



Comparative Effects of Smoking Cessation Intervention for Adolescents: A Systematic Review and Network Meta-analysis

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INTRODCUCTION

- Tobacco use causes over 8 million deaths each year, with adolescents at high risk due to early initiation and nicotine dependence.
- Evidence for effective cessation treatments in this group is limited and inconsistent.
- This study uses a network meta-analysis to compare smoking cessation interventions in adolescents and identify the most effective strategies to support clinical and policy decisions.

OBJECTIVES

- To compare the efficacy of different smoking cessation interventions for adolescents using a network meta-analysis (NMA) approach.

METHODS

- Databases searched:** PubMed, EMBASE, Cochrane CENTRAL, CINAHL, PsycINFO (inception–Feb 28, 2024)
- Inclusion criteria:** RCTs on smoking cessation in adolescents, with biochemical verification of abstinence
- Intervention classification:** Based on main active components reported in trials
- Study selection:** Two pairs of researchers, independently and in duplicate
- Risk of bias:** Cochrane RoB 2.0 tool
- Analysis:** Network meta-analysis (random-effects, frequentist framework)
- Effect measure:** Risk ratios (RRs) with 95% CIs
- Certainty of evidence:** CINeMA platform

RESULTS

- Fourteen RCTs (2,630 participants)
- Nine had some risk of bias.
- No overall significant differences were observed.
- At 6 months, CBT, NRT + CBT, and non-NRT interventions significantly improved cessation (RRs 2.31, 2.44, and 1.56, respectively).
- Certainty of evidence was low to very low.
- No differences were found across formats or settings.

