

Appendix D: Template Summary of the evidence rating

Instruction: Fill in the table and use the footnotes for the rationales. Text in brackets must be adapted or used if relevant for the judgement. For downgrading or upgrading additional arguments should be reported than provided in the template.

Table 1: Summary of the evidence-rating scheme for each set of PECO

Type of Population			
Type of Exposure			
Type of Comparator			
Type of Outcome			
Summary of findings	Effect estimates in relation to exposure of interest		*
	Number of participants (# evaluated studies)		
	Number of cases		
Quality assessment	Starting rating	Rating	Adjustment to rating
		a	
	Risk of bias	b	
	Inconsistency	c	
Factors decreasing confidence	Indirectness	d	
	Imprecision	e	
	Publication bias	f	
	Strength of association	g	
Factors increasing confidence	Exposure-response gradient	h	
	Residual confounding	i	
Overall judgement of the quality of evidence			

* The estimate is based on ___ effect estimates;

a We started with a grading of “___” (___), because...

b Risk of bias was judged to be (not likely / serious / very serious), because... (Some studies on local exposure found an association with the outcome and in-depth analysis suggests that the association was rather related to usage than due to RF-EMF exposure.)

c Inconsistency was rated to be (none /serious). The number of studies was (sufficient/insufficient) to do a heterogeneity analysis. (We found (I^2)... The predictive interval (included/excluded) 1). This implies that we (did not find / found serious) heterogeneity between studies.

d Indirectness was considered (not relevant / serious) because the evaluated studies (did not assess / assessed) population, exposure, and outcome of interest. (In particular...)

e We considered the results to be (precise / imprecise) because (the upper limit of the confidence interval was found to be ___ for a non-significant effect estimate / the upper limit of the confidence estimate divided by the point estimate was ___ for a significant effect estimate.

f There was (no) reason to believe that there is some publication bias or small study bias because (Egger test, funding, unpublished abstracts, early unconfirmed positive findings).

g Effect was found to be (small / large / very large). The relative risk was ___ per Interquartile increase in exposure (___)

h Exposure-response gradient was (not) found to be monotonic based (on a test for trend).

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i We (did not find / found) evidence to suggest that possible residual confounders or biases had reduced the observed effect estimate. (Some studies on local exposure found an association with the outcome and in-depth analysis suggests that the association was rather related to RF-EMF exposure than due to usage.)