

Goodyear-Smith F, Arroll B. What can family physicians offer patients with carpal tunnel syndrome other than surgery? A systematic review of nonsurgical management. *Ann Fam Med*. 2004;2:267-273.

<http://www.annfammed.org/cgi/content/full/2/3/267/DC1>

Appendix 2. Scottish Intercollegiate Guidelines Network (SIGN) Revised Grading System for Recommendations in Evidence-Based Clinical Guidelines

Levels of Evidence

- 1++** High-quality meta-analyses, systematic reviews of RCTs, or RCTs with a very low risk of bias
- 1+** Well-conducted meta-analyses, systematic reviews of RCTs, or RCTs with a low risk of bias
- 1 -** Meta-analyses, systematic reviews of RCTs, or RCTs with a high risk of bias
- 2++** High-quality systematic reviews of case-control or cohort studies
High-quality case-control or cohort studies with a very low risk of confounding, bias, or chance and a high probability that the relationship is causal
- 2+** Well-conducted case control or cohort studies with a low risk of confounding, bias, or chance and a moderate probability that the relationship is causal
- 2-** Case control or cohort studies with a high risk of confounding, bias, or chance and a significant risk that the relationship is not causal
- 3** Nonanalytic studies, eg, case reports, case series
- 4** Expert opinion

Grades of Recommendations

- A** At least 1 meta-analysis, systematic review, or RCT rated as 1++, and directly applicable to the target population; or
A systematic review of RCTs or a body of evidence consisting principally of studies rated as 1+, directly applicable to the target population, and showing overall consistency of results
- B** A body of evidence including studies rated as 2++, directly applicable to the target population, and demonstrating overall consistency of results; or
Extrapolated evidence from studies rated as 1++ or 1+
- C** A body of evidence including studies rated as 2+, directly applicable to the target population and overall consistency of results; or
Extrapolated evidence from studies rated as 2++
- D** Evidence level 3 or 4; or
Extrapolated evidence from studies rated as 2+

RTC = randomized controlled trial.

Information taken from: Scottish Intercollegiate Guidelines Network (SIGN) revised grading system for recommendations in evidence-based clinical guidelines. Available at: <http://www.sign.ac.uk>.