

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