

SCUOLA DI METODOLOGIA CLINICA  
IRCCS "Sacro Cuore - Don Calabria" Negrar di Valpolicella

8<sup>a</sup> EDIZIONE

2° MODULO

REVISIONI SISTEMATICHE E METANALISI

NEGRAR DI VALPOLICELLA  
11-12 FEBBRAIO 2022  
Centro Formazione IRCCS "Sacro Cuore-Don Calabria"



**11 Febbraio 2022**

- 10.30-10.45 Presentazione ed obiettivi del Corso  
**Stefania GORI - Fabrizio NICOLIS  
Giovanni L. PAPPAGALLO**
- 10.45-11.30 Tipologia delle Revisioni della Letteratura Scientifica  
Obiettivi di una Revisione Sistemática  
**Michela CINQUINI**
- 11.30-12.00 Definizione del quesito clinico e degli outcome  
di interesse; misure di associazione  
**Giovanni L. PAPPAGALLO**
- 12.00-13.00 Lavoro di gruppo  
*Summing-Up* (metodo: *What? So What? Now What?*)  
(valido come prova ECM)
- 13.00-14.00 Colazione di lavoro
- 14.00-14.45 Come trovare informazioni - I database bibliografici,  
i siti di linee guida e studi clinici...  
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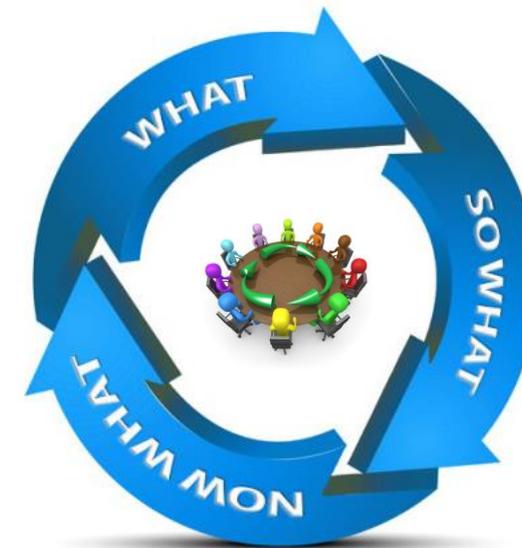
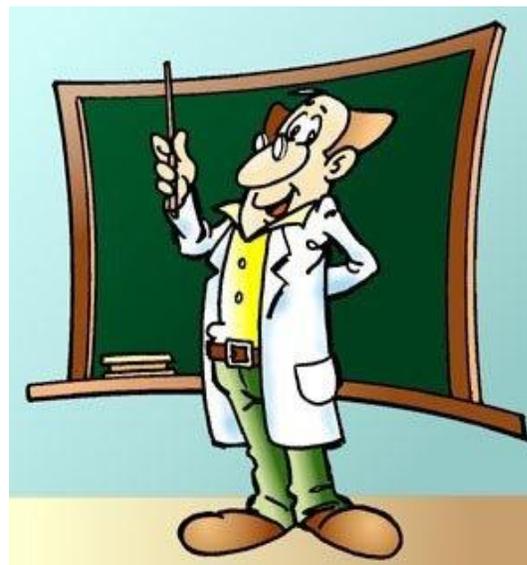
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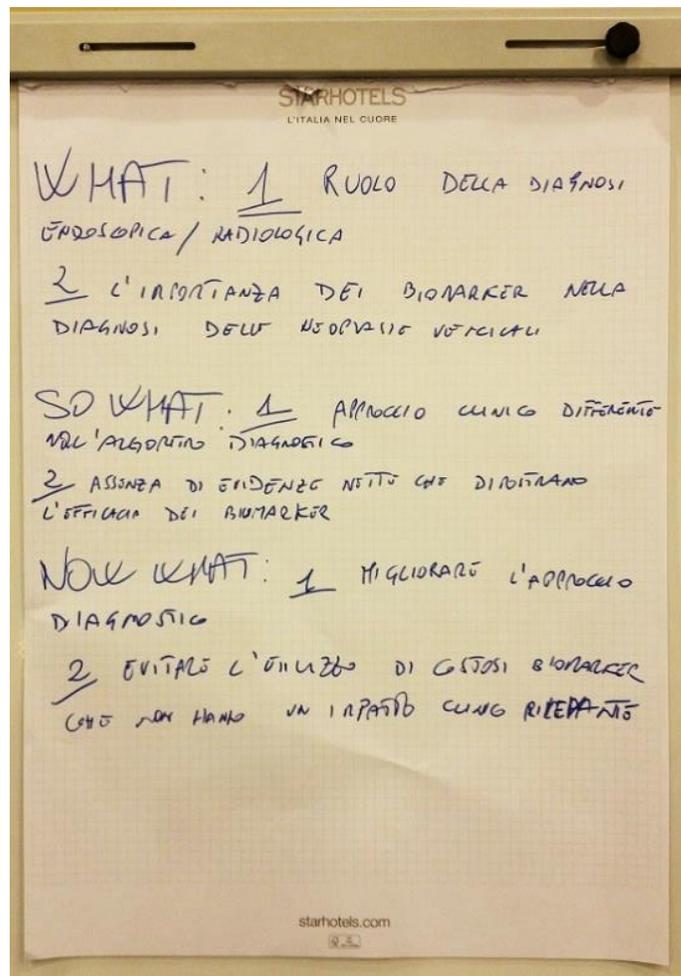
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# What?, So What?, Now What?



**Partendo da quanto ascoltato, cosa è emerso di particolarmente saliente / rilevante?**



**WHAT?**

**Per quale motivo le cose emerse sono così rilevanti?**



**SO  
WHAT?**

**Quali ricadute nell'immediato per la mia professione?**



**NOW  
WHAT?**

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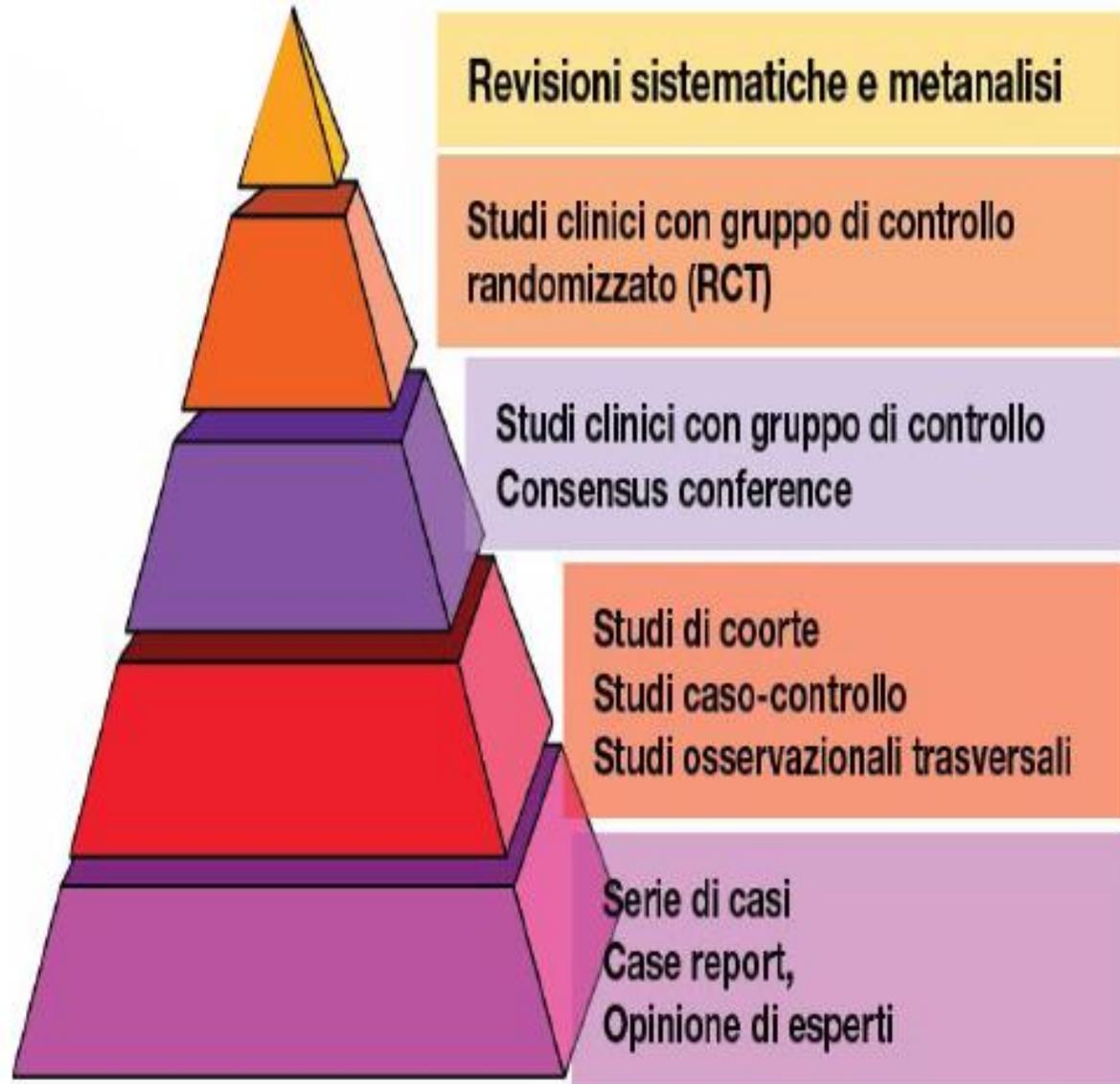
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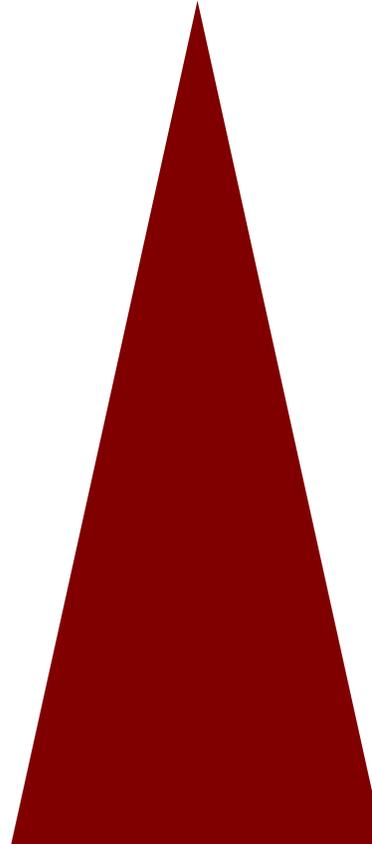
## La Piramide delle evidenze



## STUDY DESIGN

- Randomized Controlled Trials
- Cohort Studies and Case Control Studies
- Case Reports and Case Series, Non-systematic observations
- Expert Opinion (personal clinical experience)

BIAS



**Expert Opinion**

## Revisioni sistematiche ...

controlled trials of parachute intervention.

**Conclusions** As with many interventions intended to prevent ill health, the effectiveness of parachutes has not been subjected to rigorous evaluation by using randomised controlled trials. Advocates of evidence based medicine have criticised the adoption of interventions evaluated by using only observational

data. We think that everyone might benefit if the most radical protagonists of evidence based medicine organised and participated in a double blind, randomised, placebo controlled, crossover trial of the parachute.

not been proved with randomised controlled trials

# Cosa è una revisione sistematica (RS)?

## (1)

- Un tentativo di sintetizzare i risultati e le conclusioni di due o più pubblicazioni (articoli primari) su una determinata problematica sanitaria.
- Vero e proprio progetto di ricerca

# Cosa è una RS? (2)

Una valutazione *complessiva ed esaustiva*

- della qualità
- della rilevanza clinica e
- eterogeneità

Di tutte le informazioni disponibili su una determinata problematica sanitaria.

## Cosa è una RS? (3)

- Una revisione che è stata realizzata attraverso un approccio scientifico rigoroso, per ridurre gli errori sistematici e casuali, in un modo documentato nei materiali e metodi.
- Una revisione sistematica può includere, o meno, una metanalisi: un'analisi statistica dei risultati degli studi indipendenti che ha, generalmente, come obiettivo di produrre una singola stima numerica dell'effetto del trattamento.

*Chalmers I and Altman DG, 1995*

# Principi di una meta-analisi

Una meta-analisi può:

- Combinare i risultati dei singoli studi per ottenere una stima complessiva dell'effetto del trattamento;
- Esplorare l'eterogeneità tra gli studi (e le relative fonti di eterogeneità).

NB: una revisione sistematica non si conclude forzatamente con una meta-analisi.

# Una visione insiemistica



# Revisioni sistematiche vs Revisioni narrative

## Le revisioni tradizionali vs le revisioni sistematiche

CARATTERISTICHE	REVISIONE TRADIZIONALE	REVISIONE SISTEMATICA
Domanda	Ampia	Focalizzata su un unico quesito clinico
Fonti e ricerca	Non specificate	Complete ed esplicita
Selezione	Solitamente non specificata	Basata su criteri specifici
Valutazione critica	Variabile	Rigorosa
Sintesi	Qualitativa	Qualitativa/quantitativa (meta-analisi)

# Caratteristiche delle RS (1)

- Chiara definizione del titolo e dell'obiettivo;
- Strategia di ricerca esaustiva che risponda agli obiettivi della RS (studi rilevanti) per includere sia gli studi pubblicati che i non pubblicati;
- Criteri di inclusione/esclusione adottati esplicitati e motivati;
- Lista esaustiva di tutti gli studi identificati;
- Presentazione chiara delle caratteristiche di ogni studio incluso e analisi della loro qualità metodologica;

# Caratteristiche delle RS (2)

- Lista degli studi esclusi e motivazione dell'esclusione;
- Analisi trasparente dei risultati degli studi eleggibili utilizzando tecniche di sintesi statistica (meta-analisi) se appropriato e possibile;
- Analisi di sensibilità dei dati se appropriate e possibili;
- Stesura di un rapporto finale che presenti chiaramente l'obiettivo, descriva i materiali e metodi e riporti i risultati.

# Perché sono necessarie le revisioni sistematiche?

- Perché il numero di pubblicazioni e di ricerche su un determinato argomento è troppo grande
- Perché considerare solo parte delle informazioni disponibili può determinare errori (publication bias)
- Perché la qualità metodologica degli studi è variabile
- Perché i risultati di studi diversi condotti sullo stesso argomento spesso differiscono tra loro

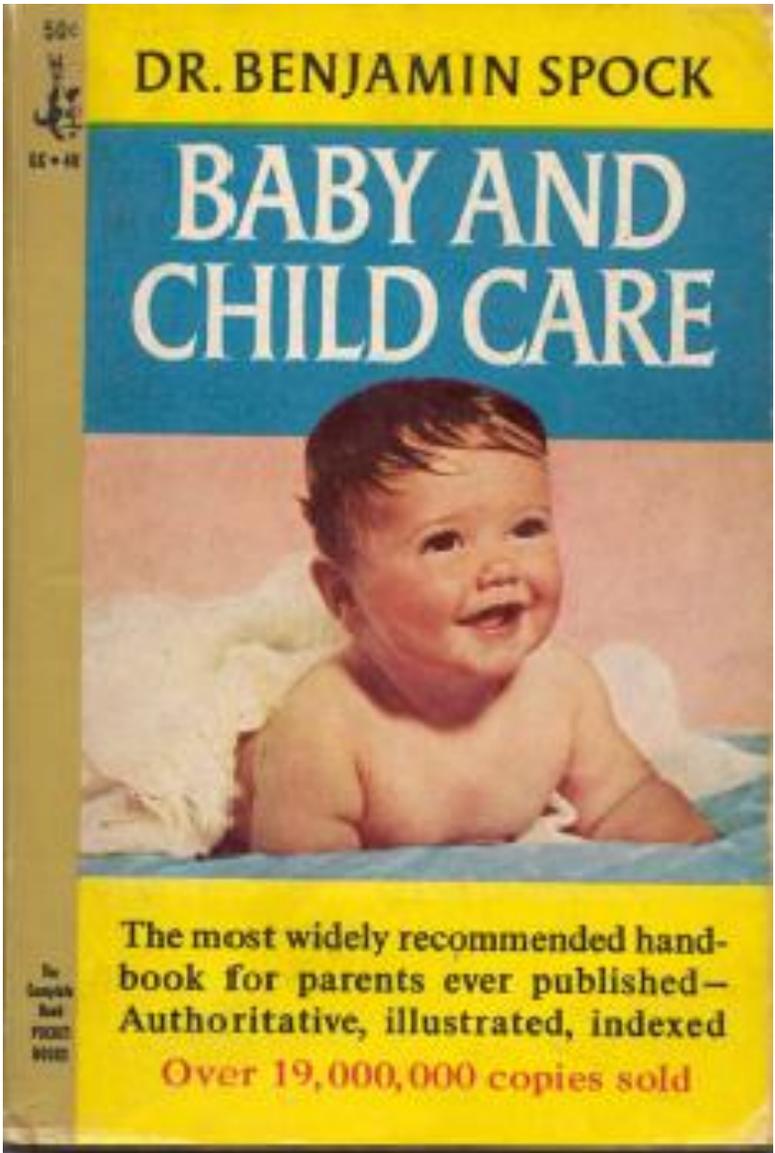
**Perché sono utili le  
revisioni sistematiche?**

**'In God we trust, all others (must) bring data'**

W Edwards Deming

# Situazioni di particolare utilità

- Quando risultati conflittuali si accumulano rapidamente con risultati incerti
- Quando una patologia è percepita in modo “drammatico” dalla popolazione
- Quando un trattamento potenzialmente efficace rischia di essere abbandonato
- Quando la ricerca clinica deve essere “ri-orientata”
- Quando bisogna esplicitare la limitazione delle informazioni scientifiche disponibili per le decisioni sanitarie
- Ogni volta che si deve costruire un progetto di ricerca



50c  
66-48  
DR. BENJAMIN SPOCK

# BABY AND CHILD CARE



The Complete Book FORGET THE OTHERS

The most widely recommended handbook for parents ever published—  
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Over 19,000,000 copies sold

**Benjamin McLane Spock** (New Haven, 2 maggio 1903 – La Jolla, 15 marzo 1998) - pediatra statunitense

- fama con la pubblicazione del libro: ***Common Sense Book of Baby and Child Care.***

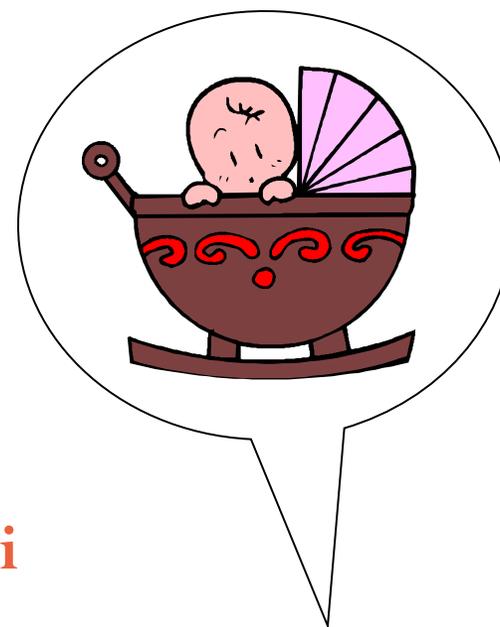
Il libro venne **pubblicato** per la prima volta nel **1946** e fu tradotto in tutte le principali lingue del mondo; fu uno dei **maggiori successi editoriali** dell'immediato dopoguerra, vendendo per circa un decennio un milione di copie all'anno e raggiungendo, **nel 2011**, un volume complessivo di vendite di circa **50 milioni** di copie. Spock aveva avuto l'abilità di trattare temi molto popolari (soprattutto presso le donne), come la gravidanza, il parto, l'alimentazione e le cure del bambino, con un linguaggio semplice e brillante, spregiudicato e anticonformista, presentando progressi e orientamenti della ginecologia e della pediatria come novità rivoluzionarie derivanti anche dalla sua esperienza professionale.

## Scenario: 1970 – reparto di ostetricia

Madre primipara, spaventata dalla “**morte in culla**”, alla dimissione dal reparto dopo il parto, **chiede:**

**Qual è la posizione migliore in cui porre il neonato durante il sonno ?**

Il medico di stanza scrupoloso commissiona allo specializzando una **ricerca bibliografica ...**



## Scenario: 1970 – reparto di ostetricia

### Ricerca Bibliografica:

Testo	Posizione consigliata
Mollon 1967 1° ed.	Supina
Potts 1967 1° ed.	Prona o fianco
Illingworth & Illingworth 1968 4° ed.	Indifferente
Illingworth 1968 4° ed.	Prona
Mollon 1968 2° ed.	Supina
Spock 1969 3° ed.	Prona

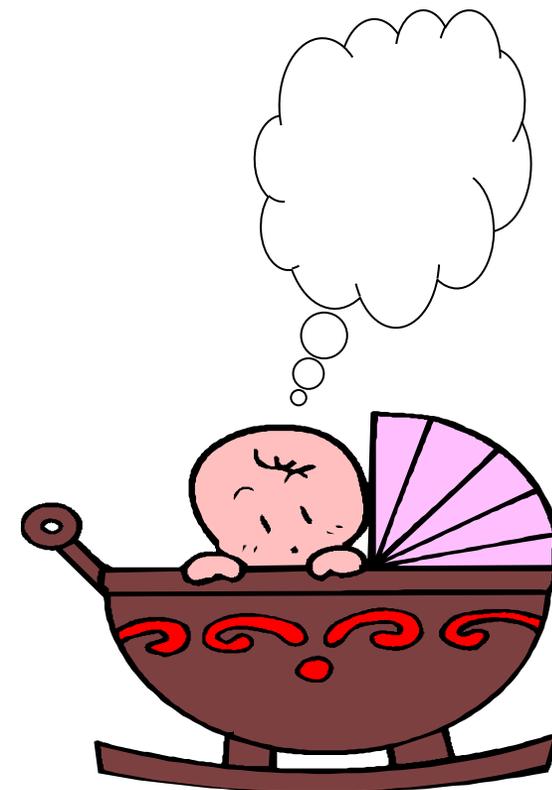
... nella lettera di dimissione, tra le raccomandazioni, viene riportato che *la posizione migliore del neonato nella culla, durante il sonno, è quella **prona (pancia in giù)***



...ancora sulla posizione del lattante:

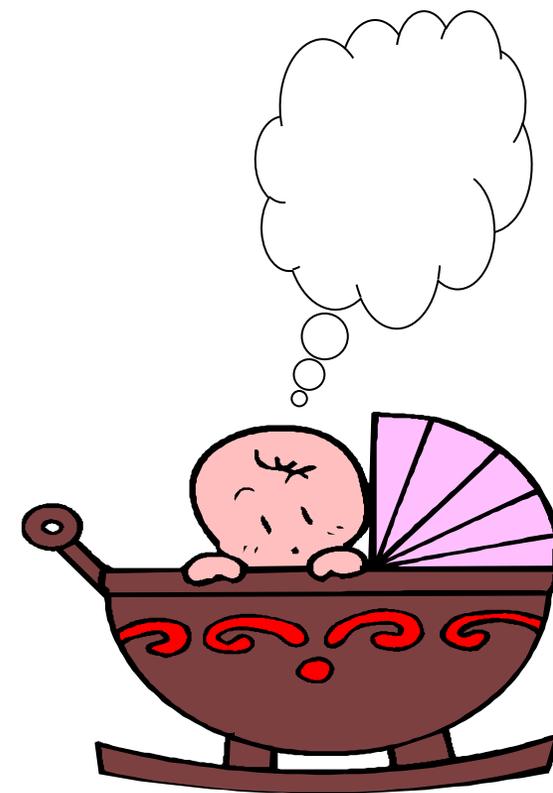
Facoltà di Medicina

Anni 90



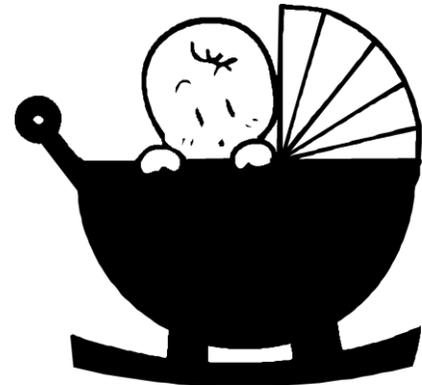
# Dal testo consigliato per l'esame di pediatria

- Dalla edizione 1990 e dalla edizione 1997:
  - Sulla morte in culla: 5 (cinque) righe
    - Possibile causa: shock anafilattico da latte vaccino
    - 1-2 casi per 1000 nati vivi
    - Prima causa di morte tra 1 e 12 mesi
  - Sulla posizione dei lattanti nel sonno, riportata per terapia del reflusso gastroesofageo:
    - “Corretta posizione: prona e su un letto tenuto leggermente inclinato”



Alcune possibile conseguenze di  
questo modo di procedere:

**una strage silenziosa**



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Int. J. Epidemiol. Advance Access published April 20, 2005

Published by Oxford University Press on behalf of the International Epidemiological Association  
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*International Journal of Epidemiology*  
doi:10.1093/ije/dy1888

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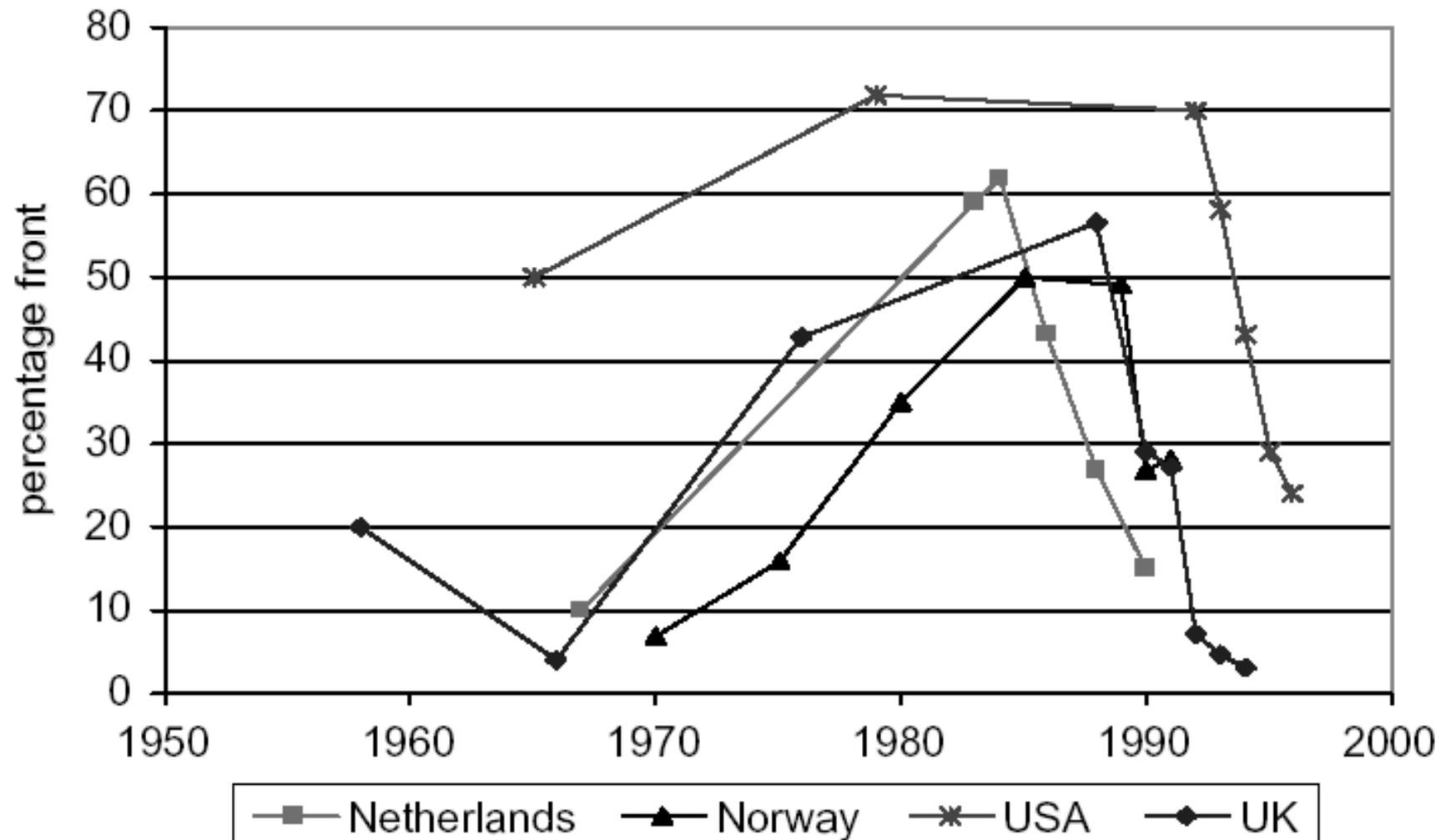
# Infant sleeping position and the sudden infant death syndrome: systematic review of observational studies and historical review of recommendations from 1940 to 2002

Ruth Gilbert,<sup>1\*</sup> Georgia Salanti,<sup>2</sup> Melissa Harden<sup>1</sup> and Sarah See<sup>1,3</sup>

# - Morte in culla

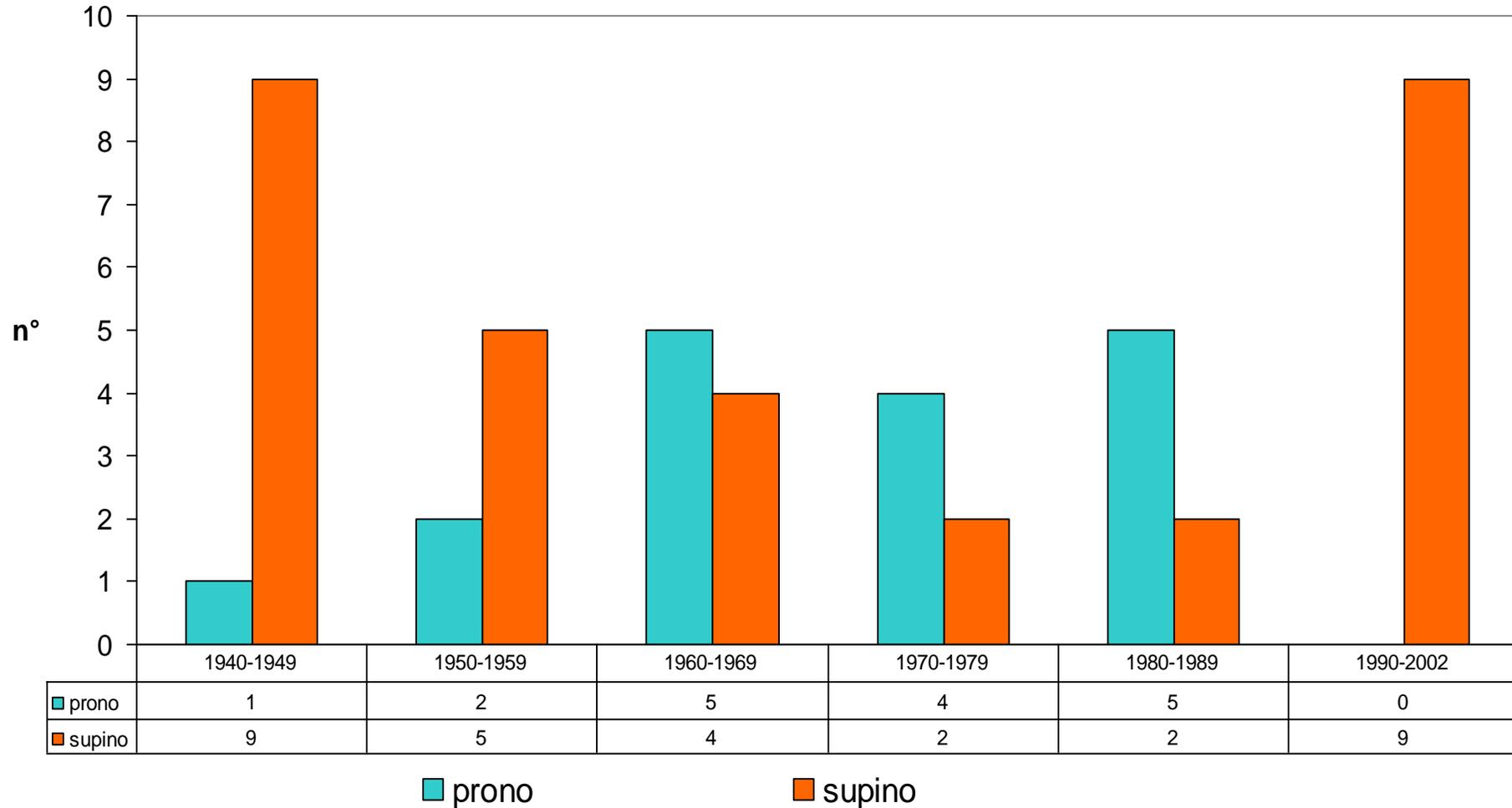


Frequenza della posizione prona del lattante nel sonno



(Gilbert 2005)

