

The Hierarchy of Evidence

The Hierarchy of evidence is based on summaries from the National Health and Medical Research Council (2009), the Oxford Centre for Evidence-based Medicine Levels of Evidence (2011) and Melynyk and Fineout-Overholt (2011).

- I Evidence obtained from a systematic review of all relevant randomised control trials.
- II Evidence obtained from at least one well designed randomised control trial.
- III Evidence obtained from well-designed controlled trials without randomisation.
- IV Evidence obtained from well designed cohort studies, case control studies, interrupted time series with a control group, historically controlled studies, interrupted time series without a control group or with case- series
- V Evidence obtained from systematic reviews of descriptive and qualitative studies
- VI Evidence obtained from single descriptive and qualitative studies
- VII Expert opinion from clinicians, authorities and/or reports of expert committees or based on physiology

Melynyk, B. & Fineout-Overholt, E. (2011). *Evidence-based practice in nursing & healthcare: A guide to best practice (2nd ed.)*. Philadelphia: Wolters Kluwer, Lippincott Williams & Wilkins.

National Health and Medical Research Council (2009). *NHMRC levels of evidence and grades for recommendations for developers of guidelines* (2009). Australian Government: NHMRC.
http://www.nhmrc.gov.au/files_nhmrc/file/guidelines/evidence_statement_form.pdf

OCEBM Levels of Evidence Working Group Oxford (2011). *The Oxford 2011 Levels of Evidence*. Oxford Centre for Evidence-Based Medicine. <http://www.cebm.net/index.aspx?o=1025>

Reference (include title, author, journal title, year of publication, volume and issue, pages)	Evidence level (I-VII)	Key findings, outcomes or recommendations
Bowel washout. NCCU Clinical Guidelines Section 13. Surgical conditions. King Edward Memorial/Princess Margaret Hospitals, Perth, Western Australia	VII	Guidelines for bowel washout procedure
Guideline for the management of bowel irrigation (rectal washout) for under one year old infants and children	VII	Discussion of different bowel conditions and procedure for bowel washouts
Understanding Neonatal Bowel Obstruction: Building Knowledge to Advance Practice Silva, Nicole; Young, Jennifer; Wales, Paul 2006 Neonatal Network Vol 25. No. 5:303-318	V	Article describes the neonatal GI tract and discusses common causes of neonatal bowel obstruction, its importance for early recognition and prompt diagnosis. It discusses gastric decompression and management of obstruction
Transanal irrigation in children: 3 years in practice of the Peristeen system. Costigan, A. 2014. Gastrointestinal Nursing 12:2 p 7-11	VII	Article looks at the experience of patients who have used the system over the last three years and the effectiveness of the system