**Table 4.** Studies on forced treatment (n=4 SRs in Aragonés-Calleja, 2022)

| Author, year | Participants | Setting/context | Interventions | N. included studies | Type of included studies | Analysis | Country of origin of included studies | Results/ Findings | Risk of Bias |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Clausen, 2014 | People with anorexia nervosa. | Inpatient units for eating disorders. | Involuntary treatment | N=10 | Naturalistic research designs. | N.R. | Various: UK (3), Australia (2), Japan (1), Germany (1), USA (1). | Involuntary treatment is linked to longer durations, higher psychiatric burden, and more severe outcomes, but long-term effects compared to voluntary treatment remain unclear. | **Risk unclear** |
| Muir-Cochrane, 2020 | People with mental health disorders. | Any healthcare setting | Chemical restraint | N=48 | Retrospective audit | Meta-synthesis/ meta-analysis (quantitative) | International study (Scotland, Greece, USA, UK, Finlandia, Australia, Wales, Japan, Norway) | The review found a median prevalence of 21.2% for restraint use, with a significant decrease over time, but no difference by healthcare setting or country. | **Risk low** |
| Muir-Cochrane, 2020 | Adults (with mental health diagnoses and/or substance abuse issues) N=3788 | Pre-hospital (N=2), psychiatric emergency departments (N=8), general hospital emergency departments (N=8), PICU (N=2), acute psychiatric units (N=1). | Chemical restraint. Drugs used in chemical restraint included olanzapine, haloperidol, droperidol, risperidol, flunitrazepam, midazolam, promethazine, ziprasidone, sodium valproate, or lorazepam. | N=21 | RCTs | Qualitative analysis | USA (5), India (2), Brazil (4), Iran (1), Australia (5), UK (1), Holland (1), Switzerland (1) and Israel (1). | Chemical restraint, primarily haloperidol, is effective for rapid calming, with midazolam acting faster but causing more adverse events. Drug combinations showed inconclusive benefits. | **Risk low** |
| Muir-Cochrane, 2020 | Adults with mental health disorders (with/without substance abuse). | Various: acute psychiatric wards (23.3%), general psychiatric wards (21.6%), and general hospital emergency departments (19.0%). | Chemical restraint (CR) is the forced (non-consenting) administration of medications to manage uncontrolled aggression, anxiety, or violence in people who are likely to cause harm to themselves or others. | N=311 | 21 RCTs, 46 prospective observational studies, 77 crosssectional studies, 69 retrospective studies (mostly audits of practice), 67 opinion pieces, editorials, or statements of practice, and 31 qualitative studies. | Thematically analysed. | The USA, UK, and Australia contributed over half the research, whilst cross-country collaborations comprised 6% of it. | This review categorized 19 themes, with medication use, patient perspectives, and room policies being most common, showing increasing sophistication in research design over 22 years. | **Risk unclear** |