

# Users' Guides to the Medical Literature: A Manual for Evidence-Based Clinical Practice, 3rd ed >Therapy (Randomized Trials)

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BOX 7-1

## Users' Guides for an Article About Therapy

### •How serious was the risk of bias?

- Did intervention and control groups start with the same prognosis?
- Were patients randomized?
- Was randomization concealed?
- Were patients in the study groups similar with respect to known prognostic factors?
- Was prognostic balance maintained as the study progressed?
- To what extent was the study blinded?
- Were the groups prognostically balanced at the study's completion?
- Was follow-up complete?
- Were patients analyzed in the groups to which they were randomized?
- Was the trial stopped early?

### •What are the results?

- How large was the treatment effect?
- How precise was the estimate of the treatment effect?

### •How can I apply the results to patient care?

- Were the study patients similar to my patient?
- Were all patient-important outcomes considered?
- Are the likely treatment benefits worth the potential harm and costs?

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