

Based on the "Users' Guides to the Medical Literature: A Manual for Evidence-Based Clinical Practice", this worksheet can serve as an aid to the critical appraisal of an article about therapeutic interventions.

Appraiser:

Date:

Citation:

Study Question:

Are the results valid?

✓ x ? Did experimental and control groups begin the study with a similar prognosis?

Were patients randomized?

Was randomization concealed?

Were patients analyzed in the groups to which they were randomized?

Were patients in the treatment and control groups similar with respect to known prognostic variables?

✓ x ? Did experimental and control groups retain a similar prognosis after the study started?

Were patients aware of group allocation?

Were clinicians aware of group allocation?

Were outcome assessors aware of group allocation?

Was follow-up complete?

What are the results?

✓ x ? How large was the treatment effect?

What is the relative risk reduction?

What is the absolute risk reduction?

✓ x ? How precise was the estimate of the treatment effect?

What were the confidence intervals or p-values?

How can I apply the results to patient care?

✓ x ? Were the study patients similar to the patient in my practice?

Does your patient match the study inclusion criteria?

If not, are there compelling reasons why the results should not apply to your patient?

✓ x ? Were all clinically important outcomes considered?

What were the primary and secondary endpoints of the study?

Were surrogate endpoints used?

✓ x ? Are the likely treatment benefits worth the potential harm and costs?

What is the number needed to treat (NNT) to prevent one adverse outcome or produce one positive outcome?

Is the reduction of clinical endpoint worth the increase of cost and risk of harm?

Additional Comments: