

**Table 1. Minors criteria assessing validity of each non-randomised trial.**

| <b>Author</b>  | <b>1. A stated aim of the study</b> | <b>2. Inclusion of consecutive patients</b> | <b>3. Prospective collection of data</b> | <b>4. Endpoint appropriate to the study aim</b> | <b>5. Unbiased evaluation of endpoints</b> | <b>6. Follow-up period appropriate to the major endpoint</b> | <b>7. Loss to follow up not exceeding 5%</b> | <b>Total</b> |
|----------------|-------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------|--------------|
| <b>Schmitz</b> | 2                                   | 1                                           | 0                                        | 2                                               | 1                                          | 2                                                            | 2                                            | 10           |