



AORN RESEARCH EVIDENCE APPRAISAL TOOL - STUDY

DATE _____
REVIEWER _____
APPRAISAL SCORE _____

RW#	CITATION	
Does this evidence address the perioperative practice question? <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No - Do not proceed with evidence appraisal.		
LEVEL OF EVIDENCE		
Is this a report of a single research study? <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No (If No, go to the AORN Research Evidence Appraisal Tool - Summary)		
INTERVENTION/MANIPULATION		<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No
The researcher performed an intervention with at least some of the participants (ie, there was some type of treatment being tested).		
CONTROL/COMPARISON GROUP		<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No
The researcher provided standard care or a comparison intervention that was different from the experimental intervention.		
RANDOM ASSIGNMENT		<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No
The researcher assigned participants to a control or treatment group on a random basis (ie, in a manner determined by chance).		
YES to Intervention/Manipulation, Control/Comparison Group, and Random Assignment	<input type="checkbox"/> LEVEL I	Randomized Controlled Trial (RCT)
YES to Intervention/Manipulation or YES to Intervention/Manipulation, and Control/Comparison Group	<input type="checkbox"/> LEVEL II	Quasi-Experimental (eg, controlled trial, controlled trial without randomization, pre-test/post-test, time series)
NO to Intervention/Manipulation	<input type="checkbox"/> LEVEL III	Non-Experimental (eg, descriptive, comparative, observational, correlational, case-control, retrospective, cross-sectional)
	<input type="checkbox"/> LEVEL III	Qualitative (eg, interviews, surveys, focus groups)

ADDITIONAL COMMENTS:

QUALITY OF EVIDENCE	A HIGH	B GOOD	C LOW	NA
PURPOSE/BACKGROUND				
• Was the purpose of the study clearly defined?				
• Were the research questions clear?				
• Did the researcher(s) identify what is known and not known about the research questions and how the study would address any gaps in knowledge?				
• Was the study approved by an institutional review board (IRB)?				
• Were the supporting references the most current available?				
• Were the supporting references relevant to the research question?				
RANDOMIZATION				
• Were the participants randomly assigned to the Intervention and Control groups?				
• Were the participants and providers blinded to the study group?				
CONTROL				
• Was the Control group clearly identified?				
• Was the Control group representative of the sample population?				
• Were the characteristics and/or demographics similar in both the Control and Intervention groups?				
• Were all groups treated equally with the exception of the intervention?				
• Were multiple settings used?				
• If multiple settings were used, were the settings similar?				
INTERVENTION(S)				
• Did the intervention support the research question?				
• Did the intervention(s) for each group contain sufficient details to allow replication?				
SAMPLE SIZE				
• Was an adequate description of sample size determination provided?				
• Was a power analysis performed?				
• If no power analysis was performed, did the sample size ensure confidence that the effect of the intervention was demonstrated?				
• Was the inclusion/exclusion criteria for the study participants clear?				
• Were all study participants accounted for?				
DATA COLLECTION				
• Was the data collection process clearly described?				
• Were the methods of statistical analysis clearly explained?				
• Was there a discussion of the instrument's validity?				
• Was the precision of each outcome supported with a confidence interval to show statistical significance, or lack thereof?				
• If surveys/questionnaires were used, was the response rate > 25%?				
RESULTS/CONCLUSIONS				
• If tables were presented, was the narrative consistent with the table content?				
• Were the outcomes of the study clearly explained?				
• Were the conclusions of the researcher(s) consistent with the results of the study?				
LIMITATIONS/FUTURE RESEARCH				
• Were limitations of the study discussed?				
• Were implications for future research suggested?				
BIAS				
• Did the researcher(s) implement methods to reduce distortion of the results of the study?				
• Was the effect of the intervention over- or underestimated by the researcher(s)?				
• Did the researcher(s) disclose sources of funding?				
VALIDITY				
• Were the results of the study obtained by sound methods?				
GENERALIZABILITY				
• Are the results of the study transferrable or applicable to other settings or populations?				
FINAL QUALITY SCORE				