



# 實證醫學基本課程 文獻評讀與數據擷取

實證決策管理委員會 實證醫學中心  
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# 進行方式: 課前線上學習、現場討論



- 先找好科部內兩位指導老師，撰寫CAT過程中若有疑問，先與指導老師討論。特別是專科知識討論與未來進一步研究方向。
- 請按進度先自行完成線上影音學習，於上課前完成提交初稿，以利指導者課前審視。上課時將直接針對相關進度繳交之CAT內容討論。
- 請按照預約時段準時到場，逾時不候，亦無法補課，未完成之進度遞延至下一梯次。兩梯次內未完成則需重新報名等候安排。
- 為讓您接收訊息更快速直接，學員間也可以互相討論取暖，請加入Line群組！
- <http://line.me/R/ti/g/7OEJpEycyf>





# 呈現介面使用表格

## 201707 R4 EBM CAT模板.doc

資深住院醫師升等實證醫學查證能力認證

指導者：  
製作者：

主題：	：
大項目：	次項目：
內容：	：
<b>1. 問題(Ask) PICO:</b>	<p>治療指引：</p> <p>第一步:還有興趣的疾病, 找出相關 clinical practice guideline.</p> <p>第二步:選定有興趣的處置/檢查, 比較不同年代的相對處置變化演變.</p> <p>第三步:擬定問題, 選擇問題型態: 處置 = therapy &amp; harm; 檢查=診斷或預後.</p>
核心聚焦問題: (focus question for therapy):	<p>須考慮的治療型(Therapy)問題:</p> <p>P.: 主要診斷: ；</p> <p>並存風險/疾病: ；</p> <p>I.: ；</p> <p>C.: ；</p> <p>O.: ；</p>
核心聚焦問題: (focus question for harm):	<p>須考慮的傷害型(Harm)問題:</p> <p>P.: 主要診斷: ；</p> <p>並存風險/疾病: ；</p> <p>危險因子: ；</p> <p>I.: ；</p> <p>C.: ；</p> <p>O.: ；</p>
核心聚焦問題: (focus question for diagnosis):	<p>須考慮的診斷型(Diagnosis)問題:</p> <p>P.: 主要診斷: ；</p> <p>並存風險/疾病: ；</p> <p>I.: (evaluated test), ；</p> <p>C.: (reference test), ；</p> <p>O.: ；</p>
核心聚焦問題: (focus question for Prognosis):	<p>須考慮的預後型(Prognosis)問題:</p> <p>P.: 主要診斷: ；</p> <p>並存風險/疾病: ；</p> <p>危險因子: ；</p> <p>I.: Test (+) or higher than cut-off value. ；</p> <p>C.: Test (-) or lower than cut-off value. ；</p> <p>O.: ；</p>

2. 搜尋	搜尋資料庫:	The Cochrane library , PubMed ,
Acquired:	(Database):	PubMed ,
Search strategy:	所使用關鍵字:	P., I., C., O. ,
	Filters/limits:	；

3. 檢索	檢索結果:	原治療指引引用文獻
Acquired:	Key literature:	20%.
		檢索後比原治療指引更新或更值得參考的文獻
		Paper 1 <sup>a</sup>
		Paper 2 <sup>a</sup>
		Paper 3 <sup>a</sup>

最後列入參考文獻:			
對象議題:	Paper 1 . (第一作者姓[出版年]),	Paper 2 . (第一作者姓[出版年]),	Paper 3 . (第一作者姓[出版年]),
本文獻(直接且正確)解答的問題 [clearly-focused question?]:	P.: ；	P.: ；	P.: ；
	I.: ；	I.: ；	I.: ；
	C.: ；	C.: ；	C.: ；
	O.: ；	O.: ；	O.: ；
	T.: ；	T.: ；	T.: ；

本文獻研究設計(符合我的問題要求):	I. Systematic review .	I. Systematic review .	I. Systematic review .
	II. Randomized control trial .	II. Randomized control trial .	II. Randomized control trial .
	III. Cohort study .	III. Cohort study .	III. Cohort study .
	IV. Case-control series .	IV. Case-control series .	IV. Case-control series .
	V. Case series/Expert opinion .	V. Case series/Expert opinion .	V. Case series/Expert opinion .

Original paper (RCT, cohort or lower).	效度 Validity/偏倚 Bias.			
4. 評讀:	效度 Validity/偏倚 Bias.			
Appraisal:	受試者隨機分配至治療介入各組	Paper 1 . 偏差危險性: 高/不確定/低.	Paper 2 . 偏差危險性: 高/不確定/低.	Paper 3 . 偏差危險性: 高/不確定/低.
Randomization:	分派過程是否保密	偏差危險性: 高/不確定/低.	偏差危險性: 高/不確定/低.	偏差危險性: 高/不確定/低.
Allocation concealment:	一開始各組條件是否相同.	偏差危險性: 高/不確定/低.	偏差危險性: 高/不確定/低.	偏差危險性: 高/不確定/低.
Blind to staff (PI):	組員人員是否不知道誰是實驗組	偏差危險性: 高/不確定/低.	偏差危險性: 高/不確定/低.	偏差危險性: 高/不確定/低.
Blind to participants:	受試者是否不知道誰是實驗組	偏差危險性: 高/不確定/低.	偏差危險性: 高/不確定/低.	偏差危險性: 高/不確定/低.
Blind to assessor:	結果評估者是否不知道誰是實驗組	偏差危險性: 高/不確定/低.	偏差危險性: 高/不確定/低.	偏差危險性: 高/不確定/低.
Withdraw, incomplete or loss to follow up:	隨機分配後的參與者是否都納入最後分析	偏差危險性: 高/不確定/低.	偏差危險性: 高/不確定/低.	偏差危險性: 高/不確定/低.
Intention-to-treat analysis:	是否採用意向性治療分析	偏差危險性: 高/不確定/低.	偏差危險性: 高/不確定/低.	偏差危險性: 高/不確定/低.
Enough participants (power calculation):	參與人數是否足夠	偏差危險性: 高/不確定/低.	偏差危險性: 高/不確定/低.	偏差危險性: 高/不確定/低.
Reporting bias or Others::	報告或其他方式	偏差危險性: 高/不確定/低.	偏差危險性: 高/不確定/低.	偏差危險性: 高/不確定/低.
Control for confounders:	是否為優質 RCT, 若不是, 繼續下列 Bias 評讀:	偏差危險性: 高/不確定/低.	偏差危險性: 高/不確定/低.	偏差危險性: 高/不確定/低.
Measurement of exposure:	各組除了控制處置不同外其他治療是否相當	偏差危險性: 高/不確定/低.	偏差危險性: 高/不確定/低.	偏差危險性: 高/不確定/低.
Level of evidence:	證據等級:	；	；	；
Effect size (precision: 95% confidence interval / p value):	Main result (size of effect)與 Precise of results:	Effect size [precision: 95% confidence interval / p valve].		
		Paper 1.: Absolute Risk reduction: . Mean/ median differences: . Odds ratio: . Hazard ratio: . Paper 2.: Paper 3.:		
	評讀後初步結論:	；	；	；

