Research Paper Critical Appraisal Worksheet

A study-design-neutral worksheet for reading any clinical paper. For design-specific checklists use CASP, JBI or the relevant risk-of-bias tool.

Paper details

A. What is the question and design?

Prompt	Your notes

Prompts: PICO · study design · setting and dates · registered protocol/pre-specified outcomes?

B. Are the results trustworthy? (internal validity)

Prompt	Your notes

Prompts: selection of participants · comparability of groups / confounding · measurement of exposure and outcome · blinding · loss to follow-up and missing data · analysis matches the plan.

C. What are the results?

Prompt	Your notes

Prompts: main effect size · precision (95% CI) · absolute as well as relative effects · statistical vs clinical significance.

D. Can I use it? (external validity)

Prompt	Your notes

My overall judgement

MedResearch Ninja (medresearchninja.org) — free template. Replace every [bracketed] prompt with your own text; delete guidance before submission.