



Limitations concerning evaluation of the current guidelines using the Appraisal of Guidelines Research and Evaluation II

Paschalis Gavriilidis^{1^}, Alan Askari^{2^}, Efstratios Gavriilidis^{3^}, Salomone Di Saverio^{4^}, R. Justin Davies^{5,6^}, Nicola de'Angelis^{7^}

¹Department of Surgery, University Hospitals of Coventry and Warwickshire NHS, Coventry, UK; ²Cambridge Oesophagogastric Centre, Addenbrooke's Hospital, Cambridge University Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust, Cambridge, UK; ³First Department of Internal Medicine, University Hospital of Alexandroupolis, Democritus University of Thrace, Alexandroupolis, Greece; ⁴Department of Surgery, University of Insubria, Insubria, Italy; ⁵Cambridge Colorectal Unit, Addenbrooke's Hospital, Cambridge University Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust, Cambridge, UK; ⁶School of Medicine, University of Cambridge, Cambridge, UK; ⁷Department of Digestive Surgery, University Hospital Henri Mondor (AP-HP), Créteil and University of Paris Est, Créteil, France

Correspondence to: Paschalis Gavriilidis, MD, Msc, PhD. Department of Surgery, University Hospitals of Coventry and Warwickshire NHS, Coventry, UK; Department of Hepato-Pancreato-Biliary and Liver Transplant Surgery, Queen Elizabeth University Hospitals Birmingham NHS Foundation Trust, Birmingham B15 2TH, UK. Email: pgavriilidis@yahoo.com.

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We would like to thank our colleagues for their interest in our work (1). They rightly mentioned that there is a discrepancy in the evaluation of guidelines in recently published paper (2). However, this topic is discussed in detail in our manuscript and we make particular reference to this in the discussion (3). In particular, we outline to the readership that some of the limitations are inherent to the limitations of the Appraisal of Guidelines Research and Evaluation II (AGREE II) checklist itself. We draw special attention to the AGREE II tool giving equal weight to all of its domains, implying that they are all equally as important as each other in formulating an overall impression of a guideline. However, this may not necessarily be the case. Furthermore, we underlined that although the assessors were blinded to one another's answers, loyalty to home/regional societies or familiarity with certain guidelines could have swayed an assessor's score. Moreover, these limitations have been mentioned in our previous publications appraising guidelines for other clinical conditions (4-6).

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[^] ORCID: Paschalis Gavriilidis, 0000-0001-7773-2291; Alan Askari, 0000-0001-5993-7613; Efstratios Gavriilidis, 0000-0002-1591-9760; Salomone Di Saverio, 0000-0001-5685-5022; R. Justin Davies, 0000-0001-6904-1255; Nicola de'Angelis, 0000-0002-1211-4916.

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