
SUPPLEMENTAL TABLE. Checklist for Quality Assessment of the Included Studies

Criteria	Yes	No	Unclear
1. Were participants a representative sample selected from a relevant population?			
2. Are the inclusion/exclusion criteria of patients in the study clearly described?			
3. Were participants entering the study at a similar point in their disease progression?			
4. Was selection consecutive?			
5. Were all important prognostic factors identified?			
6. Was data collected prospectively?			
7. Was the recruitment period clearly stated?			
8. Was an attempt made to blind outcome assessors?			
9. Was the intervention undertaken by someone experienced in performing the procedure?			
10. Were valid and objective outcome measures used?			
11. Were all the important outcomes considered?			
12. Was follow-up long enough to detect important effects on outcomes of interest?			
13. Was information provided on nonrespondent and/or dropouts?			
14. Were the main findings clearly described (to allow replication)?			

Adapted from CRD's Guidance for Those Carrying out or Commissioning Reviews, 2001 and from Downs and Black, 1998
