CASM: Critical Appraisal of Systematic Review or Meta-Analysis

Evaluator: Date:
Evidence Source:

Foreground question addressed by the evidence:
For (Patient/problem) is (Treatment/condition) associated with (Outcome) As compared with (Contrasting treatment/condition)

Appraisal points
1. Was there a comprehensive and clearly described search for relevant studies?
2. Were clear and adequate criteria used to include and exclude studies from analysis?
3. Were individual studies rated independently?
4. Were individual studies rated with blinding?
5. Was inter-rater agreement adequate?
6. Was an average effect size (treatment) or accuracy metric (diagnosis) presented?
7. Were results weighted by sample size?
8. Was the confidence interval adequately precise?
9. Did a forest plot suggest reasonable homogeneity of findings across individual studies?
10. If not, was a heterogeneity or moderator analysis conducted?
11. Were the results sufficiently relevant to my patient and practice?

Validity: compelling _____ suggestive _____ equivocal _____.
Importance: compelling _____ suggestive _____ equivocal _____.

Clinical bottom line: