

# Holger Schünemann, MD, PhD

Chair and Professor, Dept. of Clinical Epidemiology & Biostatistics

Professor of Medicine

Michael Gent Chair in Healthcare Research

 @schunemann\_mac

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**Estonia WHO EHIF | Webinar | November 28, 2016**

**Aadaptation, Aadoption and de novo  
ddevelopment of  
**Recommendations using GRADE  
Evidence to Decision Frameworks****





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**APR 14** Canadian Medical Hall of Fame 2016 Laureate Symposium  
The 2016 Inductees to the Canadian Medical Hall of Fame will share stories about their careers and contributions to the health sciences.

**APR 20** CEB Rounds WED

**MAY 25** CEB Rounds WED

**CE&B HEADLINES**

**RESEARCHERS FIND "SIMPLE" METHODS TO PREVENT HEART ATTACKS AND STROKE WORLDWIDE**  
Salim Yusuf, Joint faculty member in CE&B, and Janice Pogue, full-time faculty member in CE&B (deceased) are primary authors of the three NEJM articles. [MORE](#)



**DR. PAUL MOAYYEDI RESEARCH CAPTURES A \$12.5M GRANT**  
McMaster University is receiving two of five large federal grants for pioneering developments in patient-oriented health care, Canada's Minister of Health announced today. The grants, worth \$12.5 million each, are from the Canadian Institutes for Health Research (CIHR) under Canada's Strategy for Patient-Oriented Research (SPOR) Associate CE&B faculty member Dr. Paul Moayyedi leads the IMAGINE-SPOR Chronic Disease Network. [MORE](#)

Dr. Holger Schönemann, Department Chair

“Birthplace of evidence-based medicine and problem based learning”

<http://www.fhs.mcmaster.ca/ceb/>

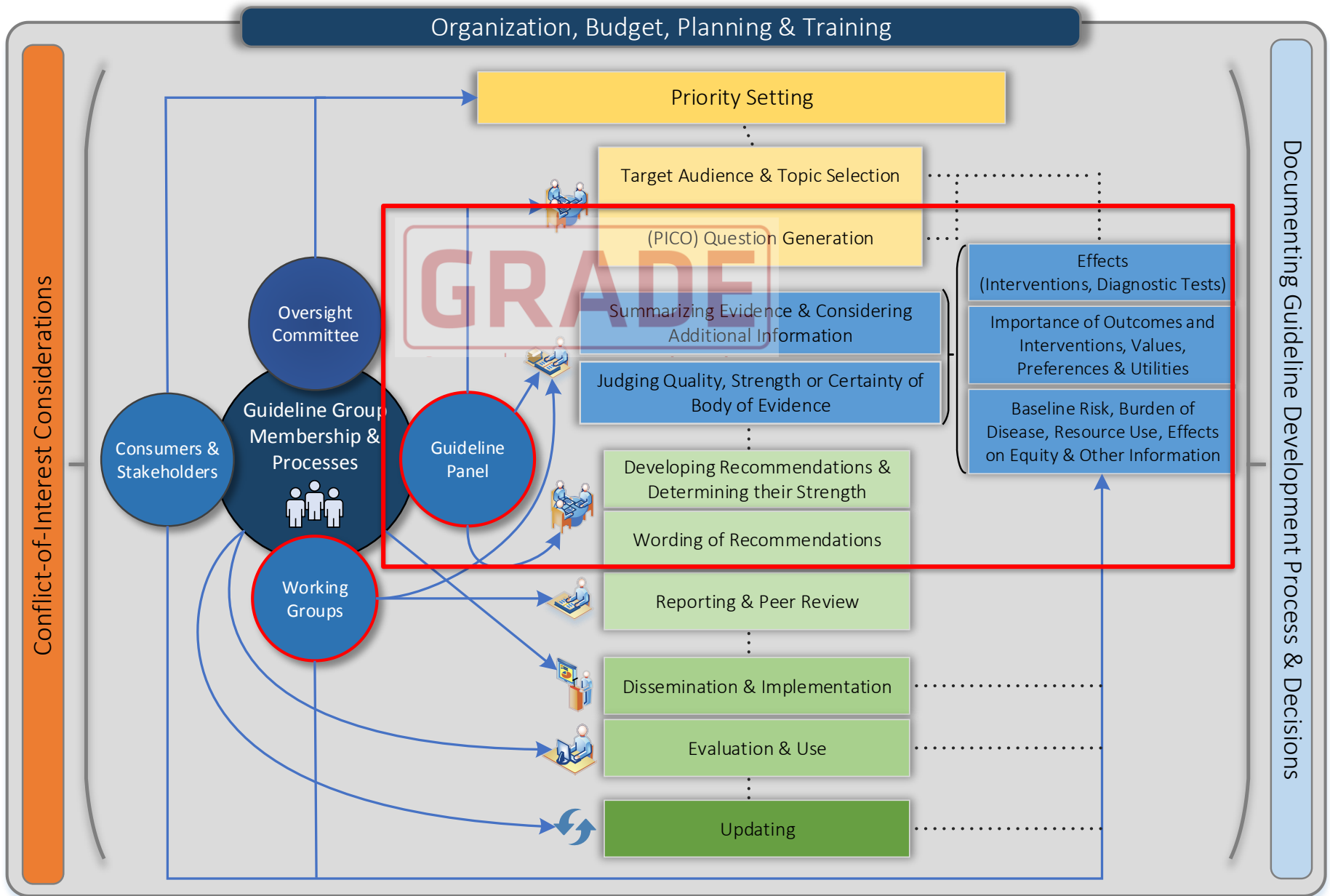
# Disclosure

- Co-chair **GRADE** working group
- World Health Organization: various guideline committees
  - Co-director, WHO collaborating center on evidence informed policy making
-  **Cochrane** – Cochrane Canada Director
-  GIN – Board of Directors
- No direct financial COI

# Today's presentation

- Guidelines and context of GRADE EtDs
- EtD Background and Development
- Use and application of EtDs
- Using GRADE EtDs for Adolopment
  - Adoption, adaptation and de novo creation of recommendations





Schünemann et al. Guidelines 2.0: systematic development of a comprehensive checklist for a successful guideline enterprise. CMAJ. 2014 Feb 18;186(3):E123-42.

<http://cebgrade.mcmaster.ca/guidecheck.html>

# **GRADE** working group

- Developed a unifying, transparent and sensible system for grading the quality of evidence and developing recommendations
- For systematic reviews, HTA and guidelines
- International contributors (>500) with diversity in background beginning in the year 2000
- First articles in 2003 & 2004
- 2008 BMJ series; 2011 JCE series – over 20,000 cites
- Various other publications (incl. GRADE Handbook)
- IT applications **GRADEpro** **GDT**
- 11 Centers and networks on all continents

# GRADE working group

- Over 100 organizations adopted or use GRADE
- Open membership – free: [www.gradeworkinggroup.org](http://www.gradeworkinggroup.org)



Canadian Task Force on Preventive Health Care

*Putting Prevention Into Practice*





# GRADE

## 2

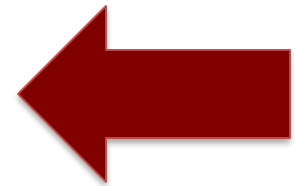
## principles

- **Certainty of evidence**

- Involves assessing evidence transparently
- Confidence in an estimate of effect, e.g. screening?
- Starts with single research studies
- Ends with a body of evidence by health outcome
  - high, moderate, low, very low certainty

- **Recommendations**

- Involves making judgments and decisions transparent
- Evidence to Decision (EtD) frameworks
  - Comprehensive list of criteria that influence a recommendation
- Clearly developed & formulated action message
  - Strong or conditional recommendations for or against an option



Formulate question

Select outcomes

Rate importance

Outcomes across studies

Randomization raises initial quality  
RCTs: high  
Observational: low

Rate quality of evidence for each outcome

P  
I  
C  
O

Outcome Critical  
Outcome Critical  
Outcome Important  
Outcome Not important



Create evidence profile/SoF Table with GRADEpro

Study	Outcome	Quality of Evidence					Summary of Findings
		High	Moderate	Low	Very low	Not rated	
Study 1	Outcome 1	High	Moderate	Low	Very low	Not rated	Summary of findings for Outcome 1
Study 2	Outcome 2	Moderate	Low	Very low	Not rated	Not rated	Summary of findings for Outcome 2

Summary of findings & estimate of effect for each outcome

High  
Moderate  
Low  
Very low

Grade down

1. Risk of bias
2. Inconsistency
3. Indirectness
4. Imprecision
5. Publication bias

Grade up

1. Large effect
2. Dose response
3. Opposing bias & Confounders

Evidence synthesis (systematic review/HTA)

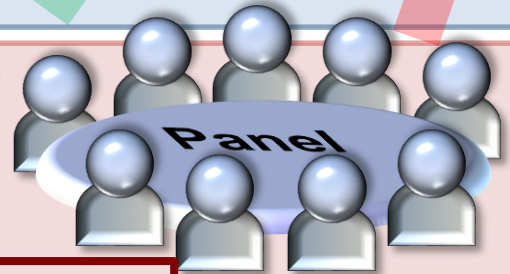
Recommendation/Decision

Grade recommendations (Evidence to Recommendation)

- For or against (direction) ↓↑
- Strong or conditional/weak (strength)

By considering balance of consequences (evidence to recommendations):

- ☐ Quality of evidence
- ☐ Balance benefits/harms
- ☐ Values and preferences (equity)
- ☐ Resource use (cost, feasibility)
- ☐ Acceptability



EtD framework

GRADEpro GDT

Guideline

Intervention	Comparator	Outcome	Relative Risk (95% CI)	Number of Participants	Quality of Evidence
Intervention A	Comparator B	Outcome 1	1.2 (0.8, 1.8)	100	Moderate
Intervention A	Comparator B	Outcome 2	0.8 (0.5, 1.2)	100	Low



Grade overall quality of evidence across outcomes based on lowest quality of **critical** outcomes

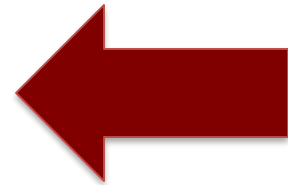
Formulate Recommendations (↓↑ | ⊕...)

- “The panel recommends that ....should...”
- “The panel suggests that ....should...”
- “The panel suggests to **not** ...”
- “The panel recommends to **not**...”

