

**Association Between Fluid  
Balance and Outcomes in  
Critically Ill Children  
A Systematic Review and  
Meta-analysis**

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# Introduction

- Fluid therapy: cornerstone of resuscitation in Critically ill children
  - Adequate volume using early aggressive fluid administration can be lifesaving.
  - Critically ill children often receive “obligatory” fluid intake (nutrition, medication, and maintenance fluid)
- positive fluid balance.

- Many evidence suggests that fluid accumulation after initial resuscitation may exert hazard for major morbidity and mortality.
- Defined as a fluid accumulation  $> 10\%$  of baseline weight.
- It is an independent factor of worse outcome in ICU patients  
→ importance of monitoring fluid status daily for avoidable fluid accumalation.

# Association Between Fluid Balance and Outcomes in Critically Ill Children

## A Systematic Review and Meta-analysis

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## ABSTRACT

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### Importance

After initial resuscitation, critically ill children may accumulate fluid and develop fluid overload. Accruing evidence suggests that fluid overload contributes to greater complexity of care and worse outcomes.

### Objective

# Question

- Is there an association between fluid balance and outcomes in critically ill children admitted to pediatric intensive care?

# Main Outcomes and Measures

- Primary outcome: Mortality
- Secondary outcomes included treatment intensity, organ failure, and resource use.

- This systematic review and meta-analysis of 44 studies including 7507 children
- showed strong and consistent evidence of an association between fluid overload and poor outcomes in critically ill children.
- Including
  - worsening respiratory function
  - development of acute kidney injury,
  - longer pediatric intensive care stay
  - death.

# Fluid Balance Assessment

- Peak percentage fluid overload (37)
- Peak percentage weight change (4)
- Net fluid balance in relation to weight (5)
- Net fluid balance in relation to body surface area (1)



- Despite many studies show the harmful effect of fluid overload on outcomes
- No consensus on how best to define it.
- Definition of fluid over load include 3 components
  - Methods of fluid balance assessment
  - Methods used to quantify fluid overload
  - Fluid Overload Definitions

# Methods of fluid balance assessment

- Recorded daily intake-output
- Serial weight measurements

# Methods used to quantify fluid overload

- Method: proposed by Goldstein and colleagues most frequently used.
  - Method: % WEIGHT CHANGE
- Both methods clinically useful.

$\% \text{ fluid overload} = [(\text{total fluid intake in Liters} - \text{total fluid Output in Liters}) / \text{Admission Weight In Kilogram}] \times 100\%$

$\% \text{ weight change} = [(\text{current weight} - \text{admission Weight}) / \text{admission Weight}] \times 100$

# Fluid Overload Definitions

- # threshold of 10% that used in studies and show association with worse outcomes.

Table 2. Fluid Overload Definitions

%FO Cutoff	Weight Used	Assessment Period		Source
		Start	End	
%FO>5%	Not specified	PICU admission	POD 1	Hassinger et al, <sup>34</sup> 2014
	PICU admission weight	PICU admission	24 h After admission	Chen et al, <sup>24</sup> 2016
	PICU admission weight	PICU admission	24 h After admission	Li et al, <sup>6</sup> 2016
	Hospital admission weight or the most recent PICU weight	Intraoperative	POD 2	Lex et al, <sup>41</sup> 2016
%FO>7%	Not specified	Intraoperative	POD 3	Park et al, <sup>45</sup> 2016
%FO>10%	PICU admission weight	PICU admission	CRRT initiation	Askenazi et al, <sup>21</sup> 2013; Boschee et al, <sup>23</sup> 2014; de Galasso et al, <sup>27</sup> 2016; Gillespie et al, <sup>31</sup> 2004; Selewski et al, <sup>49</sup> 2012; Sutherland et al, <sup>51</sup> 2010
	PICU admission weight	Not specified	CRRT initiation	Modem et al, <sup>43</sup> 2014
	Not specified	24 h Before CRRT	CRRT initiation	Elbahlawan et al, <sup>28</sup> 2010
	Hospital admission weight	Hospital admission	Not specified	Michael et al, <sup>42</sup> 2004
	Hospital admission weight	PICU admission	PICU day 2	Sinitsky et al, <sup>50</sup> 2015
	PICU admission weight	PICU admission	PICU day 3	Bhaskar et al, <sup>5</sup> 2015
	PICU admission weight	Not specified	Not specified	Sutawan et al, <sup>52</sup> 2016
	Preoperative weight	PICU admission	PICU day 7	Hazle et al, <sup>10</sup> 2013
	PICU admission weight	PICU admission	PICU discharge	Ketharanathan et al, <sup>40</sup> 2014
	Not specified	PICU admission	PICU discharge	Naveda et al, <sup>44</sup> 2016
%FO>13%	Not specified	PICU admission	PICU day 2	Vidal et al, <sup>54</sup> 2016
%FO>15%	PICU admission weight	PICU admission	14d	Arikan et al, <sup>20</sup> 2012
%FO>20%	PICU admission weight	PICU admission	PICU discharge	Diaz et al, <sup>26</sup> 2017
	PICU admission weight	PICU admission	CRRT initiation	Askenazi et al, <sup>21</sup> 2013; Goldstein et al, <sup>32</sup> 2005; Jhang et al, <sup>38</sup> 2014; Selewski et al, <sup>49</sup> 2012; Sutherland et al, <sup>51</sup> 2010
	PICU admission weight	Not specified	CRRT initiation	Modem et al, <sup>43</sup> 2014
	Hospital admission weight	PICU admission	CRRT initiation	Hayes et al, <sup>35</sup> 2009
	Hospital admission weight	PICU admission	PICU day 2	Sinitsky et al, <sup>50</sup> 2015
	Preoperative weight	PICU admission	PICU day 7	Hazle et al, <sup>10</sup> 2013

