

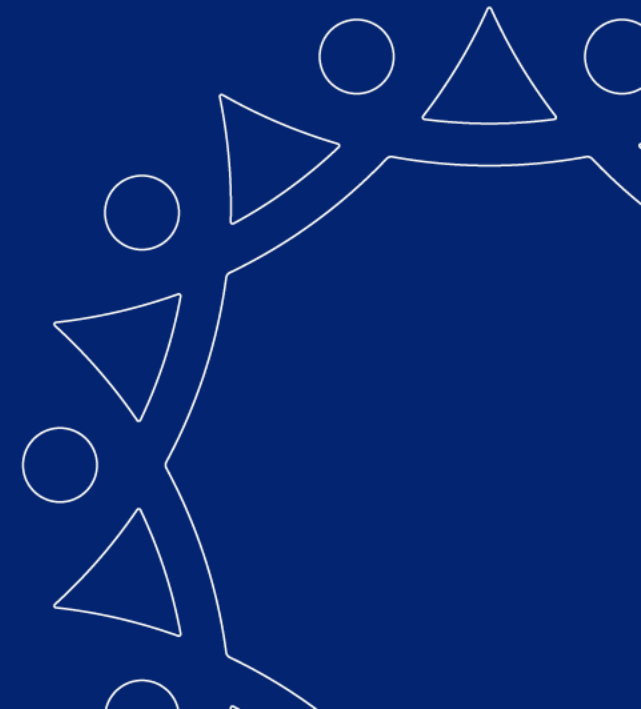
How can a **STRONG**
recommendation be based on
VERY LOW quality evidence?

GRADE



**CHILDREN'S
ONCOLOGY
GROUP**

Turning Findings Into Futures



Background

- Grading of Recommendations, Assessment, Development and Evaluation (GRADE) is a widely used rating system
- Several COG-endorsed supportive care guidelines have used the GRADE approach

GRADE classifies
Recommendations as **STRONG** or **WEAK**
and
Quality of the Evidence* as **VERY LOW, LOW, MODERATE** or **HIGH**

*Reflects the level of confidence that the estimate of an intervention's effect is correct

GRADE Quality of the body of evidence	
High ⊕⊕⊕⊕	We are very confident that the true effect lies close to that of the estimate of the effect
Moderate ⊕⊕⊕○	We are moderately confident in the effect estimate: The true effect is likely to be close to the estimate of the effect, but there is a possibility that it is substantially different
Low ⊕⊕○○	Our confidence in the effect estimate is limited: The true effect may be substantially different from the estimate of the effect
Very Low ⊕○○○	We have very little confidence in the effect estimate: The true effect is likely to be substantially different from the estimate of effect
GRADE Strength of Recommendation	
Strong	Most people would want and should receive the recommended course of action. The recommendation can be adapted as a policy in most situations.
Weak	There is a need for substantial debate and involvement of stakeholders in policy making. The majority of people would want the recommended course of action, but many would not. Clinicians should be more prepared to help patients to make a decision that is consistent with their own values.

GRADE website: <http://www.gradeworkinggroup.org/>

In this module we explain how a STRONG GRADE GUIDELINE RECOMMENDATION can be based on very low / low quality evidence is and how to integrate such recommendations into your practice

GRADE Recommendations: A Balance of Factors



Because GRADE incorporates separate judgments of evidence quality and strength of recommendation...

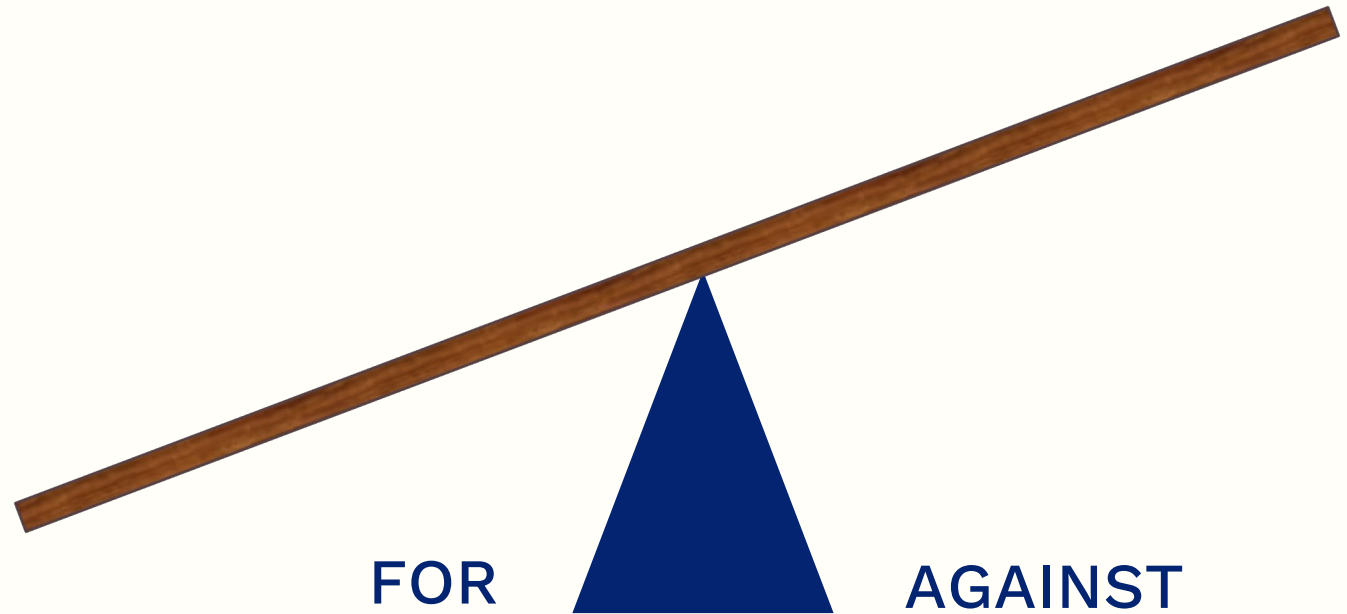
High quality evidence does not necessarily lead to a strong recommendation

