

# ENDGAMES

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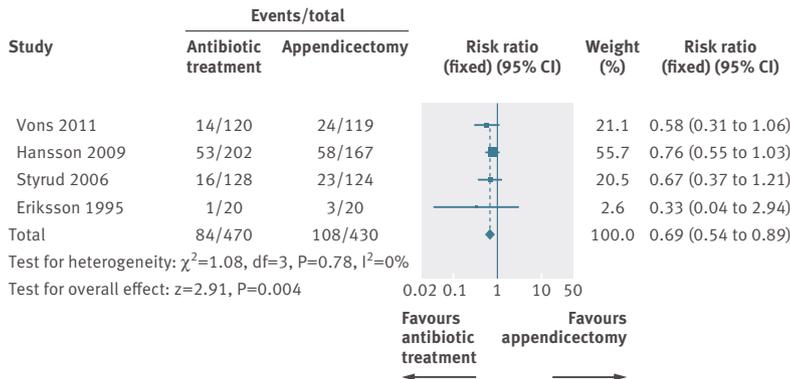
## STATISTICAL QUESTION How to read a forest plot

Researchers undertook a meta-analysis of the safety and efficacy of antibiotic treatment compared with appendicectomy for the primary treatment of uncomplicated acute appendicitis. Randomised controlled trials were included if they investigated adult patients presenting with uncomplicated acute appendicitis, diagnosed by haematological and radiological investigations. The primary outcome measure was the presence of complications, including wound infection, perforated appendicitis, or peritonitis. Four randomised controlled trials were identified. The results of the meta-analysis for complications were presented in a forest plot.

Which of the following statements, if any, are true?

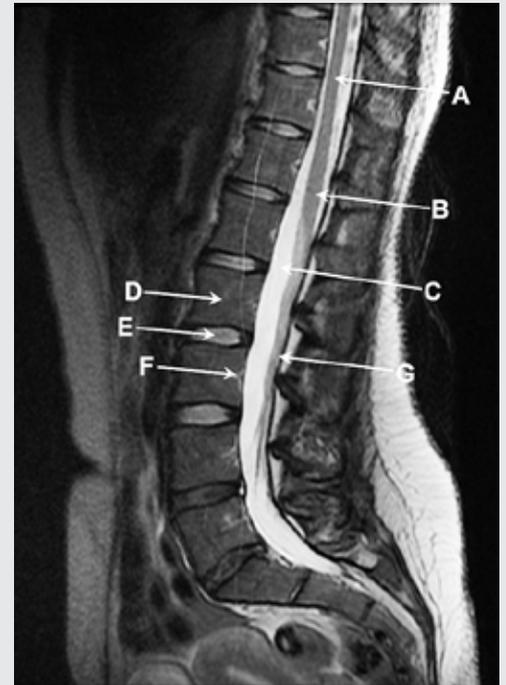
- Not one of the four trials showed a significant difference between antibiotic treatment and appendicectomy in the risk of complications.
- The forest plot is drawn on a linear scale.
- A relative risk less than 1.0 represents a reduced risk of complications for antibiotic treatment compared with appendicectomy.
- The meta-analysis of complications showed a relative risk reduction of 31% for antibiotic treatment compared with appendicectomy.
- No significant heterogeneity existed between the sample estimates of the population relative risk.

Submitted by Philip Sedgwick  
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## ANATOMY QUIZ

### Sagittal T2 weighted MRI of the lumbar spine



Identify the structures labelled A-G on this T2 weighted sagittal magnetic resonance image of the lumbosacral spine.

Submitted by Sumit J Karia and Rahil H Kassamali  
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## PICTURE QUIZ

### A skin rash to remember

A 30 year old man presented to the emergency department with a four to five day history of a painful disfiguring rash (fig). It started around his mouth but later spread to the rest of his face, as well as his neck and shoulders. He had a history of mild atopic dermatitis, but he had been otherwise well apart from a "cold sore" before the rash appeared. He was not taking any regular drugs, had no allergies, and had not treated the rash with any topical drugs. He was systemically well and the only abnormalities seen on routine blood tests were mild lymphopenia ( $0.8 \times 10^9/L$ , reference range 1-4) with raised C reactive protein 64 mg/L ( $<0.6$ ; 1 mg/L=9.5 nmol/L). HIV testing was negative.

- What is the diagnosis?
- How would you make the diagnosis?
- What treatment should be instituted?
- What factors can predispose patients to this condition?

Submitted by Peter J Moran, Pierce Geoghegan, Donal J Sexton, and Anthony O'Regan  
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