New Standard Text for Reporting Quality of Evidence

Quality of evidence

We will use the Grading of Recommendations Assessment, Development and Evaluation (GRADE) approach, as outlined in the [GRADE Handbook](http://gdt.guidelinedevelopment.org/central_prod/_design/client/handbook/handbook.html) (Schünemann 2013), to assess the quality of evidence for the following (clinically relevant) outcomes: (Authors list outcomes here)

Two authors will independently assess the quality of the evidence for each of the outcomes above. We will consider evidence from randomized controlled trials as high quality but downgrade the evidence one level for serious (or two levels for very serious) limitations based upon the following: design (risk of bias), consistency across studies, directness of the evidence, precision of estimates and presence of publication bias. We will use the GRADEpro Guideline Development Tool to create a ‘Summary of findings’ table to report the quality of the evidence.

The GRADE approach results in an assessment of the quality of a body of evidence in one of four grades:

1. High: We are very confident that the true effect lies close to that of the estimate of the effect.
2. Moderate: 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.
3. Low: Our confidence in the effect estimate is limited: the true effect may be substantially different from the estimate of the effect.
4. Very low: We have very little confidence in the effect estimate: the true effect is likely to be substantially different from the estimate of effect.

**For references:**

GRADE Handbook

<http://gdt.guidelinedevelopment.org/central_prod/_design/client/handbook/handbook.html>

GRADEpro

GRADEpro [www.gradepro.org]. [Computer program]. McMaster University, 2014.

Schünemann 2013

Schünemann H, Brożek J, Guyatt G, Oxman A, editors; GRADE Working Group. GRADE handbook for grading quality of evidence and strength of recommendations. Available from [www.guidelinedevelopment.org/handbook Updated October 2013](http://www.guidelinedevelopment.org/handbook%20Updated%20October%202013).