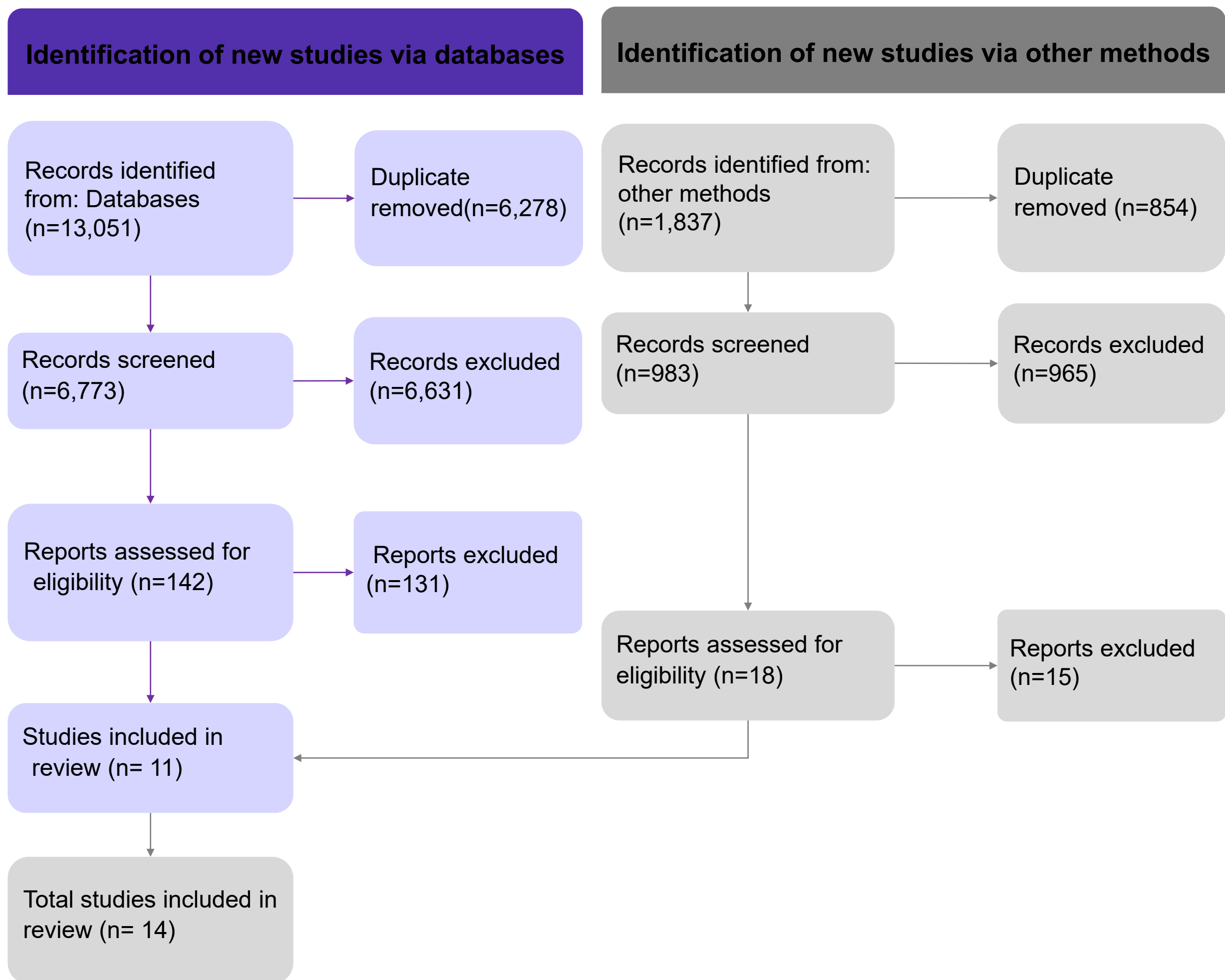


Figure 1: PRISMA flow diagram of selected articles

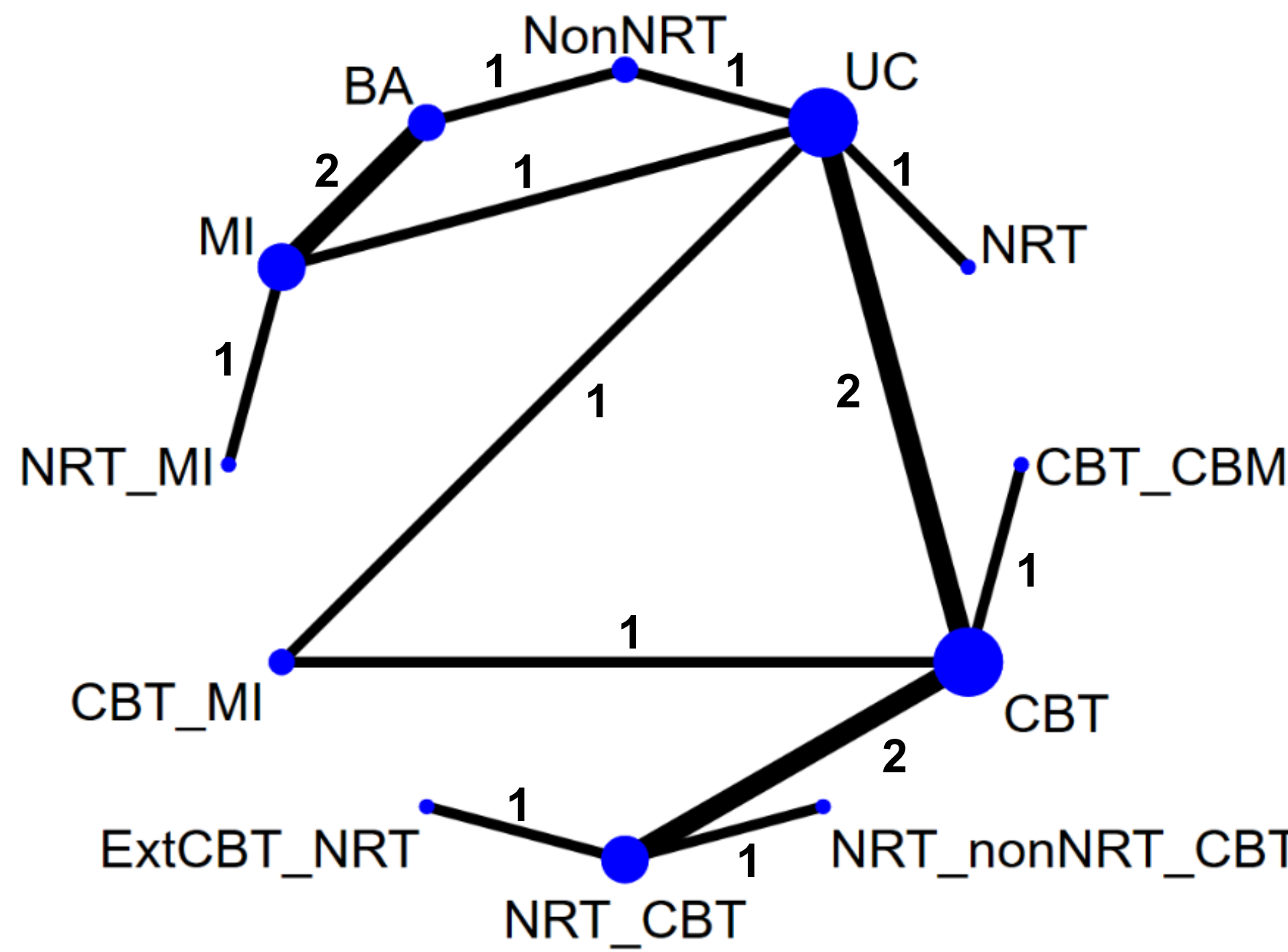


Figure 2: Network diagram

Table 3: The surface under the cumulative ranking curve (SUCRA) of point prevalence abstinence

| Intervention | SUCRA |
|----------------|-------|
| ExtCBT+NRT | 79.6 |
| MI | 59 |
| CBT | 58.2 |
| CBT+CBM | 55.1 |
| NRT+MI | 52.5 |
| CBT+MI | 52.1 |
| NRT+CBT | 48.8 |
| NonNRT | 47.9 |
| NRT+NonNRT+CBT | 40.6 |
| UC | 40.3 |
| BA | 34.3 |
| NRT | 31.7 |

