

Experiments and Observational Studies

Abstract 1

After reading the abstract of “Meditation or Exercise for Preventing Acute Respiratory Infection: A Randomized Controlled Trial”, answer the following questions:

1. Is this an observational study or an experiment?
2. What are the explanatory and response variables?
3. In what way was randomization used in the study?
4. What were the treatments used in the study?
5. What sources of bias might be present?
6. Was there any evidence of blinding?
7. What did the study conclude?

Abstract 2

After reading the abstract of “Association of Coffee Drinking with Total and Cause-Specific Mortality”, answer the following questions:

- 1. Is this an observational study or an experiment?**
- 2. Is the study prospective or retrospective?**
- 3. What are the explanatory and response variables?**
- 4. How did the authors adjust for possible sources of confounding?**
- 5. What did the study conclude?**