Grading quality of evidence

Factors determining the quality of evidence:

Type of evidence
- randomized clinical trials
- non-randomized clinical studies
- cohort studies
- cross-sectional studies
- case-control studies
- case reports
- administrative data

Decrease grade:
- Limited number of studies
- High risk of bias
- High degree of heterogeneity
- High degree of inconsistency
- Lack of dose-response gradient
- Evidence from non-randomized studies with no possible confounders
- Confirmation of association—significant relative risk or OR (>2) based on pooled evidence with no major threats to validity (2 levels)
- Evidence from non-randomized studies with threats to validity (3-5 levels)

Increase grade:
- Large number of studies
- Low risk of bias
- Low degree of heterogeneity
- Low degree of inconsistency
- Evidence from non-randomized studies with possible confounders
- Confirmation of association—significant relative risk or OR (<2) based on pooled evidence with no major threats to validity (2 levels)
- Evidence from non-randomized studies with threats to validity (3-5 levels)

FIND EFFECT META ANALYSIS

Fitted effects model estimated that the true effect of treatment is common across studies.

\[
\theta = \sum \left( \theta_{i} \right) \frac{1}{r_{i}}
\]

\[
\mu_{0} = \frac{1}{\theta R}
\]