

**WEB APPENDIX 2**

## ASSESSMENT OF RISK OF BIAS IN THE INCLUDED STUDY

| Domain  | Risk of bias                        |                                     |                          | Support for judgement   | Location in text or source            |
|---|-------------------------------------|-------------------------------------|--------------------------|---|---------------------------------------|
|   | Low risk                            | High risk                           | Unclear                  |   |                                       |
| Random sequence generation<br>( <i>selection bias</i> )               | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/>            | <input type="checkbox"/> | “Randomization was performed in permuted blocks of random sizes and was stratified according to clinical center.”   | Pg 2485                               |
| Allocation sequence concealment<br>( <i>selection bias</i> )          | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/>            | <input type="checkbox"/> | “Cards with details of treatment allocation (saline, HAS or control) will be kept in consecutively numbered, sealed opaque envelopes, each signed across the seal.” | FEAST Page 24<br>Jan 2009 version 1.2 |
| Blinding of participants and personnel<br>( <i>performance bias</i> ) | <input type="checkbox"/>            | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | “The trial was open label, in view of the different rates of fluids to be administered.”  | pg 2485                               |
| Blinding of outcome assessment<br>( <i>detection bias</i> )           | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/>            | <input type="checkbox"/> | “An end-point review committee, whose members were unaware of the treatment assignments, reviewed all deaths, neurologic sequelae, and adverse events.”             | Pg 2485                               |
| Incomplete outcome data<br>( <i>attrition bias</i> )                  | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/>            | <input type="checkbox"/> | There is no indication of incomplete outcome data.  |                                       |
| Selective outcome reporting?<br>( <i>reporting bias</i> )             | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/>            | <input type="checkbox"/> | There seems little risk of selective outcome reporting.   |                                       |
| Comparability of baseline outcome and characteristics                 | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/>            | <input type="checkbox"/> | “The baseline characteristics of the children were similar across the groups”   | Table 1 pg 2488                       |
| Protection from contamination   | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/>            | <input type="checkbox"/> | There is low risk.  |                                       |
| Other potential sources of bias                                       | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/>            | <input type="checkbox"/> | There is no evidence of other possible sources of bias.   |                                       |
| Notes: Overall risk of bias was ‘LOW RISK’.                           |                                     |                                     |                          |   |                                       |