Appendix Table C5. KQ1: Darbepoetin versus control, study quality

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| **Study author** | **Random**  **publication** | **Random**  **MDQ** | **Random**  **IPD** | **Allocation**  **publication** | **Allocation**  **MDQ** | **Allocation**  **IPD** | **Blinding** | **Placebo** | **ITT or 10%** | **Similar** | **High or low quality** | **Publication** |
| Hedenus 2003 | unclear | NA | unclear | yes (central randomization service) | NA | adequate | double | placebo | yes, except for QoL, unclear for TVE | more patients with indolent lymphoma were randomized to placebo and more patients with higher stage of disease were randomized to Aranesp | high, low for QoL, unclear for TVE | full text publication, ODAC documents, IPD |
| Hernandez 2009 | unclear | NA | unclear | unclear | NA | adequate | double | placebo | yes, except for QoL | Epo baseline levels were higher in placebo group, disease stage more advanced in placebo group (stage IV ESA 30%, placebo 43%) | high, low for QoL | full text, ODAC documents, IPD |
| Kotasek 2003 a,b,c,d,e,f | unclear | NA | unclear | unclear | NA | adequate | double | placebo | yes, not for transfusion | slightly higher proportion of patients in the 12 µg group had breast cancer (61%) compared with the other groups, which ranged from 15 to 38%. The 12 µg group had also a slightly higher mean Hb at baseline (10.4 g/d, compared with the other groups (9.7 to 10.2). | high, low for transfusion | full text publication, IPD, ODAC documents |
| Overgaard 2009 | yes | Na | NA | unclear | NA | NA | No | no placebo | yes | yes | low | abstract, ODAC documents, protocol |
| Pirker 2008 | unclear | NA | unclear | adequate | NA | adequate | double | placebo | yes, except for QoL | yes | high, low for QoL | full text publication, ODAC documents, IPD |
| Untch 2011 | unclear | NA | unclear | unclear | NA | unclear | no | no placebo | yes | yes | low | abstract, ODAC documents, IPD,full text publications |
| Vansteenkiste 2002 | unclear | NA | unclear | adequate | NA | adequate | double | placebo | yes, except for QoL | yes | high, low for QoL | full text publication, ODAC docs, IPD |