

Therapeutic and Prognostic Studies Module 10

Key Points

4-step EBM Approach

- Ask focused question
- Find the best evidence
- Critically appraise the evidence for validity and usefulness
- Apply the evidence to your patient

Appraising an Article About Therapy

- Patients randomized?
- Randomization concealed?
- All patients accounted for?
- Intention to treat analysis?
- Blinded intervention and outcome?
- Aside from the intervention, all are groups treated equally?
- Groups similar at baseline?
- Overall strength?

Concealment

Taking adequate measures to conceal allocation to study groups from those responsible for assessing patients for entry in the trial

Helps to prevent selection bias, protecting the randomization sequence until the interventions are given to study participants

Blinding

Helps protect the randomization sequence after allocation
Prevents outcome assessment bias