

# A tool to structure the process from conclusion to recommendation in a transparent way

## Development and Experiences

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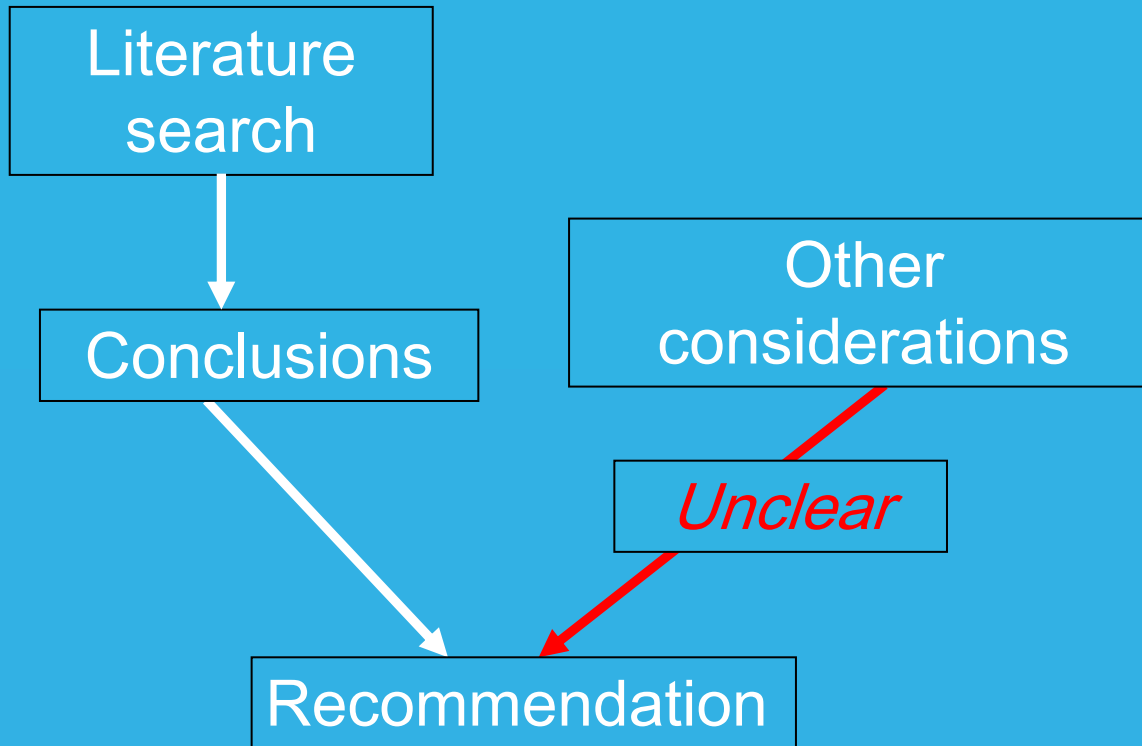


association  
comprehensive  
cancer centres

# Content

- Introduction
- Development of a tool to structure the process from conclusion to recommendation in a transparent way
- Developed tool: manual and 2 checklists
- Experiences with the tool within guideline renal cell carcinoma
- Conclusion and Discussion

# Introduction



# Aim

To develop a tool to structure the process from conclusion to recommendation in a transparent way

# Development of a tool

- Review of 'Other considerations'

  - Literature

  - Handbooks guideline development organisations

- Outcomes

  - Few organisations formally grade and/or transparently show the effect of other considerations on the recommendation

  - Some organisations use a list of other considerations

  - Different items on these lists

  - GRADE mentions other considerations, it describes *what* to do but not *how* to do it

# Development of a tool

- Tool: a manual, which includes

Stepwise instruction

Checklists

1. Other considerations
2. Formulating recommendations

Explanation of checklists

Example

Additional literature search on considerations

# Checklist 'Other considerations'

- **Intentions**

- All considerations included in checklist

- Filling in checklist forced group to judge each item

- Prioritising items shows relative weight of item

- Pilot in guideline Renal Cell Carcinoma

# Checklist 'Other considerations'

Items	Explanation (text): which aspects are important and how	Priority (1-6)	Take into account formulating recommendation?	Effect consideration on conclusion
1. Safety			Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/>	Strenghtens <input type="checkbox"/> Neutral <input type="checkbox"/> Weakens <input type="checkbox"/>
2. Patient perspective			Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/>	Strenghtens <input type="checkbox"/> Neutral <input type="checkbox"/> Weakens <input type="checkbox"/>
3. Perspective professional			Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/>	Strenghtens <input type="checkbox"/> Neutral <input type="checkbox"/> Weakens <input type="checkbox"/>
4. Cost-effectiveness			Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/>	Strenghtens <input type="checkbox"/> Neutral <input type="checkbox"/> Weakens <input type="checkbox"/>
5. Organisation			Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/>	Strenghtens <input type="checkbox"/> Neutral <input type="checkbox"/> Weakens <input type="checkbox"/>
6. Society			Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/>	Strenghtens <input type="checkbox"/> Neutral <input type="checkbox"/> Weakens <input type="checkbox"/>



# Checklist 'Formulating recommendations'

Grade conclusion	Effect consideration on conclusion	Classification recommendation	Formulation recommendations
1 or 2 High level of evidence	Strengthens conclusion or is neutral	Strong recommendation	One should
1 or 2 High level of evidence	Weakens conclusion	Recommendation	It is recommended
3 or 4 Low level of evidence	Strengthens conclusion or is neutral	Recommendation	It is recommended
3 or 4 Low level of evidence	Weakens conclusion	No recommendation	No recommendation can be formulated  Optional: the guideline development group believes

# Results examples

- **Quantitative evidence strengthened qualitative evidence**

Example: additional literature search clarified that the frequency of complications after thick needle histology was low → recommendation was strengthened.

