



CUA GUIDELINES

LEVELS OF EVIDENCE AND GRADES OF RECOMMENDATION

Whenever possible the CUA Guidelines Committee attempts to report levels of evidence and grades of recommendation in its guideline documents.

The system used, the modified Oxford Center for Evidence-Based Medicine grading system for guideline recommendations, is that employed by the International Consultation on Urologic Disease (ICUD).

LEVEL OF EVIDENCE

- Level 1.** Meta-analysis of RCTs or a good-quality RCT*
- Level 2.** Low-quality RCT or meta-analysis of good-quality prospective cohort studies
- Level 3.** Good-quality retrospective case-control studies or case series
- Level 4.** Expert opinion based on “first principles” or bench research, not on evidence

GRADES OF RECOMMENDATION

- Grade A.** Usually consistent level 1 evidence
- Grade B.** Consistent level 2 or 3 evidence or “majority evidence” from RCT’s
- Grade C.** Level 4 evidence, “majority evidence” from level 2 or 3 studies, expert opinion
- Grade D.** No recommendation possible because of inadequate or conflicting evidence

**RCT=randomized, controlled trial*