# Raccomandazioni sulle posizioni del sonno nel lattante: letteratura inglese



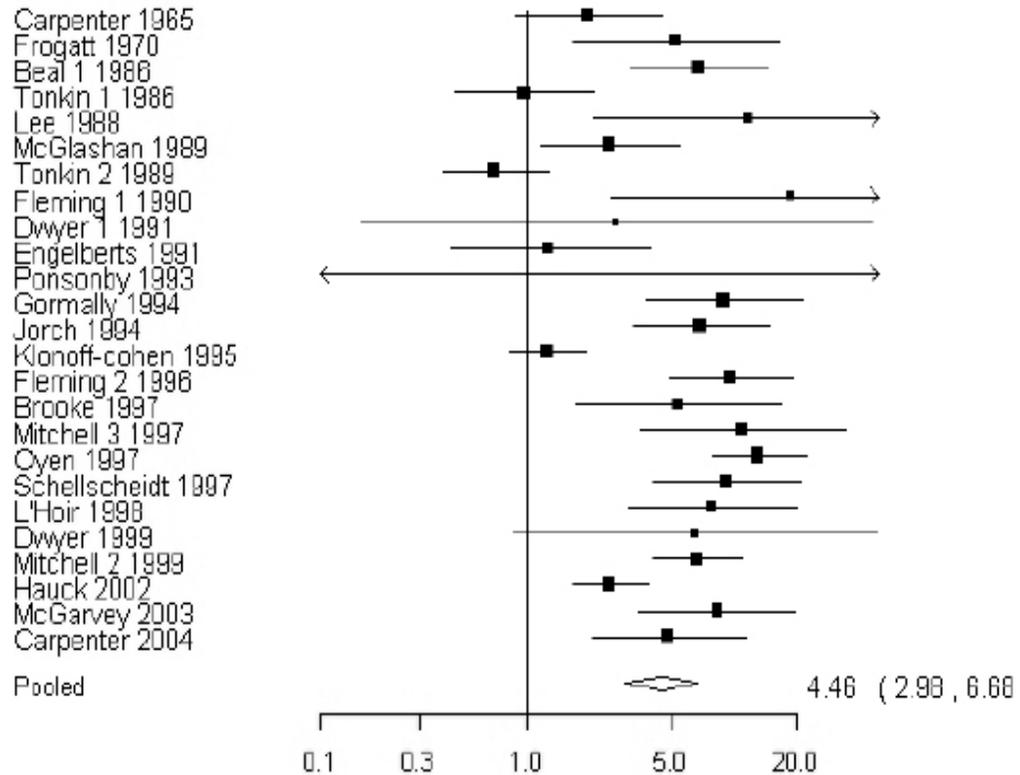
(Gilbert 2005)

# Morte in culla

Metanalisi degli studi epidemiologici sulla posizione prona e rischio di morte del lattante nel sonno



(a) Study



(Gilbert 2005)

odds ratio

prone position better ← → prone position worse

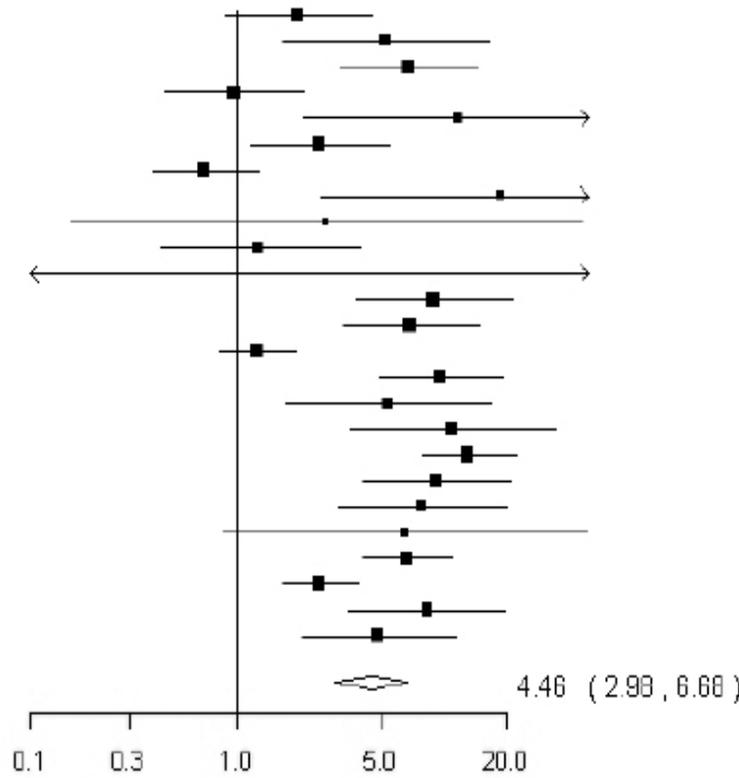
# Morte in culla



## Meta analisi CUMULATIVA

(a) Study

Carpenter 1965  
 Frogatt 1970  
 Beal 1 1986  
 Tonkin 1 1986  
 Lee 1988  
 McGlashan 1989  
 Tonkin 2 1989  
 Fleming 1 1990  
 Dwyer 1 1991  
 Engelberts 1991  
 Ponsonby 1993  
 Gormally 1994  
 Jorch 1994  
 Klonoff-cohen 1995  
 Fleming 2 1996  
 Brooke 1997  
 Mitchell 3 1997  
 Oyen 1997  
 Schellscheidt 1997  
 L'Hoir 1998  
 Dwyer 1999  
 Mitchell 2 1999  
 Hauck 2002  
 McGarvey 2003  
 Carpenter 2004

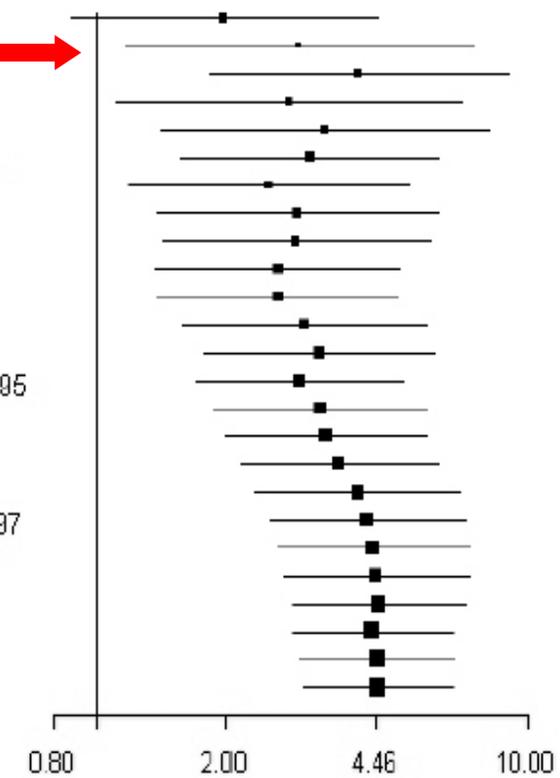


(Gilbert 2005)

prone position better ← → prone position worse

(b) Study

Carpenter 1965  
 Frogatt 1970  
 Beal 1 1986  
 Tonkin 1 1986  
 Lee 1988  
 McGlashan 1989  
 Tonkin 2 1989  
 Fleming 1 1990  
 Dwyer 1 1991  
 Engelberts 1991  
 Ponsonby 1993  
 Gormally 1994  
 Jorch 1994  
 Klonoff-cohen 1995  
 Fleming 2 1996  
 Brooke 1997  
 Mitchell 3 1997  
 Oyen 1997  
 Schellscheidt 1997  
 L'Hoir 1998  
 Dwyer 1999  
 Mitchell 2 1999  
 Hauck 2002  
 McGarvey 2003  
 Carpenter 2004



prone position better ← → prone position worse

# Morte in culla

Gilbert 2005:



- La raccomandazione di **tenere il neonato in culla in posizione prona è proseguita per circa 50 anni** senza tener conto dell'**evidenza disponibile** già dal **1970** che la posizione prona era dannosa
- **Una revisione sistematica** dei fattori di rischio prevenibili per evitare la morte in culla avrebbe permesso a partire **dal 1970** di **conoscere** che la posizione prona era dannosa e avrebbe **evitato** più di **10.000** morti in **Gran Bretagna e almeno 50.000** tra **Europa, Stati Uniti e Australia**.

# Fasi di produzione di una LG

- Scelta dell'argomento
- Composizione di un gruppo multidisciplinare
- Definizione dei quesiti clinici
- **Revisione sistematica della letteratura**
- Valutazione critica dei risultati della ricerca ( qualità dell'evidenza)
- Formulazione delle raccomandazioni
- Esplicitazione della forza delle raccomandazioni
- Peer review
- Diffusione e implementazione

# CON CHI?

- Non da soli!
- Multidisciplinare
- Esperti dell'argomento bilanciati da 'ignari'
- Metodologi, epidemiologi clinici o statistici
- Un po' di esperienza e un po' di training non guastano (ecco perché siete qui)
- Coinvolgere pazienti/users (molto Cochrane)

# **Il protocollo di una revisione sistematica**

# Protocollo -contenuti

- Background
- Obiettivi della revisione
- Metodi
  - ✓ I criteri di inclusione degli studi
  - ✓ La strategia di ricerca bibliografica
  - ✓ I metodi con cui verranno estratti i dati
  - ✓ I criteri di valutazione di qualità metodologica degli studi che verranno usati
  - ✓ Il metodo usato per l'eventuale sintesi statistica
  - ✓ Eventuali analisi per sottogruppi
  - ✓ Metodo per valutare la qualità dell'evidenza (GRADE)

# Protocollo

- Scriverlo: fondamentale
  - ✓ più revisori
  - ✓ avere idee chiare di quello che si vuole fare
  - ✓ evitare il selection bias (criteri di inclusione)
  - ✓ evitare il reporting bias (solo i risultati significativi)
- Pubblicarlo: raccomandato

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**COSA VOGLIAMO FARE?**

**Il Quesito/obiettivo della  
vostra revisione sistematica  
detta titolo e criteri di  
inclusione/esclusione  
(i.e. PICO)**

*A clearly defined, focused review begins with a well framed  
question*

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## Defining the review question

A clearly defined, focused review begins with a well framed question.

The review question should specify:

- **types of population** (participants),
- **types of interventions** (and comparisons),
- **types of outcomes** that are of interest.

*These components of the question, with the additional specification of types of study that will be included, form the basis of the pre-specified eligibility criteria for the review.*



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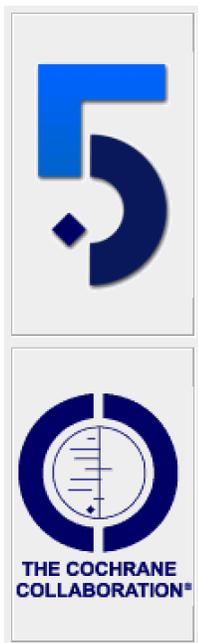
[Home](#) › [Online learning](#) › [Core software for Cochrane Reviews](#) › [RevMan](#)

## Review Manager (RevMan)

There are two versions of Cochrane RevMan: RevMan Web (online) and RevMan 5 (desktop)



# Cochrane RevMan



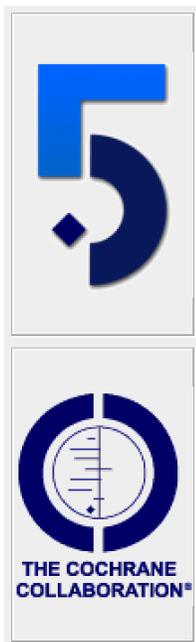
Review Manager 5.3

[Intervention] for [health problem]

Text of Review

- Intervention review
  - Title
  - Protocol information
  - Main text
    - Abstract
    - Plain language summary
    - Background
    - Objectives**
    - Methods
    - Results
    - Discussion
    - Authors' conclusions
    - Acknowledgements
    - Contributions of authors
    - Declarations of interest
    - Differences between protocol and review
    - Published notes
  - Tables
  - Studies and references
  - Data and analyses
  - Figures
  - Sources of support
  - Feedback
  - Appendices

- Objectives
- Methods
- Criteria for considering studies for this review
- Types of studies
- Types of participants
- Types of interventions
- Types of outcome measures
- Primary outcomes
- Secondary outcomes



Review Manager 5.3

New Review Wizard

What is the title of the review?

Title:

[Intervention] for [health problem]

[Intervention A] versus [intervention B] for [health problem]

[Intervention] for [health problem] in [participant group/location]

[Use if title does not fit any of the formats above]

Cancel < Back Next > Finish

# Screening for prostate cancer (Review)

Ilic D, Neuberger MM, Djulbegovic M, Dahm P

*Cochrane Database of Systematic Reviews* 2013, Issue 1.

## OBJECTIVES

The **primary objective** of this review was to determine the **efficacy of screening men for prostate cancer** in reducing prostate cancer-specific and all-cause mortality.

The secondary objectives of this review were to:

- determine the impact of prostate cancer screening on quality of life and adverse effects; and
- document the costs of screening for prostate cancer.

## Defining the review question

A clearly defined, focused review begins with a well framed question.

The review question should specify:

- **types of population** (participants),
- **types of interventions** (and comparisons),
- **types of outcomes** that are of interest.

*These components of the question, with the additional specification of types of study that will be included, form the basis of the pre-specified eligibility criteria for the review.*

The 'clinical question' should specify the types of population (participants), types of interventions (and comparisons), and the types of outcomes that are of interest.

The acronym PICO (**P**articipants, **I**nterventions, **C**omparisons and **O**utcomes) helps to serve as a reminder of these.

**P** Population  
Used to first develop the health care question

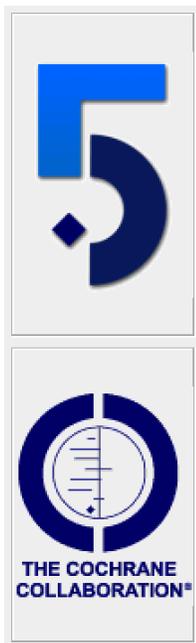
**I** Intervention

**C** Comparison  
Used to determine if the evidence found directly answers the health care question

**O** Outcomes

*Criteria for considering studies for this review*  
Types of participants  
Types of interventions  
Types of outcome measures

- Population
- Intervention
- Comparison
- Outcomes



Review Manager 5.3

[Intervention A] versus [intervention B] for [health problem]

Text of Review

- Intervention review
  - Title
  - Review information
  - Main text
    - Abstract
    - Plain language summary
    - Background
      - Objectives
    - Methods
      - Criteria for considering studies for this review**
      - Search methods for identification of studies
      - Data collection and analysis
    - Results
    - Discussion
    - Authors' conclusions
    - Acknowledgements
    - Contributions of authors
    - Declarations of interest
    - Differences between protocol and review
    - Published notes
  - Tables
  - Studies and references
  - Data and analyses
  - Figures
  - Sources of support
  - Feedback

- Methods
- Criteria for considering studies for this review
- Types of studies*
- Types of participants*
- Types of interventions*
- Types of outcome measures*
- Primary outcomes
- Secondary outcomes
- Search methods for identification of studies

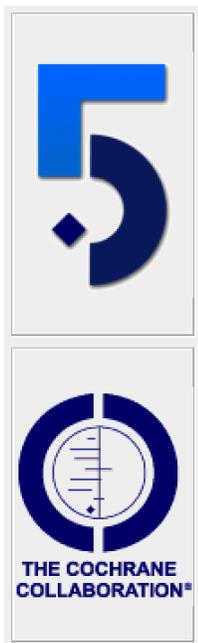
## **Screening for prostate cancer (Review)**

Ilic D, Neuberger MM, Djulbegovic M, Dahm P

*Cochrane Database of Systematic Reviews* 2013, Issue 1.

### **Types of participants**

All men enrolled in studies of prostate cancer screening were eligible for this review, with no exclusions based on ethnicity, age, or presence of lower urinary tract symptoms. Studies including men with a previous diagnosis and treatment of prostate cancer were excluded.



Review Manager 5.3

[Intervention A] versus [intervention B] for [health problem]

Text of Review

- Intervention review
  - Title
  - Review information
  - Main text
    - Abstract
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## **Screening for prostate cancer (Review)**

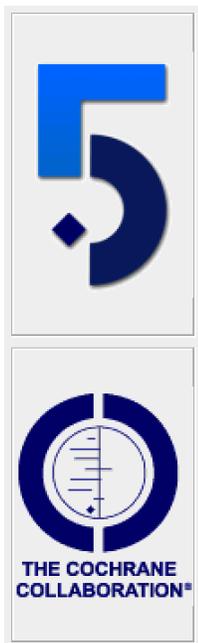
Ilic D, Neuberger MM, Djulbegovic M, Dahm P

*Cochrane Database of Systematic Reviews* 2013, Issue 1.

### **Types of interventions**

Studies that used any of the following screening procedures, individually or in combination, were included:

- digital rectal examination (DRE);
- prostate-specific antigen (PSA) test (including total, velocity, density, and percentage free and complex); and
- transrectal ultrasound (TRUS)-guided biopsy.



Review Manager 5.3

[Intervention A] versus [intervention B] for [health problem]

Text of Review

- Intervention review
  - Title
  - Review information
  - Main text
    - Abstract
    - Plain language summary
    - Background
      - Objectives
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## **Screening for prostate cancer (Review)**

Ilic D, Neuberger MM, Djulbegovic M, Dahm P

*Cochrane Database of Systematic Reviews* 2013, Issue 1.

### **Primary outcomes**

Primary outcome measures for this review were prostate cancer-specific and all-cause mortality.

### **Secondary outcomes**

Secondary outcome measures included:

- incident prostate cancers by stage and grade at diagnosis;
- metastatic disease at follow-up;
- quality of life;
- harms of screening (including both adverse outcomes from false-positive or false-negative results and their impact upon resulting treatment procedures); and
- costs associated with screening programs.



## Outcomes

Should be  
importance driven  
**NOT**  
evidence driven

Journal of Clinical Epidemiology 64 (2011) 395–400

### GRADE guidelines: 2. Framing the question and deciding on important outcomes

Gordon H. Guyatt<sup>a,\*</sup>, Andrew D. Oxman<sup>b</sup>, Regina Kunz<sup>c</sup>, David Atkins<sup>d</sup>, Jan Brozek<sup>a</sup>, Gunn Vist<sup>b</sup>, Philip Alderson<sup>e</sup>, Paul Glasziou<sup>f</sup>, Yngve Falck-Ytter<sup>g</sup>, Holger J. Schünemann<sup>a</sup>

If evidence is lacking for an important outcome, this should be acknowledged, rather than ignoring the outcome - that uncertainty may have a bearing on the ultimate recommendation.

## Defining the review question

A clearly defined, focused review begins with a well framed question.

The review question should specify:

- **types of population** (participants),
- **types of interventions** (and comparisons),
- **types of outcomes** that are of interest.

*These components of the question, with the additional specification of types of study that will be included, form the basis of the pre-specified eligibility criteria for the review.*



New Outcome Wizard

What type of outcome do you want to create?

Data Type:

- Dichotomous
- Continuous
- O-E and Variance
- Generic Inverse Variance
- Other Data

Description:

Enter observed minus expected and its variance (e.g. calculated from individual patient data). Optionally enter number of participants with events and total number of participants in experimental and control groups.

Cancel < Back Next > Finish

variabili di risposta

New Outcome Wizard

Which analysis method do you want to use?

Statistical Method

- Peto
- Mantel-Haenszel
- Inverse Variance
- Exp[(O-E) / Var]

Analysis Model

- Fixed Effect
- Random Effects

Effect Measure

- Peto Odds Ratio
- Odds Ratio
- Risk Ratio
- Risk Difference
- Mean Difference
- Std. Mean Difference
- Name of Effect Measure:

Hazard Ratio

Cancel < Back Next > Finish

misure riassuntive di effetto

# VARIABILE DI RISPOSTA

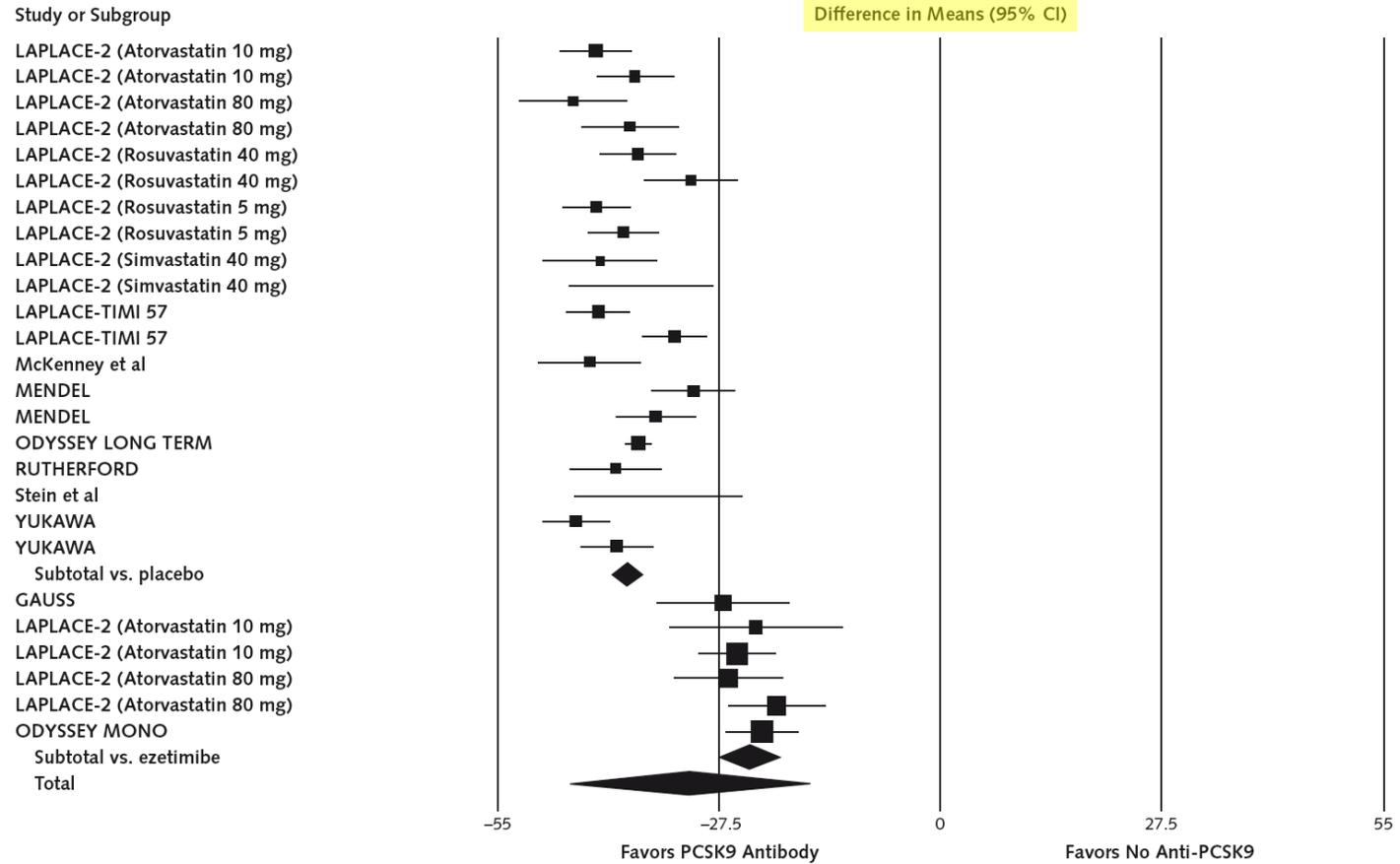
- di tipo **quantitativo**
  - assume uno spettro continuo di valori e viene misurata in riferimento a una scala a intervalli costanti.
- di tipo **qualitativo**
  - esprime categorie di risposta del tipo successo / insuccesso (di un trattamento somministrato).
- del tipo **“tempo a evento”**
  - rappresenta il tempo trascorso fino al verificarsi (o meno) di un evento.

# Effects of Proprotein Convertase Subtilisin/Kexin Type 9 Antibodies in Adults With Hypercholesterolemia

## A Systematic Review and Meta-analysis

Eliano Pio Navarese, MD, PhD; Michalina Kolodziejczak, MD; Volker Schulze, MD; Paul A. Gurbel, MD; Udaya Tantry, PhD; Yingfeng Lin, MD; Maximilian Brockmeyer, MD; David E. Kandzari, MD; Julia M. Kubica, MD; Ralph B. D'Agostino Sr., PhD; Jacek Kubica, MD, PhD; Massimo Volpe, MD; Stefan Agewall, MD; Dean J. Kereiakes, MD; and Malte Kelm, MD

*Ann Intern Med.* 2015;163:40-51.



Group	Effect Size (95% CI)						Test of Null (2-Tail)		Heterogeneity		
	Number of Studies	Point Estimate	SE	Variance	Lower Limit	Upper Limit	Z Value	P Value	Q Value	P Value	I <sup>2</sup>
Random-effects analysis											
Overall	26	-31.492	7.580	57.455	-46.348	-16.635	-4.155	0.000	187.788	0.000	86.687

# VARIABILE DI RISPOSTA

- di tipo **quantitativo**
  - assume uno spettro continuo di valori e viene misurata in riferimento a una scala a intervalli costanti.
- di tipo **qualitativo**
  - esprime categorie di risposta del tipo successo / insuccesso (di un trattamento somministrato).
- del tipo “**tempo a evento**”
  - rappresenta il tempo trascorso fino al verificarsi (o meno) di un evento.

## Risks, Rates and Odds

- **Risk** (proportion of persons with disease = *cumulative incidence*)
  - *Risk Ratio* = ratio of 2 cumulative incidence estimates = *Relative Risk*
- **Rate** (based on events per person-time = *incidence rate*)
  - *Rate Ratio* = ratio of 2 incidence rates = *Relative Rate*
- **Odds** (the number of events divided by the number of non events)
  - *Odds Ratio* = ratio of 2 odds

# Incidenza Cumulativa

Probabilità (rischio) di sviluppare la malattia in uno specifico periodo di tempo  $t$

- assume follow-up completo
- è una proporzione perciò può assumere valori da 0 ad 1
- deve riferirsi ad uno specifico periodo di tempo

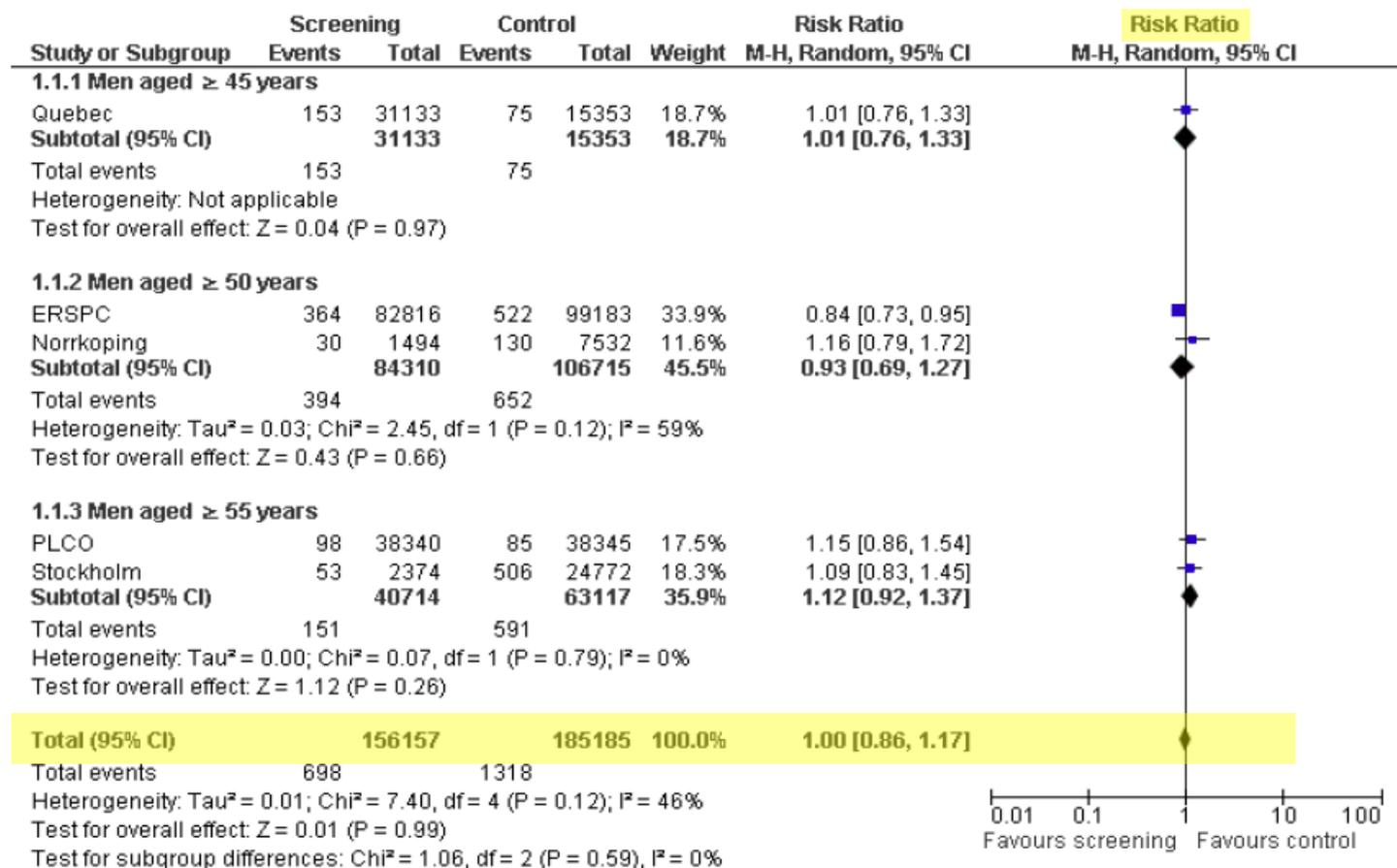
$$IC = \frac{\text{N° di persone che ammalano tra il } t_0 \text{ e } t_1}{\text{N° di persone non malate all'inizio del periodo } t_0}$$

Es. 5 si ammalano / 10 inizialmente non malati = 0.5

## Risks, Rates and Odds

- **Risk** (proportion of persons with disease = *cumulative incidence*)
  - **Risk Ratio** = ratio of 2 cumulative incidence estimates = *Relative Risk*
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  - **Odds Ratio** = ratio of 2 odds

**Figure 2. Forest plot of comparison: I Screening versus control, outcome: I.3 Prostate cancer-specific mortality (subgroup analysis age)**



## Risks, Rates and Odds

- **Risk** (proportion of persons with disease = *cumulative incidence*)
  - **Risk Ratio** = ratio of 2 cumulative incidence estimates = *Relative Risk*
- **Rate** (based on events per person-time = *incidence rate*)
  - **Rate Ratio** = ratio of 2 incidence rates = *Relative Rate*
- **Odds** (the number of events divided by the number of non events)
  - **Odds Ratio** = ratio of 2 odds

# Incidence Rate

Incidence rate or person-time rate:

- is a measure of incidence that incorporates time directly into the denominator;
- describes how quickly disease occurs in a population

*Number of new cases of disease or injury  
during specified period*

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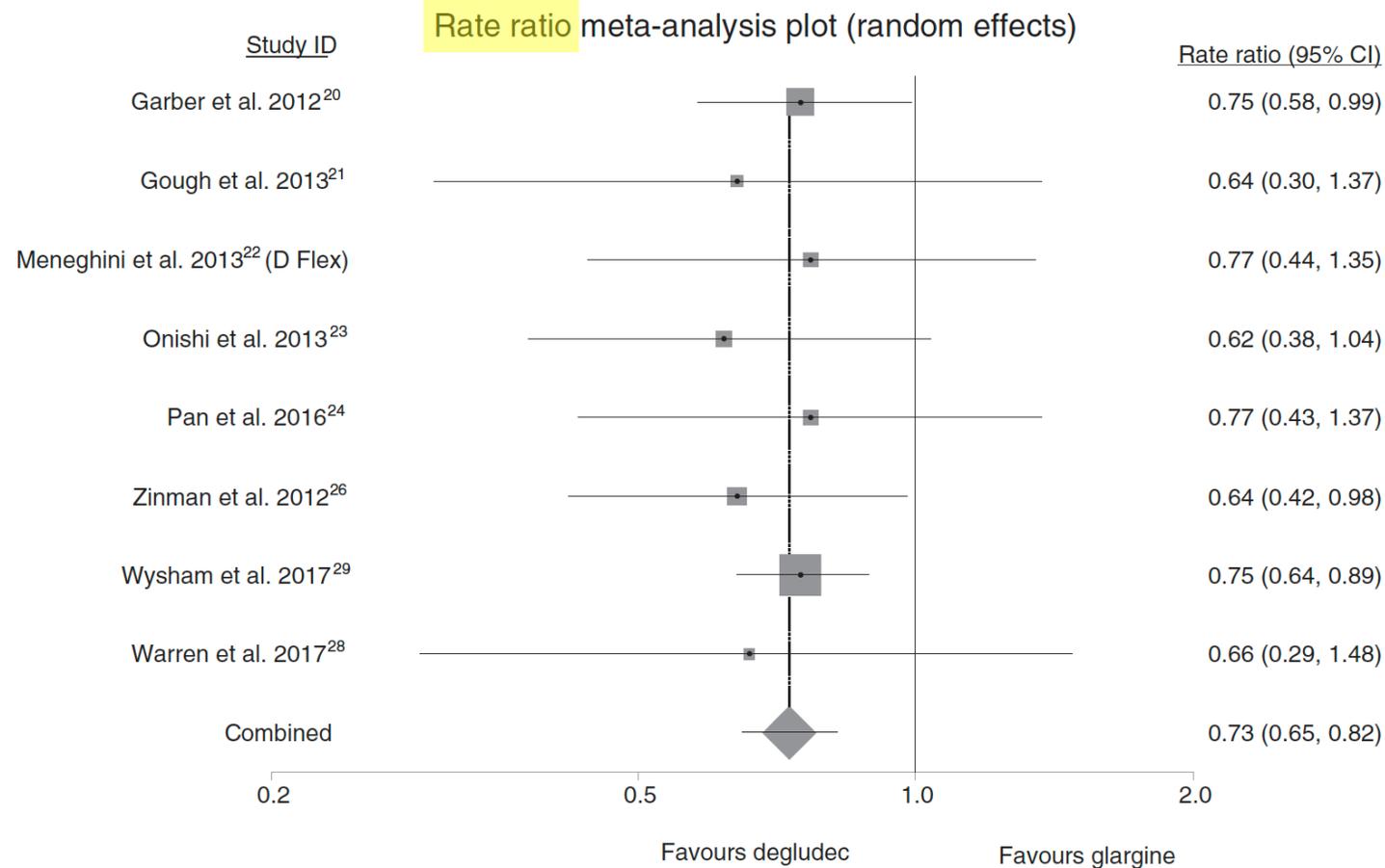
*Time each person was observed, totaled  
for all persons*

## Risks, Rates and Odds

- **Risk** (proportion of persons with disease = *cumulative incidence*)
  - **Risk Ratio** = ratio of 2 cumulative incidence estimates = *Relative Risk*
- **Rate** (based on events per person-time = *incidence rate*)
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# Comparative effectiveness and harms of long-acting insulins for type 1 and type 2 diabetes: A systematic review and meta-analysis

Rebecca S. Holmes MD | Elizabeth Crabtree PhD | Marian S. McDonagh PharmD  
*Diabetes Obes Metab.* 2019;21:984–992.



