

Review of Clinical/Research Articles in Obstetrics & Gynecology

Resident: _____ Level PGY - _____ Date: _____

1. Title, Authors, Journal, Year, Volume, Pages of article

2. What is the study design? (Taxonomy of research types; select one)

Observational

- a. Descriptive: case report, case series report, prevalence study, surveillance study
- b. Analytic: cross sectional, cohort, case control

Experimental

- a. Non-randomized controlled trials
- b. Randomized controlled trials

3. What is the hypothesis?

4. Did the study design address the hypothesis? If not, why?

5. Is the study valid?

- a. Did the study measure what it was supposed to measure? (Internal validity)

- b. Evidence-based Medicine: rank this article based on the level of evidence:
(based on AHCPR 1992).

- Ia Evidence obtained from a meta-analysis of Randomized Controlled Trials (RCT)
 - Ib Evidence obtained from at least one RCT
 - IIa Evidence obtained from at least one well-designed, controlled study without randomization
 - IIb Evidence obtained from at least one other type of well-designed quasi-experimental study
 - III Evidence obtained from well-designed, non-experimental, descriptive studies, such as comparative studies, correlation studies and case-control studies
 - IV Evidence obtained from expert committee reports or opinions and/or clinical experience of respected authorities.

c. Can one extrapolate the study conclusion to one's patients? How will it impact your practice of medicine? (External validity)

7. Are the results biologically plausible? (Do they make sense?)

7. Were the numbers sufficient? Especially important in "no difference" conclusions (type 2 errors)

9. What were the potential biases? Selection, information, systematic, random, recall

10. How well was the paper written (writing style: grammar, ease of reading, tables, etc.)?

11. Be prepared to discuss ways of improving the manuscript/study design.

References:

1. Agency for Health Care Policy and Research, 1992 (levels of evidence) <http://www.ahcpr.gov/>
2. Grimes DA. Schulz KF. Clinical research in obstetrics and gynecology: a Baedeker for busy clinicians. *Obstetrics & Gynecologic Survey*, 2002;47:S33-S55.