



review were comprehensive and included all relevant studies in this arena. In addition, they utilized rigorous inclusion criteria and assessed heterogeneity in the various study designs and populations.

Besides including pooled relative risks in the results of the meta-analysis, they also calculated the number needed to treat (NNT), a measure of utility that is important to the clinician and clinical research. In this analysis, the number of women who were at risk of preterm delivery before 34 weeks' gestation who needed to be treated with magnesium sulfate rather than placebo to prevent one case of CP was 52 (95% confidence interval, 31-154).

Last, the authors provided a measure of the impact of the use of magnesium sulfate on the public health and economic sectors, placing the problem and intervention in a broader, highly relevant context.

No revelations about magnesium in multiple versus singleton gestations

The trials included in this meta-analysis had limitations, of course. As a result, Conde-Agudelo and Romero were unable to estimate the direction and magnitude of the effect of magnesium sulfate on the risk of CP among multiple versus singleton gestations. Nor were they able to comment on the relative influence of the various dosing and treatment protocols employed in the primary trials. Therefore, this analysis cannot be used to advocate a specific dosage or protocol. 🚫

References

1. Vohr BR, Msall ME, Wilson D, Wright LL, McDonald S, Poole WK. Spectrum of gross motor function in extremely low birth weight children with cerebral palsy at 18 months of age. *Pediatrics*. 2005;116:123-129.
2. Prevalence and characteristics of children with cerebral palsy in Europe. *Dev Med Child Neurol*. 2002;44:633-640.
3. Yeargin-Allsopp M, Van Naarden Braun K, Doernberg NS, et al. Prevalence of cerebral palsy in 8-year-old children in three areas of the United States in 2002: a multisite collaboration. *Pediatrics*. 2008;121:547-554.

FAST TRACK

The number of women at risk of preterm delivery before 34 weeks who needed to be treated with magnesium sulfate to prevent one case of cerebral palsy was 52

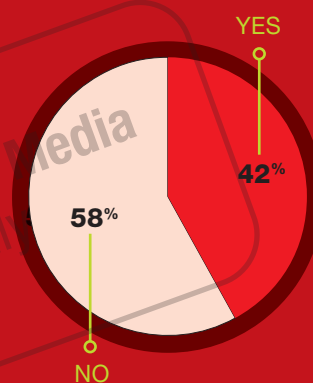
Instant Poll Results



From July 2009

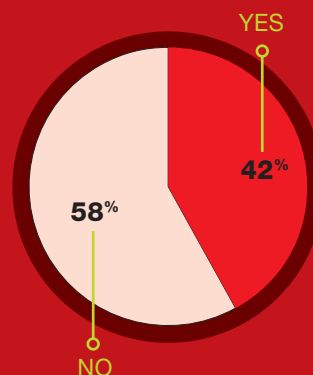
Using the Gail risk calculator

In the past year, I have recommended that postmenopausal women in my practice calculate their 5-year risk of breast cancer using the Gail model calculator.



Rx: chemoprevention

Over the past year, I have prescribed raloxifene or tamoxifen more often than in the past to prevent breast cancer in postmenopausal women at increased risk.



Note: These results should be viewed with caution, as they are based on limited data.