

Adverse heart rate responses during beach-chair position for shoulder surgeries - A systematic review and meta-analysis of their incidence, interpretations and associations

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ABSTRACT

Background and Aims: Evaluations of adverse heart rate (HR)-responses and HR-variations during anaesthesia in beach-chair-position (BCP) for shoulder surgeries have not been done earlier. We analysed the incidence, associations, and interpretations of adverse HR-responses in this clinical setting. **Methods:** We performed a meta-analysis of trials that reported HR-related data in anaesthetised subjects undergoing elective shoulder surgeries in BCP. Studies included prospective, randomised, quasi-randomised and non-randomised, controlled clinical trials as well as observational cohorts. Literature search was conducted in MEDLINE, EMBASE, CINAHL and the Cochrane Central Register of Controlled Trials of the 21st century. In the first analysis, we studied the incidence and associations of bradycardia/hypotension-bradycardia episodes (HBE) with respect to the type of anaesthesia and different pharmacological agents. In the second, we evaluated anaesthetic influences, associations and inter-relationships between monitored parameters with respect to HR-behaviours. **Results:** Among the trials designed with bradycardia/HBE as a primary end point, the observed incidence of bradycardia was 9.1% and that of HBE, 14.9% and 22.7% [(for Interscalene block (ISB) ± sedation) subjects and general anaesthesia (GA) + ISB, respectively]. There was evidence of higher observed risk of developing adverse HR-responses for GA subjects over ISB (Risk Difference, $P < 0.05$). Concomitant use of β -agonists did not increase risk of HBEs ($P = 0.29$, $I^2 = 11.4\%$) or with fentanyl ($P = 0.45$, $I^2 = 0\%$) for ISB subjects (subgroup analysis). Fentanyl significantly influenced the HR-drop over time [meta-regression, estimates (standard error), 14.9 (5.4), 9.8 (4.3) and 17 (2.6); $P = 0.007$, 0.024 and < 0.001 ; for early, mid and delayed periods, respectively] in GA subjects. With respect to number of subjects experiencing cerebral desaturation events (CDEs), total intravenous anaesthesia (TIVA)- propofol had higher risk over inhalational anaesthesia ($P = 0.006$, $I^2 = 86.7\%$). Meta-correlation analysis showed relationships between the HR and rSO_2 (regional cerebral oxygen saturation) or $SjvO_2$ (jugular venous oxygen saturation) values ($r = 0.608$, 95%CI, 0.439 to 0.735, $P < 0.001$, $I^2 = 77.4\%$ and $r = 0.397$, 95%CI, 0.151 to 0.597, $P < 0.001$, $I^2 = 64.3\%$, respectively). **Conclusions:** There is not enough evidence

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to claim the associations of adverse HR-responses with any specific factor. HR-fall is maximal with fentanyl and its variability is associated with changes in rSO₂. Fall in rSO₂ could be the common link triggering adverse HR-responses in BCP.

Level and Quality of Evidence: Level of evidence, IIA/IIB; GRADE recommendation, B.

Key words: Adrenergic beta-receptor agonists, arthroscopy, bradycardia, fentanyl, oximetry, shoulder, sitting position

INTRODUCTION

Among the undesirable haemodynamic consequences of beach-chair position (BCP) for shoulder (arthroscopic) surgeries, bradycardia, by virtue of its unpredictable occurrence and occasionally adverse anaesthetic consequences, is a cause for concern.^[1-4] A specifically named haemodynamic event, the 'Hypotension-Bradycardia Episode' (HBE) has been reported in 6-27% of BCP subjects.^[3-5] These studies however lack specificity in documenting isolated significant bradycardia (necessitating the use of atropine). The true incidence of bradycardia remains indeterminate due to several factors such as the frequent use of the terms 'bradycardia' and 'HBEs' as synonyms,^[4,6] use of different definitions of 'bradycardia' by various authors, inclusion of additional causes of 'hypotension' episodes (anaesthetic and pharmacological) and subjective variations in the anaesthesiologist's decision to use atropine, justifiably attributable to a 'play it safe' attitude.

The correlation of incidence of bradycardia/HBE with the type of anaesthesia^[5] or the anaesthetic agent deployed has not been conclusively established.^[7] While activation of the Bezold-Jarish Reflex (BJR) linked to interscalene block of the brachial plexus (ISB) could be the primary reason for such adverse events,^[8] the demonstration of a 'non-empty' heart ventricle during such events suggests otherwise.^[9-11] Similarly, the association of use of β -adrenergic agonists and adverse heart rate (HR)-responses/HBE^[2,4] is uncertain since these episodes were also reported in patients without their use.^[12,13] Likewise, while ISB has been linked to such events,^[8] the same has not been confirmed with general anaesthesia (GA). There is a paucity of comparative literature on the association of HR-responses in BCP with other parameters like use of maintenance anaesthetic agents or opioids. Several studies indicate a strong association of hypotensive response with regional cerebral oxygen saturation (rSO₂)^[14-16] and jugular venous oxygen

saturation (SjvO₂) for BCP surgeries done under anaesthesia.^[16] But it is unclear whether cerebral desaturation events (CDEs) correlate with (adverse) HR-responses.

The aim of this study was to systematically review all available evidence from trials reporting bradycardia/HBEs for its: 1) incidence, 2) anaesthetic/pharmacological associations, and 3) association of BCP-HR-behaviours with monitored parameters, and to conduct a meta-analysis on the results. Establishing the association of adverse haemodynamic responses with specific anaesthesia-related variables or changes in monitored parameters would be helpful in improving predictability of such events, taking precautionary measures to prevent them and providing an insight into their possible underlying pathophysiological mechanisms.

METHODS

Registration and protocol

This meta-analysis was conducted in accordance with Preferred Reporting Items for Systematic reviews and Meta-analyses.^[17] The protocol was registered with PROSPERO (CRD42019119454, crd.york.ac.uk; date of registration, 14/01/2019, and updated on 31/07/2019).

Eligibility criteria

We included prospective, randomised, quasi-randomised and non-randomised, controlled clinical trials as well as observational cohorts with adult subjects (>18 yrs) undergoing elective shoulder surgeries in BCP. Reporting of HR-related data or HR-responses were mandatory to inclusion. Publications in all languages were considered. Subjects received one of the following anaesthetic modalities; (1) Planned GA; (2) Regional anaesthesia (RA): ISB or similar and (3) RA in combination with GA. The use of supplementary sedation was not a barrier to inclusion. We excluded studies wherein subjects underwent

surgeries in $<45^\circ$ BCP as well as American Society of Anaesthesiologists (ASA) >3 physical status.

Information sources

An electronic literature search was conducted in MEDLINE, EMBASE, Cochrane Central Register of Controlled Trials and CINHALL. The selection of literature specifically restricted to studies in BCP. We also searched the bibliography of retrieved manuscripts for additional studies pertaining to data encompassing our primary outcome of interest. These comprised studies reporting incidents of isolated bradycardia or HBEs, documenting maximum and minimum average HRs, or measuring serial HR over time periods; with a caveat that both pre-induction and post-induction HR data be available. Twenty-first-century literature were scanned since anaesthesia protocols have remained uniform during this period. Retrospective studies, reviews with inadequate information on primary outcome interests, abstracts and letters to the editor were not included. The detailed search strategy is shown in Supplementary Digital Content File 1.

Study selection and data collection

The manuscripts meeting the inclusion criteria were assessed and data were extracted following a standardised format. Extracted items comprised of study characteristics, risk of bias (RoB) domains,^[18] participant disposition, and study outcomes. *Patients* were categorised according to type of the surgery or anaesthesia, number of subjects and position adopted for surgery ($\geq 45^\circ$ of BCP, i.e., 45 to 90°). *Interventions* referred to BCP after induction and achievement of hemodynamic stability. *Comparison* of variables was pre-BCP versus post-BCP. *Outcomes* were classified as 'primary' and 'secondary'. The former included HR data before and after BCP at various intervals of time, the incidence of bradycardia/HBE in BCP, influence of anaesthetics over HR-responses and HR-rSO₂/SjvO₂ associations. The latter included incidence and magnitude of hypotension and associations of mean blood pressure (MBP) with anaesthetic factors, vasoactive drugs and rSO₂/SjvO₂ in BCP.

Data synthesis and analysis of outcomes

For evaluation of the outcome of interests of this interventional (investigating an effect of BCP on HR) meta-analysis, data were extracted separately from study groups (SGs) of each trial to negate the effect of intergroup variables affecting their outcomes. We categorised the SGs further into study control groups, randomised SGs, non-randomised SGs, physiological

control groups. Study control groups received standard anaesthesia care without additional investigating pharmacological agents or technical measures. Physiological control groups were those placed in BCP but not anaesthetised.

The HR data collected included values documented at a single point of time or continuous data at various intervals for a SG. Incidences of bradycardia and/or HBE and rest of the HR data were considered for meta-analysis. Data were collected as a single or combined value in the form of mean and standard deviations (SD) or median and inter-quartile range (IQR), respectively. If multiple data were provided, then they were converted into pooled statistical averages. The data were tabulated under pre-induction [baseline (BL)] and post-induction groups. The latter included data relating to pre-BCP and post-BCP categories after the stabilisation of vitals. These post-BCP HR data were pooled for the time periods mentioned in the respective publication. If recorded data timings were non-specific timings, they were approximated to a specific time by mutual discussion with the two authors. Publications with unreported or inconclusive data that could not be obtained after attempts to contact the authors were excluded from this review.

The data presented in tables, text or images were used as the primary source for extraction. A graph digitizing software (Engauge Digitizer version 10.10, @ Mark Mitchell) was used for efficiently extracting and estimation of numerical raw data whenever text numerical data were unavailable. We substituted the missing SDs with pooled SDs of other studies with the same comparison by $\sqrt{[(\sum N * SD^2) / \sum N]}$ where N = sample size. When range and IQR were available, SD was estimated using the formula $SD = \text{range}/4$ and $SD = \text{IQR}/1.35$, respectively, as described by Cochrane Hand Book of Systematic Reviews.^[19] Data were reported as 95% confidence intervals (CI). The median was used to estimate the mean if the value was not reported. Whenever standard error of mean (SEM) was reported, SD was obtained as $SD = \text{SEM} \sqrt{N}$. If data were provided as % of change over a BL numerical value, they were converted to numbers. To account for drop out cases over time or termination of BCP before the time specified in the meta-analysis, subject numbers were approximated to the nearest values for pooled data estimation. If the exact time point was not specified in the manuscript, then the approximated time point was considered by the authors' judgment.

