

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 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

Explain _____

- G. Were patients and study personnel “blind” to treatment?** Yes No

- H. Were the intervention and control groups similar?** Yes No
(Check “Table 1” of most studies)

- I. Are the results clinically as well as statistically significant?**
If a negative trial, was the power of the study adequate? Yes No

Explain _____

- J. Were there other factors that might have affected the outcome?** Yes No

Explain _____
