**Supplementary Appendix**

**Supplemental Table 1.** Differences in criteria for levels of evidence and grading recommendations between the current review and the prior review

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| **Ramkumar/Rao****1966-200414** | **Current Review****2004- 2020** |
| ***Levels of evidence*** |
| **Level I**: Good evidence-Consistent results from well-designed, well-conducted studies | **Level I**: Good evidence-Consistent results from ³1 properly randomized controlled trial (>1 study with a consistent result and 1 has to be of high quality) |
| **Level II**: Fair evidence-Results show benefit, but strength is limited by the number, quality, or consistency of the individual studies | **Level II**: Fair evidence-Results show benefit, but strength is limited by the number, quality, or consistency of the individual studies |
| **Level III**: Poor evidence-Insufficient because of limited number or power of studies, flaws in their design or conduct | **Level III**: Poor evidence-Insufficient because of limited number or power of studies, flaws in their design or conduct |
| ***Classification of recommendations*** |
| **Grade A**: Good evidence in support of the use of a modality in the treatment of constipation | **Grade A**: Good evidence in support of the use of a modality in the treatment of constipation |
| **Grade B**: Moderate evidence in support of the use of a modality in the treatment of constipation | **Grade B**: Moderate evidence in support of the use of a modality in the treatment of constipation |
| **Grade C**: Poor evidence to support a recommendation for or against the use of the modality | **Grade C**: Poor evidence to support a recommendation for or against the use of the modality |
| **Grade D**: Moderate evidence against the use of the modality | **Grade D**: Moderate evidence against the use of the modality |
| **Grade E**: Good evidence to support a recommendation against the use of a modality | **Grade I**: Insufficient evidence to recommend for or against the modality |
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