

Suppl. Table 1 Quality ratings of included studies according to the National Institutes of Health (NIH) quality assessment tool for case series/reports studies

First author (Reference No.)	Question*									Overall quality rating	
	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	Reviewer 1	Reviewer 2
Li et al.[38]	Yes	Yes	CD	CD	NA	Yes	CD	NA	Yes	Fair	Fair
Amin et al.[12]	Yes	Yes	CD	CD	NA	Yes	CD	NA	Yes	Fair	Fair
Doroudinia et al.[13]	Yes	Yes	CD	CD	NA	Yes	CD	NA	Yes	Fair	Fair
Mo et al.[39]	Yes	Yes	CD	CD	NA	Yes	CD	NA	Yes	Fair	Fair
Loforte et al.[40]	Yes	Yes	CD	CD	NA	Yes	CD	NA	Yes	Fair	Fair
Kamani et al.[23]	Yes	Yes	CD	CD	NA	Yes	CD	NA	Yes	Fair	Fair
Liu et al.[41]	Yes	Yes	CD	CD	NA	Yes	CD	NA	Yes	Fair	Fair
Qin et al.[42]	Yes	Yes	NR	Yes	NA	Yes	CD	NA	Yes	Fair	Fair
Sherman et al.[45]	Yes	Yes	CD	CD	NA	Yes	CD	NA	Yes	Fair	Fair
Polverari et al.[46]	Yes	Yes	CD	CD	NA	Yes	CD	NA	Yes	Fair	Fair
Amini et al.[47]	Yes	Yes	CD	CD	NA	Yes	CD	NA	Yes	Fair	Fair
Reed-Embleton et al.[48]	Yes	No	CD	CD	NA	Yes	CD	NA	Yes	Poor	Poor
Chuang et al.[49]	Yes	Yes	CD	CD	NA	Yes	CD	NA	Yes	Fair	Fair
Olivari et al.[50]	Yes	Yes	CD	CD	NA	Yes	CD	NA	Yes	Fair	Fair
Zanoni et al.[52]	Yes	Yes	CD	CD	NA	Yes	CD	NA	Yes	Fair	Fair
Kirienko et al.[53]	Yes	Yes	CD	CD	NA	Yes	CD	NA	Yes	Fair	Fair
Playe et al.[54]	Yes	Yes	CD	CD	NA	Yes	CD	NA	Yes	Fair	Fair
Colandrea et al.[55]	Yes	Yes	NR	Yes	NA	Yes	CD	Yes	Yes	Fair	Fair
Scarlattai et al.[32]	Yes	Yes	NA	Yes	NA	Yes	CD	NA	Yes	Fair	Fair
Martineau et al.[57]	Yes	Yes	CD	CD	NA	Yes	CD	NA	Yes	Fair	Fair
Zou et al.[16]	Yes	Yes	CD	CD	NA	Yes	CD	NA	Yes	Fair	Fair
Kreps et al.[58]	Yes	Yes	CD	CD	NA	Yes	CD	NA	Yes	Fair	Fair

Note—NR = not reported, CD = cannot determine, NA = not applicable.

*The NIH Quality Assessment Tool for Case Series Studies[14] poses nine questions: 1 = Was the study question or objective clearly stated?, 2 = Was the study population clearly and fully described, including a case definition?, 3 = Were the cases consecutive?, 4 = Were the subjects comparable?, 5 = Was the intervention clearly described?, 6 = Were the outcome measures clearly defined, valid, reliable, and implemented consistently across all study participants?, 7 = Was the length of follow-up adequate?, 8 = Were the statistical methods well-described?, 9 = Were

the results well-described? (Source: National Heart, Lung, and Blood Institute; National Institutes of Health; U.S. Department of Health and Human Services)