Transparency, clear, actionable

# For groups making recommendations

- Question
  - Details
  - Subgroups
  - Background
- Assessment
  - Criteria
  - Judgements
  - Research evidence
  - Additional considerations
- Conclusions
  - Type of recommendation
  - Recommendation
  - Justification
  - Implementation considerations
  - Monitoring and evaluation
  - Research considerations



# EtD frameworks

The screenshot shows the GRADEpro GDT software interface. At the top, the title bar reads "GRADEpro GDT" and "Estonian workshop December 2015 Bedaquiline for Tuberculosis". The main question is "Should bedaquiline plus BR vs. BR be used in MDR-TB patients?". The interface is divided into several sections: PROJECT ADMINISTRATION, TASKS, TEAM, SCOPE, DOCUMENT SECTIONS, PROGNOSIS, COMPARISONS, and EVIDENCE TABLE. The EVIDENCE TABLE is currently active, showing a table with four columns: CRITERIA, JUDGEMENT, RESEARCH EVIDENCE, and ADDITIONAL CONSIDERATIONS. The CRITERIA column contains the question "Is the problem a priority?". The JUDGEMENT column has radio buttons for "No", "Probably no", "Probably yes", "Yes" (selected), "Varies", and "Don't know". The RESEARCH EVIDENCE column contains a text box with the following text: "Among MDR-TB patients started on treatment globally in 2009, 48% were treated successfully, as a result of high frequency of death (15%) and loss to follow-up (28%), commonly associated with adverse drug reactions, among other factors [2].". The ADDITIONAL CONSIDERATIONS column contains a text box with the following text: "Children have less MDR but we do not have data.".

CRITERIA	JUDGEMENT	RESEARCH EVIDENCE	ADDITIONAL CONSIDERATIONS
Is the problem a priority?	<input type="radio"/> No <input type="radio"/> Probably no <input type="radio"/> Probably yes <input checked="" type="radio"/> Yes <input type="radio"/> Varies <input type="radio"/> Don't know	Among MDR-TB patients started on treatment globally in 2009, 48% were treated successfully, as a result of high frequency of death (15%) and loss to follow-up (28%), commonly associated with adverse drug reactions, among other factors [2].	Children have less MDR but we do not have data.

- **Criteria** on which a recommendation is based
- **Judgements** that must be made in relation to each criterion
- **Research evidence** to inform each judgement
- **Additional considerations** that inform or explain each judgement

# GRADE Evidence to Decision (EtD) framework

Can help guideline panels (and decision makers) move from evidence to a recommendation or decision by

- Informing judgements about the pros and cons of each option (intervention)
- Considering each important factor that determine a decision (criteria)
- Providing a concise summary of the best available research evidence to inform judgements
- Helping to structure discussion and identify reasons for disagreements
- **Making the basis for decisions transparent and adaptable for target audiences**



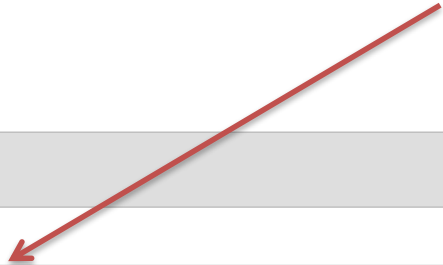
# What are we doing as a guideline panel?

P

anel members



# Discuss evidence

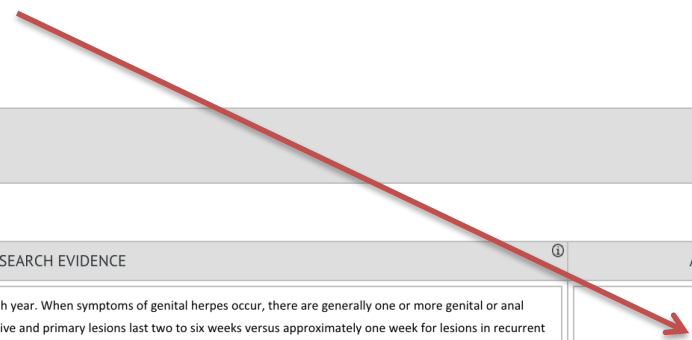


**> Question**  
Should Acyclovir vs. Placebo be used for treatment of first clinical episodes of Herpes Simplex Virus 2?

	CRITERIA	JUDGEMENT	RESEARCH EVIDENCE	ADDITIONAL CONSIDERATIONS																				
PROBLEM	Is the problem a priority?	<input type="radio"/> No <input type="radio"/> Probably no <input type="radio"/> Probably yes <input checked="" type="radio"/> Yes <input type="radio"/> Varies <input type="radio"/> Don't know Detailed judgements	Globally, it is estimated that XXXXXX people are newly infected with HSV2 each year. When symptoms of genital herpes occur, there are generally one or more genital or anal blisters called ulcers. First-episode infections of genital herpes are more extensive and primary lesions last two to six weeks versus approximately one week for lesions in recurrent disease. Infection with HSV2 also may increase the risk of acquiring HIV infection. Moreover, HSV2 can be transmitted to neonates from an infected pregnant mother.																					
DESIRABLE EFFECTS	How substantial are the desirable anticipated effects?	<input type="radio"/> Trivial <input type="radio"/> Small <input type="radio"/> Moderate <input checked="" type="radio"/> Large <input type="radio"/> Varies <input type="radio"/> Don't know Detailed judgements	We found 5 randomised controlled trials comparing acyclovir in different doses compared to placebo. See Table below for the summary of the evidence.  <b>Acyclovir compared to Placebo for treatment of first clinical episodes of Herpes Simplex Virus 2</b> <table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th rowspan="2">Outcomes</th> <th rowspan="2">No. of participants (studies) Follow-up</th> <th rowspan="2">Quality of the evidence (GRADE)</th> <th rowspan="2">Relative effect (95% CI)</th> <th colspan="2">Anticipated absolute effects</th> </tr> <tr> <th>Risk with Placebo</th> <th>Risk difference with Acyclovir</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>Duration of symptoms from onset of treatment assessed with: time to resolution</td> <td>238 (5 RCTs) <math>\downarrow</math></td> <td><math>\oplus\oplus\circ\circ</math> LOW <math>\downarrow\downarrow</math></td> <td>-</td> <td>The mean duration of symptoms from onset of treatment was 0 days</td> <td>MD 3.2 days fewer (4.94 fewer to 1.46 fewer)</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Pain</td> <td>129 (3 RCTs) <math>\downarrow</math></td> <td><math>\oplus\oplus\circ\circ</math> LOW <math>\downarrow\downarrow</math></td> <td>-</td> <td>The mean pain was 0 days</td> <td>MD 2.1 days fewer (2.95 fewer to 1.25 fewer)</td> </tr> </tbody> </table>	Outcomes	No. of participants (studies) Follow-up	Quality of the evidence (GRADE)	Relative effect (95% CI)	Anticipated absolute effects		Risk with Placebo	Risk difference with Acyclovir	Duration of symptoms from onset of treatment assessed with: time to resolution	238 (5 RCTs) $\downarrow$	$\oplus\oplus\circ\circ$ LOW $\downarrow\downarrow$	-	The mean duration of symptoms from onset of treatment was 0 days	MD 3.2 days fewer (4.94 fewer to 1.46 fewer)	Pain	129 (3 RCTs) $\downarrow$	$\oplus\oplus\circ\circ$ LOW $\downarrow\downarrow$	-	The mean pain was 0 days	MD 2.1 days fewer (2.95 fewer to 1.25 fewer)	
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# Add relevant considerations



> Question

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# Make judgments (when research evidence complete) – w/o COI

> Question

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# Presentation and use of criteria can be tailored

- Interactive EtDs (iEtD)
- Lets us choose the criteria
- If obvious or not considered omit
- Available in GRADEpro  
([www.gradepro.org](http://www.gradepro.org))



- ⌚ SETTINGS
- 📄 ETD TEMPLATES
- 📅 TASKS
- 👥 TEAM
- 🎯 SCOPE
- 📊 PROGNOSIS
- ⚖️ COMPARISONS
- 🗣️ PANEL VOICE
- 📄 DOCUMENT SECTIONS
- 📄 DISSEMINATION

▼ **Assessment**

- Problem  
**Is the problem a priority?**
- Desirable Effects  
**How substantial are the desirable anticipated effects?**
- Undesirable Effects  
**How substantial are the undesirable anticipated effects?**
- Certainty of evidence  
**What is the overall certainty of the evidence of effects?**
- Values  
**Is there important uncertainty about or variability in how much people value the main outcomes?**
- Balance of effects  
**Does the balance between desirable and undesirable effects favor the intervention or the comparison?**
- Resources required  
**How large are the resource requirements (costs)?**
- Certainty of evidence of required resources  
**What is the certainty of the evidence of resource requirements (costs)?**
- Cost effectiveness  
**Does the cost-effectiveness of the intervention favor the intervention or the comparison?**
- Equity  
**What would be the impact on health equity?**
- Acceptability  
**Is the intervention acceptable to key stakeholders?**
- Feasibility  
**Is the intervention feasible to implement?**



# Live use of iEtDs

EtDs are shared with panel members before the meeting and online:

- Clarify the process
- During the preparation for input on the evidence (all members including conflicted members could be involved)
- For initial agreement on the included evidence and additional considerations
- If possible, feasible and appropriate for agreement on judgments for specific decision criteria (but may all happen at an in-person meeting)
- Final draft EtDs before a final meeting



Should plasma exchange vs. no plasma exchange be used for CAPS?

- ADMINISTRATION
- TASKS
- TEAM
- SCOPE
- DOCUMENT SECTIONS
- PROGNOSIS
- COMPARISONS
- EVIDENCE TABLE
- RECOMMENDATIONS
- PRESENTATIONS
- DISSEMINATION

