

## Specialist Unit for Review Evidence (SURE)

### Questions to assist with the critical appraisal of case series<sup>1</sup>

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Citation:	
<i>Are there other companion papers from the same study?</i>	
	Yes/ Can't tell/ No
1. Is the study design clearly stated? Consider if retrospective or prospective	
2. Does the study address a clearly focused question? Consider: population, exposure or intervention and outcomes (are these appropriate?)	
3. Are the setting, locations and relevant dates provided? Consider: recruitment period; follow-up & data collection; single or multiple centre	
4. Are there explicit inclusion/exclusion criteria?	
5. Were patients enrolled consecutively?	
6. Are participant characteristics provided? Consider if: sufficient details; a baseline table is included.	
7. Are outcome measures appropriate? Consider if: the methods of assessment are valid & reliable.	
8. Are the statistical methods well described? Consider: How missing data were handled; were potential sources of bias (confounding factors) considered/controlled for.	
9. Is information provided on participant flow? Consider if following provided: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• numbers of participants in the series;</li> <li>• number lost to follow up;</li> <li>• details of missing participant data;</li> <li>• follow-up time.</li> </ul>	
10. Are the results well described? Consider if <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• effect sizes, confidence intervals/standard deviations are provided;</li> <li>• the results support the conclusions. Are they the same in the abstract and the full text?</li> </ul>	
11. Is any sponsorship/conflict of interest reported?	
12. Finally...Did the authors identify any limitations and, if so, are they captured above?	
<b>Summary</b> <i>Add comments relating to areas of concern that were avoidable and a statement indicating if the results are reliable and/or useful.</i>	

<sup>1</sup> Devised with reference to: Carey, TS and Boden, SD. 2003. [A critical guide to case series reports](#). *Spine* 28(15), pp. 1631-4. doi: 10.1097/01.BRS.0000083174.84050.E5; Chan, K, and Bhandari, M. 2011. [Three-minute critical appraisal of a case series article](#). *Indian Journal of Orthopaedics* 45(2), pp103–4. doi: 10.4103/0019-5413.77126