Reviewer's report

Title: Are decision trees a feasible knowledge representation to guide extraction of critical information from randomized controlled trial reports?

Version: 2  Date: 14 August 2008

Reviewer: Nancy Wilczynski

Reviewer's report:

General

The aim of this study was to conduct an exploratory analysis of RCT abstracts to investigate the feasibility of using decision trees as a semantic structure. The authors set out to answer 4 specific research questions outlined in the Methods section of the paper. The authors have revised the manuscript based on reviewers’ comments. The manuscript has been improved.

Major Compulsory Revisions (that the author must respond to before a decision on publication can be reached)

None

Minor Essential Revisions (such as missing labels on figures, or the wrong use of a term, which the author can be trusted to correct)

First sentence on page 22 should be changed to “Most abstracts found in the retrieval of citations after a search in the Medline database using the publication type randomized controlled trial were primary reports....”

The final sentence on page 22 should include the word “to” after “need”.

Discretionary Revisions (which the author can choose to ignore)

None

Level of interest: An article whose findings are important to those with closely related research interests

Quality of written English: Acceptable

Statistical review: No, the manuscript does not need to be seen by a statistician.
Declaration of competing interests:

I declare that I have no competing interests.