Table 4. Summary of Examples -- Part 1

	1. Maximum Androgen Blockade in Advanced Prostate Cancer [38]	2. Glucosamine and Chondroitin for Treatment of Osteoarthritis [39]	3. Ischemic Stroke Risk with Oral Contraceptives [17]	4. Research Design Effects on the Association of Testosterone and Aging [26]
Study Objective	Estimate effect of treatment on survival	Estimate effect of treatment on pain and disability scores	Estimate relative risk of stroke in subjects taking oral contraceptives	Explaining variability between studies

Stated Inclusion Criteria
  Design
 	
  Other
	RCT's only
	
	Trials of NSAA plus either LHRH or orchidectomy vs LHRH or orchidectomy alone
	Must report usable data
		Placebo-controlled RCT's only
		Double-blinded
		Four weeks or more in duration
		
		Must report usable data
			Cohort and case-control studies
			More than 10 stroke cases
			Clear stroke subtype differentiation
			
			Adequate data to compute relative risk
			
			Analysis controlled for age
			
			Latest report for a study
				All types
				
				Mean and standard deviation for plasma or serum T
				Mean T level by age group and / or correlation with age
				Latest study used in multiple papers

Locating Studies	Medline search CancerLit Current Contents Review articles Bibliographies of articles Contact with investigators	Medline search Cochrane Controlled Trials Register Bibliographies of articles Meeting Abstracts Contact with investigators	Medline search BIOSIS Dissertation abstracts online Review articles Bibliographies of articles Expert consultation	Medline search Review articles Bibliographies of articles Authors contacted

Table 4. Summary of Examples -- Part 2

	1. Maximum Androgen Blockade in Advanced Prostate Cancer [38]	2. Glucosamine and Chondroitin for Treatment of Osteoarthritis [39]	3. Ischemic Stroke Risk with Oral Contraceptives [17]	4. Research Design Effects on the Association of Testosterone and Aging [26]
Blinding	Yes	Not mentioned	Not mentioned	No for selection of studies Yes for quality score of laboratory methods
Screening	Selection validated by two independent reviewers	No details	Two investigators applied inclusion criteria A third investigator adjudicated disagreements	No details
Evaluation	Quality score using Chalmers criteria	Quality score using Chalmers criteria Two reviewers, consensus not required	None described	Developed quality score for laboratory methods
Number of Studies Identified Passed first screen Retained	1941 76 13	37 17 15	804 73 16	Not given 88 54
Use of Quality Scores	Displayed for individual studies Effect of quality score tested using categories (top and bottom quartiles; middle fifths)	Displayed for individual studies Effect of quality score tested using categories based on a median split	None described	Descriptive information only
Data Collection	Two blinded reviewers, differences resolved in conference	Two reviewers using a standardized form Imputed SD's for 4 trials	Two investigators abstracted data, disagreements resolved through discussion	Two coders, differences resolves in conference

Table 4. Summary of Examples -- Part 3

	1. Maximum Androgen Blockade in Advanced Prostate Cancer [38]	2. Glucosamine and Chondroitin for Treatment of Osteoarthritis [39]	3. Ischemic Stroke Risk with Oral Contraceptives [17]	4. Research Design Effects on the Association of Testosterone and Aging [26]
<u>Data Analysis</u>	Estimates of survival statistics and standard errors Random effects model	Effect size based on difference in mean score for pain and disability Random effects model	Summary estimates of risk ratios Random effects model	Comparison of testosterone-age relationships within different populations Model development
<u>Reporting</u>	Characteristics of studies included Plots of estimates of survival distributions Plots of estimated odds ratios	Characteristics of studies included Plots of effect size Funnel plots of effect size vs. sample size	Characteristics of studies included Overall relative risk (RR) estimates RR and confidence intervals by study Plots of RR stratified by design features Funnel plots of RR vs number of cases of stroke and by year	Characteristics of studies included Plots of regression lines for different groupings of patients or sampling times Plots of mean T for different subgroups, methods or timing of samples