

Appendix

Grades of recommendation and evidence levels in support of the recommendations formulated in the Maastricht IV / Florence Consensus Report

Grade of recommendations*	Evidence level	Type of studies
A	1	Systematic review of randomized controlled trial (RCT of good methodology quality and with homogeneity)
	1a	Individual RCT with narrow CI
	1b 1c	Individual RCT with risk of bias
B	2	Systematic review of cohort studies (with homogeneity)
	2a	Individual cohort study (including low quality RCT, eg < 80% follow-up)
	2b	Non-controlled cohort studies/ecological studies
	2c	Systematic review of case-control studies (with homogeneity)
	3a 3b	Individual case-control study
C		Case series/poor quality cohort or case-control studies
D		Expert opinion without explicit critical appraisal or based on physiology, bench research or “first principles”

*The highest grade of recommendation does not always correspond to the highest evidence level.