A Worksheet for Articles about Treatment

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 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)

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. Was it a controlled trial and were the subjects randomly assigned?	Yes	No (Stop)
E. Are the patients in the study so dissimilar to yours that the results do not apply?	Yes (Stop)	No
F. Were steps taken to conceal the treatment assignment from study personnel entering patients into the study (opaque envelopes, centralized randomization scheme, "concealed allocation")?	Yes	No
G. Were all patients who entered the trial properly accounted for at its conclusion?		
i. Was follow-up complete?	Yes	No
ii. Were patients analyzed in the groups to which they were randomized ("intention-to-treat" analysis)?	Yes	No
H. Were patients and study personnel "blind" to treatment?	Yes	No
I. Were the intervention and control groups similar? (Check "Table 1" of most studies)	Yes	No
J. Are the results clinically as well as statistically significant? If a negative trial, was the power of the study adequate?	Yes	No
K. Were there other factors that might have affected the outcome?	Yes	No

Explain _____

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