

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 **systematic reviews** and summaries of evidence.

Appraiser:

Date:

Citation:

Study
Question:

Are the results valid?

✓ x ? **Did the review explicitly address a sensible clinical question?**

✓ x ? **Was the search for relevant studies detailed and exhaustive?**

✓ x ? **Were the primary studies of high methodologic quality?**

✓ x ? **Were assessments of studies reproducible?**

What are the results?

✓ x ? **Were the results similar from study to study?**

✓ x ? **What are the overall results of the review?**

✓ x ? **How precise were the results?**

How can I apply the results to patient care?

✓ x ? **How can I best interpret the results to apply them to the care of patients in my practice?**

✓ x ? **Were all clinically important outcomes considered?**

✓ x ? **Are the benefits worth the costs and potential risks?**

Additional Comments:

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 are the results?

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:

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 **qualitative research**.

Appraiser:

Date:

Citation:

Study Question:

Are the results valid?

✓ x ? **Was the choice of participants explicit and comprehensive?**

✓ x ? **Was data collection sufficiently comprehensive and detailed?**

✓ x ? **Were the data analyzed appropriately and the findings corroborated adequately?**

What are the results?

How can I apply the results to patient care?

✓ x ? **Does the study offer helpful theoretical conclusions?**

How can I apply the results to patient care?

✓ x ? **Does the study help me understand the context of my practice?**

✓ x ? **Does the study help me understand my relationships with patients and their families?**

Additional Comments:

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 harm**.

Appraiser:

Date:

Citation:

Study
Question:

Are the results valid?

✓ x ? **Did the investigators demonstrate similarity in all known determinants of outcome; did they adjust for differences in the analysis?**

Sub question 1?

Sub question 2?

✓ x ? **Were exposed patients equally likely to be identified in the two groups?**

Sub question 1?

Sub question 2?

✓ x ? **Were the outcomes measured in the same way in the groups being compared?**

Sub question 1?

Sub question 2?

✓ x ? **Was follow-up sufficiently complete?**

Sub question 1?

Sub question 2?

What are the results?

✓ x ? **How strong is the association between exposure and outcome?**

Sub question 1?

Sub question 2?

✓ x ? **How precise is the estimate of the risk?**

What are the results?

Sub question 1?

Sub question 2?

How can I apply the results to patient care?

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

Sub question 1?

Sub question 2?

✓ x ? Was the duration of follow-up adequate?

Sub question 1?

Sub question 2?

✓ x ? What was the magnitude of the risk?

Sub question 1?

Sub question 2?

✓ x ? Should I attempt to stop the exposure?

Sub question 1?

Sub question 2?

Additional Comments:

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 assessment of recommendations.

Appraiser:

Date:

Citation:

Study
Question:

Are the recommendations valid?

✓ x ? **Did the recommendations consider all relevant patient groups, management options, and possible outcomes?**

✓ x ? **Is there a systematic review of evidence linking options to outcomes for each relevant question?**

✓ x ? **Is there an appropriate specification of values or preferences associated with outcomes?**

✓ x ? **Do the authors indicate the strength of their recommendations?**

Additional Comments: