



Unless otherwise specified, for all questions 1=Yes, 0= No, and - = Not applicable. The questions are numbered 1-27, as follows:

1: Is the hypothesis/aim/objective clearly described?

2: Are the main outcomes to be measured clearly described in the introduction or methods section?

3: Are the characteristics of the patients included in the study cohort described?

4: Are the interventions of interest clearly described?

5: Are the distributions of principle confounders in each group of subjects to be compared clearly described?

6: Are the main findings of the study clearly described?

7: Does the study provide estimates of the random variability in the data for main outcomes?

8: Have all important adverse events that may be a consequence of the intervention been reported?

9: Have the characteristics of patients lost to follow up been described?

10: Have actual probability values (e.g. 0.035 rather than <0.05) been reported except when the probability is <0.001?

11: Was an attempt made to blind study subjects to the intervention they have received?

12: Were the subjects asked to participate in the study representative of the entire population from which they were recruited?

13: Were the subjects who were prepared to participate representative of the entire population from which they were recruited?

14: Were the staff, places and facilities where the patients were treated representative of the treatment the majority of patients receive?

15: Was an attempt made to blind those measuring the main outcomes of the intervention?

16: If any results of the study were based on "data dredging," was that made clear?

17: In trials and cohort studies, do the analyses adjust for different lengths of follow up of patients, or in case-control studies, is the time period between the interventions and the outcome the same for cases and controls?

18: Were statistical tests used to assess the main outcomes appropriate?

19: Was compliance with the interventions reliable?

20: Were the main outcome measures used accurate (valid and reliable?)

21: Were the patients in different intervention groups (trials and cohort studies) or were the cases and controls (case-control studies) recruited from the same population?

22: Were study subjects in different intervention groups (trials and cohort studies) or were the cases and controls (case control studies) recruited over the same period of time? (1=yes, 0=no or unable to determine)

23: Were subjects randomized to intervention groups?

24: Was the randomized intervention assignment concealed from both patients and health care staff until recruitment was complete and irrevocable?

25: Was there adequate adjustment for confounders in the analyses from which the main findings were drawn? (1=yes, 0=no or unable to determine)

26: Were losses of patients to follow-up taken into account (1=yes, 0=no or unable to determine)

27: Did the study have sufficient power to detect a clinically important effect where the probability value for the difference due to chance is less than 5%? (1=yes, 0=no or unable to determine)