

Appendix. Article items extracted for analysis

1. The presence of an acronym in the articles title
2. The presence of a 'Keyword' section
3. The presence information relating to IRB/ethics approval
4. The number of references
5. Information relating to conflicts of interest (regardless of its status)
6. Author contributions
7. The presence of external funding
8. The study's country/countries of origin
9. First author gender
10. Study design
11. The presence of a sample size calculation
12. The sample size
13. The presence of convenience sampling
14. The presence of consecutive sampling
15. Number of references
16. Multi-centre vs Single-centre
17. International study
18. Blinding
19. The types of statistical tests used (None, Descriptive or Inferential)
20. Confidence interval use
21. P-value use