

# A Worksheet for Decision (Cost) Analyses

**1. 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 include all outcomes that patients would care about?**

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)

**2. Determine Validity:** *If the answers to all three questions above are Yes, then continued assessment of the article is mandatory. Study design flaws are common; fatal flaws are arresting.*

**D. Were all important strategies and outcomes included?**                      Yes      No (Stop)

**E. Was an explicit and sensible process used to identify, select, and combine the evidence into probabilities? Is the evidence strong enough?**                      Yes      No

**F. Were the utilities (costs) obtained in an explicit and sensible way, from credible sources? (Beware utilities obtained from small samples)**                      Yes      No

**G. Was the potential impact of any uncertainty in the evidence determined? (Sensitivity analysis)**                      Yes      No

**H. How strong is the evidence used in the analysis? Could the uncertainty in the evidence change the result? (Look for sensitivity to a given variable)**                      Yes      No