

#### Appendix 4 (as supplied by the authors): Subgroup analyses of dichotomous outcome data

Stratification	No. of patients	Studies	RR (95% CI)	P value	I <sup>2</sup> (%)
<b>Lung injury</b>					
Risk of bias					
Low	679	5	0.41 (0.16–1.05)	0.064	0
Unclear/high	173	3	0.27 (0.77–1.07)	0.062	0
Surgical setting					
Cardiothoracic	311	5	0.35 (0.15–0.86)	0.022	0
Abdominal	541	3	0.41 (0.08–2.11)	0.284	11.1
Tidal volume gradient, mL/kg					
5–6	452	7	0.41 (0.18–0.93)	0.034	0
7–8	400	1	0.17 (0.02–1.37)	0.096	/
<b>Pulmonary infection</b>					
Risk of bias					
Low	679	4	0.42 (0.19–0.92)	0.03	42.0
Unclear/high	141	3	0.64 (0.11–3.79)	0.622	0
Surgical setting					
Cardiothoracic	279	4	0.48 (0.23–1.02)	0.056	0
Abdominal	541	3	0.47 (0.15–1.51)	0.203	45.8
Tidal volume gradient, mL/kg					
5–6	420	6	0.59 (0.32–1.08)	0.089	0
7–8	400	1	0.19 (0.06–0.63)	0.007	/
<b>Atelectasis</b>					
Risk of bias					
Low	526	3	0.41 (0.23–0.72)	0.002	0
Unclear/high	151	4	0.92 (0.42–1.98)	0.823	45.6
Surgical setting					
Cardiothoracic	166	3	1.06 (0.31–3.62)	0.931	0
Abdominal	495	3	0.42 (0.26–0.70)	0.001	0
Tidal volume gradient, mL/kg					
5–6	222	5	1.21(0.75–1.98)	0.437	0
7–8	455	2	0.36 (0.21–0.64)	0.000	0

*continued*

## Appendix 4 continued

Stratification	No. of patients	Studies	RR (95% CI)	<i>P</i> value	<i>I</i> <sup>2</sup> (%)
<b>Mortality</b>					
Risk of bias					
Low	679	5	0.80 (0.37–1.73)	0.571	0
Unclear/high	471	8	0.58 (0.12–2.71)	0.484	0
Surgical setting					
Cardiothoracic	554	9	0.68 (0.18–2.60)	0.578	0
Abdominal	596	4	0.77 (0.35–1.74)	0.534	0
Tidal volume gradient, mL/kg					
5–6	655	10	0.68 (0.28–1.68)	0.404	0
7–8	495	3	0.86 (0.29–2.51)	0.778	/

Note: CI = confidence interval, RR = relative risk.