

# The certainty of evidence from Cochrane Systematic Reviews about palliative care

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## The Problem

Providing syntheses of evidences emphasizing the reliability of results is a cornerstone for Cochrane. Considering this concern, 'Summary of findings' tables and the GRADE approach have been added to Cochrane Reviews (CRs) over the last 10 years. This incorporation has contributed to the use of review's findings for decision-making, connecting research and practice.

## Objective

To assess the certainty of evidence found by CRs of palliative care.

## Key Results

Only reviews that evaluated the certainty of evidence with the GRADE approach were included. Titles, year of publication, comparisons, outcomes, and certainty of evidence were collected. The publication year ranged from 2011 to 2019. For 6.5% of the outcomes, the evidence provided was of high-certainty. For 24.7% of them, the evidence was of very low certainty. The evidence for palliative care considering core patient-oriented outcomes were mostly of very low certainty. No CRs found high-certainty evidence for quality of life, adverse events and satisfaction with care. No CRs assessed quality of death as an outcome of 'Summary of findings' table. The certainty of evidence about palliative care is very limited for most clinical conditions.

**Table 1.** Distribution of outcomes judgments

Low	Very low	Moderate	High	Not reported	Other judgements
36 (15,6%)	57 (24,7%)	59 (25,6%)	15 (6,5%)	50 (21,7%)	13 (5,6%)

## Methods

**Table 1.** Search strategy

#1 MeSH descriptor: [Palliative Care] explode all trees

#2 (Care, Palliative) OR (Palliative Treatment) OR (Palliative Treatments) OR (Treatment, Palliative) OR (Treatments, Palliative) OR (Therapy, Palliative) OR (Palliative Therapy) OR (Palliative Supportive Care) OR (Supportive Care, Palliative)

#3 #1 OR #2

Filter Cochrane Reviews

585 Cochrane SRs

  
**Two independent authors**

**49 CSRs pre-selected**


**17 CSRs included (with SoF tables)**

**50 comparisons**

**230 outcomes**



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