# 進度

1. 題目設定與形成及精準搜尋與證據選定

**2. 證據研究方法評讀**

3. 證據數據擷取

4. 證據應用評估

5. FINAL CAT (Critical Appraisal Topic) 產出

## 2. 證據研究方法評讀

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### 2.1 選定證據文獻

### 2.2 評讀表選定

### 2.3 bias評讀 (Validity)

# 2.1 選定證據文獻

3. 檢索 Acquired : Key literature. 20%.	檢索結果, ↵ ↵ ↵ ↵ 檢索後比原治療指引更新或更值得參考的文獻:↵ Paper 1↵ Paper 2↵ Paper 3↵
	最後列入參考 文獻, ↵

初步評讀↵	Paper 1 ↵ (第一作者姓)(出版年)↵	Paper 2 ↵ (第一作者姓)(出版年)↵	P
本文獻(直接且 正確)解答的問題 [clearly-focused question?] ↵	P: ↵ ↵ I:↵ ↵ C:↵ ↵ O:↵ ↵ T:↵	P: ↵ ↵ I:↵ ↵ C:↵ ↵ O:↵ ↵ T:↵	P + I + C + O + T
本文獻研究設 計(符合我的問	I. Systematic review↵ II. Randomized control trial↵	I. Systematic review↵ II. Randomized control trial↵	I I

檢索結果(可考慮列入評讀文獻)

- 原CPG或UpToDate在相關章節的參考文獻
- 在DataBase搜尋到的文獻

最後列入(評讀)參考文獻: 出略篩選文獻符合我們臨床問題的PICO

初步評讀:(需寫出文獻PICOT與研究設計)

選定文獻「必要條件」:

- 文獻PICO符合我們臨床問題的PICO
- 較能解決該類型問題的研究設計

- 通過的文獻才進入真正評讀

# 2.1 選定證據文獻

3. 檢索 Acquired : Key literature : 20% ,	檢索結果 , 原治療指引用文獻 : ↙ ↙ ↙ ↙ 檢索後比原治療指引更新或更值得參考的文獻 : Paper 1 ↙ Paper 2 ↙ Paper 3 ↙			
最後列入參考 文獻 ,	P			
初步評讀 ,	Paper 1 : (第一作者姓)(出版年) ,	Paper 2 : (第一作者姓)(出版年) ,	Paper 3 : (第一作者姓)(出版年) ,	
本文獻(直接且 正確)解答的問題 [clearly-focused question?] ,	P : : E : : C : : O : : T : :	P : : E : : C : : O : : T : :	P : : E : : C : : O : : T : :	
本文獻研究設計(符合我的問題 要求) , [include the right type of study?] ,	I. Systematic review , II. Randomized control trial , III. Cohort study , IV. Case-control series , V. Case series/Expert opinion ,	I. Systematic review , II. Randomized control trial , III. Cohort study , IV. Case-control series , V. Case series/Expert opinion ,	I. Systematic review , II. Randomized control trial , III. Cohort study , IV. Case-control series , V. Case series/Expert opinion ,	

## 建議文獻選擇考量:

- 列出參考guideline/UpToDate中相關參考文獻
- 列出在PubMed/EmBase找到的文獻
- 依據與緣設定PICO最符合、證據等級較高、發表年較近緣則選擇
- 將選定評讀文獻中研究方法：收案對像(P)，探討的處置(I)、對照組處置(C)與outcomes列出。另外處置使用時間/觀察時間(T)列出。假如無法找到對應項目列出，前在這篇文獻不是適當文獻。
- 研究設計方法為何?除非罕見疾病，否則無對照組研究不會列入評讀。

# 範例

	Chen et al. <sup>4</sup>	Morelli et al. <sup>4</sup>	Wong et al. <sup>4</sup>
發表年份 <sup>4</sup>	2017 <sup>4</sup>	2013 <sup>4</sup>	2010 <sup>4</sup>
本文獻直接且正確解答我的問題 <sup>4</sup>	<p><u>Yes</u><sup>4</sup></p> <p>P: 80 Taiwan patients with <u>endometriomas</u> undergoing laparoscopic cystectomy followed by 6 cycles of gonadotropin-releasing hormone agonist treatment<sup>4</sup></p> <p>I: LNG-IUS<sup>4</sup></p> <p>C: without LNG-IUS<sup>4</sup></p> <p>T: 30 months<sup>4</sup></p> <p>O: <u>endometrioma recurrence</u> 30 months after surgery; <u>dysmenorrhea (VAS)</u>, CA125 levels, noncyclic pelvic pain, and side effects<sup>4</sup></p>	<p><u>Yes</u><sup>4</sup></p> <p>P: patients who had chronic pelvic pain due to endometriosis after conservative laparoscopic surgery<sup>4</sup></p> <p>I: LNG-IUD (n=44)<sup>4</sup></p> <p>C: <u>estradiol valerate + dienogest estrogen progestin (EP) therapy</u> (n=48)<sup>4</sup></p> <p>T: at least 24 months for the last woman operated<sup>4</sup></p> <p>O: pain relapse (VAS) and disease recurrence rate at 12 and 24 months after treatment; patient satisfaction with the therapy...</p>	<p><u>Yes</u><sup>4</sup></p> <p>P: 30 Hong Kong patients after conservative surgery (within 5 years) <u>endometriosis without lesion recurrence</u> (If evidence of bone loss or gross osteoporosis during the study, the patient was advised to withdraw)<sup>4</sup></p> <p>I: LNG-IUD<sup>4</sup></p> <p>C: Depot MPA, three-monthly<sup>4</sup></p> <p>T: 3 years<sup>4</sup></p> <p>O: symptom control, recurrence, compliance and change in bone mineral density (BMD)<sup>4</sup></p>
本文獻研究設計符合我的問題要求 <sup>4</sup>	<p>Yes, randomized control trial<sup>4</sup></p> <p>(definition of recurrence: <u>endometrioma</u> &gt; 2 cm from USG)<sup>4</sup></p>	<p>Yes, retrospective case series, (definition of recurrence: elevated CA125 and/or USG evidence of <u>endometrioma</u> and/or palpable rectovaginal septum nodule)<sup>4</sup></p>	<p>Yes, randomized control trial.<sup>4</sup></p> <p>(definition of recurrence: <u>endometrioma</u> &gt;= 3 cm from USG)<sup>4</sup></p>





