ECP8900 Neuropharmacology of Language and Cognition

Abstraction Form

When reading a scientific publication in biomedical sciences it is important to evaluate whether the study reported in the publication was designed and carried out in a way that supports the study conclusions and inferences. This form is designed to help you evaluate scientific biomedical literature in a systematic way by addressing key questions about study design, sampling and measurement.

1. Title of the Study

2. Give a full citation for the publication using APA format

3. What is the main hypothesis of the study? Any secondary hypotheses?

4. What type of study is being reported (survey, observational/analytical (cohort or case-control), experimental, etc.)?

5. What is the target population?

6. What is the intended sample (list inclusion/exclusion criteria)?

7. What is the actual sample? Anyone lost to follow up, non-responders, dropouts, etc.?

8. Are there any potential sources sampling bias? If so, are they being adequately controlled?

9. Is the sample size adequate?

10. What are the dependent variables?

11. What are the independent variables?
12. What instruments are being used to measure the variables (e.g. tools, tests, observers)?

13. Do the instruments have known precision/accuracy limitations? Biases? If so, are they being adequately addressed?

14. What statistical methods are being used to analyze the data? Are they adequate (e.g. if multiple comparisons are being made, are p-values adjusted)?

15. Was the primary hypothesis of the study confirmed/disconfirmed? Secondary hypotheses?

16. Do the methods used in this study support the conclusions?

17. Can the results be generalized to other populations/instruments?