



PubMed Clinical Queries Systematic Review

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Ebling Library, University of Wisconsin-Madison

This feature is provided to help health professionals locate systematic reviews and similar articles. It combines your search term(s) with citations identified as systematic reviews, meta-analyses, reviews of clinical trials, evidence-based medicine, consensus development conferences, and guidelines. Citations from journals specializing in clinical review studies are also included.

To Search

1. Click on the **Clinical Queries** link on the left navigation bar
2. Click on **Find Systematic Reviews** or scroll down to Systematic Review section:



Find Systematic Reviews

For your topic(s) of interest, this search finds citations for systematic reviews, meta-analyses, reviews of clinical trials, evidence-based medicine, consensus development conferences, and guidelines.


For more information, see [Help](#). See also [related sources](#) for systematic review searching.

Search

3. Enter a search query in the search box. You may use operators (AND, OR).
4. Click on the **Go** button.
5. After running a search, you can apply limits to the retrieval set, if desired. Alternatively, this filter can be used directly in a PubMed search by inserting “AND systematic [sb]” within a search query:



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The Strategy Used for the Filter

The filter works by combining the user's search term(s) with citations that were retrieved by PubMed's Systematic Reviews search strategy:

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(systematic review [ti] OR meta-analysis [pt] OR meta-analysis [ti] OR systematic literature review [ti]
OR (systematic review [tiab] AND review [pt]) OR consensus development conference [pt] OR practice guideline [pt]
OR cochrane database syst rev OR acp journal club OR health technol assess OR evid rep technol assess summ)
OR
((evidence based[ti] OR evidence-based medicine [mh] OR best practice* [ti] OR evidence synthesis [tiab])
AND
(review [pt] OR diseases category[mh] OR behavior and behavior mechanisms [mh] OR therapeutics [mh]
OR evaluation studies[pt] OR validation studies[pt] OR guideline [pt]))
OR
((systematic [tw] OR systematically OR critical [tiab] OR (study selection [tw]) OR (predetermined OR
inclusion AND criteri*) OR exclusion criteri* OR "main outcome measures" OR "standard of care" OR "standards of care")
AND
(survey [tiab] OR surveys [tiab] OR overview* OR review [tiab] OR reviews [tiab] OR search* OR handsearch
OR analysis [tiab] OR critique [tiab] OR appraisal OR (reduction AND risk AND (death OR recurrence)))
AND
(literature [tiab] OR articles [tiab] OR publications [tiab] OR publication [tiab] OR bibliography [tiab]
OR bibliographies [tiab] OR published [tiab] OR unpublished OR citation OR citations OR database [tiab]
OR internet [tiab] OR textbooks [tiab] OR references OR scales [tw] OR papers [tw] OR datasets OR trials [tiab]
OR meta-analy* [tw] OR (clinical [tiab] AND studies [tiab]) OR treatment outcome)
NOT
(case report [ti] OR letter [pt] OR newspaper article [pt] OR comment [pt])
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Review vs. Systematic Review. What is the Difference? (from *NLM Technical Bulletin*, Jan-Feb 2002, #324)

Whereas review articles are generally an examination of the literature from the author's perspective, a systematic review can be thought of as a study design that includes some or all of the following characteristics:

- One or more questions or hypotheses are posed at the start of the review.
- Publications/study results in the subject area are collected, sometimes limited to a particular type (e.g., literature reviews, randomized controlled trials), and are often obtained from specific sources (e.g., databases, bibliographies).
- Criteria are used to include or exclude studies found in #2 for the actual review. This step is often referred to as the "study selection."
- Data extracted from the selected studies are combined and compared, or if the data cannot be combined, the strength of the evidence is assessed and used to evaluate results.
- Conclusions are made based on results and/or the presence or absence of supporting evidence.

What is a Meta Analysis?

- A meta analysis is a type of systematic review that examines a number of valid studies on a topic and combines the results using accepted statistical methodology as if they were from one large study. Many small studies do not have enough subjects to yield statistically significant results, whereas meta analyses pool the data of smaller studies to increase the statistical significance. Because of this, clinicians tend to place meta analyses on the top of the evidence hierarchy.