Assessment

	CRITERIA	JUDGEMENT	RESEARCH EVIDENCE	ADDITIONAL CONSIDERATIONS
PROBLEM	<b>Is the problem a priority?</b>	<input type="radio"/> No <input type="radio"/> Probably no <input type="radio"/> Probably yes <input type="radio"/> Yes <input type="radio"/> Varies <input checked="" type="radio"/> Don't know <a href="#">Detailed judgements</a>	<p>In the most recently published full series of CAPS Registry patients, mortality in the 280 patient cohort was 44% (Cervera 2009). Specific therapies, or combinations of therapies, may reduce mortality in CAPS (Cervera 2009).</p> <p>The problem may be of particular concern in patients with systemic lupus erythematosus (SLE). In a study analyzing 262 patients enrolled in the CAPS Registry up to September 2005, SLE patients made up 39% of the cohort (103 patients). In this subset, mortality appears to be significantly higher than in patients with primary CAPS: 58% versus 35% (Bayraktar 2007).</p>	
	<b>How substantial are the desirable anticipated effects?</b>	<input type="radio"/> Trivial <input type="radio"/> Small <input type="radio"/> Moderate <input type="radio"/> Large <input type="radio"/> Varies <input checked="" type="radio"/> Don't know <a href="#">Detailed judgements</a>	<p>A systematic review was performed using the Cochrane Highly Sensitive Search strategy to retrieve articles pertaining to use of plasma exchange compared to no plasma exchange in CAPS. The search yielded 598 abstracts, and two researchers (KL &amp; CH) performed abstract screen in duplicate, identifying 55 abstracts for full text screen. Screening of full texts was performed in duplicate, and 6 relevant studies were identified. Data was extracted pertaining to the outcomes of death, permanent organ dysfunction, permanent neurologic deficit, complete recovery, major bleeding, amputation and thrombosis. See below for the evidence profile.</p> <p><b>Harms of plasma exchange:</b> There are no studies specifically evaluating harms of plasma exchange in CAPS.</p> <p>Several studies have evaluated the adverse events of plasma exchange (Shemin 2007, Basic-Jukic 2005, Mokrzycki 1994).</p> <p>The Shemin et al, study in 2007 was a prospective study of 1,727 TPE treatments in 174 patients over 66 months showed that the most common adverse effects were fever (7.7%), urticaria (7.4%), and hypocalcemic effects, e.g. paresthesias, nausea and vomiting, chest pain, hypotension, cardiac arrhythmia (7.3%). Adverse events occurred in 36% of all patients. TPE was discontinued in 3 (0.2%) of patients for adverse events and 2 (0.1%) required transfer to a higher level of acuity. No deaths occurred. Albumin-saline was used as the replacement solution in 57% of treatments and 43% used fresh-frozen plasma (FFP). FFP was associated with significantly higher risk of adverse effects compared</p>	<p>In a study utilizing the CAPS registry data up to 2005 (262 patients), patients with SLE (SLE-CAPS) (n=103) were compared to patients with primary CAPS (P-CAPS) (n=127). In a multivariate analysis of the SLE-CAPS and P-CAPS populations combined, plasma exchange was significantly associated with reduced mortality [0.36 (95% CI 0.14-0.92)]. (Bayraktar 2007)</p>

**How substantial are the undesirable anticipated effects?**

Large  
 Moderate  
 Small  
 Trivial  
 Varies  
 Don't know

Detailed judgements

FILE EFFECTS

Plasma exchange compared to no plasma exchange for CAPS

Outcome № of participants (studies)	Relative effect (95% CI)	Anticipated absolute effects (95% CI)			Quality
		Without plasma exchange	With plasma exchange	Difference	
Death № of participants: 341 (6 observational studies)	<b>OR 0.68</b> (0.41 to 1.12)	Study population			⊕○○○ VERY LOW <sup>1,2</sup>
		424 per 1000	<b>333 per 1000</b> (232 to 451)	<b>90 fewer per 1000</b> (192 fewer to 28 more)	
Permanent organ dysfunction № of participants: 24 (2 observational studies)	<b>OR 5.01</b> (0.72 to 34.75)	Study population			⊕○○○ VERY LOW <sup>1,2</sup>
		353 per 1000	<b>732 per 1000</b> (282 to 950)	<b>379 more per 1000</b> (71 fewer to 597 more)	
Permanent neurologic deficit № of participants: 24 (2 observational studies)	<b>OR 8.00</b> (0.25 to 255.75)	Study population			⊕○○○ VERY LOW <sup>1,2</sup>
		59 per 1000	<b>335 per 1000</b> (15 to 941)	<b>275 more per 1000</b> (43 fewer to 882 more)	
Complete recovery № of participants: 24 (2 observational studies)	<b>OR 0.27</b> (0.04 to 1.85)	Study population			⊕○○○ VERY LOW <sup>1,2</sup>
		529 per 1000	<b>233 per 1000</b> (43 to 675)	<b>296 fewer per 1000</b> (486 fewer to 146 more)	
Major bleeding № of participants: (0 studies)	not estimable	Study population			
		0 per 1000	<b>0 per 1000</b> (0 to 0)	<b>0 fewer per 1000</b> (0 fewer to 0 fewer)	
Amputation № of participants: 12 (1 observational study)	<b>OR 0.56</b> (0.02 to 16.77)	Study population			⊕○○○ VERY LOW <sup>1,2,3</sup>
		364 per 1000	<b>242 per 1000</b> (11 to 906)	<b>121 fewer per 1000</b> (352 fewer to 542 more)	
Thrombotic events № of participants: 13	not estimable	Study population			⊕○○○ VERY LOW <sup>2,4</sup>

Empty box for notes or comments.

How large are the resource requirements (costs)?

- Large costs
- Moderate costs
- Negligible costs and savings
- Moderate savings
- Large savings
- Varies
- Don't know

Detailed judgements

A systematic literature search was performed using the Medline and Embase databases to retrieve economic analyses pertaining to CAPS patients. The databases were searched to March 2016. There were 7 citations identified, however no published studies evaluated resource requirements in CAPS. Thus there are no published studies evaluating cost of TPE in CAPS.

The cost of TPE has been outlined in studies in other conditions, in several countries.

**United States:** A 2012 study of TPE vs IVIG in myasthenia graves (MG) described the estimated costs of TPE in the United States, as follows: 1 exchange: \$2980, 1 dose albumin: \$1119, Catheter: \$520, Catheter placement: \$859, Catheter removal: \$353 (Heatwole 2012)

A lower estimate of TPE costs was described in a 2011 study by Winters et al: \$4,638.16 for 5 treatments (Winters 2011).

**France:** In the French Cooperative Group randomized controlled trial on the use of TPE in Guillain-Barré syndrome (GBS) the cost of TPE was collected:

Unit cost for TPE, including acquisition, amortization and residual value of the machine, maintenance costs, and operating costs, related to the number of PEs per year over 500 PEs per year on average): €500 (Espérou 2000)

**Canada:** A cost-minimization analysis of plasma exchange in MG patients stated that the cost of a 5 treatment course of TPE cost CAN\$6,271 overall (Hospital costs \$4,628, blood products \$1,455, physician fees \$187) (Furlan 2015)

**India:** In a 2013 study of TPE for GBS in Western India, one cycle of TPE, including the cost of PE Kit and replacement fluid: Rs 30,000 (\$445 US) (Gajjar 2013).

**Brazil:** For a treatment course for GBS, mean direct cost of TPE treatment (5 sessions) was US\$6,059 ± 1,701 per patient (de Britto, 2011)

What is the certainty of the evidence of resource requirements (costs)?

- Very low
- Low
- Moderate
- High
- No included studies

Detailed judgements

The certainty of the evidence of resource requirements is very low, as the studies presented only describe costs of TPE itself in other conditions. The data presented are not necessarily representative of costs for CAPS patients. Furthermore the studies do not present data regarding any cost-benefit or similar type analysis, thus there is no analysis relating to the implications of resource use in this population.



Should plasma exchange vs. no plasma exchange be used for CAPS?

Explanations Help

### Conclusions

#### Should plasma exchange vs. no plasma exchange be used for CAPS?

Type of recommendation	Strong recommendation against the intervention	Conditional recommendation against the intervention	Conditional recommendation for either the intervention or the comparison	Conditional recommendation for the intervention	Strong recommendation for the intervention
	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

#### Recommendation

For treatment of patients with CAPS, the CAPS guideline panel suggests/recommends using/not using plasma exchange (conditional/strong recommendation, xx certainty in the evidence).

#### Justification

#### Subgroup considerations

#### Implementation considerations

- ADMINISTRATION
- TASKS
- TEAM
- SCOPE
- DOCUMENT SECTIONS
- PROGNOSIS
- COMPARISONS
- EVIDENCE TABLE
- RECOMMENDATIONS
- PRESENTATIONS
- DISSEMINATION





Should Bedaquiline + background MDR-TB treatment vs. Background MDR-TB treatment alone (regimen of drugs recommended by WHO) be used in MDR-TB

- ADMINISTRATION
- TASKS
- TEAM
- SCOPE
- DOCUMENT SECTIONS
- PROGNOSIS
- COMPARISONS
- EVIDENCE TABLE
- RECOMMENDATIONS
- PRESENTATIONS
- DISSEMINATION

### Assessment

	CRITERIA	JUDGEMENT	RESEARCH EVIDENCE	ADDITIONAL CONSIDERATIONS																			
PROBLEM	Is the problem a priority?	<input type="radio"/> No <input type="radio"/> Probably no <input type="radio"/> Probably yes <input checked="" type="radio"/> Yes  <input type="radio"/> Varies <input type="radio"/> Don't know Detailed judgements	Among MDR-TB patients started on treatment globally in 2009, 48% were treated successfully, as a result of high frequency of death (15%) and loss to follow-up (28%), commonly associated with adverse drug reactions, among other factors [2].	Children have less MDR but we do not have data.																			
	How substantial are the desirable anticipated effects?	<input type="radio"/> Trivial <input type="radio"/> Small <input type="radio"/> Moderate <input checked="" type="radio"/> Large  <input type="radio"/> Varies <input type="radio"/> Don't know Detailed judgements	Summary of findings: Bedaquiline for multidrug-resistant tuberculosis  <b>Bedaquiline + background MDR-TB treatment compared to Background MDR-TB treatment alone (regimen of drugs recommended by WHO) in MDR-TB patients</b> <table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th rowspan="2">Outcomes</th> <th colspan="2">Anticipated absolute effects* (95% CI)</th> <th rowspan="2">Relative effect (95% CI)</th> <th rowspan="2">No of participants (studies)</th> <th rowspan="2">Quality of the evidence (GRADE)</th> </tr> <tr> <th>Risk with Background MDR-TB treatment alone (regimen of drugs recommended by WHO)</th> <th>Risk with Bedaquiline + background MDR-TB treatment</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>Subjects cured by end of study: 120 weeks (C208 Stage 2: mITT)<sup>1,2</sup></td> <td>Study population 32 per 100<sup>1</sup></td> <td>58 per 100 (40 to 74)<sup>1</sup></td> <td>RR 1.81 (1.26 to 2.31)<sup>3,6</sup></td> <td>132 (1 RCT)<sup>1,5</sup></td> <td>⊕⊕○○ LOW<sup>4,5</sup></td> </tr> <tr> <td>Serious Adverse Events during investigational 24 week treatment phase (C208 Stages</td> <td>Study population 2 per 100</td> <td>7 per 100</td> <td>RR 3.60 (0.77 to 14.00)</td> <td>207 (2 RCTs)<sup>7,9</sup></td> <td>⊕○○○ VERY LOW<sup>5,8</sup></td> </tr> </tbody> </table>	Outcomes	Anticipated absolute effects* (95% CI)		Relative effect (95% CI)	No of participants (studies)	Quality of the evidence (GRADE)	Risk with Background MDR-TB treatment alone (regimen of drugs recommended by WHO)	Risk with Bedaquiline + background MDR-TB treatment	Subjects cured by end of study: 120 weeks (C208 Stage 2: mITT) <sup>1,2</sup>	Study population 32 per 100 <sup>1</sup>	58 per 100 (40 to 74) <sup>1</sup>	RR 1.81 (1.26 to 2.31) <sup>3,6</sup>	132 (1 RCT) <sup>1,5</sup>	⊕⊕○○ LOW <sup>4,5</sup>	Serious Adverse Events during investigational 24 week treatment phase (C208 Stages	Study population 2 per 100	7 per 100	RR 3.60 (0.77 to 14.00)	207 (2 RCTs) <sup>7,9</sup>	⊕○○○ VERY LOW <sup>5,8</sup>
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Should Bedaquiline + background MDR-TB treatment vs. Background MDR-TB treatment alone (regimen of drugs recommended by WHO) be used in MDR-T

- ADMINISTRATION
- TASKS
- TEAM
- SCOPE
- DOCUMENT SECTIONS
- PROGNOSIS
- COMPARISONS
- EVIDENCE TABLE
- RECOMMENDATIONS
- PRESENTATIONS
- DISSEMINATION

Summary of judgements

**Conclusions**

**Should Bedaquiline + background MDR-TB treatment vs. Background MDR-TB treatment alone (regimen of drugs recommended by WHO) be used in MDR-TB patients?**

Type of recommendation	Strong recommendation against the intervention	Conditional recommendation against the intervention	Conditional recommendation for either the intervention or the comparison	Conditional recommendation for the intervention	Strong recommendation for the intervention
	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

**Recommendation**

The panel suggests adding bedaquiline to a WHO recommended regimen in MDR-TB adult patients under the following conditions (conditional recommendation, very low certainty of the evidence).

