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