AND

High quality evidence does not necessarily lead to a strong recommendation

GRADE Strong Recommendation

Possible factors: Benefits
and Harms
Quality of the Evidence
Values
Acceptability
Feasibility
Equity
Costs

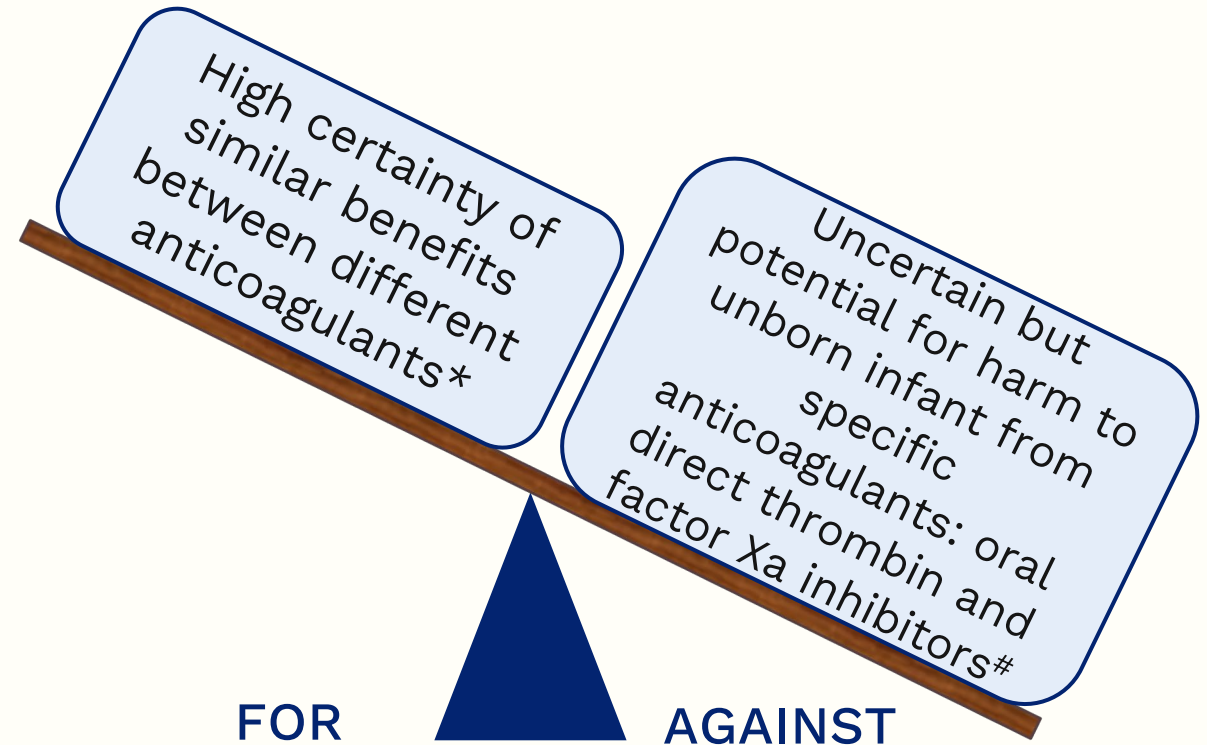


If after weighing all factors, the guideline panel is very certain that desirable effects outweigh undesirable effects, they will make a strong recommendation

GRADE example: Should oral direct thrombin and factor Xa inhibitors be used in pregnancy for women requiring anticoagulation?

