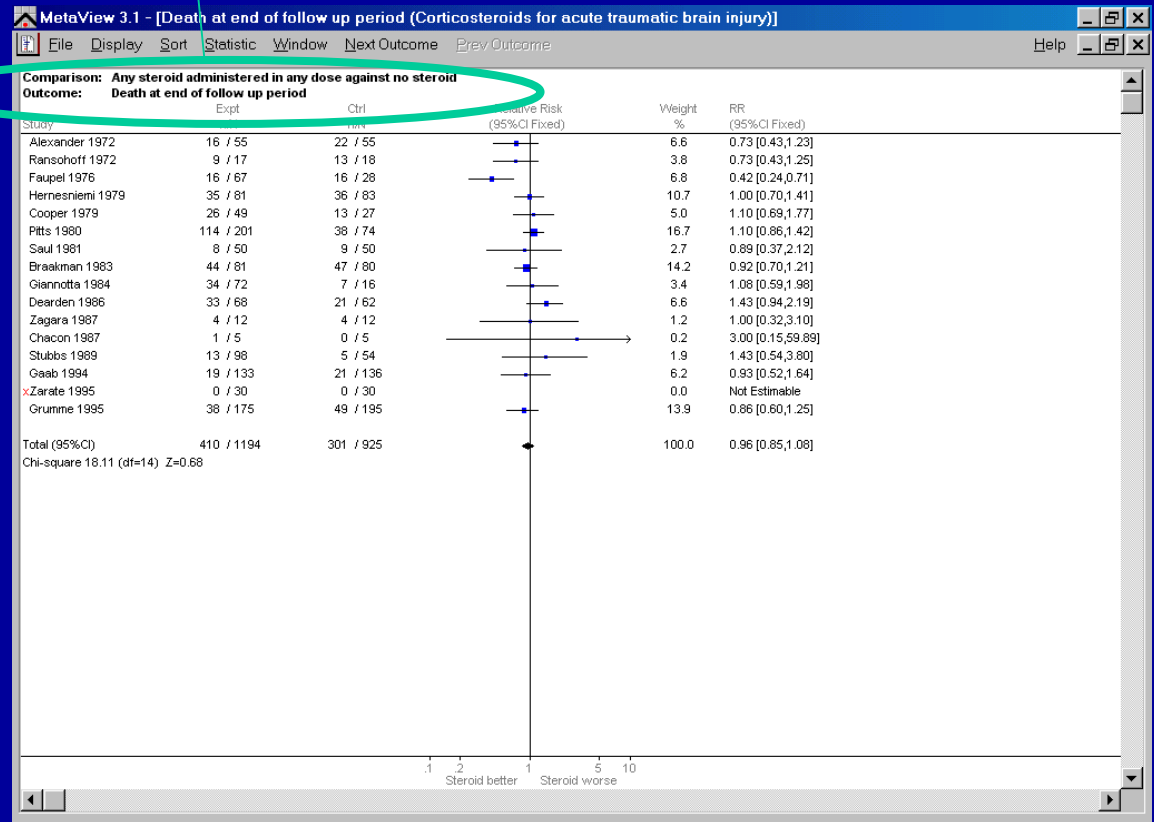
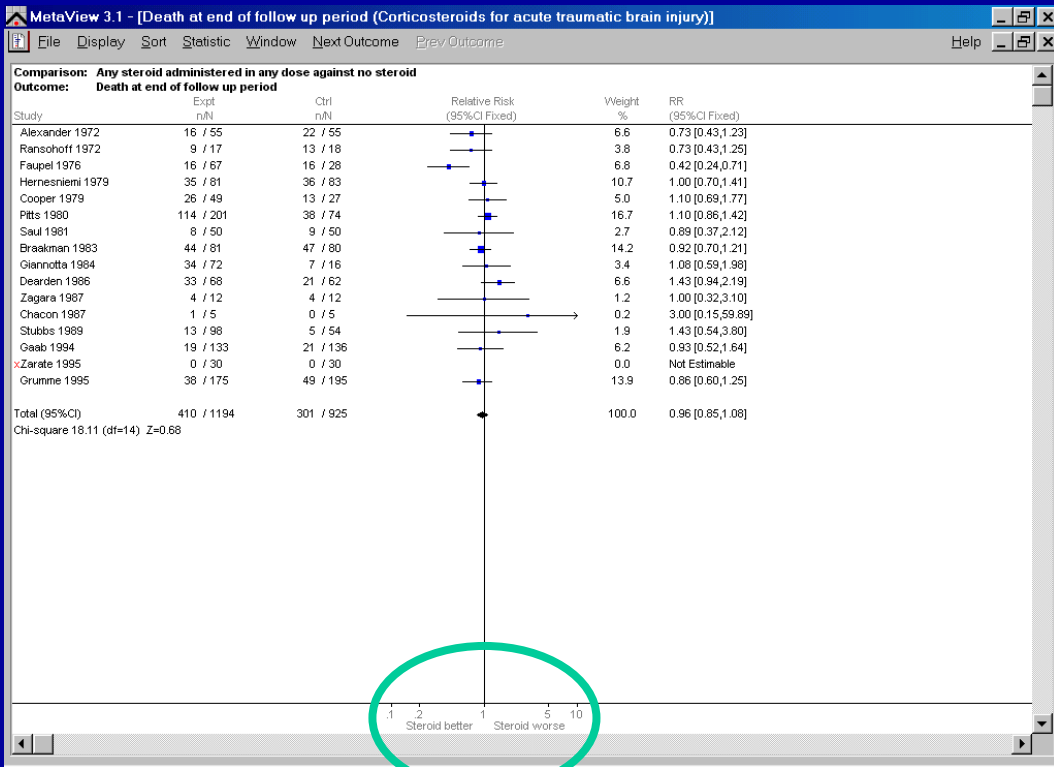


