

| Question | yes | no | partially | unclear | not applicable |
|---|-----|----|-----------|---------|----------------|
| Is the hypothesis/aim/objective of the study clearly described? | 1 | 0 | 0.5 | 0 | 0 |
| Are the main outcomes to be measured clearly described in the Introduction or Methods section? | 1 | 0 | 0.5 | 0 | 0 |
| Are the characteristics of the patients included in the study clearly described? | 1 | 0 | 0.5 | 0 | 0 |
| Are the interventions of interest clearly described? | 1 | 0 | 0.5 | 0 | 0 |
| Are the distributions of principal confounders in each group of subjects to be compared clearly described? | 1 | 0 | 0.5 | 0 | 0 |
| Are the main findings of the study clearly described? | 1 | 0 | 0.5 | 0 | 0 |
| Does the study provide estimates of the random variability in the data for the main outcomes? | 1 | 0 | 0.5 | 0 | 0 |
| Have the characteristics of patients lost to follow-up been described? | 1 | 0 | 0.5 | 0 | 1 |
| Have actual probability values been reported (e.g. 0.035 rather than <0.05) for the main outcomes except where the probability value is less than 0.001? | 1 | 0 | 0.5 | 0 | 0 |
| Were the subjects asked to participate in the study representative of the entire population from which they were recruited? | 1 | 0 | 0.5 | 0 | 0 |
| Were the staff, places, and facilities where the patients were treated, representative of the treatment the majority of patients receive? | 1 | 0 | 0.5 | 0 | 0 |
| Was an attempt made to blind study subjects to the intervention they have received ? | 1 | 0 | 0.5 | 0 | 0 |
| Was an attempt made to blind those measuring the main outcomes of the intervention? | 1 | 0 | 0.5 | 0 | 0 |
| If any of the results of the study were based on "data dredging", was this made clear? | 1 | 0 | 0.5 | 0 | 1 |
| Is the time period between the intervention and outcome the same for all patients or do the analyses adjust for different lengths of follow-up of patients? | 1 | 0 | 0.5 | 0 | 0 |
| Were the statistical tests used to assess the main outcomes appropriate? | 1 | 0 | 0.5 | 0 | 0 |
| Was compliance with the interventions reliable? | 1 | 0 | 0.5 | 0 | 0 |
| Were the main outcome measures used accurate (valid and reliable)? | 1 | 0 | 0.5 | 0 | 0 |
| For studies with within-patient comparison, was the intervention comparable for the patients? | 1 | 0 | 0.5 | 0 | 0 |
| For cohort studies and trials comparing different medications, were the patients in the different groups recruited from the same population? | 1 | 0 | 0.5 | 0 | 0 |
| Were patients recruited over the same period of time? | 1 | 0 | 0.5 | 0 | 0 |
| Were losses of patients to follow-up taken into account? | 1 | 0 | 0.5 | 0 | 1 |
| Did the study have sufficient power to detect a clinically important effect where the probability value for a difference being due to chance is less than 5%? | 1 | 0 | 0.5 | 0 | 0 |