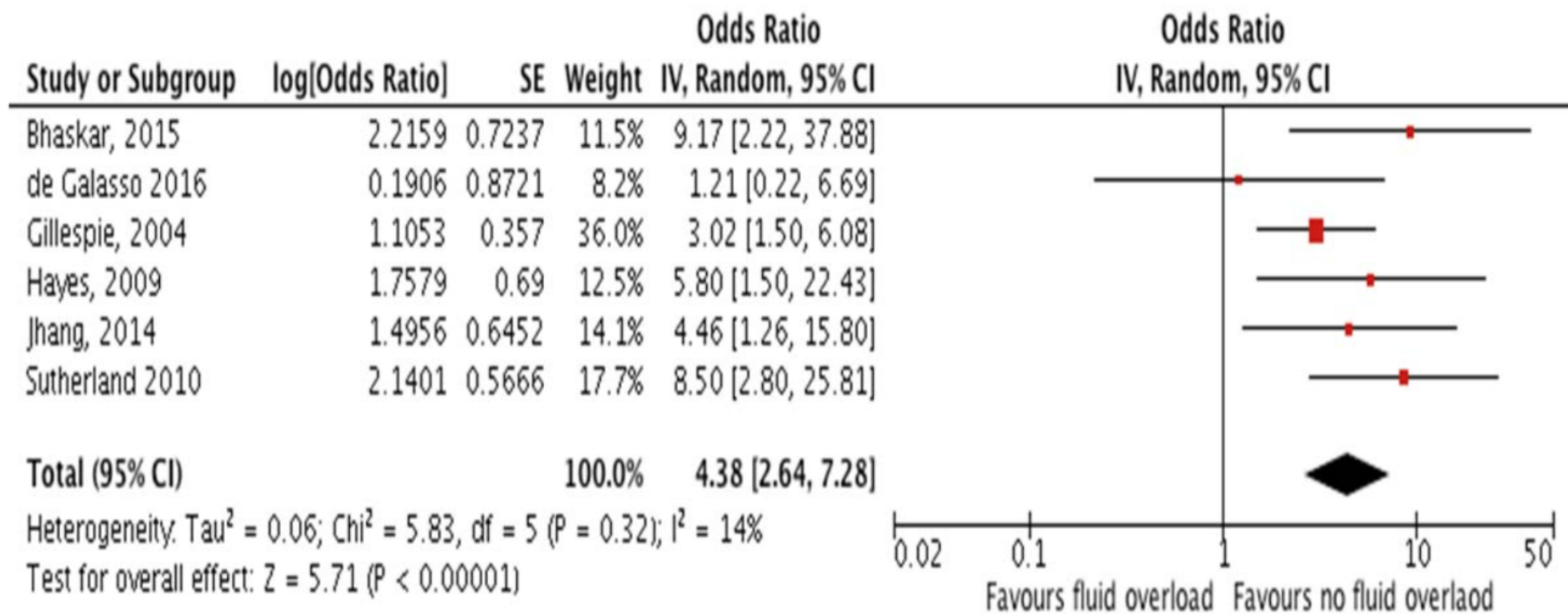
# Result

- The proportion of children with fluid overload varied by case mix and fluid overload definition (median, 33%; range, 10%-83%).
- Maximum percentage fluid overload was achieved on day 5.7 ( $\pm 4.2$ ) after PICU admission in cohort pts mechanical ventilation.
- In pts with cardiac surgery, percentage fluid overload within the first 24-48h after surgery.

