

Supplemental Table. Checklist for quality assessment of case series studies on a surgical intervention

	Criteria	Yes	No	Unclear
1	Was the study conducted prospectively?			
2	Were the cases collected in more than one center?			
3	Was the recruitment period clearly stated?			
4	Were the characteristics of the patients included in the study described?			
5	Were the eligibility criteria (i.e., inclusion and exclusion criteria) for entry into the study clearly stated?			
6	Did patients enter the study at a similar point in the disease?			
7	Was the intervention of interest clearly described?			
8	Was the intervention undertaken by someone experienced in performing the procedure?			
9	Were additional interventions (co-interventions) clearly described?			
10	Were relevant outcome measures established a priori?			
11	Were outcome assessors blinded to the intervention that patients received?			
12	Were all the important outcomes considered?			
13	Was follow-up in every case long enough for important events and outcomes to occur?			
14	Were the adverse events reported?			