## 2.3 bias評讀 (Validity)

### Critical Appraisal

Source	Protection
Baseline imbalance	Randomization
Performance	Blinding of caregivers, careful monitoring & analysis
Placebo-effect	Blinding of patients
Attrition	Careful follow-up & ITT analysis
Detection	Valid measurement Blinding of outcome assessors
Analytical	Careful analyses
Reporting	Report all relevant planned measurements

# Sources of bias

Selection

Performance

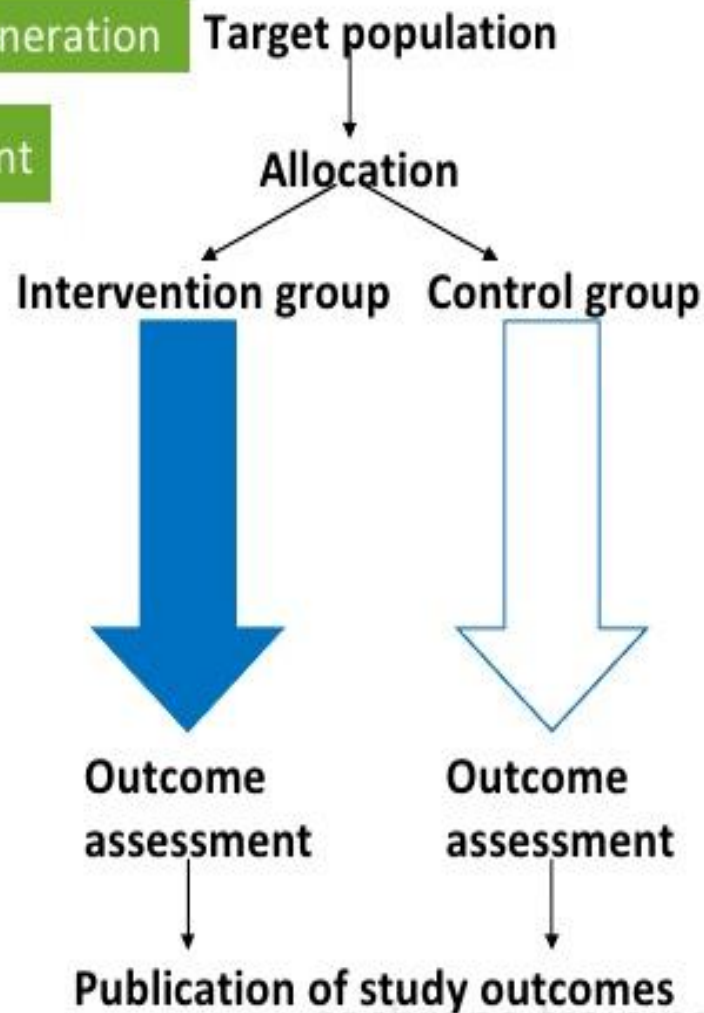
Detection

Attrition

Reporting

Random sequence generation

Allocation concealment



# 第一關: Randomization



Patient information is entered into a computer



The computer randomly assigns patients to two or more groups, helping to prevent bias



Control group receives standard therapy



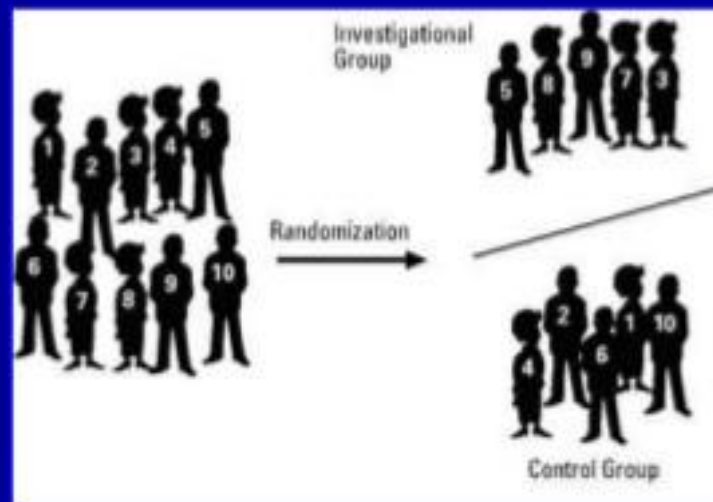
Investigational group receives new treatment



# 常見Randomization的方法

- Simple randomization
- Random table
- Block randomization
- Stratified randomization
- Minimization method
- Unequal randomization
- Allocation concealment

Inacceptable



Preferred

# Allocation Concealment



# Allocation Concealment

Minimum criteria for adequate allocation concealment schemes

- Sequentially numbered, opaque, sealed envelopes (SNOSE)
- Sequentially numbered containers
- Pharmacy controlled
- Central randomisation



# Allocation Concealment

## **Minimum description of adequate allocation concealment scheme**

Sequentially numbered, opaque, sealed envelopes (SNOSE)

Sequentially numbered containers

Pharmacy controlled

Central randomisation

## **Additional descriptive elements that provide greater assurance of allocation concealment**

Envelopes are opened sequentially only after participant details are written on the envelope. Pressure-sensitive or carbon paper inside the envelope transfers that information to the assignment card (creates an audit trail). Cardboard or aluminum foil inside the envelope renders the envelope impermeable to intense light.