# Mortality

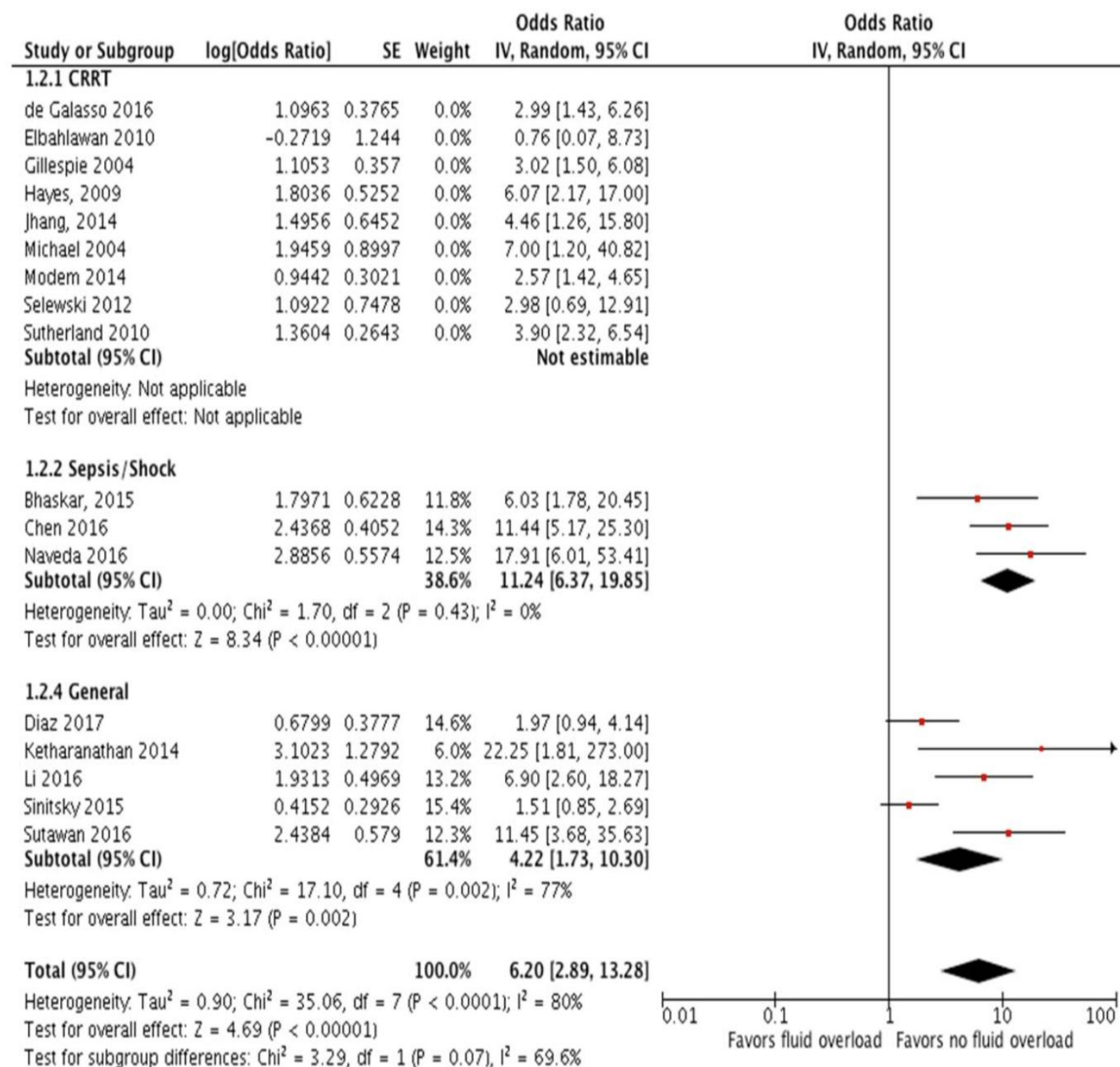
- Fluid overload associated with increased in-hospital mortality (17 studies [n = 2853]; odds ratio [OR], 4.34 [95% CI, 3.01-6.26];  $I^2 = 61\%$ ).
- Survivors had lower percentage fluid overload than nonsurvivors (22 studies [n = 2848]; mean difference, -5.62 [95% CI, -7.28 to -3.97];  $I^2 = 76\%$ ).
- After adjustment for illness severity, every 1% increase in percentage fluid overload → 6% increase mortality (11 studies [n = 3200]; adjusted OR, 1.06 [95% CI, 1.03-1.10];  $I^2 = 66\%$ ).

