



AORN RESEARCH EVIDENCE APPRAISAL TOOL - SUMMARY

DATE _____
REVIEWER _____
APPRAISAL SCORE _____

RW#	CITATION
Does this evidence address the perioperative practice question? <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No - Do not proceed with evidence appraisal.	
LEVEL OF EVIDENCE	
Is this a summary of multiple research studies? <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No (If No, go to the AORN Non-Research Appraisal Tool) Comprehensive search strategy and rigorous appraisal? <input type="checkbox"/> Yes (Systematic Review) <input type="checkbox"/> No (If No, go to the AORN Non-Research Appraisal Tool)	
Results from studies combined and analyzed to generate new statistic or effect size (measure of the strength of the relationship between two variables)	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes – Systematic Review with Meta-Analysis <input type="checkbox"/> No
Concepts from Qualitative studies analyzed and synthesized	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes – Systematic Review with Meta-Synthesis <input type="checkbox"/> No
All studies are randomized controlled trials (RCTs)	. LEVEL I
All studies are Quasi-Experimental or a combination of RCTs and Quasi-Experimental	<input type="checkbox"/> LEVEL II
All studies are Non-Experimental or a combination of RCTs, Quasi-Experimental, and Non-Experimental	<input type="checkbox"/> LEVEL III
Any or all studies are Qualitative	<input type="checkbox"/> LEVEL III

ADDITIONAL COMMENTS:

QUALITY OF EVIDENCE	A HIGH	B GOOD	C LOW	NA
<i>PURPOSE/BACKGROUND</i>				
• Was the purpose of the systematic review clearly defined?				
• Was the research question clear?				
• Did the researcher(s) identify what is known and not known about the research question and how the systematic review would address any gaps in knowledge?				
<i>SEARCH</i>				
• Was the search strategy reproducible?				
• Were the key search terms stated?				
• Were multiple databases searched and identified?				
• Were the inclusion/exclusion criteria described?				
• Were both published and unpublished literature identified and retrieved where possible?				
• Are the types of studies to be included in the review described?				
<i>EVIDENCE REVIEW</i>				
• Was there an explanation of the number of studies eliminated at each level of review?				
• Were the details of the included studies presented (design, sample, methods, results, outcomes, strengths, limitations)?				
• Were methods for appraising the strength of evidence (level and quality) rigorous?				
• Was the evidence reviewed and appraised by at least two members of the research team?				
• Were the supporting references the most current available?				
• Were the supporting references relevant to the research question?				
<i>DATA COLLECTION</i>				
• Were methods of statistical analysis described?				
• Were methods of retrieving data from the individual studies described?				
• Were the data extracted by at least two members of the research team?				
<i>RESULTS/CONCLUSIONS</i>				
• Were the conclusions of the researcher(s) consistent with the results of the studies and the overall strength of the evidence?				
• Was the strength of the phenomenon being studied quantified in a summary statistic (ie, effect size) that can be compared across the studies?				
<i>LIMITATIONS/FUTURE RESEARCH</i>				
• Were limitations of the review discussed?				
FINAL QUALITY SCORE				