



ROYAL COLLEGE OF  
PHYSICIANS AND  
SURGEONS OF GLASGOW



# Intercollegiate Specialty Fellowship Examination

## Part A

### Oral Medicine

### Critical Appraisal

**Note: Parts of the sections within the original article are not relevant to this examination and have been redacted. Including parts of the abstract, introduction, pages 134, 135 and 136.**

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**Intercollegiate Specialty Fellowship Examination in Oral Medicine  
Part A**

**Extract - 26 marks**

Jorgensen, M.R. and Pedersen, A.M.L. (2017). Analgesic effect of topical capsaicin gel in burning mouth syndrome. *Acta Odontologica Scandinavica* (2); 130-136. DOI: 10.1080/00016357.2016.1269191.

[Analgesic effect of topical oral capsaicin gel in burning mouth syndrome - Result \(ku.dk\)](#)

1. This is an example of a randomised, double blind, crossover study. Discuss whether the study design was appropriate to answer the research question, providing your rationale. **(4 marks)**
  
2.
  - a) Define the term null hypothesis (1 mark)
  - b) What would be an appropriate null hypothesis for this study? **(2 marks)****(3 marks total)**
  
3. Discuss the adequacy of the inclusion and exclusion criteria for the study. Give your reasoning. **(4 marks)**
  
4. The authors use computer-generated randomisation allocation. What other methods of randomisation could have been used? **(3 marks)**
  
5. Suggest two additional investigations which could have been included as part of the clinical assessment. **(2 marks)**
  
6. The authors set alpha at 0.05 and beta at 0.8. What do these terms mean? **(2 marks)**
  
7. Provide four comments on the results as presented in the paper. **(4 marks)**
  
8. Suggest four ways in which the study design can be improved. **(4 marks)**

**Total Marks for Extract = 26**