**eFigure 2.** Association Between FO (Categorical Exposure) and Mortality in Studies Adjusting for Severity of Illness



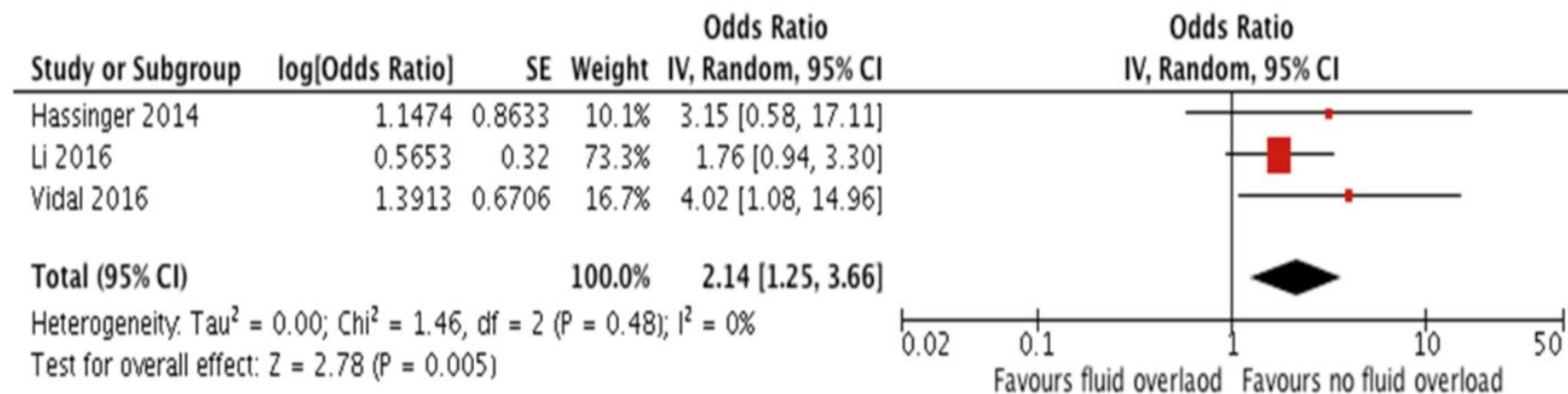


**eFigure 3.** Association Between Fluid Overload (Categorical Exposure) and Mortality Omitting Studies of Children Receiving CRRT



