

RAPID CRITICAL APPRAISAL OF A DESCRIPTIVE STUDY

PROJECT DESCRIPTION/LEVEL OF STUDY

Project title:

Date:

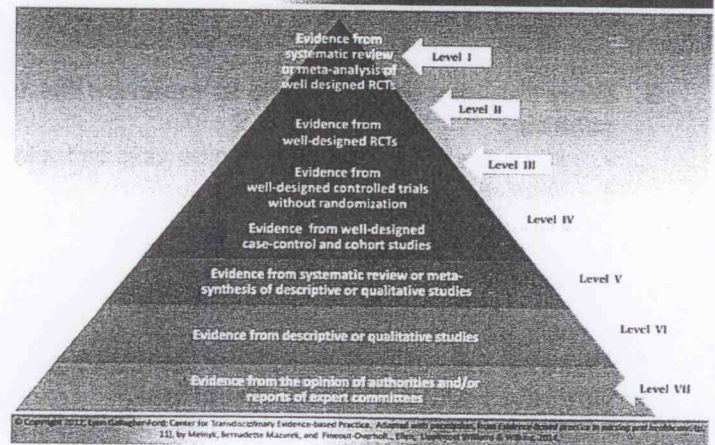
Reviewer(s) name(s):

Article citation (APA):

PICOT Question:



Levels of Evidence



Indicate the level of the study you are appraising:

What is your recommendation for article use in body of evidence?

GENERAL DESCRIPTION OF STUDY

OVERVIEW

1. Purpose of study, including research question(s) or hypotheses
2. Design/Method
3. Sample/Setting



QUALITY OF STUDY

VALIDITY: Are the results of the study valid?

1. **Were the study/survey methods appropriate for the question?** ☐ Yes ☐ No ☐ Unknown
 - Comments:
2. **Were the study/survey methods clearly described?** ☐ Yes ☐ No ☐ Unknown
 - Comments:
3. **Were the instruments used to measure the outcomes valid and reliable?** ☐ Yes ☐ No ☐ Unknown
 - Were the instruments tested to be valid and reliable?
 - What statistic was reported?
 - Cronbach's alpha? _____
 - Other? _____
 - Comments:
4. **Were all appropriate predictor variables (potential confounders/exposures) and interventions clearly described?** ☐ Yes ☐ No ☐ Unknown
 - Comments:
5. **Were outcomes appropriate for the question?** ☐ Yes ☐ No ☐ Unknown
 - Comments:
6. **Were outcomes clearly described?** ☐ Yes ☐ No ☐ Unknown
 - Comments:
7. **Was sampling clearly described?** ☐ Yes ☐ No ☐ Unknown
 - Comments:
8. **Were all participants accounted for throughout the duration of the study?** ☐ Yes ☐ No ☐ Unknown

(Note: If greater than 20% were lost to follow-up, bias may be of greater concern)

 - Were withdrawals from the study explained?
 - What was the rate of attrition?
 - Comments:
9. **Was there freedom from conflict of interest?** ☐ Yes ☐ No ☐ Unknown
 - Sponsor/funding agency _____
 - Investigators _____
 - Comments:

10. Is the date range of the cited literature current?

☐ Yes ☐ No ☐ Unknown

- What date ranges were included? _____ to _____
 - If older literature was included, why was it included?
- Comments:

RELIABILITY: Are these valid study results important?

11. What were the results?

- Comments:

12. Was measurement of the predictor variable(s) appropriate and clearly defined (statistical analysis)?

☐ Yes ☐ No ☐ Unknown

- Comments:

13. Was measurement of the outcome variable(s) appropriate and clearly defined (statistical analysis)?

☐ Yes ☐ No ☐ Unknown

- Comments:

14. Did the study have a sufficiently large sample size?

☐ Yes ☐ No ☐ Unknown

- Was there a power analysis?
- Did the sample size achieve or exceed the power analysis requirement?
- Did each subgroup also have sufficient sample size?
- Comments:

15. What were the main results of the study?

- What was the effect size? _____
- Was the precision of the intervention reported? ☐ Yes ☐ No
- How was the precision reported?
 - Confidence Intervals _____
 - Standard Deviations _____
- How precise was the intervention/treatment?
 - Narrow? _____ Wide? _____
- Comments:

16. Were the results clinically significant?

☐ Yes ☐ No ☐ Unknown

- Were the following reported: NNT _____, NNH _____, OR _____, RR _____?
- Comments:

17. Were the results statistically significant?

☐ Yes ☐ No ☐ Unknown

- P value? _____
- Comments:

18. If potential confounders were identified, were they discussed in relationship to the results?

☐ Yes ☐ No ☐ Unknown

- Comments:

19. Were safety concerns including risks/benefits described?

☐ Yes ☐ No ☐ Unknown

- Comments:

APPLICABILITY/TRANSFERABILITY: Can I apply these valid, important study results?

20. Can the results be applied to my population of interest?

☐ Yes ☐ No ☐ Unknown

- Is the treatment feasible in my care setting?
- Do the outcomes apply to my population of interest?
- Are the likely benefits worth the potential harm and costs?
- Were the subjects/participants in this study similar to my population of interest?
- Were all clinically important outcomes considered?
- Comments:

21. Would you include the article/study in your practice decision to make a difference in outcomes?

☐ Yes ☐ No ☐ Unknown

- If yes, why would you do this?
- If yes, how would you do this?
- If no, why would you not include the results to make a difference?
- Comments:

STRENGTH OF STUDY

Level of study: I, II, III, IV, V, VI, VII

(Circle one)

Quality of study: High | Medium | Low

(Circle one)

STRENGTH = LEVEL + QUALITY

What is the strength of the study?

What is your recommendation for article inclusion in the body of evidence to answer your question?

Additional Comments: