



# Evaluating Innovations

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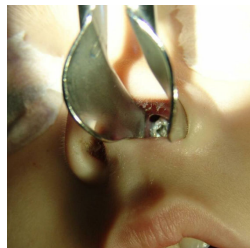
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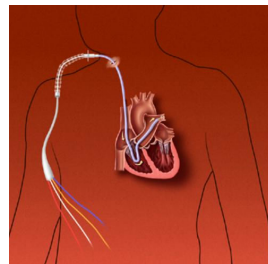
Glucometer



Home INR monitor



"Mother's Kiss"



Swan-Ganz catheter



# Most innovations don't work

"Young man, why would I feel like a failure? And why would I ever give up? I now know definitively over 9,000 ways that an electric light bulb will not work. Success is almost in my grasp."

Thomas Edison

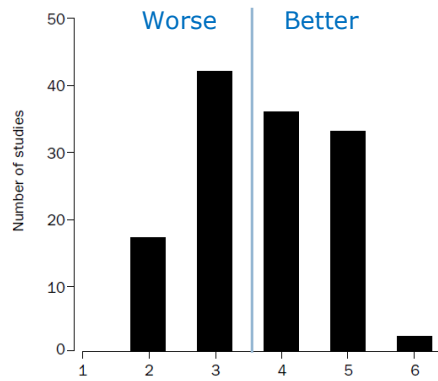


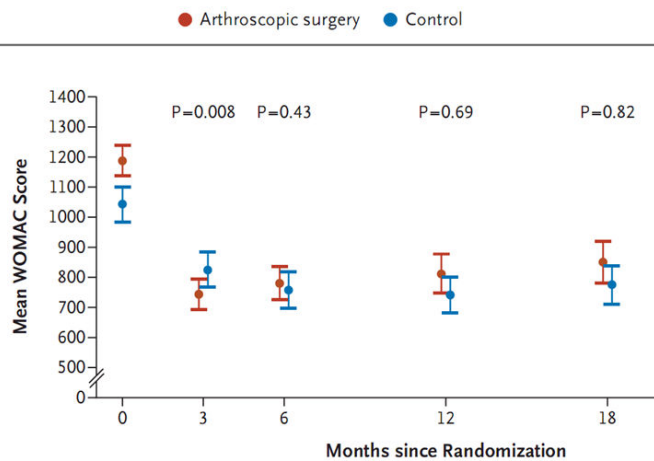
Figure 1: Distribution of scores evaluating success of innovative therapies over standard ones in 136 randomized trials in multiple myeloma

Scores from 4-6 denote that innovative treatments were better, while scores 1 to 3 indicate that standard treatments were preferred.

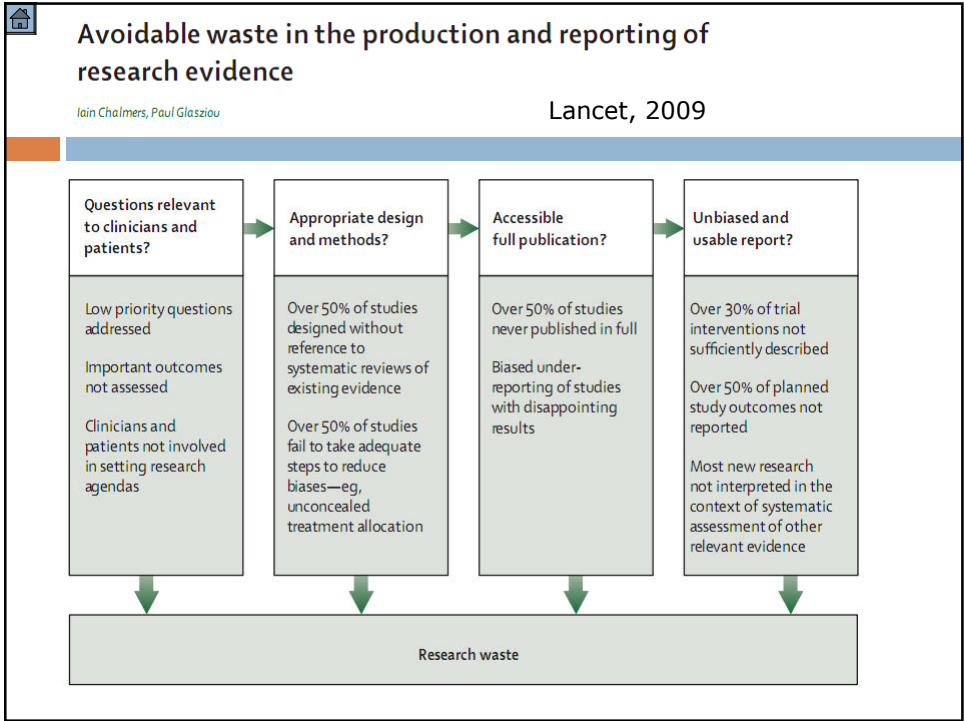
THE LANCET • Vol 356 • August 19, 2000



# Arthroscopic lavage for osteoarthritis



Kirkley, NEJM 2008



## Repository of intervention descriptions is needed

### A “Handbook” of Non-Drug Interventions

**HANDI**  
Handbook of evidence-based non-drug interventions

*The handbook was developed as a reference for the practical use of evidence-based non-pharmacological treatments.*

Home | About Handi | Submit a Treatment | Join | Blog | Contact

**HANDI NAVIGATOR**

Search  
Enter keyword

Select condition

Type of treatment

Top-ten treatments

**Join HANDI for FREE**

HANDI is a free resource for doctors and patients. It aims to provide detailed descriptions of evidence-based non-drug treatments for medical conditions.

Use the HANDI navigator to search the database by keyword, condition, treatment type, and most popular treatments. The information included in HANDI has been submitted by Hands Trusted Authors and is supported by the appropriate evidence.

[More info & JOIN](#)

**FEATURED TREATMENTS**

- The Mother's Kiss for relieving nasal congestion in children
- Lifestyle Measures for Esophageal Reflux
- Watchful waiting for inguinal hernia
- Modified Epiley
- Self-help book for Irritable Bowel Syndrome

Benefits of joining HANDI:

- Alert emails that notify you when a new treatment is added to HANDI in your area of interest
- Submit responses to treatment
- Become a Trusted HANDI author

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## Are RCTs always needed for treatment questions?

- Some immediate & dramatic effects don't need RCTs\*
  
- Example:
- Child with nasal foreign body
  - ▣ Dislodged with Parent Kiss method
  - ▣ Case series of success 15/19
    - Botma J Laryngol Otol 2000



\* Glasziou, Chalmers, Rawlins, McCulloch BMJ 2007