Nocturnal hypoglycaemia event rates in adult patients with type 2 diabetes treated with daily degludec compared with glargine

## Risks, Rates and Odds

- **Risk** (proportion of persons with disease = *cumulative incidence*)
  - **Risk Ratio** = ratio of 2 cumulative incidence estimates = *Relative Risk*
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- **Odds** (the number of events divided by the number of non events)
  - **Odds Ratio** = ratio of 2 odds

# Risks, Rates and Odds

- *Risk* (proportion of persons with disease = *cumulative incidence*)

*Odds Ratios* are used to compare the occurrence of the outcome of interest (e.g. disease or unfavourable event), given exposure to the variable of interest (e.g. health characteristic, or intervention).

Most commonly used in **case-control studies**

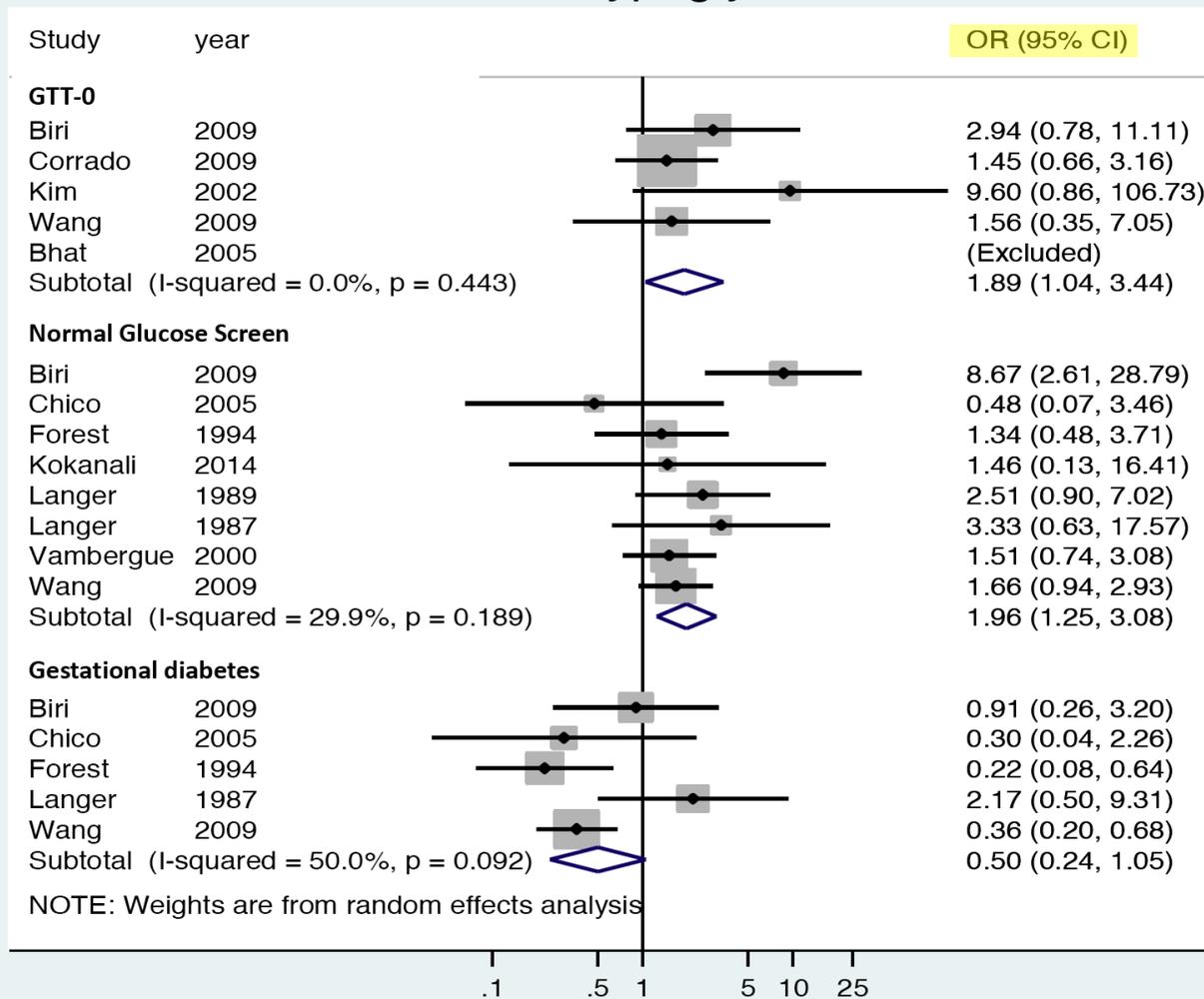
- *Odds* (the number of events divided by the number of non-events)
- *Odds Ratio* = ratio of 2 odds



Single abnormal value on 3 hour oral glucose tolerance test during pregnancy is associated with adverse maternal and neonatal outcomes: A systematic review and meta-analysis

Jared T. Roeckner, MD, Luis Sanchez-Ramos, MD, Rubymel Jijon-Knupp, MD, Andrew M. Kaunitz, MD

## Neonatal Hypoglycemia



# VARIABILE DI RISPOSTA

- di tipo quantitativo
  - assume uno spettro continuo di valori e viene misurata in riferimento a una scala a intervalli costanti.
- di tipo qualitativo
  - esprime categorie di risposta del tipo successo / insuccesso (di un trattamento somministrato).
- del tipo “**tempo a evento**”
  - rappresenta il tempo trascorso fino al verificarsi (o meno) di un evento.

**Analisi  
della sopravvivenza  
in sperimentazioni  
cliniche controllate  
e nelle osservazioni  
pianificate**

E. Marubini - M.G. Valsecchi

**A cura del «Centro Zambon»  
dell'Università di Milano**

DALL'ISTITUTO DI STATISTICA MEDICA E BIOMETRIA  
DELLA FACOLTÀ DI MEDICINA E CHIRURGIA

Tempi di risposta $t_{(j)}$	Tempi troncati* $t^*$	N° soggetti esposti a rischio $n_j$	N° eventi terminali $d_j$	Rischio istantaneo di "morte" $\hat{\lambda}(t_{(j)})$	Probabilità cumulativa di sopravvivere $t_{(j)}$ $\hat{P}_j$
9		20	1	1/20 = .050	$(1 - 1/20) \times 1 = .9500$
13		19	1	1/19 = .053	$(1 - 1/19) \times .9500 = .8996$
20		18	1	1/18 = .055	$(1 - 1/18) \times .8996 = .8501$
26		17	1	1/17 = .059	$(1 - 1/17) \times .8501 = .7999$
27		16	1	1/16 = .062	$(1 - 1/16) \times .7999 = .7503$
28		15	1	1/15 = .067	$(1 - 1/15) \times .7503 = .7000$
30		14	1	1/14 = .071	$(1 - 1/14) \times .7000 = .6503$
32		13	2	2/13 = .154	$(1 - 2/13) \times .6503 = .5502$
75		11	1	1/11 = .091	$(1 - 1/11) \times .5502 = .5001$
79		10	1	1/10 = .100	$(1 - 1/10) \times .5001 = .4501$
91		9	1	1/9 = .111	$(1 - 1/9) \times .4501 = .4001$
	177*	8	0	0/8 = .0	$(1 - 0/8) \times .4001 = .4001$
193		7	1	1/7 = .143	$(1 - 1/7) \times .4001 = .3429$
541		6	1	1/6 = .167	$(1 - 1/6) \times .3429 = .2856$
1129		5	1	1/5 = .200	$(1 - 1/5) \times .2856 = .2285$
	1499*	4	0	0/4 = .0	$(1 - 0/4) \times .2285 = .2285$
1585		3	1	1/3 = .333	$(1 - 1/3) \times .2285 = .1524$

TABELLA 10.

Calcolo secondo Kaplan e Meier della curva di sopravvivenza del rene trapiantato nei pazienti di tabella 6.

## Indicatori riassuntivi di effetto di variabili tempo-a-evento

- Differenza tra stime della mediana di sopravvivenza (KM)
- Differenza media di sopravvivenza (*restricted means*) al tempo  $t$
- Differenza tra stime di sopravvivenza (KM) al tempo  $t$  (*Milestone Survival*)
- Hazard Ratio (KM+Cox)

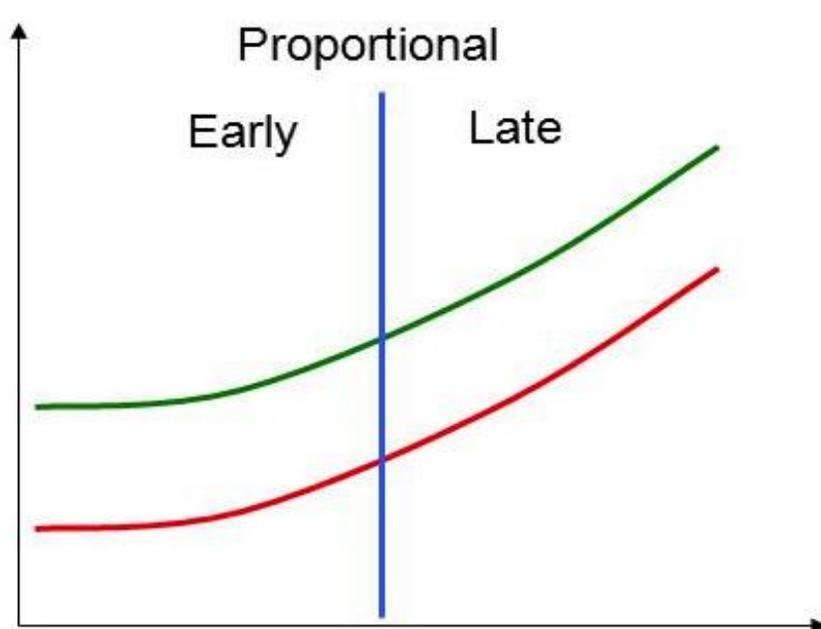
# Indicatori riassuntivi di effetto di variabili tempo-a-evento

- Differenza tra stime della mediana di sopravvivenza
- Differenza tra stime della mediana di sopravvivenza (assoluta) al tempo  $t$  (Kaplan-Meier)
- Differenza tra stime della mediana di sopravvivenza (relativa) al tempo  $t$  (Kaplan-Meier)
- Differenza tra stime della mediana di sopravvivenza (assoluta) al tempo  $t$  (Kaplan-Meier)
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- **Hazard Ratio (KM+Cox)**

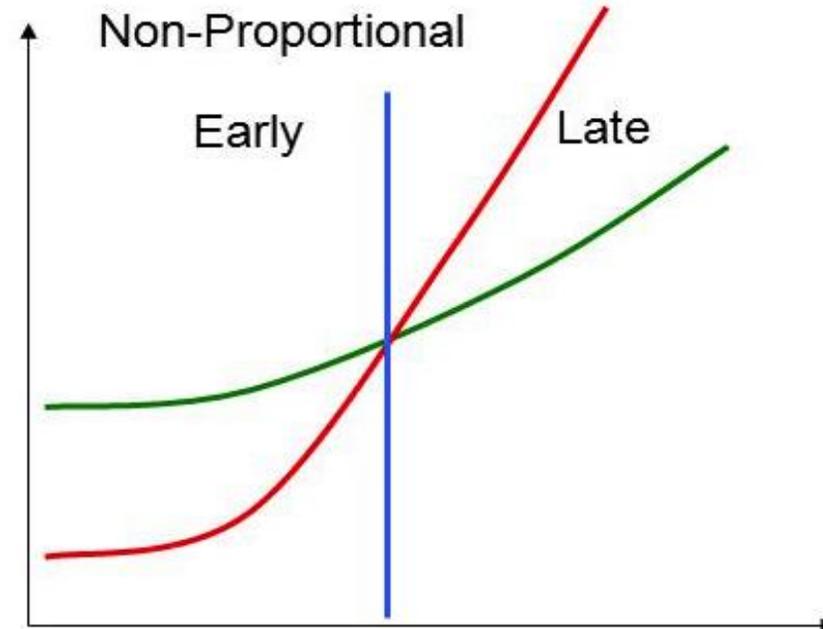
Appropriato quando il rapporto tra gli *hazard* dei due gruppi si mantiene (relativamente) costante

# Proportional Hazard Assumption

If we are comparing a new treatment with the standard treatment, it is assumed that the ratio of the hazard for an individual on a new treatment to that for an individual on the standard treatment remains constant over time



Here, the effect is the same in both time periods



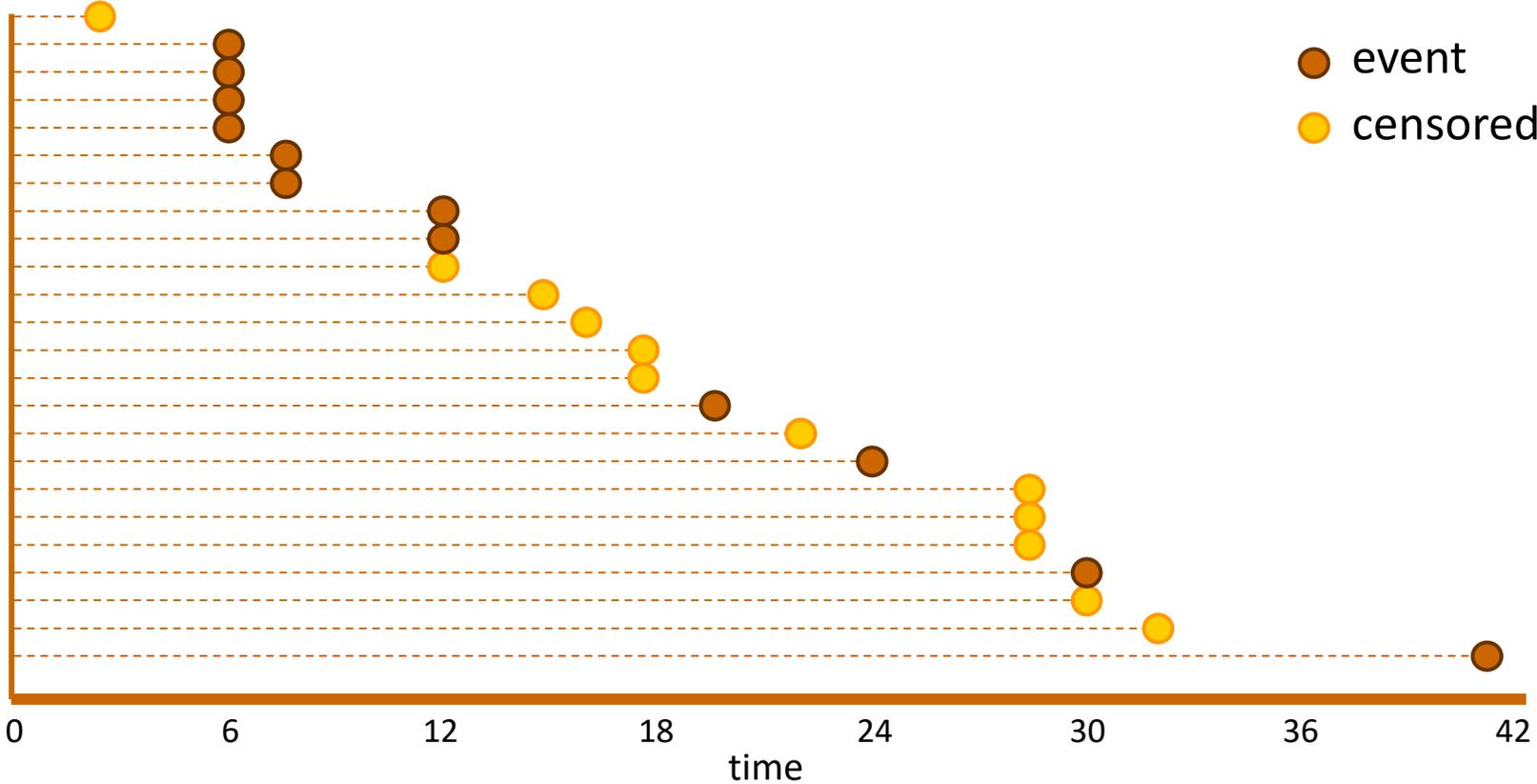
Here, the effect is negative in the early period and positive in the late period

# Defining a Hazard Ratio (HR)

- Compares risk of event in two populations or samples
- The ratio of risk (*hazard rate*) in experimental group to risk (*hazard rate*) in control group
  - *The Hazard Rate ( $\lambda$ )* is the rate at which events happen
- Assumption: *proportional hazards (PH)*, i.e. the risk does not depend on time, that is, “risk is constant over time”
  - If non PH is present, the HR is actually time-dependent and the estimated HR that is obtained is some type of average over the event times
  - The *restricted mean survival time* is as a possible alternative tool in the analysis of these trials

$$\lambda = \frac{d}{f + F}$$

d = number of events  
 f = sum of follow-up times for patients with event  
 F = sum of follow-up times for patients with no event (censored)



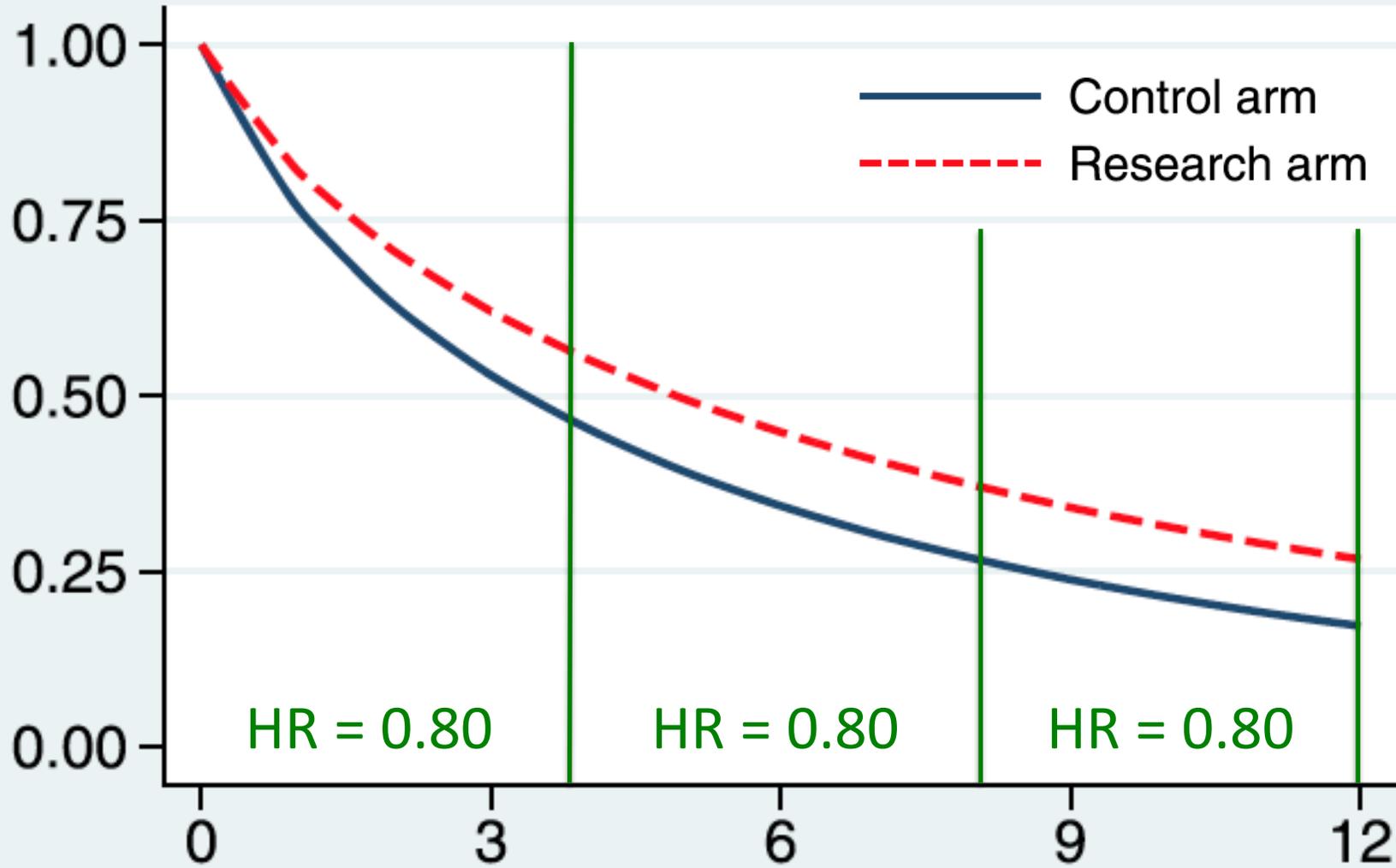
d = 12  
 f = 6+6+6+6+8+8+12+12+20+24+30+42 = 180  
 F = 3+12+15+16+18+18+22+28+28+28+30+33 = 251

$$\lambda = \frac{12}{431} = 0.0278$$

# Defining a Hazard Ratio (HR)

- Compares risk of event in two populations or samples
- The ratio of risk (*hazard rate*) in experimental group to risk (*hazard rate*) in control group
  - *The Hazard Rate ( $\lambda$ )* is the rate at which events happen
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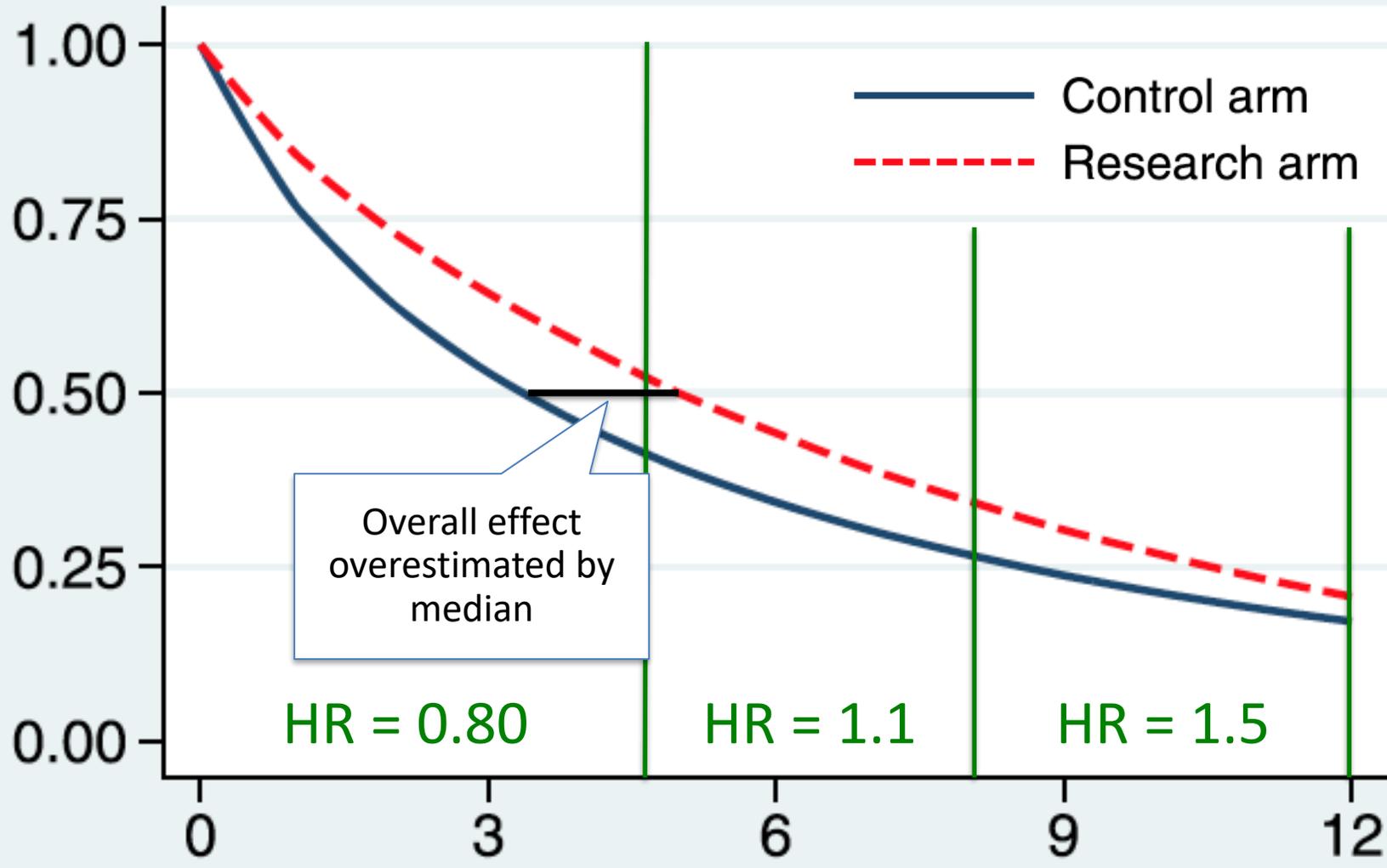
# Proportional hazards



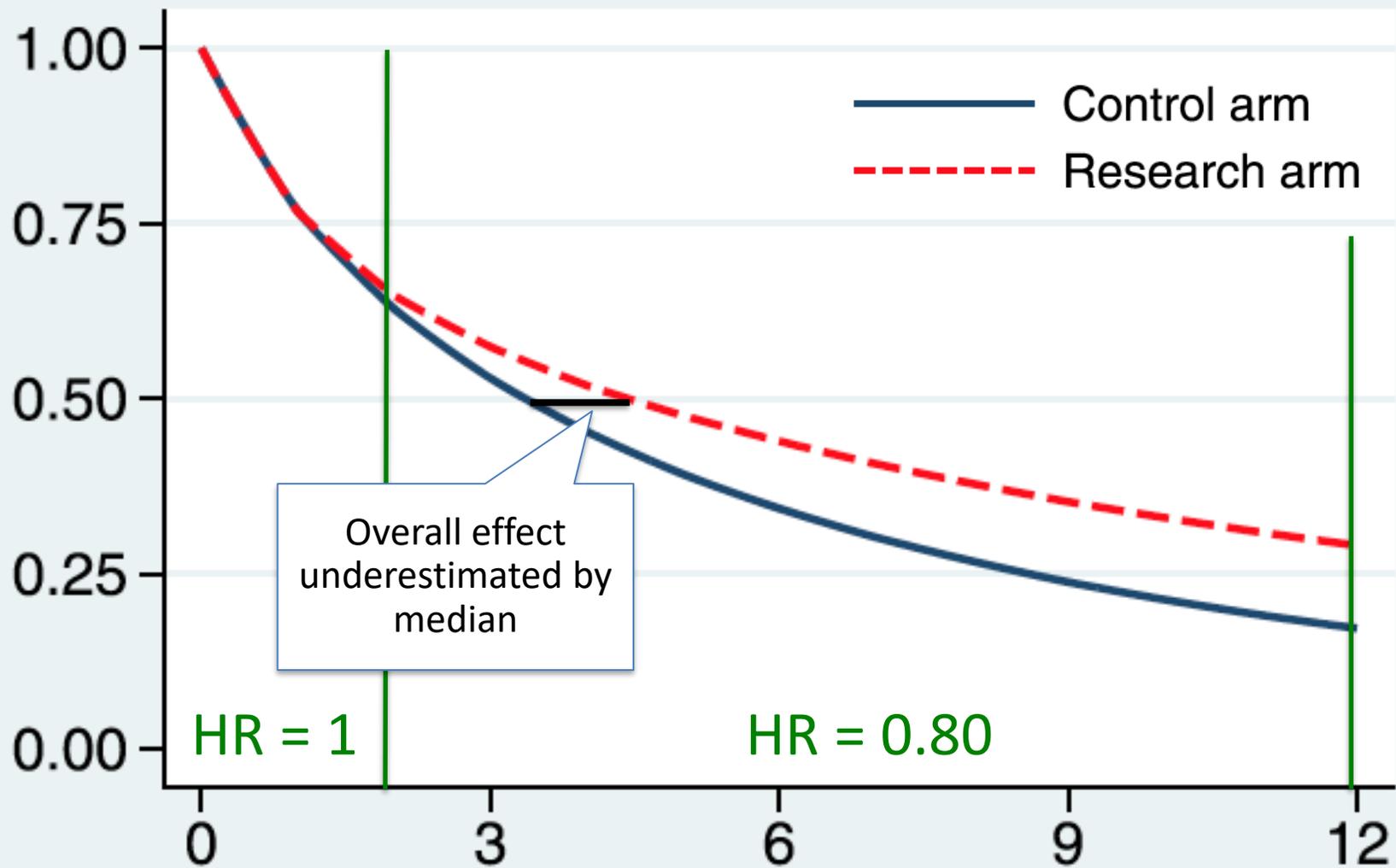
# Defining a Hazard Ratio (HR)

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  - If non PH is present, the HR is actually time-dependent and the estimated HR that is obtained is some type of average over the event times
  - The *restricted mean survival time* is as a possible alternative tool in the analysis of these trials

# Decreasing treatment effect



# Increasing treatment effect



# Defining a Hazard Ratio (HR)

- Compares risk of event in two populations or samples
- The ratio of risk (*hazard rate*) in experimental group to risk (*hazard rate*) in control group
  - *The Hazard Rate ( $\lambda$ )* is the rate at which events happen
- Assumption: *proportional hazards (PH)*, i.e. the risk does not depend on time, that is, “risk is constant over time”
  - If non PH is present, the HR is actually time-dependent and the estimated HR that is obtained is some type of average over the event times
  - *The restricted mean survival time* is as a possible alternative tool in the analysis of these trials

