RATING SCALE
META-ANALYSIS / SYSTEMATIC REVIEW OF THERAPY

UWO EVIDENCE-BASED NEUROLOGY

Use the following rating scale to answer the questions below:

Rating Scale:	N/A	Not applicable
	0	No
	1	Unclear/ Possibly
	2	Yes

	Rating
Are the results of this review of therapy valid?	
Did the article address a focused clinical question?	
Does the article include a method section that describes the method of identifying studies?	
Is it unlikely that important relevant studies were missed? Databases: Medline, EMBase, Cochrane, Federal Research, Psychlit Other sources: Searching through the reference lists of selected articles, hand searching select journals All languages included	
Were the criteria used to select articles for inclusion appropriate? Eligibility criteria / Inclusion criteria / Exclusion criteria	
Was the validity of the included studies assessed? Randomization, concealment, blindedness, inclusion/exclusion criteria, side-effects/harm, intention-to-treat analysis, losses to follow-up What did they do with the assessment? Did they use it to include/exclude studies or to weight their analysis?	
Were the assessments of studies reproducible? More than one assessor for literature search, study selection, validity of studies, data abstraction? R or Intra Class Correlation (continuous) or K (dichotomous)	
What were the results?	
Are the data from the different trials combinable? How do the trials differ in patient characteristics, interventions, outcomes?	
Were the results similar from study to study? Clinical - comparison of "magnitude" and "direction" of treatment effect from trial to trial Statistical - chi square, including p value Were causes of heterogeneity looked for?	
What are the overall results of the overview? How precise were the results? OR or RR/ARR and NNT (dichotomous data) Mean/wt. mean diff. (continuous data) 95% CIs	
Will the results help me in caring for my patients?	
Can the results be applied to the care of my patients? Are the patients in these trials similar to my patients?	
Were all clinically important outcomes considered?	
Are the benefits worth the harms and costs?	
Total	

Comments: