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Library and Information Services

# Journal club checklist

This checklist provides an outline that you can use to guide your discussion of any article in your journal club. Further advise and tools to use when critically appraising papers can be found in the [EBVM Resources page.](https://knowledge.rcvs.org.uk/evidence-based-veterinary-medicine/ebvm-resources/tools-guidelines-and-checklists/)

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| **What are the aims or objectives of the study?**  A clearly stated aim or objective will make it easier for you to assess whether the research has been appropriately designed to meet these aims. |  |
| **Who carried out the research?**  Do the researchers have appropriate knowledge or supervision to carry out the research? |  |
| **Are there any potential sources of bias?**  Who is paying for the study? Is there any reason to think that there may be any sources of bias in the study? |  |
| **Is there a specific research question or hypothesis?**  Is this framed as a clear PICO question?   * Patients/participants * Intervention * Comparator * Outcome |  |
| **Why do you want to review this paper?** |  |
| **What methods did the researchers use?** |  |
| **Is this methodology appropriate to the objectives or question?**  More detailed guidance on how to critically appraise different types of study can be found in the [EBVM Toolkit Section 3](https://knowledge.rcvs.org.uk/evidence-based-veterinary-medicine/ebvm-toolkit/#critically) |  |
| **Is the study design described clearly enough to enable you to follow what was done?** |  |
| **Are the type of patients or participants clearly described?**  Are these patients or participants relevant to your practice, if not what differences need to be considered? |  |
| **How many patients or participants were included in the study?**  Are the inclusion and exclusion criteria clearly described? |  |
| **Are the patients or participants divided into groups, if so, how was this done?**  If used, are the methods of randomisation and blinding clearly described? |  |
| **Is the data collected clearly described?** |  |
| **Is the analysis of data clearly described?** |  |
| **Are all patients or participants accounted for in the analysis?** |  |
| **Are the results of the study clearly described?** |  |
| **What are the important findings of the study?** |  |
| **Do the results answer the research questions?** |  |
| **Are the results statistically significant?** |  |
| **Are the findings likely to be clinically significant?** |  |
| **What are the limitations of the study?** |  |
| **Do the findings support or alter your current knowledge?** |  |
| **Do the findings provide sufficient evidence for you to consider changing your current practice?** |  |
| **Having read the paper are there any other sources of information you need to look at before**  **changing your current practice?** |  |