Are the results valid?

**Susceptibility to Bias (Beginning -> Middle -> End)**

At the beginning of the study,

- Did the investigators state their conflict of interests?

- Did the study explicitly address a sensible clinical question, posed in answerable form?

- Did the investigators adopt a sufficiently broad viewpoint?

While the study progressed,

- Is there a systematic review and/or summary of evidence linking options to outcomes for each relevant question?

- Were costs and consequences measured accurately?

At study completion,

- Are the results reported separately for relevant patient subgroups?
What are the results?

**Patient’ Important Outcomes Reported**

- What were the incremental costs and effects of each strategy?

---

Based on “The User’s Guides To The Medical Literature: A Manual for Evidence-Based Clinical Practice”, second edition. This worksheet can serve as an aid to the critical appraisal of a study design.
× Do incremental costs and effects differ between subgroups, i.e., is there any difference between subgroups’ outcomes and costs and has this difference been considered in the analysis?

× How much does allowance for uncertainty change the results?

---

**Apply?**

**How can apply the results to patient care?**

× Did the investigators report all issues of concern to patient? Could my patients expect similar health outcomes?

× Are the treatment benefits worth the harm and the costs?

× Can I expect similar costs in my setting?