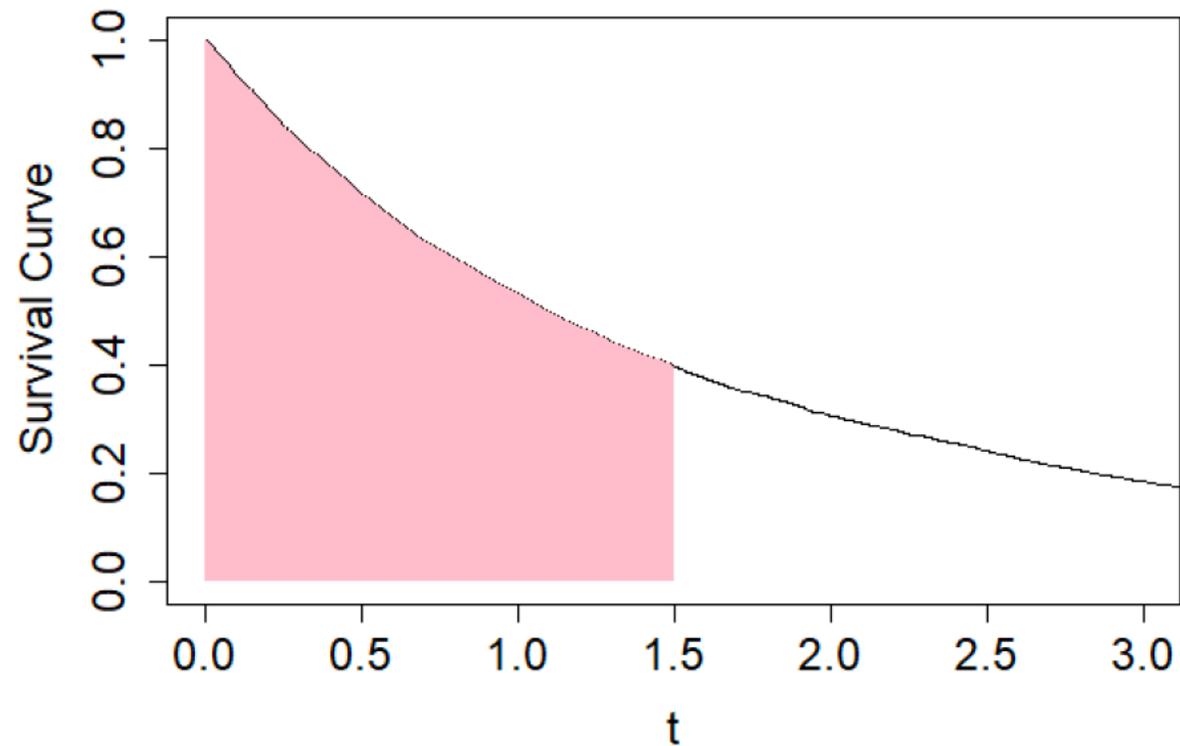
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- Differenza media di sopravvivenza (*restricted means*) al tempo  $t$
- Differenza tra stime di sopravvivenza (KM) al tempo  $t$  (*Milestone Survival*)
- Hazard Ratio (KM+Cox)

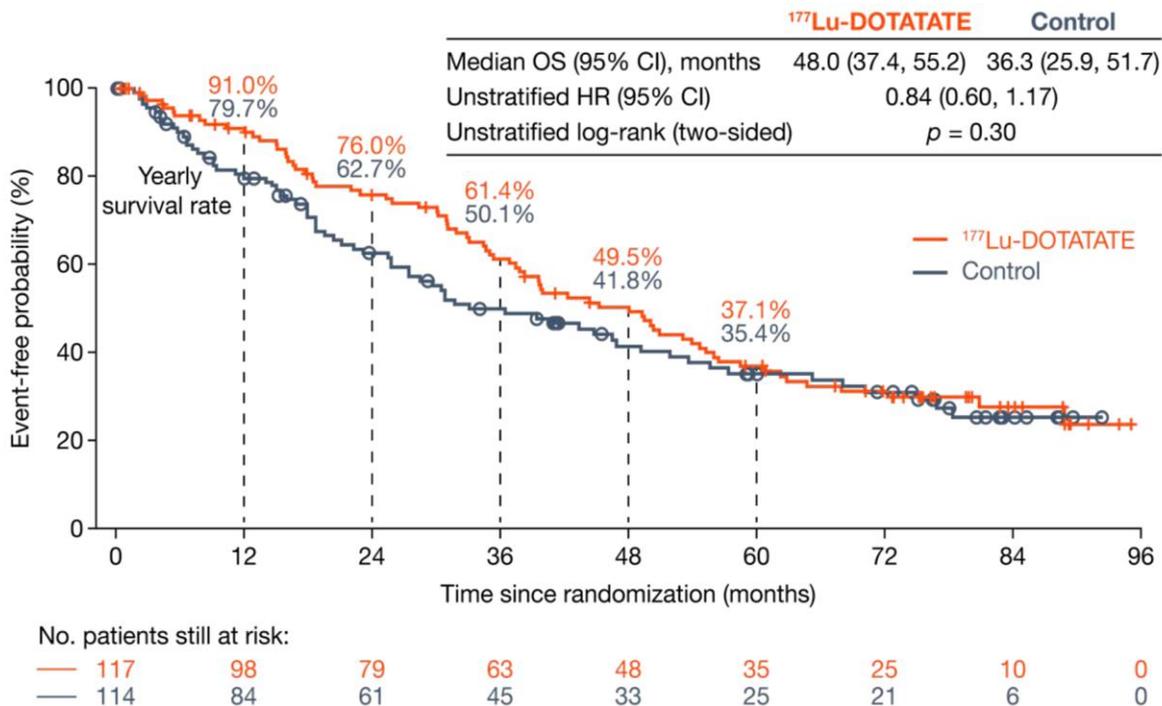
# Restricted mean survival time: an alternative to the hazard ratio for the design and analysis of randomized trials with a time-to-event outcome

Patrick Royston\* and Mahesh KB Parmar

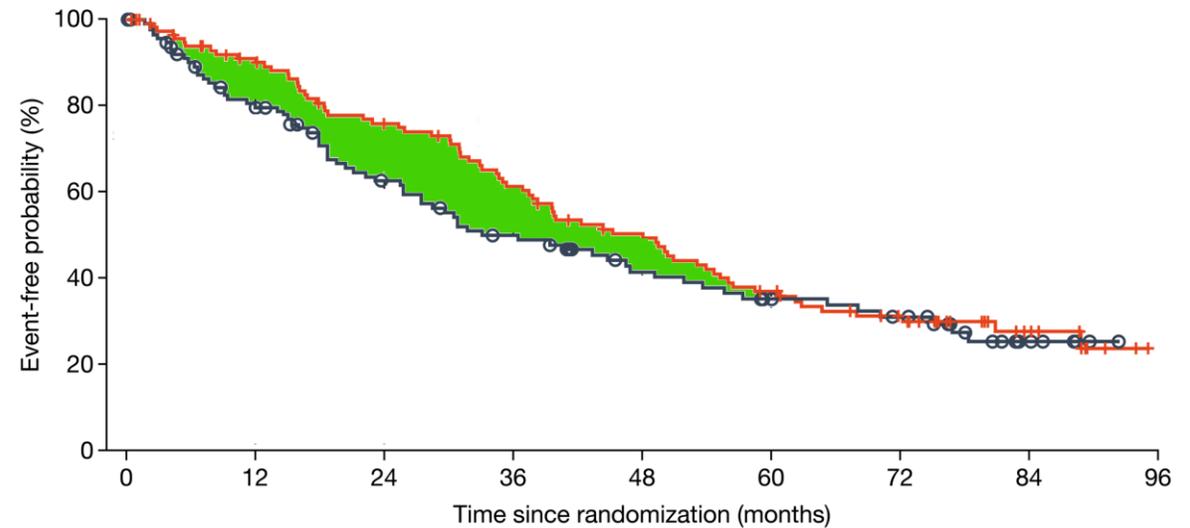
*BMC Medical Research Methodology* 2013, **13**:152



## The phase 3 NETTER-1 study of <sup>177</sup>Lu-DOTATATE in patients with midgut neuroendocrine tumours: further survival analyses



Deaths, n (%)	65 (55.6)	63 (55.3)
RMST, months (95% CI)	41.2 (37.6, 44.9)	36.1 (31.9, 40.4)
<b>Difference, months (95% CI)</b>	<b>5.1 (-0.5, 10.7)</b>	



# Results from a meta-analysis of checkpoint inhibitors in first-line cancer patients: does PD-L1 m

Giandomenico Roviello <sup>ID</sup>, Silvia Paola Corona, Gabriella Nesi

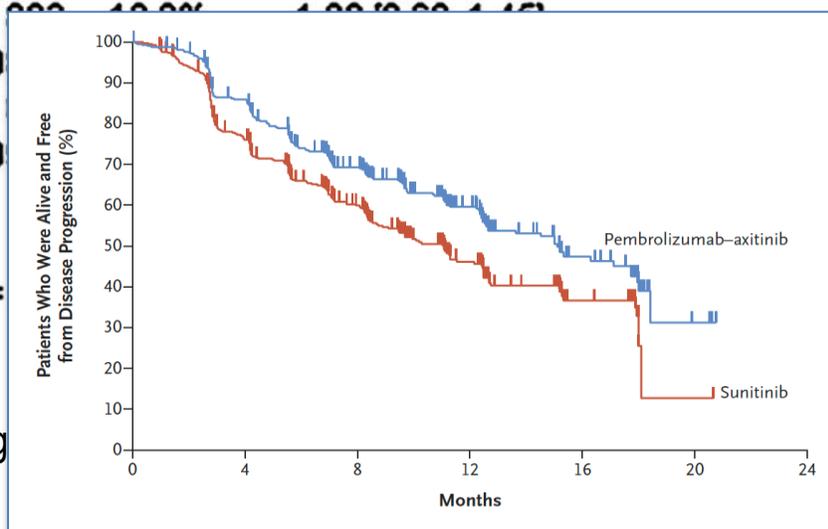
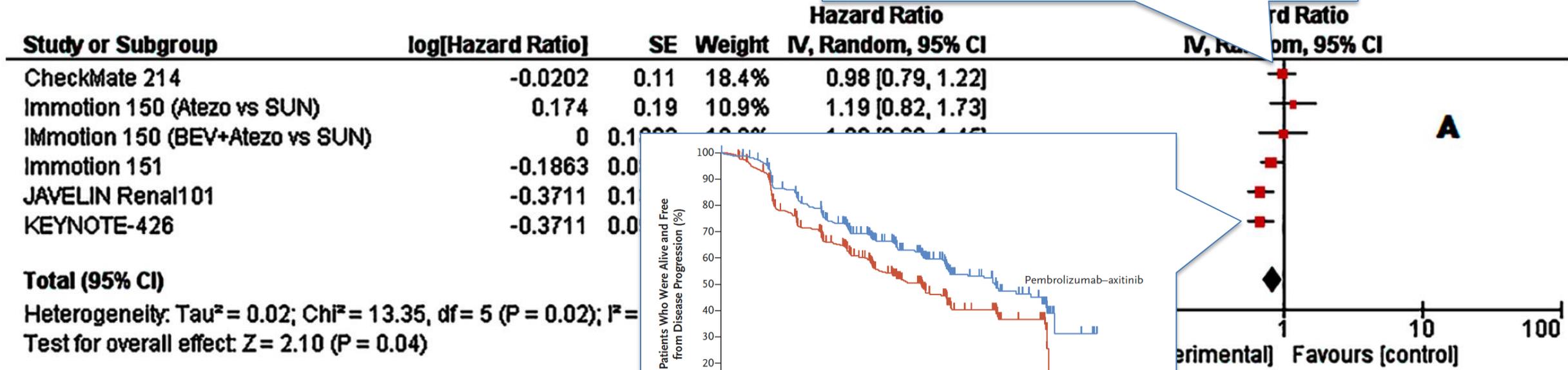
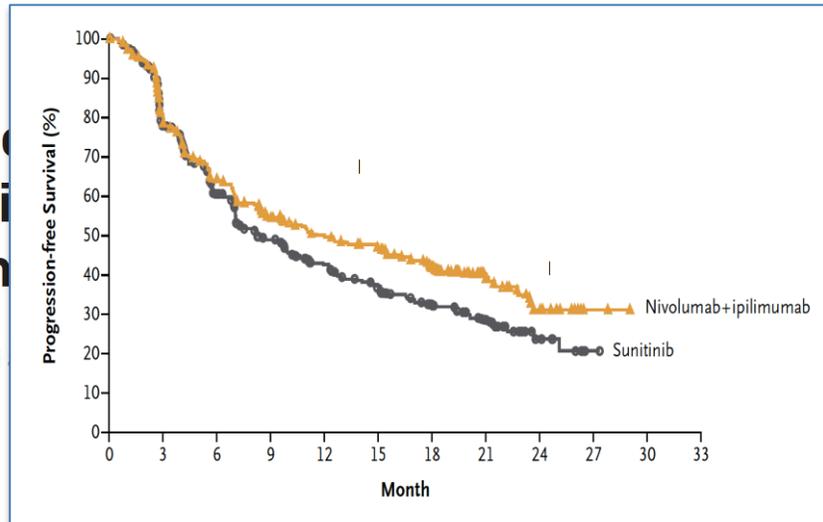


Figure 2. Forest plots of hazard ratios (HRs) for prog

checkpoint inhibitors with sunitinib.

SCUOLA DI METODOLOGIA CLINICA  
IRCCS "Sacro Cuore - Don Calabria" Negrar di Valpolicella

8<sup>a</sup> EDIZIONE

2° MODULO

REVISIONI SISTEMATICHE E METANALISI

NEGRAR DI VALPOLICELLA  
11-12 FEBBRAIO 2022  
Centro Formazione IRCCS "Sacro Cuore-Don Calabria"



## 11 Febbraio 2022

- 10.30-10.45 Presentazione ed obiettivi del Corso  
**Stefania GORI - Fabrizio NICOLIS  
Giovanni L. PAPPAGALLO**
- 10.45-11.30 Tipologia delle Revisioni della Letteratura Scientifica  
Obiettivi di una Revisione Sistemática  
**Michela CINQUINI**
- 11.30-12.00 Definizione del quesito clinico e degli outcome di interesse; misure di associazione  
**Giovanni L. PAPPAGALLO**
- 12.00-13.00 Lavoro di gruppo  
*Summing-Up* (metodo: *What? So What? Now What?*)  
(valido come prova ECM)
- 13.00-14.00 Colazione di lavoro
- 14.00-14.45 Come trovare informazioni - I database bibliografici, i siti di linee guida e studi clinici...  
**Veronica Andrea FITTIPALDO**
- 14.45-15.30 Definizione della strategia di ricerca e di selezione degli studi; *study flow*  
**Michela CINQUINI**
- 15.30-16.00 Metodi di valutazione di autori e riviste scientifiche: indici bibliometrici classici e innovativi  
**Giulio ZUANETTI**
- 16.00-16.30 Coffee Break
- 16.30-17.30 Valutazione del rischio di *bias* negli studi selezionati  
**Ivan MOSCHETTI**
- 17.30-18.30 Lavoro di gruppo  
*Summing-Up* (metodo: *What? So What? Now What?*)  
(valido come prova ECM)

SCUOLA DI METODOLOGIA CLINICA  
IRCCS "Sacro Cuore - Don Calabria" Negrar di Valpolicella

8<sup>a</sup> EDIZIONE

2° MODULO

REVISIONI SISTEMATICHE E METANALISI

NEGRAR DI VALPOLICELLA  
11-12 FEBBRAIO 2022  
Centro Formazione IRCCS "Sacro Cuore-Don Calabria"



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(valido come prova ECM)

# Obiettivo Generale

Prendere decisioni nella pratica clinica rispondendo a quesiti attraverso il reperimento delle evidenze disponibili

# Quesito clinico



## Linee guida NEOPLASIE CEREBRALI

Edizione 2019

In collaborazione con

### 10. Glioblastoma di nuova diagnosi

Il glioblastoma è la neoplasia cerebrale più aggressiva e più frequente: la sua incidenza media è di 5-8 casi ogni 100.000 abitanti e rappresenta il 54% rispetto al totale di tutti i gliomi diagnosticati (41, 42).

**Quesito 2: Nei pazienti con meno di 70 anni alla radioterapia (60 Gy/30 frazioni) dovrebbe essere associato un trattamento con temozolomide concomitante (75 mg/m<sup>2</sup>/die) ed adiuvante (150-200 mg/m<sup>2</sup> per 5 giorni, ogni 28)?**

**Descrizione delle evidenze:**

*Lo studio pubblicato da:*

- Stupp, R, New England Journal of Medicine, 2005 (13).

*condotto in termini di:*

- singolo studio randomizzato

# Elaborazione del modello PICO

Articolare il quesito clinico col modello PICO risulta molto efficace per ritrovare evidenze clinicamente rilevanti in letteratura

# Elaborazione del modello PICO

**P** = paziente o popolazione

**I** = intervento

**C** = confronto

**O** = outcome (esito)

Nei pazienti affetti da glioblastoma di nuova diagnosi, con meno di 70 anni, alla radioterapia deve essere associato un trattamento con temozolomide concomitante o adiuvante?

*Linee guida «Neoplasie cerebrali». AIOM (Associazione Italiana Oncologia Medica) Edizione 2018.*

# Elaborazione del modello PICO

**P** = soggetti affetti di glioblastoma <70anni

**I** = radioterapia

**C** = temozolamide

Nei *pazienti affetti da glioblastoma di nuova diagnosi, con meno di 70 anni*, alla *radioterapia* deve essere associato un trattamento con *temozolomide* concomitante o adiuvante?

*Linee guida «Neoplasie cerebrali». AIOM (Associazione Italiana Oncologia Medica) Edizione 2018.*

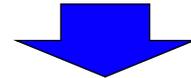
Creare la stringa di ricerca



Interrogare le diverse banche dati



Trovare gli studi randomizzati (RCT)



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**PubMed Tools**

- [PubMed Mobile](#)
- [Single Citation Matcher](#)
- [Batch Citation Matcher](#)
- [Clinical Queries](#)
- [Topic-Specific Queries](#)

**More Resources**

- [MeSH Database](#)
- [Journals in NCBI Databases](#)
- [Clinical Trials](#)
- [E-Utilities \(API\)](#)
- [LinkOut](#)

**Latest Literature**

New articles from highly accessed journals

- [Chest \(1\)](#)
- [Drugs \(1\)](#)

**Trending Articles**

PubMed records with recent increases in activity

Update: Public Health Response to the Coronavirus Disease 2019 Outbreak - United States, February 24, 2020. MMWR Morb Mortal Wkly Rep. 2020.

<https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pubmed/>



U.S. National Library of Medicine  
National Center for Biotechnology Information

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Search

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PubMed® comprises more than 30 million citations for biomedical literature from MEDLINE, life science journals, and online books. Citations may include links to full-text content from PubMed Central and publisher web sites.



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#### Download

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FTP  
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#### Explore

MeSH Database  
Journals

Feedback

# Pubmed: Banca dati bibliografica

- Archivio di **citazioni**, curato dal National Center of Biotechnology (NCBI) presso la National Library of Medicine di Bethesda e messo a disposizione gratuitamente nel 1996 tramite la piattaforma PubMed disponibile sul Web.
- L'Index Medicus, pubblicata dalla National Library of Medicine (NLM) nel 1879, ha indicizzato le principali riviste di medicina e di scienze biomediche, all'inizio negli Stati Uniti e dopo in tutto il mondo diventando il database ora conosciuto come MEDLINE®.

## MEDLINE®

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- Medline contiene più di 5 mila journals indexati.
- Offre strumenti di ricerca attraverso parole chiavi su più campi (autore, titolo, abstract).
- Consente l'uso di operatori logici e la modalità di ricerca libera e con i termine MeSH.

# Citazione bibliografica

- Ogni citazione bibliografica rappresenta un articolo di rivista.
- È composta da campi che forniscono informazioni sull'articolo.

# I campi della citazione bibliografica

**Rivista**

Format: Abstract ▾

Lancet Oncol. 2009 May;10(5):459-66. doi: 10.1016/S1470-2045(09)70025-7. Epub 2009 Mar 9.

**Titolo citazione**

**Effects of radiotherapy with concomitant and adjuvant temozolomide versus radiotherapy alone on survival in glioblastoma in a randomised phase III study: 5-year analysis of the EORTC-NCIC trial.**

**Autori e affiliazione**

Stupp R<sup>1</sup>, Hegi ME, Mason WP, van den Bent MJ, Taphoorn MJ, Janzer RC, Ludwin SK, Allgeier A, Fisher B, Belanger K, Hau P, Brandes AA, Gijtenbeek J, Marosi C, Vecht CJ, Mokhtari K, Wesseling P, Villa S, Eisenhauer E, Gorlia T, Weller M, Lacombe D, Cairncross JG, Mirimanoff RO; European Organisation for Research and Treatment of Cancer Brain Tumour and Radiation Oncology Groups; National Cancer Institute of Canada Clinical Trials Group.

**Riassunto**

**Author information**

**Abstract**

**BACKGROUND:** In 2004, a randomised phase III trial by the European Organisation for Research and Treatment of Cancer (EORTC) and National Cancer Institute of Canada Clinical Trials Group (NCIC) reported improved median and 2-year survival for patients with glioblastoma treated with concomitant and adjuvant temozolomide and radiotherapy. We report the final results with a median follow-up of more than 5 years.

**METHODS:** Adult patients with newly diagnosed glioblastoma were randomly assigned to receive either standard radiotherapy or identical radiotherapy with concomitant temozolomide followed by up to six cycles of adjuvant temozolomide. The methylation status of the methyl-guanine methyl transferase gene, MGMT, was determined retrospectively from the tumour tissue of 206 patients. The primary endpoint was overall survival. Analyses were by intention to treat. This trial is registered with Clinicaltrials.gov, number [NCT00006353](#).

**FINDINGS:** Between Aug 17, 2000, and March 22, 2002, 573 patients were assigned to treatment. 278 (97%) of 286 patients in the radiotherapy alone group and 254 (89%) of 287 in the combined-treatment group died during 5 years of follow-up. Overall survival was 27.2% (95% CI 22.2-32.5) at 2 years, 16.0% (12.0-20.6) at 3 years, 12.1% (8.5-16.4) at 4 years, and 9.8% (6.4-14.0) at 5 years with temozolomide, versus 10.9% (7.6-14.8), 4.4% (2.4-7.2), 3.0% (1.4-5.7), and 1.9% (0.6-4.4) with radiotherapy alone (hazard ratio 0.6, 95% CI 0.5-0.7; p<0.0001). A benefit of combined therapy was recorded in all clinical prognostic subgroups, including patients aged 60-70 years. Methylation of the MGMT promoter was the strongest predictor for outcome and benefit from temozolomide chemotherapy.

**INTERPRETATION:** Benefits of adjuvant temozolomide with radiotherapy lasted throughout 5 years of follow-up. A few patients in favourable prognostic categories survive longer than 5 years. MGMT methylation status identifies patients most likely to benefit from the addition of temozolomide.

**FUNDING:** EORTC, NCIC, Nélia and Amadeo Barletta Foundation, Schering-Plough.

**Comment in**

A silver lining on the horizon for glioblastoma. [Lancet Oncol. 2009]

PMID: 19269895 DOI: [10.1016/S1470-2045\(09\)70025-7](#)  
[Indexed for MEDLINE]

**Citazioni affini al argomento**

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**Full text links**

THE LANCET Oncology  
FULL-TEXT ARTICLE

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**Similar articles**

Nomograms for predicting survival of patients with newly diagnosed glioblastoma [Lancet Oncol. 2008]

Cilengitide combined with standard treatment for patients with newly diagnosed glioblastoma [Lancet Oncol. 2014]

Temozolomide chemotherapy alone versus radiotherapy alone for malignant glioma [Lancet Oncol. 2012]

**Review** [Standards and new developments in the chemotherapy of glioblastoma] [Dtsch Med Wochenschr. 2005]

**Review** Treatment of elderly patients with glioblastoma: a systematic review [JAMA Neurol. 2015]

See reviews...  
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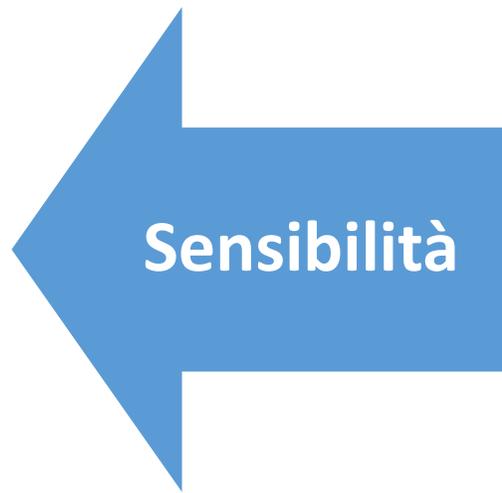
**Cited by over 100 PubMed Central articles**

**Review** The Prognostic and Therapeutic Value of PD-L1 in Glioma. [Front Pharmacol. 2018]

YB-1 modulates the drug resistance of glioma cells by activation of [Drug Des Devel Ther. 2019]

Reciprocal regulation of integrin  $\beta 4$  and KLF4 promotes gliomagenesis [J Exp Clin Cancer Res. 2019]

See all...



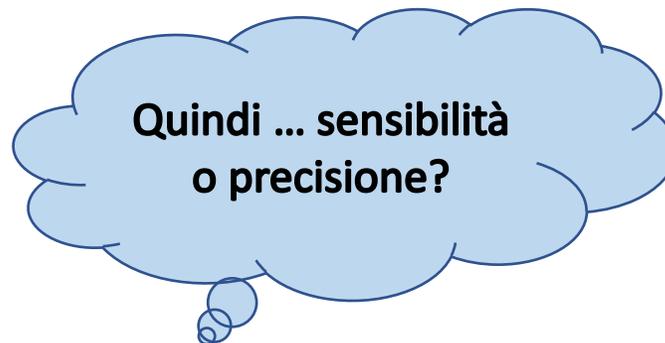
30 records utili su 3000  
ritrovati su PubMed

- ✓ Ricerca completa
- X Alto numero di records non rilevanti alla nostra ricerca

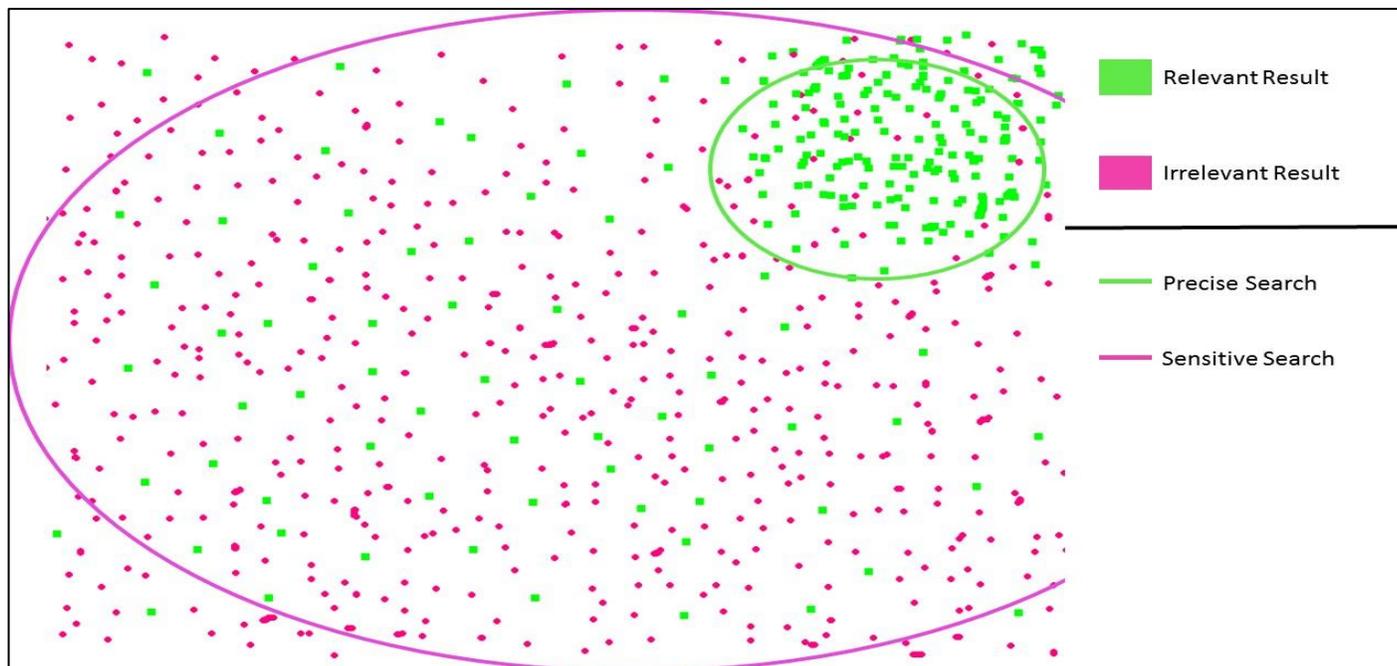


10 records utili su 30  
ritrovati su PubMed

- ✓ Trova i records rilevanti
- X Pericolo di perdere records, ricerca incompleta



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Fonte: University of Toronto <https://guides.library.utoronto.ca/c.php?g=577919&p=4304403>

**Per fare una revisione sistematica**



**sensibilità**

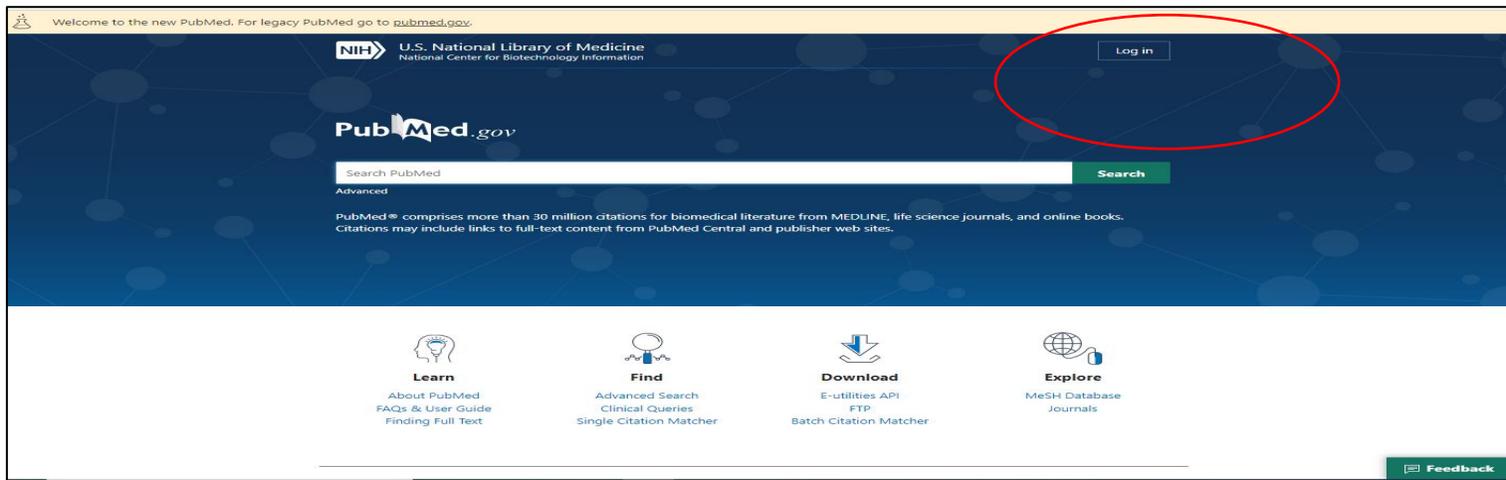
**Per il clinico, che deve rispondere ad un quesito clinico**



**Precisione**

# Guida per una ricerca su PubMed

- Pubmed: Registrarsi e creare un account
- Ricerca libera
- Gli operatori booleani
- Creare una stringa di ricerca
- Mesh: utilizzo
- Risultati: conservazione e rilancio della ricerca
- Scaricare i risultati



1

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2

Registrarsi sul sito di PubMed e creare una utenza permette di salvare le ricerche e richiamarli per aggiornarli.

# Ricerca libera

The screenshot shows the PubMed website interface. At the top, there are navigation links for 'NCBI', 'Resources', and 'How To'. The main header includes the 'PubMed.gov' logo and a search bar containing the text 'glioblastoma'. A dropdown menu is open, displaying a list of search suggestions related to glioblastoma, such as 'glioblastoma multiforme', 'glioblastoma treatment', and 'glioblastoma survival'. A red bracket highlights this list. To the right of the suggestions, a text box contains the text: 'Il database da la possibilità di scegliere il termine adatto'. Below the search bar, there are sections for 'Using PubMed' with links to guides and FAQs, and 'Latest Literature' and 'Trending Articles' sections.

Il database è formato da diversi campi: autore, data, nome del journal, ecc. Inserendo solo una parola chiave, in questo caso glioblastoma, la ricerca verrà fatta in tutti i campi, la chiamata “ricerca libera”

NCBI Resources How To marionegrsearches My NCBI Sign Out

PubMed.gov PubMed glioblastoma Search

US National Library of Medicine National Institutes of Health Create RSS Create alert Advanced Help

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An updated version of PubMed is now available. Come see the new improvements to the interface!

Article types: Clinical Trial, Review, Customize ...

Text availability: Abstract, Free full text, Full text

Publication dates: 5 years, 10 years, Custom range...

