

Priority target conditions of growth monitoring in children: toward consensus

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Background and objective

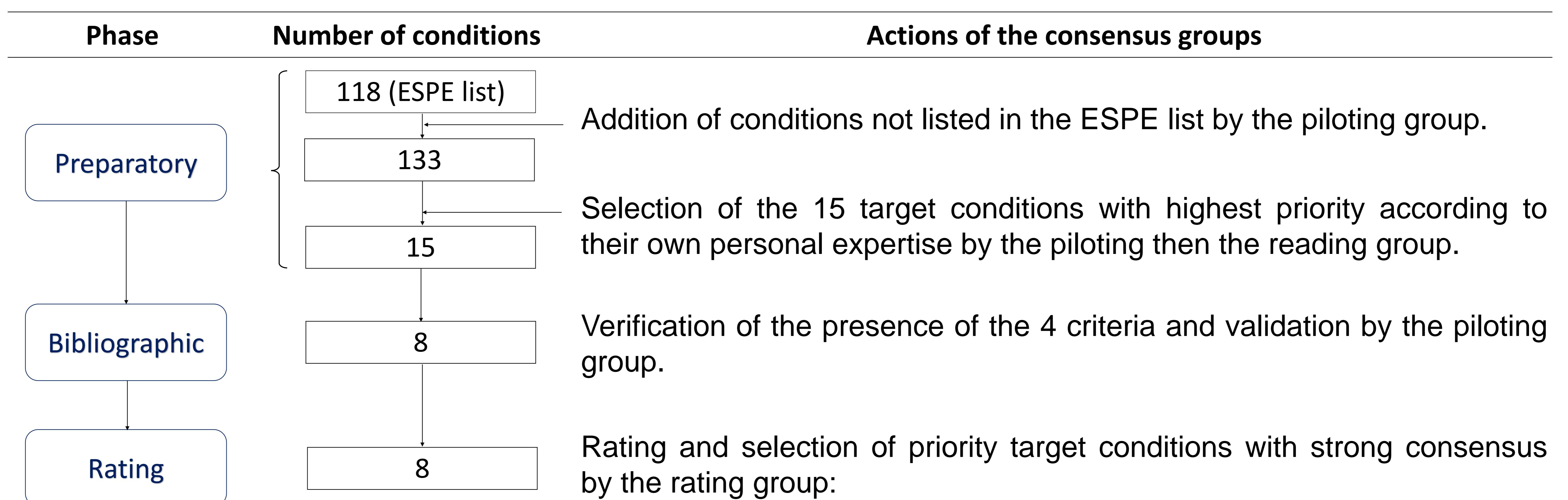
Growth monitoring (GM) of apparently healthy children aims at early detection of severe underlying conditions.⁽¹⁾ GM is based on clinical expertise that may be completed by the use of algorithms. Strong empirical evidence shows that current practices of GM are suboptimal. Practice standardization with validated tools requires answering two questions: Which conditions should be targeted? and How should abnormal growth be defined? To answer the first question, **our objective was to obtain a consensus on a “short list” of priority target conditions of GM by algorithms.**

Methods

A formalized consensus process has been used with an adapted RAND/UCLA method. It was based on 3 phases (preparatory, bibliographic, and rating) and involved 3 groups (piloting $n=11$, reading $n=8$, and rating $n=36$) of appointed experts from all French academic societies involved in the diagnosis and management of growth disorders, from primary care providers to experts in paediatric endocrinology, nephrology and gastroenterology, and members of parent associations. The ESPE list of paediatric endocrine diagnoses was used as a starting point.⁽²⁾ Participants were asked to complete this list then to select conditions fulfilling 4 previously established criteria defining an ideal typology of priority target conditions of GM by algorithms:⁽¹⁾

1. an “important health problem” in terms of their incidence and related morbidity and mortality,
2. a natural history including a long paucisymptomatic period during which the main clinical expression was auxological,
3. a high level of evidence for a relationship between early diagnosis and a more favourable outcome,
4. diagnosis criteria that are both robust and independent of auxological parameters that can be used to define abnormal growth.

Results



| PRIORITY TARGET CONDITIONS OF GM BY ALGORITHMS | AGREEMENT (%) [†] |
|--|----------------------------|
| Growth hormone deficiency with pituitary stalk interruption syndrome | 100 |
| Turner syndrome | 100 |
| Craniopharyngioma | 97 |
| Nephronophthisis | 92 |
| Hypothalamic-optochiasmatic astrocytoma | 91 |
| Celiac disease | 91 |
| Crohn disease | 91 |
| Cystinosis | 86 |

[†] % of experts agreeing that the condition fulfilled the 4 criteria

Conclusions

This national consensus has identified 8 priority target conditions of GM by algorithms. It will now be used to (1) build a trans-speciality European consensus and (2) refine and optimize the current algorithms proposed to define abnormal growth.

References

- (1) Scherdel et al. Lancet Diabetes Endocrinol 2016
- (2) Wit et al. Horm Res 2007