

CRITICAL APPRAISAL 1 (MATH38071 - MEDICAL STATISTICS)

Read through the clinical trial report Quist-Paulsen P, Gallefoss F. Randomised controlled trial of smoking cessation intervention after admission for coronary heart disease *BMJ* 2003;327:1254. PDF and HTML version of the paper can be found at bmj.com/cgi/content/full/327/7426/1254 .

Find answers to the following questions from the paper.

1. What was the objective of the trial?
2. What was the intervention being tested?
3. What was the control group?
4. What were the inclusion and exclusion criteria?
5. What method was used to randomise patients?
6. Was there any concealment of allocation in the trial?
7. Where the characteristics of the two intervention groups similar at the start of treatment?
8. What was planned sample size in this study?
 - a. What statistical method was used to calculate sample size?
 - b. What rate of dropout was assumed?
9. What were the outcome measures in the trial?
10. What methods of statistical analyses were used to assess the effect of the intervention?
11. Some outcome data was missing at 12 months.
 - a. Calculate the dropout rate for each treatment.
 - b. What is the implication of this?
 - c. What analysis were carried out to investigate this?
12. What conclusions did the researchers make from the trial?
13. Do you agree or disagree with the conclusions?
14. Do you think the researchers have satisfactorily answered their question?