Species: Humans, Other Animals

Format: Summary Sort by: First Author Per page: 20

Send to Filters: Manage Filters

Sort by: Best match Most recent

**Best matches for glioblastoma:**

- [Glioblastoma](#)  
Wirsching HG et al. Handb Clin Neurol. (2016)
- [Glioblastoma and other malignant gliomas: a clinical review](#)  
Omuro A et al. JAMA. (2013)
- [Multidimensional communication in the microenvirons of glioblastoma](#)  
Broekman ML et al. Nat Rev Neurol. (2018)

Switch to our new best match sort order

Results by year

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Related searches: glioblastoma multiforme

**Search results**

Items: 1 to 20 of 39397

<< First < Prev Page 1 of 1970 Next > Last >>

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La ricerca libera e semplice da fare ma il risultato ritrova un alto numero di records e, nella maggior parte dei casi, poco attinenti alla nostra ricerca.

# MeSH: Medical Subject Headings

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National Center for Biotechnology Information [Log in](#)

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[Feedback](#)

A large red arrow points upwards from the bottom center of the page towards the 'MeSH Database' link in the 'Explore' section.

# MeSH: Medical Subject Headings

The screenshot shows the PubMed website interface. At the top, there is a navigation bar with 'NCBI Resources' and 'How To' menus. The main header features the 'PubMed.gov' logo and a search bar containing the text 'glioblastoma'. A dropdown menu is open, showing 'Recent' items (PubMed, MeSH, Books) and 'All' items (All Databases, Assembly, Biocollections, BioProject, BioSample, BioSystems, Books, ClinVar, Conserved Domains, dbGaP, dbVar, Gene, Genome, GEO DataSets, GEO Profiles). The MeSH option is highlighted. Below the search bar, a blue banner promotes the 'New PubMed!' interface. The main content area is divided into three columns: 'Using PubMed' (with links to Quick Start Guide, Full Text Articles, FAQs, Tutorials, and New and Noteworthy), 'PubMed Tools' (with links to Mobile, Citation Matchers, Clinical Queries, and Topic-Specific Queries), and 'More Resources' (with links to MeSH Database, Journals in NCBI Databases, Clinical Trials, E-Utilities (API), and LinkOut). At the bottom, there are sections for 'Latest Literature' and 'Trending Articles'.

Con il vocabolario controllato possiamo costruire una ricerca più mirata.

NCBI Resources How To marionegrisearches My NCBI Sign Out

MeSH MeSH glioblastoma Search

Create alert Limits Advanced Help

Summary 20 per page Send to: PubMed Search Builder

**Search results**  
Items: 9

[Glioblastoma](#)

1. A malignant form of astrocytoma histologically characterized by pleomorphism of cells, nuclear atypia, microhemorrhage, and necrosis. They may arise in any region of the central nervous system, with a predilection for the cerebral hemispheres, basal ganglia, and commissural pathways. Clinical presentation most frequently occurs in the fifth or sixth decade of life with focal neurologic signs or seizures.  
Year introduced: 1994

2. A TGF-beta subtype that was originally identified as a **GLIOBLASTOMA**-both helper and CYTOTOXIC T LYMPHOCYTES. It is synthesized as a pro-peptide and TGF-beta2 latency-associated peptide. The association of the cleavage products with the TGF-beta2 receptor must be activated to bind its receptor.  
Year introduced: 2007(2000)
3. A malignant tumor arising from the nuclear layer of the retina that is the most common primary intraocular tumor. It tends to occur in early childhood or infancy and may be present at birth. It is transmitted as an autosomal dominant trait. Histologic features include dense calcification and necrosis. An abnormal pupil reflex (leukokoria); NYSTAGMUS; and strabismic amblyopia represent common clinical characteristics of this condition. (From DeVita, *et al*, *Principles and Practice of Oncology*, 6th ed, Philadelphia, PA, 2001, pp 100-101.)

NCBI Resources How To marionegrisearches My NCBI Sign Out

MeSH MeSH Search

Limits Advanced Help

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**Glioblastoma**

A malignant form of astrocytoma histologically characterized by pleomorphism of cells, nuclear atypia, microhemorrhage, and necrosis. They may arise in any region of the central nervous system, with a predilection for the cerebral hemispheres, basal ganglia, and commissural pathways. Clinical presentation most frequently occurs in the fifth or sixth decade of life with focal neurologic signs or seizures.  
Year introduced: 1994

PubMed search builder options  
[Subheadings:](#)

<input type="checkbox"/> analysis	<input type="checkbox"/> embryology	<input type="checkbox"/> physiopathology
<input type="checkbox"/> anatomy and histology	<input type="checkbox"/> enzymology	<input type="checkbox"/> prevention and control
<input type="checkbox"/> blood	<input type="checkbox"/> epidemiology	<input type="checkbox"/> psychology
<input type="checkbox"/> blood supply	<input type="checkbox"/> ethnology	<input type="checkbox"/> radiotherapy
<input type="checkbox"/> cerebrospinal fluid	<input type="checkbox"/> etiology	<input type="checkbox"/> rehabilitation
<input type="checkbox"/> chemically induced	<input type="checkbox"/> genetics	<input type="checkbox"/> secondary
<input type="checkbox"/> chemistry	<input type="checkbox"/> history	<input type="checkbox"/> statistics and numerical data
<input type="checkbox"/> classification	<input type="checkbox"/> immunology	<input type="checkbox"/> surgery
<input type="checkbox"/> complications	<input type="checkbox"/> metabolism	<input type="checkbox"/> therapy
<input type="checkbox"/> congenital	<input type="checkbox"/> microbiology	<input type="checkbox"/> transmission
<input type="checkbox"/> cytology	<input type="checkbox"/> mortality	<input type="checkbox"/> transplantation
<input type="checkbox"/> diagnosis	<input type="checkbox"/> nursing	<input type="checkbox"/> ultrastructure
<input type="checkbox"/> diagnostic imaging	<input type="checkbox"/> organization and administration	<input type="checkbox"/> urine
<input type="checkbox"/> diet therapy	<input type="checkbox"/> parasitology	<input type="checkbox"/> veterinary
<input type="checkbox"/> drug therapy	<input type="checkbox"/> pathology	<input type="checkbox"/> virology
<input type="checkbox"/> economics	<input type="checkbox"/> physiology	

Restrict to MeSH Major Topic.  
 Do not include MeSH terms found below this term in the MeSH hierarchy.

PubMed Search Builder  
"Glioblastoma"[Mesh]  
Add to search builder AND Search PubMed

Related information  
PubMed  
PubMed - Major Topic  
Clinical Queries  
NLM MeSH Browser  
dbGaP Links  
MedGen

Recent Activity  
Turn Off Clear  
Glioblastoma MeSH  
glioblastoma (9) MeSH

Il vocabolario controllato da la possibilità di scegliere il termine più attinente alla nostra ricerca

Sicuro | <https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/mesh/68005909>

Full ▾

### Glioblastoma

A malignant form of astrocytoma histologically characterized by pleomorphism of cells, nuclear atypia, microhemorrhage, and necrosis. They may arise in any region of the central nervous system, with a predilection for the cerebral hemispheres, basal ganglia, and commissural pathways. Clinical presentation most frequently occurs in the fifth or sixth decade of life with focal neurologic signs or seizures. Year introduced: 1994

PubMed search builder options  
[Subheadings:](#)

<input type="checkbox"/> analysis	<input type="checkbox"/> embryology	<input type="checkbox"/> physiopathology
<input type="checkbox"/> anatomy and histology	<input type="checkbox"/> enzymology	<input type="checkbox"/> prevention and control
<input type="checkbox"/> blood	<input type="checkbox"/> epidemiology	<input type="checkbox"/> psychology
<input type="checkbox"/> blood supply	<input type="checkbox"/> ethnology	<input type="checkbox"/> radiotherapy
<input type="checkbox"/> cerebrospinal fluid	<input type="checkbox"/> etiology	<input type="checkbox"/> rehabilitation
<input type="checkbox"/> chemically induced	<input type="checkbox"/> genetics	<input type="checkbox"/> secondary
<input type="checkbox"/> chemistry	<input type="checkbox"/> history	<input type="checkbox"/> secretion
<input type="checkbox"/> classification	<input type="checkbox"/> immunology	<input type="checkbox"/> statistics and numerical data
<input type="checkbox"/> complications	<input type="checkbox"/> metabolism	<input type="checkbox"/> surgery
<input type="checkbox"/> congenital	<input type="checkbox"/> microbiology	<input type="checkbox"/> therapy
<input type="checkbox"/> cytology	<input type="checkbox"/> mortality	<input type="checkbox"/> transmission
<input type="checkbox"/> diagnosis	<input type="checkbox"/> nursing	<input type="checkbox"/> transplantation
<input type="checkbox"/> diagnostic imaging	<input type="checkbox"/> organization and administration	<input type="checkbox"/> ultrastructure
<input type="checkbox"/> diet therapy	<input type="checkbox"/> parasitology	<input type="checkbox"/> urine
<input type="checkbox"/> drug therapy	<input type="checkbox"/> pathology	<input type="checkbox"/> veterinary
<input type="checkbox"/> economics	<input type="checkbox"/> physiology	<input type="checkbox"/> virology

Restrict to MeSH Major Topic.  
 Do not include MeSH terms found below this term in the MeSH hierarchy.

Tree Number(s): C04.557.465.625.600.380.080.335, C04.557.470.670.380.080.335, C04.557.580.625.600.380.080.335  
MeSH Unique ID: D005909  
Entry Terms:

Send to ▾

**PubMed Search Builder**

"Glioblastoma"[Mesh]

Add to search builder AND ▾

Search PubMed

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#### Related information

PubMed

PubMed - Major Topic

Clinical Queries

NLM MeSH Browser

dbGaP Links

MedGen

#### Recent Activity

[Turn Off](#) [Clear](#)

- Glioblastoma MeSH
- glioblastoma (9) MeSH
- ((((((glioblastoma[Title/Abstract]) OR astrocytoma[Title/Abstrac... (299) PubMed
- Glioblastoma OR astrocytoma AND (radiotherapy NOT temozolamide) /54 PubMed

Impostato il termine da cercare se inserisce nella maschera di ricerca

**P** = soggetti affetti di **glioblastoma** <70anni  
**I** = radioterapia  
**C** = temozolamide

Full ▾ Send to: ▾

## Glioblastoma

A malignant form of astrocytoma histologically characterized by pleomorphism of cells, nuclear atypia, microhemorrhage, and necrosis. They may arise in any region of the central nervous system, with a predilection for the cerebral hemispheres, basal ganglia, and commissural pathways. Clinical presentation most frequently occurs in the fifth or sixth decade of life with focal neurologic signs or seizures.  
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PubMed search builder options  
[Subheadings:](#)

<input type="checkbox"/> analysis	<input type="checkbox"/> embryology	<input type="checkbox"/> physiopathology
<input type="checkbox"/> anatomy and histology	<input type="checkbox"/> enzymology	<input type="checkbox"/> prevention and control
<input type="checkbox"/> blood	<input type="checkbox"/> epidemiology	<input type="checkbox"/> psychology
<input type="checkbox"/> blood supply	<input type="checkbox"/> ethnology	<input type="checkbox"/> radiotherapy
<input type="checkbox"/> cerebrospinal fluid	<input type="checkbox"/> etiology	<input type="checkbox"/> rehabilitation
<input type="checkbox"/> chemically induced	<input type="checkbox"/> genetics	<input type="checkbox"/> secondary
<input type="checkbox"/> chemistry	<input type="checkbox"/> history	<input type="checkbox"/> secretion
<input type="checkbox"/> classification	<input type="checkbox"/> immunology	<input type="checkbox"/> statistics and numerical data
<input type="checkbox"/> complications	<input type="checkbox"/> metabolism	<input type="checkbox"/> surgery
<input type="checkbox"/> congenital	<input type="checkbox"/> microbiology	<input type="checkbox"/> therapy
<input type="checkbox"/> cytology	<input type="checkbox"/> mortality	<input type="checkbox"/> transmission
<input type="checkbox"/> diagnosis	<input type="checkbox"/> nursing	<input type="checkbox"/> transplantation
<input type="checkbox"/> diagnostic imaging	<input type="checkbox"/> organization and administration	<input type="checkbox"/> ultrastructure
<input type="checkbox"/> diet therapy	<input type="checkbox"/> parasitology	<input type="checkbox"/> urine
<input type="checkbox"/> drug therapy	<input type="checkbox"/> pathology	<input type="checkbox"/> veterinary
<input type="checkbox"/> economics	<input type="checkbox"/> physiology	<input type="checkbox"/> virology

Restrict to MeSH Major Topic.  
 Do not include MeSH terms found below this term in the MeSH hierarchy

Tree Number(s): C04.557.465.625.600.380.080.335, C04.557.470.670.380.080.335, C04.557.580.625.600.380.080.335  
MeSH Unique ID: D005909

PubMed Search Builder

Add to search builder AND ▾  
Search PubMed

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Related information

PubMed

PubMed - Major Topic

Clinical Queries

NLM MeSH Browser

dbGaP Links

MedGen

Recent Activity

Turn Off Clear

Glioblastoma MeSH

glioblastoma (9) MeSH

(((((((glioblastoma[Title/Abstract]) OR astrocytoma[Title/Abstrac... (299) PubMed

I **subheadings**: restringono il campo ad un aspetto più specifico ed è possibile scegliere più di uno.

**Restrict to MeSH Major Topic**: con questa opzione i risultati ottenuti ricadranno sul termine MeSH cercato.

**Do not include MeSH terms found below this term in the MeSH hierarchy**: esplodere o no il termine, i risultati non includeranno i termini al di sotto della nostra parola chiave nella struttura ad albero.

Sicuro | <https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/mesh/68005909>

Entry Terms:

- Glioblastomas
- Astrocytoma, Grade IV
- Astrocytomas, Grade IV
- Grade IV Astrocytoma
- Grade IV Astrocytomas
- Glioblastoma Multifome
- Giant Cell Glioblastoma
- Giant Cell Glioblastomas
- Glioblastoma, Giant Cell
- Glioblastomas, Giant Cell

Entry terms: Sinonimi del termine

[All MeSH Categories](#)  
[Diseases Category](#)  
[Neoplasms](#)  
[Neoplasms by Histologic Type](#)  
[Neoplasms, Germ Cell and Embryonal](#)  
[Neuroectodermal Tumors](#)  
[Neoplasms, Neuroepithelial](#)  
[Glioma](#)  
[Astrocytoma](#)  
 Glioblastoma

[All MeSH Categories](#)  
[Diseases Category](#)  
[Neoplasms](#)  
[Neoplasms by Histologic Type](#)  
[Neoplasms, Glandular and Epithelial](#)  
[Neoplasms, Neuroepithelial](#)  
[Glioma](#)  
[Astrocytoma](#)  
 Glioblastoma

Search: Glioblastoma OR astrocytoma AND (radiotherapy NOT temozolomide) (54 PubMed)  
 Search: (((glioblastoma[Title/Abstract]) OR astrocytoma[Title/Abstract])... (3451) PubMed  
[See more...](#)

Struttura ad albero

**Struttura ad albero:** qui si vede a che punto dell'albero è il nostro termine di interesse

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PubMed.gov US National Library of Medicine National Institutes of Health

PubMed "Glioblastoma"[Mesh] Search

Create RSS Create alert Advanced Help

Article types: Clinical Trial, Review, Customize ...

Text availability: Abstract, Free full text, Full text

Publication dates: 5 years, 10 years, Custom range...

Species: Humans, Other Animals

Clear all Show additional filters

Format: Summary Sort by: Most Recent per page: 20 Send to Filters: Manage Filters

Search results

Items: 1 to 20 of 22445 << First < Prev Page 1 of 1123 Next > Last >>

Sort by: Best match Most recent

Results by year

Titles with your search terms

Drug combination using an injectable nanomedicine hydrogel for gli [Int J Pharm. 2019]

3D Printing of Microfluidic Chip Masters Model

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PubMed Advanced Search Builder

Query #1 deleted.

Use the builder below to create your search

Edit Clear

Builder

All Fields All Fields

AND All Fields

Show index list Show index list

Search or Add to history

History

Search	Add to builder	Query	Items found	Time
#6	Add	Search "Glioblastoma"[Mesh] Sort by: Author	24552	08:46:29

Cliccando su **Advanced** se accede alla pagina che ci permette di costruire una strategia di ricerca.

# Operatori booleani

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PubMed Home More Resources Help

PubMed Advanced Search Builder [YouTube Tutorial](#)

("Glioblastoma"[Mesh]) OR glioblastoma[Title/Abstract]

[Edit](#) [Clear](#)

Builder

All Fields "Glioblastoma"[Mesh] [Show index list](#)

OR Title/Abstract glioblastoma [Show index list](#)

AND All Fields [Show index list](#)

[Search](#) or [Add to history](#)

History

Search	Add to builder	
#12	<a href="#">Add</a>	Search "Glioblastoma"

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PubMed Home More Resources Help

PubMed Advanced Search Builder [YouTube Tutorial](#)

((("Glioblastoma"[Mesh]) OR glioblastoma[Title/Abstract]))

[Edit](#) [Clear](#)

Builder

All Fields ("Glioblastoma"[Mesh]) OR glioblastoma[Title/Abstract] [Show index list](#)

AND All Fields [Show index list](#)

[Search](#) or [Add to history](#)

History [Download history](#) [Clear history](#)

Search	Add to builder	Query	Items found	Time
#8	<a href="#">Add</a>	Search ("Glioblastoma"[Mesh]) OR glioblastoma[Title/Abstract] Sort by: Author	<a href="#">39393</a>	08:52:11
#7	<a href="#">Add</a>	Search glioblastoma[Title/Abstract] Sort by: Author	<a href="#">33673</a>	08:51:45
#6	<a href="#">Add</a>	Search "Glioblastoma"[Mesh] Sort by: Author	<a href="#">24552</a>	08:46:29
#2	<a href="#">Add</a>	Search glioblastoma Sort by: Author	<a href="#">39397</a>	08:24:22

Utilizzando gli operatori logici: OR – AND – NOT  
si può stabilire una relazione tra i termini da ricercare.

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PubMed Home More Resources Help

### PubMed Advanced Search Builder

YouTube Tutorial

("Glioblastoma"[Mesh]) OR glioblastoma[Title/Abstract]

Edit Clear

Builder

All Fields "Glioblastoma"[Mesh] Show index list

**OR** All Fields glioblastoma[Title/Abstract] Show index list

AND All Fields Show index list

Search or Add to history

History Download history Clear history

Search	Add to builder	Query	Items found	Time
#8	Add	Search ("Glioblastoma"[Mesh]) OR glioblastoma[Title/Abstract] Sort by: Author	39393	08:52:11

Con **OR** il database ricercherà i documenti che contengano la parola glioblastoma come termine MeSH o nei titoli e abstract.

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PubMed Advanced Search Builder [YouTube Tutorial](#)

((("Radiotherapy"[Mesh] OR radiotherapy[Title/Abstract])) AND ((("Temozolomide"[Mesh] OR ((temozolomide[Title/Abstract] OR temodar[Title/Abstract] OR temodal[Title/Abstract] OR Methazolastone[Title/Abstract])))

[Edit](#) [Clear](#)

Builder

All Fields "Radiotherapy"[Mesh] OR radiotherapy[Title/Abstract] [Show index list](#)

AND All Fields "Temozolomide"[Mesh] OR ((temozolomide[Title/Abstract] OR temodar[Title/Abstract] OR temodal[Title/Abstract] OR Methazolastone[Title/Abstract])) [Show index list](#)

AND All Fields [Show index list](#)

[Search](#) or [Add to history](#)

History [Download history](#) [Clear history](#)

Search	Add to builder	Query	Items found	Time
#17	<a href="#">Add</a>	Search ("Temozolomide"[Mesh] OR ((temozolomide[Title/Abstract] OR temodar[Title/Abstract] OR temodal[Title/Abstract] OR Methazolastone[Title/Abstract])) Sort by: Author	7498	09:03:27
#16	<a href="#">Add</a>	Search (temozolomide[Title/Abstract] OR temodar[Title/Abstract] OR temodal[Title/Abstract] OR Methazolastone[Title/Abstract]) Sort by: Author	7034	09:03:19
#15	<a href="#">Add</a>	Search "Temozolomide"[Mesh] Sort by: Author	4420	09:02:45
#13	<a href="#">Add</a>	Search ("Radiotherapy"[Mesh] OR radiotherapy[Title/Abstract]) Sort by: Author	286029	09:00:22
#12	<a href="#">Add</a>	Search radiotherapy[Title/Abstract] Sort by: Author	176676	09:00:13
#11	<a href="#">Add</a>	Search "Radiotherapy"[Mesh] Sort by: Author	182419	08:59:58
#8	<a href="#">Add</a>	Search ("Glioblastoma"[Mesh] OR glioblastoma[Title/Abstract]) Sort by: Author	39393	08:52:11
#7	<a href="#">Add</a>	Search glioblastoma[Title/Abstract] Sort by: Author	33673	08:51:45
#6	<a href="#">Add</a>	Search "Glioblastoma"[Mesh] Sort by: Author	24552	08:46:29

Con **AND** il database ricercherà i documenti che contengano le parole radiotherapy e temozolomide contemporaneamente.

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### PubMed Advanced Search Builder

Use the builder below to create your search

[Edit](#) [Clear](#)

**Builder**

All Fields  [Show index list](#)

AND All Fields  [Show index list](#)

**Search** or [Add to history](#)

**History** [Download history](#) [Clear history](#)

Search	Add to builder	Query	Items found	Time
<a href="#">#19</a>	<a href="#">Add</a>	Search (((("Glioblastoma"[Mesh]) OR glioblastoma[Title/Abstract])) AND (((("Radiotherapy"[Mesh]) OR radiotherapy[Title/Abstract])) AND ((("Temozolomide"[Mesh]) OR ((temozolomide[Title/Abstract] OR temodar[Title/Abstract] OR temodal[Title/Abstract] OR Methazolastone[Title/Abstract])))) Sort by: Author	<a href="#">1710</a>	09:06:37
<a href="#">#18</a>	<a href="#">Add</a>	Search (((("Radiotherapy"[Mesh]) OR radiotherapy[Title/Abstract])) AND ((("Temozolomide"[Mesh]) OR ((temozolomide[Title/Abstract] OR temodar[Title/Abstract] OR Methazolastone[Title/Abstract])))) Sort by: Author	<a href="#">2525</a>	09:06:17
<a href="#">#17</a>	<a href="#">Add</a>	Search ("Temozolomide"[Mesh]) OR ((temozolomide[Title/Abstract] OR temodar[Title/Abstract] OR temodal[Title/Abstract] OR Methazolastone[Title/Abstract])) Sort by: Author	<a href="#">7498</a>	09:03:27
<a href="#">#16</a>	<a href="#">Add</a>	Search (temozolomide[Title/Abstract] OR temodar[Title/Abstract] OR temodal[Title/Abstract] OR Methazolastone[Title/Abstract]) Sort by: Author	<a href="#">7034</a>	09:03:19
<a href="#">#15</a>	<a href="#">Add</a>	Search "Temozolomide"[Mesh] Sort by: Author	<a href="#">4420</a>	09:02:45
<a href="#">#13</a>	<a href="#">Add</a>	Search ("Radiotherapy"[Mesh]) OR radiotherapy[Title/Abstract] Sort by: Author	<a href="#">288029</a>	09:00:22
<a href="#">#12</a>	<a href="#">Add</a>	Search radiotherapy[Title/Abstract] Sort by: Author	<a href="#">178676</a>	09:00:13
<a href="#">#11</a>	<a href="#">Add</a>	Search "Radiotherapy"[Mesh] Sort by: Author	<a href="#">182419</a>	08:59:58
<a href="#">#8</a>	<a href="#">Add</a>	Search ("Glioblastoma"[Mesh]) OR glioblastoma[Title/Abstract] Sort by: Author	<a href="#">39393</a>	08:52:11
<a href="#">#7</a>	<a href="#">Add</a>	Search glioblastoma[Title/Abstract] Sort by: Author	<a href="#">33673</a>	08:51:45
<a href="#">#6</a>	<a href="#">Add</a>	Search "Glioblastoma"[Mesh] Sort by: Author	<a href="#">24552</a>	08:46:29
<a href="#">#2</a>	<a href="#">Add</a>	Search glioblastoma Sort by: Author	<a href="#">39397</a>	08:24:22

Con una ricerca più elaborata  
Il numero dei risultati diminuiscono

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National Center for Biotechnology Information

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### PubMed Advanced Search Builder

Add terms to the query box

All Fields  **ADD**

Query box

**ADD** dropdown menu:

- Add with AND
- Add with OR
- Add with NOT
- Add with Boolean Dropdown

### History and Search Details

[Download](#) [Delete](#)

Search	Actions	Details	Query	Results	Time
#1	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Add query</li> <li>Delete</li> <li>Save to MyNCBI</li> </ul>		<pre> (("Glioblastoma"[Mesh]) OR glioblastoma[Title/Abstract] AND (((("Radiotherapy"[Mesh]) OR radiotherapy[Title/Abstract]) AND ((("Temozolomide"[Mesh]) OR (temozolomid[Abstract] OR temodar[Title/Abstract] OR temodal[Title/Abstract] OR Methazolastone[Title/Abstract]))) AND (((((((("Randomized Controlled Trial"[Publication Type]) OR "Clinical Trial"[Publication Type]) OR "drug therapy"[Subheading]) OR ((random[Title/Abstract] OR placebo[Title/Abstract] OR trial[Title/Abstract] OR groups)))) NOT (((("Animals"[Mesh]) OR NOT ("Animals"[Mesh]) AND "Humans"[Mesh])))))))) </pre>	1,125	09:55:31
#3			Search: "Glioblastoma"[Mesh]	24,552	09:51:20

[Feedback](#)

# Precisione nella ricerca

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PubMed.gov PubMed US National Library of Medicine National Institutes of Health

Search: (((\"Glioblastoma\"[Mesh]) OR glioblastoma[Title/Abstract])) AND (((\"Radiotherapy\"[Mesh]) OR radiotherapy[Title/Abstract])) AND (((\"Temozolomide\"[Mesh]) OR temozolomide[Title/Abstract]))

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Article types: Clinical Trial, Review, Customize ...  
Text availability: Abstract, Free full text, Full text  
Publication dates: 5 years, 10 years, Custom range...  
Species: Humans, Other Animals  
Ages: Child: birth-18 years, Infant: birth-23 months, Adult: 19+ years, Adult: 19-44 years, Aged: 65+ years, Customize ...

Format: Summary Sort by: Most Recent Per page: 20

Send to Filters: Manage Filters

Sort by: Best match Most recent

Search results: Items: 1 to 20 of 1710

1. [Role of endolysosomes and pH in the pathogenesis and treatment of glioblastoma.](#)  
Halcrow P, Datta G, Ohm JE, Soliman ML, Chen X, Geiger JD. *Cancer Rep.* 2019 Dec;2(6). doi: 10.1002/cnr2.1177. Epub 2019 May 6. PMID: 32095788 Free PMC Article [Similar articles](#)

2. [Delivery of temozolomide and N3-propargyl analog to brain tumors using an apoferritin nanocage.](#)  
Bouzinab K, Summers H, Stevens MFG, Moody CJ, Thomas NR, Gershkovich P, Weston N, Ashford MB, Bradshaw TD, Turyanska L. *ACS Appl Mater Interfaces.* 2020 Feb 19. doi: 10.1021/acsami.0c01514. [Epub ahead of print] PMID: 32073826 [Similar articles](#)

3. [Superiority of temozolomide over radiotherapy for elderly patients with RTK II methylation class, MGMT promoter-methylated malignant astrocytoma.](#)  
Wick A, Kessler T, Platten M, Meisner C, Bamberg M, Herrlinger U, Felsberg J, Weyerbrock A, Papsdorf K, Steinbach JP, Sabel M, Vesper J, Debus J, Meixensberger J, Ketter R, Hertler C, Mayer-Steinacker R, Weisang S, Bölting H, Reuss D, Reifenberger G, Sahm F, von Deimling A, Weller M, Wick W; NOA-08 Study Group of the Neurooncology Working Group (NOA) of the German Cancer Society. *Neuro Oncol.* 2020 Feb 17. pii: noaa033. doi: 10.1093/neuonc/noaa033. [Epub ahead of print] PMID: 32064499 [Similar articles](#)

Find related data Database: Select Find items

Search details: (\"Glioblastoma\"[Mesh] OR glioblastoma[Title/Abstract]) AND ((\"Radiotherapy\"[Mesh] OR radiotherapy[Title/Abstract]) AND (\"Temozolomide\"[Mesh] OR temozolomide[Title/Abstract])) Search See more...

Recent Activity Turn Off Clear

**P** = soggetti affetti di glioblastoma <70anni

**I** = radioterapia

**C** = temozolamide

**I filtri (limits)** delimitano la nostra ricerca

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Article types: Clinical Trial, Review, Customize ...  
Text availability: Abstract, Free full text, Full text  
Publication: 5 years, 10 years, Custom

Format: Summary Sort by: Most Recent Per page: 20 Send to Filters: Manage Filters

Search results  
Items: 1 to 20 of 1710 << First < Prev Page 1 of 86 Next > Last >>

1. [Role of endolysosomes and pH in the pathogenesis and treatment of glioblastoma.](#)  
Datta G, Ohm JE, Soliman ML, Chen X, Geiger JD. *Neuro Oncol.* 2019 Dec;21(12):1777-1787. doi: 10.1002/ncr.21177. Epub 2019 May 6. PMID: 3095788 Free PMC Article

2. [Efficacy of temozolomide and N3-propargyl analog to brain tumors using an apoferritin nanocage.](#)  
Bouzinab K, Summers H, Stevens MFG, Moody CJ, Thomas NR, Gershkovich P, Weston N, Ashford MB, Bradshaw TD, Turyanska L. *ACS Appl Mater Interfaces.* 2020 Feb 19. doi: 10.1021/acsami.0c01514. [Epub ahead of print] PMID: 32073826 Similar articles

3. [Superiority of temozolomide over radiotherapy for elderly patients with RTK II methylation class. MGMT promoter-methylated malignant astrocytoma.](#)  
Wick A, Kessler T, Platten M, Meisner C, Bamberg M, Herrlinger U, Felsberg J, Weyerbrock A, Papsdorf K, Steinbach JP, Sabel M, Vesper J, Debus J, Meixensberger J, Ketter R, Hertler C, Mayer-Steinacker R, Weisang S, Bölting H, Reuss D, Reifenberger G, Sahm F, von Deimling A, Weller M, Wick W; NOA-08 Study Group of the Neurooncology Working Group (NOA) of the German Cancer Society. *Neuro Oncol.* 2020 Feb 17. pii: noaa033. doi: 10.1093/neuonc/noaa033. [Epub ahead of print] PMID: 32064499 Similar articles

Results by year Download CSV  
Find related data Database: Select Find items  
Search details  
(((\"Glioblastoma\"[Mesh]) OR glioblastoma[Title/Abstract]) AND ((\"Radiotherapy\"[Mesh]) OR radiotherapy[Title/Abstract]) AND (\"Temozolomide\"[Mesh]) OR  
Search See more...

Recent Activity Turn Off Clear  
(((\"Glioblastoma\"[Mesh]) OR

**Clear all**

**E molto importante ricordarci che i limiti impostati vengono mantenuti in memoria nelle ricerche successive, quindi una volta finita la ricerca bisogna disattivarli.**

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The screenshot shows the PubMed search results interface. On the left, there is a sidebar with various filters:
 

- TEXT AVAILABILITY:** Abstract, Free full text, Full text.
- ARTICLE ATTRIBUTE:** Associated data.
- ARTICLE TYPE:** Books and Documents, Clinical Trial, Meta-Analysis, Randomized Controlled Trial, Review, Systematic Reviews.
- PUBLICATION DATE:** 1 year, 5 years, 10 years.
- Buttons for "Additional filters" and "Reset all filters".

 A large red arrow points to the "Reset all filters" button.