We used individual definitions for defining events of bradycardia, HBE, hypotension and CDEs as described by authors of each study. Dichotomous data like bradycardia, hypotension, CDEs, etc. were converted into incidence (n/N) for a given time interval. The single highest incidence was used to capture the proportion of subjects who experienced a certain adverse response at least once. Data from SGs receiving more than one intervention or different anaesthetic agent or a technique (within a SG) were combined into a single group as per Cochrane Hand Book.^[19] Data were clubbed together into a single group whenever the primary authors grouped the study subjects on the basis of an event. Finally, 'intention to treat' basis was used for analysing complications-related data in some SGs. Subjects were repositioned back to supine following BCP-induced haemodynamic disturbances.^[20]

Data synthesis specific to HR

Incidence of bradycardia/HBE was considered whenever the events were reported either individually or synonymously in the subject at least once. To differentiate isolated bradycardia from the broader term, HBE, we considered the use of atropine (n/N) for defining the former. Data relating to HR-variability over time were again sub-divided into immediate/early (~10 minutes, EHR), mid (11-30 minutes, MHR) and delayed (after 30 minutes till the end of BCP, DHR). The magnitude of changes over time was represented by mean differences (MDs).

Data synthesis specific to blood pressures (BPs)

MBP was considered for data evaluation and the data synthesis was similar to that followed for HR. We excluded pooled data of systolic or diastolic blood pressures. Whenever SDs were not reported for nadir values, they were imputed from pooled SDs of the same group. All analysis was done presuming no incidence of hypotension in the supine position under anaesthesia. Subjects who were excluded prior to surgery, after BCP, owing to severe hypotension were also included (intention to treat).

Data synthesis specific to CDEs

For analysing CDEs, two types of rSO_2 values (MDs) were considered; (1) MDs of pre and post-BCP (pooled), as 'absolute' values; (2) MDs of pre-BCP and 'lowest' achieved post-BCP rSO_2 values. Lowermost of lowest was considered whenever right and left cerebral hemispheres were recorded separately (with single or two different methods). Whenever SDs were not

reported for nadir rSO_2 values, they were imputed from pooled SDs of the same group. All analysis was done presuming no incidences of CDEs in supine position under anaesthesia.

Pre-defined sources of heterogeneity

To explore the potential causes of heterogeneity in our results that could influence primary outcome results, we pre-identified certain clinical aspects of individual SGs. These included (1) randomisation technique; (2) anaesthetic technique; (3) induction agent; (4) maintenance anaesthetic agent; (5) use of opioids; (6) use of vasoactive agents. Equivalent doses of ephedrine and phenylephrine were considered for vasopressor consumption, converting ephedrine doses to their phenylephrine equivalence using a potency ratio of 81.2: 1.^[21]

The degree to which some of these additional factors predict EHRs, MHRs and DHRs was evaluated using a meta-regression analysis. To examine the influence of different anaesthetic agents, opioids, vasoactive drugs or eligibility criteria on HR-variability, we performed a sensitivity analysis. Sub-group analysis was considered based on: (1) type of anaesthesia; (2) predisposing or preventing agent; or (3) the maintenance agent for both incidences of bradycardia/HBE and serial HR measurements. Additional analyses ('leave-one-out' analysis, correlation statistics and meta-correlation analysis) were considered as necessary (for primary outcomes).

Meta-analysis was conducted with Review Manager (RevMan) 5.3 (Cochrane Collaboration, Copenhagen, Denmark, 2014). The random effects model was used for all analyses. Heterogeneity was measured and expressed as I^2 .^[22] Meta-regression was performed using JASP software (Version 0.9.2, BibTeX, Amsterdam).^[23] This analysis excluded subjects administered with ISB \pm sedation since the anaesthetic agent influences on HR are largely absent. Meta-regression (Restricted-Maximum-Likelihood method, random effects) was performed for EHR with priori defined factors, induction agents, opioids and use of PVI. For MHR and DHR, maintenance anaesthetic agents and opioids were considered.

For continuous variables (HR, absolute and lowest achieved cerebral saturations), MDs were compared using the inverse-variance (I-V) method. For dichotomous variables (incidences of bradycardia, HBEs, CDEs, hypotension), odds ratio (OR), risk

ratio (RR) or risk differences (RD) were computed by the Mantel-Haenszel (M-H) or I-V methods. Natural log-transformation was adopted^[24] as the outcomes for incidences were expected to be non-normal. Publication bias was checked using regression test for funnel plot asymmetry and Egger's test (JASP software, version 0.9.2).^[25] Correlations were attempted for those SGs which mentioned statistical averages of consecutive measurements of HR, rSO₂ and S_{ijv}O₂ on the one hand and for MBP and rSO₂ on the other. Meta-correlation analysis was performed after obtaining a series of correlation coefficients for various SGs using MedCalc® Version 14.8.1, MedCalc Software bvba, 2014. For all, statistical significance was set at $P < 0.05$ (2-tailed).

RESULTS

Summary of results for various outcomes are provided in Table 1.

Literature identification

From 2306 studies that were initially screened, 661 potentially relevant manuscripts were selected based on the abstract. The details pertaining to literature identification are provided in the flow chart (Supplementary Digital Content File 2). Finally, 47 trials provided the data for analysis (from year 2000 to 2019).

Study characteristics

We included all SGs of manuscripts that provided HR data. Hence, the majority of manuscripts had two or more SGs. Supplementary Digital Content File 3 summarises the characteristics of SGs including Jadad scores. In total, there were 91 SGs for this review ($n = 3107$), 70 SGs detailed about serial HR measurements, additional to the adverse HR-responses. There were 67 randomised SGs (RCTs, $n = 29$). Supplementary Digital Content File 4 depicts the RoB graph and summary. Thirty-nine SGs were considered as study control groups and four as physiological study controls. One trial (year 1998)^[26] was included against the PRISMA protocol, as the same was used by the rest of the authors to define HBE.

First analysis

Bradycardia and/or HBE

Bradycardia/HBE was reported in 24 SGs.^[4,6,12,13,26-32] For defining 'bradycardia/HBE', primary authors used their own criteria for 8 SGs. The rest followed the definition by Liguori *et al.*^[26] The incidence of isolated

bradycardia^[12,13,27-30] varied from 0 to 19% ($n = 65$ of 712, 9.1%) and that of HBE,^[4,6,12,13,26,28-32] 5 to 28% ($n = 147$ of 988, 14.9% in ISB subjects and $n = 255$ of 1121, 22.7% in ISB and GA subjects).

Meta-analysis of the incidence of bradycardia revealed risk ratio of 9.8 [(RR, 95%CI; 4.4, 21.9), $I^2 = 0\%$, $P < 0.0001$] and HBE, RR of 19.6 [(95%CI; 10.7, 35.8), $I^2 = 0\%$, $P < 0.00001$] in BCP. There was evidence of higher observed 'excessive risk' of developing adverse responses for GA subjects over ISB (RD $P < 0.05$, Figure 1).

Primary authors proposed the possible associations of adverse HR-responses with various factors (epinephrine, fentanyl, ISB, norepinephrine, ondansetron or β -adrenergic blockers). Very low evidence was observed to confirm their effects on adverse HR-responses in ISB subjects. However, further analysis revealed that the use of β -adrenergic agonists^[4,6,26,32] and fentanyl^[12,13,28] did not increase risk of HBEs without its use [test for sub-group difference, $P = 0.29$, $I^2 = 11.4\%$ and $P = 0.45$, $I^2 = 0\%$, respectively (Figure 2)]. Effect of prophylactic ondansetron (4-8 mg) in prevention of HBE was analysed in 2 trials;^[13,28] meta-analysis revealed OR (non-event, 95%CI) of 4.13 (1.89, 9.02, $P = 0.0004$). Effect of prophylactic use of β -blocker was used in one study^[26]; meta-analysis revealed OR (non-event, 95%CI) of 5.8 [1.65, 20.36, $P = 0.006$ (Figure 3)]. In 17 SGs, the timing of bradycardia/HBE was documented. Pooled data showed the timing of occurrence as 33.6 ± 24 minutes.^[4,6,12,13,26,28,31] All BCP surgery subjects received midazolam, fentanyl or propofol sedation alone or in combination in ISB group at different doses and timings.

Second analysis

Post-BCP HR-responses analysed from serial HR measurements [Figure 4]

Our meta-analysis of HR-responses over time considered two sub-groups based on the type of anaesthesia and maintenance agents used. BL-HR was reported in 48 SGs ($n = 1334$); 12 used TIVA-propofol^[16,33-37] (73.7 ± 13.4 beats/min, $n = 451$), 33 received inhaled anaesthetics^[16,29,35,38-50] (73.6 ± 13.6 beats/min, $n = 744$) and 139 subjects had ISB.^[6,50] MDs between HR-values at supine (Pre-BCP) and post-BCP status are depicted in Figure 4.

Sensitivity analysis revealed that various anaesthetic agents significantly influenced fall in HRs. However, it made little difference to the overall results when

