

Critical Appraisal Worksheet for Randomized Controlled Trials

Citation: Loten C, Stokes B, Worsley D, Seymour JE, Jiang S, Isbister GK. A randomized controlled trial of hot water (45 degrees C) immersion versus ice packs for pain relief in bluebottle stings. Med J Aust. 2006 Apr 3;184(7):329-33. PubMed PMID: 16584366.

How serious is the risk of bias?	
Did intervention and control groups start with the same prognosis?	
Were patients randomized?	
Was randomization concealed?	
Were patients in the study groups similar at baseline with respect to prognostic factors?	
Was prognostic balance maintained as the study progressed?	
To what extent was the study blinded?	
Were patients treated equally, other than the intervention?	
Were groups prognostically balanced at the study's conclusion?	
Was follow-up complete?	
Were patients analyzed in the groups to which they were randomized?	
What are the results?	
How large was the treatment effect?	
How precise was the treatment effect?	
How can I apply the results to my patient care?	
Were the study patients similar to my patient?	
Were all patient-important outcomes considered?	
Are the likely benefits worth the potential harms and costs?	

	Clinical Reduced Pain	No Clinically Reduced Pain	Risk %
Hot Water (n=49)			
Ice Packs (n=47)			

Risk difference = _____ - _____ = _____

Relative Risk = _____ / _____ = _____

Relative Risk Difference = _____ - _____ = _____

Number Needed to Treat = _____ / _____ = _____