

APPENDIX B

Level of evidence grading table

Adapted from the Centre for Evidence-Based Medicine (CEBM) Levels of Evidence (March 2009)[1]

	Level 1	Level 2	Level 3	Level 4	Level 5
Diagnosis	Systematic review of cross sectional studies	Systematic review of cross sectional studies with consistently applied reference standard and blinding	Systematic review of non-consecutive studies, or studies without consistently applied reference standards	Systematic review of case-control study, or cross-sectional study with non-independent reference standard	Opinion
Treatments	Systematic review of randomized trials or <i>n</i> -of-1 trial	Randomized trial or (exceptionally) observational studies with dramatic effect	Non-randomized controlled cohort/follow-up study	Systematic review of case-control studies, historically controlled studies	Opinion
Outcome	Systematic review of inception cohort studies	Inception cohort studies	Cohort or control arm of randomized trial	Systematic review of case-series	Opinion

Grades of Recommendation

A	Consistent level 1 studies
B	Consistent level 2 or 3 studies <i>or</i> extrapolations from level 1 studies
C	Level 4 studies <i>or</i> extrapolations from level 2 or 3 studies
D	Level 5 evidence <i>or</i> troublingly inconsistent or inconclusive studies of any level
Consensus	Opinion supported by entire Canadian Fibromyalgia Guidelines Committee

Level may be graded down on the basis of study quality, imprecision, indirectness, because of inconsistency between studies, or because the absolute effect size is very small; Level may be graded up if there is a large or very large effect size.

1. Howick, J., Chalmers, I., Glasziou, P., Greenhalgh, T., Heneghan, C., Liberati, A., Moschetti, I., Phillips, B., Thornton, H., Goddard, O., Hodgkinson, M., *The Oxford 2011 Table of Evidence. Oxford Centre for Evidence-Based Medicine.*
<http://www.cebm.net/index.aspx?o=5653>