Madrid, Spain
10 November 2026

GEER
SPANISH SPINE SOCIETY

SPPCV
SOCIEDADE PORTUGUESA DE PATOLOGIA DA COLUNA VERTEBRAL

Spanish & Portuguese Spine Societies Course Diploma

Module 6

Using Literature to Inform my Practice

PROGRAMME

Event Compliant
MedTech Europe
EMT Number: EMT-26-10136

Accredited by the European
Accreditation Council for Continuing
Medical Education (EACCME®) with
3.0 European CME credits (ECMEC®s)

Tecnical Secretariat:
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QUICK FACTS

WHEN:

10 November 2026

WHERE:

Madrid. Spain

Course Venue:

Hotel AC La Finca
Pº del Club Deportivo, 1. Ed. 17
Parque empresarial La Finca
Pozuelo de Alarcón
28223 Madrid

REGISTRATION FEE:

300 € for Members*

400 € for Non Members

*Discounts for GEER and SPPCV members are available.

MAXIMUM ATTENDEES:

30 delegates

LANGUAGE:

English and Spanish (*The speaking is in Spanish, but the slides are in English, live discussions are also in Spanish without translation available*)

DRESS:

Smart Casual

IMPORTANT NOTE:

- Attendance at every session is mandatory.

COURSE CHAIRWOMAN

- **Susana Núñez Pereira.** Spain

COURSE FACULTY

- Julio Domenech Fernández
- Rafael Llombart Blanco
- Miguel Menéndez García
- Susana Núñez Pereira

TARGET AUDIENCE

Senior trainees and trained surgeons, who are planning a career in spinal surgery

AIMS OF THE MODULE

This course will provide participants with the necessary skills to critically appraise the quality of the spine literature. Specifically, the course will introduce basic study designs and discuss the main threats to the validity of clinical studies. Learning methods include online didactic lectures and workshops. Recently published papers will be used in the workshops. The topics covered in the course include: the importance of research to inform practice, randomised clinical trials, systematic reviews and cohort studies. Participants will learn to use a critical appraisal tool to assess the quality of systematic reviews, randomised control trials and cohort/prognostic studies.

LEARNING OUTCOMES MODULE 6

This module aims to enable learners to:

GENERAL OUTCOMES AND OBJECTIVES

- Understand the place of critical appraisal in a clinical practice that includes published evidence and patients' perspectives
- Evaluate the quality of randomised clinical trials (RCTs)
- Evaluate the quality of cohort/prognostic studies
- Evaluate the quality of systematic reviews
- Judge whether to change their practice based on new evidence

OUTCOMES AND OBJECTIVES
SESSION 1
INTRODUCTION TO CRITICAL APPRAISAL AND TOOLS

- Understand the place of critical appraisal in clinical practice that includes published evidence and patients' perspectives
- Identify the research question and study objective in a published article
- Understand the notions of statistical significance and clinical importance of study results
- Judge when to change their practice based on new evidence
- Critical appraisse a journal article using checklists, assessing bias, effect measures
- Critically appraise a published randomised controlled trial using a standardized critical appraisal tool and identify the main threats to its validity
- Discuss the validity of a published randomised clinical trial
- Discuss the relevance of results of a published randomised clinical trial

OUTCOMES AND OBJECTIVES
SESSION 2
THE ARCHITECTURE OF RCTS: WHAT CLINICIANS NEED TO KNOW TO DETERMINE THE QUALITY OF AN RCT

- Understand the basic design of an RCT
- Understand key issues to address when critically appraising a randomised controlled trial: selection issues, randomisation, measurement of key outcomes, comparability of groups, data analysis
- Critically appraise a published cohort/prognostic study using a standardized critical appraisal tool and identify the main threats to its validity
- Discuss the validity of a published cohort/prognostic study
- Discuss the relevance of results of a cohort/prognostic study to clinical practice

OUTCOMES AND OBJECTIVES
SESSION 3

THE ARCHITECTURE OF COHORT/PROGNOSTIC STUDIES: WHAT CLINICIANS NEED TO KNOW TO DETERMINE THE QUALITY OF A COHORT/PROGNOSTIC STUDY

- Understand the basic structure of cohort/prognostic studies
- Understand the role of data registry in the conduct of cohort/prognostic studies
- Understand key issues to address when critically appraising a cohort/prognostic study: selection of participants, measurement of exposures and outcomes, control for confounders and interpretation of results

THE ARCHITECTURE OF SYSTEMATIC REVIEW A: WHAT CLINICIANS NEED TO KNOW TO DETERMINE THE QUALITY OF A SYSTEMATIC REVIEW

- Understand the fundamentals of a systematic review
- Understand key issues to address when critically appraising a systematic review: selection issues, randomisation, measurement of key outcomes, heterogenicity, data analysist
- Critically appraise a published systematic review using a standardized critical
- appraisal tool and identify the main threats to its validity
- Discuss the validity of a published systematic review
- Discuss the relevance of results of a systematic review to clinical practice