Table 1: Summary of results

Parameter analysis	n	Outcome	Comments (GRADE recommendation)
Definition of bradycardia/HBE	1121	Definition of bradycardia/HBE varied much between authors; therefore, the diversified incidence reporting.	Majority of authors used definition by Liguori <i>et al.</i> ^a
Incidence of bradycardia and anaesthetic influences	712	9.1% of subjects are reported with bradycardia with RR of 9.8, after positioning to BCP. ISB had no excessive risk of developing bradycardia over GA.	Limited data available for GA subjects (⊕⊕⊕○-moderate, for overall and all subgroups) ^f
Incidence of HBE and anaesthetic influences	1121	15% of ISB and 23% of GA+ISB subjects are reported with HBE with odds of 30, after positioning to BCP. It appears that GA was associated with higher (excessive) risk over ISB.	Limited data available for GA subjects; since anaesthetic causes of hypotension incidences are simultaneously included, may over-estimate the true incidences. (⊕⊕○○-low, ⊕○○○-very low, ⊕⊕⊕○-moderate; for overall, ISB±sedation, GA±ISB subgroups.) ^f
Timing of bradycardia/HBE	848	Varied significantly in literature; 70% of study groups report the mean timing of adverse HR responses occurring after 30 minutes. Pooled data average timings are 33.6±24 minutes	SDs are high for the pooled data
Effect of β-agonists (epinephrine) on bradycardia/HBE incidences	988	No evidence of excessive risk of developing HBEs with use of β-agonists compared to subjects without its use.	Epinephrine was used either during ISB local anaesthetic block placement or for saline irrigation fluid of arthroscopy (⊕⊕○○-low; for overall or subgroups analysis) ^f
Effect of fentanyl on bradycardia/HBE incidences	775	No evidence of excessive risk of developing HBEs with use of fentanyl compared to subjects who did not receive it.	Only the studies which have used fentanyl in every subject, were included for analysis (⊕⊕○○-low, ⊕⊕⊕⊕-high, ⊕⊕⊕○-moderate; for overall, and for subgroup analysis, respectively)
Effect of prophylactic ondansetron and β-blockers on bradycardia/HBE incidences	395	Evidence of lower risk of developing HBE with the use; ondansetron may decrease the incidence by 4 times	Limited number of trials available for β-blocker prophylaxis (⊕⊕⊕○-moderate; for both outcomes) ^f
Serial HR measurements and effect of type of anaesthesia	1453, 1315, 802 ^b	Administering GA or GA+ISB is associated with progressive fall of HR over time and this is maximum after 30 minutes under anaesthesia at BCP. Addition of ISB did not cause additional fall in HR.	Pooled measurements were considered
Serial HR measurements and effect of maintenance anaesthetic agent	1363, 1163, 580 ^c	Subjects with TIVA-propofol and ISB subjects had least fall of HR, over time, in BCP.	Pooled measurements were considered
Serial HR measurements and effect of intraoperative pharmacological agent	Variable	Evidence of highest fall of HR with the use of fentanyl alone (for mid and delayed HR) or for concomitant use of fentanyl and PIVs (for early) is observed.	Limited data is available for fentanyl-PIVs concomitant effects.
Incidence of hypotension and type of anaesthesia (number of subjects)	2366	Evidence of higher 'excessive' risk for number of subjects who developed hypotension at BCP for subjects administered with GA over GA+ISB or ISB±sedation.	Incidences of 'HBE' were considered for ISB subjects
Incidence of hypotension and maintenance anaesthetic agent (number of subjects)	1251	Use of TIVA-propofol was not associated with excessive risk of developing hypotension over inhaled anaesthetics	Few of the TIVA-propofol group subjects had concomitant use of PIVs at the beginning of BCP
CDEs and maintenance anaesthetics	684	Maintenance anaesthetics can influence the CDEs; TIVA-propofol was associated with higher 'excessive' risks for number of subjects who experienced CDEs than inhalational agents.	
CDEs and ISB anaesthesia	30	Shoulder surgeries done under ISB alone was associated with least incidences of CDEs.	Only one SG of this meta-analysis has been considered for CDE evaluation.
rSO ₂ and maintenance agents (absolute fall)	849	Absolute fall of rSO ₂ was not influenced by different maintenance anaesthetics; however, a non-statistically significant higher desaturation values were recorded for TIVA-propofol compared to inhaled anaesthesia subjects.	The immediate corrective therapy during a rSO ₂ fall may not reflect the actual differences

Contd...

Table 1: Summary results

Parameter analysis	n	Outcome	Comments (GRADE recommendation)
rSO ₂ and maintenance agents (lowest achieved)	599	Lowest achieved rSO ₂ was not influenced by different maintenance agents. However, a non-statistically significant higher desaturation values were recorded for TIVA-propofol compared to inhaled anaesthesia subjects.	The immediate corrective therapy during a rSO ₂ fall may not reflect the actual differences
rSO ₂ - HR relationships	381	Meta-correlations reveal that HR measurements from serial recordings of several study groups statistically correlated well with the respective rSO ₂ measurements	Statistical correlations were derived from consecutive, serial measurements.
SjvO ₂ - HR relationships	186	Meta-correlations reveal that HR measurements from serial recordings of few study groups statistically correlated well with respective SjvO ₂ values	Statistical correlations were derived from consecutive measurements but the strength of correlation was weak.
Influence of PVIs on HR	165	PVIs did not influence HR fall with in study subjects; however, the magnitude of HR fall was higher compared to control subjects.	Limited data available
Influence of PVIs on HR -rSO ₂ /SjvO ₂ relationships	90	PVIs have not influenced the CDEs and HR-rSO ₂ /SjvO ₂ relationships.	Limited data available
rSO ₂ - MBP relationships	457	Meta-correlation analysis revealed a statistically significant correlation between MBP and rSO ₂ values	Predictable outcome
Vasopressor consumption ^d	503	Pooled averages of ephedrine requirements were higher for GA±ISB than GA alone to maintain the desired BP.	Limited data and non-parametric data comparisons.
HR of physiological matched controls	199 ^e	HR increased or remained same in subjects after positioning to BCP.	Physiological controls are those who did not receive any pharmacological agents.

BCP – Beach chair position; BP – Blood pressure; CDE – Cerebral desaturation event; GA – General anaesthesia; GRADE – Grading of Recommendations Assessment, Development and Evaluation; HBE – Hypotension bradycardia episode; HR – Heart rate; ISB – Interscalene block; MBP – Mean blood pressure; PVI – Prophylactic vasopressor infusion; rSO₂ – Regional oxygen saturation of brain; SD – Standard deviation; SjvO₂ – Jugular venous oxygen saturation; TIVA – Total intravenous anaesthesia; ^aLiguori *et al.*, defined HBE as HR <50 beats/min at anytime or <30 beats in <5 min compared to pre-anaesthetic state with or without hypotension, and/or decrease in SBP >30 mmHg in <5 min compared to pre-anaesthetic values, or any SBP decrease <90 mmHg; necessarily treated by ephedrine, epinephrine or atropine. ^{b,c}data for early, mid and delayed heart rate ^eequivalent doses ^ddata not included for total n of meta-analysis. ^fGRADE for primary outcomes

study controls^[29,30,33-35,37,39-43,48-63] and randomised trials^[4,6,12,13,15,16,26-30,33-35,37-39,41,42,44-47,50,55,60,61,64] were analysed separately [Table 2]. Meta-regression was performed since primary outcomes, characterised by significant heterogeneity, yielded statistically significant omnibus *P* values for statistical models considering different maintenance agents and opioids.

With regard to EHR,^[6,15,16,29,33-35,37-40,42-47,49,51,52,54-58,65] MHR^[16,29,33-36,38,41,43,46,48-51,53-64,66] and DHR^[6,16,29,30,38,43,46,47,49,51,55,56,60,65] responses, meta-analysis showed a statistically significant fall in HR in subjects with GA (GA or GA + RA, *P* < 0.0001). Sensitivity analysis and meta-regressions confirmed that fentanyl significantly influenced the HR drop over time (meta-regression, estimates, 14.8, 9.8 and 16.9; standard error (SE) 5.3, 4.3 and 2.8; *P* = 0.007, 0.024 and <0.001; for early, mid and delayed periods, respectively) in GA subjects (Omnibus *P* < 0.001. Also, refer ‘publication bias’, Supplementary Digital Content File 5).

Secondary outcomes

BP responses

BP responses were analysed from 67 SGs.^[4,6,12,13,15,16,28-30,33-36,38,41,43,46,48-51,53-64,66] Seven subjects were excluded

from the primary study^[16,46,58,66] even before surgery due to severe hypotension after BCP. For treatment of hypotension, ephedrine,^[4,6,12,13,16,28,32,35,36,44,45,49,52,60] phenylephrine^[53,56,60,62,66] or combination of both^[29,39-42,46,48,54,59,61,63,65] were used. Less frequently used were cafedrine/theodrenaline,^[30,37] epinephrine,^[26,31,43] norepinephrine^[64] and metaraminol.^[15,50] Number of subjects showing drop in BP was a better predictor for hypotension than absolute values. Supplementary Digital Content File 6 describes the details of hypotension with respect to type of anaesthesia or maintenance agent used at BCP.

CDEs

CDEs were evaluated in 33SGs.^[15,16,33-35,39,45,46,48,53,58-61,64,65] Meta-analysis of pooled estimates showed statistically significant fall in absolute values of rSO₂ with both TIVA-propofol^[33,35,52,59,61] and inhalational^[15,16,35,39,45,46,48,53,58,60,64,65] maintenance anaesthetics (*P* < 0.00001). There were no differences between sub-groups with respect to the type of maintenance agent used (*P* = 0.05). Lowest recorded values of CDEs^[33-35,39,45-47,53,59,60,65] and data on number of subjects who experienced CDEs^[6,33,34,39,43,46,59-61,64,65] are detailed in Supplementary Digital Content File 7.

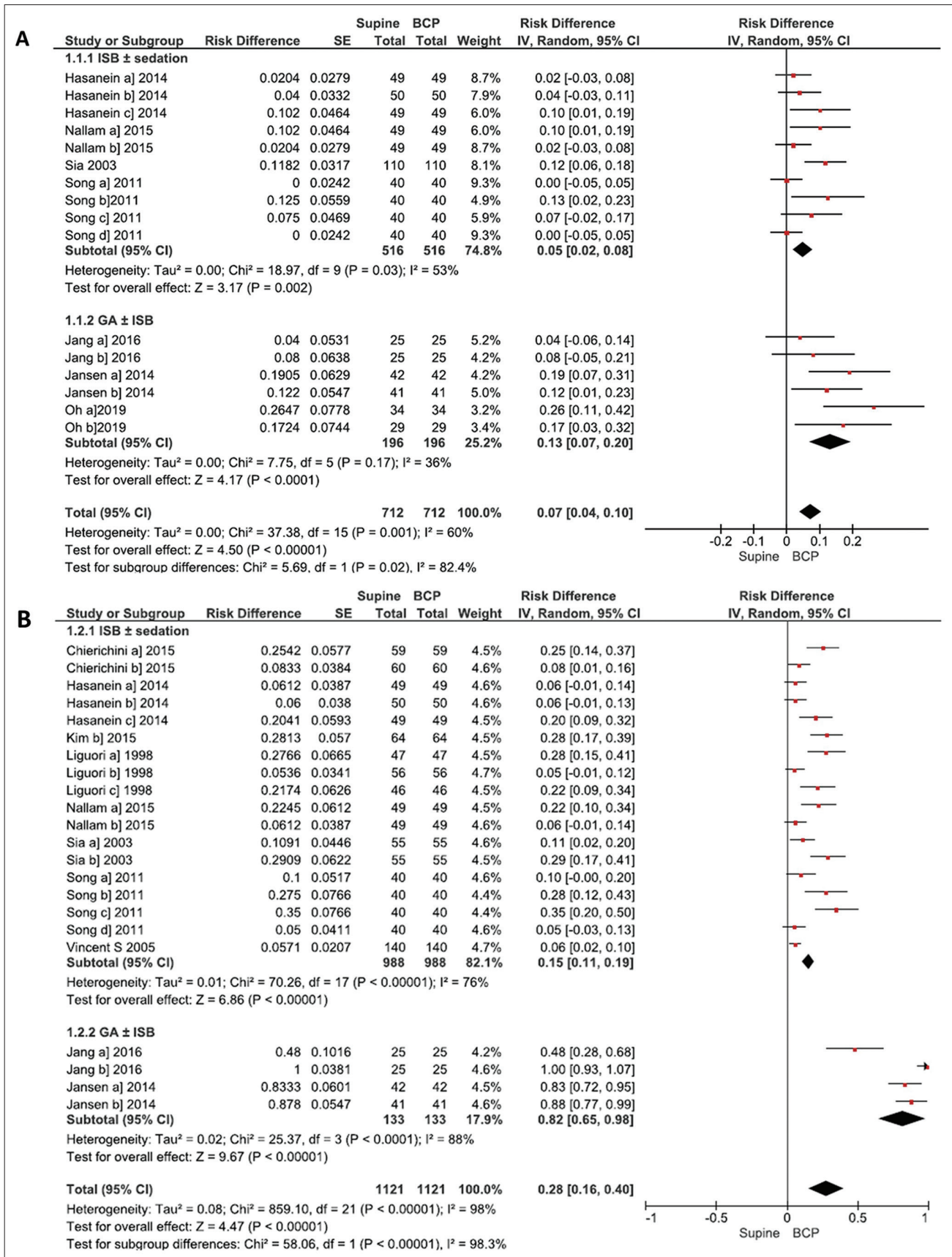


Figure 1: Bradycardia (A) and HBE (B) meta-analysis forest plots. All hypotension incidences were included. BCP – Beach chair position; CI- Confidence interval; GA – General anaesthesia; HBE - Hypotension-bradycardia episode; ISB – Interscalene block; IV- Inverse variance; SE -Standard error

