

## Adapting ROB tables with CBRG criteria

**Characteristics of Included Studies Properties**

General Risk of bias tables

- Adequate sequence generation
- Allocation concealment?
- Blinding?
- Incomplete outcome data
- Free of selective reporting
- Free of other bias?
- Similarity at baseline characteristics
- Co-interventions avoided
- Compliance acceptable?
- Timing outcome assessment

Activated

Item: Adequate sequence generation?

Full Question: Was the allocation sequence adequately generated?

Level: Study level

Groups

Outcome Group	Add	Delete
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Outcome

Add Delete

OK Cancel

In order to activate the ROB tables, you must enter information into the Characteristics of included studies table for one study. Note that you just have to adapt the ROB table once and it will automatically apply to all subsequent studies. However, once you 'deactivate' a criteria, you will lose data and have to re-enter it.

The sources in blue must be 'activated' by checking the box. The item and full question are already in place.

## Adapting ROB tables with CBRG criteria

The screenshot shows the 'Characteristics of Included Studies Properties' dialog box, specifically the 'Risk of bias tables' tab. The left pane lists various items, with 'Blinding?' highlighted in blue. The right pane shows the 'Risk of bias tables' section, which is 'Activated'. The 'Item' is 'Blinding?', the 'Full Question' is 'Was knowledge of the allocated interventions adequately prevented during', and the 'Level' is 'Outcome level'. Below this is a 'Groups' table with three entries: 'All outcomes - patients?', 'All outcomes - providers?', and 'All outcomes - outcome assessors?'. The 'Outcome' table is empty. The dialog has 'Add' and 'Delete' buttons at the bottom left and 'OK' and 'Cancel' buttons at the bottom right.

Outcome Group
All outcomes - patients?
All outcomes - providers?
All outcomes - outcome assessors?

Outcome
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An exception to this is the item on blinding, which will not 'activate' until outcomes are added (indicates that it is assessed at the outcome level). The CBRG asks that you at least add these three outcomes (corresponding with items 3, 4, and 5)

## Adapting ROB tables with CBRG criteria

**Characteristics of Included Studies Properties**

**General** | **Risk of bias tables**

- Adequate sequence generation?
- Allocation concealment?
- Blinding?
- Incomplete outcome data addressed?
- Free of selective reporting?
- Free of other bias?
- Similarity at baseline characteristics?
- Co-interventions avoided?
- Compliance acceptable?
- Timing outcome assessment appropriate?

Activated

Item: Incomplete outcome data addressed?

Full Question: Were incomplete outcome data adequately addressed?

Level: Outcome level

Groups

Outcome Group
All outcomes - drop-outs?
All outcomes - ITT analysis?

Add Delete

Outcome

Add Delete

OK Cancel

Another exception to this is the item on incomplete data. The CBRG asks that you at least add these two outcomes (corresponding with items 6 & 7 under 'sources of bias'). If there is a difference for different measurement time-points, these should be added – e.g. short-term drop-outs may be acceptable, while long-term drop-outs are not – this should be identified.

## Adapting ROB tables with CBRG criteria

The screenshot shows the 'Characteristics of Included Studies Properties' dialog box, specifically the 'Risk of bias tables' tab. On the left, a list of criteria is shown with checkboxes: 'Adequate sequence generation', 'Allocation concealment?', 'Blinding?', 'Incomplete outcome data', 'Free of selective reporting', 'Free of other bias?', 'Similarity at baseline characteristics', 'Co-interventions avoided', 'Compliance acceptable?', and 'Timing outcome assessment'. The 'Similarity at baseline characteristics' criterion is selected. The main area contains a form for this criterion: 'Activated' is checked; 'Item' is 'Similarity at baseline characteristics?'; 'Full Question' is 'In order to receive a "yes", groups have to be similar at baseline regarding'; 'Level' is 'Study level'; and there is an empty 'Groups' table with 'Add' and 'Delete' buttons. At the bottom, there are 'Add' and 'Delete' buttons for the list, and 'OK' and 'Cancel' buttons.

Criteria 9, 10, 11 & 12 fall under the question 'free from other bias?'. They are added by clicking the 'add' button on the left side of the table. You must type in the question & the full question. This information is provided in the CBRG criteria and can be copied directly.

## Adapting ROB tables with CBRG criteria

Risk of bias table		
Item	Judgment	Description
Adequate sequence generation?	Yes	
Allocation concealment?	Yes	A - Adequate
Blinding? (All outcomes - patients?)	Yes	
Blinding? (All outcomes - providers?)	Yes	
Blinding? (All outcomes - outcome assessors?)	Yes	
Incomplete outcome data addressed? (All outcomes - drop-outs?)	No	
Incomplete outcome data addressed? (All outcomes - ITT analysis?)	Yes	
Similarity at baseline characteristics?	Yes	
Co-interventions avoided or similar?	Unclear	
Compliance acceptable?	Yes	
Timing outcome assessments similar?	Yes	

Once the criteria are adapted, you turn to this view of the ROB table and enter your judgement and justification from the article, as per the Handbook.