



# Guideline on haemorrhoids: AGREE-II-Criteria can be applied in different ways?

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*Comment on:* Gavriilidis P, Askari A, Gavriilidis E, *et al.* Evaluation of the current guidelines for the management of haemorrhoidal disease using the Appraisal of Guidelines Research and Evaluation II instrument. *Ann Transl Med* 2023;11:265.

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With interest, we read the paper by Graviilidis *et al.* (1), because two of us (JK and JJ) participated in the European Society of Coloproctology (ESCP)-guideline. We were surprised about the results of the Appraisal of Guidelines Research and Evaluation (AGREE) II, Appraisals of the American Society of Colon and Rectal Surgeons (ASCRS) and Società Italiana di Chirurgia Colorectale (SICCR, which is Italian Society of Colorectal Surgery) guidelines. In a paper (2), we wrote on the quality of guidelines on haemorrhoidal disease and we rated the ASCRS guideline considerably lower than the authors of this paper. In the ASCRS guideline, we could not find the procedure with which the selected papers were evaluated (on possible bias, etc.) like it was done in the ESCP-guideline. We could not find any additional appendices, in which the selection, data extraction, and (statistical) evaluation of the papers were described. The same applies to the Italian (SICCR) guideline.

We were not the only ones to rate the ASCRS guideline lower than the authors did: Brown *et al.* (3) also rated the ASCRS guideline lower. The Italian (SICCR) guideline, that was rated quite high by Graviilidis *et al.* was rated low by Brown *et al.* So, we wonder how the authors come to their rating, that is quite different from Brown *et al.* and ours. It would be helpful to see their rating for each individual item, rather than only summary scores for each domain. We would be happy to make ours available.

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*Ethical Statement:* The authors are accountable for all aspects of the work in ensuring that questions related to the accuracy or integrity of any part of the work are appropriately investigated and resolved.

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