Appendix 1: Levels of evidence and classification of recommendations*				
Class (size) of treatment effect; nature of recommendation and evidence*				
Estimate of	21033 (3122) 31 11			Class III: No benefit
certainty (level	Class I:	Class IIa:	Class IIb:	OR
of evidence)	Benefit >>> risk	Benefit >> risk	Benefit ≥ risk:	Class III: Harm
Description of	Procedure or	Additional studies	Additional studies	Procedure or
class	treatment	with focused	with broad	treatment should
5.6.55	should be performed	objectives are	objectives are	not be performed or
	or administered	needed; it is	needed, and	administered
		reasonable to	additional registry	because it is not
		perform the	data would be	helpful and may be
		procedure or	helpful;	harmful
		administer the	procedure or	
		treatment	treatment may be	
			considered	
Level A evidence:	 Recommendation 	 Recommendation 	 Usefulness or 	 Recommendation
Multiple	that procedure or	in favour of	efficacy of	that procedure or
populations	treatment is useful	treatment or	recommendation	treatment is not
evaluated; data	or effective	procedure being	is less well	useful or effective
derived from	 Sufficient evidence 	useful or effective	established	and may be
multiple RCTs or	from multiple	Some conflicting	Greater conflicting	harmful
meta-analyses	randomized trials or	evidence from	evidence from	• Sufficient evidence
	meta-analyses	multiple	multiple	from multiple
		randomized trials	randomized trials	randomized trials
L. I.B. Milana	D	or meta-analyses	or meta-analyses	or meta-analyses
Level B evidence: Limited	Recommendation that procedure or	Recommendation in favour of	Usefulness or officery of	Recommendation that procedure or
populations	that procedure or treatment is useful	treatment or	efficacy of recommendation	that procedure or treatment is not
evaluated; data	or effective	procedure being	is less well	useful or effective
derived from a	Evidence from	useful or effective	established	and may be
single	single randomized	• Some conflicting	Greater conflicting	harmful
randomized trial	trial or	evidence from	evidence from	Evidence from
or	nonrandomized	single randomized	single randomized	single randomized
nonrandomized	studies	trial or	trial or	trial or
studies		nonrandomized	nonrandomized	nonrandomized
		studies	studies	studies
Level C evidence:	Recommendation	Recommendation	Usefulness or	Recommendation
Very limited	that procedure or	in favour of	efficacy of	that procedure or
populations	treatment is useful	treatment or	recommendation	treatment is not
evaluated; only	or effective	procedure being	is less well	useful or effective
consensus	 Only expert 	useful or effective	established	and may be
opinion of	opinion, case	 Only diverging 	 Only diverging 	harmful
experts, case	studies or standard	expert opinion,	expert opinion,	 Only expert
studies or	of care	case studies or	case studies or	opinion, case
standard of care		standard of care	standard of care	studies or standard
				of care

Note: RCT = randomized controlled trials.

^{*}Adapted, with permission, from Jacobs AK, Kushner FG, Ettinger SM, et al. ACCF/AHA clinical practice guideline methodology summit report: a report of the American College of Cariology foundation/American Heart Association Task Force on Practice Guidelines. *Journal of the American College of Cardiology* 2013;61:213-65. www.sciencedirect.com/science/journal/07351097). © American College of Cardiology Foundation and American Heart Association.