INSTRUCTIONAL METHODS

The following instructional methods will be employed in the teaching of this module:

- Lectures to be visualized by the participants
- Articles will be given to participants in order to make a critical appraisal at home
- Online workshops: during the live online sessions the faculty will explain how to critically appraise the chosen articles

LEARNING

INTRODUCTION TO CRITICAL APPRAISAL

- Lecture: This two sessions will introduce learners to the importance of critically reading the clinical literature and introduce the basic principles necessary to evaluate the quality of RCTs and clinical practice guidelines

THE ARCHITECTURE OF RCTS: WHAT CLINICIANS NEED TO KNOW TO DETERMINE THE QUALITY OF A RCT

- Lecture: The session will provide basic knowledge of the methodological design of RCTs
- Activity: The instructor will facilitate the evaluation of a RCT with the class by using a critical appraisal tool

THE ARCHITECTURE OF COHORT/PROGNOSTIC STUDIES: WHAT CLINICIANS NEED TO KNOW TO DETERMINE THE QUALITY OF A COHORT/ PROGNOSTIC STUDY

- Lecture: The session will provide basic knowledge of the methodological design of a cohort/prognostic study
- Activity: The instructor will facilitate the evaluation of a cohort/prognostic study with the class by using a critical appraisal tool

THE ARCHITECTURE OF SYSTEMATIC REVIEW A: WHAT CLINICIANS NEED TO KNOW TO DETERMINE THE QUALITY OF A SYSTEMATIC REVIEW

- Lecture: The session will provide basic knowledge of the methodological design of a systematic review study
- Activity: The instructor will facilitate the evaluation of a systematic review study with the class by using a critical appraisal tool

ASSIGNMENT

Participants will be provided with three articles, reporting a RCT, a cohort study and a systematic review; they will have to fill the corresponding checklist. Participants are then encouraged to self-evaluate during the online workshop sessions.

COURSE EVALUATION BY THE PARTICIPANTS

Participants will be requested to complete a mandatory course evaluation at the end of the module in the form of a short online survey.

Scientific Programme

Chairwoman: **Susana Núñez Pereira**

Course attendance is mandatory

TUESDAY, 10 NOVEMBER

TIME	TOPIC	FACULTY
15:30-16:00	Course registration	
	SESSION 1: INTRODUCTION	
16:00-16:15	Introduction to Critical Appraisal	Rafael Llombart Blanco
16:15-16:30	Critical Appraisal Tools: Checklists, Assessing Bias, Effect Measures...	Rafael Llombart Blanco
	SESSION 2: RANDOMISED CONTROL TRIALS, COHORT STUDIES AND SYSTEMATIC REVIEWS	
16:30-16:50	The Structure of RCTs	Julio Domenech Fernández
16:50-17:10	Critical Appraisal of a Cohort Study: the Fundamentals	Miguel Menéndez García
17:10-17:30	Critical Appraisal of a Systematic Review: the Fundamentals	Susana Núñez Pereira
17:30-18:00	**Coffee Break**	
	SESSION 3: CRITICAL APPRAISAL	
18:00-18:10	Clinical Case Presentation	All Faculty
18:10-18:25	Article Search and Appraising the Pertinence of Abstracts	Rafael Llombart Blanco
18:25-18:40	Critical Appraisal of Article 1 (RCT)	Julio Domenech Fernández
18:40-18:55	Critical Appraisal of Article 2 (Cohort)	Miguel Menéndez García
18:55-19:10	Critical Appraisal of Article 3 (Systematic Review)	Susana Núñez Pereira
19:10-19:20	Applicability of Study Results to Initial Cases	Susana Núñez Pereira
19:20-19:40	Closing Remarks, Diploma and Mandatory Course Evaluation	Susana Núñez Pereira

END OF MODULE

Recommended Reading

- Guyatt G, Meade MO. Users' Guides to the Medical Literature: A Manual for Evidence-Based Clinical Practice, 3rd ed. McGraw Hill; 2015.
- Reader's guide to critical appraisal of cohort studies: 1. Role and design Rochon PA BMJ 2005 Apr 16;330(7496):895-7. doi: 10.1136/bmj.330.7496.895.
- Reader's guide to critical appraisal of cohort studies: 2. Assessing potential for confounding. Mamdani M, BMJ. 2005 Apr 23;330(7497): 960-2. doi: 10.1136/bmj.330.7497.960.
- Readers guide to critical appraisal of cohort studies: 3. Analytical strategies to reduce confounding. Normand SL. BMJ. 2005 Apr 30;330(7498):1021-3. doi: 10.1136/bmj.330.7498.1021.

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