

**Reporting results using GRADE ‘certainty of evidence’ wording**

There is an increasing emphasis on reporting results in terms of the CERTAINTY of the evidence presented. This is thought to be more intelligible to readers than the previous focus on QUALITY. As highlighted by the Cochrane Editorial Unit, results should not be reported in terms of their 'statistical significance'. The table\* below provides some useful wording and terms for describing evidence according to the GRADE approach.

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| --- | --- | --- | --- |
|  | **Important benefit/harm** | **Less important benefit/harm** | **No important benefit/harm** |
| **High quality / certainty1 evidence** | [*Intervention*] improves/reduces [*outcome*] (high quality / certainty evidence) | [*Intervention*] slightly improves/reduces [*outcome*] (high quality / certainty evidence) | [*Intervention*] makes little or no difference to [*outcome*] (high quality / certainty evidence) |
| **Moderate quality / certainty1 evidence** | [*Intervention*] probably improves/reduces [*outcome*] (moderate quality / certainty evidence) | [*Intervention*] probably slightly improves/reduces / probably leads to slightly better/worse [*outcome*] (moderate quality / certainty evidence) | [*Intervention*] probably makes little or no difference to [*outcome*] (moderate quality / certainty evidence) |
| **Low quality / certainty1 evidence** | [*Intervention*] may improve/reduce [*outcome*] (low quality / certainty evidence) | [*Intervention*] may slightly improve/reduce [*outcome*] (low quality / certainty evidence) | [*Intervention*] may make little or no difference to [*outcome*] (low quality / certainty evidence |
| **Very low quality / certainty1 evidence** | We are uncertain whether [*intervention*] improves/reduces [*outcome*] as the quality / certainty of the evidence has been assessed as very low |
| **No studies** | No studies were found that looked at [*outcome*] |

1Within GRADE, the phrase “quality of the evidence” is increasingly referred to as “certainty of” the evidence. Use the same term that has been used elsewhere in the review.

\*Cochrane Norway, 'How to write a plain language summary of a Cochrane intervention review', 9 June 2016. Appendix 1.

In addition to the wording in the table above, please note how to report a situation:

* where the evidence is LOW quality/certainty where a point estimate might indicate an important benefit but the 95% confidence interval crosses the line of no effect:  “***Intervention A may increase the amount of time free of pain compared with Intervention B (low certainty evidence), however, the 95% confidence interval includes the possibility of both increased and reduced time free of pain”***
* where the evidence isVERY LOWquality/certainty, irrespective of where the point estimate and confidence interval lies: ***“We are uncertain whether Intervention C improves lung function compared with Intervention D (as the certainty of the evidence has been assessed as very low)”.***