SUMMARY OF USERS' GUIDES QUESTIONS

FOR ARTICLES ABOUT THERAPY

(1) Was the assignment of patients to treatments randomized?
(2) Were all patients who entered the trial properly accounted for and attributed at its conclusion?
   (a) Was follow-up complete?
   (b) Were patients analyzed in the groups to which they were randomized?
(3) Were patients, health workers, and study personnel "blind" to treatment?
(4) Were the groups similar at the start of the trial?
(5) Aside from the experimental intervention, were the groups treated equally?
(6) How large was the treatment effect?
(7) How precise was the estimate of the treatment effect?
(8) Can the results be applied to my patient care?
(9) Were all clinically important outcomes considered?
(10) Are the likely treatment benefits worth the potential harms and costs?

FOR ARTICLES ABOUT DIAGNOSTIC TESTS

(1) Was there an independent, blind comparison with a reference standard?
(2) Did the patient sample include an appropriate spectrum of patients to whom the diagnostic test will be applied in clinical practice?
(3) Did the results of the test being evaluated influence the decision to perform the reference standard?
(4) Were the methods for performing the test described in sufficient detail to permit replication?
(5) Are the likelihood ratios for the test results presented or data necessary for their calculating provided?
(6) Will the reproducibility of the test result and its interpretation be satisfactory in my setting?
(7) Are the results applicable to my patient?
(8) Will the results change my management?
(9) Will patients be better off as a result of the test?

FOR ARTICLES ABOUT HARM

(1) Were there clearly identified comparison groups that were similar with respect to important determinants of outcome, other than the one of interest?
(2) Were the outcomes and exposures measured in the same way in the groups being compared?
(3) Was follow-up sufficiently long and complete?
(4) Is the temporal relationship correct?
(5) Is there a dose-response gradient?
(6) How strong is the association between exposure and outcome?
(7) How precise is the estimate of risk?
(8) Are the results applicable to my practice?
(9) What is the magnitude of the risk?
(10) Should I attempt to stop the exposure?
FOR ARTICLES ABOUT PROGNOSIS

(1) Was there a representative and well-defined sample of patients at a similar point in the course of the disease?
(2) Was follow-up sufficiently long and complete?
(3) Were objective and unbiased outcome criteria used?
(4) Was there adjustment for important prognostic factors?
(5) How large is the likelihood of the outcome event(s) in a specified period of time?
(6) How precise are the estimates of likelihood?
(7) Were the study patients similar to my own?
(8) Will the results lead directly to selecting or avoiding therapy?
(9) Are the results useful for reassuring or counseling patients?

FOR OVERVIEWS

(1) Does the overview address a focused clinical question?
(2) Were the criteria used to select articles for inclusion appropriate?
(3) Is it unlikely that important, relevant studies were missed?
(4) Was the validity of the included studies appraised?
(5) Were assessments of studies reproducible?
(6) Were the results similar from study to study?
(7) What are the overall results of the review?
(8) How precise were the results?
(9) Can the results be applied to my patient care?
(10) Were all clinically important outcomes considered?
(11) Are the benefits worth the harms and costs?

FOR CLINICAL DECISION ANALYSES

(1) Were all important strategies and outcomes included?
   (2) Was an explicit and sensible process used to identify, select, and combine the evidence into probabilities?
(3) Were the utilities obtained in an explicit and sensible way from credible sources?
(4) Was the potential impact of any uncertainty in the evidence determined?
(5) In the baseline analysis, does one strategy result in a clinically important gain for patients? If not, is the result a toss-up?
(6) How strong is the evidence used in the analysis?
(7) Could the uncertainty in the evidence change the result?
(8) Do the probability estimates fit my patients' clinical features?
(9) Do the utilities reflect how my patients would value the outcomes of the decision?

Reference: JAMA Users’ Guides