

Evolution of Evidence and Guideline Recommendations for Medical Management of Severe Traumatic Brain Injury

- **Overview:** To explore how Brain Trauma Foundation guidelines for severe TBI have changed over the past 20 years
- **Key Messages:**
 - Guidelines changed substantially between 1996 and 2016, with 70% of recommendations either discarded or downgraded.
 - Changes primarily resulted from increased methodological rigour and came at a cost of some loss of clinical appeal.
 - Long delays were found between the search for evidence and guideline publication, ranging from 18 to 34 months.
 - Of the 27 recommendations available in 2016, only 8 were based on moderate to high quality evidence
- **Conclusion:** The type and quality of the evidence base needs to be improved to inform treatment guidelines. Clinicians need support to maintain currency and relevance.

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