The main content area displays search results for "glioblastoma":
 

- Stupp R, et al. N Engl J Med 2005 - *Clinical Trial*. Among authors: **Taphoorn MJ**. PMID 15758009 Free article. In **this trial** we compared **radiotherapy** alone with **radiotherapy plus temozolomide**, given concomitantly with and after **radiotherapy**, in terms of efficacy and safety. ...The unadjusted hazard ratio for death in **the radiotherapy-plus-temozolomide group** was 0.63 (95 percent confidence interval, 0.52 to 0.75; P<0.001 by **the log-rank test**). ...
- Effect of **Tumor-Treating Fields** Plus Maintenance **Temozolomide** vs Maintenance **Temozolomide** Alone on Survival in Patients With **Glioblastoma**: A **Randomized Clinical Trial**. Stupp R, et al. JAMA 2017 - *Clinical Trial*. Among authors: **Tran D, Toms S, Tallibert S**. PMID 29260225 Free PMC article. Adverse events were compared by **group**. RESULTS: Of the 695 **randomized** patients (median age, 56 years; IQR, 48-63; 473 men [68%]), 637 (92%) completed **the trial**. ...CONCLUSIONS AND RELEVANCE: In **the final analysis of this randomized clinical trial** of patients with **glioblastoma** who had received standard radiochemotherapy, **the addition of TTFields** to maintenance **temozolomide** chemotherapy vs maintenance **temozolomide** alone, resulted in statistically significant improvement in progression-free survival and overall survival. ...
- Short-Course Radiation plus **Temozolomide** in Elderly Patients with **Glioblastoma**. Perry JR, et al. N Engl J Med 2017 - *Clinical Trial*. Among authors: **Tills M**. PMID 28296618 Free article. METHODS: We conducted a **trial** involving patients 65 years of age or older with newly diagnosed **glioblastoma**. Patients were **randomly** assigned to receive either **radiotherapy** alone (40 Gy in 15 fractions) or **radiotherapy** with concomitant and adjuvant **temozolomide**. ...Quality of life was similar in **the two trial groups**. CONCLUSIONS: In elderly patients with **glioblastoma**, **the addition of temozolomide** to short-course **radiotherapy** resulted in longer survival **than** short-course **radiotherapy** alone. ...
- Lomustine-**temozolomide** combination **therapy** versus standard **temozolomide therapy** in patients with newly diagnosed **glioblastoma** with methylated MGMT promoter (CeTeG/NOA-09): a **randomised, open-label, phase 3 trial**. Herrlinger U, et al. Lancet 2019 - *Clinical Trial*. Among authors: **Tonn JC, Tzaridis T, Tabatabai G**. PMID 30782343 BACKGROUND: **There** is an urgent need for more effective **therapies** for **glioblastoma**. Data from a previous unrandomised phase 2 **trial** suggested that lomustine-**temozolomide** plus **radiotherapy** ...

Additional UI elements include a "Page 1" indicator, "Cite" and "Share" links for each result, a "Back to Top" button, and a "Feedback" button.

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**PubMed Advanced Search Builder** [YouTube Tutorial](#)

Query #20 deleted.

```
((((((((("Randomized Controlled Trial"[Publication Type]) OR "Clinical Trial"[Publication Type]) OR "drug therapy"[Subheading])) OR ((random* [Title/Abstract] OR placebo[Title/Abstract] OR trial[Title/Abstract] OR groups)))) NOT (((("Animals"[Mesh]) NOT ("Animals"[Mesh] AND "Humans" [Mesh]))))))))
```

[Edit](#) [Clear](#)

**Builder**

All Fields  Show index list

AND All Fields  Show index list

[Search](#) or [Add to history](#)

**History** [Download history](#) [Clear history](#)

Search	Add to builder	Query	Items found	Time
<a href="#">#19</a>	<a href="#">Add</a>	Search (((("Glioblastoma"[Mesh]) OR glioblastoma[Title/Abstract])) AND (((("Radiotherapy"[Mesh]) OR radiotherapy[Title/Abstract])) AND ((("Temozolomide"[Mesh]) OR ((temozolomide[Title/Abstract] OR temodar[Title/Abstract] OR temodal[Title/Abstract] OR Methazolastone[Title/Abstract])))))	<a href="#">1710</a>	09:10:38
<a href="#">#18</a>	<a href="#">Add</a>	Search (((("Radiotherapy"[Mesh]) OR radiotherapy[Title/Abstract])) AND ((("Temozolomide"[Mesh]) OR ((temozolomide[Title/Abstract] OR temodar[Title/Abstract] OR temodal[Title/Abstract] OR Methazolastone[Title/Abstract])))) Sort by: Author	<a href="#">2525</a>	09:06:17
<a href="#">#17</a>	<a href="#">Add</a>	Search (("Temozolomide"[Mesh]) OR ((temozolomide[Title/Abstract] OR temodar[Title/Abstract] OR temodal[Title/Abstract] OR Methazolastone[Title/Abstract])) Sort by: Author	<a href="#">7498</a>	09:03:27
<a href="#">#16</a>	<a href="#">Add</a>	Search (temozolomide[Title/Abstract] OR temodar[Title/Abstract] OR temodal[Title/Abstract] OR	<a href="#">7034</a>	09:03:19

**Edit** e **clear** permettono correggere e cancellare velocemente la stringa di ricerca

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### PubMed Advanced Search Builder

Query #15 deleted.

[YouTube Tutorial](#)

```
((((("Randomized Controlled Trial" [Publication Type] OR "Clinical Trial" [Publication Type] OR "drug therapy" [Subheading])) OR ((random* [Title/Abstract] OR placebo[Title/Abstract] OR trial[Title/Abstract] OR groups OR)))) NOT (("Animals"[Mesh]) NOT ("Animals"[Mesh] AND "Humans"[Mesh]))
```

[Edit](#) [Clear](#)

Troncare le parole con l'asterisco (\*): verranno ricercate tutte le varianti che iniziano con la stessa radice.

**random\*** (randomized, randomizes, randomizing, randomization, randomised, randomises, randomising and randomisation)

Le **parentesi** stabiliscono un ordine di priorità nei termini da cercare, in questo caso il database non cercherà gli studi sugli animali e neanche quelli su umani e animali

... **NOT (("Animals"[Mesh]) NOT ("Animals"[Mesh] AND "Humans"[Mesh]))**

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PubMed Advanced Search Builder [YouTube Tutorial](#)

"Randomized Controlled Trial"[Publication Type]

[Edit](#) [Clear](#)

Builder

Publication Type "Randomized Controlled Trial" [Show index list](#)

AND

Search

History

Search

#20

#19

#18

Query

Items found

Time

5129984 09:19:05

1710 09:10:38

2525 09:06:17

Sort by: Author

**"Clinical Trial" [Publication Type] OR "Randomized Controlled Trial" [Publication Type]**

**Ricerca per frase:** Inserendo più termini nella maschera di ricerca, il database cercherà ogni singolo termine combinandolo con l'operatore AND.

Se invece si vuole trovare un risultato come frase, i termini devono essere racchiusi tra virgolette.

# Risultati

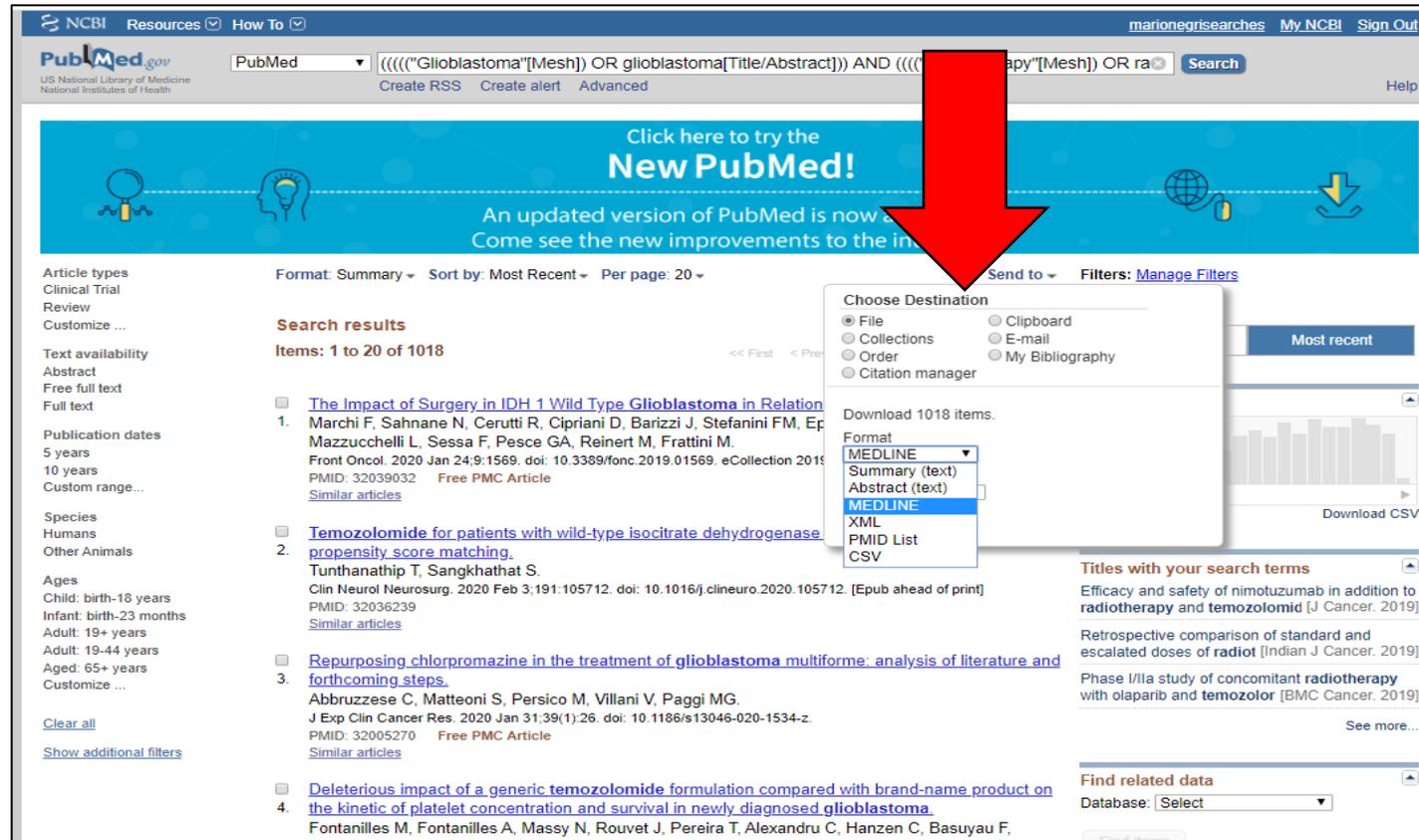
The image displays two screenshots of the PubMed website interface. The top screenshot shows a search query: "((((("Glioblastoma"[Mesh]) OR glioblastoma[Title/Abstract])) AND (((("Radiotherapy"[Mesh]) OR ra...". A red arrow points to the "Format" dropdown menu, which is open, showing options: Summary (selected), Summary (text), Abstract, Abstract (text), MEDLINE, XML, and PMID List. The bottom screenshot shows the search results for the same query. A red arrow points to the "Sort by" dropdown menu, which is open, showing options: Most Recent (selected), Best Match, Publication Date, First Author, Last Author, Journal, and Title. The search results list two items:

- The Impact of Radiotherapy in IDH 1 Wild-Type Glioblastoma**  
Marchi F, S...  
Mazzucchi L, Sessa F, Pesce GA, Ramer M, Frattini M.  
Front Oncol. 2020 Jan 24;9:1569. doi: 10.3389/fonc.2019.01569. eCollection 2019.  
PMID: 32039032 Free PMC Article  
Similar articles
- Temozolomide for patients with wild-type isocitrate dehydrogenase (IDH) 1 glioblastoma using propensity score matching.**  
Tunthanathip T, Sangkhathat S.  
Clin Neurol Neurosurg. 2020 Feb 3;191:105712. doi: 10.1016/j.clineuro.2020.105712. [Epub ahead of print]  
PMID: 32036239  
Similar articles

The interface also includes a sidebar with filters for Article types, Text availability, Publication dates, and Species. A "New PubMed!" banner is visible at the top of both screenshots.

Dalle tendine si può scegliere sia il formato che l'ordine da dare all'elenco dei risultati

## Scaricare i risultati



The screenshot shows the PubMed search results page. A search query is entered in the top bar: `(((("Glioblastoma"[Mesh]) OR glioblastoma[Title/Abstract])) AND (((("radiotherapy"[Mesh]) OR radiotherapy[Title/Abstract])) AND ...))`. The search results are displayed in a list format. A 'Send to' dropdown menu is open, showing options for destination and format. A large red arrow points to the 'Send to' button.

**Choose Destination**

- File
- Collections
- Order
- Citation manager
- Clipboard
- E-mail
- My Bibliography

**Format**

- MEDLINE
- Summary (text)
- Abstract (text)
- MEDLINE
- XML
- PMID List
- CSV

Download 1018 items.

Format: MEDLINE

Download CSV

**Search results**

Items: 1 to 20 of 1018

- [The Impact of Surgery in IDH 1 Wild Type Glioblastoma in Relation to Propensity Score Matching](#)  
Marchi F, Sahnane N, Cerutti R, Cipriani D, Barizzi J, Stefanini FM, Episcopo M, Mazzucchelli L, Sessa F, Pesce GA, Reinert M, Frattini M.  
Front Oncol. 2020 Jan 24;9:1569. doi: 10.3389/fonc.2019.01569. eCollection 2019.  
PMID: 32039032 Free PMC Article  
[Similar articles](#)
- [Temozolomide for patients with wild-type isocitrate dehydrogenase-deficient glioblastoma: propensity score matching](#)  
Tunthanathip T, Sangkhathat S.  
Clin Neurol Neurosurg. 2020 Feb 3;191:105712. doi: 10.1016/j.clineuro.2020.105712. [Epub ahead of print]  
PMID: 32036239  
[Similar articles](#)
- [Repurposing chlorpromazine in the treatment of glioblastoma multiforme: analysis of literature and forthcoming steps](#)  
Abbruzzese C, Matteoni S, Persico M, Villani V, Paggi MG.  
J Exp Clin Cancer Res. 2020 Jan 31;39(1):26. doi: 10.1186/s13046-020-1534-z.  
PMID: 32005270 Free PMC Article  
[Similar articles](#)
- [Deleterious impact of a generic temozolomide formulation compared with brand-name product on the kinetic of platelet concentration and survival in newly diagnosed glioblastoma](#)  
Fontanilles M, Fontanilles A, Massy N, Rouvet J, Pereira T, Alexandru C, Hanzen C, Basuyau F, ...  
PMID: 32005270 Free PMC Article  
[Similar articles](#)

**Titles with your search terms**

- Efficacy and safety of nimotuzumab in addition to radiotherapy and temozolomid [J Cancer. 2019]
- Retrospective comparison of standard and escalated doses of radiot [Indian J Cancer. 2019]
- Phase I/IIa study of concomitant radiotherapy with olaparib and temozolor [BMC Cancer. 2019]

See more...

**Find related data**

Database: [Select]

**Send to:** scegliere la destinazione dell'elenco di risultati che la ricerca ha trovato



## Salvare i risultati

NCBI Resources How To marionegrisearches My NCBI Sign Out

PubMed.gov PubMed | (((((((Glioblastoma"[Mesh]) OR glioblastoma[Title/Abstract])) AND (((("Radiotherapy"[Mesh]) OR ra... Search Help

Click here to try the **New PubMed!**  
An updated version of PubMed is now available. Come see the new improvements to the interface!

Article types: Clinical Trial, Review, Customize...  
Text availability: Abstract, Free full text, Full text  
Publication dates: 5 years, 10 years, Custom range...  
Species: Humans, Other Animals

Format: Summary | Sort by: Most Recent | Per page: 20 | Send to | Filters: Manage Filters

Search results  
Items: 1 to 20 of 1018

Sort by: Best match | Most recent

Results by year

Titles with your search terms

1. [The Impact of Surgery in IDH 1 Wild Type Glioblastoma in Relation With the MGMT Deregulation.](#)  
Marchi F, Sahnane N, Cerutti R, Cipriani D, Barizzi J, Stefanini FM, Epistolio S, Cerati M, Balbi S, Mazzucchelli L, Sessa F, Pesce GA, Reinert M, Frattini M.  
Front Oncol. 2020 Jan 24;9:1569. doi: 10.3389/fonc.2019.01569. eCollection 2019.  
PMID: 32039032 Free PMC Article  
[Similar articles](#)

2. [Temozolomide for patients with wild-type isocitrate dehydrogenase \(IDH\) 1 glioblastoma using propensity score matching.](#)  
Tunthanathip T, Sangkhathat S.

1

**Create alert:** l'elenco dei risultati verranno conservati nell'account Pubmed che abbiamo creato.

**Your PubMed search**

Name of saved search: Glioblastoma di nuova diagnosi

Search terms: (((("Glioblastoma"[Mesh]) OR glioblastoma[Title/Abstract])) AND (((("Radiotherapy"[Mesh]) OR

[Test search terms](#)

Would you like e-mail updates of new search results?

- No, thanks.
- Yes, please.

E-mail: veronicaandrea.fittipaldo@marionegri.it [\(change\)](#)

Schedule:

Frequency: Monthly

Which day? the first Sunday

Formats:

Report format: Summary

Number of items:

Send at most: 5 items  Send even when there aren't any new results

Any text you want to be added at the top of your e-mail (optional):

Save

Cancel

Skip saving and [return to your search](#), or proceed to [manage your Saved Searches](#).

Titolo della nostra  
Strategia di ricerca

2

3

Cliccare per  
salvare

## Creare RSS (Really Simple Syndication)

The screenshot shows the PubMed interface with a search query: `((((("Glioblastoma"[Mesh]) OR glioblastoma[Title/Abstract])) AND (((("Radiotherapy"[Mesh]) OR ra`. The **Create RSS** button is circled in red. The dropdown menu shows the following settings:

- Search: `((((("Glioblastoma"[Mesh]) OR glioblastoma[Title/Abstract])) A...`
- Number of items displayed: 15
- Feed name: `((((("Glioblastoma"[Mesh]) OR glic`

The search results section shows 1 to 20 of 1018 items. The first result is:

- [The Impact of Surgery in IDH 1 Wild Type Glioblastoma in Relation With the MGMT Deregulation.](#)  
Marchi F, Sahnane N, Cerutti R, Cipriani D, Barizzi J, Stefanini FM, Epistolio S, Cerati M, Balbi S, Mazzucchelli L, Sessa F, Pesce GA, Reinert M, Frattini M.  
Front Oncol. 2020 Jan 24;9:1569. doi: 10.3389/fonc.2019.01569. eCollection 2019.  
PMID: 32039032 [Free PMC Article](#)

**Create RSS:** Questa funzione ci permette di ricevere gli aggiornamenti della ricerca.

NCBI Resources How To marionegrisearches My NCBI Sign Out

Try the new [My Bibliography](#) experiment: better layout, mobile friendly, easier to use! Please note that updates made on the experimental site will not be saved to your "real" My Bibliography.

# My NCBI

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### Search NCBI databases

Search : PubMed

[Search](#)

Hint: clicking the "Search" button without any terms listed in the search box will transport you to that database's homepage.

### My Bibliography

Your bibliography contains no items.

[Manage My Bibliography >](#)

### Recent Activity

Time	Database	Type	Term
07:47 AM	PubMed	search	(((("Glioblastoma"[Mesh]) OR gliob...
06:58 AM	PubMed	search	"random* controlled trial"
06:57 AM	PubMed	search	"ramdom* controlled trial"
06:56 AM	PubMed	search	(((("Randomized Controlled Trial"

### Saved Searches

Search Name	What's New	Last Searched
<b>PubMed Searches</b>		
<a href="#">Glioblastoma di nuova diagnosi</a>	0	today
<a href="#">Test 1</a>	0	2 days ago
<a href="#">Test 2</a>	1	2 days ago
<a href="#">Glioblastoma</a>	36	2 days ago
<a href="#">(((("Glioblastoma"[Mesh]) OR glioblastoma[Title...</a>	0	2 days ago

[Manage Saved Searches >](#)

### Collections

Collection Name	Items	Settings/Sharing	Type
<a href="#">Favorites</a>	0	Private	Standard
<a href="#">My Bibliography</a>	0	Private	Standard
<a href="#">Other Citations</a>	0	Private	Standard

[Manage Collections >](#)

La ricerca verrà mantenuta nel nostro account per rilanciarla e aggiornare i risultati

Click here to try the  
**New PubMed!**

An updated version of PubMed is now available.  
Come see the new improvements to the interface!

Welcome to the new PubMed. For legacy PubMed go to [pubmed.gov](https://pubmed.gov).

NIH U.S. National Library of Medicine National Center for Biotechnology Information

marionegriseaches

PubMed.gov

((((("Glioblastoma"[Mesh]) OR glioblastoma[Title/Abstract])) AND (((("Radioth" × Search

Advanced Create alert User Guide

Save Email ... Sorted by: Best match

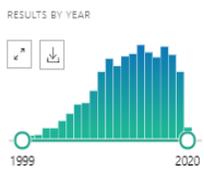
Save citations to file

Selection: All results

Format: RIS Summary (text) RIS PMID Abstract (text) CSV

MYNCBI FILTERS 1,125 results

RESULTS BY YEAR



TEXT AVAILABILITY

Abstract

Free full text

Full text

Radiotherapy plus concomitant and adjuvant temozolomide for glioblastoma.

1 Stupp R, et al. N Engl J Med 2005 - *Clinical Trial*. Among authors: Taphoorn MJ. PMID 15758009 Free article.

In **this trial** we compared radiotherapy alone with radiotherapy plus temozolomide, given concomitantly with and after radiotherapy, in terms of efficacy and safety. ... The unadjusted hazard ratio for death in the radiotherapy-plus-temozolomide group was 0.63 (95 percent confidence interval, 0.52 to 0.75; P<0.001 by the log-rank test). ...

“ Cite Share

Effect of Tumor-Treating Fields Plus Maintenance Temozolomide vs Maintenance Temozolomide Alone on Survival in Patients With Glioblastoma: A Randomized Clinical Trial.

2 Stupp R, et al. JAMA 2017 - *Clinical Trial*. Among authors: Tran D, Toms S, Taillibert S. PMID 29260225

Feedback



**GRAZIE PER L'ATTENZIONE**

SCUOLA DI METODOLOGIA CLINICA  
IRCCS "Sacro Cuore - Don Calabria" Negrar di Valpolicella

8<sup>a</sup> EDIZIONE

2° MODULO

REVISIONI SISTEMATICHE E METANALISI

NEGRAR DI VALPOLICELLA  
11-12 FEBBRAIO 2022  
Centro Formazione IRCCS "Sacro Cuore-Don Calabria"



**11 Febbraio 2022**

- 10.30-10.45 Presentazione ed obiettivi del Corso  
**Stefania GORI - Fabrizio NICOLIS**  
**Giovanni L. PAPPAGALLO**
- 10.45-11.30 Tipologia delle Revisioni della Letteratura Scientifica  
Obiettivi di una Revisione Sistemática  
**Michela CINQUINI**
- 11.30-12.00 Definizione del quesito clinico e degli outcome di interesse; misure di associazione  
**Giovanni L. PAPPAGALLO**
- 12.00-13.00 Lavoro di gruppo  
*Summing-Up* (metodo: *What? So What? Now What?*)  
(valido come prova ECM)
- 13.00-14.00 Colazione di lavoro
- 14.00-14.45 Come trovare informazioni - I database bibliografici, i siti di linee guida e studi clinici...  
**Veronica Andrea FITTIPALDO**
- 14.45-15.30 Definizione della strategia di ricerca e di selezione degli studi; *study flow*  
**Michela CINQUINI**
- 15.30-16.00 Metodi di valutazione di autori e riviste scientifiche: indici bibliometrici classici e innovativi  
**Giulio ZUANETTI**
- 16.00-16.30 Coffee Break
- 16.30-17.30 Valutazione del rischio di *bias* negli studi selezionati  
**Ivan MOSCHETTI**
- 17.30-18.30 Lavoro di gruppo  
*Summing-Up* (metodo: *What? So What? Now What?*)  
(valido come prova ECM)

# Output della strategia di ricerca

---



**RISULTATO**

**Lista di studi potenzialmente includibili**

# List of records

Summary ▾ 20 per page ▾ Sort by Most Recent ▾

## Search results

Items: 1 to 20 of 22772 Selected: 3

- [Evaluation of a new tablet formulation of deferasirox to reduce chronic blood transfusions.](#)  
Chalmers AW, Shammo JM.  
Ther Clin Risk Manag. 2016 Feb 15;12:201-8. doi: 10.2147/TCRM.S82449. eCollection PMID: 26929633
- [Plasma levels of TGF- \$\beta\$ 1 in homeostasis of the inflammation in sickle cell disease.](#)  
Torres LS, Okumura JV, Silva DG, Belini Júnior É, Oliveira RG, Mimouni Bonini Domingos CR.  
Cytokine. 2016 Feb 26;80:18-25. doi: 10.1016/j.cyto.2016.02.012. [Epub ahead of print] PMID: 26928604
- [Sofosbuvir and Simeprevir Treatment of a Stem Cell Transplanted Teenager with Chronic Hepatitis C Infection.](#)  
Fischler B, Priftakis P, Sundin M.  
Pediatr Infect Dis J. 2016 Feb 26. [Epub ahead of print] PMID: 26928522
- [Numerical simulation of healthy and defective red blood cell settling in blood plasma.](#)  
Hashemi Z, Rahnema M, Jafari S.  
J Biomech Eng. 2016 Feb 29. doi: 10.1115/1.4032851. [Epub ahead of print] PMID: 26926169

Send to: ▾ Filter your results:

**Choose Destination**

File  Clipboard

Collections  E-mail

Order  My Bibliography

Citation manager

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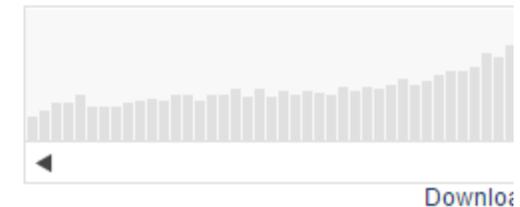
Download 3 items.

Format  
MEDLINE ▾

Sort by  
Most Recent ▾

Create File

## Results by year



## Related searches

[sickle cell disease review](#)

[management sickle cell disease](#)

PMID- 26929633

OWN - NLM

STAT- PubMed-not-MEDLINE

DA - 20160301

DCOM- 20160301

IS - 1176-6336 (Print)

IS - 1176-6336 (Linking)

VI - 12

DP - 2016

TI - Evaluation of a new tablet formulation of deferasirox to reduce chronic iron overload after long-term blood transfusions.

PG - 201-8

LID - 10.2147/TCRM.S82449 [doi]

AB - Transfusion-dependent anemia is a common feature in a wide array of hematological disorders, including thalassemia, sickle cell disease, aplastic anemia, myelofibrosis, and myelo-dysplastic syndromes. In the absence of a physiological mechanism to excrete excess iron, chronic transfusions ultimately cause iron overload. Without correction, iron overload can lead to end-organ damage, resulting in cardiac, hepatic, and endocrine dysfunction/failure. Iron chelating agents are utilized to reduce iron overload, as they form a complex with iron, leading to its clearance. Iron chelation has been proven to decrease organ dysfunction and improve survival in certain transfusion-dependent anemias, such as beta-thalassemia. Several chelating agents have been approved by the United States Food and Drug Administration for the treatment of iron overload, including deferoxamine, deferiprone, and deferasirox. A variety of factors have to be considered when choosing an iron chelator, including dosing schedule, route of administration, tolerability, and side effect profile. Deferasirox is an orally administered iron chelator with proven efficacy and safety in multiple hematological disorders. There are two formulations of deferasirox, a tablet for suspension, and a new tablet form. This paper is intended to provide an overview of iron overload, with a focus on deferasirox, and its recently approved formulation Jadenu((R)) for the reduction of transfusional iron overload in hematological disorders.

FAU - Chalmers, Anna W

AU - Chalmers AW

PMID- 26929633

OWN - NLM

STAT- PubMed-not-MEDLINE

DA - 20160301

DCOM- 20160301

IS - 1176-6336 (Print)

IS - 1176-6336 (Linking)

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FAU - Chalmers, Anna W

AU - Chalmers AW

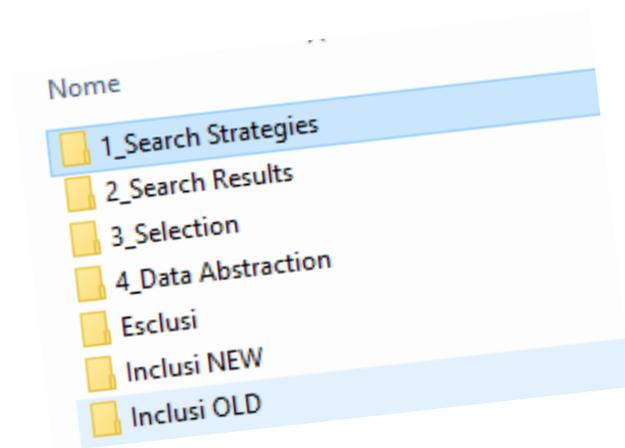


# Conducting

---

## Document

the selection process in sufficient detail to complete a PRISMA flow chart



# Included or excluded?

---

**Was a list of studies (included and excluded) provided?**

- A list of included and excluded studies should be provided.
- Provide justification for each exclusion.

# Duplicate selection

---

## **Was there duplicate study selection?**

There should be at least two independent data extractors and a consensus procedure for disagreements should be in place

# In pratica..

---

## **1. Ottenere una unica lista di referenze**

- I risultati della ricerca di ogni database vanno importati su un programma di gestione delle referenze (endnote, excel)
- Eliminare i doppi (stesso articolo indicizzato su più di una banca dati e quindi trovato più volte)

# In pratica..

---

## **1. Ottenere una unica lista di referenze**

- I risultati della ricerca di ogni database vanno importati su un programma di gestione delle referenze (endnote, excel)
- Eliminare i doppi (stesso articolo indicizzato su più di una banca dati e quindi trovato più volte)

## **2. Selezionare gli articoli potenzialmente rilevanti da acquisire in full text**

- Scriversi su un foglio i criteri di inclusione sotto forma di PICOS
- Valutare ogni titolo e abstract rispetto al PICOS

### **3. Obiettivo è non perdere nulla**

- Fare il lavoro in due in modo indipendente
- In caso di dubbio, disaccordo o mancanza di abstract il titolo si seleziona lo stesso

### **3. Obiettivo è non perdere nulla**

- Fare il lavoro in due in modo indipendente
- In caso di dubbio, disaccordo o mancanza di abstract il titolo si seleziona lo stesso

### **4. Procurarsi i full text**

### **3. Obiettivo è non perdere nulla**

- Fare il lavoro in due in modo indipendente
- In caso di dubbio, disaccordo o mancanza di abstract il titolo si seleziona lo stesso

### **4. Procurarsi i full text**

### **5. Rivalutare ogni articolo leggendo il full text rispetto al PICOS**

- Fare il lavoro in due in modo indipendente
- Confrontarsi sui risultati
- In questa fase vanno presi solo gli articoli realmente pertinenti In caso di differenze:
  - Risolvere il disaccordo tramite discussione
  - Rivolgersi a terzo revisore

## 6. Fare lista di studi esclusi

- Indicare ragione dell'esclusione sempre in base al PICOS
- Es: studi esclusi perché partecipanti non nei criteri di inclusione, intervento non nei criteri di inclusione, disegno di studio non nei criteri di inclusione
- Questo lavoro va fatto solo sui full text, non per gli studi esclusi sulla base dell' abstract

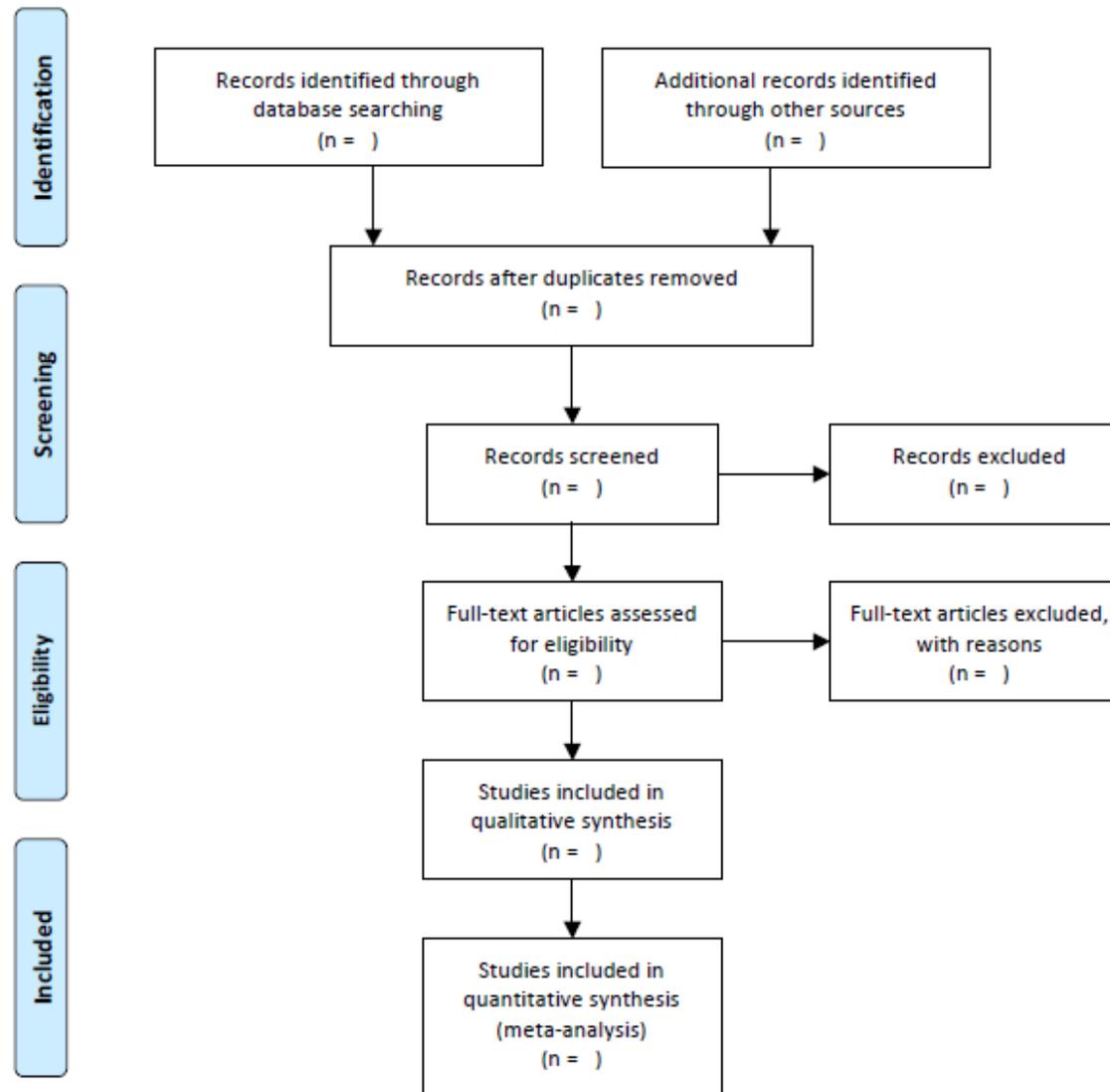
## 6. Fare lista di studi esclusi

- Indicare ragione dell'esclusione sempre in base al PICOS
- Es: studi esclusi perché partecipanti non nei criteri di inclusione, intervento non nei criteri di inclusione, disegno di studio non nei criteri di inclusione
- Questo lavoro va fatto solo sui full text, non per gli studi esclusi sulla base dell' abstract

## 7. Fare lista finali di studi inclusi

- Se presenti più record di un articolo tenerli per eventuali dati  
Es: diversi periodi di follow up, analisi di sottogruppi; doppie pubblicazioni (stesso studio pubblicato più volte su riviste diverse con titolo diverso e/o diverso ordine degli autori)

## 8. Fare flow chart ( es: PRISMA)



# AMSTAR CHECKLIST

- Valuta il **QUALITY OF CONDUCT**: la misura in cui la revisione è esente da errori sistematici
- Per aiutare chi legge a capire se la SR è affidabile e valida
- Composta di 11 items
- [Shea BJ et al.](#) Development of AMSTAR: a measurement tool to assess the methodological quality of systematic reviews. BMC Med Res Methodol. 2007 Feb 15;7:10.