All of the containers were tamper-proof, equal in weight, and similar in appearance.

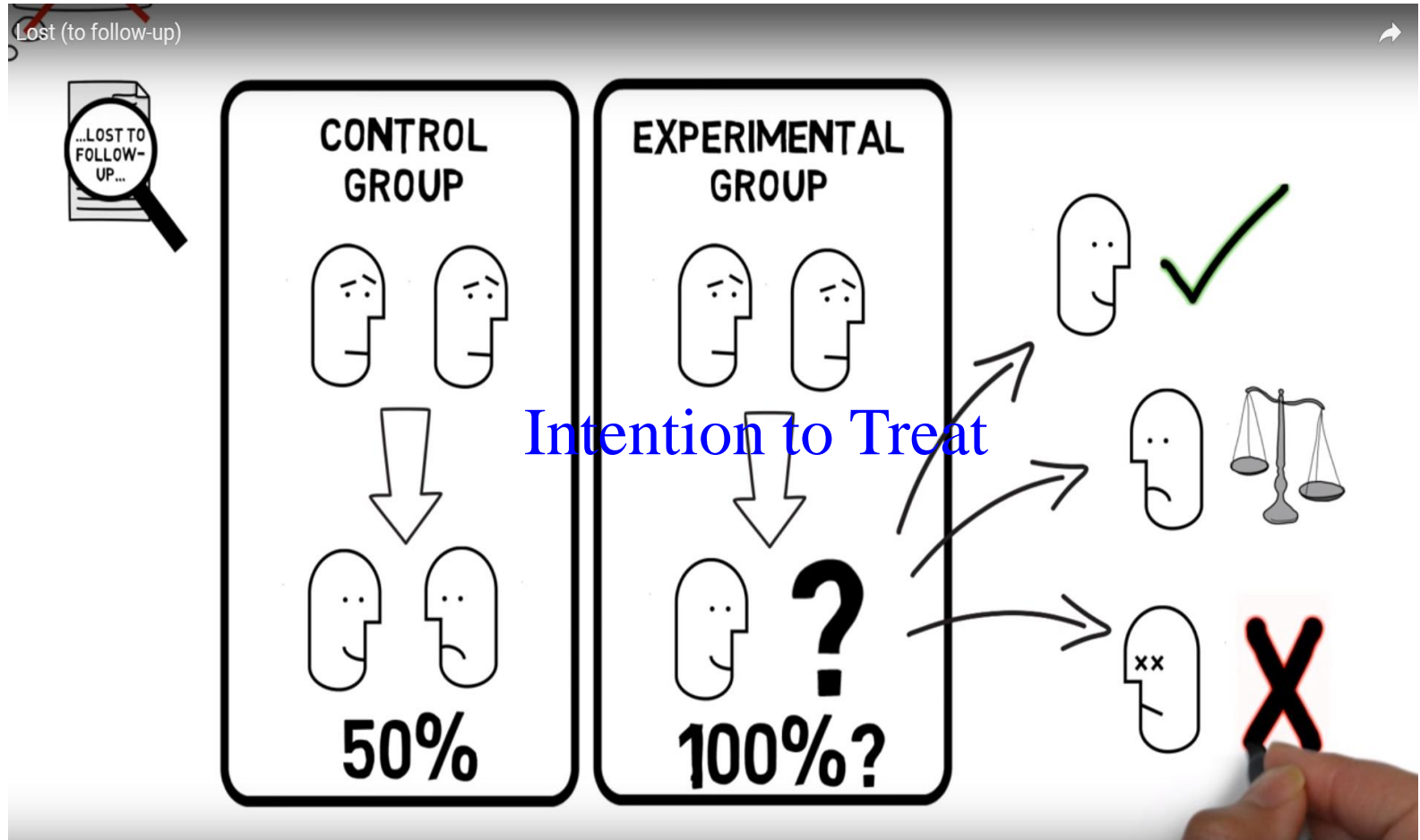
Indications that the researchers developed, or at least validated, a proper randomisation scheme for the pharmacy.

Indications that the researchers instructed the pharmacy in proper allocation concealment.

The mechanism for contact—eg, telephone, fax, or e-mail—the stringent procedures to ensure enrolment before randomisation, and the thorough training for those individuals staffing the central randomisation office.



# Lost Follow-up -- Attrition

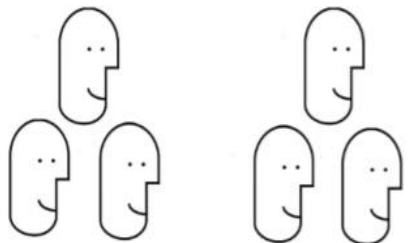


<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=dMfC-SSBZi0>

# Lost Follow-up -- Intention to Treat

**FICTIONAL STUDY**  
**TRUTH = NO DIFFERENCE**  
**GOOD OUTCOME = 75%**

CONTROL EXPERIMENTAL

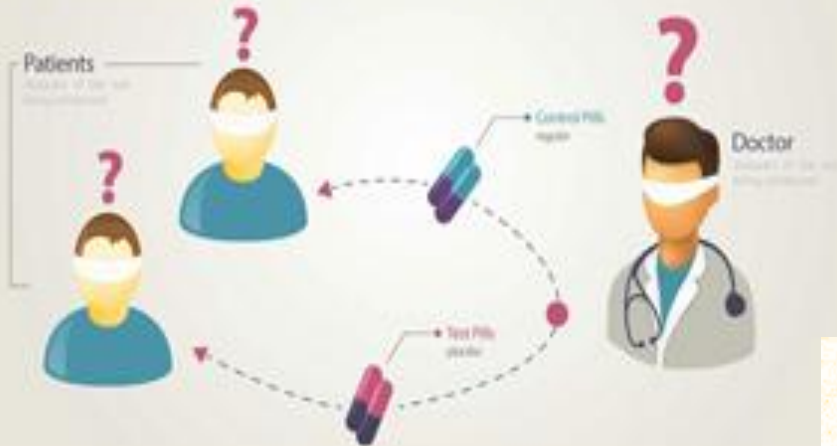


	<b>1</b> PER PROTOCOL	<b>2</b> AS TREATED	<b>3</b> INTENTION TO TREAT
<b>C</b>	75%	60%	75%
<b>E</b>	100%	100%	75%

