

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
Walker J. (2007) Patient preparation for safe removal of surgical drains... art & science clinical skills: 12. Nursing Standard 21(49) 39- 41. Available from: CINAHL Plus with Full Text, Ipswich, MA. Accessed July 29, 2013.	VII	General overview of nursing management and removal of drain tubes as established in published literature
Tanaka K, Kutamoto T, Nojiri K, Takeda K, Endo I. (2013) The effectiveness and appropriate management of abdominal drains in patients undergoing elective liver resection: a retrospective analysis and prospective case series. Surgery Today, 43(4), 372-80. Epub 2012 Jul 14.	IV	Ascending infections can be avoided by early drain tube removal
Bharathan R, Dexter S & Hanson M. (2009). Laparoscopic retrieval of retained Redivac drain fragment. Journal of Obstetrics and Gynaecology, 29(3), 263-264	VI	Case study demonstrating the effectiveness of post drain removal xray to identify drain fragment, this then resulted in successful removal of fragment
Durai R, Mownah A & Ng PCH (2009). Use of drains in surgery: a review. Journal of Perioperative Practice, 19(6), 180-186	V	A peer reviewed literature review of drains in surgical situations. Definition and uses of drains
Havey R, Herriman E & O'Brien D. (2013) Guarding the gut: early mobility after abdominal surgery. Critical Care Nursing Quarterly, 36(1), 63-72.	VII	Importance of mobilizing with a drain, process on how to mobilize patient with a drain
Durai R & Ng P. C. H. (2010). Surgical vacuum drains: Types, uses, and complications. AORN Journal, 91(2), 266-71; quiz 272-4. doi:http://dx.doi.org/10.1016/j.aorn.2009.09.024	VII	Overview of drain management, including movement, removal and complications

Pagoti R, Arshad I & Schneider C. (2008). Stuck redivac drain: to open or not to open? A case report. Australian and New Zealand Journal of Obstetrics and Gynaecology, 48(2), 223-224.	VII	Case report detailing complications of a Redivac insertion
Avery S (2000). Insertion and Management of Chest Drains. Nursing Times Vol 96, Issue 37, pg 3.	VII	Literature including drain insertion, drainage monitoring, complications and removal of chest drain
Critical Care Practitioner (2019). Chest drains. Learning resources. Available from https://www.criticalcarepractitioner.co.uk/chest-drains/ . Accessed 03/10/2018.	VII	Overview of chest drain management, care and removal of drain
Imm N (2015). Surgical Drains-Indications, Management and Removal. Available from: https://patient.info/doctor/surgical-drains-indications-management-and-removal . Accessed 04/10/2018.	VII	Based on research evidence and written by medical professionals including indications, management and removal of surgical drains