Weighing the factors:

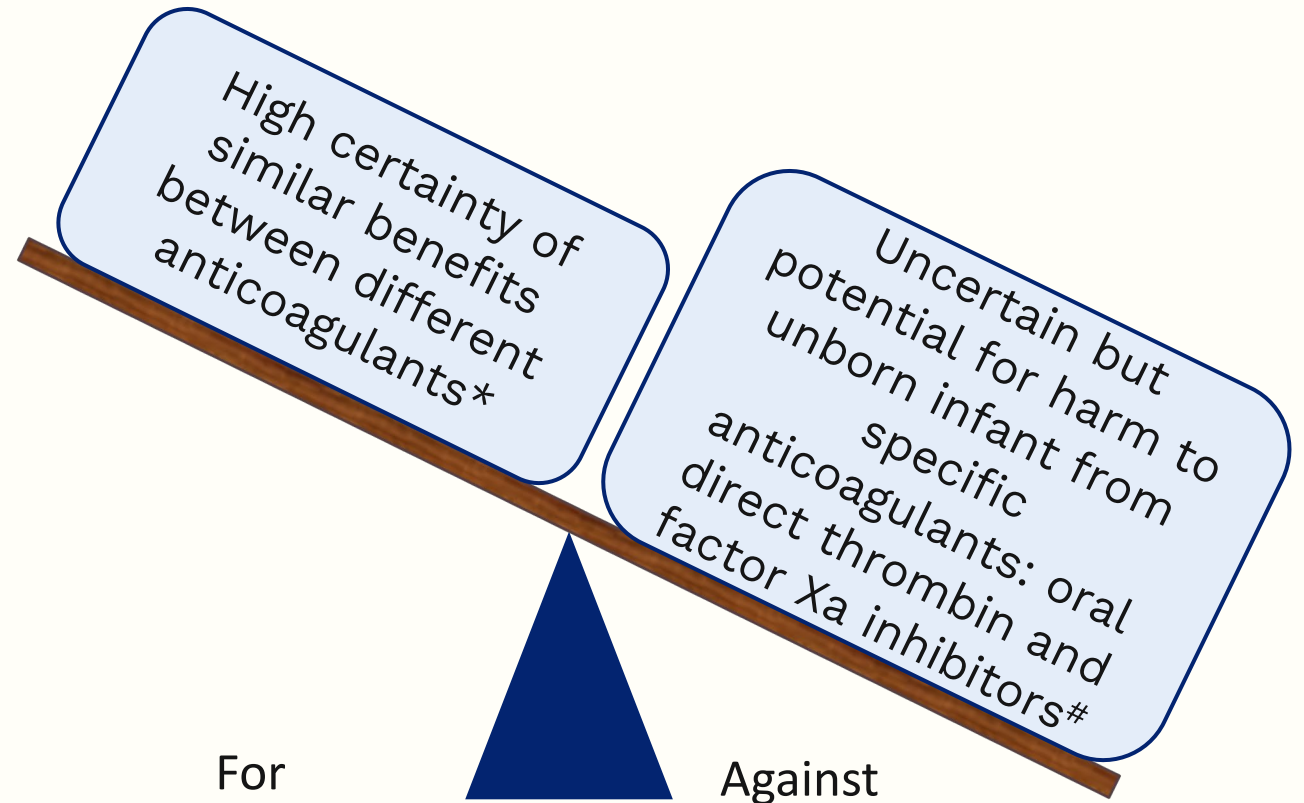
- *High certainty (i.e. high quality evidence) of similar effects of different anticoagulants
- # However, there is low quality evidence (i.e. low certainty of the effect) suggesting potential harm to the unborn infant with oral direct thrombin and factor Xa inhibitors



The guideline panel therefore made a **STRONG** recommendation against the use of oral direct thrombin and factor Xa inhibitors in pregnancy

This means:

Almost all women would not want to use oral direct thrombin and factor Xa inhibitors supplements in pregnancy and clinicians should not prescribe it in this setting



Implications for practice

Implications	GRADE Strong recommendation
For patients	<p>Most individuals in this situation would want the recommended course of action, and only a small proportion would not.</p> <p>Formal decision aids are not likely to be needed to help individuals make decisions consistent with their values and preferences.</p>
For clinicians	<p>Most individuals should receive the intervention. Adherence to this recommendation according to the guideline could be used as a quality criterion or performance indicator.</p>
For policy makers	<p>The recommendation can be adopted as policy in most situations.</p>

*Source: <http://www.gradeworkinggroup.org/>

Want to learn more about GRADE?

Visit: <https://cebgrade.mcmaster.ca/training/>

Acknowledgement:

**Example courtesy of Dr. Nancy Santesso, GRADE
group**



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