



LEVELS OF EVIDENCE AND GRADES OF RECOMMENDATIONS

Evidence Based Health Care -- Practice guidelines levels of evidence and grades of recommendations used by the [National Guideline Clearinghouse](http://www.guidelines.gov) (<http://www.guidelines.gov>)

Levels of Evidence:

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- IA Evidence from meta-analysis of randomized controlled trials
 - IB Evidence from at least one randomized controlled trial
 - IIA Evidence from at least one controlled study without randomization
 - IIB Evidence from at least one other type of quasi-experimental study
 - III Evidence from non-experimental descriptive studies, such as comparative studies, correlation studies, and case-control studies
 - IV Evidence from expert committee reports or opinions or clinical experience of respected authorities, or both

Grades of Recommendations:

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- A Directly based on Level I evidence
 - B Directly based on Level II evidence or extrapolated recommendations from Level I evidence
 - C Directly based on Level III evidence or extrapolated recommendations from Level I or II evidence
 - D Directly based on Level IV evidence or extrapolated recommendations from Level I, II, or III evidence

(from Shekelle PG, Woolf SH, Eccles M, Grimshaw J. [Developing clinical guidelines](http://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pmc/articles/PMC18751155/)

<http://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pmc/articles/PMC18751155/?tool=pubmed>). West J Med. 170(6):348-51, 1999 June)