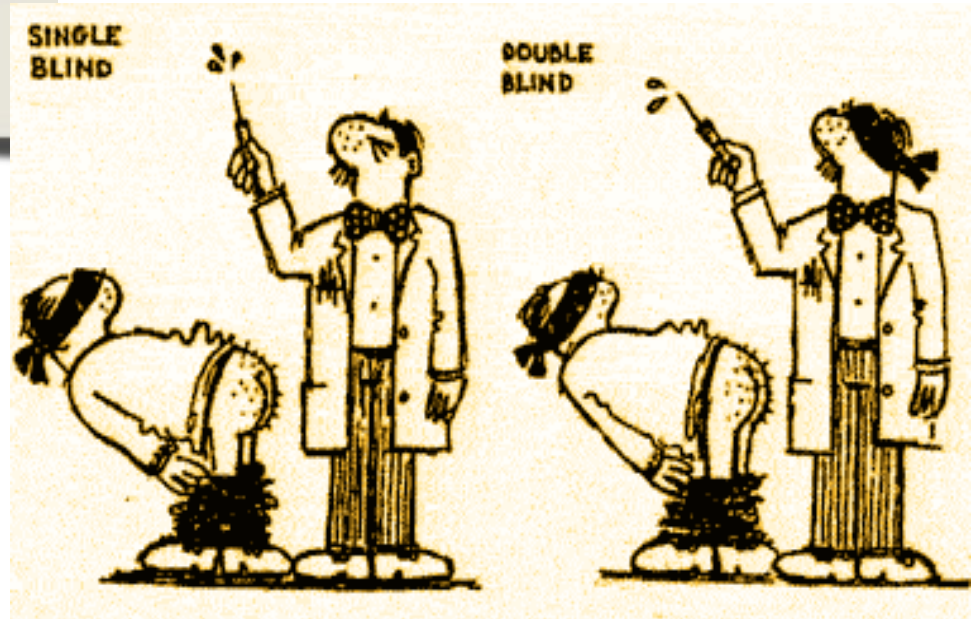
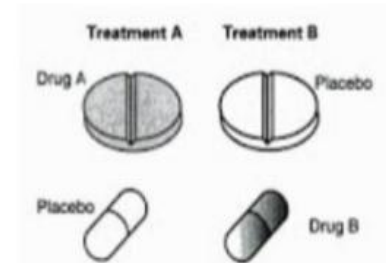
VideoScribe

# Blind

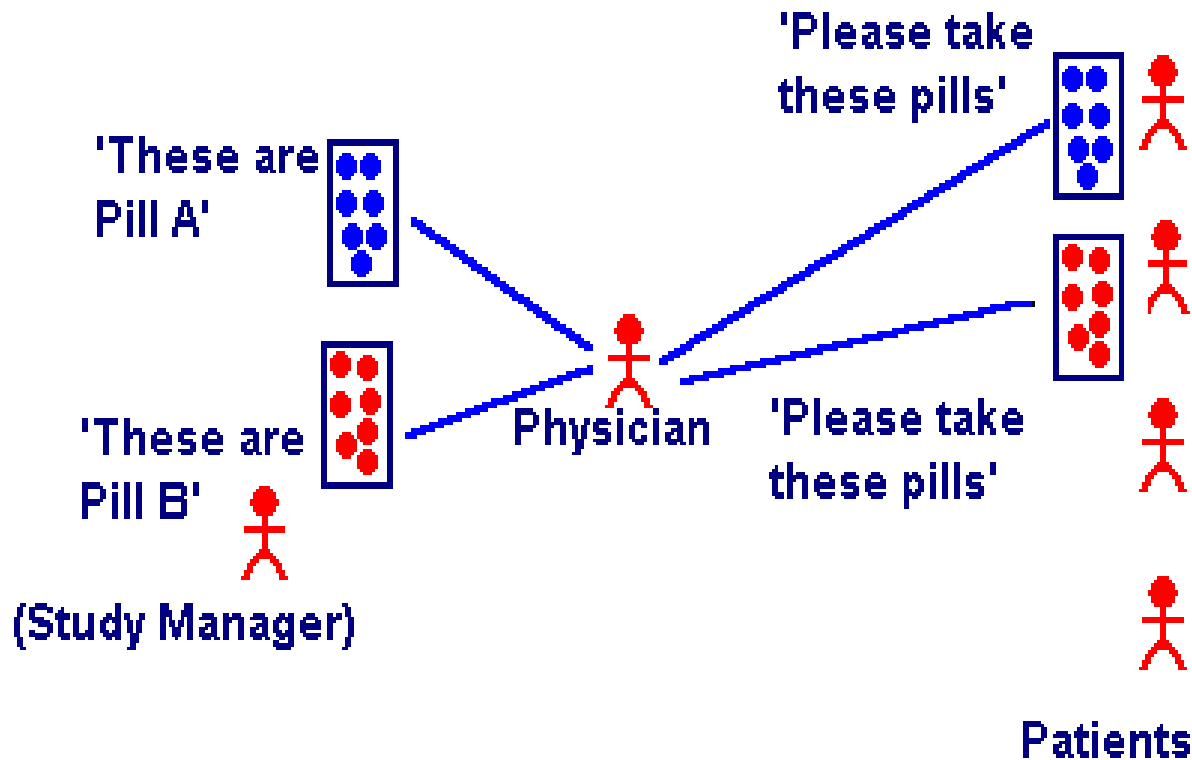
## DOUBLE BLIND



## Double dummy technique



# 研究設計 Double-Blind



# Blinding

A) Single blind trial : the trial is so planned that the participant is not aware whether he belongs to the study group or control group.