In addition:

- A duly informed decision making-process by patients should be followed. Patient should know the risk.
- What dose? Lower dose to lower the risk of bedaquiline
- If patient is already on QT prolongating drugs then possible avoid use. E.g. PLHIV. Need to monitor ECG in these patients.
- Do not apply to children - risk are too high.

Cancel Apply

**Justification**

**Overall justification**

**Detailed justification**

*Desirable Effects*  
2.5 x higher probability of being cured than dying with the intervention (for different reasons).

*Undesirable Effects*

Should Bedaquiline + background MDR-TB treatment vs. Background MDR-TB treatment alone (regimen of drugs recommended by WHO) be used in MDR-T

- ADMINISTRATION
- TASKS
- TEAM
- SCOPE
- DOCUMENT SECTIONS
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- DISSEMINATION

**Subgroup considerations**

with a potential increase in mortality, serious adverse effects, and very low certainty of the evidence. For patients with extensively drug-resistant (XDR) tuberculosis and limited, if any other options, the desirable effects probably outweigh the undesirable effects.

**Implementation considerations**

- Bedaquiline is only suggested for patients with extensively drug-resistant MDR TB under the specified conditions.
- A process to ensure informed decision-making by patients should be established.
  - Equipment for baseline testing and monitoring for QT prolongation and development of arrhythmia should be available.
  - Monitoring of cardiac and liver disease should be available.

**Monitoring and evaluation**

- Spontaneous reporting of adverse drug reactions should be reinforced at country level and active pharmacovigilance should be established among patient groups treated with the drug.
- Resistance to bedaquiline should be monitored.
- Resistance to other anti-TB drugs should be monitored following WHO recommendations.

**Research priorities**

- Phase 3 clinical trial(s) of safety and efficacy of bedaquiline, with particular attention to mortality (including causes of death), in the treatment of MDRTB should be accelerated
- Pharmacokinetics, safety and efficacy studies in specific populations (paediatrics, HIV patients, alcohol and drug users, elderly, pregnant women, extrapulmonary TB, persons with diabetes)
- Safety studies, including type, frequency and severity of adverse events (short term and long term)
- Drug-drug interactions, including with other existing and newly developed TB drugs and ARVs
- Impact on mortality (including cause of death)
- Acquisition of resistance to bedaquiline and to other TB drugs
- Duration and dosing of treatment
- Patients' values
- Further research on the validity of culture conversion as a surrogate marker of treatment outcome



## GRADE Evidence to Decision (EtD) frameworks: a systematic and transparent approach to making well informed healthcare choices. 1: Introduction

Pablo Alonso-Coello,<sup>1,2</sup> Holger J Schünemann,<sup>2,3</sup> Jenny Moberg,<sup>4</sup> Romina Brignardello-Petersen,<sup>2,5</sup> Elie A Akl,<sup>2,6</sup> Marina Davoli,<sup>7</sup> Shaun Treweek,<sup>8</sup> Reem A Mustafa,<sup>2,9</sup> Gabriel Rada,<sup>10,11,12</sup> Sarah Rosenbaum,<sup>4</sup> Angela Morelli,<sup>4</sup> Gordon H Guyatt,<sup>2,3</sup> Andrew D Oxman<sup>4</sup> the GRADE Working Group



## GRADE Evidence to Decision (EtD) frameworks: a systematic and transparent approach to making well informed healthcare choices. 2: Clinical practice guidelines

Pablo Alonso-Coello,<sup>1,2</sup> Andrew D Oxman,<sup>3</sup> Jenny Moberg,<sup>3</sup> Romina Brignardello-Petersen,<sup>2,4</sup> Elie A Akl,<sup>2,5</sup> Marina Davoli,<sup>6</sup> Shaun Treweek,<sup>7</sup> Reem A Mustafa,<sup>2,8</sup> Per O Vandvik,<sup>3</sup> Joerg Meerpohl,<sup>9</sup> Gordon H Guyatt,<sup>2,10</sup> Holger J Schünemann,<sup>2,10</sup> the GRADE Working Group

ELSEVIER

Journal of Clinical Epidemiology ■ (2016) ■

### ORIGINAL ARTICLE

## GRADE Guidelines: 16. GRADE evidence to decision frameworks for tests in clinical practice and public health

Holger J. Schünemann<sup>a,b,c,\*</sup>, Reem Mustafa<sup>a,c,d</sup>, Jan Brozek<sup>a,b,c</sup>, Nancy Santesso<sup>a,c</sup>, Pablo Alonso-Coello<sup>a,c,e</sup>, Gordon Guyatt<sup>a,b,c</sup>, Rob Scholten<sup>f</sup>, Miranda Langendam<sup>c,g</sup>, Mariska M. Leeflang<sup>g</sup>, Elie A. Akl<sup>a,c,h</sup>, Jasvinder A. Singh<sup>c,i</sup>, Joerg Meerpohl<sup>c,j</sup>, Maria Hakkaart-van Rooijen<sup>k</sup>, David Brindley<sup>g</sup>, Andrew D. Oxman<sup>l</sup> GRADE Working Group

RESEARCH

Open Access



# The GRADE evidence-to-decision framework: a report of its testing and application in 15 international guideline panels

Ignacio Neumann<sup>1,2</sup>, Romina Brignardello-Petersen<sup>1,3</sup>, Wojtek Wiercioch<sup>1</sup>, Alonso Carrasco-Labra<sup>1,3</sup>, Carlos Cuello<sup>1</sup>, Elie Akl<sup>4</sup>, Reem A. Mustafa<sup>1,5</sup>, Waleed Al-Hazzani<sup>1</sup>, Itziar Etxeandia-Ikobaltzeta<sup>1,7</sup>, Maria Ximena Rojas<sup>8</sup>, Maicon Falavigna<sup>9</sup>, Nancy Santesso<sup>1</sup>, Jan Brozek<sup>1,6</sup>, Alfonso Iorio<sup>1</sup>, Pablo Alonso-Coello<sup>1,10</sup> and Holger J. Schünemann<sup>1,6\*</sup>

OPEN ACCESS Freely available online

PLOS MEDICINE

Health in Action

## Transparent Development of the WHO Rapid Advice Guidelines

Holger J. Schünemann<sup>\*</sup>, Suzanne R. Hill, Meetal Kakad, Gunn E. Vist, Richard Bellamy, Lauren Stockman, Torbjørn Fosen Wisløff, Chris Del Mar, Frederick Hayden, Timothy M. Uyeki, Jeremy Farrar, Yazdan Yazdanpanah, Howard Zucker, John Beigel, Tawee Chotpitayasunondh, Tran Tinh Hien, Bülent Özbay, Norio Sugaya, Andrew D. Oxman

# ADOLOPMENT



# Use guidelines in your context

- Adoption – use the recommendation as is
- Adaptation – modify to fit your needs
- De novo – new recommendation
  - Can be based on existing evidence summaries



# Adoption

- Use of existing, trustworthy recommendations without modification of the original recommendation and providing information on how to implement them
- In ideal case, based on review and agreement with judgments that influenced the original recommendation





# Adoption

- The adopted recommendation would have the same specific population, intervention and comparators as the original recommendation, and the same certainty in the evidence rating.
- Choice of the guideline scope and the individual recommendations follows from their availability.
- Cheapest and quickest way of developing a guideline.



# Adaptation

- Involves identifying the pertinent health questions, searching for existing guidelines that address those questions and performing critical appraisal, and deciding to accept or modify whole guidelines or their specific recommendations by considering whether they are up to date, acceptable and applicable given the cultural and organizational context.



# Adaptation

- Credible, up to date, acceptable, applicable and feasible to implement given the cultural and organizational context?
- The adapted recommendation may have a change in the specific population, intervention, comparator than the original recommendation, and a different certainty in the evidence.
- The adapted recommendation will provide additional information on “conditions”, monitoring, implementation, and implications for research.



# Adoption and Adaptation

Serve two primary purposes:

- 1) investing limited resources by building on existing efforts to provide local, regional or national guidance; and
- 2) considering factors that are specific to these settings to enhance usability for the intended target groups. Using this approach, guideline developers must choose which recommendations to adapt.



- 😊 Transparently laying out the judgments that a guideline panel makes when formulating recommendations would facilitate their later adaptation.
- ☹️ Existing guidelines often do not provide the necessary details about this process and other decisions necessary to work on their adaptation and adoption.



# De novo development

- New questions and seeking to answer them in new guidelines
- Can be based on existing evidence synthesis such as systematic reviews or health technology assessments that are relevant



# Choice of approach

- Availability of monetary and non-monetary resources, credibility, maximization of uptake, the benefits of sharing information widely
- Avoidance of duplication of efforts
- Organizations will need to decide on the best approaches
  - develop detailed strategies and build capacity to implement them





**World Health  
Organization**

REGIONAL OFFICE FOR **Europe**



By: Paul Garner  
Suzanne Hill  
Holger Schünemann

# Developing and implementing guidelines for health policy and clinical practice in Estonia:



# Example Projects

**Objective:** To develop health care guidelines on 22 clinical topics (project 1) and one separate guideline in different project (project 2).

