CoxHealth

Library Services

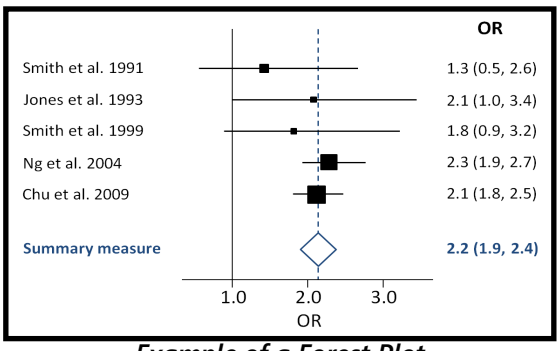
Evidence Based Limits for CINAHL Publication Types in order by strength

Need help searching for EB Literature?

Limiting a CINAHL Search to Retrieve Evidence Based Articles

Meta-Analysis

- Often an overview of clinical trials and is usually called a meta-analysis by the author or sponsoring body.
- Combines the results of independent studies performed to evaluate therapeutic effectiveness, plan new studies, etc.
- Article always contains a "Plot" such as a *Forest Plot* or *Funnel Plot* to provide a visual representation of important information from all studies included in the meta-analysis.
- Sometimes misused as a synonym for systematic reviews. Should be differentiated from reviews of literature.

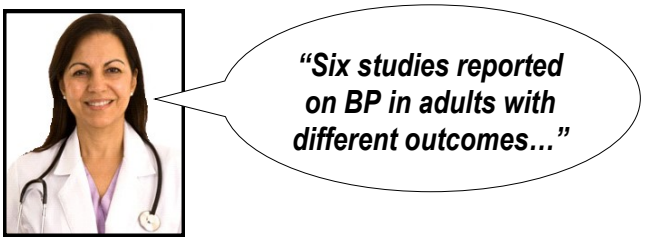


Example of a Forest Plot

Example: The Effect of Supervised Prenatal Exercise on Fetal Growth: A Meta-analysis. *Obstetrics & Gynecology, 125*(5), 1185-1194.

Systematic Review

Presents the current state of knowledge on a topic as a result of reviewing and synthesizing published research on the topic.



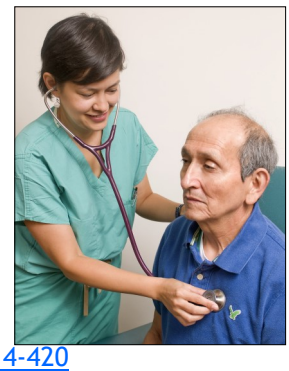
Example: Musculoskeletal disorder and pain associated with smartphone use: A systematic review of biomechanical evidence. *Hong Kong Physiotherapy Journal*, Dec;38(2):77-90.

Standards

- A formal standard of practice or position paper issued by a professional organization.

Example: Fruit Juice in Infants, Children, and Adolescents: Current Recommendations. *Pediatrics*, Jun2017; 139(6): 1-8.

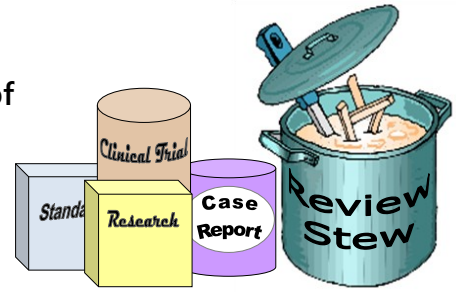
Practice Guidelines



- Works consisting of a set of directions or principles to assist the health care practitioner with patient care decisions about appropriate diagnostic, therapeutic, or other clinical procedures for specific clinical circumstances.
- Practice guidelines may be developed by government agencies, institutions, professional societies or governing boards, or by a convening of expert panels.

Example: Screening for gestational diabetes mellitus: U.S. Preventive services task force recommendation statement. *Annals Of Internal Medicine*, *160*(6), 414-420

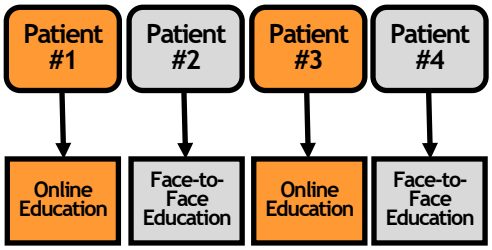
Review



- Indicates a review of the published literature that can cover a wide range of subject matter of various levels of completeness or comprehensiveness.
- The presence of research findings or case reports does not preclude designation as a review.

Example: Migraine Treatment: Current Acute Medications and Their Potential Mechanisms of Action. *Neurotherapeutics* , (2018) 15:274-290.

Randomized Controlled Trial



- At least one test treatment and one control treatment.
- Participants are assigned to the test group or the control group using randomization. For example, every odd-numbered patient may receive the test treatment, while the others receive current standard treatment.

Example: Improving Adolescent Parenting: Results From a Randomized Controlled Trial of a Home Visiting Program for Young Families. *American Journal Of Public Health*, 106(2), 342-349.

Research

- An original research study containing data collection, methodology, discussion of results, etc.

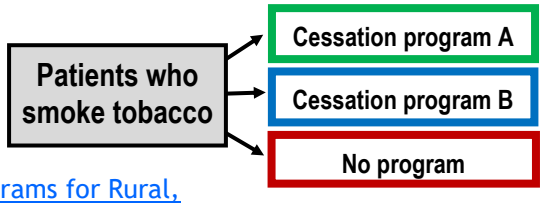
Example: Walking performance in adolescents and young adults with Down syndrome: the role of obesity and sleep problems. *Journal of Intellectual Disability Research*, 62(4): 339-348.

Sections Usually Found in a Research Article

- Introduction/Background
- Methods/Procedure
- Results
- Conclusions/Discussion
- References

Clinical Trial

- Indicates the research study is a clinical trial, a randomized clinical trial, or a randomized controlled trial.



Example: A Pilot Study of Home-Based Smoking Cessation Programs for Rural, Appalachian, Pregnant Smokers. *JOGNN*, *44*(2), 236-245

Case Study

- Indicates a review of a particular condition, disease, or administrative problem. Includes case reports.

Example: An Atypical Case of Abdominal Pain in a Toddler: A Diagnostic Challenge. Advanced Emergency Nursing Journal, 41(3), 215-221

Publication Types in Order by Strength of Evidence	Publication Types in Alphabetical Order
• Systematic Review • Meta-Analysis • Standards • Practice Guidelines • Review • Randomized Controlled Trial • Research • Clinical Trial • Case Study	• Case Study • Clinical Trial • Meta-Analysis • Practice Guidelines • Randomized Controlled Trial • Research • Review • Standards • Systematic Review

References:

- CINAHL Document Types – https://www.ebscohost.com/resources/cinahl-plus-with-full-text/lma/document-types.htm
- Cochrane Glossary - https://epoc.cochrane.org/sites/epoc.cochrane.org/files/public/uploads/SURE-Guides-v2.1/Collectedfiles/source/glossary.html
- Forest Plot—By James Grellier (Own work) [CC BY-SA 3.0 (https://creativecommons.org/licenses/by-sa/3.0) or GFDL (http://www.gnu.org/copyleft/fdl.html)], via Wikimedia Commons
- NLM Scope Notes - http://www.nlm.nih.gov/mesh/pubtypes.html

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