A Worksheet for Articles about Treatment

Determine Relevance

Is this article worth taking the time to read? If the answer to any of these questions is No, it may be better to read other articles first.

Based on the conclusion of the abstract:

A. Did the authors study an outcome that patients would care about? (Be careful to avoid results that require extrapolation to an outcome that truly matters to patients)
   Yes (go on)  No (stop)

B. Is the problem studied one that is common to your practice and the intervention feasible?
   Yes (go on)  No (stop)

C. Will this information, if true, require you to change your current practice?
   Yes (go on)  No (stop)

Determine Validity:

If the answers to all three questions above are Yes, then continued assessment of the article is mandatory.

D. Population
   1. Are the studied patients similar enough to your patients that you can apply the results in your practice?  Yes  No (停止)

E. Study design
   1. Was it a controlled trial?  Yes  No (停止)
   2. Were the subjects randomly assigned?  Yes  No (停止)
   3. Were steps taken to conceal the treatment assignment from study personnel entering patients into the study?  Yes  No
   4. Were patients, providers and outcome assessors “blind” to treatment?  Yes  No

F. Study conduct
   1. Were all patients who entered the trial properly accounted for at its conclusion?
      a. Was follow-up complete?  Yes  No
      b. Were patients analyzed in the groups to which they were randomized (“intention-to-treat” analysis)?  Yes  No
   2. Were the intervention and control groups similar? (Table 1)  Yes  No

G. Study results
   1. What were the results? _______________________________________________________
   2. Are the results clinically as well as statistically significant?  Yes  No
   3. If a negative trial, was the power of the study adequate?  Yes  No
   4. Were there other factors that might have affected the outcome?  Yes  No
   5. How will it change your practice?

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