

**Vanderbilt University Medical Center**  
**Emergency General Surgery Service**  
Surgical Residency Rotation and Curriculum

CHECKLIST FOR READING AND CRITICALLY EVALUATING THE  
LITERATURE

**ABSTRACT**

\_\_\_\_\_ Did the abstract provide an adequate summary of the purpose and results of the study?

**INTRODUCTION**

\_\_\_\_\_ Was the purpose/justification clearly stated, logical, and convincing?

\_\_\_\_\_ Was the literature review clearly discussed and connected to the present study?

**METHODS**

\_\_\_\_\_ Is the study design clearly defined or clear in context?

\_\_\_\_\_ Is the study sample(s) clearly defined, including how the sample(s) was (were) chosen?

\_\_\_\_\_ Are the data collection instruments/strategies adequately described, including any evidence of their reliability and validity?

**RESULTS**

\_\_\_\_\_ Are the characteristics of the study group(s) described?

\_\_\_\_\_ Do the results relate to the purpose/justification of the study?

\_\_\_\_\_ Are actual values reported (e.g., means, standard deviations or standard errors, percentages), not just the results of statistical tests (e.g., P values)?

\_\_\_\_\_ Were all the subjects who entered the study accounted for?

**DISCUSSION**

\_\_\_\_\_ Are the study conclusions clearly supported by the data?

\_\_\_\_\_ Do the authors extrapolate beyond the data?

\_\_\_\_\_ Were the study setting and study subjects sufficiently representative so that the results can be generalized to other subjects and to other settings?

\_\_\_\_\_ Were there any major threats to the internal and external validity of the study that could affect the reported conclusions?