

Online supplementary file 3: Categories of evidence and Strength of recommendations

Categories of evidence

Category	Evidence
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1A	From meta-analysis of randomized controlled trials
1B	From at least one randomised controlled trial
2A	From at least one controlled study without randomisation
2B	From at least one type of quasi-experimental study
3	From descriptive studies, such as comparative studies, correlation studies, or case control studies
4	From expert committee reports or opinions and/or clinical experience of respected authorities

Source: Dougados et al. EULAR standardised operating procedures for the elaboration, evaluation, dissemination, and implementation of recommendations endorsed by the EULAR standing committees. *Ann. Rheum. Dis.* 2004;63(9):1173

Strength of recommendations

Strength	Directly based on
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A	Category 1 evidence
B	Category 2 evidence or extrapolated recommendations from Category 1 evidence
C	Category 3 evidence or extrapolated recommendations from Category 1 or 2 evidence
D	Category 4 evidence or extrapolated recommendations from Category 2 or 3 evidence

Source: Dougados et al. EULAR standardised operating procedures for the elaboration, evaluation, dissemination, and implementation of recommendations endorsed by the EULAR standing committees. *Ann. Rheum. Dis.* 2004;63(9):1174