# Prolonged mechanical ventilation

**eFigure 8.** Random-Effects Meta-analysis of FO and Prolonged Mechanical Ventilation

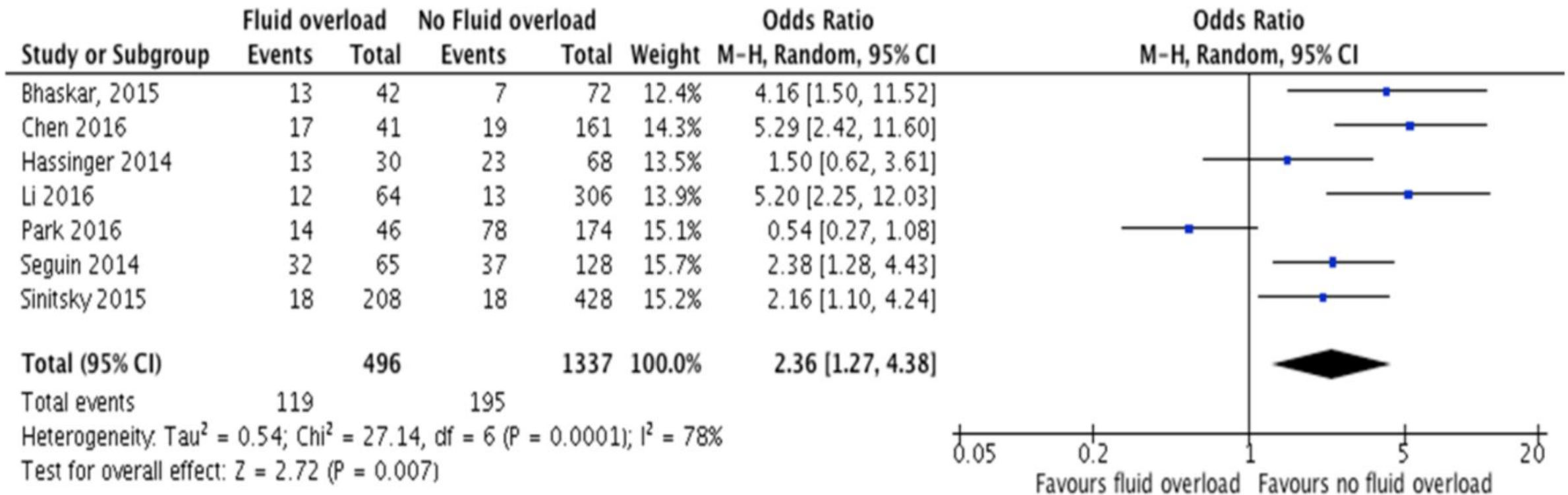


Fluid overload was associated with increased risk for prolonged mechanical ventilation (>48 hours) (3 studies [n = 631]; OR, 2.14 [95% CI, 1.25-3.66];  $I^2 = 0\%$ )

# Acute kidney injury

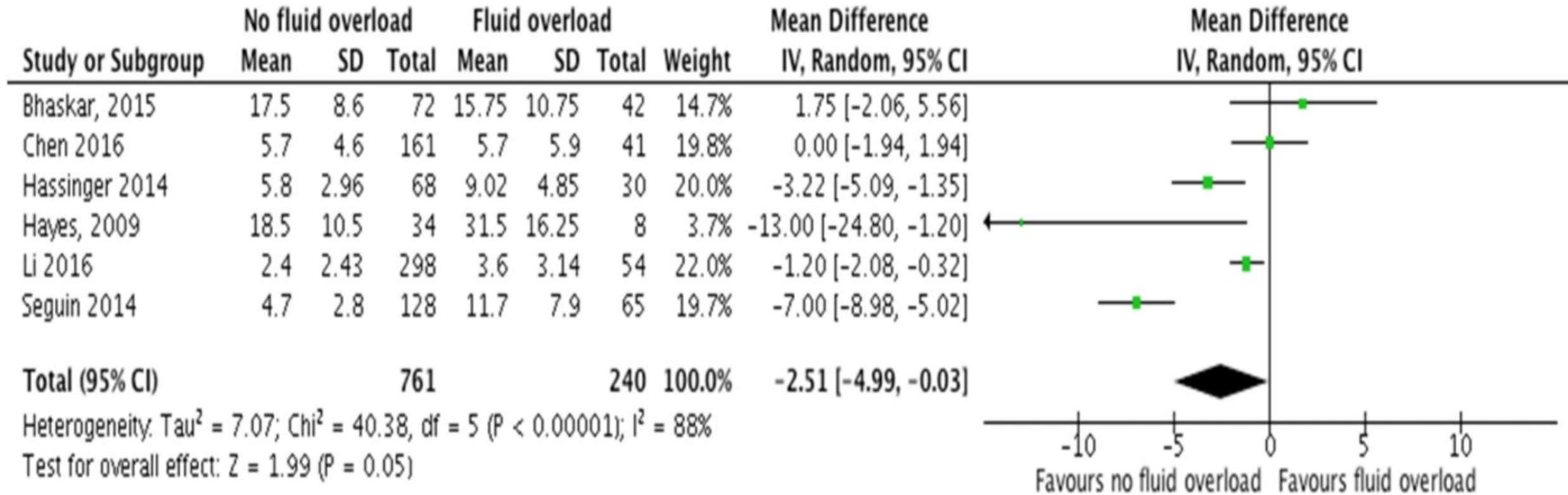
Acute kidney injury (7 studies [n = 1833]; OR, 2.36 [95% CI, 1.27-4.38];  $I^2 = 78\%$ ).

**eFigure 9.** Random-Effects Meta-analysis of FO and Acute Kidney Injury



# PICU Length of Stay

**eFigure 10.** Random-Effects Meta-analysis of FO and PICU Length of Stay



# Conclusions and Relevance

- Fluid overload is common and is associated with substantial morbidity and mortality in critically ill children.
- A threshold may exist beyond which fluid accumulation becomes unhelpful or frankly harmful.
- Clinicians should monitor fluid balance and consider the hazard associated with avoidable fluid accumulation and overload.