Timeline: June 2013 through June 2015 (project 1)  
May 2016 (project 2)

Focus on *'ad-o-lopment'* of recommendations



# Groups and Roles

McMaster Guideline Working Group

Saudi Centre for EBHC:

- Project coordination
- Recruiting panel members
- Facilitating communication with panels
- Dissemination of guidelines

Saudi Expert Guideline Panels



# Groups and Roles

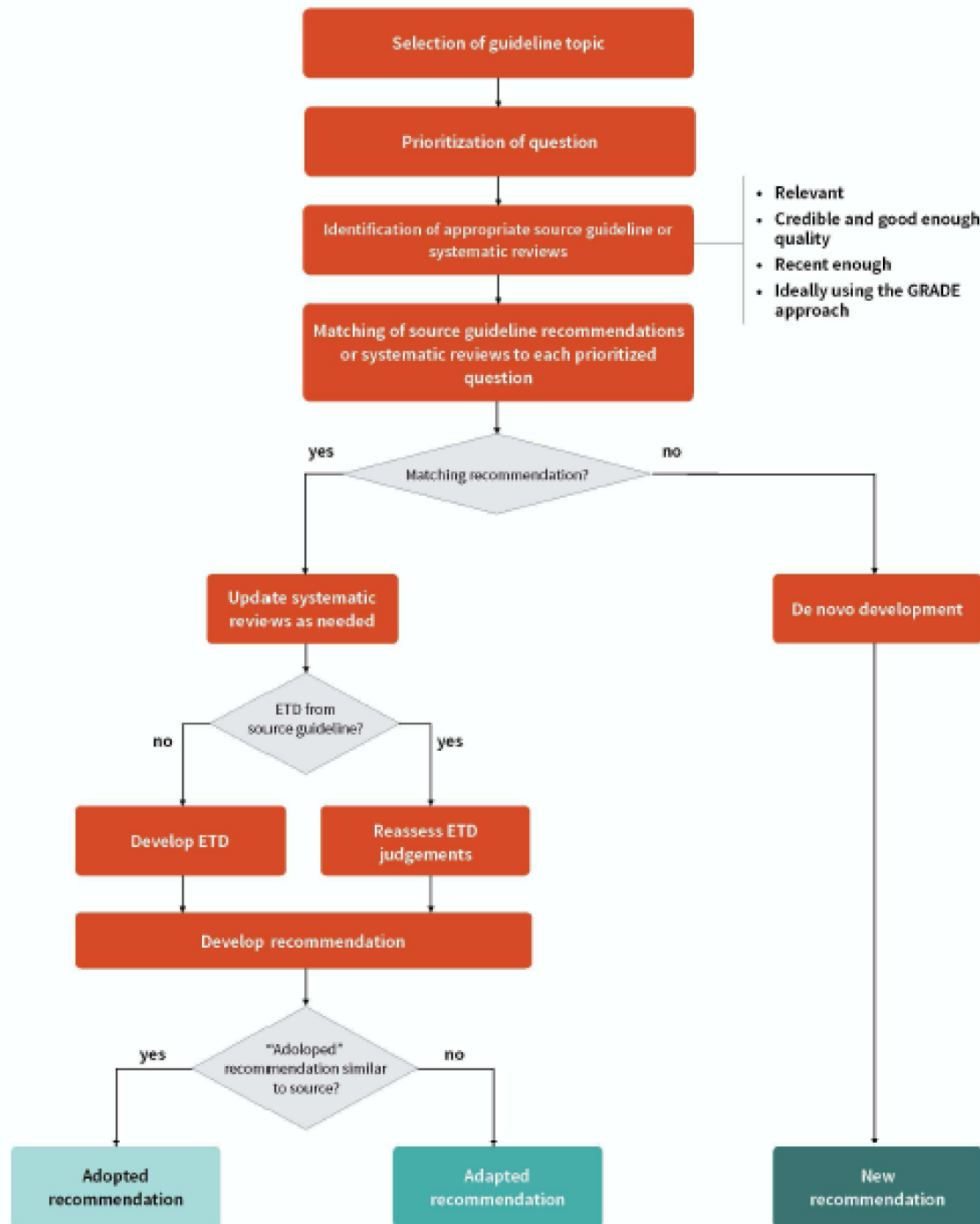
McMaster Guideline Working Group

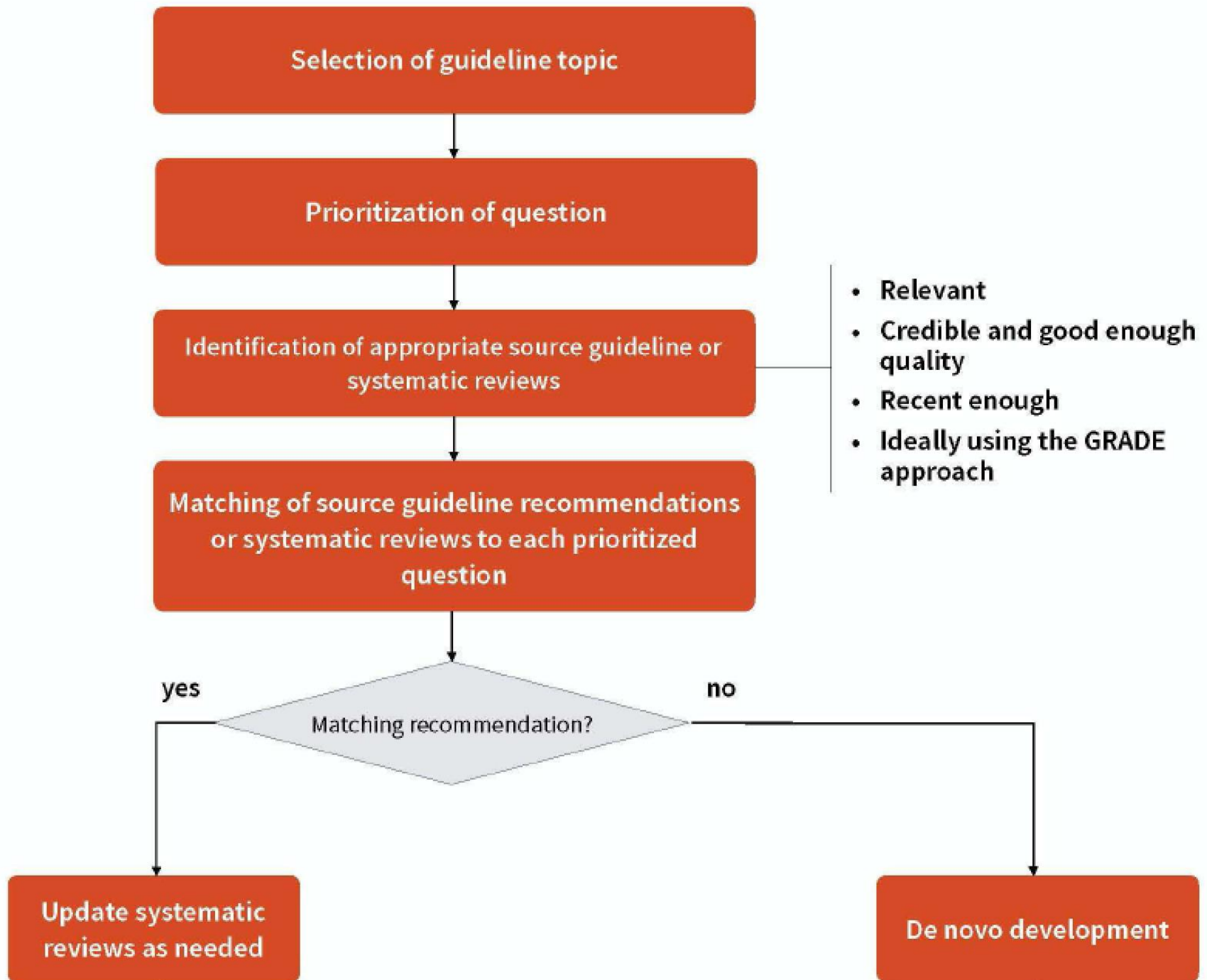
Saudi Centre for EBHC

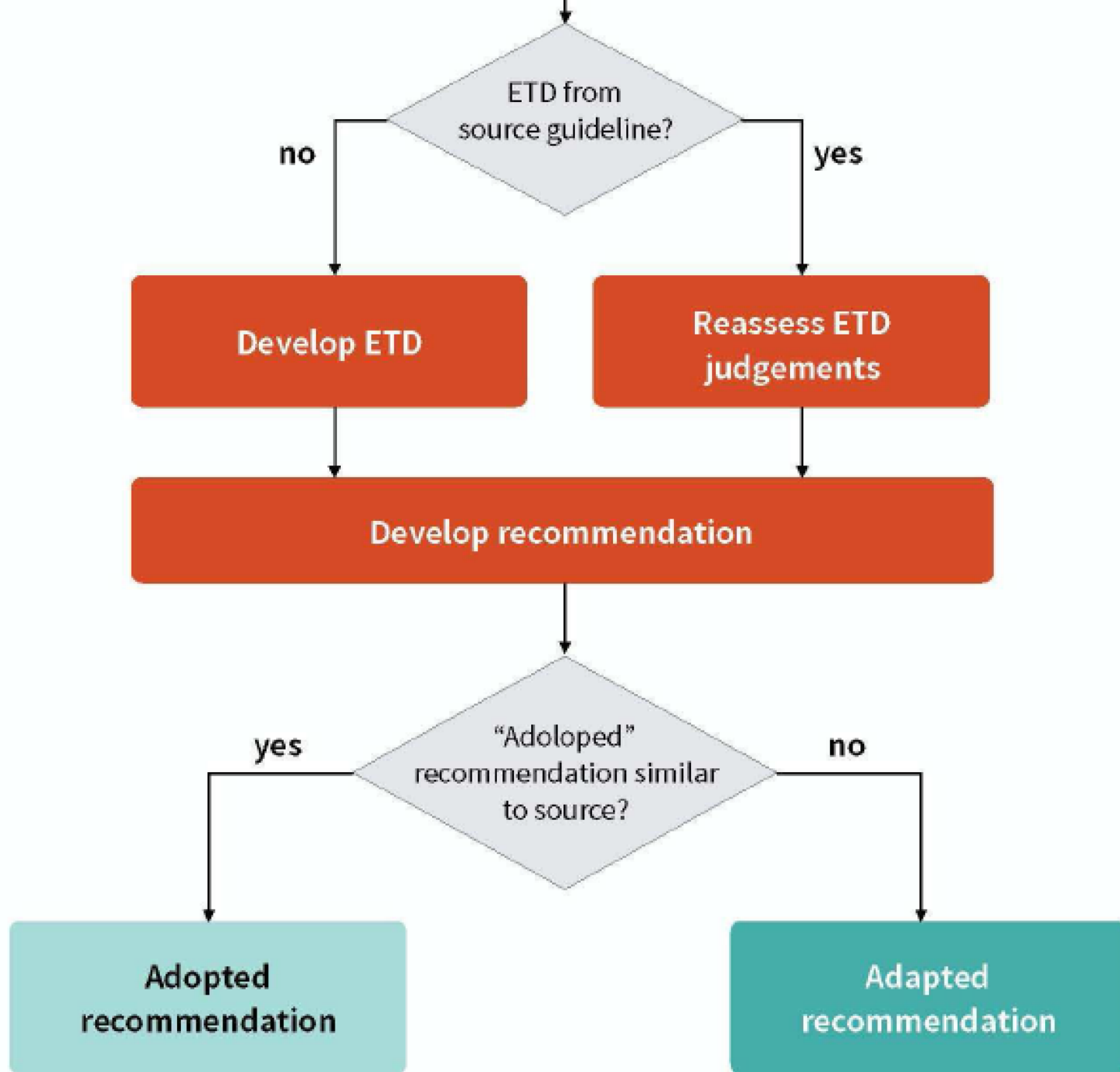
Saudi Expert Guideline Panels:

- Prioritization of questions for guidelines
- Suggesting local evidence and input on local data and contextual factors
- Reviewing evidence summaries
- Making judgements and formulating recommendations in final panel meeting
- Dissemination of guidelines









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ARIA update 2015

Should a combination of OAH and INCS vs. INCS alone be used in patients with perennial allergic rhinitis?

