

# 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 (**Stop**)

### E. Study design

1. Was it a controlled trial?                      Yes                      No (**Stop**)  
2. Were the subjects randomly assigned?                      Yes                      No (**Stop**)  
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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