

Supplementary File C: The modified Quality Index

Reporting		
1	Is the hypothesis/objective of the study clearly described?	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes (1) <input type="checkbox"/> No (0)
2	Are the main outcomes to be measured clearly described in the Introduction or Methods section?	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes (1) <input type="checkbox"/> No (0)
3	Are the characteristics of the patients included in the study clearly described?	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes (1) <input type="checkbox"/> No (0)
4	Are the main findings of the study clearly described?	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes (1) <input type="checkbox"/> No (0)
5	Does the study provide estimates of the random variability in the data for the main outcomes?	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes (1) <input type="checkbox"/> No (0)
6	Have actual confidence intervals or probability values been reported?	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes (1) <input type="checkbox"/> No (0)
7	Is the response rate clearly described?	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes (1) <input type="checkbox"/> No (0)
External validity		
8	Were the subjects asked to participate in the study representative of the entire population from which they were recruited?	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes (1) <input type="checkbox"/> No (0)
9	Were those subjects who were prepared to participate representative of the entire population from which they were recruited?	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes (1) <input type="checkbox"/> No (0)
10	Were the staff, places, and facilities where the patients were treated, representative of the treatment the majority of patients receive?	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes (1) <input type="checkbox"/> No (0)
Internal validity (bias and confounding)		
11	If any of the results of the study were based on “data dredging”, was this made clear?	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes (1) <input type="checkbox"/> No (0)
12	Were the statistical tests used to assess the main outcomes appropriate?	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes (1) <input type="checkbox"/> No (0)
13	Were the main outcome measures used accurate (valid and reliable)?	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes (1) <input type="checkbox"/> No (0)
14	Was there adequate adjustment for confounding in the analyses from which the main findings were drawn?	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes (1) <input type="checkbox"/> No (0)
Power		
15	Did the study provide a sample size or power calculation to detect important effects where the probability value for a difference being due to chance is less than 0.05?	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes (1) <input type="checkbox"/> No (0)