

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.

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| 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 = _____ / _____ = _____