

Appendix A Coleman Methodology Score

Section	Number or factor	Score
Part A. Only one score to be given for each section		
1. Study size: number of patients	<20	0
	20-40	4
	41-60	7
	>60	10
2. Mean follow-up	< 12 months	0
	12-24 months	4
	25-36 months	7
	> 36 months	10
3. Number of interventions per group (e.g. minimally invasive plate osteosynthesis or non-operative treatment)	Different fixation techniques used, outcome not reported separately	0 7
	Different fixation techniques used, outcome reported separately	10
	Single fixation technique used	
4. Accuracy of diagnosis (location and/or type)	Location and type of fracture described	5
	Location or type of fracture described	3
	None described	0
5. Type of study	Retrospective cohort	0
	Prospective cohort study	10
	Randomized controlled trial	15
6. Description of treatment given (fracture treatment)	Adequate (technique stated and necessary details of that type of procedure given)	10
	Fair (technique only stated without elaboration)	5
	Inadequate, not stated, or unclear	0
7. Description of (postoperative) rehabilitation	Described	5
	Not described	0
Part B. Scores may be given for each option in each of the 3 sections if applicable		
Outcome criteria	Outcome measures clearly defined	2
	Timing of outcome assessment clearly stated	2
	Use of outcome criteria that has reported reliability	3
	Outcome with good sensitivity	3
Procedure for assessing outcomes	Participants actively recruited	5
	Investigator independent of surgeon	4
	Written assessment	3
	Completion of assessment by patients themselves with minimal investigator assistance	3
Description of subject selection process	Selection criteria reported and unbiased	5
	Recruitment rate reported > 90%	5
	Recruitment rate reported = 90%	0
Total score		100