EBM Outline for Candidates

Questions

Evidenced Based Medicine Understanding

Abstract
    a. Mentions research question and primary outcome
    b. Mentions study design and population
    c. Mentions compact methodology
    d. Mentions statistical tests
    e. Mentions results with actual numbers for primary outcome
    f. Mentions conclusion

Introduction
    a. Justification for study
    b. Research question (hypothesis) defined clearly?

Materials and Methods
  Study design
    a. Appropriate?
    b. Outcomes (primary / secondary)
    c. Ethics approval obtained or justification for omission
    d. Mentioned any conflict of interest
    e. Defined patient population
    f. Inclusion / exclusion criteria
    g. Randomisation method?
    h. Blinding method and robustness

  Methods
    a. Technique description
    b. Equipment description
    c. Intervention standardisation
    d. Is there enough information for others to repeat the study?

  Statistics
    a. Software used mentioned?
    b. Choice of tests (normality etc)
    c. Power calculation
    d. Presentation
    e. Tables, clarity, correct denominations, comparison of groups, tests of significance
    f. Dropouts / crossovers dealt with?

<u>Analysis</u>

Analysis & Interpretation
- Appropriate outcome studied?

Discussion
a. Is the literature review adequate?
b. Is the discussion structured?
c. Was there a detailed discussion of the results?
d. Was there a detailed discussion of the limitations? e.g., high dropout or crossover rates, low study number, variability of technique, expert

Conclusion
a. Was the conclusion valid?
b. Is it logical?
c. Is it appropriate for study?
d. Is applicable in your local setting?
e. Will it change your practice