**Project/Topic of your Clinical Question:**

**Reviewer:**

**Today's Date:**

**Final Evidence Level:**

**Article Title:**

**Year:**

**First Author:**

**Journal:**

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**Do the study aim/purpose/objectives and inclusion/exclusion criteria assist in answering your clinical question?**

- [ ] Yes
- [ ] No
- [ ] Unknown

- **Study Aim/Purpose/Objectives:**

- **Inclusion Criteria:**

- **Exclusion Criteria:**

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When reading the bolded questions, consider the bulleted questions to help answer the main question.

If you are uncertain of your skills in evidence evaluation, please consult a local evidence expert for assistance:

- **CCHMC Evidence Experts:** [http://groups/ce/NewEBC/EBDMHelp.htm](http://groups/ce/NewEBC/EBDMHelp.htm)

Unfamiliar terms can be found in the LEGEND Glossary: [http://groups/ce/NewEBC/EBCFiles/GLOSSARY-EBDM.pdf](http://groups/ce/NewEBC/EBCFiles/GLOSSARY-EBDM.pdf)

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### VALIDITY: ARE THE RESULTS OF THE SYSTEMATIC REVIEW / META–ANALYSIS VALID OR CREDIBLE?

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Question</th>
<th>Yes</th>
<th>No</th>
<th>Unknown</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1. Did the overview address a focused clinical question?</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Comments:</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>2. Was the search for relevant studies detailed and exhaustive?</td>
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<tr>
<td>- Was it unlikely that important, relevant studies were missed?</td>
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<td><strong>Comments:</strong></td>
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<td>3. Were the included studies appraised and assigned a high level of quality?</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Comments:</strong></td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>4. Were the methods consistent or homogeneous from study to study, such as the bullets below?</td>
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<tr>
<td>- Did the overview describe the study populations at a well-defined point in the course of disease?</td>
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<tr>
<td>- Were the participants sufficiently similar (homogeneous) with respect to known factors of interest (e.g., demographic, exposure, risk, treatment, or etiology)?</td>
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<tr>
<td>- Were similar objective and unbiased outcome criteria used?</td>
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<td><strong>Comments:</strong></td>
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<td>5. Was there freedom from conflict of interest?</td>
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<tr>
<td>- Sponsor/Funding Agency or Investigators</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Comments:</strong></td>
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</tbody>
</table>
RELIABILITY: ARE THESE VALID STUDY RESULTS IMPORTANT?

6. Were the statistical analysis methods appropriate? [ ] Yes [ ] No [ ] Unknown
   • Were the statistical analysis methods clearly described?
   • If subgroups were evaluated, was a statistical adjustment made for the differences?
     Comments:

7. What are the main results of the study? (e.g., Helpful data: Page #, Table #, Figures, Graphs)
   • For an Etiology Study: How strong is the association/correlation between exposure and outcome?
   • For a Prevalence or Incidence Study: What is the rate?
     (e.g., number per population [prevalence] or number per population per year or other time period [incidence])
   • What were the measures of statistical uncertainty (e.g., precision)?
     (Were the results presented with Confidence Intervals or Standard Deviations?)

8. Were the results statistically significant? [ ] Yes [ ] No [ ] Unknown
   Comments:

9. Were the results clinically significant? [ ] Yes [ ] No [ ] Unknown
   Comments:

APPLICABILITY: CAN I APPLY THESE VALID, IMPORTANT STUDY RESULTS TO TREATING MY PATIENTS?

10. Can the results be applied to my population of interest? [ ] Yes [ ] No [ ] Unknown
    • Do the exposures or outcomes apply to my population or question of interest?
    • Were the participants or populations in this study similar to my population of interest?
      Comments:

11. Are my patient’s and family’s values and preferences satisfied by the knowledge gained from this study (such as outcomes considered)? [ ] Yes [ ] No [ ] Unknown
    Comments:
12. Would you include this study/article in development of a care recommendation? ☐ Yes ☐ No ☐ Unknown

Comments:

ADDITIONAL COMMENTS OR CONCLUSIONS (“TAKE-HOME POINTS”):

QUALITY LEVEL / EVIDENCE LEVEL

- Consider each “No” answer and the degree to which this limitation is a threat to the validity of the results, then check the appropriate box to assign the level of quality for this study/article.
- Consider an “Unknown” answer to one or more questions as a similar limitation to answering “No,” if the information is not available in the article.

THE EVIDENCE LEVEL IS: ☐ Good Quality Systematic Review [1a]
☐ Lesser Quality Systematic Review [1b]
☐ Not Valid, Reliable, or Applicable

Table of Evidence Levels

| TYPE OF STUDY / STUDY DESIGN | Systematic Review Meta-Analysis | RCT | CCT | Cohort – Prospective | Cohort – Retrospective | Case – Control | Cross – Sectional | Descriptive Study | Epidemiology | Case Series | 2/3/4 | Case Reports N-of-1 Study | Economic Analysis | Computer Simulation | Guidelines | Case Reports Published Abstracts | Published Expert Opinion | Local Consensus | Published Abstracts |
|------------------------------|--------------------------------|-----|-----|----------------------|-----------------------|---------------|------------------|-------------------|---------------|-------------|-------|----------------------------|-------------------|---------------------|-------------|--------------------------|------------------|-------------------|
| Etiology / Risk Factors      | 1a                             | 2a  | 3a  | 3a/3b                | 3a/3b                 | 3a/3b         | 3a/3b           | 3a/3b             | 3a/3b         | 3a/3b       | 3a/3b | 3a/3b                       | 3a/3b             | 3a/3b               | 3a/3b       | 3a/3b                     | 3a/3b             | 3a/3b               |
| Incidence                    | 1a                             | 1b  | 2b  | 2a/2b                | 2a/2b                 | 2a/2b         | 2a/2b           | 2a/2b             | 2a/2b         | 2a/2b       | 2a/2b | 2a/2b                       | 2a/2b             | 2a/2b               | 2a/2b       | 2a/2b                     | 2a/2b             | 2a/2b               |
| Prevalence                   | 1a                             | 1b  |     | 3a/3b                | 3a/3b                 | 3a/3b         | 3a/3b           | 3a/3b             | 3a/3b         | 3a/3b       | 3a/3b | 3a/3b                       | 3a/3b             | 3a/3b               | 3a/3b       | 3a/3b                     | 3a/3b             | 3a/3b               |

* RCT = Randomized Controlled Trial; CCT = Controlled Clinical Trial

Development for this appraisal form is based on: