

Web Table I Search Strategy

Database	Search query	Results
PubMed	(((((("febrile seizure"[Title/Abstract]) OR ("febrile seizures"[Title/Abstract])) OR ("febrile fits"[Title/Abstract])) OR ("Febrile Convulsions"[Title/Abstract])) OR ("febrile convulsion"[Title/Abstract])) AND ((Zinc[Title/Abstract]) OR ("zinc"[MeSH Terms]))	35
EMBASE	('zinc'/exp OR 'zinc') AND 'febrile convulsion'	92
CENTRAL	("zinc"): ti,ab,kw AND ("febrile seizure"): ti,ab,kw	5

Web Table II Summary of findings

Certainty assessment							Summary of findings				
Participants (studies) Follow up	Risk of bias	Inconsistency	Indirectness	Imprecision	Publication bias	Overall certainty of evidence	Study event rates (%)		Relative effect (95% CI)	Anticipated absolute effects	
							With placebo	With Zinc		Risk with placebo	Risk difference with Zinc

Febrile Seizure Recurrence

350 (4 RCTs)	very serious ^a	serious ^b	not serious	serious ^c	all plausible residual confounding would reduce the demonstrated effect	⊕○○○ ○ VERY LOW	41/175 (23.4 %)	31/175 (17.7 %)	OR 0.70 (0.41 to 1.18)	234 per 1,000	58 fewer per 1,000 (from 123 fewer to 31 more)
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CI: Confidence interval; **OR:** Odds ratio

Explanations

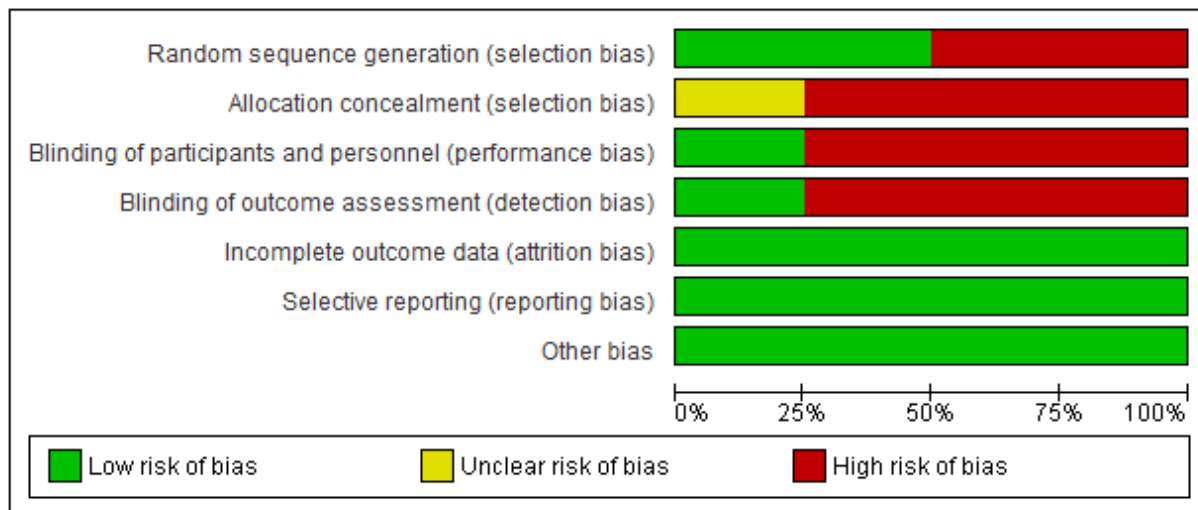
a. Shiva 2011, Ahmadabadi 2014 and Kulkarni 2020 had significant risk of bias

b. Odds of recurrence of febrile seizure in intervention group was more in study by Kulkarni 2020 unlike other 3 studies

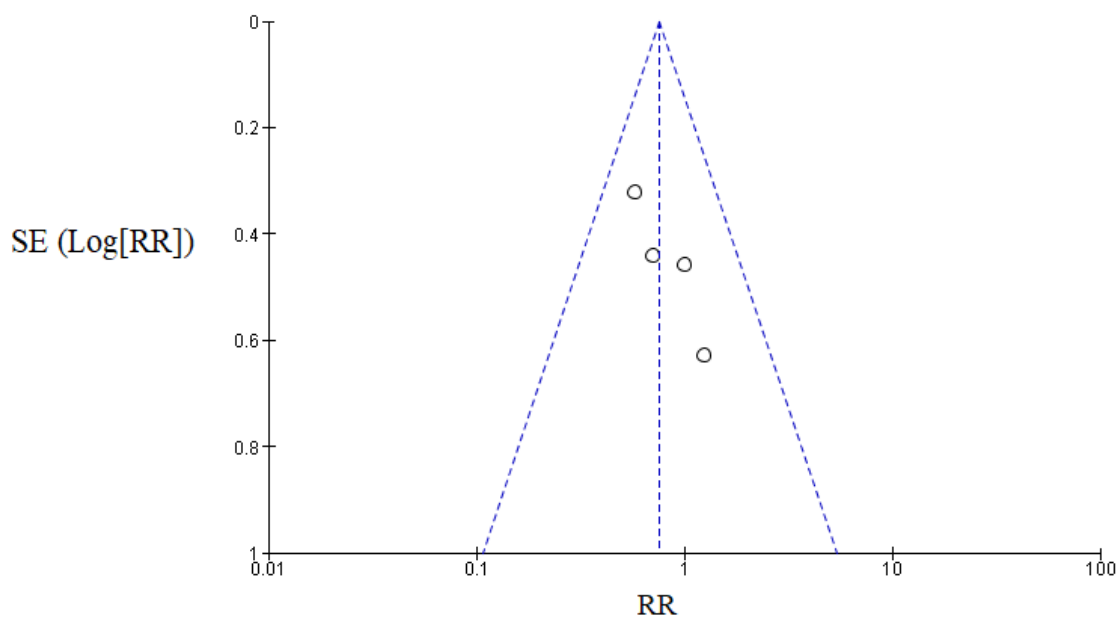
c. Pooled 95% CI for odds ratio is wide

	Random sequence generation (selection bias)	Allocation concealment (selection bias)	Blinding of participants and personnel (performance bias)	Blinding of outcome assessment (detection bias)	Incomplete outcome data (attrition bias)	Selective reporting (reporting bias)	Other bias
Ahmadabadi 2014	+	-	-	-	+	+	+
Fallah 2015	+	?	+	+	+	+	+
Kulkarni 2020	-	-	-	-	+	+	+
Shiva 2011	-	-	-	-	+	+	+

Web Fig. 1 Risk of bias summary depicting authors' judgement regarding risk of bias for each included study.



Web Fig. 2 Risk of bias graph depicting authors' judgement regarding individual risk of bias item as percentages across all studies.



Web Fig. 3 Funnel plot depicting publication bias related to effect of zinc supplementation on rate of febrile seizure recurrence in children less than 60 months of age.