## AMSTAR – a measurement tool to assess the methodological quality of systematic reviews.

### 1. Was an 'a priori' design provided?

The research question and inclusion criteria should be established before the conduct of the review.

- Yes
- No
- Can't answer
- Not applicable

*Note: Need to refer to a protocol, ethics approval, or pre-determined/a priori published research objectives to score a "yes."*

### 2. Was there duplicate study selection and data extraction?

There should be at least two independent data extractors and a consensus procedure for disagreements should be in place.

- Yes
- No
- Can't answer
- Not applicable

*Note: 2 people do study selection, 2 people do data extraction, consensus process or one person checks the other's work.*

### 3. Was a comprehensive literature search performed?

At least two electronic sources should be searched. The report must include years and databases used (e.g., Central, EMBASE, and MEDLINE). Key words and/or MESH terms must be stated and where feasible the search strategy should be provided. All searches should be supplemented by consulting current contents, reviews, textbooks, specialized

- Yes
- No

# AMSTAR CHECKLIST II

- *“... The original AMSTAR instrument did not include an assessment of the risk of bias in non-randomised studies included in a review, which is a key issue given the diversity of designs that such studies may use and the biases that may affect them”.*
- [Shea BJ et al.](#) AMSTAR 2: a critical appraisal tool for systematic reviews that include randomised or non-randomised studies of healthcare interventions, or both. *BMJ.* 2017 Sep 21;358:j4008
- 16 items

# AMSTAR CHECKLIST II

## 1. Did the research questions and inclusion criteria for the review include the components of PICO?

For Yes:	Optional (recommended)	
<input type="checkbox"/> Population	<input type="checkbox"/> Timeframe for follow-up	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes
<input type="checkbox"/> Intervention		<input type="checkbox"/> No
<input type="checkbox"/> Comparator group		
<input type="checkbox"/> Outcome		

## 2. Did the report of the review contain an explicit statement that the review methods were established prior to the conduct of the review and did the report justify any significant deviations from the protocol?

For Partial Yes: The authors state that they had a written protocol or guide that included ALL the following:	For Yes: As for partial yes, plus the protocol should be registered and should also have specified:	
<input type="checkbox"/> review question(s)	<input type="checkbox"/> a meta-analysis/synthesis plan, if appropriate, <i>and</i>	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes
<input type="checkbox"/> a search strategy	<input type="checkbox"/> a plan for investigating causes of heterogeneity	<input type="checkbox"/> Partial Yes
<input type="checkbox"/> inclusion/exclusion criteria	<input type="checkbox"/> justification for any deviations from the protocol	<input type="checkbox"/> No
<input type="checkbox"/> a risk of bias assessment		

## 3. Did the review authors explain their selection of the study designs for inclusion in the review?

For Yes, the review should satisfy ONE of the following:	
<input type="checkbox"/> <i>Explanation for</i> including only RCTs	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes
<input type="checkbox"/> OR <i>Explanation for</i> including only NRSI	<input type="checkbox"/> No
<input type="checkbox"/> OR <i>Explanation for</i> including both RCTs and NRSI	

# AMSTAR CHECKLIST II

## 4. Did the review authors use a comprehensive literature search strategy?

For Partial Yes (all the following):

- searched at least 2 databases (relevant to research question)
- provided key word and/or search strategy
- justified publication restrictions (eg, language)

For Yes, should also have (all the following):

- searched the reference lists/bibliographies of included studies
- searched trial/study registries
- included/consulted content experts in the field
- where relevant, searched for grey literature
- conducted search within 24 months of completion of the review

- Yes
- Partial Yes
- No

## 5. Did the review authors perform study selection in duplicate?

For Yes, either ONE of the following:

- at least two reviewers independently agreed on selection of eligible studies and achieved consensus on which studies to include
- OR two reviewers selected a sample of eligible studies and achieved good agreement (at least 80 per cent), with the remainder selected by one reviewer

- Yes
- No

## 6. Did the review authors perform data extraction in duplicate?

For Yes, either ONE of the following:

- at least two reviewers achieved consensus on which data to extract from included studies
- OR two reviewers extracted data from a sample of eligible studies and achieved good agreement (at least 80 per cent), with the remainder extracted by one reviewer

- Yes
- No

# AMSTAR CHECKLIST II

## 7. Did the review authors provide a list of excluded studies and justify the exclusions?

For Partial Yes:	For Yes, must also have:	
<input type="checkbox"/> provided a list of all potentially relevant studies that were read in full text form but excluded from the review	<input type="checkbox"/> Justified the exclusion from the review of each potentially relevant study	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> Partial Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No

## 8. Did the review authors describe the included studies in adequate detail?

For Partial Yes (ALL the following):	For Yes, should also have ALL the following:	
<input type="checkbox"/> described populations <input type="checkbox"/> described interventions <input type="checkbox"/> described comparators <input type="checkbox"/> described outcomes <input type="checkbox"/> described research designs	<input type="checkbox"/> described population in detail <input type="checkbox"/> described intervention and comparator in detail (including doses where relevant) <input type="checkbox"/> described study's setting <input type="checkbox"/> timeframe for follow-up	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> Partial Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No

## 9. Did the review authors use a satisfactory technique for assessing the risk of bias (RoB) in individual studies that were included in the review?

<b>RCTs</b>		
For Partial Yes, must have assessed RoB from	For Yes, must also have assessed RoB from:	
<input type="checkbox"/> unconcealed allocation, <i>and</i> <input type="checkbox"/> lack of blinding of patients and assessors when assessing outcomes (unnecessary for objective outcomes such as all cause mortality)	<input type="checkbox"/> allocation sequence that was not truly random, <i>and</i> <input type="checkbox"/> selection of the reported result from among multiple measurements or analyses of a specified outcome	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> Partial Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> Includes only NRSI

<b>NRSI</b>		
For Partial Yes, must have assessed RoB:	For Yes, must also have assessed RoB:	
<input type="checkbox"/> from confounding, <i>and</i> <input type="checkbox"/> from selection bias	<input type="checkbox"/> methods used to ascertain exposures and outcomes, <i>and</i> <input type="checkbox"/> selection of the reported result from among multiple measurements or analyses of a specified outcome	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> Partial Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> Includes only RCTs

# AMSTAR CHECKLIST II

## 10. Did the review authors report on the sources of funding for the studies included in the review?

For Yes

- |   |                              |
|---|------------------------------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Must have reported on the sources of funding for individual studies included in the review. Note: Reporting that the reviewers looked for this information but it was not reported by study authors also qualifies | <input type="checkbox"/> Yes |
|   | <input type="checkbox"/> No  |

## 11. If meta-analysis was performed did the review authors use appropriate methods for statistical combination of results?

RCTs

For Yes:

- |   |   |
|---|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> The authors justified combining the data in a meta-analysis  | <input type="checkbox"/> Yes              |
| <input type="checkbox"/> AND they used an appropriate weighted technique to combine study results and adjusted for heterogeneity if present | <input type="checkbox"/> No               |
|   | <input type="checkbox"/> No meta-analysis |

For NRSI

For Yes:

- |   |   |
|---|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> The authors justified combining the data in a meta-analysis  | <input type="checkbox"/> Yes                        |
| <input type="checkbox"/> AND they used an appropriate weighted technique to combine study results, adjusting for heterogeneity if present   | <input type="checkbox"/> No                         |
| <input type="checkbox"/> AND they statistically combined effect estimates from NRSI that were adjusted for confounding, rather than combining raw data, or justified combining raw data when adjusted effect estimates were not available | <input type="checkbox"/> No meta-analysis conducted |
| <input type="checkbox"/> AND they reported separate summary estimates for RCTs and NRSI separately when both were included in the review  |   |

## 12. If meta-analysis was performed, did the review authors assess the potential impact of RoB in individual studies on the results of the meta-analysis or other evidence synthesis?

For Yes:

- |  |   |
|--|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> included only low risk of bias RCTs   | <input type="checkbox"/> Yes                        |
| <input type="checkbox"/> OR, if the pooled estimate was based on RCTs and/or NRSI at variable RoB, the authors performed analyses to investigate possible impact of RoB on summary estimates of effect | <input type="checkbox"/> No                         |
|  | <input type="checkbox"/> No meta-analysis conducted |

# AMSTAR CHECKLIST II

**13. Did the review authors account for RoB in individual studies when interpreting/discussing the results of the review?**

For Yes:

- |   |                              |
|---|------------------------------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> included only low risk of bias RCTs  | <input type="checkbox"/> Yes |
| <input type="checkbox"/> OR, if RCTs with moderate or high RoB, or NRSI were included the review provided a discussion of the likely impact of RoB on the results | <input type="checkbox"/> No  |

**14. Did the review authors provide a satisfactory explanation for, and discussion of, any heterogeneity observed in the results of the review?**

For Yes:

- |  |   |
|--|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> There was no significant heterogeneity in the results   |   |
| <input type="checkbox"/> OR if heterogeneity was present the authors performed an investigation of sources of any heterogeneity in the results and discussed the impact of this on the results of the review | <input type="checkbox"/> Yes<br><input type="checkbox"/> No |

**15. If they performed quantitative synthesis did the review authors carry out an adequate investigation of publication bias (small study bias) and discuss its likely impact on the results of the review?**

For Yes:

- |   |  |
|---|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> performed graphical or statistical tests for publication bias and discussed the likelihood and magnitude of impact of publication bias | <input type="checkbox"/> Yes<br><input type="checkbox"/> No<br><input type="checkbox"/> No meta-analysis conducted |
|---|--|

**16. Did the review authors report any potential sources of conflict of interest, including any funding they received for conducting the review?**

For Yes:

- |   |                              |
|---|------------------------------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> The authors reported no competing interests OR   | <input type="checkbox"/> Yes |
| <input type="checkbox"/> The authors described their funding sources and how they managed potential conflicts of interest | <input type="checkbox"/> No  |

## ROBIS: A new tool to assess risk of bias in systematic reviews was developed

Penny Whiting<sup>a,b,c,\*</sup>, Jelena Savović<sup>a,b</sup>, Julian P.T. Higgins<sup>a,d</sup>, Deborah M. Caldwell<sup>a</sup>, Barnaby C. Reeves<sup>e</sup>, Beverley Shea<sup>f</sup>, Philippa Davies<sup>a,b</sup>, Jos Kleijnen<sup>c,g</sup>, Rachel Churchill<sup>a</sup>, the ROBIS group

<sup>a</sup>School of Social and Community Medicine, University of Bristol, Canynge Hall, 39 Whatley Road, Bristol BS8 2PS, UK

<sup>b</sup>The National Institute for Health Research Collaboration for Leadership in Applied Health Research and Care West at University Hospitals Bristol NHS Foundation Trust, 9th Floor, Whitefriars, Lewins Mead, Bristol BS1 2NT

<sup>c</sup>Kleijnen Systematic Reviews Ltd, Unit 6, Escrick Busi

<sup>d</sup>Centre for Reviews and Dissemination, 1

<sup>e</sup>School of Clinical Sciences, University of Bristol, Bristol Royal Infirmary

<sup>f</sup>Community Information and Epidemiological Technologies Institute of Popula

<sup>g</sup>School for Public Health and Primary Care (CAPHRI), Maastrich

Accepted 5 June 2015; Publ

### Abstract

**Objective:** To develop ROBIS, a new tool for assessing the risk  
**Study Design and Setting:** We used four-stage approach to devel  
face meeting, and refine the tool through piloting.

## ROBIS QUALITY OF CONDUCT Checklist

### Phase 2: Identifying concerns with the review process

#### DOMAIN 1: STUDY ELIGIBILITY CRITERIA

Describe the study eligibility criteria, any restrictions on eligibility and whether there was evidence that objectives and eligibility criteria were pre-specified:

1.1 Did the review adhere to pre-defined objectives and eligibility criteria?	Y/PY/PN/N/NI
1.2 Were the eligibility criteria appropriate for the review question?	Y/PY/PN/N/NI
1.3 Were eligibility criteria unambiguous?	Y/PY/PN/N/NI
1.4 Were all restrictions in eligibility criteria based on study characteristics appropriate (e.g. date, sample size, study quality, outcomes measured)?	Y/PY/PN/N/NI
1.5 Were any restrictions in eligibility criteria based on sources of information appropriate (e.g. publication status or format, language, availability of data)?	Y/PY/PN/N/NI

Concerns regarding specification of study eligibility criteria LOW/HIGH/UNCLEAR

Rationale for concern:

#### DOMAIN 2: IDENTIFICATION AND SELECTION OF STUDIES

Describe methods of study identification and selection (e.g. number of reviewers involved):

2.1 Did the search include an appropriate range of databases/electronic sources for published and unpublished reports?	Y/PY/PN/N/NI
2.2 Were methods additional to database searching used to identify	Y/PY/PN/N/NI

# PRISMA Statement

OPEN ACCESS Freely available online

PLoS MEDICINE

## Guidelines and Guidance

# Preferred Reporting Items for Systematic Reviews and Meta-Analyses: The PRISMA Statement

**David Moher<sup>1,2\*</sup>, Alessandro Liberati<sup>3,4</sup>, Jennifer Tetzlaff<sup>1</sup>, Douglas G. Altman<sup>5</sup>, The PRISMA Group<sup>¶</sup>**

**1** Ottawa Methods Centre, Ottawa Hospital Research Institute, Ottawa, Ontario, Canada, **2** Department of Epidemiology and Community Medicine, Faculty of Medicine, University of Ottawa, Ottawa, Ontario, Canada, **3** Università di Modena e Reggio Emilia, Modena, Italy, **4** Centro Cochrane Italiano, Istituto Ricerche Farmacologiche Mario Negri, Milan, Italy, **5** Centre for Statistics in Medicine, University of Oxford, Oxford, United Kingdom





# PRISMA

- PRISMA is an evidence-based **minimum set of items** for reporting in systematic reviews and meta-analyses. PRISMA focuses on the reporting of reviews evaluating randomized trials, but can also be used as a basis for reporting systematic reviews of other types of research, particularly evaluations of interventions.

<http://www.prisma-statement.org/>

# PRISMA

- Pubblicato nel 2009, evoluzione del QUOROM statement (guida, pubblicata nel 1999, per migliorare il reporting di meta-analisi di RCT).
- Valuta il ***QUALITY OF REPORTING***
- Pubblicato in Annals of Internal Medicine, PLoS Medicine, Open Medicine, the British Medical Journal and the Journal of Clinical Epidemiology.

## KEY DOCUMENTS

- [PRISMA Statement](#)
- [PRISMA Checklist](#)
- [PRISMA flow diagram](#)
- [PRISMA E&E](#)

# PRISMA Checklist

PRISMA 2009 Checklist

Section/topic	#	Checklist item	Reported on page #
<b>TITLE</b>			
Title	1	Identify the report as a systematic review, meta-analysis, or both.	
<b>ABSTRACT</b>			
Structured summary	2	Provide a structured summary including, as applicable: background; objectives; data sources; study eligibility criteria; participants; and interventions; study appraisal and synthesis methods; results; limitations; conclusions and implications of key findings; systematic review registration number.	
<b>INTRODUCTION</b>			
Rationale	3	Describe the rationale for the review in the context of what is already known.	
Objectives	4	Provide an explicit statement of questions being addressed with reference to participants, interventions, comparisons, outcomes, and study design (PICOS).	
<b>METHODS</b>			
Protocol and registration	5	Indicate if a review protocol exists, if and where it can be accessed (e.g., Web address), and, if available, provide registration information including registration number.	
Eligibility criteria	6	Specify study characteristics (e.g., PICOS, length of follow-up) and report characteristics (e.g., years considered, language, publication status) used as criteria for eligibility, giving rationale.	
Information sources	7	Describe all information sources (e.g., databases) with dates of coverage, contact with study authors to identify additional studies) in the search and date last searched.	
Search	8	Present full electronic search strategy for at least one database, including any limits used, such that it could be repeated.	
Study selection	9	State the process for selecting studies (i.e., screening, eligibility, included in systematic review, and, if applicable, included in the meta-analysis).	
Data collection process	10	Describe method of data extraction from reports (e.g., piloted forms, independently, in duplicate) and any processes for obtaining and confirming data from investigators.	
Data items	11	List and define all variables for which data were sought (e.g., PICOS, funding sources) and any assumptions and simplifications made.	
Risk of bias in individual studies	12	Describe methods used for assessing risk of bias of individual studies (including specification of whether this was done at the study or outcome level), and how this information is to be used in any data synthesis.	
Summary measures	13	State the principal summary measures (e.g., risk ratio, difference in means).	
Synthesis of results	14	Describe the methods of handling data and combining results of studies, if done, including measures of consistency (e.g., $I^2$ ) for each meta-analysis.	

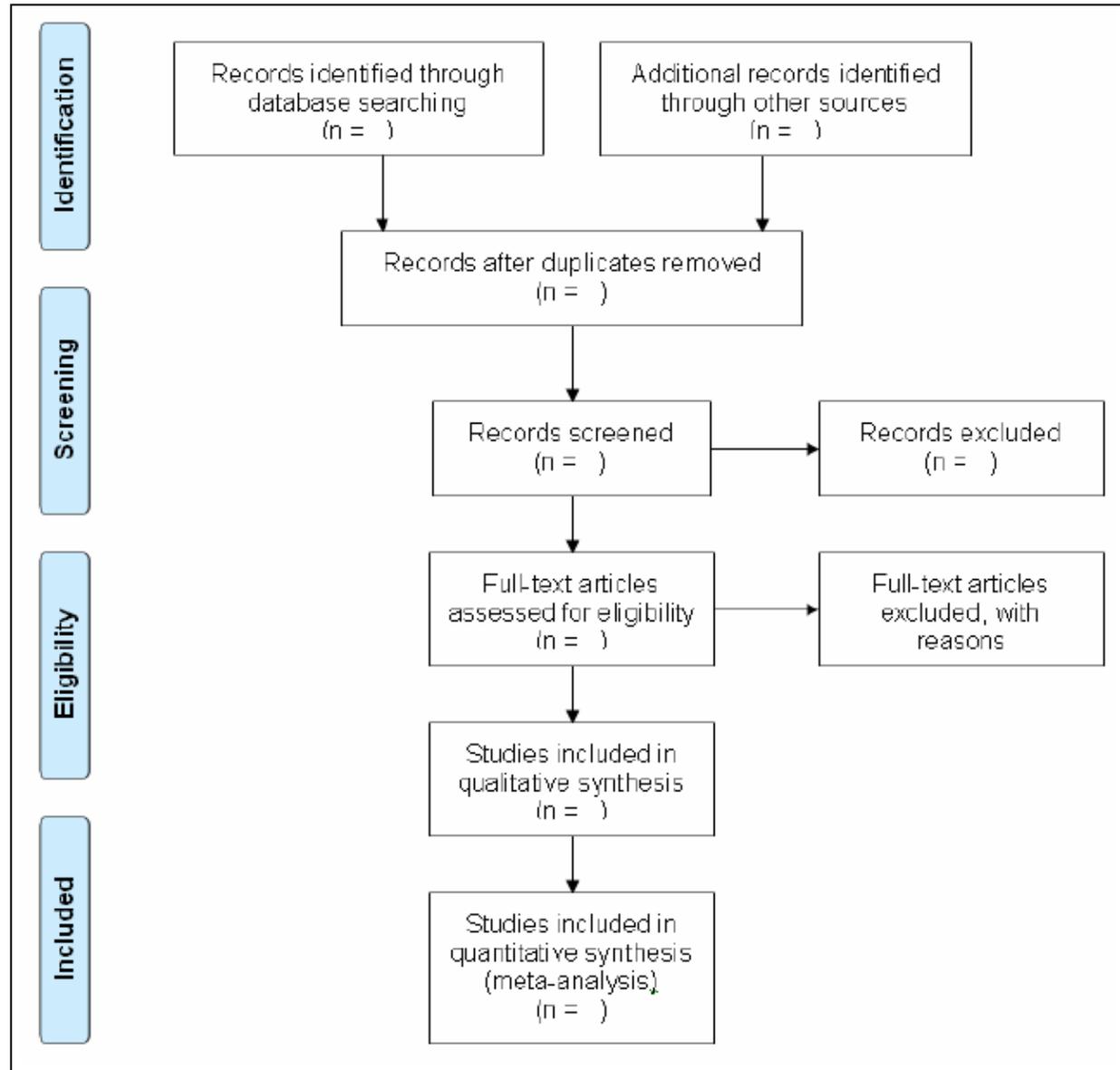
PRISMA 2009 Checklist

Section/topic	#	Checklist item	Reported on page #
Risk of bias across studies	15	Specify any assessment of risk of bias that may affect the cumulative evidence (e.g., publication bias, selective reporting within studies).	
Additional analyses	16	Describe methods of additional analyses (e.g., sensitivity or subgroup analyses, meta-regression), if done, indicating which were pre-specified.	
<b>RESULTS</b>			
Study selection	17	Give numbers of studies screened, assessed for eligibility, and included in the review, with reasons for exclusions at each stage, ideally with a flow diagram.	
Study characteristics	18	For each study, present characteristics for which data were extracted (e.g., study size, PICOS, follow-up period) and provide the citations.	
Risk of bias within studies	19	Present data on risk of bias of each study and, if available, any outcome level assessment (see item 12).	
Results of individual studies	20	For all outcomes considered (benefits or harms), present, for each study: (a) simple summary data for each intervention group (b) effect estimates and confidence intervals, ideally with a forest plot.	
Synthesis of results	21	Present results of each meta-analysis done, including confidence intervals and measures of consistency.	
Risk of bias across studies	22	Present results of any assessment of risk of bias across studies (see item 15).	
Additional analysis	23	Give results of additional analyses, if done (e.g., sensitivity or subgroup analyses, meta-regression [see item 16]).	
<b>DISCUSSION</b>			
Summary of evidence	24	Summarize the main findings including the strength of evidence for each main outcome, consider their relevance to key groups (e.g., healthcare providers, users, and policy makers).	
Limitations	25	Discuss limitations at study and outcome level (e.g., risk of bias), and at review-level (e.g., incomplete retrieval of identified research, reporting bias).	
Conclusions	26	Provide a general interpretation of the results in the context of other evidence, and implications for future research.	
<b>FUNDING</b>			
Funding	27	Describe sources of funding for the systematic review and other support (e.g., supply of data); role of funders for the systematic review.	

From: Moher D, Liberati A, Tetzlaff J, Altman DG, The PRISMA Group (2009). Preferred Reporting Items for Systematic Reviews and Meta-Analyses: The PRISMA Statement. *PLoS Med* 6(7): e1000097. doi:10.1371/journal.pmed.1000097

For more information, visit: [www.prisma-statement.org](http://www.prisma-statement.org)

# PRISMA Flow diagram



Style and Format

File format

Length

Font

Headings

Layout

Page and line numbers

Footnotes

## Submission Guidelines

*PLOS Medicine* publishes original research articles of outstanding medical importance. We will consider manuscripts of any length; we encourage the submission of both substantial full-length bodies of work and shorter manuscripts that report novel findings that might be based on a more limited range of experiments.

The writing style should be concise and accessible, avoiding jargon so that the paper is understandable for readers outside a specialty or those whose first language is not English. Editors will make suggestions for how to achieve this, as well as suggestions for deletions or additions that could be made to the article to strengthen the argument. Our aim is to make the editorial process rigorous and consistent, but not intrusive or overbearing. Authors are encouraged to use their own voice and to decide how best to present their ideas, results, and conclusions.

### Systematic reviews and meta-analyses

Reports of systematic reviews and meta-analyses must adhere to the [PRISMA Statement](#) or alternative guidelines appropriate to the study design, and include the completed checklist and flow diagram to accompany the main text. Authors must complete the appropriate reporting checklist not only with page references, but also with sufficient text excerpted from the manuscript to explain how they accomplished all applicable items.



Download blank templates of the checklist and flow diagram from the [EQUATOR web site](#).

Abstracts should follow [PRISMA for Abstracts](#), using the PLOS abstract format. Authors must also state within the Methods section of their paper whether a protocol exists for their systematic review, and if so, provide a copy of the protocol as supporting information.

# Esempio

## PLOS ONE

### Efficacy of muscle exercise in patients with muscular dystrophy: a systematic review showing a missed opportunity to improve outcomes

Section/topic	#	Checklist item	Reported on page #
<b>TITLE</b>			
Title	1	Identify the report as a systematic review, meta-analysis, or both.	done
<b>ABSTRACT</b>			
Structured summary	2	Provide a structured summary including, as applicable: background; objectives; data sources; study eligibility criteria, participants, and interventions; study appraisal and synthesis methods; results; limitations; conclusions and implications of key findings; systematic review registration number.	Structured abstract done
<b>INTRODUCTION</b>			
Rationale	3	Describe the rationale for the review in the context of what is already known.	Page #2
Objectives	4	Provide an explicit statement of questions being addressed with reference to participants, interventions, comparisons, outcomes, and study design (PICOS).	Page #2
<b>METHODS</b>			
Protocol and registration	5	Indicate if a review protocol exists, if and where it can be accessed (e.g., Web address), and, if available, provide registration information including registration number.	None
Eligibility criteria	6	Specify study characteristics (e.g., PICOS, length of follow-up) and report characteristics (e.g., years considered, language, publication status) used as criteria for eligibility, giving rationale.	Page #2-3
Information sources	7	Describe all information sources (e.g., databases with dates of coverage, contact with study authors to identify additional studies) in the search and date last searched.	Page #3
Search	8	Present full electronic search strategy for at least one database, including any limits used, such that it could be repeated.	Page #3
Study selection	9	State the process for selecting studies (i.e., screening, eligibility, included in systematic review, and, if applicable, included in the meta-analysis).	Page #3
Data collection process	10	Describe method of data extraction from reports (e.g., piloted forms, independently, in duplicate) and any processes for obtaining and confirming data from investigators.	Page #4

# <http://www.equator-network.org/>



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**Transparency Of health Research**



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[CONSORT](#) [Extensions](#)

[STROBE](#) [Extensions](#)

[PRISMA](#) [Extensions](#)

[SPIRIT](#) [PRISMA-P](#)

[STARD](#) [TRIPOD](#)

[CARE](#) [Extensions](#)

[AGREE](#) [RIGHT](#)

[SRQR](#) [COREQ](#)

[ARRIVE](#)

[SQUIRE](#)

Researching  
**BIOMARKERS?**  
Make sure you use  
**REMARK**  
to report every  
important detail!



# Example of bad reporting

[Hip Int.](#) 2012 Jul-Aug;22 Suppl 8:S19-24. doi: 10.5301/HIP.2012.9566.

## **Value of debridement and irrigation for the treatment of peri-prosthetic infections. A systematic review.**

### **Abstract**

Debridement and irrigation has been proposed as a salvage procedure for early post-operative and late acute haematogenous periprosthetic hip and knee infections, however the effective ability of this procedure to avoid recurrent infection is still debated. In this systematic review of the literature we reviewed full-text papers published from 1970 through 2011, that reported the success rate of infection eradication after debridement and irrigation with prosthesis retention for the treatment of early septic complications (within six weeks from surgery) or late acute haematogenous infections after hip or knee prosthesis. In all, 14 original articles, reporting the results of 710 patients were retrieved. The average success rate has been, respectively, 45.9% and 52% after a single or repeated debridement and irrigation procedures, at a mean follow-up of 53.3 months. The methodological limitations of this study and the heterogeneous material in the reviewed papers notwithstanding, this systematic review shows that debridement and irrigation procedure is associated with a rather poor outcome, even in a population of patients selected on the basis of symptoms' duration and patients should be adequately informed prior to undergo this salvage procedure.

- ✓ **ABSTRACT NON STRUTTURATO IN INTRODUZIONE, OBIETTIVI, RISORSE RICERCA, CRITERI DI ELIGIBILITA', INTERVENTI, CRITICAL APPRISAL, SINTESI DEI METODI, RISULTATI, LIMITAZIONI CONCLUSIONI, IMPLICAZIONI**
- ✓ **SYSTEMATIC REVIEW REGISTRATION NUMBER**
- ✓ **MANCANO BANCHE DATI**

# Example of good reporting

## Virtual Reality Therapy for Adults Post-Stroke: A Systematic Review and Meta-Analysis Exploring Virtual Environments and Commercial Games in Therapy

### Abstract

**Background:** The objective of this analysis was to systematically review the evidence for virtual reality (VR) therapy in an adult post-stroke population in both custom built virtual environments (VE) and commercially available gaming systems (CG).

**Methods:** MEDLINE, CINAHL, EMBASE, ERIC, PSYCInfo, DARE, PEDro, Cochrane Central Register of Controlled Trials, and Cochrane Database of Systematic Reviews were systematically searched from the earliest available date until April 4, 2013. Controlled trials that compared VR to conventional therapy were included. Population criteria included adults (>18) post-stroke, excluding children, cerebral palsy, and other neurological disorders. Included studies were reported in English. Quality of studies was assessed with the Physiotherapy Evidence Database Scale (PEDro).

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**ABSTRACT STRUTTURATO IN INTRODUZIONE, OBIETTIVI, RISORSE RICERCA, CRITERI DI ELIGIBILITA', INTERVENTI, CRITICAL APPRISAL, SINTESI DEI METODI, RISULTATI, LIMITAZIONI CONCLUSIONI, IMPLICAZIONI, SYSTEMATIC REVIEW REGISTRATION NUMBER**

VR  
VE  
32,  
all

**Discussion:** VR rehabilitation moderately improves outcomes compared to conventional therapy in adults post-stroke. Current CG interventions have been too few and too small to assess potential benefits of CG. Future research in this area should aim to clearly define conventional therapy, report on participation measures, consider motivational components of therapy, and investigate commercially available systems in larger RCTs.

