

WEBTABLE I SUMMARY OF DESIGN AND METHODOLOGICAL ASPECTS OF TRIALS COMPARING STEROID THERAPY DURATION IN CHILDREN WITH FIRST EPISODE OF NS

<i>Intervention group</i>	<i>Control group</i>	<i>RoB</i>	<i>Ref. No.</i>
N=22 4 mo 2 mg/kg/d for 4 wk, 1.5 mg/kg/d for 4 wk then 1.5 mg/kg alternate d for 4 wk, 1 mg/kg alternate d for 4 wk. Total: 133 mg/kg	N=23 2 mo 2 mg/kg/d for 4 wk then 1.5 mg/kg alternate d for 4 wk Total: 77mg/kg.	R=NS A=adequate B=No	10
N=34 3 mo 60 mg/m ² /d for 6 wk and 40 mg/m ² alternate d for 6 wk Total: 3360 mg/m ²	N=37 2 mo 60 mg/m ² /d for 4 wk and 40 mg/m ² alternate d for 4 wk Total 2240 mg/m ²	R=Unclear A=adequate B=No	2
70 in analysis 6 mo 60 mg/m ² /d for 6 wk; 40 mg/m ² on alternate d for 6 wk; taper by 10 mg/m ² each month for 3 mo. Total 4200 mg/m ²	70 in analysis 3 mo 60 mg/m ² /d for 6 wk; 40 mg/m ² on alternate d for 6 wk Total 3360 mg/m ²	R=adequate A=adequate B=No	16
N=30 3 mo Prednisolone 40 mg/m ² /d (max 60 mg) for 6 wk, 40 mg/m ² on alternate d for 6 wk Total: 3360 mg/m ²	N=30 3 mo Prednisolone 40 mg/m ² /d (max 60 mg) for 6 wk, 40 mg/m ² on alternate d for 6 wk. Total: 2520 mg/m ²	R=NS A=Unclear B=No	17
N=36 28 wk 60 mg/m ² /d (max 80 mg) for 4 wk; 60 mg/m ² (max 80 mg) alternate d for 4 wk & reducing by 10 mg/m ² each month. Total: 4620 mg/m ²	N=34 12 wk 60 mg/m ² /d for 6 wk (max 80 mg); 40 mg/m ² (max 60 mg) on alternate d for 6 wk. Total 2520 mg/m ²	R=Unclear A=adequate B=No	18
48 in analysis 7 mo Prednisolone 60 mg/m ² /d for 4 wk. 60 mg/m ² alternate d. Reducing alternate day dose by 10 mg/m ² every 4 wk. Total: 4620 mg/m ²	70 in analysis 2 mo 60 mg/m ² /d for 4 wk. 40 mg/m ² alternate d for 4 wk. Total: 2240 mg/m ²	R=adequate A=adequate B=No	19
N=72 5 mo Prednisone 1-2 mg/kg/d for 4 wk, 1 mg/kg alternate d for 4 wk and taper by 25% each month. Total: 63 to 91 mg/kg And N=68 3 mo Prednisone 1-2 mg/kg/d for 4 wk, 1 mg/kg alternate d for 4 wk and taper by 25%/wk for 4 wk. Total: 47-75mg/kg	N=44 2 mo Prednisone 4 wk each of 1-2 mg/kg/d and 1 mg/kg on alternate d. Total: 42-70 mg/kg	R=NS A=Inadequate B=No	20
N=40; 37 in analysis 5 mo Prednisolone 2mg/kg/d for 6 wk, followed by 1.5mg/kg/d alternate day for 6 wk, 1 mg/kg alternate day for 4 wk, 0.5mg/kg alternate day for 4 wk Total: 136.5 mg/kg	N=40; 37 in analysis 3 mo Prednisolone 2mg/kg/d for 6 wk followed by 1.5 mg/kg alternate d for 6 wk Total: 115.5 mg/kg	R=NS A=NS B=No	21

