

Detailed Questions

3. Were the subjects recruited in an acceptable way? Yes Can't tell No

HINT: We are looking for selection bias which might compromise the generalizability of the findings:

- Was the sample representative of a defined population?
- Was everybody included who should have been included?

4. Were the measures accurately measured to reduce bias? Yes Can't tell No

HINT: We are looking for measurement or classification bias:

- Did they use subjective or objective measurements?
- Do the measures truly reflect what you want them to (have they been validated)?

5. Were the data collected in a way that addressed the research issue? Yes Can't tell No

Consider:

- if the setting for data collection was justified
- if it is clear how data were collected (e.g., interview, questionnaire, chart review)
- if the researcher has justified the methods chosen
- if the researcher has made the methods explicit (e.g. for interview method, is there an indication of how interviews were conducted?)

6. Did the study have enough participants to minimize the play of chance? Yes Can't tell No

Consider:

- if the result is precise enough to make a decision
- if there is a power calculation. This will estimate how many subjects are needed to produce a reliable estimate of the measure(s) of interest.

7. How are the results presented and what is the main result? Yes Can't tell No

Consider:

- if, for example, the results are presented as a proportion of people experiencing an outcome, such as risks, or as a measurement, such as mean or median differences, or as survival curves and hazards
- how large this size of result is and how meaningful it is
- how you would sum up the bottom-line result of the trial in one sentence

8. Was the data analysis sufficiently rigorous? Yes Can't tell No

Consider:

- if there is an in-depth description of the analysis process
- if sufficient data are presented to support the findings

9. Is there a clear statement of findings? Yes Can't tell No

Consider:

- if the findings are explicit
- if there is adequate discussion of the evidence both for and against the researchers' arguments
- if the researcher have discussed the credibility of their findings
- if the findings are discussed in relation to the original research questions

10. Can the results be applied to the local population? Yes Can't tell No

HINT: Consider whether

- The subjects covered in the study could be sufficiently different from your population to cause concern.
- Your local setting is likely to differ much from that of the study

11. How valuable is the research?

write comments here

Consider:

- if the researcher discusses the contribution the study makes to existing knowledge (e.g. do they consider the findings in relation to current practice or policy, or relevant research-based literature?)*
- if the researchers have discussed whether or how the findings can be transferred to other populations*