

Supplemental Material S5. Study appraisal tool.

Appraisal categories	High	Moderate	Low
Design	case-series experimental design (experimental = control behaviour); large group (> 10) with appropriate control group	single-subject experimental design (experimental = control behaviour); large group without or inappropriate control; small group (< 10) with appropriate control group	if study fails to attain moderate rating
Demographic variables	must report at least THREE of the following: age; gender; education; marital status; language; socioeconomic status; ethnicity; co-morbid condition(s)	Must report age and education, plus TWO other demographic variables	if study fails to attain moderate rating
Stroke variables	must report FOUR of the following: stroke type (e.g., infarct); hemisphere affected/location; severity; time post-onset; stroke-related co-morbid conditions (e.g., hemiplegia, epilepsy); risk factors (e.g., smoking, blood pressure)	reports THREE stroke variables	if study fails to attain moderate rating
Cognitive variables	must report ALL THREE of the following: memory skills (e.g., STM/WM); attention or executive skills; language skills	reports TWO cognitive variables	if study fails to attain moderate rating

Overall rating: For High rating, study must score High in 3/4 categories (with no Low rating)

For Moderate rating, it cannot include any Low rating