

Certification in Urogynaecology (CU) Research-based Discussion (RbD) Information for Assessors



The Royal Australian
and New Zealand
College of Obstetricians
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General Information

Thank you for agreeing to act as an Assessor for this Urogynaecology Trainee's Research-based Discussion (RbD) assessment. RbD evaluates a trainee's analytical skills relating to current research by allowing them to engage in a discussion with you regarding the selected research article.

Prior to the Discussion

The Trainee's Training Supervisor will have contacted you to request your participation in the RbD assessment process. Once you have agreed to participate at the RbD meeting your preferred contact details will be given to the trainee. The trainee will liaise directly with you regarding a suitable date, time and format for the RbD.

Once the RbD meeting has been arranged the trainee will forward you the three research articles that they have chosen to evaluate and completed RbD Summary Templates for each article. Each Summary Template will identify the article; provide a general overview of the research and include a brief (between 50 – 100 words) analysis of four of the eight criteria in relation to the research article.

You are asked to select one of the three research articles forwarded to you as the focus of your discussion with the trainee. The trainee will bring a copy of each of the three research articles and Summary Templates to help refresh their memory prior to the discussion.

Discussion Format

The discussion can take place face-to-face, using Skype or telephone. The discussion should be structured i.e. ask prompt questions that address each of the identified (four) criteria in a sequenced and logical order, however, the discussion can be undertaken in a relaxed/informal manner. It is not a formal examination. The RbD should not take longer than 30 minutes.

RbD Suggested Questions

At the conclusion of this document you will find a list of Suggested Questions, grouped against each criterion, which you can use as a prompt to assist in the discussion. You do not, however, have to ask every question listed against the trainee's four chosen criterion: you may choose to use some or none of the listed questions and you are free to ask your own questions* if you feel this will enable the trainee to analyse the article in greater depth.

*Please remember that, although informal, this is still an assessment requirement for the trainee so any questions that you have developed for use in the discussion must be fair, reasonable, valid and relevant to the research article being discussed.

The RbD Assessment Form

You need to complete the RbD Assessment Form and sign it along with the trainee once they have completed the assessment process. The trainee is responsible for forwarding a copy of the completed Assessment form to their Training Supervisor.

RbD Feedback

An important component of the RbD meeting is the post assessment review of the strengths and weaknesses of the trainee's analysis of the research article can be explored. This should take no more than 5 minutes.

Suggested Research-based Discussion Questions for Assessors

Assessors Please Note: These questions are a guide only. You may choose to use some of them during the RbD or you can devise your own to more accurately reflect the research article being discussed

Criteria	Suggested Questions
Aims of research and / or hypothesis	<p>Are the research aims clearly stated? Is the research objective specific in nature and measureable? Are the research objectives / hypothesis poorly focused or underdeveloped? Did the author(s) adequately justify their rationale for this study? Is the value of this research study clearly articulated? In what way will this research be of value? Is the scope of this study too broad / too narrow? Was the literature review thorough? Did the literature review demonstrate an obvious gap in the literature? Did the literature review identify previous studies where results were inconclusive? Did the literature review identify previous studies where the research design was inappropriate? Does this study define the research variables? Is the current study given perspective? Has the literature review looked at an appropriate selection of literature? (e.g.: empirical studies, reports, articles that evaluate or propose a theory)</p>
Research methodology or protocols	<p>Is the chosen methodology appropriate for this study? Is the methodology selected for this study the most effective/appropriate to achieve the study aims? What was the methodological focus for this study? Was the methodological focus for this study supported by the literature? Is there a sound defence of the methodological choice? What are the strengths and weaknesses of the research methodology used in this study? Are study variables addressed in the research design? Does this study define the research variables? How are variables in the subject criteria addressed? Were the study protocols appropriate/ adequate for this research? Was subject eligibility for this study appropriate? Was the subject selection criteria clearly stated and adhered to in the study? Was the method for obtaining consent appropriate? Was the method of data collection used in this study appropriate? Is randomisation conducted appropriately in this research study? Are the protocols regarding blinding in this trial appropriately addressed? Are possible/probable interventions adequately addressed in this study? Does this study clearly articulate data collection methods? Were the selection criteria for research participants appropriate/ limiting/ too broad? Were the sampling techniques appropriate for this study?</p>

<p>Statistical analysis</p>	<p>Does the data lack validity/power/precision due to sample size? Does the data lack validity/power/precision due to erroneous sample selection? Is there a reason that the data lacks validity/power/precision? Is there any data that is statistically significant? Were there any significant statistical trends? Were the statistical methods used in this study suitable for data analysis? Was subgroup analysis undertaken? Is study bias evident from the statistical analysis? Are there confounding factors that have impacted on the statistical analysis? Was data managed appropriately? (Privacy considerations?) Was the method of data analysis selected appropriate? Why? How were all necessary assumption met in this study? Do you have any concerns around the accuracy of the statistical data used in this study? Have the author(s) included an analysis of primary and secondary outcomes? Why was this necessary? Have the baseline values of key variables been included? Are bias and confounding factors noted in the study results? How have the authors explained/ discussed the statistically significant data?</p>
<p>Presentation of results</p>	<p>Are results presented as a logical progression of ideas? Was there a clear description provided of the methods used in this study? Have the authors explained/discussed the statistically significant data? Are the significant statistical trends adequately explained/ discussed in this study? Does this study compare its results to previously reported studies? Has the author(s) avoided using jargon and inappropriate abbreviations? How appropriate is the presentation of data? (Good/effective use of graphs and charts) Were the results appropriately interpreted or could you infer a different conclusion from the results given? Were alternative explanations provided (where appropriate) to explain the results? Were the results effectively related back to the original hypotheses?</p>
<p>Conclusion and validity</p>	<p>Do you have any concerns regarding the validity or veracity of the study results? What are these and why? Does this study adequately link the data analysis to the original research question and adequately explain how the data supports / refutes the original hypotheses? Is this a valid research study? Is the study conclusion a valid interpretation of the evidence provided in the study? What are the theoretical implications of this study?</p>
<p>Proposed changes to research methods or research plan</p>	<p>What changes to the methodological framework would you make in this study? What suggestions would you make to improve the literature review conducted as part of this study? How would you improve the study design? What data collection methods would you include to improve this research? What changes to the research methods used in this study would you make to improve this research? Can you suggest changes to the eligibility criteria of participants to improve the study? What research methodology would you have chosen if you believe this one is not suitable? What variables do you believe should have been included / removed in this study to improve it?</p>

Implications for clinical practice	How could the findings of this study be generalised to your own practice or unit? What reservations about this study would you have before considering its findings potentially advantageous to your own practice? Are there limitations in this study? What are those limitations? Do the limitations in this study mean that its findings will not impact on your current practice?
Implications for further research	Are there aspects of this study that require further research? Why? What aspects of this study warrant further research? Would you use the same research methodology and methods if you undertook further research?