

## CRITICAL APPRAISAL: TREATMENT/PREVENTION

### 1. Are the Results of the Study Valid?

- a. Was the assignment of patients to treatments **randomized**?
- b. Was **randomization concealed**?
- c. Were all patients who entered the trial properly accounted for and attributed at its conclusion?
  - Was **follow-up complete**?
  - Were patients **analyzed in the groups** to which they were **assigned**?
- d. Were patients, health workers, and study personnel **“blind”** to treatment or group assignment?
- e. Were outcome assessors **aware of group allocation**?
- f. Were the **groups similar** at the start of the trial with regard to known prognostic factors?
- h. Aside from the experimental intervention, were the groups **treated equally**?

### 2. What were the Results?

- a. How **large** was the treatment effect?
- b. How **precise** was the estimate of the treatment effect?

### 3. Will the results help me in caring for my patients?

- a. Can the results be **applied to my patient care**?
- b. Were all **clinically important outcomes** considered?
- c. Are the likely treatment **benefits worth the potential harms and costs**?

Adapted from:

- Users guide to the medical literature I. How to use and article about therapy or prevention: A. Are the results of the study valid? Guyatt GH, Sackett DL, Cook, DJ JAMA Dec 1, 270(21);2598-2601, 1993.

- Users guide to the medical literature II. How to use and article about therapy or prevention: B. What were the results of the study and will they help me in caring for my patients? Guyatt GH, Sackett DL, Cook, DJ JAMA Jan 5, 271(1);59-63.

-Guyatt G and Rennie D. Users' Guides to the Medical Literature: Essentials in Evidenced Based Clinical Practice. JAMA, 2001

## 1 min. Primer on Evidence For Treatment Effectiveness

### ✓ Systematic Review\*

-Integrating the Results of 2 or more RCT's

### ✓ Randomized Clinical Trial (RCT)

-Truly experimental, soundest case for causation

### ✓ Cohort Study $\Rightarrow$ Time

-Subjects may not be equal

-Biases

### ✓ Case-Control $\Leftarrow$ Time

-Retrospective biased

### ✓ Case Series

### ✓ Single Case Study

