

Writing Review Articles  
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1/9/07

1. Find prior reviews or related reviews
2. Decide how your review will be different
3. Review Quorum statement
4. If possible, state hypothesis
5. Searching:
  - a. Computer searches: PubMed, PsychInfo, CRISP, Cochran, CDC TIP database, EMBASE, May need to use Title/abstract rather than keyword. If possible use type of study.
  - b. Listserves, mtg abstracts, own collection, review articles, trial registries,
  - c. Citations from read articles
6. Study selection: How decided which to read, Inclusion criteria will evolve but need to be specific (often use population, design, outcomes, intervention) : record those excluded and included. Need to do by two people? Blinded to author? Use published vs unpublished? Use quality criteria (or just a few essential ones –e.g. randomization) ? Language criteria?
7. Make up table of studies- characteristics and outcomes. Two raters? Blind? Call study authors for missing info?
8. Describe collection of studies
9. Decide on meta-analysis – sufficient number, homogeneity –both clinically and statistically
10. Use intent-to-tx numbers, can you combine different outcomes, sensitivity analysis (e.g. eliminate a few large studies?)
11. Any subgroup analyses? Moderators of effects?
12. Graphic displays
13. Concordance with other reviews
14. Discussion – publication bias, selection bias, list areas and questions not addressed