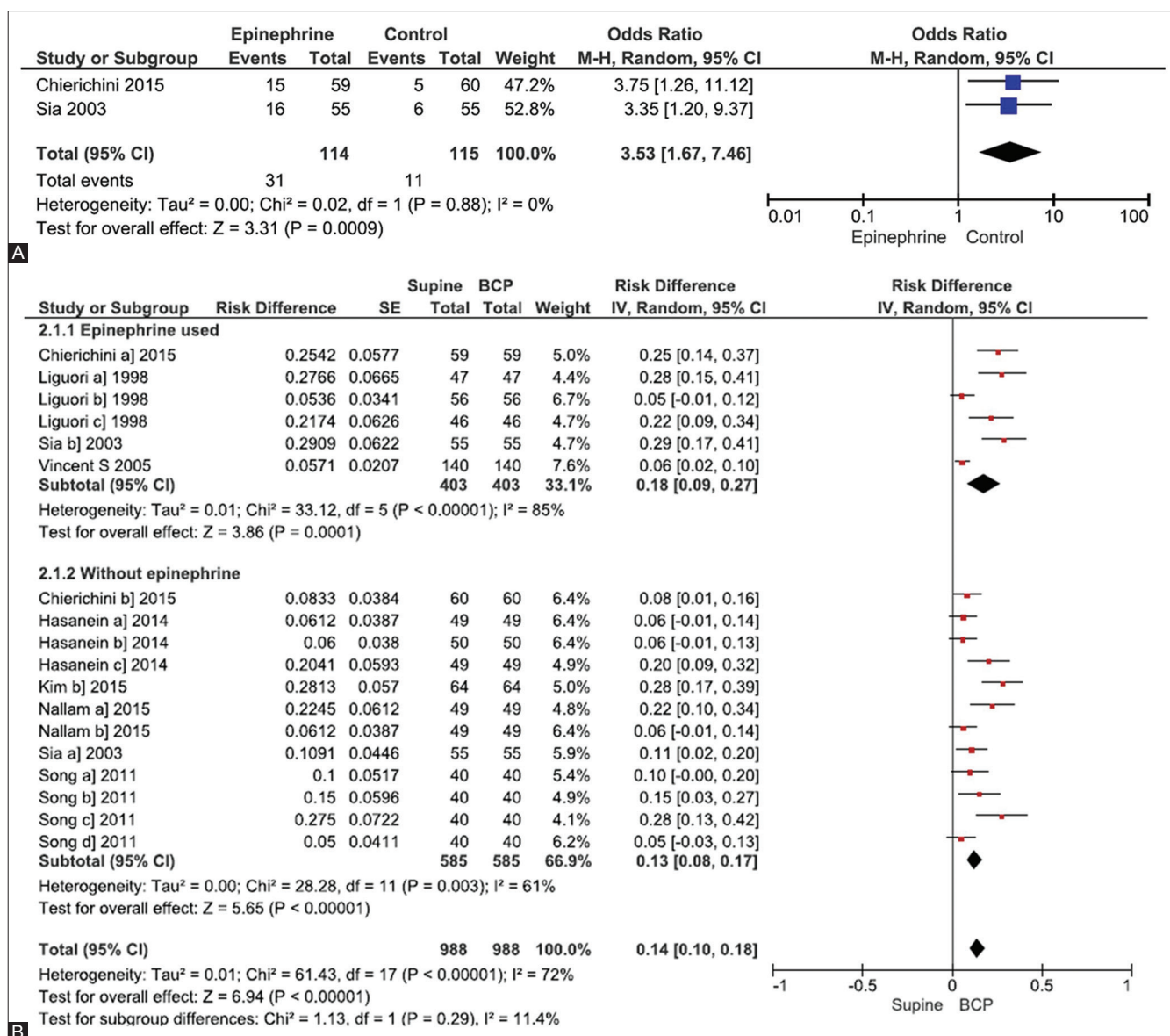


Figure 2: Effect of β-agonists (epinephrine) on bradycardia/HBEs. A. Forest plot for the use of epinephrine. B. Subgroup analysis forest plots for sub-groups using epinephrine and for those without. GA subjects are not included in this analysis. BCP - Beach chair position; CI - Confidence interval; GA – General anaesthesia; HBE - Hypotension-bradycardia episode; IV - Inverse variance. M-H - Mantel-Haenszel

Relationship between rSO₂, S_{jo}O₂ and HR

Seventeen SGs^[33-35,46,56,60,65] evaluated the HR and rSO₂ at specific intervals over the entire BCP period. Data were recorded as statistical averages for absolute values of consecutive timings. Meta-correlation-analysis showed correlation between the HR and rSO₂ values ($r = 0.608$, 95%CI, 0.439 to 0.735, $P < 0.001$). Correlation was attempted between HR and S_{jo}O₂ absolute values from 12SGs.^[16,33-35] Meta-correlation analysis revealed statistically significant but weak parallel correlation ($r = 0.397$, 95%CI, 0.151 to 0.597, $P < 0.001$) indicating an association between HR and S_{jo}O₂ values [Figure 5].

Use of PVIs and effect on HR, rSO₂ and HR-rSO₂ relationships,^[15,33-35] details of physiological controls,^[31,53,59,62] vaso-active drugs consumption^[16,33,35,40,44,48,54,56,60,62] are detailed elsewhere (Footnote of Supplementary Digital Content File 3).

DISCUSSION

In our meta-analysis, we attempted to find the incidence and associations of adverse HR-responses during shoulder surgeries done in BCP. We observed the incidence of isolated bradycardia and HBE to be 9.1% and 14.9%, respectively. Current literature

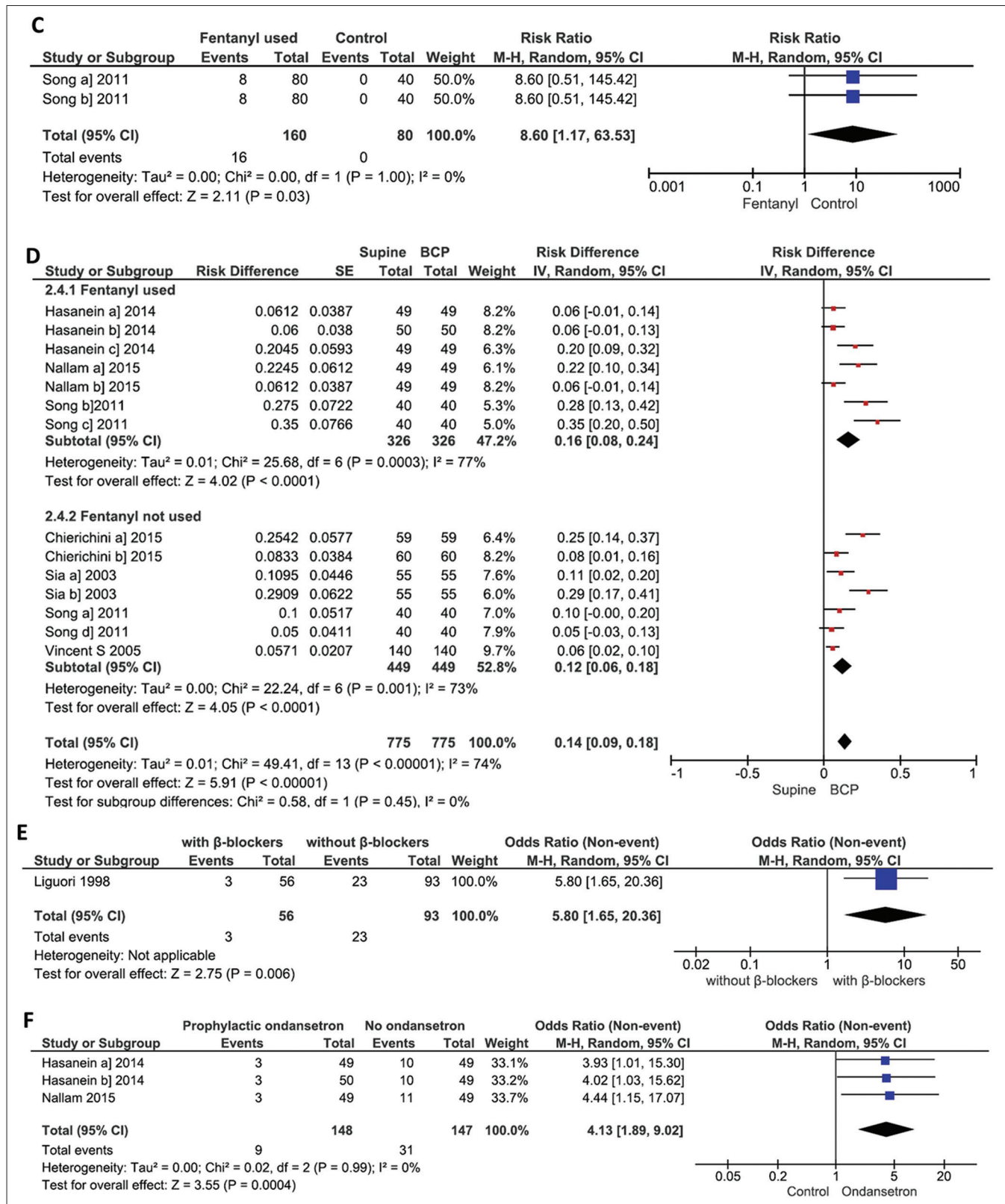


Figure 3: Effect of drugs that can modify incidence of bradycardia/HBEs. Forest plots for fentanyl (C, D), β-blockers (E) and ondansetron (F) on bradycardia/HBEs. GA subjects are not included in this analysis. BCP - Beach chair position; CI - Confidence interval; GA – General anaesthesia; IV - Inverse variance. M-H - Mantel-Haenszel

provides no concrete evidence linking different anaesthetic techniques, β-agonists or fentanyl with

adverse HR-responses. Trials confirming the protective effects of ondansetron and β-blockers against HBEs

