

CRITICAL REVIEW FORM FOR THERAPY STUDY

Citation:

Users' Guide:	Article:
Are the Results Valid?	
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 factors?	
Did experimental and control groups retain a similar prognosis after the study started?	
Were 5 important groups (patients, caregivers, collectors of outcome data, adjudicators of outcome, data analysts) aware of group allocation?	
Aside from the experimental intervention, were groups treated equally?	
Was follow-up complete?	
What are the Results?	
How large was the treatment effect?	
How precise was the treatment effect?	
How can I apply the results to my patient care?	
Were the study patients similar to my patient?	
Were all patient-important outcomes considered?	
Are the likely benefits worth the potential harms and costs?	

CRITICAL REVIEW FORM FOR HARM STUDY

Citation:

Users' Guide:	Article:
Are the Results Valid?	
Did the experimental and control groups begin the study with a similar prognosis?	
Did the investigators demonstrate similarity with respect to all known determinants of outcome; did they adjust for differences in the analysis?	
For case-control studies: Were exposed patients equally likely to be identified in the two groups?	
Did the experimental and control groups retain a similar prognosis after the study started?	
Were the outcomes and exposures measured in the same way in the groups being compared?	
Was follow-up sufficiently complete?	
What are the results?	
How strong is the association between exposure and outcome?	
How precise is the estimate of risk?	
How can I apply the results to my patient care?	
Were the study patients similar to my patient?	
Was the duration of follow-up adequate?	
Should I attempt to stop the exposure?	

CRITICAL REVIEW FORM FOR PROGNOSIS STUDY

Citation:

Users' Guide:	Article:
Are the Results Valid?	
Was the sample of patients representative?	
Were patients sufficiently homogeneous with respect to prognostic risk?	
Was follow-up complete?	
Were objective and unbiased outcome criteria used?	
What are the results?	
How likely are the outcomes over time?	
How precise are the estimates of likelihood?	
How can I apply the results to patient care?	
Were the study patients and their management similar to my own?	
Was the follow-up sufficiently long?	
Can I use the results in managing patients in my practice?	

CRITICAL REVIEW FORM FOR DIAGNOSIS STUDY

Citation:

Users' Guide:	Article:
Are the Results Valid?	
Did the clinicians face diagnostic uncertainty?	
Was there blind comparison with an independent gold standard?	
Did the results of the test being evaluated influence the decision to perform the gold standard?	
What are the Results?	
What likelihood ratios are associated with the range of possible test results?	
How can I apply the results to my patient care?	
Will the reproducibility of the test result and its interpretation be satisfactory in my setting?	
Are the results applicable to my patient?	
Will the results change my management?	
Will patients be better off as a result of the test?	
Are the benefits worth the potential harms and costs?	

CRITICAL REVIEW FORM FOR OVERVIEW STUDY

Citation:

Users' Guide:	Article:
Are the Results Valid?	
Did the review explicitly address a sensible question?	
Was the search for relevant studies detailed and exhaustive?	
Were the primary studies of high methodologic quality?	
Were the assessments of the included studies reproducible?	
What are the Results?	
Were the results similar from study to study?	
What likelihood ratios are associated with the range of possible test results?	
How precise are the results?	
Will the results help me in caring for my patient?	
How can I best interpret the overview's results to apply them to the care of my patients?	
Will the test results change my management?	
Will patients be better off as a result of the test?	

CRITICAL REVIEW FORM FOR A CLINICAL PRACTICE GUIDELINE STUDY

Citation:

Users' Guide:	Article:
Are the recommendations valid?	
Did the recommendations consider all relevant patient groups, management options, and possible outcomes?	
Is there a systematic review linking options to outcomes for each relevant question?	
Is there an appropriate specification of values associated with each of the outcomes?	
Do the authors indicate the strength of their recommendations?	

CRITICAL REVIEW FORM FOR DIFFERENTIAL DIAGNOSIS STUDY

Citation:

Users' Guide:	Article:
Are the Results of the study valid?	
Did the investigators enroll the right patients? (Was the patient sample representative of those with the clinical problem?)	
Was the definitive diagnostic process credible?	
For initially undiagnosed patients, was follow-up sufficiently long and complete?	
What are the results?	
What were the diagnoses and their probabilities?	
How precise are the probability estimates?	
How can I apply the results to patient care?	
Are the study patients similar to those in my own practice?	
Is it unlikely that the disease probabilities have changed since this information was gathered?	

CRITICAL REVIEW FORM FOR A QUALITATIVE STUDY

Citation:

Users' Guide:	Article:
Validity Criteria	
Was the choice of participants explicit and comprehensive?	
Was data collection sufficiently comprehensive and detailed?	
Were the data analyzed appropriately and the findings corroborated adequately?	
Study results	
What are the results of the study?	
Applicability to Patient Care	
Does the study offer helpful theoretical conclusions?	
Does the study help me understand the context of my practice?	
Does the study help me to understand my relationships with patients and their families?	

CRITICAL REVIEW FORM FOR CLINICAL PREDICTION OR DECISION RULE ARTICLE

Citation:

Users' Guide:	Article:
Are the Results Valid?	
<p>Is this a newly derived instrument? (Level IV) Was validation restricted to the retrospective use of statistical techniques on the original database? (This is a Level IV rule). If so, consider the following standards for initial development of a decision rule.</p>	
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Were all important predictors included in the derivation process? 2. Were all important predictors present in significant proportion to the study population? 3. Does the rule make clinical sense? 	
<p>II) Has the instrument been validated? (Level II or III) If so, consider the following:</p>	
<p>Did validation include prospective studies on several different populations from that used to derive it (II), or was it restricted to a single population (III)?</p>	
<p>How well did the validation exercise meet the following criteria:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Were the patients chosen in an unbiased fashion and do they represent a wide spectrum of severity of disease? 2. Was there a blinded assessment of the criterion standard or outcome event (or was the outcome all-cause mortality) for all patients? 3. Was there an explicit and 	

<p>accurate interpretation of the predictor variables and the actual rule without knowledge of the outcome? How powerful is the rule (in terms of sensitivity and specificity; likelihood ratios; proportions with alternative outcomes; or relative risks or absolute outcome rates)?</p>	
<p>III) Has an impact analysis demonstrated change in clinical behavior or patient outcomes as a result of using the instrument? (Level I) If so, consider the following:</p>	
<p>How well did the study guard against bias in terms of differences at the start (concealed randomization, adjustment in analysis) or as the study proceeded (blinding, co-intervention, loss to follow-up)</p>	
<p>What was the impact on clinician behaviour and patient-important outcomes?</p>	

CRITICAL REVIEW FORM FOR ECONOMIC EVALUATION STUDY

Citation:

Users' Guide:	Article:
Are the Results Valid?	
Did the recommendations consider all relevant patient groups, management options, and possible outcomes?	
Did the investigators adopt a sufficiently broad viewpoint?	
Are the results reported separately for patients whose baseline risk differs?	
Is there a systematic review linking options to outcomes for each relevant question?	
Were costs measured accurately?	
Did investigators consider the timing of costs and outcomes?	
What are the Results?	
What were the incremental costs and effects of each strategy?	
Do incremental costs and effects differ between subgroups?	
How much does allowance for uncertainty change the results?	
How can I apply the results to my patient care?	
Are the treatment benefits worth the harms and the costs?	
Could my patients expect similar health outcomes?	
Can I expect similar costs in my setting?	