

## Study Evaluation Sheet, developed by the Dartmouth Institute

Questions to think about when reading a medical study

<b>1. What is the assertion/study question?</b>		
a. If true, would you care? Why or Why not?		
b. Who stands to benefit from the assertion?		
<b>2. What are the KEY ELEMENTS of the study?</b>		
<b>3. Are the data supporting the assertion RELEVANT?</b>		
<b>4. Are the data supporting the assertion VALID?</b>		
a. Who is the <b>study sample</b> and what is the <b>setting</b> ?	a. Is it the <b>right</b> study sample and setting?	
b. What is the <b>primary exposure/intervention</b> ?	b. Is it the <b>right</b> primary exposure/intervention?	a. Is there a <b>comparison</b> group? b. Is the comparison <b>fair/right</b> ? c. Were subjects and/or providers caring for them <b>blinded</b> to study arm assignment?
c. Are other important <b>exposures/patient characteristics</b> tracked?	c. Are <b>all</b> important exposures/patient characteristics tracked?	
d. What is the <b>primary outcome</b> of interest?	d. Is the primary outcome <b>important</b> ?	d. Were the <b>outcomes measured properly</b> ?
e. Are <b>other important outcomes</b> tracked?	e. Are <b>all</b> important outcomes tracked?	e. Were subjects and/or investigators <b>blinded</b> to study arm assignment during outcome assessment?
f. How long were subjects treated/ <b>followed</b> ?	f. Was the duration of treatment/follow-up adequate?	f. Were adherence and completeness of <b>follow-up</b> adequate? Did they differ by group?
g. What are the <b>main results/findings</b> of the study [in words(i.e., intervention A reduced blood pressure more than placebo)]?		
h. What is the <b>effect size</b> [the main result/finding in numbers (i.e., RR 0.75, 95% CI 0.68-0.87)]?	g. Is the effect <b>big</b> ? (is the magnitude of the effect something you care about)	g. Might the effect be due to <b>chance</b> ? (consider the p-value)
<b>5. How did the authors interpret their results? (briefly)</b>		
a. Do you agree with the conclusions? (Why or why not?)		
b. What are some possible alternative explanations?)		