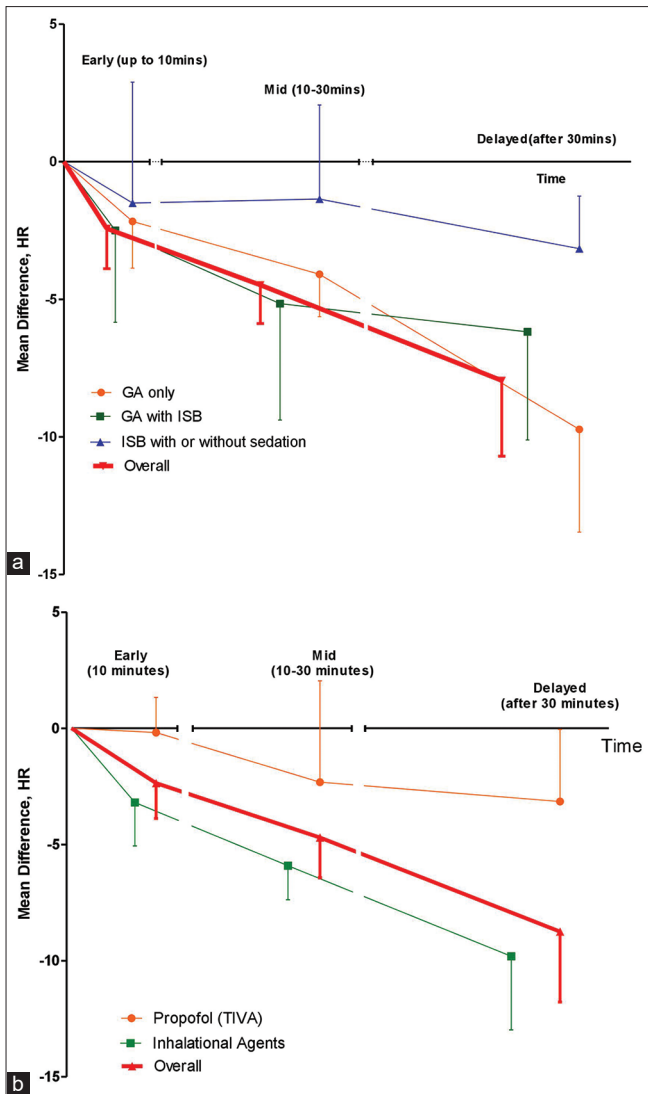


Figure 4: Fall of HR over time, for pooled serial measurements under anaesthesia. The mean differences (MDs) are studied for the first 10 minutes, 11-30 minutes and after 30 minutes of beach-chair position from pre-BCP levels. For different types of anaesthesia (a) and maintenance agents (b), the trends are shown. GA - General anaesthesia; ISB - Interscalene block; TIVA - Total intravenous anaesthesia

are few in number. Our meta-analysis unequivocally confirms the influence of fentanyl on HR-drop over time in BCP-GA subjects. Furthermore, HR-rSO₂/SjvO₂ relationships in GA subjects are clearly elucidated.

The interpretations of adverse HR events may differ between GA and ISB subjects. The seemingly excessive risk of adverse events for GA over ISB subjects could be fallacious for several reasons. Anaesthetic or sedation related events, differences in incidence reporting among the included studies significantly influenced the data. Several authors have followed the definition of Liguori and colleagues,^[26] where

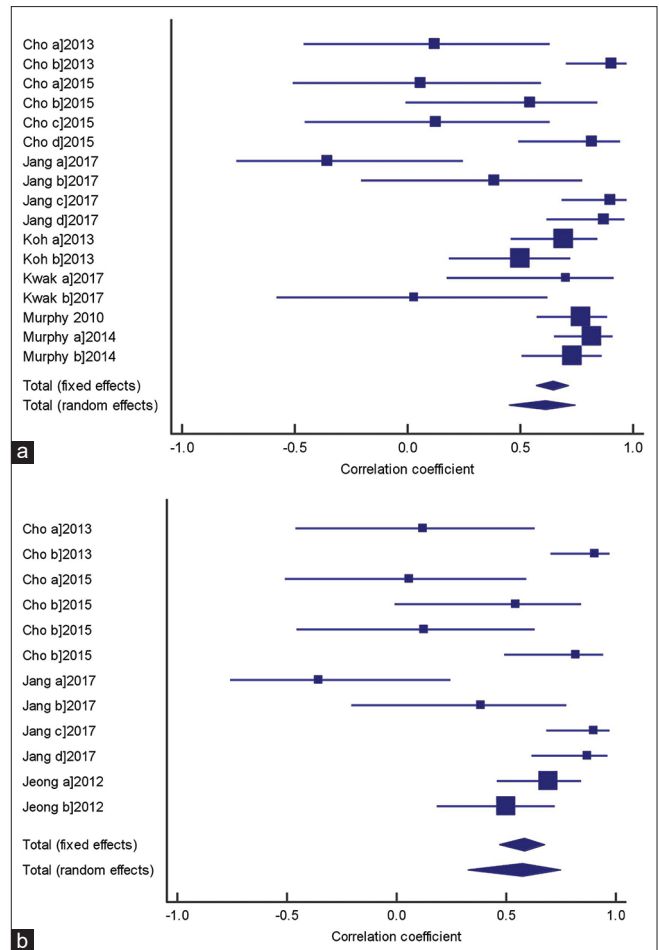


Figure 5: Meta-correlation-analysis depicting the relationship between rSO₂ (a), SjvO₂ (b) and HR. 95% confidence intervals are shown. HR - Heart rate; rSO₂ - Regional cerebral oxygen saturation; SjvO₂ - Jugular venous oxygen saturation

hypotension in isolation is considered an ‘adverse event’. Sub-group meta-analysis has excluded ones that may have reported hypotension but not as a ‘true’ event of adverse HR-response. To avoid overlapping terms of these cardiovascular events, we analysed them separately. Any conclusion as to whether the hypotension/HBE event was directly linked to BCP or anaesthetic/non-anaesthetic agents remained elusive after this analysis, since every individual received a pharmacological agent in one form or the other. Inclusion of ISB subjects alone to account for adverse HR-responses was likely to reflect the true incidences. Presuming that every event was not the ‘true’ bradycardia/HBE among all, the actual incidence of bradycardia/HBE therefore, could be less than estimated.

The adverse HR-events were observed approximately between 10 to 50 minutes. Mechanisms related to peak plasma levels of local anaesthetics after ISB or blockade

Table 2: Sensitivity analysis

Factor/Covariate	Time	Number of subjects	Mean difference, HR (95% confidence interval)	P	P* for χ^2 heterogeneity	P, overall effect	Number of study groups
Use of PVI	Early	107	3.67 (-2.4, 9.7)	83%	<0.00001	0.23	7
	Mid	58	-0.81 (-4.39, 2.78)	0%	0.94	0.66	3
Inducing agent, Propofol	Early	1333	2.72 (1.21, 4.23)	79%	<0.00001	0.0005	46
Inducing agent, Thiopentone	Early	120	2.18 (-0.95, 5.3)	0%	0.98	0.17	5
Remifentanyl	Early	811	2.16 (0.35, 3.96)	79%	<0.00001	0.02	27
	Mid	444	5.62 (1.99, 9.25)	83%	<0.00001	0.002	18
Fentanyl	Delayed	229	8.8 (5.41, 12.18)	50%	0.05	<0.00001	8
	Early	111	6.02 (2.28,9.76)	78%	<0.00001	0.002	11
	Mid	296	6.98 (4.95,9.01)	0%	0.74	<0.00001	11
Alfentanil	Delayed	110	16.61 (13.01,20.21)	61%	0.03	<0.00001	5
	Early	80	4.59 (-1.03,10.22)	61%	0.05	0.11	4
	Mid	80	3.13 (-0.45,6.70)	0%	0.66	0.09	4
Sufentanil	Delayed	40	2.93 (-1.53,7.39)	0%	0.63	0.2	2
	Early	53	-0.8 (-5.41, 3.81)	NA	NA	0.73	1
	Mid	117	0.63 (-1.96,3.21)	0%	0.61	0.63	4
TIVA, propofol	Early	480	0.59 (-0.93,2.10)	0%	0.88	0.45	13
	Mid	340	2.72 (-1.64,7.07)	85%	<0.00001	0.22	15
	Delayed	100	3.55 (0.46,6.64)	0%	0.86	0.02	3
Sevoflurane	Early	826	3.55 (1.56, 5.53)	84%	<0.00001	0.0005	33
	Mid	736	5.84 (4.23, 7.45)	39%	0.02	<0.00001	27
	Delayed	420	9.54 (5.9, 13.2)	83%	<0.00001	<0.00001	16
Desflurane	Early	87	2.04 (-1.18, 5.25)	0%	0.89	0.21	4
	Mid	106	7.32 (3.64, 10.99)	40%	0.16	<0.0001	5
	Delayed	60	13.3 (9.72, 16.88)	0%	0.5	<0.00001	3
Randomised trials	Early	1072	2.41 (0.69, 4.14)	80%	<0.00001	0.006	41
	Mid	649	4.33 (2.81, 5.84)	27%	0.08	<0.00001	32
	Delayed	530	9.35 (6.09, 12.61)	82%	<0.00001	<0.00001	20
Study Controls	Early	709	1.73 (0.03, 3.43)	32%	0.07	0.05	23
	Mid	776	6.09 (3.54, 8.65)	75%	<0.00001	<0.00001	26
	Delayed	361	8.84 (5.78, 11.89)	61%	0.003	<0.00001	12

PVI – Prophylactic vasopressor infusion; TIVA – Total intravenous anaesthesia; HR – Heart rate; χ^2 -Chi-square; *critical $P=0.05$; significant P are bold and italicised

of cardiac sympathetic nerves via stellate ganglion were described. However, these mechanisms do not explain the adverse HR-responses in GA subjects. The claim in few trials regarding the augmentation of HBE risk by epinephrine has been with very low evidence. Epinephrine was administered either through skin infiltration, saline irrigation, concomitant to local anaesthetic or intra-articular injections. One study compared epinephrine to norepinephrine to study HBEs without a control group.^[6] The paucity of data with respect to number of studies or type of drug (local anaesthetics, beta-agonists etc.) poses a limitation to any conclusion regarding risk modifying drugs. The factors like variable plasma levels with different routes of administration, short half-life etc., will not favour the specific timings of adverse events. Furthermore, we could not demonstrate higher incidences of adverse HR-responses for the fentanyl SGs over no-fentanyl in ISB subjects. Earlier studies have reported a dose-dependent increase in bradycardia/HBE incidences with fentanyl

in BCP-cohorts.^[8,12] The effects of fentanyl on HR were further validated by our second analysis of this study as we observed the highest HR-fall occurring with the use of fentanyl. Fentanyl acts on μ -opioid receptors on cardiac vagal neurons in the nucleus ambiguus and neurons preceding them to reduce GABAergic neurotransmission and induce bradycardia.^[12] We believe, therefore, that adverse HR-response could be easily augmented with fentanyl use.