Explanation Help

TASKS	CRITERIA	JUDGEMENTS	RESEARCH EVIDENCE	ADDITIONAL CONSIDERATIONS
TEAM	Is there a problem priority?	<input type="radio"/> No <input type="radio"/> Probably no <input type="radio"/> Uncertain <input type="radio"/> Probably yes <input checked="" type="radio"/> Yes <input type="radio"/> Varies	AR is a worldwide common disease in children and adolescents. Although the great majority of the cases begin during childhood, its prevalence changes throughout the life. The overall prevalence of AR is 14.6% (range 1.0 to 45%) in 13-14 years old children, and for the 6 to 7 years old children is 8.5% (range 4.2-12.7%) (Alt-Khaled 2009). Some studies have shown that the overall prevalence in adult patients with AR clinically confirmed is between 17% to 30%, with an overall value of 23% in Europe (Bauchau 2004, Cingi 2010), a range between 8 to 21% in China (Zhang 2009), and approximately 7% in Latin America (Izquierdo 2013). The distribution of SAR vs Perennial is more difficult to estimate because it varies among studies and among countries, being similar in some countries, while in others they are not. In the United States it has been estimated that 20% of cases are SAR, 40% of cases are perennial rhinitis, and 40% of cases are mixed (Skoner 2001).	
SCOPE	What is the overall certainty of this evidence?	<input type="radio"/> No included studies <input type="radio"/> Very low <input type="radio"/> Low <input type="radio"/> Moderate <input type="radio"/> High	The relative importance or values of the main outcomes of interest	V&P: A cross-sectional study of 170 patients with allergic rhinitis examined the preferences in view of treatment and fear of side effects of the most common treatment options for allergic rhinitis. Patients preferred the use of nasal sprays as first-line treatment options. Forty-eight percent of patients expressed concern regarding the side effects of intranasal corticosteroid sprays in compared to other treatments (Bunnag 2003).
DOCUMENT SECTIONS	Is there important uncertainty in people value outcomes?	<input type="radio"/> Important uncertainty or variability <input type="radio"/> Possibly important uncertainty or variability <input type="radio"/> Probably no important uncertainty or variability <input type="radio"/> Probably no important uncertainty or variability	Nasal symptoms (PAR on) Critical Nasal symptoms (P) Critical Quality of life (70% PA) Critical Effect (70% PA) Critical	A study of 503 patients with seasonal or perennial rhinitis found that patients prefer treatment options with little or taste (Kaliner 2001). A separate randomized control trial also found that less odour was preferred by patients (Bunnag 2003). Preference for a new in preference for a new compared to the current

LOG IN/SIGN UP

## GRADE's software for Summary of Findings tables, Health Technology Assessment and Guidelines

My projects

**Start new**

Learn and support

Continue where I left off

### Evidence Tables

GRADE Evidence Profile

Summary of Findings (SoF) Table

Evidence to Decision Framework

### Guidelines

Full Guideline



# Online interaction

GRADEpro GDT

Project name 1

Alison Beck (alison.beck@gmail.com)

Phase 1 unsent (6) Phase 1 ongoing (1) Phase 2 unsent (0) Phase 2 ongoing (0) Finished (0)

ADMINISTRATION

Send EtD frameworks for individual voting to panel members. Voting can be run in one or two phases. Voting consists of one phase if you decide to send all parts of EtD framework (Assessment, Type of recommendation, Conclusions) at once. Voting consists of two phases if you decide to send parts of EtD framework separately.

EtD TEMPLATES

VOTING

Please decide what should be sent in **phase 1**:

TASKS

1. Do you want to send proposed judgments for voting in **Assessment part** of EtD framework? (See examples of [panel members' voting form - judgments](#))

TEAM

- All judgments proposed** (panel members vote agree/disagree)
- None judgments proposed** (panel members vote on full scale)
- Some judgments proposed** (panel member vote agree/disagree or on full scale)

SCOPE

2. Which **parts of EtD** (Assessment, Type of recommendation, Conclusions) do you want to send in phase 1? (See examples of [panel members' voting form - parts of EtD](#))

DOCUMENT SECTIONS

- Only **Assessment**
- Assessment and Type of recommendation** (empty)
- Assessment** (proposed) and **Type of recommendation** (proposed) and **Conclusions** (proposed)

PROGNOSIS

COMPARISONS

3. Which questions do you want to send?

Please note that in order to send an EtD framework, all of the required data should be filled in.

DISSEMINATION

Select all

Should altered fractionation vs. conventional radiotherapy be used for asthma prevention?

Should SOTI vs. elimination diet be used for asthma prevention?

Should ICS vs. ICS+LABA be used for asthma prevention?

**Compared to placebo**

Should SOTI vs. placebo be used for asthma prevention?

Compose message and send selected questions

List of questions > ICS compared to ICS+LABA for asthma prevention

**Question: Should ICS vs. ICS+LABA be used for asthma prevention?**

**Population:** Adults with asthma

**Intervention:** ICS

**Comparison:** ICS+LABA

**Main outcomes:** Any AE (95% CI); Any AE (99% CI); Any AE (90% CI);

**Setting:** Global

**Perspective:** Patient

**Evidence to Decision framework**

[Instructions](#)

Review research evidence and make your judgment. Comment on your decision to justify it.

CRITERION	YOUR JUDGMENT	RESEARCH EVIDENCE
<b>PROBLEM: Is the problem a priority?</b>	<input type="radio"/> No <input type="radio"/> Probably no <input type="radio"/> Probably yes <input type="radio"/> Yes <hr/> <input type="radio"/> Varies <input type="radio"/> Don't know	<p>AR is a worldwide common disease in children and adolescents. Although the great majority of the cases begin during childhood, its prevalence changes throughout the life. The overall prevalence of AR is 14.6% (range 1.0 to 45%) in 13-14 years old children, and for the 6 to 7 years old children is 8.5% (range 4.2-12.7%) (Ait-Khaled 2009). Some studies have shown that the overall prevalence in adult patients with AR clinically confirmed is between 17% to 30%, with an overall value of 23% in Europe (Bauchau 2004, Cingi 2010), a range between 8 to 21% in China (Zhang 2009), and approximately 7% in Latin America (Izquierdo 2013). The distribution of SAR vs Perennial is more difficult to estimate because it varies among studies and among countries, being similar in some countries, while in others they are not. In the United States it has been estimated that 20% of cases are SAR, 40% of cases are perennial rhinitis, and 40% of cases are mixed (Skoner 2001).</p> <p>Comment Provide a reason for your decision or other comments</p>

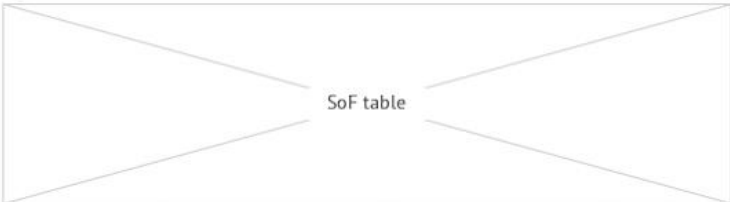
CRITERION	YOUR JUDGMENT	RESEARCH EVIDENCE
<b>DESIRABLE EFFECTS: How substantial are the desirable anticipated effects?</b>	<input type="radio"/> Trivial <input type="radio"/> Small <input type="radio"/> Moderate <input type="radio"/> Large <hr/> <input type="radio"/> Varies <input type="radio"/> Don't know	<p><b>The relative importance or values of the main outcomes of interest:</b></p> <div style="text-align: center;"> <p>SoF table</p> </div>

Comment  
Provide a reason for your decision or other comments

cases are SAR, 40% of cases are perennial rhinitis, and 40% of cases are mixed (Skoner 2001).

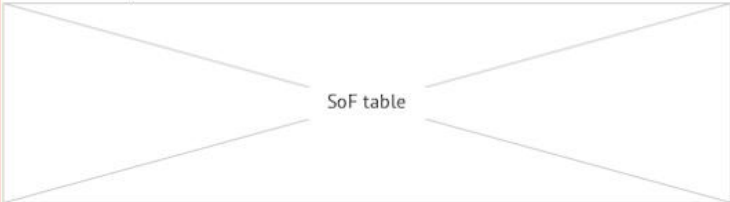
Comment

Provide a reason for your decision or other comments

CRITERION	YOUR JUDGMENT	RESEARCH EVIDENCE
<b>DESIRABLE EFFECTS: How substantial are the desirable anticipated effects?</b>	<input type="radio"/> Trivial <input type="radio"/> Small <input type="radio"/> Moderate <input type="radio"/> Large ----- <input type="radio"/> Varies <input type="radio"/> Don't know	<b>The relative importance or values of the main outcomes of interest:</b>  <p>The diagram shows a central box labeled "SoF table" with four lines extending outwards to the corners of a larger rectangle, forming a diamond shape.</p>

Comment

Provide a reason for your decision or other comments

CRITERION	YOUR JUDGMENT	RESEARCH EVIDENCE
<b>UNDESIRABLE EFFECTS: How substantial are the undesirable anticipated effects?</b>	<input type="radio"/> Trivial <input type="radio"/> Small <input type="radio"/> Moderate <input type="radio"/> Large ----- <input type="radio"/> Varies <input type="radio"/> Don't know	<b>The relative importance or values of the main outcomes of interest:</b>  <p>The diagram shows a central box labeled "SoF table" with four lines extending outwards to the corners of a larger rectangle, forming a diamond shape.</p>

Judgment is required.

Comment

Provide a reason for your decision or other comments

Save

Save and submit

Voting on "Assessment" part when judgments are empty.



