Evidence-based Obstetric Anesthesia
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APPENDIX

Jadad scale for reporting randomized controlled trials

Many of the chapters in this book have reported the quality of the randomized trials using elements from one scale.[1] The main advantages of this scale are that:

1 it is easy to use;

2 it contains many of the important elements that have empirically been shown to correlate with bias; and

3 it has known reliability and external validity.

In order to avoid duplication, the elements of scale are presented in full here (Table A1).

It should be noted that there are other factors that are important in describing the quality of reporting and these have been formally incorporated into the CONSORT (**Con**solidated **S**tandards **o**f **R**eporting **T**rials) checklist.[2] For example, some of the chapters make reference to blinding of allocation, *a priori* sample size calculation and statistical adjustment for multiple testing.

Some quality issues are unique to a particular problem. For example, it impossible to blind the patient or caregivers to treatment group when epidural analgesia is given to one group (and not the other) for labor pain. Therefore another method, such as a written protocol, is necessary to minimize bias for that particular set of randomized controlled trials. Clinical trials that involve administration of a specialized test

Table A1 Jadad scale for reporting randomized controlled trials.

Item	Maximum points	Description	Examples
Randomization	2	1 point if randomization is mentioned	"The patients were randomly assigned into two groups"
		1 additional point if the method of randomization is appropriate	The randomization was accomplished using a computer-generated random number list, coin toss or well-shuffled envelopes
		Deduct 1 point if the method of randomization is inappropriate (minimum 0)	The group assignment was accomplished by alternate assignment, by birthday, hospital number or day of the week
Blinding	2	1 point if blinding is mentioned	"The trial was conducted in a double-blind fashion"
		1 additional point if the method of blinding is appropriate	Use of identical tablets or injectables, identical vials Use of tablets with similar looks but different taste
		Deduct 1 point if the method of blinding is inappropriate (minimum 0)	Incomplete masking
An account of all patients	1	The fate of all patients in the trial is known. If there are no data the reason is stated	"There were 40 patients randomized but the data from 1 patient in the treatment group and 2 in the control were eliminated because of a break in protocol"

or procedure should report the training of the individuals in the procedure.

It should also be noted that there is no scale in common use to assess non-randomized (cohort and case-controlled) trials.

References

1 Jadad AR, Moore RA, Carroll D, *et al*. Assessing the quality of reports of randomized clinical trials: is blinding necessary? *Control Clin Trials* 1996;**17**:1–12.

2 Altman DG, Schulz KF, Moher D, *et al*. The revised CONSORT statement for reporting randomized trials: explanation and elaboration. *Ann Intern Med* 2001;**134**:663–94.