Critical Appraisal Questions:

“Point of care troponin decreases time in the emergency department for patients with possible acute coronary syndrome: a randomised controlled trial.” Loten et al, Emerg Med J 2010;27:194-198.

1. Identify the study design, and is it appropriate for this type of study? List three advantages of this design and discuss their applicability to this paper.
2. What is bias? What are three types of bias?
3. What selection bias is apparent in this study?
4. What is allocation concealment?
5. Have the investigators taken any steps to control for selection bias?
6. Using the JADAD scoring system, score this trial’s internal validity.
7. How could the internal validity of this study be improved?
8. What is meant by “intention to treat analysis” and how is it applied in this study?
9. Why is it useful?
10. Name 3 specific weaknesses of this study.
11. Is this study applicable to your practice? Why? Why not?