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-morbidities, 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?