Association between CDEs and HR is as yet unreported. While HR is believed to be influenced by hypoxic events, defining HR-rSO₂ relationship is not easy. Cerebral oxygenation may involve regional differences. The near-infrared reflectance spectroscopy is usually applied to frontal areas for convenience while actual rSO₂ at the medullary vasomotor centre (VMC) is un-monitored. We have demonstrated a HR-rSO₂/SjvO₂ association through meta-correlation analysis. There is a

dearth of literature on monitoring rSO_2 during the ISB-BCP surgery with none reporting any adverse HR-responses. CDEs in ISB-BCP patients have been reported as incidences of 10%,^[67] 3.3%^[56] or lower absolute values of rSO_2 .^[68] Higher partial pressures of oxygen during controlled ventilation may decrease the CDEs compared to spontaneously breathing (but sedated) ISB subjects. CDEs reported by Yadeau and colleagues^[67] in RA patients showed no correlation with all hypotensive events. All ISB studies reporting bradycardia/HBE received intravenous fentanyl and midazolam singly or in combination. Furthermore, propofol infusion (sedation), β -blockers and oxygen (discretionary) were randomly used in ISB subjects of this meta-analysis. Adverse HR-responses observed in ISB subjects, therefore, could be secondary to sedation and its CDE effects.^[69]

We have limitations for our meta-analysis. From the available studies, we were unable to describe emergent strategy for preventing and managing adverse HR-responses during BCP-surgery, which is needed to inform practice. Non-availability of raw patient data or lowest achieved HR data for many trials precluded conducting individual patient meta-analysis or correlations. Heterogeneity is high in our study but we consider this acceptable since the pre-defined eligibility criteria for the meta-analysis are sound and the data are correct. While included trials might have allocated treatment randomly, their SGs inclusion in this review has not been random. Publication bias was minimal. However, inclusions of studies to this review were not based on Jadad scores.

CONCLUSIONS

Amalgamating the diverse and selective reporting of HR-responses in literature on shoulder surgeries in BCP, we observed lack of enough evidence for definitive associations of adverse HR-responses with different pharmacological agents like β -agonists or opioids. However, fentanyl can significantly influence HR-fall in BCP. Since HR-variations correlate well with monitored brain saturation values, the adverse HR-responses may also be induced by regional oxygenation of VMC in the brain, independent of anaesthetic agents. Close monitoring for CDEs could free the anaesthesiologist from concerns regarding the type of anaesthesia as well as intra-operative maintenance anaesthetic agents and ancillary drugs

employed. However, further studies are essential to derive a cause-effect relationship with respect to adverse HR-responses. The key may lie in cerebral oxygenation levels at the VMC, and monitoring this parameter could set the direction for future research in this field.

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Conflicts of interest

There are no conflicts of interest.

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1. Beach chair position
2. Beach-chair position
3. BCP
4. BCP complication
5. BCP complications
6. BCP anaesthesia
7. BCP anesthesia
8. Beach chair seated positioning
9. Beach chair seated anaesthesia
10. Beach chair seated surgery
11. OR/1 to 10 (3235)
12. Shoulder arthroscopy
13. Shoulder arthroplasty
14. Shoulder arthroscopic surgery
15. Shoulder surgery
16. Shoulder scopy
17. OR/12 to 16 (37477)
18. Hemodynamic
19. Hemodynamic monitoring
20. Hemodynamic/clinical
21. Hemodynamic/anaesthetic
22. Hemodynamic
23. Haemodynamic monitoring
24. OR/18 to 23 (724087)
25. Heart rate
26. Heart rate response
27. Heart rate responses
28. Adverse hemodynamic events
29. Adverse heart rate response
30. OR/25 to 29 (338011)
31. Hypotensive bradycardic episode
32. Hypotensive bradycardic
33. Hypotensive bradycardic episode
34. Hypotensive bradycardic episodes
35. Hypotensive bradycardic events
36. Bradycardic episode
37. OR/31 to 36 (37)
38. Bezold jarisch reflex
39. Bezold jarisch reflex activation
40. Bezold jarisch like bradycardia reflex
41. Bezold jarisch
42. Bezold jarisch like bradycardia reflex
43. Bezold jarisch reflex like reaction
44. Bezold jarisch effects
45. Bezold jarisch like
46. Bezold jarisch like bradycardia reflex
47. Bezold jarisch like effect
48. Bezold jarisch like phenomenon
49. Bezold jarisch like reflex
50. Bezold jarisch model
51. Bezold jarisch reflex
52. Bezold jarisch reflex activation
53. Bezold jarisch reflex assay
54. Bezold jarisch reflex function
55. Bezold jarisch reflex induced decrease
56. Bezold jarisch reflex responses
57. Bezold jarisch reflex test
58. Bezold jarisch reflexes
59. Bezold jarisch response
60. Bezold jarisch s
61. OR/38 to 53 (377)
62. Bradycardia
63. Bradycardia/arrest
64. Bradycardia/asystole
65. Bradycardia/asystolia
66. Bradycardia/asystolic
67. Bradycardia/atrioventricular
68. Bradycardia/bradyarrhythmia
69. Bradycardia/cardiac
70. Bradycardia/case
71. Bradycardia/complications
72. Bradycardia/collapse
73. Bradycardia/desaturation
74. Bradycardia/hypotension
75. Bradycardia/sinus
76. Bradycardia/sinus arrest
77. Bradycardia/slow
78. Bradycardia/surgery
79. Bradycardia event
80. Bradycardia events
81. OR/62 to 80 (25618)
82. Epinephrine
83. Adrenaline
84. Beta blocker
85. Ondansetron
86. 11 OR 17 OR 24 OR 30 OR 37 OR 61 OR 81 (909292)
87. 17 AND 37 AND 61 (2289)
88. 11 AND 17 (214)
89. 17 AND 81 (45)
90. 17 AND 30 (181)
91. 11 AND 24 (41)
92. 61 AND 81 (118)

Supplementary Digital Content File 1: The Search Strategy. The search terms were used to search databases of MEDLINE, EMBASE, CCRCT and, CINHALL (modified to suit each specific database with abstract, keywords and text with the removal of duplicates)

IDENTIFICATION

Primary search result of data bases (MEDLINE, EMBASE, CCRCT and CINHAL) of all shoulder surgeries
n = 11847

SCREENING

Papers considered from abstract for text review
n = 2306

Exclusion of non-pertinent papers

SCREENING

Filtered: clinical trials, prospective studies
n = 661

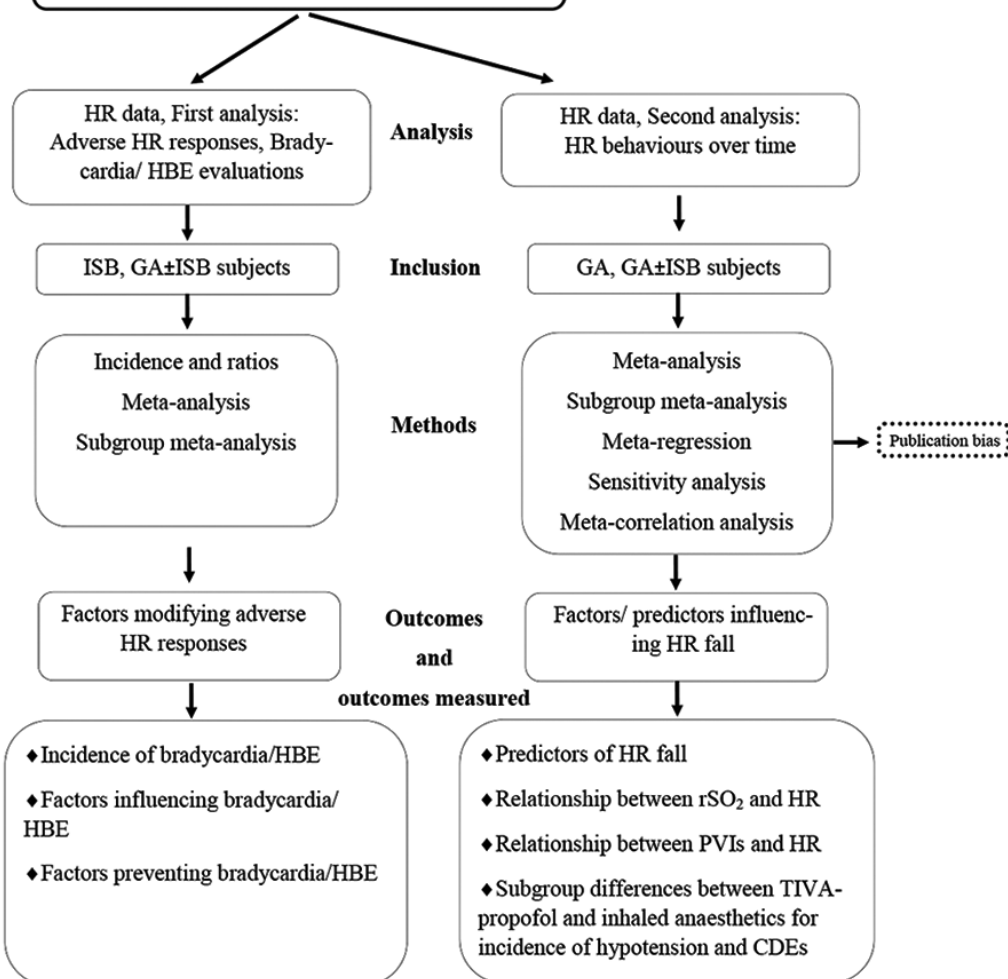
ELIGIBILITY

Excluding duplicants, no outcome of interests and non-BCP:
n = 55

No mention about position of surgery (n = 3)
No pre-BCP HR mentioned (n = 3)
No mention of type of anaesthesia (n = 1)
Could not be translated to English language (n = 1)

INCLUDED

Studies included in meta-analysis
n = 47



Supplementary Digital Content File 2: Flow Chart for literature Identification and Study Selection. Details of analysis and outcomes are shown. BCP - Beach chair position; CDE - Cerebral desaturation event; GA - General anaesthesia; HR - Heart rate; HBE - Hypotension-bradycardia episode; ISB - Interscalene block; PVIs - Prophylactic vasopressor infusions; rSO₂ - Regional cerebral oxygen saturation; TIVA - Total intravenous anaesthesia

Note (Supplementary Digital Content File 3):

Analysis details: Data of studies which include both analysis; (1) HR data of adverse HR-responses (first analysis); (2) HR data of HR-variability (second analysis). To define an 'adverse event', authors' own definitions have been used. Details of bradycardia/HBE or hypotension are shown in separate columns.