**Comparison: Any steroid administered in any dose against no steroid**  
**Outcome: Death at end of follow up period**

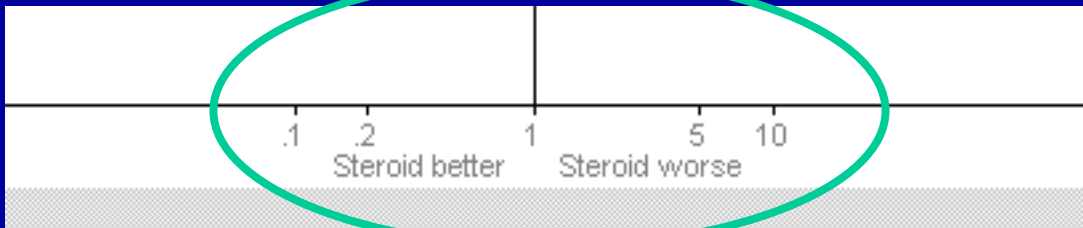
there's a label to tell you what the comparison is and what the outcome of interest is





At the bottom there's a horizontal line. This is the scale measuring the treatment effect. Here the outcome is death and towards the left the scale is less than one, meaning the treatment has made death less likely.

Take care to read what the labels say - things to the left do not always mean the treatment is better than the control.

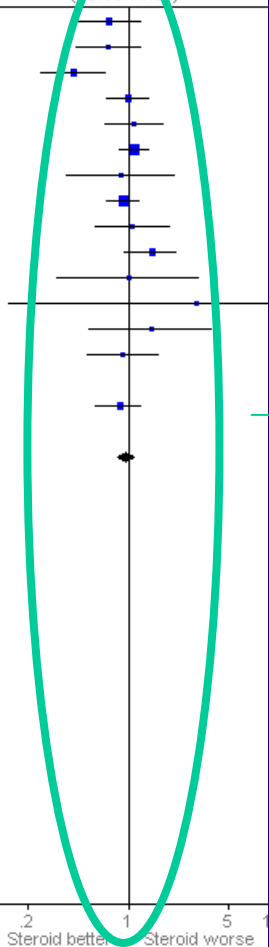


(Corticosteroids for acute tra

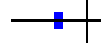
come Prev Outcome

o steroid

Relative risk  
(95%CI Fixed)



The vertical line in the middle is where the treatment and control have the same effect - there is no difference between the two

Outcome: Death at end of follow up period	Expt n/N	Ctrl n/N	Relative Risk (95%CI Fixed)	Weight %	RR (95%CI Fixed)
Study Alexander 1972	16 / 55	22 / 55		6.6	0.73 [0.43,1.23]

For each study there is an id

The data for each trial are here, divided into the experimental and control groups

This is the % weight given to this study in the pooled analysis

Study	Expt n/N	Ctrl n/N	Relative Risk (95%CI Fixed)	Weight %	RR (95%CI Fixed)
Alexander 1972	16 / 55	22 / 55		6.6	0.73 [0.43,1.23]

The data shown in the graph are also given numerically



The label above the graph tells you what statistic has been used

- Each study is given a blob, placed where the data measure the effect.
- The size of the blob is proportional to the % weight
- The horizontal line is called a confidence interval and is a measure of how we think the result of this study might vary with the play of chance.
- The wider the horizontal line is, the less confident we are of the observed effect.

Total (95%CI)

410 / 1194

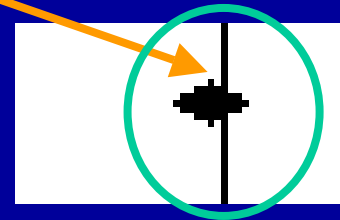
301 / 925



100.0

Chi-square 18.11 (df=14) Z=0.68

The pooled analysis is given a diamond shape where the widest bit in the middle is located at the calculated best guess (point estimate), and the horizontal width is the confidence interval



## Note on interpretation

If the confidence interval crosses the line of no effect, this is equivalent to saying that we have found no statistically significant difference in the effects of the two interventions