

Warning

All the facts and recommendations related in this report are designed for the Belgian ENT specialists. They are only informative and cannot be considered as documents with a legal validity.

The information does not commit the Royal Society nor any of the co-workers of this report.

Although the objective is to provide updated and exact pieces of information, it is impossible to guarantee the result and the errors will be corrected as soon as they are pointed out.

The recommendations found in this report are based on a detailed literature review and if possible on a consensus among the members of the working group in charge of the guideline, all the authors doing it as honestly as possible. This is not to say that these recommendations are the best and only mean to work correctly.

On the other hand, these recommendations will be temporary. New research, new ideas, new discoveries will certainly modify quite rapidly and largely these guidelines.

Levels of evidence and grades of recommendations

The levels of evidence and grades of recommendations are used as defined in Belgium by the Consensus Committee of the INAMI-RIZIV:

+ *levels of evidence*

- I a: one or more systematic reviews (meta-analysis)
- I b: large randomized controlled trial (RCT) with significant results (sufficient quality)
- II: - small meta-analysis or small RCT with uncertain result (insufficient quality)

- cohort, case-controlled or cases series (identified by a group of experts)
- III: expert opinion without explicit critical appraisal

+ *grades of recommendations*

- A: corresponds to levels I a and I b (RCT or meta-analysis)
- B: corresponds to level II (observational study or case series)
- C: corresponds to level III (expert opinion)