

## Critical Appraisal Worksheet for an Article about Harm (Observational Studies)

Appraiser: \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_/\_\_\_/\_\_\_

Citation: \_\_\_\_\_

**What is the clinical question that this study addresses? Put the question in PICO format.**

Population: \_\_\_\_\_

Harmful Exposure: \_\_\_\_\_

Comparison Group: \_\_\_\_\_

Outcome: \_\_\_\_\_

Setting: \_\_\_\_\_

### I. How serious is the risk of bias?

In a cohort study, aside for the exposure of interest, did the exposed and control groups start and finish with the same risk for the outcome?	
Were patients similar for prognostic factors that are known to be associated with the outcome (or did statistical adjustment address the imbalance)?	
Were the circumstances and methods for detecting the outcome similar?	
Was the follow-up sufficiently complete?	

### II. WHAT ARE THE RESULTS OF THE TRIAL?

How strong is the associate between exposure and outcome?	
How precise is the estimate of risk?	

### III. CAN I APPLY THE RESULTS OF THIS TRIAL TO MY PATIENT(S)?

Were the study patients similar to the patient in my practice?	
Was follow-up sufficiently long?	
Is the exposure similar to what might occur in my patients?	
What is the incremental risk? <i>What number of patients need to be exposed to result in an additional harmful event? (RCT and Cohort trials only)</i>	
Are there any benefits that offset the risks associated with exposure?	

CLINICAL BOTTOM LINE