

# A Worksheet for Review Articles

**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 or article:

**A. Is the article proposing to answer a specific clinical question? (Summary-type reviews which broadly address a clinical topic can be validated only by evaluating the original research that they summarize. ) Will the answer, if true, have a *direct* bearing on the health of your patients and is it something that *they* will care about?**

Yes (go on )

No (stop)

**B. Is the problem addressed in the review one that is *common* to your practice and is 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 the methods used to locate relevant studies comprehensive and clearly stated?**  
(Stop)

Yes No

**E. Were explicit methods used to select studies to include in the overview?**  
(Stop)

Yes No

**F. Was the validity of the original studies included in the overview appropriately assessed?**  
(Stop)

Yes No

**G. Was the assessment of the relevance and validity of the original studies reproducible and free from bias?**

Yes No

**H. Was variation between the results of the relevant studies analyzed? (test of homogeneity)**

Yes No

**I. Were the results combined appropriately?** (apples with apples)

Yes    No