Should handrubbing or hand scrubbing be used to reduce CFUs on participants' hands for an immediate or sustained effect?

Quality assessment							№ of patients		Effect		Quality
№ of studies	**Study design**	**Risk of bias**	**Inconsistency**	**Indirectness**	**Imprecision**	**Other considerations**	**With handrubbing**	**With hand scrubbing**	**Relative (95% CI)**	**Absolute (95% CI)**	
Log reduction of CFUs on participants' hands in a hospital setting (better indicated by higher values)											
3 [1]	RCTs	Not serious	Serious [2]	Very serious [3]	Not serious	none	60	58	-	Mean ranged from 0.47 to 3.43 higher	⨁◯◯◯ VERY LOW
Log reduction of CFUs on participants' hands in a laboratory setting (better indicated by higher values)											
2 [4]	RCTs	Not serious	Serious	Very serious [3]	Not serious	none	170	100	-	Mean ranged from 1.7 to 2.6 higher	⨁◯◯◯ VERY LOW

1. Included studies are Gupta (2007), Larson (2009) and Ghorbani (2012).
2. Sampling technique, time and primary outcome measure are all extremely variable.
3. All studies measured CFU on participants' hands (surrogate outcome) whereas our primary outcome measure is the SSI rate. The association between the reduction in CFUs and SSI rate has not been shown yet.
4. Included studies are Rotter (2006) and Mulberry (2001).

CFU: colony-forming unit; RCT: randomized controlled trial; OR: odds ratio; CI: confidence interval.