Appendix 4 (as supplied by the authors): Quality assessment of included clinical trials

	Aapro 2008[53]	Gordon 2008[64]	Smith 2008[65]	Strauss 2008[54]	Thomas 2008[55]	Anon 2007[60]	Charu 2007[61]
Study Design							
Description of participant selection	Adequate	Adequate	Adequate	Adequate	Adequate	Partial	Adequate
Was the allocation to treatment concealed?*	Adequate	Adequate	Unclear	Unclear	Unclear	Unclear	Unclear
Description of the therapeutic regimen	Adequate	Adequate	Adequate	Adequate	Adequate	Partial	Adequate
Was the trial described as double blind?*	No	Yes†	Yes	No	No	Yes	No
Was there a description of withdrawals and dropouts?*	Yes (13%)	Yes (17%)	Yes (28%)	Yes (14%)	No	No	Partial (13%)
Statistical Analysis							
Description of sample size calculation	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	Yes	No	Yes
Was the design described as intention-to-treat?	Yes	No	No	Yes	No	No	Yes
Was this a preliminary analysis?	No	No	No	No	No	No	Yes
Presentation of Results							
Were the dates of accrual reported?	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	No
Description of non-eligible patients	No	No	No	No	No	No	No
Were confidence intervals reported?	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	Yes
Were adverse events reported?	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Funding							
What were the source(s) of funding?*	Private	Private	Private	Private	Mixed	-	Private

Appendix to Tonelli M, Hemmelgarn B, Reiman T, et al. Erythropoiesis-stimulating agents for anemia related to cancer: a meta-analysis.
CMAJ 2009;180. DOI:10.1503/cmaj.090470.

Appendix 4 (continued)

	Kosatek 2007[62]	Machtay 2007[51]	Overgaard 2007[63]	Wright 2007[52]	Anon A 2006[49]	Anon B 2006[48]	Wilkinson 2006[50]
Study Design							
Description of participant selection	Adequate	Adequate	Partial	Adequate	Inadequate	Partial	Adequate
Was the allocation to treatment concealed?*	Adequate	Adequate	Unclear	Adequate	Unclear	Unclear	Unclear
Description of the therapeutic regimen	Adequate	Adequate	Adequate	Adequate	Adequate	Adequate	Adequate
Was the trial described as double blind? *	Yes†	No	No	Yes†	No	No	No
Was there a description of withdrawals and dropouts? *	Yes (31%)	Partial (5%)	No	No	No	No	Partial (20%)
Statistical Analysis							
Description of sample size calculation	No	No	No	Yes	No	No	Yes
Was the design described as intention-to-treat?	Yes	No	No	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Was this a preliminary analysis?	No	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	No	No
Presentation of Results							
Were the dates of accrual reported?	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	No	Yes
Description of non-eligible patients	No	No	No	No	No	No	No
Were confidence intervals reported?	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	No	Yes
Were adverse events reported?	Yes	Yes	No	Yes	No	No	Yes
Funding							
What were the source(s) of funding? *	Private	Mixed	Mixed	Private	Private	Private	Private

Appendix 4 (continued)

	Chang 2005[43]	Christodoulakis 2005[44]	Mystakidou 2005[45]	O'Shaughnessy 2005[46]	Savonije 2005[3]	Taylor 2005[59]	Witzig 2005[47]	Bamias 2003[36]
Study Design								
Description of participant selection	Adequate	Partial	Adequate	Adequate	Adequate	Partial	Adequate	Adequate
Was the allocation to treatment concealed?*	Unclear	Adequate	Unclear	Adequate	Adequate	Unclear	Unclear	Unclear
Description of the therapeutic regimen	Adequate	Adequate	Adequate	Adequate	Adequate	Partial	Adequate	Adequate
Was the trial described as double blind?*	No	No	Yes	Yes	No	Yes	Yes	No
Was there a description of withdrawals and dropouts?*	Partial (18%)	Partial (-)	Yes (27%)	Yes (16%)	Partial (1%)	No	Yes (29%)	Yes (21%)
Statistical Analysis								
Description of sample size calculation	Yes	No	Yes	No	Yes	No	Yes	Yes
Was the design described as intention-to-treat?	No	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	Yes	No
Was this a preliminary analysis?	No	No	No	No	No	No	No	No
Presentation of Results								
Were the dates of accrual reported?	No	Yes	No	Yes	Yes	No	Yes	Yes
Description of non-eligible patients	No	No	No	No	No	No	No	No
Were confidence intervals reported?	No	No	No	No	No	Yes	Yes	Yes
Were adverse events reported?	Yes	Yes	No	Yes	Yes	No	Yes	Yes
Funding								
What were the source(s) of funding?*	Private	-	-	-	Private	Private	Private	-

Appendix 4 (continued)

