

EVIDENCE APPRAISAL OF A SINGLE STUDY
– ALL DOMAINS: DESCRIPTIVE STUDY –

Project / Topic of your Clinical Question: _____

Reviewer: _____ **Today's Date (mm/dd/yy):** _____ **Final Evidence Level:** _____

Article Title: _____

Year: _____ **First Author:** _____ **Journal:** _____

Do the study purpose/objectives and inclusion/exclusion criteria assist in answering the clinical question?

Yes No Unknown

Comments:

A. What is the study purpose/objective? _____

B. What are the Inclusion Criteria? _____

C. What are the Exclusion Criteria? _____

* **Bolded** questions represent the key criteria for each section.

* *Lettered* questions (A., B., ...) provide additional information to better answer the bolded questions.

VALIDITY: ARE THE STUDY RESULTS VALID OR CREDIBLE?

1. Is the study purpose clearly stated? (e.g., aim, hypothesis, or objective) Yes No Unknown

Comments:

2. Are the study methods clearly described and appropriate for the question? Yes No Unknown

Comments:

A. Is the sample group clearly described and sufficient? Yes No Unknown

Comments:

B. Is the setting clearly described and appropriate? Yes No Unknown

Comments:

3. Were instruments used to measure the outcomes tested to be valid and reliable? Yes No Unknown

Comments:

A. Are the variables/interventions clearly described and appropriate? Yes No Unknown

Comments:

B. Are the outcome measures clearly described and appropriate? Yes No Unknown

Comments:

4. Was the follow up process described and complete? Yes No Unknown

Comments:

A. Were all patients who entered the study accounted for at its conclusion? Yes No Unknown

Comments:

B. Was the follow up described and complete with a low rate of attrition? Yes No Unknown

Comments:

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C. Was the follow up long enough to fully describe the condition under study? Yes No Unknown

Comments:

5. Was there freedom from conflict of interest? Yes No Unknown

Comments:

A. Was there freedom from conflict of interest in the sponsor/funding agency? Yes No Unknown

Comments:

B. Was there freedom from conflict of interest in the investigators? Yes No Unknown

Comments:

RELIABILITY: ARE THESE VALID STUDY RESULTS IMPORTANT?

6. Were the statistical analysis methods clearly described and appropriate? Yes No Unknown

Comments:

7. Did the study have a sufficiently large sample size? Yes No Unknown

Comments:

8. What are the main results of the study?

(Enter or calculate results in the appropriate fields in the tables below. Point estimates? Effect Size? How large was the treatment effect?)

* A table is also available for calculation or presentation of study results on the last page of this form.

A. What are the main tables or graphs of results in the article? *(Page numbers, Table numbers, Figures, Graphs)*

B. How precise were the results? *(Were the results presented with Confidence Intervals? Standard Deviations?)*

9. Were any adverse events clearly described? Yes No Unknown

Comments:

APPLICABILITY: CAN I APPLY THESE VALID, IMPORTANT STUDY RESULTS TO TREATING MY PATIENTS?

10. Can the results be applied to my population of interest? Yes No Unknown

Comments:

A. Are the study methods feasible in my care setting? Yes No Unknown

Comments:

B. Were all patient important outcomes considered? (Are substitute endpoints valid?) Yes No Unknown

Comments:

C. Are the likely benefits worth the potential harm and costs? Yes No Unknown

Comments:

D. Were the patients in this study similar to my population of interest? Yes No Unknown

Comments:

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11. Are your patient's values and preferences satisfied by the treatment and its consequences?

Yes No Unknown

Comments: _____

12. Would you include this study/article in development of a recommendation?

Yes No Unknown

Comments: _____

Additional Comments or Notes: _____

* Consider each "No" answer and the degree to which this limitation is a threat to the validity of the results, then check the appropriate box to assign the level of quality for this study/article.

THE EVIDENCE LEVEL IS:

Good Quality Descriptive Study (4a)

Lesser Quality Descriptive Study (4b)

Not Valid, Reliable, or Applicable

| TABLE OF EVIDENCE LEVELS | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
|------------------------------------|-------------------------------------|----------------|------------------------------------|--------------------|-------------------|-------------------------|---------------------------|----------------|--|-------------------|--|---------------------|--|--|
| DOMAIN OF CLINICAL QUESTION | TYPE OF STUDY / STUDY DESIGN | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| | Systematic Review Meta-Analysis | Meta-Synthesis | RCT ⁺ /CCT ⁺ | Psychometric Study | Qualitative Study | Cohort – Prospective | Cohort – Retrospective | Case – Control | Longitudinal (Before/After, Time Series) | Cross – Sectional | Epidemiology Descriptive Study Case Series | Quality Improvement | Economic Analysis Decision Analysis | Expert Opinion Case Reports Guidelines |
| All Domains | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |

⁺ CCT = Controlled Clinical Trial; KAB = Knowledge, Attitudes, and Beliefs; RCT = Randomized Controlled Trial

Development for this appraisal form is based on:

1. Guyatt, G.; Rennie, D.; Evidence-Based Medicine Working Group.; and American Medical Association.: Users' guides to the medical literature : a manual for evidence-based clinical practice. *Users' guides to the medical literature : a manual for evidence-based clinical practice*: "JAMA & archives journals." Chicago, IL, 2002
2. Melnyk, B. M. and E. Fineout-Overholt (2005). Evidence-based practice in nursing & healthcare : a guide to best practice. Philadelphia, Lippincott Williams & Wilkins.
3. Phillips, et al: Oxford Centre for Evidence-based Medicine Levels of Evidence, 2001. Last accessed Nov 14, 2007 from <http://www.cebm.net/index.aspx?o=1025>.
4. Fineout-Overholt and Johnston: Teaching EBP: asking searchable, answerable clinical questions. *Worldviews Evid Based Nurs*, 2(3): 157-60, 2005.

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RESULTS TABLE

| TREATMENT OUTCOMES | Sample Size [N] | Effect Size | Mean | Standard Deviation or Confidence Interval (95% CI) | Other Data Results | p value |
|---------------------------|------------------------------|--------------------|-------------|---|---------------------------|----------------|
| Outcome 1: | N = | | | | | |
| | n_{group 1} = | | | | | |
| | n_{group 2} = | | | | | |
| Outcome 2: | N = | | | | | |
| | n_{group 1} = | | | | | |
| | n_{group 2} = | | | | | |
| Outcome 3: | N = | | | | | |
| | n_{group 1} = | | | | | |
| | n_{group 2} = | | | | | |
| Outcome 4: | N = | | | | | |
| | n_{group 1} = | | | | | |
| | n_{group 2} = | | | | | |
| Outcome 5: | N = | | | | | |
| | n_{group 1} = | | | | | |
| | n_{group 2} = | | | | | |