

Table 1 AMSTAR checklist of methodological characteristics

Items	Yes	Unclear	No
	n(%)	n(%)	n(%)
1. Was an 'a priori' design provided?	26(52)	0(0)	24(48)
2. Was there duplicate study selection and data extraction?	32(64)	0(0)	18(36)
3. Was a comprehensive literature search performed?	37(74)	0(0)	13(26)
4. Was the status of publication (i.e. grey literature) used as an inclusion criterion?	9(18)	0(0)	41(82)
5. Was a list of studies (included and excluded) provided?	30(60)	1(2)	18(36)
6. Were the characteristics of the included studies provided?	19(38)	14(28)	16(32)
7. Was the scientific quality of the included studies assessed and documented?	3(6)	0(0)	46(92)
8. Was the scientific quality of the included studies used appropriately in formulating conclusions?	21(42)	0(0)	29(58)
9. Were the methods used to combine the findings of studies appropriate?	48(96)	0(0)	2(4)
10. Was the likelihood of publication bias assessed?	6(12)	0(0)	44(88)
11. Was the conflict of interest stated?	0(0)	0(0)	50(100)