SORT Scale

Level of Evidence: 1

Is the study a key citation for an important point of evidence under discussion?

No → Level of Evidence not needed
Yes

Is the key outcome of the study based on patient-oriented evidence (i.e. an improvement in morbidity, mortality, symptoms, quality of life, or cost)?

No → Level of Evidence = 3
Yes

Is the study based on opinion, bench research, a consensus guideline, usual practice, clinical experience, or a case series?

Yes
No

Is the study one of the following?

1.) SR/meta-analysis of high quality studies with consistent findings?

2.) High quality randomized control trial?
   - Allocation concealed
   - Blinding if possible
   - Intention-to-treat analysis
   - Adequate size
   - Adequate follow-up (>80%)

3.) High quality cohort study for prognosis (prospective with >80% follow up)?

4.) Validated clinical decision rule in a relevant population?

5.) High quality diagnostic cohort study?
   - Adequate size
   - Adequate spectrum of patients
   - Blinding
   - Consistent reference standard

Yes → Level of Evidence = 1
No → Level of Evidence = 2