**eTable 5: GRADE evaluation of current study**

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| GRADE Evaluation |  |  |
| Study design |  | Observational, cohort study |
| Certainty assessment | Risk of bias | Low |
| Imprecision | Very low |
| Inconsistency | Very low |
| Indirectness | Low |
| Other considerations | Strong association, all plausible residual confounding is likely to reduce the demonstrated effect. |
| № of patients |  | Suicide deaths / Person-years:  Treatment with lithium: 73/68,675  Treatment with valproate: 24/12,145 |
| Effect | Relative (95% CI) | Hazard Ratio (95% CI):  Treatment with lithium: 0.40 (0.31-0.51) \*\*\* Treatment with valproate: 0.94 (0.62-1.44) |
| Absolute (95% CI) | Incidence rate per 100,000 person-years (95% CI):  Treatment with lithium: 106.3 (81.9-130.7) Treatment with valproate: 197.6 (118.6-276.7) |
| Certainty |  | ⨁⨁⨁⨁ High |
| Importance |  | Lithium might be offered in more controlled settings and seems to be linked to lower risks of suicide than valproate |