

Primary Reports		Secondary Reports	
A	Randomized Controlled Trial Cluster Randomized Trial Randomized Crossover Trial	M	Meta-analysis or Systematic review Decision analysis Cost-benefit analysis Cost-effectiveness study
B	Prospective Cohort Study Retrospective Cohort Study		
C	Non-Randomized Controlled Trial Non-Randomized Crossover Trial Case-Control Study Time Series Study Diagnostic, Validity or Reliability Study	R	Narrative review (Review article) Consensus statement Consensus report
D	Non-Controlled Trial Case Study or Case Series Other Descriptive Study Cross-Sectional Study Trend Study Before-After Study	X	Medical opinion

Studies are classified according to the type of research, that is, by study design. Study designs are organized into a hierarchy based on the ability of the design to test causal relationships. This table shows the classification system used by the Academy.