

## Editorial

### Evidence-based orthopedics

CI, CONSORT, cost-utility, NNT, EBM, face and content validity, GCP, level of evidence, kappa coefficients, meta-analysis, power analysis, RCT.... In recent years, a number of new terms, acronyms, and abbreviations have shown up in the orthopedic literature. These are poorly understood by many orthopedic surgeons. A not uncommon reaction is to ignore them: "They have no bearing on my clinical practice". Others oppose them actively. They have come to stay, however; they represent part of the evolution of medicine, from opinion to science. Although not all orthopedic surgeons have to be scientists, we must all be able to understand the clinical literature to be able to suggest the best treatments for our patients. This requires knowledge of the basics of modern clinical research.

Acta Orthopaedica will publish a series of educational reviews explaining the meaning, the use, and the value of several modern clinical research concepts. The reviews are written by members of the the International Evidence-Based Orthopaedic Surgery Working Group ([ieboswg@gmail.com](mailto:ieboswg@gmail.com)). This is a group of orthopedic surgeons and epide-

miologists with a keen interest in study methodology and evidence-based orthopedics. The group was founded in Canada and has recently expanded to the Netherlands and the USA, with continued expansion globally. In 2006, the group began an international effort to promote an evidence-based approach to orthopedic dilemmas, summarizing the available evidence in systematic reviews, and writing educational reviews to help give their surgeon colleagues a better understanding of the tools required for evidence-based practice. The group also promotes the design and conduction of high-quality research, such as large-scale international multicenter clinical studies to answer important questions in orthopedic surgery. Ultimately, the group aims to shift the paradigm from "opinion-based practice" to "evidence-based orthopedic practice".

In this issue we start the series with "Misconceptions about practicing evidence-based orthopedic surgery". The review is followed by a discussion between Per Aspenberg, co-editor for Acta, and the authors.