B) Double blind trail: The trial is so planned that neither the investigator nor the participant is aware of the group allocation and the treatment received.

c) Triple blind trial : The participant , the investigator and the person analyzing the data are all blind.

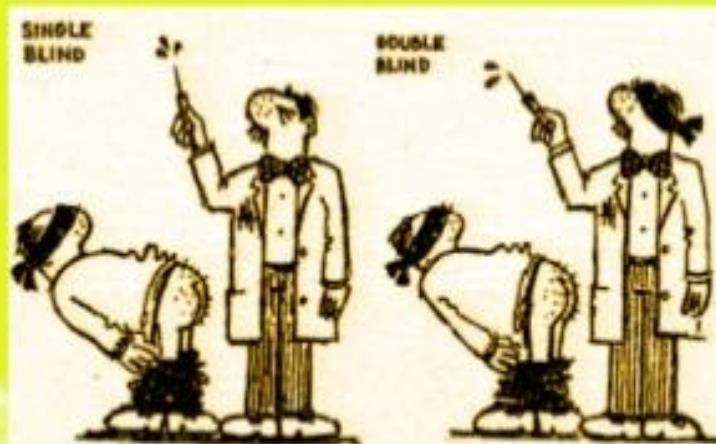


Fig. 3 A double-blind placebo-controlled clinical trial for CAM therapies.

# Detection bias

- Valid measurement



**A good measure should be**

- **Valid**
- **Reliable**
- **Sensitive**

Valid exist when

- “testing for the right thing”
- A valid measure actually measures what it is intend to measure

# Criteria for Measurements

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A good measure should be

- Valid
- Reliable
- Sensitive

Valid exist when

- “testing for the right thing”
- A valid measure actually measures what it is intend to measure

# Detection bias

- Valid measurement
- Blinding of outcome assessors

c) Triple blind trial : The participant , the investigator and the person analyzing the data are all blind.

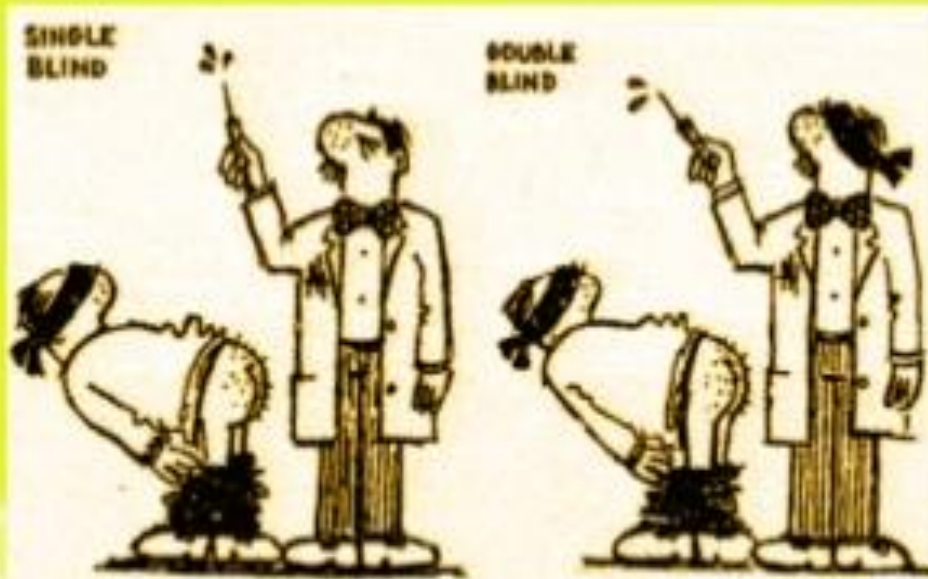


Fig. 3 A double-blind placebo-controlled clinical trial for CAM therapies.



# Analytical bias

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- Analyzing the data incorrectly
- Due to the way that the results are evaluated

# Reporting bias/ Selective reporting



Type of reporting bias	Definition
Publication bias	The publication or non-publication of research findings, depending on the nature and direction of the results
Time lag bias	The rapid or delayed publication of research findings, depending on the nature and direction of the results
Multiple (duplicate) publication bias	The multiple or singular publication of research findings, depending on the nature and direction of the results
Location bias	The publication of research findings in journals with different ease of access or levels of indexing in standard databases, depending on the nature and direction of results.
Citation bias	The citation or non-citation of research findings, depending on the nature and direction of the results
Language bias	The publication of research findings in a particular language, depending on the nature and direction of the results
Outcome reporting bias	The selective reporting of some outcomes but not others, depending on the nature and direction of the results

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=dMfC-SSBZi0>

# 填寫要求範例

4. 評讀 <sup>↕</sup>				
效度 Validity / 偏誤 Bias <sup>↕</sup>				
Appraisal <sup>↕</sup>	評讀文章 <sup>↕</sup>	Chen et al. 2017 <sup>↕</sup>	Morelli et al. 2013 <sup>↕</sup>	Wong et al. 2010 <sup>↕</sup>
評讀工具 <sup>↕</sup>	受試者隨機分配至治療介入各組 <sup>↕</sup>	Yes p.2. Computer-generated random numbers in sequentially sealed opaque envelopes were used to randomly allocate the patients into either the control group (n=40) or the intervention group (n=40). <sup>↕</sup>	No, retrospective chart review <sup>↕</sup>	Yes, p.247 A chart was prepared with 30 slots of randomly allocated treatment regime of either LNG-IUS or Depot MPA and each patient was assigned to each slot and the corresponding therapy in chronological order. <sup>↕</sup>
	分派過程是否保密 <sup>↕</sup>	Yes p.2. Computer-generated random numbers in sequentially sealed opaque envelopes were used to randomly allocate the patients into either the control group or the intervention group <sup>↕</sup>	No, retrospective chart review <sup>↕</sup>	Yes, p.274 A chart was prepared with 30 slots of randomly allocated treatment regime of either LNG-IUS or Depot MPA and each patient was assigned to each slot and the corresponding therapy in chronological order. <sup>↕</sup>
	一開始各組條件是否相同 <sup>↕</sup>	No, p.4 Table 1 <sup>↕</sup> Intervention group older (>3 y/o), higher weight (>2kg), higher BMI (>1), higher ASRM score, smaller diameter (<2mm), higher dysmenorrhea VAS, <sup>↕</sup>	Unclear, Table 1 did not provide enough data <sup>↕</sup> p.987: Table 1. As shown, no differences were found between the two groups in terms of age, body mass index (BMI), CA125 levels, ASRM stages and VAS scores (Table 1). <sup>↕</sup>	Yes, p.275 table 1, <sup>↕</sup> There was no significant difference in the demographic data (including mean age, mean highest rAFS score in previous operation and BMI) (Table 1), nature of previous operation (Table 1), starting Symptom Scores (Fig. 2), baseline DEXA T-score (Fig. 3), BMD of lumbar spine and hip (Table 2) between the two groups of patients <sup>↕</sup>
	照護人員是否不知道誰是實驗組 <sup>↕</sup>	No, p.3 The surgeons and participants were not blinded to study allocation. <sup>↕</sup>	No <sup>↕</sup>	No <sup>↕</sup>

