

Worksheet for Using an Article About Therapy or Prevention

University of Alberta EBM Toolkit

CITATION:

ARE THE RESULTS OF THE STUDY VALID?

1. Was the assignment of patients to treatment randomized?

Yes No Can't Tell

2. Were all patients who entered the trial properly accounted for and attributed at its conclusion?

Yes No Can't Tell

- was follow-up complete?
- were patients analyzed in the groups to which they were randomized (intention to treat analysis)?

3. Were patients, their clinicians, and study personnel 'blind' to treatment?

Yes No Can't Tell

4. Were the groups similar at the start of the trial?

Yes No Can't Tell

- Baseline prognostic factors (demographics, co-morbidity, disease severity, other known confounders) balanced?
- If different, were these adjusted for?

5. Aside from the experimental intervention, were the groups treated equally?

Yes No Can't Tell

- Co-intervention?

- Contamination?

- Compliance?

WHAT WERE THE RESULTS?

1. How large was the treatment effect?

Yes No Can't Tell

- Absolute risk reduction?

- Relative risk reduction?

2. How precise was the estimate of the treatment effect?

- Confidence intervals?

WILL THE RESULTS HELP ME IN CARING FOR MY PATIENTS?

1. Can the results be applied to my patient care?

Yes No Can't Tell

- Patients similar for demographics, severity, co-morbidity and other prognostic factors?
- Compelling reason why the results should not be applied?

2. Were all clinically important outcomes considered?

Yes No Can't Tell

- Are substitute endpoints valid?

3. Are the likely treatment benefits worth the potential harms and costs?

Yes No Can't Tell

- NNT for different outcomes?