

1. Clearly stated aims
2. Appropriateness of design to meet the aims
3. Adequate specifications of subject group given
4. Justification of sample size
5. Likelihood of reliable and valid measurements
6. Sensitivity of outcome tool
7. Adequate description of statistical methods
8. Adequate description of the data
9. Consistency in the number of subjects reported throughout the paper
10. Assessment of statistical significance
11. Attention to potential biases
12. Meaningful main findings
13. Interpretation of null findings
14. Interpretation of important effects
15. Comparison of results with previous reports
16. Implications in real life