



Example Journal Club Template

Background and Overview		
Study Citation	Cite your article here using proper format.	
Purpose/Background	Give a brief summary about why this study is important. You can also provide a short background on the drug, disease state, or procedure that is being evaluated. In addition, relevant literature on the subject can be discussed.	
Study Objective	The objective, study aim or goal, should be clearly stated in the article and copied directly so as not to change the meaning here.	
Historical Context	What other related trials have been done prior to this study? Discuss any other relevant literature on the subject here. Be sure to cite these below in the reference list.	
Methods		
Study Design	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Things to consider*: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Retrospective vs. prospective ○ Randomization ○ Blinding ○ Case control vs. RCT vs. meta-analysis ○ Superiority vs. non-inferiority ○ Multicenter vs. single site <p>*This is not an all-inclusive list.</p>	
Funding	Disclose funding and consider potential conflicts of interest.	
Population	Inclusion Criteria	Exclusion Criteria
	List the major and noteworthy inclusion criteria.	List the major and noteworthy exclusion criteria. Give consideration to if exclusions are appropriate. The reason does not need to be included here, though should be a point of discussion.

This resource was developed by the ASHP New Practitioners Forum Clinical Practice Advisory Group, which is providing members the opportunity to share resources that might assist in professional endeavors. ASHP is not responsible for, and does not officially endorse this resource, and further expressly disclaims any and all liability for damages of any kind arising out of the use, reference to, or reliance upon any information contained in the resource. No guarantee is provided that the content is correct, accurate, complete, up-to-date, or owned by the individual who posted it.



Interventions or Study Procedures	Describe the interventions performed in the trial. Was it active-controlled? What was the dose of the medication(s) used? How often were they administered? Was there a washout period for study drugs? Was there an enrollment period to determine adherence? How were study participants randomized (i.e. 1:1, 1:2:1, etc.)? How long was the intervention period? What was the median follow-up time-frame? Was the follow-up period similar between the groups?	
Outcomes	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Primary outcome/endpoint: ● Secondary outcomes/endpoints: 	
Statistical Analysis	What statistical tests were used for each set of data? You should evaluate if these tests were appropriate for your discussion, though you don't need to include the appropriateness of the tests here. Did the study include a sample size calculation?	
Results		
Study Sample	Sample Size	Baseline Characteristics
	How many participants were enrolled in the study and in each arm?	Are they well matched between treatment groups? Are there any noteworthy characteristics of this sample that stand out to you?
Results	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● You may include tables and/or bullet points to describe and summarize the main results. ● Be sure to include how many patients dropped out of the study and why. ● Be sure to include the results of the primary and secondary endpoints, statistical significance (e.g. p-value, confidence interval, etc.). Consider directing the audience to a specific table/figure within the article if available. ● Consider also including number needed to treat (NNT) or number needed to harm (NNH). ● Address noteworthy adverse event rates (if applicable). 	
Summary	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● What were the key takeaways from the trial? The key takeaways should not include any interpretation of the results. Interpretation of the results 	

This resource was developed by the ASHP New Practitioners Forum Clinical Practice Advisory Group, which is providing members the opportunity to share resources that might assist in professional endeavors. ASHP is not responsible for, and does not officially endorse this resource, and further expressly disclaims any and all liability for damages of any kind arising out of the use, reference to, or reliance upon any information contained in the resource. No guarantee is provided that the content is correct, accurate, complete, up-to-date, or owned by the individual who posted it.



	will be included in the discussion & conclusions.	
Discussion and Conclusions		
Evaluation of Study Quality	Strengths of the Study	Limitations of the Study
	List them here. Examples: large sample size, external validity, etc.	What could be improved about the study design? What about the trial weakens its overall impact? (e.g. internal/external validity, statistical vs. clinical significance, inclusion/exclusion criteria appropriateness)
Author's Discussion and Conclusion	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Summarize the author's conclusion from the article. 	
Personal Discussion and Conclusion	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Write out your conclusions. You may reference other articles and how findings from those might play a role in interpreting this study. 	
Application to Patient Care	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> How will you use this information in practice (consider your practice site specifically)? 	

References:

- [citation for the study your journal club is focused on]

This resource was developed by the ASHP New Practitioners Forum Clinical Practice Advisory Group, which is providing members the opportunity to share resources that might assist in professional endeavors. ASHP is not responsible for, and does not officially endorse this resource, and further expressly disclaims any and all liability for damages of any kind arising out of the use, reference to, or reliance upon any information contained in the resource. No guarantee is provided that the content is correct, accurate, complete, up-to-date, or owned by the individual who posted it.



Questions to Consider for your Presentation:

Background & Overview

- What are the current guideline recommendations for this particular disease state or topic?
- If applicable, how do we stratify the severity of disease being studied (i.e. A1C for patients with diabetes, CKD stages, COPD GOLD classifications, etc.)?
- If this is a new therapy, what is the biological rationale for why it might be useful for a particular disease state?

Methods

- How do the inclusion/exclusion criteria limit the population you can apply the results to?
- Were the patients appropriately randomized to their treatment groups? Was there stratification in the process?
- Did the authors include a power analysis? Did enrollment achieve desired power?
- Was everyone (patients, physicians, study personnel, etc.) blinded to treatments?
- Was this an active controlled trial? If yes, does the active control depict the standard of care? Was it appropriately dosed?
- Was the method used to study the primary outcome appropriate? For example, if a study is assessing agitation, was the chosen behavioral scale appropriate and validated? Have other studies assessing similar outcomes used it?

Results

- How do the baseline characteristics of the population in the study compare to the disease state being studied?
 - Did exclusion criteria eliminate outliers and patients who may be at increased harm?
- For statistically significant results, how does the NNH compare to the NNT? Are they similar, or are the two significantly different from each other?
 - Are these results *clinically* significant?
- Was the trial long enough to detect a difference?
- Are the potential treatment benefits worth the potential harm and costs?

This resource was developed by the ASHP New Practitioners Forum Clinical Practice Advisory Group, which is providing members the opportunity to share resources that might assist in professional endeavors. ASHP is not responsible for, and does not officially endorse this resource, and further expressly disclaims any and all liability for damages of any kind arising out of the use, reference to, or reliance upon any information contained in the resource. No guarantee is provided that the content is correct, accurate, complete, up-to-date, or owned by the individual who posted it.



Discussion

- For your personal conclusions, would you change guideline recommendations based on the study? If so, how? Will this study change how you practice?
- Would it be feasible/appropriate to apply the study to your specific institution?
- What additional limitations would you note besides the limitations described in the study?
- Is the population in the study similar to patients in your practice?
- Was there any bias present in the study? Who funded the study and what was the sponsor's role in the study?
- How would you apply this to your practice?

This resource was developed by the ASHP New Practitioners Forum Clinical Practice Advisory Group, which is providing members the opportunity to share resources that might assist in professional endeavors. ASHP is not responsible for, and does not officially endorse this resource, and further expressly disclaims any and all liability for damages of any kind arising out of the use, reference to, or reliance upon any information contained in the resource. No guarantee is provided that the content is correct, accurate, complete, up-to-date, or owned by the individual who posted it.