Table 1: League table

| BA | CBT | CBT+CBM | CBT+MI | ExtCBT+NRT | MI | NRT | NRT+CBT | NRT+MI | NRT+NonNRT+CBT | NonNRT | UC |
|---------------------------|---------------------------|----------------------------|---------------------------|----------------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------|----------------------------|---------------------------|--------------------------|----|
| 0.57 (0.10,3.20) ⊕○○○ | | | | | | | | | | | |
| 0.53 (0.02,17.08) ⊕○○○ | 0.94 (0.05,19.01) ⊕○○○ | | | | | | | | | | |
| 0.63 (0.08,4.74) ⊕○○○ | 1.11 (0.25,4.90) ⊕○○○ | 1.19 (0.04,34.14) ⊕○○○ | | | | | | | | | |
| 0.23 (0.02,3.64) ⊕○○○ | 0.41 (0.05,3.48) ⊕○○○ | 0.44 (0.01,17.68) ⊕○○○ | 0.37 (0.03,5.11) ⊕○○○ | | | | | | | | |
| 0.56 (0.16,1.89) ⊕○○○ | 0.98 (0.19,4.98) ⊕○○○ | 1.05 (0.03,32.12) ⊕○○○ | 0.88 (0.13,5.84) ⊕○○○ | 2.37 (0.15,37.31) ⊕○○○ | | | | | | | |
| 1.16 (0.13,10.14) ⊕○○○ | 2.06 (0.29,14.47) ⊕○○○ | 2.20 (0.06,79.52) ⊕○○○ | 1.85 (0.21,16.58) ⊕○○○ | 4.97 (0.27,92.48) ⊕○○○ | 2.09 (0.27,16.03) ⊕○○○ | | | | | | |
| 0.68 (0.07,6.35) ⊕○○○ | 1.21 (0.30,4.91) ⊕○○○ | 1.29 (0.05,35.78) ⊕○○○ | 1.08 (0.14,8.64) ⊕○○○ | 2.92 (0.59,14.45) ⊕○○○ | 1.23 (0.13,11.57) ⊕○○○ | 0.59 (0.05,6.78) ⊕○○○ | | | | | |
| 0.56 (0.01,40.30) ⊕○○○ | 0.98 (0.01,81.14) ⊕○○○ | 1.05 (0.01,219.72) ⊕○○○ | 0.88 (0.01,80.99) ⊕○○○ | 2.37 (0.02,333.11) ⊕○○○ | 1.00 (0.02,60.67) ⊕○○○ | 0.48 (0.00,46.69) ⊕○○○ | 0.81 (0.01,87.53) ⊕○○○ | | | | |
| 0.89 (0.06,12.32) ⊕○○○ | 1.57 (0.22,11.33) ⊕○○○ | 1.68 (0.05,61.63) ⊕○○○ | 1.41 (0.12,17.16) ⊕○○○ | 3.81 (0.46,31.62) ⊕○○○ | 1.60 (0.11,22.39) ⊕○○○ | 0.77 (0.05,12.75) ⊕○○○ | 1.31 (0.33,5.22) ⊕○○○ | 1.60 (0.01,210.91) ⊕○○○ | | | |
| 0.71 (0.19,2.67) ⊕○○○ | 1.26 (0.26,6.08) ⊕○○○ | 1.35 (0.05,40.34) ⊕○○○ | 1.13 (0.17,7.44) ⊕○○○ | 3.05 (0.22,43.06) ⊕○○○ | 1.29 (0.30,5.57) ⊕○○○ | 0.61 (0.08,4.73) ⊕○○○ | 1.05 (0.13,8.62) ⊕○○○ | 1.29 (0.02,100.65) ⊕○○○ | 0.80 (0.06,10.00) ⊕○○○ | | |
| 0.83 (0.20,3.38) ⊕○○○ | 1.46 (0.51,4.18) ⊕○○○ | 1.56 (0.06,37.95) ⊕○○○ | 1.31 (0.31,5.62) ⊕○○○ | 3.53 (0.32,39.63) ⊕○○○ | 1.49 (0.45,4.94) ⊕○○○ | 0.71 (0.14,3.69) ⊕○○○ | 1.21 (0.20,7.42) ⊕○○○ | 1.49 (0.02,107.27) ⊕○○○ | 0.93 (0.09,9.09) ⊕○○○ | 1.16 (0.35,3.86) ⊕○○○ | |

The point prevalence abstinence was pooled using risk ratio (RR) with the corresponding 95% confidence interval (95%CI)

Certainty of evidence: ⊕○○○=Very low; ⊕○○○=Low; ⊕○○○=Moderate; ⊕○○○=High

Abbreviation: BA= brief advice, CBT= cognitive behavioral therapy, MI= motivational interviewing, NRT= nicotine replacement therapy, Non-NRT= non-nicotine replacement therapy, CBT+CBM= cognitive behavioral therapy and cognitive behavioral bias modification, CBT+MI= cognitive behavioral therapy and motivational interviewing, ExtCBT+NRT= extended cognitive behavioral therapy and nicotine replacement therapy, NRT+CBT= nicotine replacement therapy and cognitive behavioral therapy, NRT+MI= nicotine replacement therapy and motivational interviewing, NRT+NonNRT+CBT= nicotine replacement therapy and non-nicotine replacement therapy and cognitive behavioral therapy, UC= usual care

CONCLUSION

- Although no intervention showed a clear benefit in helping adolescents quit smoking, CBT-based and non-NRT interventions may improve short-term abstinence.
- However, the low-certainty evidence underscores the need for high-quality trials to confirm these findings, enhance real-world applicability, and support long-term cessation.

CONTRACT INFORMATION

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