	Boogaerts 2003[37]	Hedenus 2003[57]	Henke 2003[38]	Iconomou 2003[39]	Janinis 2003[40]	Kosmadakis 2003[41]	Kotasek 2003[58]	Recasens 2003[42]
Study Design								
Description of participant selection	Adequate	Adequate	Adequate	Adequate	Inadequate	Partial	Adequate	Partial
Was the allocation to treatment concealed?*	Unclear	Adequate	Adequate	Unclear	Unclear	Unclear	Unclear	Unclear
Description of the therapeutic regimen	Adequate	Adequate	Adequate	Adequate	Partial	Adequate	Adequate	Adequate
Was the trial described as double blind?*	No	Yes†	Yes†	No	No	Yes	Yes	No
Was there a description of withdrawals and dropouts?*	Partial (19%)	Yes (13%)	Partial (39%)	Partial (5%)	No	Partial (-)	Yes (25%)	No
Statistical Analysis								
Description of sample size calculation	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	No	No	Yes	No
Was the design described as intention-to-treat?	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	No	No	No	Yes
Was this a preliminary analysis?	No	No	Yes	No	No	No	No	No
Presentation of Results								
Were the dates of accrual reported?	Yes	No	Yes	Yes	No	Yes	No	Yes
Description of non-eligible patients	No	No	No	No	No	No	No	No
Were confidence intervals reported?	Yes	Yes	No	No	No	Yes	Yes	No
Were adverse events reported?	Yes	Yes	No	Yes	No	Yes	Yes	No
Funding								
What were the source(s) of funding?*	-	Private	Private	-	-	-	Private	-

Appendix 4 (continued)

	Huddart 2002[32]	Osterborg 2002[33]	Pronzato 2002[34]	Thomas 2002[35]	Vansteenkiste 2002[56]	Dammacco 2001[30]	Littlewood 2001[31]	Qvist 1999[29]
Study Design								
Description of participant selection	Inadequate	Adequate	Partial	Inadequate	Adequate	Adequate	Adequate	Partial
Was the allocation to treatment concealed?*	Unclear	Unclear	Unclear	Unclear	Adequate	Unclear	Unclear	Unclear
Description of the therapeutic regimen	Adequate	Adequate	Partial	Partial	Adequate	Adequate	Adequate	Adequate
Was the trial described as double blind?*	No	Yes	No	No	Yes†	Yes	Yes	Yes
Was there a description of withdrawals and dropouts?*	No	Partial (8%)	No	No	Yes (21%)	Yes (12%)	Yes (9%)	Partial (19%)
Statistical Analysis								
Description of sample size calculation	No	Yes	No	No	Yes	No	No	No
Was the design described as intention-to-treat?	No	Yes	Yes	No	No	Yes	Yes	No
Was this a preliminary analysis?	No	No	No	No	No	No	No	No
Presentation of Results								
Were the dates of accrual reported?	No	Yes	No	No	Yes	No	No	No
Description of non-eligible patients	No	No	No	No	No	No	No	No
Were confidence intervals reported?	Yes	No	Yes	No	Yes	No	No	Yes
Were adverse events reported?	No	Yes	No	No	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Funding								
What were the source(s) of funding?*	-	Private	-	-	-	Private	Private	Private

Appendix 4 (continued)

	Anon 1998[23]	Dammacco 1998[24]	Ferrini 1998[25]	Kettelhack 1998[26]	Oberhoff 1998[27]	Ten Bokkel Huinink 1998[28]	Osterborg 1996[21]	Park 1996[22]
Study Design								
Description of participant selection	Adequate	Adequate	Partial	Partial	Adequate	Adequate	Adequate	Inadequate
Was the allocation to treatment concealed?*	Unclear	Unclear	Unclear	Unclear	Unclear	Adequate	Adequate	Unclear
Description of the therapeutic regimen	Adequate	Adequate	Adequate	Adequate	Adequate	Adequate	Adequate	Adequate
Was the trial described as double blind?*	Yes	No	Yes	Yes	No	No	No	No
Was there a description of withdrawals and dropouts?*	No	Yes (11%)	Yes (8%)	Yes (10%)	Partial (40%)	Partial (30%)	No	No
Statistical Analysis								
Description of sample size calculation	No	No	No	Yes	Yes	No	No	No
Was the design described as intention-to-treat?	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	No	Yes	No	No
Was this a preliminary analysis?	No	No	No	Yes	No	No	No	No
Presentation of Results								
Were the dates of accrual reported?	Yes	No	No	No	No	Yes	No	No
Description of non-eligible patients	No	No	No	No	No	No	No	No
Were confidence intervals reported?	No	Yes	No	Yes	No	Yes	No	No
Were adverse events reported?	Yes	Yes	No	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	No
Funding								
What were the source(s) of funding?*	Private	-	-	-	Private	-	-	-

Appendix 4 (continued)

	Cazzola 1995[20]	Cascinu 1994[18]	Rose 1994[19]	Abels 1993 A[17]	Abels 1993 B[17]	Abels 1993 C[17]
Study Design						
Description of participant selection	Partial	Adequate	Partial	Adequate	Adequate	Adequate
Was the allocation to treatment concealed?*	Unclear	Adequate	Unclear	Unclear	Unclear	Unclear
Description of the therapeutic regimen	Adequate	Adequate	Adequate	Adequate	Adequate	Adequate
Was the trial described as double blind?*	No	Yes†	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Was there a description of withdrawals and dropouts?*	Partial (8%)	No	No	No	No	No
Statistical Analysis						
Description of sample size calculation	Yes	No	No	No	No	No
Was the design described as intention-to-treat?	Yes	No	No	No	No	No
Was this a preliminary analysis?	No	No	No	No	No	No
Presentation of Results						
Were the dates of accrual reported?	Yes	No	No	No	No	No
Description of non-eligible patients	No	No	No	No	No	No
Were confidence intervals reported?	Yes	No	No	No	No	No
Were adverse events reported?	No	Yes	No	Yes	Yes	Yes
Funding						
What were the source(s) of funding?*	Public	-	-	Private	Private	Private

Note: "–" indicates that the value was not reported in the study; Mixed = public and private sources of funding.
*Items have empirical evidence.
†Method of double-blinding was described and was appropriate.