



THE DEPARTMENT OF EPIDEMIOLOGY, BIostatISTICS AND OCCUPATIONAL HEALTH, - SEMINAR SERIES IS A SELF-APPROVED GROUP LEARNING ACTIVITY (SECTION 1) AS DEFINED BY THE MAINTENANCE OF CERTIFICATION PROGRAM OF THE ROYAL COLLEGE OF PHYSICIANS AND SURGEONS OF CANADA

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GRADE Approach: How to Rate the Quality of Evidence in Systematic Reviews

MONDAY, 18 MARCH 2019 / 4:00 pm – 5:00 pm

McIntyre Medical Building

3655 promenade Sir William Osler – Meakins Rm 521

ALL ARE WELCOME

ABSTRACT:

Background: Beginning in the year 2000, the GRADE Working Group developed, a sensible approach to rate the quality of the evidence and the strength of recommendations in health care, which are crucial tools for guideline development. The GRADE approach has now been adopted by many international societies including the Cochrane Collaboration.

Objectives: This lecture will first present an overview of the GRADE approach in the context of guideline development, including the process of rating the quality of evidence with a non-contextualized approach, such as performing systematic reviews.

Discussion: The GRADE approach is the standard process by which authors of systematic reviews are expected to evaluate

and integrate their results. The assessment of the certainty in the best available evidence is an integral part of this process. This lecture will present five domains that may increase the certainty of the evidence: risk of bias, imprecision, indirectness, inconsistency, publication bias. There are also three considerations which may increase the certainty in the evidence: a large effect, a dose response effect and confounders suggesting a stronger association. These will be explained via practical scenarios, for both interventions and diagnostics.

Conclusions: The GRADE approach is widely accepted as the standard to assess the certainty in the evidence; authors and end-users of systematic reviews should be familiar with its process.

OBJECTIVES

1. Introduce the GRADE approach;
2. Discuss the five domains that can rate down the certainty in the evidence;
3. Discuss the three considerations that can rate up the certainty in the evidence.

BIO:

Dr. Valéry Lavergne is a medical microbiologist and infectious diseases specialist with a Masters in epidemiology from Harvard University. She is now working as the senior methodologist and editor for the Clinical Practice Guideline Department at IDSA (Infectious Diseases Society of America) and is part of the GRADE working group.