

CHECKLIST 3**CHECKLIST TO ASSESS THE QUALITY OF RESEARCH ON INTERVENTIONS****Step 1: Evidence Level**

Meta-analysis (statistical combination of the results of several studies)	<input type="checkbox"/>	5 points
Clinical trial	<input type="checkbox"/>	3 points
Case report	<input type="checkbox"/>	2 points
Expert's opinion or experience	<input type="checkbox"/>	1 point

Step 2: Additional Quality Criteria (Regarding the Corresponding Evidence Level)

Meta-Analysis	Agree	
The literature search was exhaustive and reproducible.	<input type="checkbox"/>	2 points
The included trials were comparable from a clinical point of view.	<input type="checkbox"/>	4 points
Trials of a high quality (eg, randomized, controlled, blinded) were included.	<input type="checkbox"/>	2 points
Results are discussed objectively and critically, including questions regarding comparability and publication bias.	<input type="checkbox"/>	2 points

Clinical Trial	Agree	
The trial comprised a sufficient number of animals or samples.	<input type="checkbox"/>	2 points
Essential information regarding the animals are given (eg, number, breed, age, sex, inclusion criteria, housing).	<input type="checkbox"/>	1 point
The trial comprised an adequate control group.	<input type="checkbox"/>	3 points
The trial is randomized.	<input type="checkbox"/>	1 point
The trial is blinded.	<input type="checkbox"/>	1 point
Examinations and interventions are described in detail. Results are presented completely.	<input type="checkbox"/>	1 point
Adequate statistic procedures were used. Data is complete, or missing data is documented sufficiently.	<input type="checkbox"/>	1 point
Results are discussed critically.	<input type="checkbox"/>	1 point
The bibliography is adequate (extent and up to date).	<input type="checkbox"/>	1 point

Case Report	Agree	
Essential information regarding the animals are given (eg, number, breed, age, sex, inclusion criteria, housing).	<input type="checkbox"/>	2 points
Examinations and interventions are described in detail.	<input type="checkbox"/>	2 points
Results are discussed critically.	<input type="checkbox"/>	2 points
The bibliography is adequate (extent and up to date).	<input type="checkbox"/>	1 point

Expert's Opinion or Experience	Agree	
Results are discussed critically.	<input type="checkbox"/>	1 point
The bibliography is adequate (extent and up to date).	<input type="checkbox"/>	1 point

Step 3: Summate Rating Points to Obtain the Overall Rating Score. _____ points

15-13 = very good, 12-10 = good, 9-7 = satisfactory, 6-4 = adequate, 3-2 = inadequate, 1 = fail

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