Study Check List

Modified from (Mann 2003)

The following is a check list of key points that need to be taken into consideration regardless of the chosen study design.

Study Purpose

- ☐ Is the study aim clearly stated?

Sample/Population

- ☐ Iis the source of the sample/population stated?
- ☐ Is the sample size justified?
- ☐ Are the entry criteria and exclusions stated and justified?
- ☐ Are the number of study subjects lost to follow up stated and explanations given?

Control Group

- ☐ Is the control group is easily identifiable?
- ☐ The source of the controls is explained- are they from the same population as the sample?
- ☐ Are the controls matched or randomised-to minimise bias and confounding?

Quality of measurements and outcomes

- ☐ Validity- are the measurements used regarded as valid by other investigators?
- ☐ Reproducibility- can the results be repeated or is there a reason to suspect they may be a "one off"?
- ☐ Quality control- has the methodology been rigorously adhered to?

Completeness

- ☐ Deaths?
- ☐ Missing data- how much are unavailable and why?

Distorting influences

- ☐ Extraneous treatments- Are there interventions that may have affected some but not all of the subjects?
- ☐ Confounding factors- Are there other variables that might influence the results?
- ☐ Appropriate analysis- Have appropriate statistical tests been used?

Validity

☐ All studies should be internally valid. That is, the conclusions can be logically drawn from the results produced by an appropriate methodology. For a study to be regarded as valid it must be shown that it has indeed demonstrated what it says it has. A study that is not internally valid should not be published because the findings cannot be accepted.

☐ The question of external validity related to the value of the results of the study to other populations- that is, the generalisability of the results. For example, a study showing that 80% of the Swedish population has blond hair, might be used to make a sensible prediction of the incidence of blond hair in other Scandinavian countries, but would be invalid if applied to most other populuations.