

Appendix A

Methodological Index for Non-Randomized Studies (MINORS)³⁶ guidelines to assess the methodological quality. The items are scored 0 (not reported), 1 (reported but inadequate) or 2 (reported and adequate)

Beldman et al³³

Item	Description	Score
1	A clearly stated aim	2
2	Inclusion of consecutive patients	2
3	Prospective collection of data	2
4	Endpoints appropriate to the aim of the study	2
5	Unbiased assessment of the study endpoint	2
6	Follow-up period appropriate to the aim of the study	1
7	Loss to follow-up less than 5%	1
8	Prospective calculation of the study size	2
9	Adequate control group	
10	Contemporary groups	
11	Baseline equivalence of groups	
12	Adequate statistical analyses	

Kemp et al³⁴

Item	Description	Score
1	A clearly stated aim	2
2	Inclusion of consecutive patients	2
3	Prospective collection of data	2
4	Endpoints appropriate to the aim of the study	2
5	Unbiased assessment of the study endpoint	2
6	Follow-up period appropriate to the aim of the study	1
7	Loss to follow-up less than 5%	1
8	Prospective calculation of the study size	2
9	Adequate control group	
10	Contemporary groups	
11	Baseline equivalence of groups	
12	Adequate statistical analyses	

Matz et al³⁵

Item	Description	Score
1	A clearly stated aim	2
2	Inclusion of consecutive patients	2
3	Prospective collection of data	2
4	Endpoints appropriate to the aim of the study	1
5	Unbiased assessment of the study endpoint	1
6	Follow-up period appropriate to the aim of the study	2

7	Loss to follow-up less than 5%	1
8	Prospective calculation of the study size	1
9	Adequate control group	
10	Contemporary groups	
11	Baseline equivalence of groups	
12	Adequate statistical analyses	

Pierson et al¹⁸

Item	Description	Score
1	A clearly stated aim	2
2	Inclusion of consecutive patients	2
3	Prospective collection of data	2
4	Endpoints appropriate to the aim of the study	2
5	Unbiased assessment of the study endpoint	2
6	Follow-up period appropriate to the aim of the study	2
7	Loss to follow-up less than 5%	1
8	Prospective calculation of the study size	2
9	Adequate control group	
10	Contemporary groups	
11	Baseline equivalence of groups	
12	Adequate statistical analyses	

White et al⁷

Item	Description	Score
1	A clearly stated aim	2
2	Inclusion of consecutive patients	2
3	Prospective collection of data	2
4	Endpoints appropriate to the aim of the study	2
5	Unbiased assessment of the study endpoint	1
6	Follow-up period appropriate to the aim of the study	2
7	Loss to follow-up less than 5%	1
8	Prospective calculation of the study size	2
9	Adequate control group	
10	Contemporary groups	
11	Baseline equivalence of groups	
12	Adequate statistical analyses	

Daluga et al²⁶

Item	Description	Score
1	A clearly stated aim	2
2	Inclusion of consecutive patients	2
3	Prospective collection of data	2

4	Endpoints appropriate to the aim of the study	2
5	Unbiased assessment of the study endpoint	1
6	Follow-up period appropriate to the aim of the study	2
7	Loss to follow-up less than 5%	2
8	Prospective calculation of the study size	1
9	Adequate control group	2
10	Contemporary groups	2
11	Baseline equivalence of groups	2
12	Adequate statistical analyses	1