List of questions > ICS compared to ICS+LABA for asthma prevention

**Question: Should ICS vs. ICS+LABA be used for asthma prevention?**

**Population:** Adults with asthma  
**Intervention:** ICS  
**Comparison:** ICS+LABA  
**Main outcomes:** Any AE (95% CI); Any AE (99% CI); Any AE (90% CI);  
**Setting:** Global  
**Perspective:** Patient

**Evidence to Decision framework**

[Instructions](#)

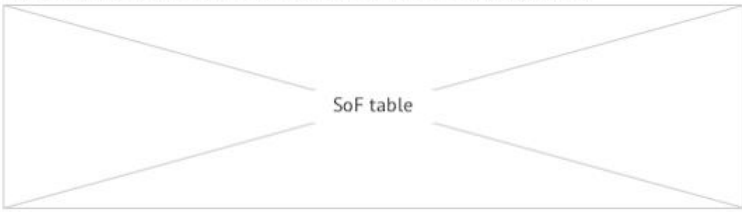
CRITERION	PROPOSED JUDGMENT	RESEARCH EVIDENCE
PROBLEM: <b>Is the problem a priority?</b>	<input type="radio"/> No <input type="radio"/> Probably no <input type="radio"/> Probably yes <input checked="" type="radio"/> <b>Yes</b> <hr/> <input type="radio"/> Varies <input type="radio"/> Don't know	AR is a worldwide common disease in children and adolescents. Although the great majority of the cases begin during childhood, its prevalence changes throughout the life. The overall prevalence of AR is 14.6% (range 1.0 to 45%) in 13-14 years old children, and for the 6 to 7 years old children is 8.5% (range 4.2-12.7%) (Ait-Khaled 2009). Some studies have shown that the overall prevalence in adult patients with AR clinically confirmed is between 17% to 30%, with an overall value of 23% in Europe (Bauchau 2004, Cingi 2010), a range between 8 to 21% in China (Zhang 2009), and approximately 7% in Latin America (Izquierdo 2013). The distribution of SAR vs Perennial is more difficult to estimate because it varies among studies and among countries, being similar in some countries, while in others they are not. In the United States it has been estimated that 20% of cases are SAR, 40% of cases are perennial rhinitis, and 40% of cases are mixed (Skoner 2001).

Agree  Disagree

Comment\*

Provide a reason for your decision or other comments

Comment is required. Please give the reason for disagreeing.

CRITERION	PROPOSED JUDGMENT	RESEARCH EVIDENCE
DESIRABLE EFFECTS: <b>How substantial are the desirable anticipated effects?</b>	<input type="radio"/> Trivial <input type="radio"/> Small <input checked="" type="radio"/> <b>Moderate</b> <hr/> <input type="radio"/> Large <input type="radio"/> Varies <input type="radio"/> Don't know	<p><b>The relative importance or values of the main outcomes of interest:</b></p> 

Agree  Disagree

Comment

Provide a reason for your decision or other comments

**GRADEpro | GDT** | Estonian workshop December 2015 Bedaquiline for Tuberculosis

**PROJECT ADMINISTRATION**

**ETD TEMPLATES**

GRADE standard EtD templates were developed to facilitate the process of making healthcare decisions by guideline panels. Different EtD templates include various criteria (e.g., equity) depending on type of recommendations/decisions and chosen perspective (e.g., individual, population). [Learn about EtD templates](#)

**TASKS**

Template for management questions

Clinical recommendation - Population perspective

**TEAM**

**SCOPE**

Select base template for diagnostic questions: Tests - Coverage decision

**DOCUMENT SECTIONS**

Template name

Tests - Coverage decision

**Question**

- Population
- Intervention
- Comparison
- Purpose
- Linked treatments
- Anticipated outcomes
- Setting
- Perspective
- Background

**Assessment**

- Problem
  - Is the problem a priority?
- Test accuracy
  - How accurate is the test?
- Desirable Effects
  - How substantial are the desirable anticipated effects?
- Undesirable Effects
  - How substantial are the undesirable anticipated effects?

Revert to original | Use this template



# Adoption: Hemodialysis



## Box 2 - Recommendation:

**For adult patients (>18 years of age) with an eGFR <15 ml/min/1.73m<sup>2</sup>, we recommend an ‘intent-to-defer’ over an ‘intent-to-start early’ approach for the initiation of chronic dialysis. (Strong recommendation; moderate quality evidence ⊕⊕⊕○)**

## Underlying Values and Preferences

This recommendation places a high value on quality of life, by avoiding the burden associated with earlier initiation of dialysis without clinical indications, while concurrently avoiding complications of uremia. This recommendation also places a high value on resource use, which increases with earlier initiation of dialysis. This recommendation places a low value on surrogate markers including serum albumin, body nitrogen and eGFR levels in the absence of symptoms.

Appendix 1: Evidence-to-Recommendation Table and Evidence Profiles

Evidence to recommendation framework

**Among adult patients (age >= 18 years) with advanced (stage V) chronic kidney disease, what are the effects of an intent-to-initiate dialysis early (eGFR 10-14 ml/min) strategy compared with an intent-to-defer dialysis (eGFR 5-7 ml/min) strategy?**

**Problem:** adult patients (>=18 years of age) with an eGFR <15 ml/min/1.73m<sup>2</sup>  
**Option:** "intent-to-start-early"  
**Comparison:** "Intent-to-defer"  
**Setting:** Outpatient  
**Perspective:** Health system (\*might not be applicable from an individual decision making perspective)

**Background:** Initiating chronic dialysis has major implications for patients and health care systems around the world and in Saudi Arabia. When patients reach advanced stages of chronic kidney disease (CKD), there is a need to identify a dialysis threshold. Before this proposed threshold starting dialysis will add no benefits but beyond it there may be risks to patients. The limited available dialysis slots Saudi Arabia hospitals and dialysis units emphasize the importance of this guideline to individual patients' care and the healthcare system in general.

	CRITERIA	JUDGEMENTS	RESEARCH EVIDENCE	ADDITIONAL CONSIDERATIONS
PROBLEM	Is the problem a priority?	No <input type="checkbox"/> Probably No <input type="checkbox"/> Uncertain <input type="checkbox"/> Probably Yes <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Varies <input type="checkbox"/>	Global prevalence of renal replacement therapy has almost doubled within the past two decades at a rate of > 6% per year. This growth is far beyond what is anticipated secondary to population growth and aging and it adds enormous burden on global health resources.  KSA specific evidence (SCOT database) <sup>6</sup> In 2012, there were 14171 dialysis patients out of a population of 28.4 million. Total number of ESRD patients on HD was 12844 in 2012. This number has almost doubled in one decade (was 3357 in 1993 and 7004 in 2003). In 2012, 3187 new cases of HD were registered (was 1733 in 2000).	The prevalence of CKD with its different stages is unknown in KSA. There is large variation in incidence and prevalence among different regions. <sup>20</sup> Increase availability of dialysis services may also have played a role in increasing ESRD population.



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BENEFITS & HARMS OF THE OPTIONS	What is the overall certainty of this evidence?	<table border="0"> <tr> <td>No included studies</td> <td>Very low</td> <td>Low</td> <td>Moderate</td> <td>High</td> </tr> <tr> <td><input type="checkbox"/></td> <td><input type="checkbox"/></td> <td><input type="checkbox"/></td> <td><input checked="" type="checkbox"/></td> <td><input type="checkbox"/></td> </tr> </table>	No included studies	Very low	Low	Moderate	High	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<p><i>The relative importance or values of the main outcomes of interest:</i></p> <table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th>Outcome</th> <th>Relative importance</th> <th>Certainty of the evidence</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>Mortality</td> <td>Critical</td> <td rowspan="2">Moderate ⊕⊕⊕⊖</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Quality of Life</td> <td>Critical</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Hospitalization</td> <td>Important</td> <td></td> </tr> <tr> <td>Nutritional status</td> <td>Not important</td> <td></td> </tr> </tbody> </table> <p><b>Summary of findings: "Intent-to-defer" dialysis compared to "intent-to-start-early" in adult patients with CKD stage 5</b></p> <table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th>Outcome</th> <th>"intent-to-start-early" (# of patients)</th> <th>"intent-to-defer" (# of patients)</th> <th>Difference Per 1000 (95%CI)</th> <th>Relative effect (95%CI)</th> <th>Certainty of the evidence (GRADE)</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>Mortality</td> <td>152 out of 404</td> <td>155 out of 424</td> <td>11 more (from 51 fewer to 81 more)</td> <td>HR 1.04 (0.83 to 1.3)</td> <td>Moderate ⊕⊕⊕⊖</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Quality of Life (better indicated by lower)</td> <td>307</td> <td>355</td> <td>MD 1 higher (no CI provided)</td> <td>-</td> <td>High ⊕⊕⊕⊕</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Hospitalization</td> <td>307</td> <td>355</td> <td>MD 8 higher (2 lower to 17 higher)</td> <td>-</td> <td>Moderate ⊕⊕⊕⊖</td> </tr> </tbody> </table> <p>Link to detailed evidence profile (Table 1,3,4,5)</p> <p><b>Subgroup considerations:</b></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>DM vs No DM</li> <li>HD vs PD</li> <li>CVD vs no CVD</li> <li>Hemoglobinuria vs no hemoglobinuria</li> </ol> <p>Link to summary of findings and judgments for subgroups (Table 6)</p>	Outcome	Relative importance	Certainty of the evidence	Mortality	Critical	Moderate ⊕⊕⊕⊖	Quality of Life	Critical	Hospitalization	Important		Nutritional status	Not important		Outcome	"intent-to-start-early" (# of patients)	"intent-to-defer" (# of patients)	Difference Per 1000 (95%CI)	Relative effect (95%CI)	Certainty of the evidence (GRADE)	Mortality	152 out of 404	155 out of 424	11 more (from 51 fewer to 81 more)	HR 1.04 (0.83 to 1.3)	Moderate ⊕⊕⊕⊖	Quality of Life (better indicated by lower)	307	355	MD 1 higher (no CI provided)	-	High ⊕⊕⊕⊕	Hospitalization	307	355	MD 8 higher (2 lower to 17 higher)	-	Moderate ⊕⊕⊕⊖	<p>We updated the SR done by the Canadian Society of Nephrology. We identified 26 observational studies (29 reports) one randomized controlled trial (RCT)(4 reports)<sup>9,10,11</sup> and a published systematic review<sup>12</sup> comparing the effect of early vs late dialysis start on survival. We summarized the evidence informing each of the critical and important outcomes (mortality, quality of life and hospitalization) in GRADE evidence profile (Table 1). The IDEAL trial demonstrated no effect on mortality between patients randomized to the intent-to-start early versus intent-to-defer groups (hazard ratio [HR] 1.04, 95% CI=0.83 to 1.30). The pooled effect estimate from systematic review of observational studies was identical, but with a narrower confidence interval HR =1.04 (95%CI 1.03 to 1.05), and suggested a harmful effect with early initiation of dialysis. Residual confounding was, however, likely severe in this body of evidence. Of note, the patients randomised in the IDEAL trial are generally healthier (have fewer comorbidities) than the advanced CKD patients typically initiating dialysis in Saudi Arabia. (Table 3) The IDEAL trial reported no significant difference in quality of life between patients randomized to the intent-to-start</p>
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<b>Balance of consequences</b>	Undesirable consequences <i>clearly outweigh</i> desirable consequences in most settings <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Undesirable consequences <i>probably outweigh</i> desirable consequences in most settings <input type="checkbox"/>	The balance between desirable and undesirable consequences <i>is closely balanced or uncertain</i> <input type="checkbox"/>	Desirable consequences <i>probably outweigh</i> undesirable consequences in most settings <input type="checkbox"/>	Desirable consequences <i>clearly outweigh</i> undesirable consequences in most settings <input type="checkbox"/>
<b>Type of recommendation</b>	We recommend against offering this option <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	We suggest not offering this option <input type="checkbox"/>	We suggest offering this option <input type="checkbox"/>	We recommend offering this option <input type="checkbox"/>	
<b>Recommendation (text)</b>	The KSA guideline panel recommends against “intent- to- start-early” rather than “intent-to-defer” strategy for initiating dialysis in adult patient (≥ 18 years or more) with stage 5 CKD (an eGFR <15 ml/min/1.73m <sup>2</sup> )				
<b>Justification</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• This recommendation applies to adult patients who are 18 years old or older and does not apply to adolescence between 13 and 18 years old. The Saudi Expert Panel agreed that patients aged 13-18 years are likely to behave clinically different than adults for many reasons including small body size and going through maturity period. This group of patients (13-18 years old) is considered adult by the KSA MoH regulations and they are typically admitted to adult inpatient services. This creates a challenge in managing dialysis patients in this age group due to variation in comfort level among adult nephrologists who are expected to deal with this group especially when admitted.</li> <li>• This recommendation applies to patients planning to use either chronic hemodialysis or chronic peritoneal dialysis. We do not consider pre-emptive transplantation, initiation of dialysis after failed transplant, urgent initiation of dialysis for acute kidney failure, conservative management without dialysis, or paediatric populations.</li> <li>• Patients comorbidities and age, modality education and selection, rate of decline in eGFR, local waiting time for access (vascular access creation and maturation or peritoneal dialysis catheter insertion), access to interventional radiology and diagnostic imaging and availability of staff, physical space, equipment, or other resources requires for provision of a chosen modality are all factors that may influence the decision about timing of initiation of dialysis.</li> <li>• Adherence to this recommendation requires availability of timely follow-up with a nephrologist to closely monitor clinical indications for dialysis initiation. These clinical indications for the initiation of dialysis include: symptoms of uremia, refractory fluid overload, hyperkalemia or acidemia, or other conditions or symptoms that are likely to be ameliorated by dialysis. In the absence of these factors, eGFR should not serve as a sole criterion for the initiation of dialysis unless it is <math>\leq 6</math> ml/min/1.72m<sup>2</sup>.</li> <li>• The ‘intent-to-defer’ strategy pertains specifically to timing of dialysis initiation, and does not mean that patients should be referred to nephrologists at a later stage (lower level of kidney function).</li> </ul>				
<b>Subgroup considerations</b>	We found no evidence to support a subgroup effect for patients: 1. initiating peritoneal or hemodialysis, 2. patients with or without diabetes, or 3. patients with high vs. low levels of comorbidity and outcome for intent-to-defer versus intent-to-start early strategies				



