

Michael Harris

Subject: RE: Critical appraisal session

From: Bill Irish
Sent: 05 October 2004 21:36
To: Bath/Swindon DRC
Subject: Critical appraisal session

Dear first termers,

Wednesday 13th in Bath we are spending the afternoon tackling critical appraisal again. The session will be a follow on from the one we did in Urchfont. The second termers are tackling qualitative research with Jane and Martyn instead.

I will be distributing a paper for you tomorrow to appraise critically from the NEJM. The reference is:

The Boston area anticoagulation trial for atrial fibrillation investigators. The effect of low-dose warfarin on the risk of stroke in patients with non-rheumatic atrial fibrillation. NEJM 1990. 22, 1505-1510.

This (you will find) was one of the crucial papers which underpins the modern management of atrial fibrillation. Its consequences still impinge very significantly on your workload as a GP. For those of you who don't make it tomorrow I will leave a copy with Paula if you want it faxed.

In order to do this I usually find that an aide-memoire to CAPS (critical appraisal skills) helps. I append my version which I cobbled together from several sources a few years back. I have attached this as a Word document. Running through the paper with this will take 30-40 minutes and there will unfortunately be **no time to do this on the day**, so please do prepare it beforehand.

Any problems get back to me. Sadly I cant put anything on the website till Michael returns from Italy.
L&K

Bill