- **Other considerations changed recommendation**

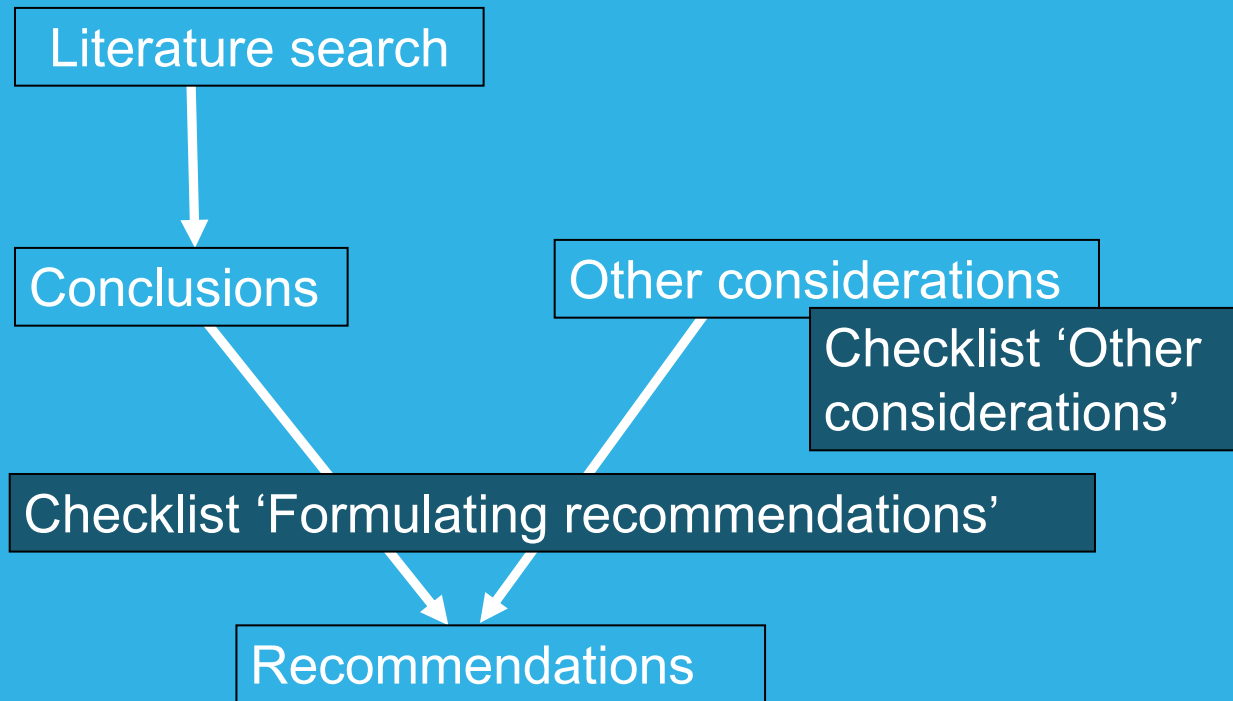
Is surgery the treatment of choice for local recurrence?

Conclusion literature search: surgery is not effective

Other consideration: patient wants surgery

→ Updated recommendation: limit surgery for certain patients

# Checklists within guideline development



# Experiences with checklist 'Other considerations'

- Difficult to fill in table
- Multi interpretable items
- Only useful if additional search supplies new facts
  - Additional literature search was useful for items 'Safety' and 'Organisation'
- Discussing the table items was useful
- The order of columns should be changed
- If summary table used for > 1 conclusion, it became confusing
  
- Item 'Society' always empty
- Item 'Cost-effectiveness' sometimes empty when statement was expected
- Item 'Organisation' had variable content

## Experiences checklist 'Formulating recommendations'

- Experts found it reasonably useful, suitable for internal use if additional search revealed new facts (risks, complications, costs, limiting regulations)
- If recommendation was weakened: GDG preferred recommendation for specific situation
- Checklist improved reasoning, strengthened certain recommendations

# Conclusion

- Tool is useful: recommendations made more powerful
- Checklist ‘Other considerations’  
Change order of columns to

Items	Explanation (text): which aspects are important and how	Effect consideration on conclusion	Take into account formulating recommendation?	Priority (1-6)
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- Checklist ‘Formulating recommendations’  
Maintain current format
- Use checklist for each individual conclusion, instead of for entire topic
- Enables simple updating of recommendations if setting, not conclusions, changes

# Intended future use within ACCC

- ACCC will make mentioned improvements and will implement it in certain other guidelines
- If more countries use it, better understanding of national differences
- Other organisations are encouraged to test this tool and share experiences

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## Conflicts of interest

- Sonja Kersten, MSc, none stated
- Daphne Stemkens, MSc, none stated
- Dr Boukje van Dijk, none stated
- Prof Dr Susanne Osanto, none stated
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