During second analysis of HR variabilities, we found no publication bias for EHR and DHR (Egger's test, $P = 0.836$ and 0.976 , respectively) for included studies. However, funnel plot showed that the study by Meex *et al.*,^[59] influenced the analysis (Egger's test, $P < 0.001$). Excluding this study resulted in non-significant P value ($P = 0.06$) for MHR responses. However, inclusion of this study did not alter the overall outcomes for MHRs. Please see Supplementary Digital Content File 5 for 'Publication bias'.

Use of prophylactic vasopressor infusions (PVI) and effect on HR, rSO₂ and HR-rSO₂ relationships: PVI were used in 10 SGs. The certainty of the effects of PVI on HR necessitated additional analyses on the control groups of each trial. Meta-analysis clearly demonstrated lower HR in BCP among SGs using PVI as compared to those not using them ($P = 0.004$, within trials).^[15,33-35] When SGs using PVI were compared in pre- and post-BCP, lower HRs were not observed ($P = 0.23$, within SGs).^[15,33-35] The overall association of PVI vis-à-vis HR changes in BCP was non-significant (sensitivity analysis and meta-regression). Since we considered rSO₂ values for the entire duration of surgery, no attempt was made to establish relationships between the two. Further, meta-correlation analyses were considered on HR-rSO₂ relationships with and without use of PVI. The use of PVI did not make a difference (with PVI use, $r = 0.693$, 95%CI, 0.391 to 0.860, $P < 0.001$, random effects, $I^2 = 72.5\%$, $n = 90$ and without PVI use, $r = 0.560$, 95%CI, 0.332 to 0.727, $P < 0.001$, random effects, $I^2 = 80.81\%$, $n = 291$).

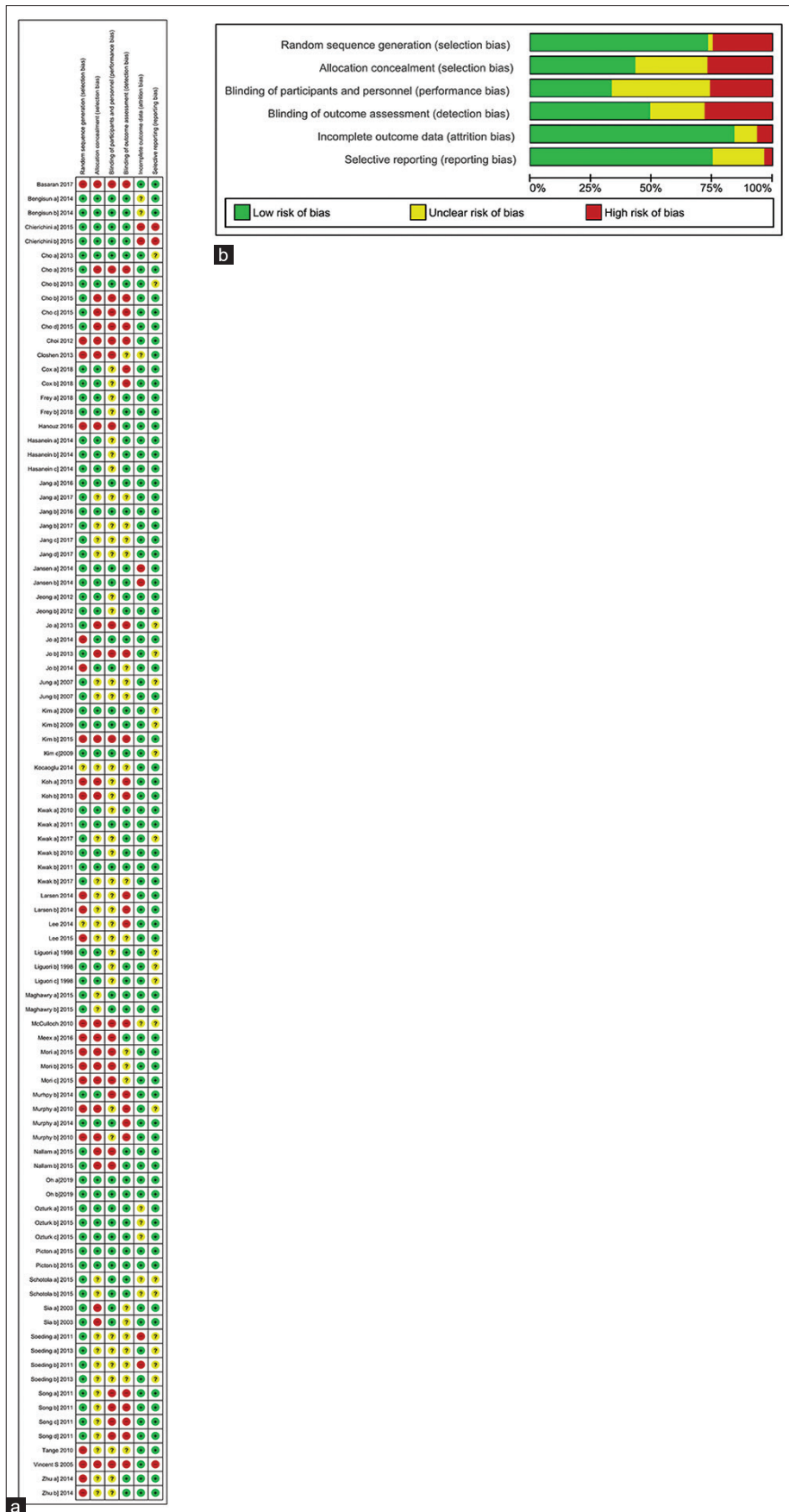
Relationship between rSO₂ and MBP: Twenty SGs^[16,33-35,46,56,60,65] evaluated MBP and rSO₂ at specific intervals over the entire BCP period. Data were recorded as statistical averages for absolute values of consecutive timings. Meta-correlation analysis showed statistically significant correlation between MBP and rSO₂ values ($r = 0.597$, 95% CI, 0.432 to 0.723, $P < 0.001$, random effects, $I^2 = 79.9\%$) confirming the predictable relationship between the two.

Physiological controls and HR: Four SGs^[31,53,59,62] evaluated HR responses over time. Meta-analysis demonstrated no change of HR after positioning to BCP ($P = 0.58$).

Vaso-active drugs consumption: Pooled averages of ephedrine requirements (mgs) were higher for GA ± ISB ($n = 83$) subjects^[54,56] than GA alone^[16,33,35,40,44,48,60,62] ($n = 390$) to maintain the desired BP (23.1 ± 32.1 vs 15.4 ± 27.3 , per subject, respectively, $P = 0.026$). Ephedrine consumptions in inhalation anaesthesia^[16,35,40,44,48,54,56,60] ($n = 396$) and TIVA-propofol^[16,33,35] ($n = 77$) were 17.8 ± 31.1 and 12.4 ± 5.9 respectively ($P = 0.236$). CDEs, rSO₂ and HR measurements were not analysed for vaso-active drug consumptions as the timings of administration were inadequately available.

Jadad scores: Variable Jadad scores (-2 to 5) were observed for included studies as inclusion of studies to this meta-analysis was not set for minimum scores. Inclusion of all studies would not change the incidences of adverse HR-responses. This is because all subjects of BCP-surgery were analysed pre- and post-BCP status in addition to comparative controls during analysis.

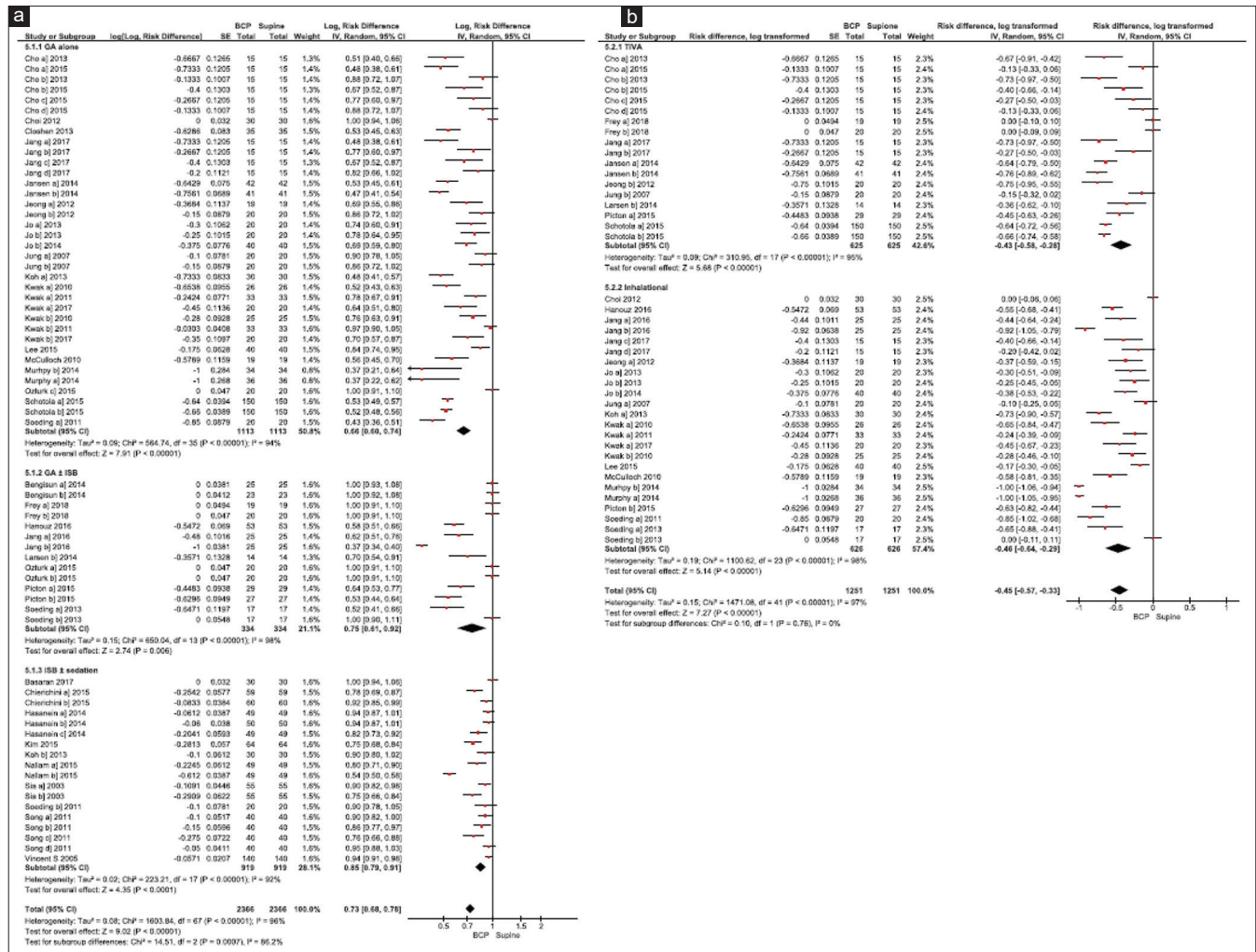
BCP - Beach chair position; BP - Blood pressure; CDE - Cerebral desaturation event; CI - Confidence intervals; DHR - Delayed heart rate; EHR - Early heart rate; GA - General anaesthesia; HBE - Hypotension bradycardia episode; HR - Heart rate; ISB - Interscalene block; MBP - Mean blood pressure; MHR - Mid heart rate; PVI - Prophylactic vasopressor infusion; rSO₂ - regional cerebral oxygen saturation; SG - Study group; TIVA - Total intravenous anaesthesia.



