

# AAOS CLINICAL PRACTICE GUIDELINE RECOMMENDATION CLASSIFICATION

## UNDERSTANDING GUIDELINE LANGUAGE

Guideline Language	Recommendation Grade	Level of Evidence
<b>WE RECOMMEND</b>	<b>A</b>	<b>LEVEL I</b>
<b>WE SUGGEST</b>	<b>B</b>	<b>LEVEL II OR LEVEL III</b>
<b>OPTION</b>	<b>C</b>	<b>LEVEL IV OR LEVEL V</b>

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## GRADING THE RECOMMENDATIONS

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Each AAOS guideline recommendation is graded using the following system:

- A:** Good evidence (Level I Studies with consistent findings) for or against recommending intervention.
- B:** Fair evidence (Level II or III Studies with consistent findings) for or against recommending intervention.
- C:** Poor quality evidence (Level IV or V) for or against recommending intervention.
- I:** There is insufficient or conflicting evidence not allowing a recommendation for or against intervention.

*Fig. 1 The language used in clinical practice guidelines has specific meaning, as the above chart indicates. Guideline language indicates both a recommendation grade and a level of evidence.*