Summary of findings:

Clowning compared to child life program in children undergoing potentially anxiety-provoking procedures

**Patient or population:** children undergoing potentially anxiety-provoking procedures

**Setting:** any setting

**Intervention:** clowning

**Comparison:** child life program

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Outcomes</th>
<th>Anticipated absolute effects* (95% CI)</th>
<th>Relative effect (95% CI)</th>
<th>№ of participants (studies)</th>
<th>Certainty of the evidence (GRADE)</th>
<th>Comments</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Children's anxiety in patient room assessed with: m-YPAS</td>
<td>The mean children's anxiety in patient room in the intervention group was 1.4 higher (0.25 higher to 2.55 higher)</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>84 (1 RCT)</td>
<td>◊◊◊◊</td>
<td>VERY LOW a,b,c,d</td>
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<td>Scale from: 0 to 100</td>
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<tr>
<td>Children's anxiety during physician examination assessed with: m-YPAS</td>
<td>The mean children's anxiety during physician examination in the intervention group was 1.2 higher (0.11 lower to 2.51 higher)</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>84 (1 RCT)</td>
<td>◊◊◊◊</td>
<td>VERY LOW a,b,c,d</td>
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*The risk in the intervention group (and its 95% confidence interval) is based on the assumed risk in the comparison group and the relative effect of the intervention (and its 95% CI).

CI: Confidence interval; MD: Mean difference

GRADE Working Group grades of evidence

**High certainty:** We are very confident that the true effect lies close to that of the estimate of the effect

**Moderate certainty:** We are moderately confident in the effect estimate: The true effect is likely to be close to the estimate of the effect, but there is a possibility that it is substantially different

**Low certainty:** Our confidence in the effect estimate is limited: The true effect may be substantially different from the estimate of the effect

**Very low certainty:** We have very little confidence in the effect estimate: The true effect is likely to be substantially different from the estimate of effect

Explanations

a. High risk of performance bias across the studies reporting this outcome.

b. High risk of attrition bias across the studies reporting this outcome.

c. Unclear risk of reporting bias across the studies reporting this outcome.

d. Sample size less than 400