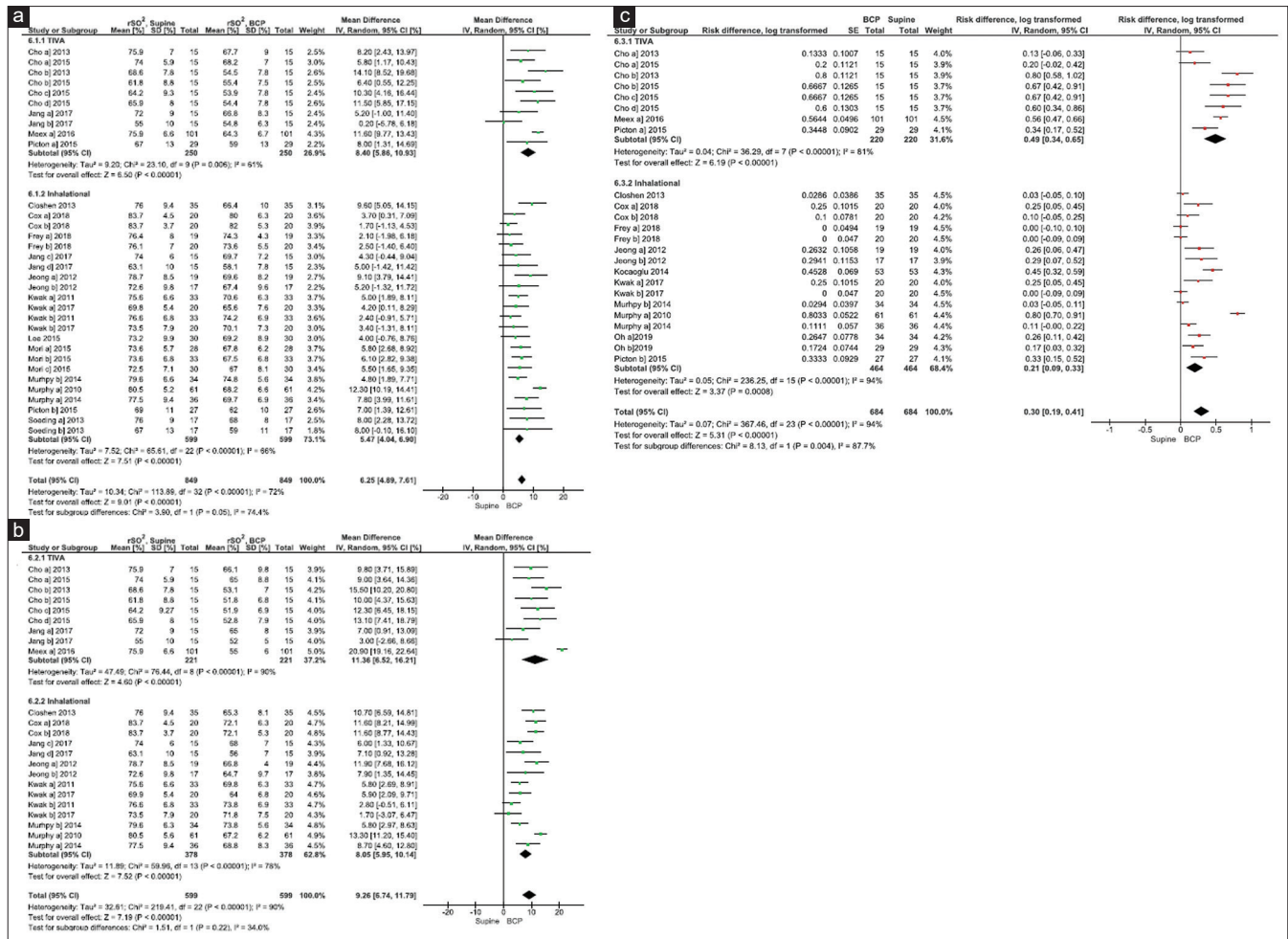
Supplementary Digital Content File 4: Risk of bias summary (a) and graph (b)

No.	Parameter	Inclusion of Meex et al, ^[59]	Excluding Meex et al, ^[59]
1	HR fall (beats/min)		
	Type of anaesthesia, MD (95% CI)	4.5 (2.9, 6.2)	4.2 (2.9, 5.4)
	Test for heterogeneity	$I^2 = 69\%, P < 0.00001$	$I^2 = 40\%, P < 0.004$
	Test for subgroup differences	$P = 0.28$	$P = 0.33$
2	HR fall (beats/min)		
	Maintenance agent, MD (95% CI)	4.9 (3.06, 6.73)	4.5(3.6, 5.9)
	Test for heterogeneity	$I^2 = 70\%, P < 0.00001$	$I^2 = 43\%, P < 0.002$
	Test for subgroup differences	$P = 0.15$	$P < 0.0001$
3	CDEs (Incidences, log-number of subjects)		
	Maintenance agent, MD (95% CI)	0.31 (0.19, 0.42)	0.29 (0.17, 0.41)
	Test for heterogeneity	$I^2 = 94\%, P < 0.00001$	$I^2 = 94\%, P < 0.00001$
	Test for subgroup differences	$P = 0.006$	$P = 0.02$
4	rSO₂ (absolute fall, %)		
	Maintenance agent, MD (95% CI)	6.3 (4.9, 7.6)	6 (4.6, 7.3)
	Test for heterogeneity	$I^2 = 72\%, P < 0.00001$	$I^2 = 63\%, P < 0.00001$
	Test for subgroup differences	$P = 0.052$	$P = 0.13$
5	rSO₂ (lowest achieved, %)		
	Maintenance agent, MD (95% CI)	9.3 (6.7, 11.8)	8.7 (7, 10.3)
	Test for heterogeneity	$I^2 = 90\%, P < 0.00001$	$I^2 = 72\%, P < 0.00001$
	Test for subgroup differences	$P = 0.22$	$P = 0.26$

Supplementary Digital Content File 5: Publication Bias. All the measures are MDs from pre- to post-BCP status. HR was considered for mid periods (11-30 mins of BCP) only as data for rest of the periods (EHR and DHR) did not reveal publication bias during funnel plot asymmetry evaluation and Egger's test. We observe after inclusion of study by Meex *et al.*,^[59] there are no gross change in the results for most of the parameters indicating addition of this study had not influenced the data outputs. CDE - Cerebral desaturation event; CI – Confidence interval; HR - Heart rate; MD – Mean difference; rSO₂ - Regional cerebral oxygen saturation



Supplementary Digital Content 6: The figure that illustrates the forest plot depicting number of subjects experiencing the hypotension episodes with respect to (a) Type of anaesthesia (GA, GA + ISB or ISB ± sedation) (b) Maintenance agent (TIVA-propofol or inhaled anaesthesia). Meta-analysis of this parameter for pre- and post-BCP status revealed higher RD for SGs with GA than GA + ISB subjects and ISB ± sedation (test for sub-group differences $P = 0.0007$, $I^2 = 86.2%$). However, higher observed risk was not found for subjects of TIVA-propofol over inhaled anaesthetics for developing hypotensive responses ($P = 0.76$, $I^2 = 0%$). BCP - Beach chair position; CI - Confidence interval; GA - General anaesthetics; ISB - Interscalene block; IV - Inverse variance; RD - Risk difference; SE - Standard error; SG - Study group; TIVA - Total intravenous anaesthesia



Supplementary Digital Content File 7: The figure that illustrates the number of subjects who experienced regional CDEs. (a) Meta-analysis of pooled estimates showed statistically significant fall in absolute values of rSO₂ with both TIVA-propofol and inhalational maintenance anaesthetics ($I^2 = 72\%$, $P < 0.00001$). In 4 SGs which had separate left and right cerebral hemisphere recordings, the readings of the side with maximum MDs were considered. There were no differences between sub-groups with respect to the type of maintenance agent used ($I^2 = 74.4\%$, $P = 0.05$). Type of anaesthesia (GA or GA + ISB) was not considered for sub-group evaluation due to paucity of relevant publications. There was no evidence of publication bias (Egger's test, $P = 0.466$). (b) Lowest recorded values of CDEs were extracted from 23 SGs. Lowest MD values of CDEs, showed no sub-group differences between different maintenance agents ($I^2 = 34\%$, $P = 0.22$) over 5 to 90 minutes or till the end of surgery, whichever was earlier. There was evidence of publication bias (Egger's test, $P = 0.003$) however without affecting overall results (refer 'publication bias', Supplementary Digital Content File 5). (c) Number of subjects who experienced CDEs were reported in 24 SGs. Sub-group analysis of number of subjects who experienced CDEs revealed that TIVA-propofol had higher RD ($P = 0.004$, $I^2 = 87.7\%$). There was no evidence of publication bias (Egger's test, $P = 0.257$). BCP - Beach chair position; CDE - Cerebral desaturation event; CI - Confidence interval; IV - Inverse variance; ISB - Interscalene block; rSO₂ - Regional cerebral oxygen saturation. SE - Standard error; TIVA - Total intravenous anaesthesia