

Definitions of the different classes of evidence (CoE) for articles on therapy:

Class	Study type	Criteria
I	Good quality RCT	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Concealment • Blind or independent assessment for important outcomes • F/U rate of 85%+ • Adequate sample size • Intention to Treat Analysis Used
II	Moderate or poor quality RCT Good quality Cohort	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Violation of any of the criteria for good quality RCT • Blind or independent assessment in a prospective study or use of reliable data* in a retrospective study • F/U rate of 85%+ • Adequate sample size • Controlling for possible confounding **
III	Moderate or poor quality Cohort Case Control	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Violation of any of the criteria for good quality cohort
IV	Case Series	

*Reliable data are data such as mortality or re-operation

**Authors must provide a description of robust baseline characteristics, and control for those that are unequally distributed between treatment groups.

Definition of the different classes of evidence (CoE) for articles on prognosis or risk

Class	Study type	Criteria
I	Good quality cohort	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Prospective design • Patients at similar point in the course of their disease or treatment • F/U rate of 85%+ • Patients followed long enough for outcomes to occur • Controlling for extraneous prognostic factors*
II	Moderate quality Cohort	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Prospective design, with violation of one of the other criteria for good quality cohort study • Retrospective design, meeting all the rest of the criteria in Class I
III	Poor quality Cohort	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Prospective design with violation of 2 or more criteria for good quality cohort, or • Retrospective design with violation of 1 or more criteria for good quality cohort
	Case-control	
IV	Case series	

* Authors must provide a description of robust baseline characteristics, and control for those that are potential prognostic factors.