# 進度

1. 題目設定與形成及精準搜尋與證據選定

2. 證據研究方法評讀

**3. 證據數據擷取**

4. 證據應用評估

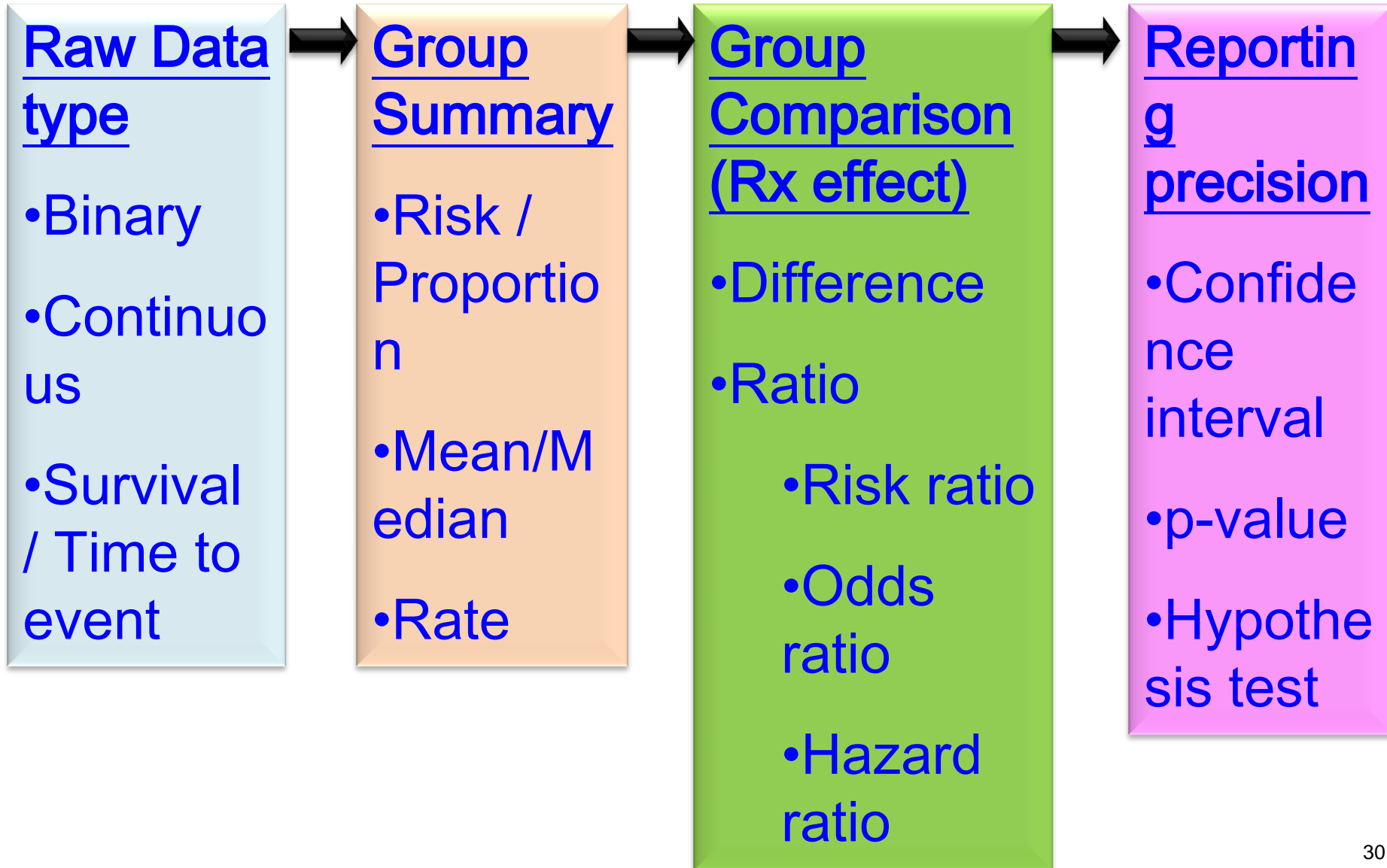
5. FINAL CAT (Critical Appraisal Topic) 產出

