

**DRUGDEX® Consults****RECOMMENDATION, EVIDENCE AND EFFICACY RATINGS****RESPONSE**

The Thomson Efficacy, Strength of Evidence and Strength of Recommendation definitions are outlined below:

Table 1. Strength Of Recommendation		
Class I	Recommended	The given test or treatment has been proven to be useful, and should be performed or administered.
Class IIa	Recommended, In Most Cases	The given test, or treatment is generally considered to be useful, and is indicated in most cases.
Class IIb	Recommended, In Some Cases	The given test, or treatment may be useful, and is indicated in some, but not most, cases.
Class III	Not Recommended	The given test, or treatment is not useful, and should be avoided.
Class Indeterminant	Evidence Inconclusive	

Table 2. Strength Of Evidence	
Category A	Category A evidence is based on data derived from: Meta-analyses of randomized controlled trials with homogeneity with regard to the directions and degrees of results between individual studies. Multiple, well-done randomized clinical trials involving large numbers of patients.
Category B	Category B evidence is based on data derived from: Meta-analyses of randomized controlled trials with conflicting conclusions with regard to the directions and degrees of results between individual studies. Randomized controlled trials that involved small numbers of patients or had significant methodological flaws (e.g., bias, drop-out rate, flawed analysis, etc.). Nonrandomized studies (e.g., cohort studies, case-control studies, observational studies).
Category C	Category C evidence is based on data derived from: Expert opinion or consensus, case reports or case series.
No Evidence	

Table 3. Efficacy		
Class I	Effective	Evidence and/or expert opinion suggests that a given drug treatment for a specific indication is effective
Class IIa	Evidence Favors Efficacy	Evidence and/or expert opinion is conflicting as to whether a given drug treatment for a specific indication is effective, but the weight of evidence and/or expert opinion favors efficacy.
Class IIb	Evidence is Inconclusive	Evidence and/or expert opinion is conflicting as to whether a given drug treatment for a specific indication is effective, but the weight of evidence and/or expert opinion argues against efficacy.
Class III	Ineffective	Evidence and/or expert opinion suggests that a given drug treatment for a specific indication is ineffective.

© 1974- 2008 Thomson Healthcare. All rights reserved.