<i>Intervention group</i>	<i>Control group</i>	<i>RoB</i>	<i>Ref</i>
N=29 3 mo Prednisone 60 mg/m ² /d for 6 wk followed by 40 mg/m ² alternate day for 6 wk Total 3360 mg/m ²	N=27 2 mo Prednisone 60 mg/m ² /d for 4 wk followed by 40 mg/m ² alternate day for 4 wk Total 2240 mg/m ²	R=Inadequate A=Inadequate B=No	22
N=47 (41 evaluated) 3 moprednisolone 60mg/m ² /day for six wk followed by 40mg/m ² alternate day for six wk. Total: 3360 mg/m ²	N=46 (31 evaluated) 2 mo 60mg/m ² /day for four wk followed by 40mg/m ² alternate day for four wk Total: 2240 mg/m ²	R=NS A=NS B=NS	23
N=16 26 wk (6.5 mo) Prednisone 2 mg/kg/d for 6 wk; 2 mg/kg on alternate d for 6 wk.Reduction by 0.25 mg/2 wk. Total 168mg/kg Another group received: 26 wk (6.5mo) IV methylprednisolone 20 mg/kg/dose for 3 d; 1 mg/kg/d for 6 wk; 1 mg/kg on alternate d for 6 wk. Reduced by 0.25 mg/2-4 wk.	N=16 8 wk (2 mo) Prednisone 2 mg/kg/d for 4 wk; 2 mg/kg alternate d for 4 wk.Duration 8 wk. Total 84 mg/kg	R=Inadequate A=Inadequate B=No	24
N=92 6 mo prednisolone at 2 mg/kg daily for 6 wk, followed by 1.5 mg/kg on alternate d for 6 wk. Total: 147 mg/kg	N=89 3 mo prednisolone at 2 mg/kgdaily for 6 wk, followed by placebo for 6 wk. Total: 115.5 mg/kg	R=Adequate A=Adequate B=Yes	6
N=64 6 mo 60 mg/m ² daily till remission, then 50 mg/m ² daily till 6 wk, followed by 40 mg/m ² alternate day for 4 wk, 20mg/m ² alternate day for next 4 wk, and 10 mg/m ² alternate day for 10 wk Total: 3320-3710 mg/m ²	N=37 3 mo 60 mg/m ² daily till 6 wk, followed by 40 mg/m ² alternate day for 6 wk, then placebo for 12 wkTotal 3360 mg/m ²	R=Adequate A=Adequate B=Yes	5
N=17 7 mo Prednisolone 60 mg/m ² /d for 4 wk, 60 mg/m ² alternate d for 4 wk and taper by 10 mg/m ² /mo. Total 4620 mg/m ²	N=29 2 mo Prednisolone 60 mg/m ² /d for 4 wk and 40 mg/m ² on 3 of 7 d for 4 wk. Total 2240 mg/m ²	R=NS A=Inadequate B=No	25
N=83 in analysis 4.5 mo Chinese herb Sairei-to. > 40 kg 8.1 g/d, 20-40 kg 5.4 g/d, < 20 kg 2.7 g/d Plus Prednisolone 2 mg/kg/day for 4 wk, 2 mg/kg alternate d for 8 wk, 1.5 mg/kg alternate d for 2 wk, 1 mg/kg alternate d for 2 wk, 0.5 mg/kg alternate d for 2 wk Total: 133mg/kg	N=88 in analysis 2 mo Chinese herb Sairei-to. > 40 kg 8.1 g/d, 20-40 kg 5.4 g/d, < 20 kg 2.7 g/d Plus Prednisone 2 mg/kg/d for 4 wk, 1.3 mg/kg alternate day for 4 wk.Total: 74 mg/kg	R=NS A=Inadequate B=No	26
N=127; 122 in analysis 6 mo 60 mg/m ² daily for 4 wk, 60 mg/m ² alternate day for next 4 wk, 45 mg/m ² alternate day for next 4 wk, 30 mg/m ² alternate day for next 4 wk, 15 mg/m ² alternate day for next 4 wk, 7.5 mg/m ² alternate day for next 4 wk Total: 3885 mg/m ²	N=128; 124 in analysis 2 mo60 mg/m ² daily for 4 wk, 40 mg/m ² alternate day for 4 wkTotal: 2240 mg/m ²	R=Adequate A=No B=No	1

A=Allocation concealment, B=Blinding, R=Generation of randomization sequence, RoB= Risk of Bias.