<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th><strong>Table 2. Questions for Study Evaluation -- Part 1</strong></th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>A. UNBLINDED REVIEW</strong></td>
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| **Source of the Information** | Was the paper published in a peer reviewed journal or, if not, was the study reviewed by some other group?  
Is the purpose of the trial indicated in the publication?  
If unpublished information from the investigator is required, are there problems of recall or missing information?  
Are the investigators well qualified to undertake the study?  
Are all institutional affiliations identified?  
When was the information collected? |
| **Funding** | How was the study funded?  
If outside funding was used, what was the role of the funding agency?  
Were the investigators independent of the sponsoring agency?  
Did the investigators have any financial interest in the outcome? |
| **B. BLINDED REVIEW** |
| **Study Design** | Is the design described?  
Is the design appropriate to the study questions?  
Are there clear inclusion and exclusion criteria?  
Are the procedures for randomization (if appropriate) and blinding described?  
Are experimental methods, such as dosages and treatment schedules clearly defined? |
| **Study Outcomes** | Are the outcomes clearly defined, including methods of measurement?  
Do the outcome measures answer the study questions?  
If the study is unpublished, is the investigator willing to assure that this is final, clean data? |
| **Study Subjects** | Did the subjects meet the inclusion/exclusion criteria?  
Are methods of diagnosis defined and reliable?  
Are demographics for all subject groups included? |
| **Controls** | If there are parallel controls, are they comparable to the subjects?  
If it is a crossover study, is there sufficient wash-out time?  
If historical controls are used is the data of good quality from known sources?  Can it be determined that they are comparable to the subjects?  
If population parameters, e.g. norms, are used, how were they derived and were they from subjects comparable to the study population? |
<table>
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| **Study implementation** | Were inclusion and exclusion criteria strictly adhered to?  
Were the randomization schedule followed and the blinding maintained?  
Are non-compliant subjects and subjects dropping-out accounted for?  
In a multi-group study, were the groups comparable at baseline for prognostic factors?  
How was inter-rater reliability achieved and evaluated (this is particularly important for multi-center studies)?  
Have test methods, population demographics and/or reporting methods changed since the study was implemented? |
| **Treatment Protocol** | Were the treatment regimens followed?  
Were there concomitant medications taken?  
Was there a high rate of drop-outs or non-compliant subjects? |
| **Methods** | Were the laboratory methods known to be accurate and are they still considered valid?  
Were all assays done in the same laboratory using the same methods? If not, what steps were taken to assure inter-assay reliability?  
Have social and psychological scales been validated? |
| **Statistics** | Are the analytic methods clearly described and appropriate for the data and study design?  
Are summary statistics needed for the meta-analysis in the paper or available from the investigator? |