

Interpreting the Medical Literature Outline

Resident Name _____

Date _____

Citation _____

When reading the assigned article consider these questions for discussion at the Journal Club meeting?

General Considerations

1. Is the title of the article consistent with the content of the article?
2. What were the author(s) conclusions and how strongly were they worded?
3. Did the research question warrant doing a study on this topic i.e. unnecessary, clinical practical significance?

Systematic Design Considerations

4. What were the dependent (outcome) variables? Were they clearly defined and adequately measured?
5. What were the independent (exposure/intervention/predictor) variables? Were they clearly defined and adequately measured?
6. What was the design of the study? Was there an adequate control group, blinding, randomization? Were confounders balanced or excluded in the design?
7. If the authors conclusions are correct to whom can they be generalized to based on the sample selected?

Statistical Considerations

8. Were any associations established and if so what was/were the strength of the associations? Was there statistical significance?
9. Was the statistical test used to determine statistical significance appropriate and correctly interpreted?
10. What do you estimate the potential was for type 1 or type 2 error in the study?

11. Were the authors conclusions justified based on your assessment of the strengths and weaknesses of this study?

12. How could the study design have been improved?