# Message

- Complete practice change of authorities in the field
- Also true for other recommendations



# Adaptation

## Breast cancer screening

CMAJ

GUIDELINES

### Recommendations on screening for breast cancer in average-risk women aged 40–74 years

The Canadian Task Force on Preventive Health Care

See related commentary by Gøtzsche on page 1957 and at [www.cmaj.ca/lookup/doi/10.1503/cmaj.111721](http://www.cmaj.ca/lookup/doi/10.1503/cmaj.111721)

#### Women aged 40–49 years

*For women 40–49 years of age, we recommend **not routinely screening for breast cancer** with mammography. (Weak recommendation; moderate-quality evidence.)*

## Recommendations

### Recommendation 1:

The Saudi Expert Panel suggests screening with mammography in women aged 40–49 years every 1 to 2 years. (Conditional recommendation; low-quality evidence)



Appendix 1: Evidence-to-Recommendation Tables and Evidence Profiles

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Are the desirable anticipated effects large?	<table border="0"> <tr> <td>No</td> <td>Probably No</td> <td>Uncertain</td> <td>Probably Yes</td> <td>Yes</td> <td>Varies</td> </tr> <tr> <td><input type="checkbox"/></td> <td><input type="checkbox"/></td> <td><input checked="" type="checkbox"/></td> <td><input type="checkbox"/></td> <td><input type="checkbox"/></td> <td><input type="checkbox"/></td> </tr> </table>	No	Probably No	Uncertain	Probably Yes	Yes	Varies	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>																																																	
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Are the desirable effects large relative to undesirable effects?	<table border="0"> <tr> <td>No</td> <td>Probably No</td> <td>Closely balanced</td> <td>Probably Yes</td> <td>Yes</td> <td>Varies</td> </tr> <tr> <td><input type="checkbox"/></td> <td><input type="checkbox"/></td> <td><input checked="" type="checkbox"/></td> <td><input type="checkbox"/></td> <td><input type="checkbox"/></td> <td><input type="checkbox"/></td> </tr> </table>	No	Probably No	Closely balanced	Probably Yes	Yes	Varies	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>																																																	
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## *Remarks:*

Based on local cancer registry data, the incidence of breast cancer in the KSA seems to be higher than in the other countries in which studies were conducted. This fact may indicate that higher benefit on breast cancer mortality justifies a recommendation in favor of implementing breast cancer screening using mammography in this age group. Since the guideline panel determined that there is a close balance between desirable and undesirable consequences, they also suggest implementing shared-decision making strategies as a way to incorporate actively patients' perspective into the decision.



# Reason

- Different baseline risk in Saudi Arabia



# De novo recommendation: Multi vessel vs single vessel intervention for myocardial infarction

National Clinical Guideline Centre



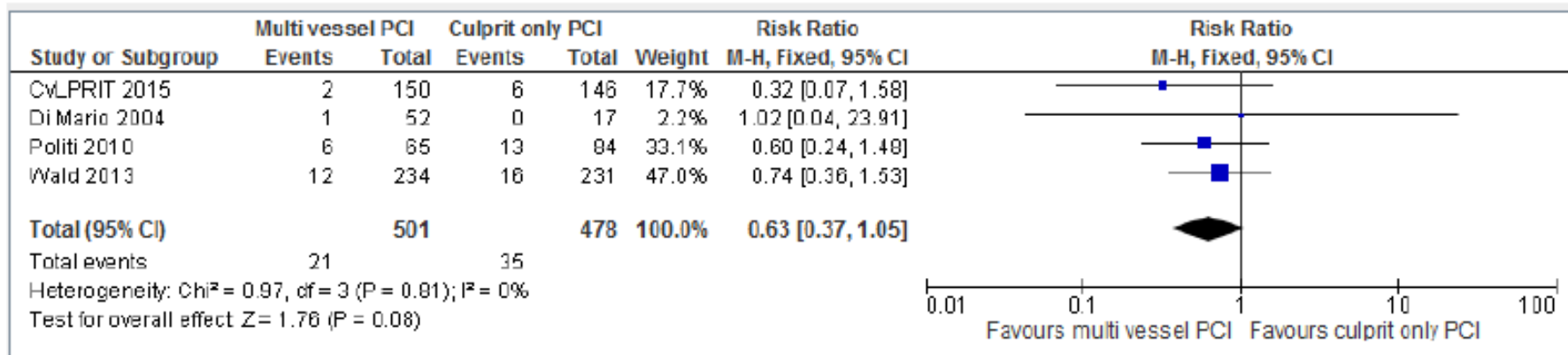
## 1.5 Culprit versus complete revascularisation

### 1.5.1 Culprit-only PPCI versus immediate **multivessel** PCI

Figure 180: RCTs: all-cause mortality ( $\leq 30$  days)







## Mortality-long term



## Reinfarction

# Two small trials vs four trials ~200 vs 1000 patients

**Evidence Profile:** Multi-vessel PPCI compared to culprit only PPCI in patients with STEMI and multi-vessel coronary artery disease undergoing PPCI

**Author(s):** Veena Manja & Wojtek Wiercioch

**Date:** 2014-12-15

№ of studies	Study design	Risk of bias	Quality assessment				Other considerations	№ of patients		Relative (95% CI)	Effect		Quality	Importance
			Inconsistency	Indirectness	Imprecision			multi-vessel PPCI	culprit only PPCI		Absolute (95% CI)			
Mortality - long term														
4	randomised trials	serious <sup>1</sup>	not serious	not serious	serious <sup>2</sup>	none	21/501 (4.2%)	35/478 (7.3%)	RR 0.63 (0.37 to 1.05)	27 fewer per 1000 (from 4 more to 46 fewer)	⊕⊕○○ LOW	CRITICAL		
Reinfarction														
4	randomised trials	serious <sup>1</sup>	not serious	not serious	not serious	none	12/501 (2.4%)	32/478 (6.7%)	RR 0.37 (0.19 to 0.71)	42 fewer per 1000 (from 19 fewer to 54 fewer)	⊕⊕⊕○ MODERATE	CRITICAL		
Revascularization														
4	randomised trials	serious <sup>1</sup>	not serious	not serious	not serious	none	38/501 (7.6%)	92/478 (19.2%)	RR 0.37 (0.26 to 0.53)	121 fewer per 1000 (from 90 fewer to 142 fewer)	⊕⊕⊕○ MODERATE	CRITICAL		



# Message

- Saudi Arabian panel more certain in decision/recommendation
- Reason:
  - NEW EVIDENCE IDENTIFIED during our effort



# Summary for adoloPMENT

## Advantages

- Builds in part on existing evidence syntheses
- Transparent consideration of factors beyond QoE (EtDs) with focus on local/regional setting
- Builds capacity
- By recommendation rather than by guideline

## Challenges

- SRs required as starting point
- Challenging if existing SR restricted inclusion to RCTs or highly selected outcomes
- Reviews of “other information”
- Panels need to commit to follow rigorous methodological approach and stick to timelines



# How to get started

- Would begin with extracting all PICO questions and list them for identifying priorities
  - From existing guideline (go to website of TB guidelines)



# Slides for Holger

- Will show example from a recent thromboembolism guideline we developed on surveymonkey on how to prioritize
  - Use those that are most important or all
  - Agree in meeting with panel members
- Extract information to iEtD or use iEtDs
- Demonstrate agreement on individual criteria
  - Online or in person
- Demonstrate policy maker modification



# Discussion