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評評讀最終目的在數據  
讀結論決定相信數據的程度

**數據要如何呈現**

# 數據有那些



# 要整理條列，不是把圖或表貼進來

## 範例：

效益 Impact <sup>↙</sup>		
結果 <sup>↙</sup>	治療效果有多大 <sup>↙</sup> <b>Paper1 Chen et al. 2017</b> <sup>↙</sup> LNG-IUD vs control <sup>↙</sup> 1. Endometrioma recurrence rate at 30 months <sup>↙</sup> 25% vs 37.5%, hazardratio = 0.60 <sup>↙</sup> 2. dysmenorrhea recurrence rate <sup>↙</sup> hazardratio = 0.32 <sup>↙</sup> 3. visual analog scale score <sup>↙</sup> 39.1±10.9 vs 30.1±14.7 <sup>↙</sup> <sup>↙</sup> <b>Paper2 Morelli et al. 2013</b> <sup>↙</sup> EP vs LNG-IUD <sup>↙</sup> 1. VAS score at 24 months <sup>↙</sup> 19.08±0.37 vs 28.98±10.79 <sup>↙</sup> 2. Recurrence rate at 24 months <sup>↙</sup> 12.5% vs 20.5% <sup>↙</sup> <sup>↙</sup> <b>Paper3 Wong et al. 2010</b> <sup>↙</sup> LNG-IUS vs Depot MPA <sup>↙</sup> 1. Pain Score (total=6) only 36 months (0.1 vs 0.6) significant difference. All other visits showed no significant difference <sup>↙</sup> 2. recurrence of endometriosis lesion >3cm <sup>↙</sup> none of both groups had recurrence <sup>↙</sup> <sup>↙</sup>	治療效果有多精準 <sup>↙</sup> <b>Paper1 Chen et al. 2017</b> <sup>↙</sup> LNG-IUD vs expectant management <sup>↙</sup> 1. Endometrioma recurrence at 30 months, HR 95% CI, [0.27, 1.33], P=.209 <sup>↙</sup> 2. dysmenorrhea recurrence rate <sup>↙</sup> 95% CI, [0.12, 0.83], P=.019 <sup>↙</sup> 3. VAS, 95% CI, [1.9, 16.1], P=.014 <sup>↙</sup> <sup>↙</sup> <sup>↙</sup> <b>Paper2 Morelli et al. 2013</b> <sup>↙</sup> EP vs LNG-IUD <sup>↙</sup> 1. VAS score at 24 months, P<0.05 <sup>↙</sup> 2. Recurrence rate at 24 months, P=0.30 <sup>↙</sup> <sup>↙</sup> <sup>↙</sup> <sup>↙</sup> <sup>↙</sup> <b>Paper3 Wong et al. 2010</b> <sup>↙</sup> LNG-IUS vs Depot MPA <sup>↙</sup> 1. Pain Score only 36 months P<0.0025 <sup>↙</sup> <sup>↙</sup> <sup>↙</sup> <sup>↙</sup>

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評讀最終目的在數據

評讀結論決定相信數據的程度

## 證據等級

(LEVEL OF EVIDENCE)



# Oxford Centre for Evidence-Based Medicine 2011 Levels of Evidence



Question	Step 1 (Level 1*)	Step 2 (Level 2*)	Step 3 (Level 3*)	Step 4 (Level 4*)	Step 5 (Level 5)
<b>How common is the problem?</b>	Local and current random sample surveys (or censuses)	Systematic review of surveys that allow matching to local circumstances**	Local non-random sample**	Case-series**	n/a
<b>Is this diagnostic or monitoring test accurate?</b> (Diagnosis)	Systematic review of cross sectional studies with consistently applied reference standard and blinding	Individual cross sectional studies with consistently applied reference standard and blinding	Non-consecutive studies, or studies without consistently applied reference standards**	Case-control studies, or "poor or non-independent reference standard**	Mechanism-based reasoning
<b>What will happen if we do not add a therapy?</b> (Prognosis)	Systematic review of inception cohort studies	Inception cohort studies	Cohort study or control arm of randomized trial*	Case-series or case-control studies, or poor quality prognostic cohort study**	n/a
<b>Does this intervention help?</b> (Treatment Benefits)	Systematic review of randomized trials or <i>n</i> -of-1 trials	Randomized trial or observational study with dramatic effect	Non-randomized controlled cohort/follow-up study**	Case-series, case-control studies, or historically controlled studies**	Mechanism-based reasoning
<b>What are the COMMON harms?</b> (Treatment Harms)	Systematic review of randomized trials, systematic review of nested case-control studies, <i>n</i> -of-1 trial with the patient you are raising the question about, or observational study with dramatic effect	Individual randomized trial or (exceptionally) observational study with dramatic effect	Non-randomized controlled cohort/follow-up study (post-marketing surveillance) provided there are sufficient numbers to rule out a common harm. (For long-term harms the duration of follow-up must be sufficient.)**	Case-series, case-control, or historically controlled studies**	Mechanism-based reasoning
<b>What are the RARE harms?</b> (Treatment Harms)	Systematic review of randomized trials or <i>n</i> -of-1 trial	Randomized trial or (exceptionally) observational study with dramatic effect			
<b>Is this (early detection) test worthwhile?</b> (Screening)	Systematic review of randomized trials	Randomized trial	Non-randomized controlled cohort/follow-up study**	Case-series, case-control, or historically controlled studies**	Mechanism-based reasoning

\* Level may be graded down on the basis of study quality, imprecision, indirectness (study PICO does not match questions PICO), because of inconsistency between studies, or because the absolute effect size is very small; Level may be graded up if there is a large or very large effect size.

\*\* As always, a systematic review is generally better than an individual study.

# Oxford Centre for Evidence-Based Medicine 2011 Levels of Evidence



Question	Step 1 (Level 1*)	Step 2 (Level 2*)	Step 3 (Level 3*)	Step 4 (Level 4*)	Step 5 (Level 5)
<b>How common is the problem?</b>	Local and current random sample surveys (or censuses)	Systematic review of surveys that allow matching to local circumstances**	Local non-random sample**	Case-series**	n/a
<b>Is this diagnostic or monitoring test accurate?</b> (Diagnosis)	Systematic review of cross sectional studies with consistently applied reference standard and blinding	Individual cross sectional studies with consistently applied reference standard and blinding	Non-consecutive studies, or studies without consistently applied reference standards**	Case-control studies, or "poor or non-independent reference standard**	Mechanism-based reasoning
<b>What will happen if we do not add a therapy?</b> (Prognosis)	Systematic review of inception cohort studies	Inception cohort studies	Cohort study or control arm of randomized trial*	Case-series or case-control studies, or poor quality prognostic cohort study**	n/a
<b>Does this intervention help?</b> (Treatment Benefits)	Systematic review of randomized trials or <i>n</i> -of-1 trials	Randomized trial or observational study with dramatic effect	Non-randomized controlled cohort/follow-up study**	Case-series, case-control studies, or historically controlled studies**	Mechanism-based reasoning
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