**Trial Registration:** Prospero CRD42013004338

SCUOLA DI METODOLOGIA CLINICA  
IRCCS "Sacro Cuore - Don Calabria" Negrar di Valpolicella

8<sup>a</sup> EDIZIONE

2° MODULO

REVISIONI SISTEMATICHE E METANALISI

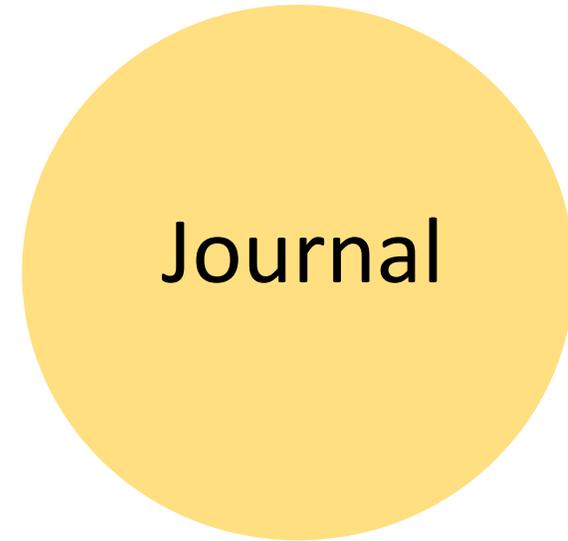
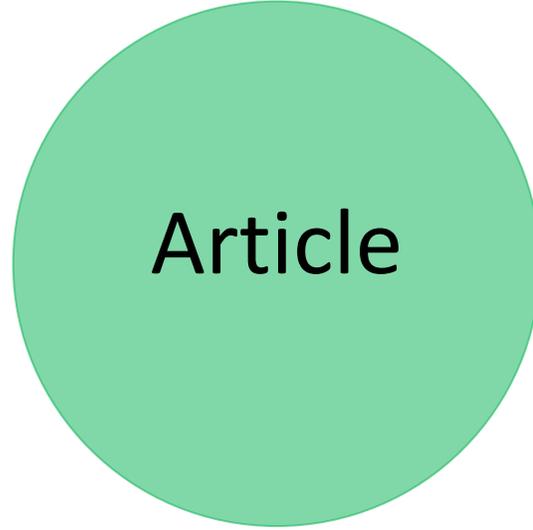
NEGRAR DI VALPOLICELLA  
11-12 FEBBRAIO 2022  
Centro Formazione IRCCS "Sacro Cuore-Don Calabria"



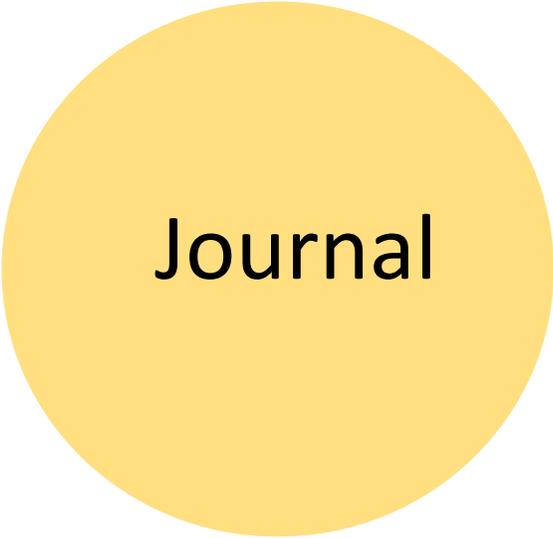
**11 Febbraio 2022**

- 10.30-10.45 Presentazione ed obiettivi del Corso  
**Stefania GORI - Fabrizio NICOLIS  
Giovanni L. PAPPAGALLO**
- 10.45-11.30 Tipologia delle Revisioni della Letteratura Scientifica  
Obiettivi di una Revisione Sistemática  
**Michela CINQUINI**
- 11.30-12.00 Definizione del quesito clinico e degli outcome  
di interesse; misure di associazione  
**Giovanni L. PAPPAGALLO**
- 12.00-13.00 Lavoro di gruppo  
*Summing-Up* (metodo: *What? So What? Now What?*)  
(valido come prova ECM)
- 13.00-14.00 Colazione di lavoro
- 14.00-14.45 Come trovare informazioni - I database bibliografici,  
i siti di linee guida e studi clinici...  
**Veronica Andrea FITTIPALDO**
- 14.45-15.30 Definizione della strategia di ricerca  
e di selezione degli studi; *study flow*  
**Michela CINQUINI**
- 15.30-16.00 Metodi di valutazione di autori e riviste scientifiche:  
indici bibliometrici classici e innovativi  
**Giulio ZUANETTI**
- 16.00-16.30 Coffee Break
- 16.30-17.30 Valutazione del rischio di *bias* negli studi selezionati  
**Ivan MOSCHETTI**
- 17.30-18.30 Lavoro di gruppo  
*Summing-Up* (metodo: *What? So What? Now What?*)  
(valido come prova ECM)

Ci sono tre "elementi" fondamentali su cui si basa la letteratura scientifica



Gli indici di valutazione sono stati sviluppati e vengono utilizzati per ciascuno di questi elementi



Journal

Ci sono quattro - cinque database fondamentali dove le riviste sono indicizzate, una di gestione «statale», le altre invece di società private:

Web of Science,  
ESCI



Medline/  
Pubmed



Embase,  
Scopus

ELSEVIER

Ci sono quattro - cinque database fondamentali dove le riviste sono indicizzate, una di gestione «statale», le altre invece di società private

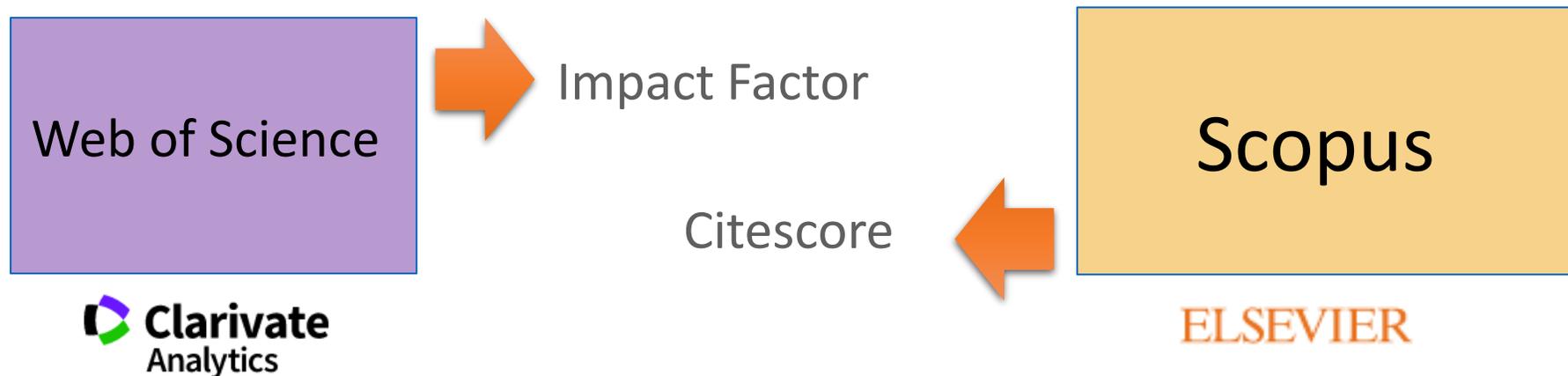
Web of Science,  
ESCI

Medline/  
Pubmed

Embase,  
Scopus

La presenza di un articolo in uno o più di questi database è stata ed è tuttora un elemento di garanzia sulla qualità del lavoro, tuttavia i confini sono diventati meno definiti di un tempo.

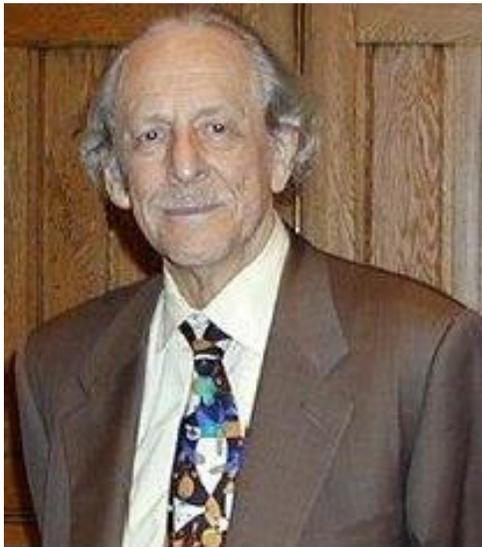
Le società private hanno sviluppato degli indicatori di performance delle riviste: sono indici **bibliometrici** (quindi basati sul numero di citazioni) che vengono ottenuti analizzando i dati da due dei loro databases.



L'IF non è un indice molto recente....

Eugene Garfield è il creatore dell'Impact Factor.

Il lavoro su cui si basa l'indice è stato pubblicato nel **1955**.....



## Citation Indexes for Science

A New Dimension in Documentation  
through Association of Ideas

Eugene Garfield

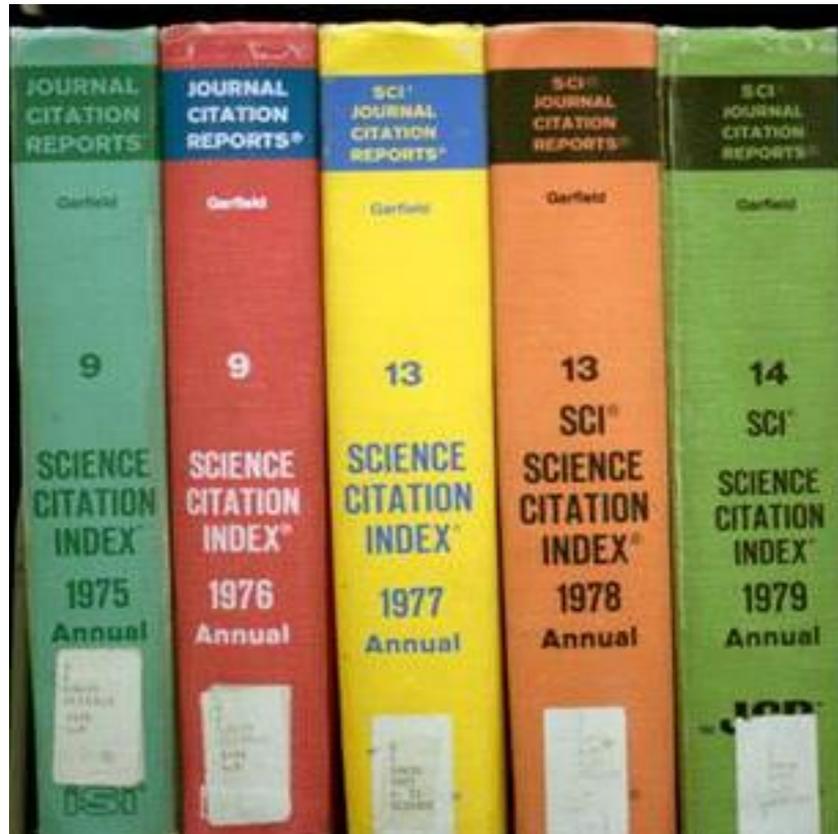
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Mr. Garfield is a documentation consultant with  
offices at 1530 Spring Garden St., Philadelphia  
1, Pa.

**1955** SCIENCE, VOL. 122

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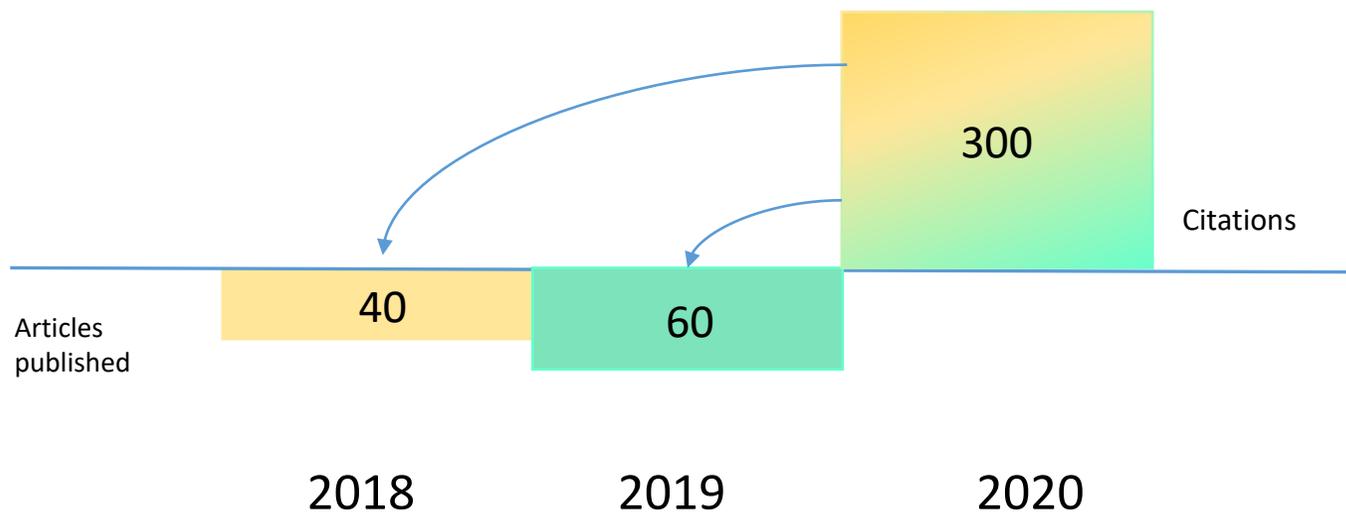
...anche se ufficialmente l'anno in cui si è iniziato a calcolare l'Impact Factor è il **1975**....



## L'Impact Factor comunemente utilizzato è il 2-Year IF

Alla data del corso (Febbraio 2022), l'ultimo IF è quello pubblicato nel Giugno 2021 che si basa sulle citazioni totali dell'anno 2020

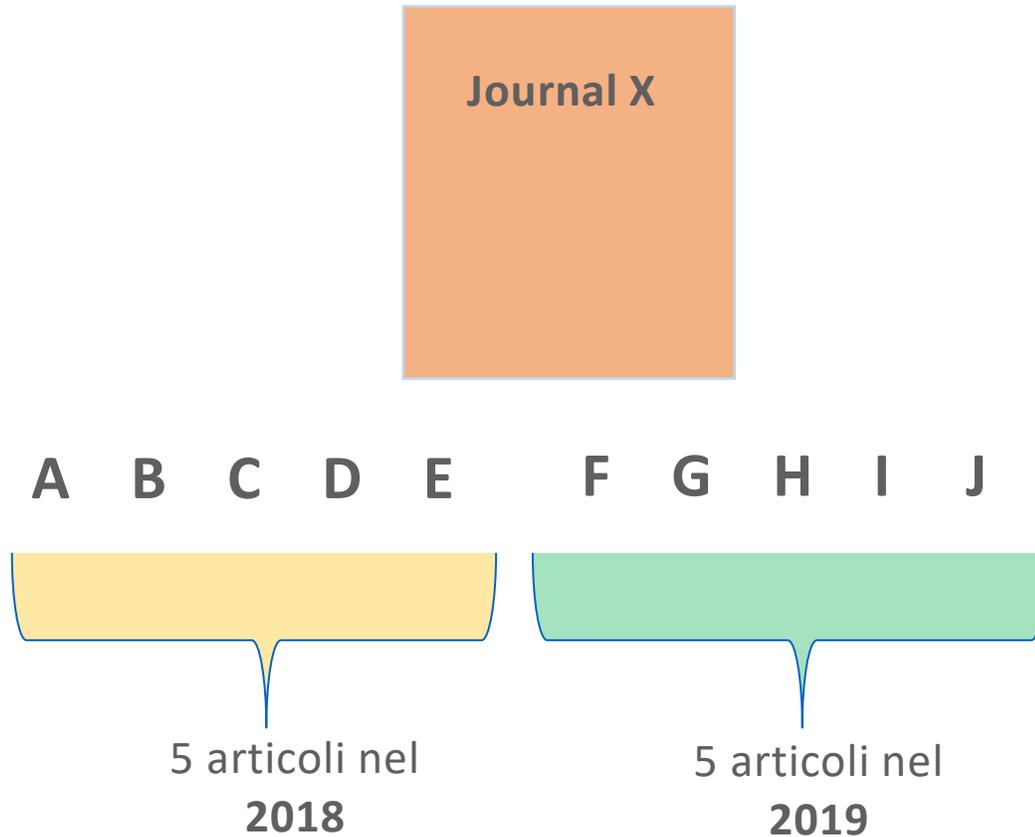
È definito come il **rapporto** tra numero complessivo di citazioni presenti durante l'anno per il quale l'IF viene calcolato da parte di qualsiasi rivista presente nel database Web of Science e pertinenti ad articoli della rivista in esame pubblicati nei due anni precedenti, **diviso** il numero totale degli articoli della rivista in esame pubblicati nei due anni precedenti.



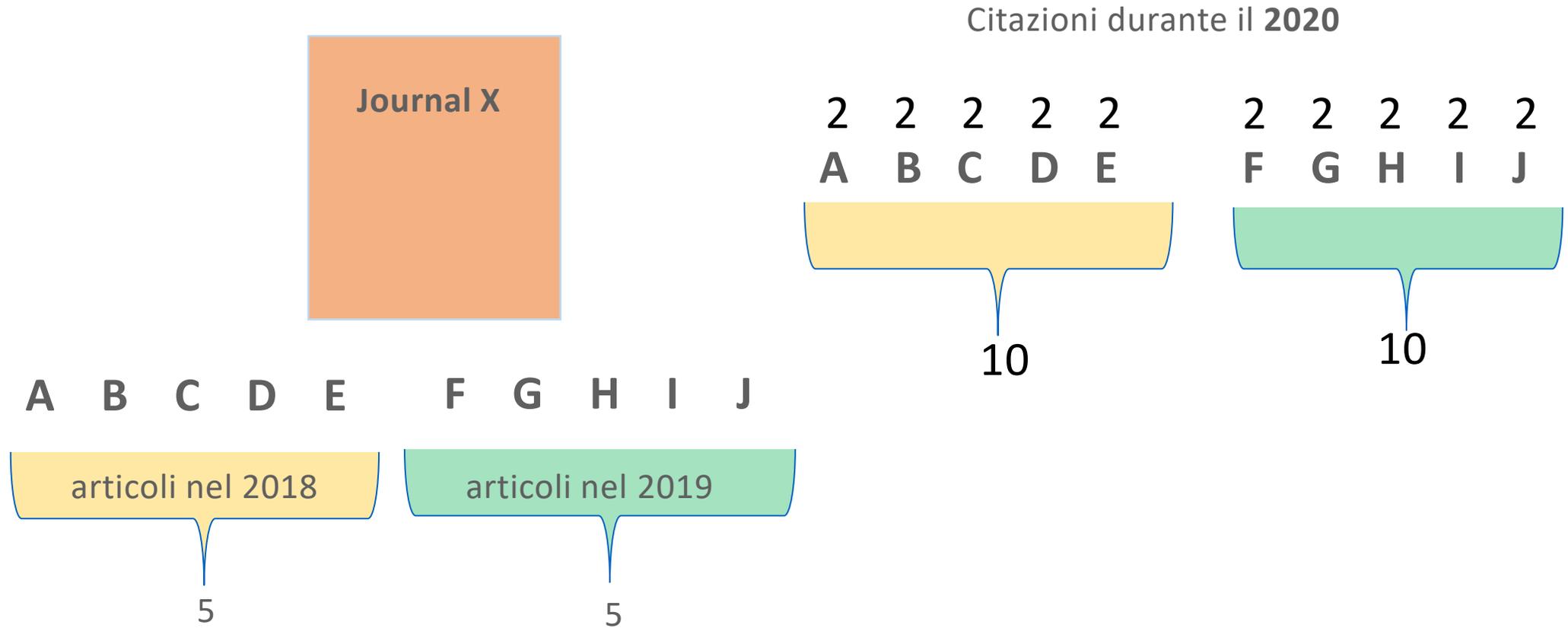
$$\mathbf{2020\ IF = \frac{300}{40 + 60} = 3}$$

# L'IF non deve essere utilizzato per la valutazione degli autori

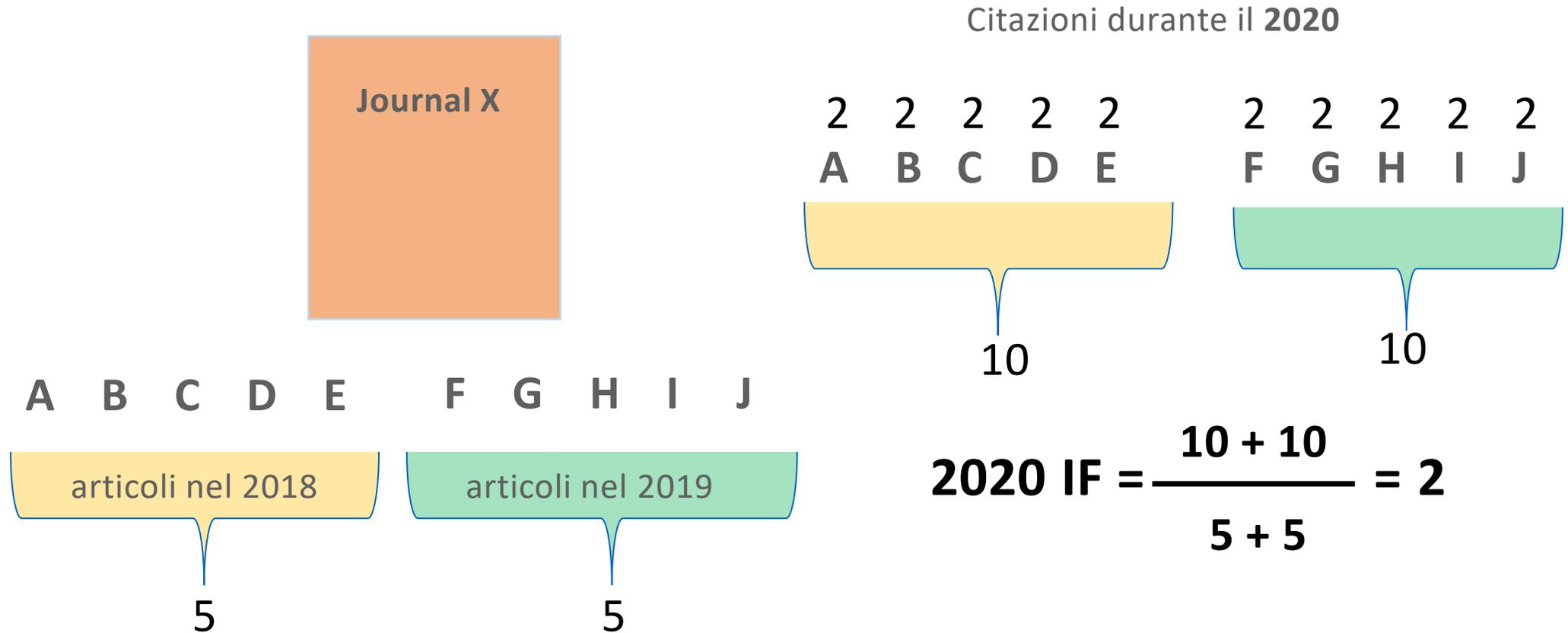
Immaginiamo che la rivista X abbia pubblicato gli articoli A,B,C,D,E nel corso del **2018** e F,G,H,I,J nel corso del **2019**



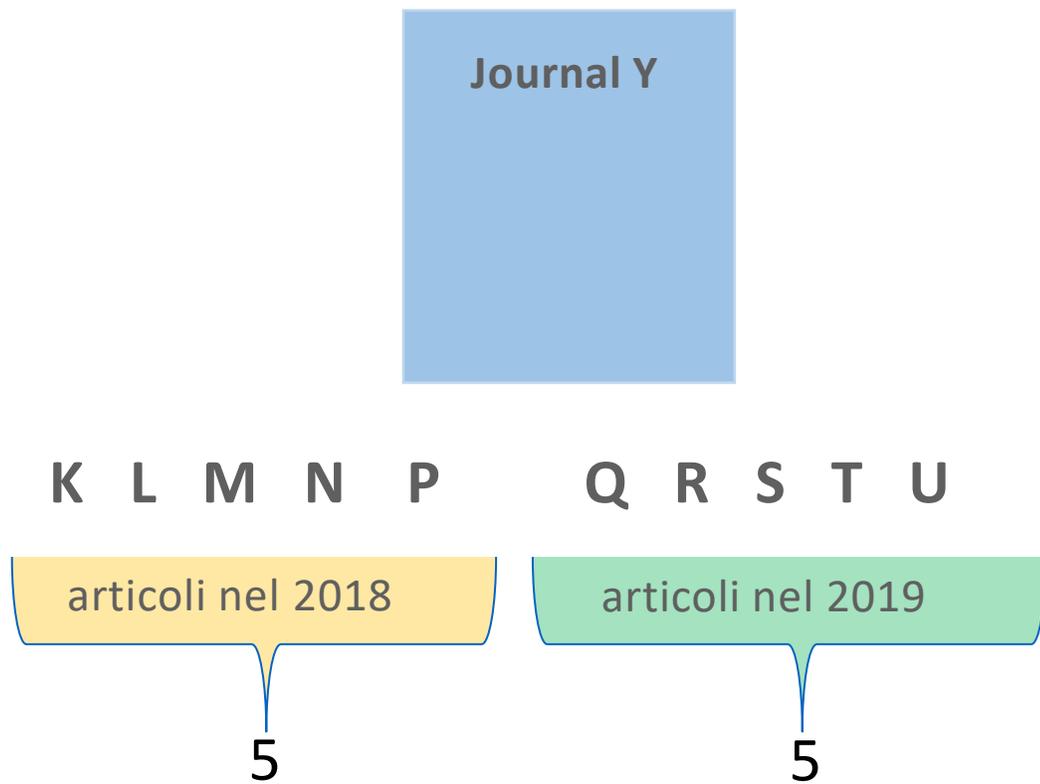
Immaginiamo ora che tutti questi articoli abbiano avuto due citazioni nel corso del 2020.  
Quale sarà l'IF?



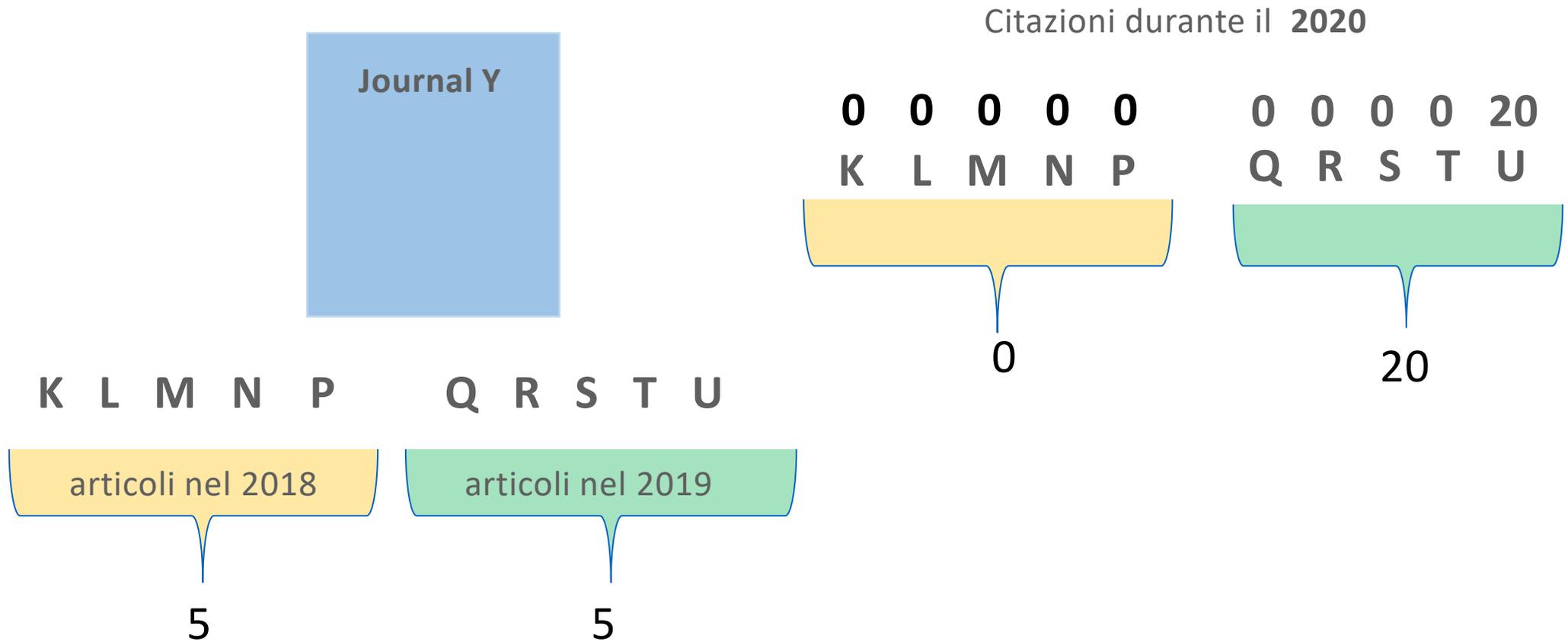
Immaginiamo ora che tutti questi articoli abbiano avuto due citazioni nel corso del 2020.  
Quale sarà l'IF?



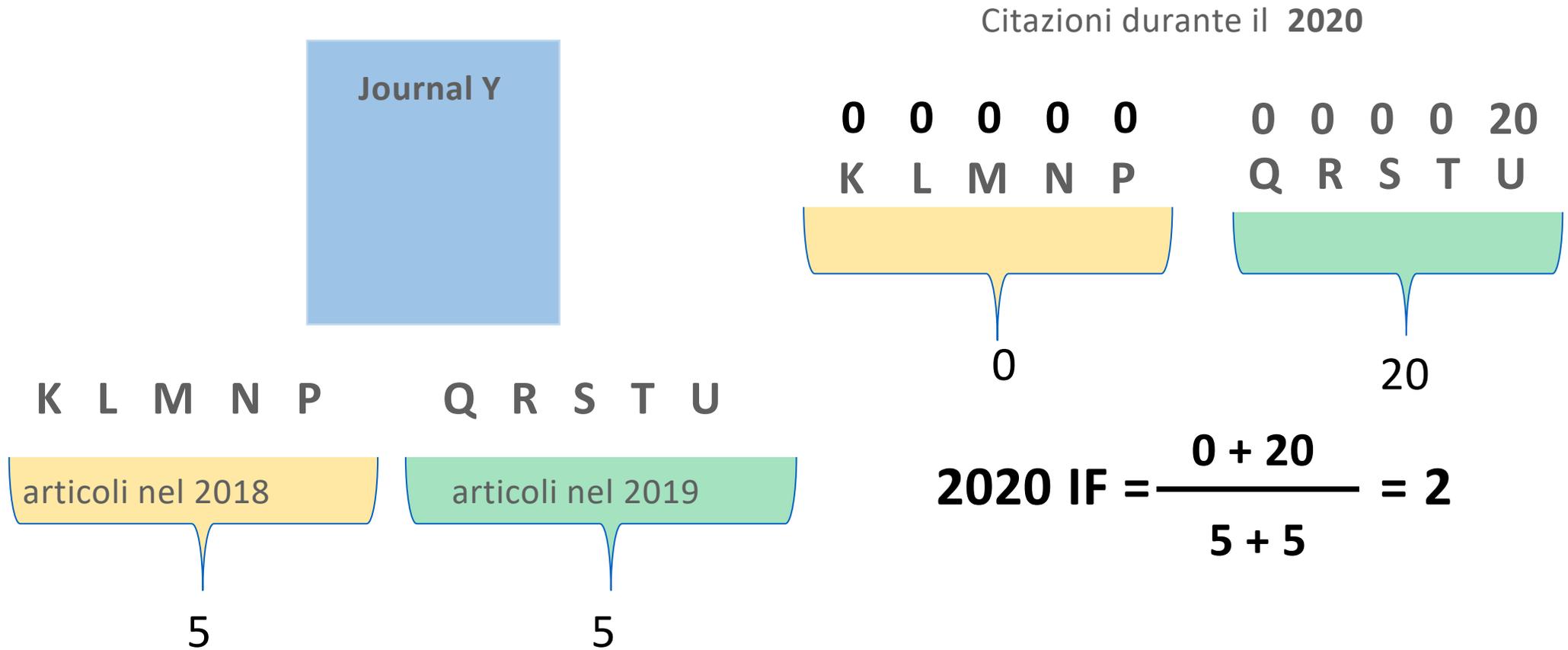
Immaginiamo ora che la rivista Y abbia pubblicato lo stesso numero di articoli della rivista X



Immaginiamo ora che tutti questi articoli abbiano avuto zero citazioni nel corso del 2020, tranne uno che ne ha avute venti. Quale sarà l'IF?



Immaginiamo ora che tutti questi articoli abbiano avuto zero citazioni nel corso del 2020, tranne uno che ne ha avute venti. Quale sarà l'IF?



## Cosa significa per gli autori?

Gli autori dell'articolo Q, con zero citazioni....

...possono fare il claim di aver pubblicato su una rivista "impattata" o di essere "**autori impattati**" senza aver avuto neanche una citazione del loro articolo, esattamente come gli autori dell'articolo U che di citazioni ne hanno venti e hanno contribuito in modo sostanziale all'IF della rivista.

0	0	0	0	20
Q	R	S	T	U

20

L'IF è un indicatore (con diversi limiti) della "bontà" di una rivista ma sicuramente NON degli autori che pubblicano sulla stessa.

L' IF ha quindi diversi limiti

- ✓ Il fatto che l'IF si riferisca sempre ad articoli pubblicati da 2 a 3 anni prima della valutazione la rende poco "attuale"
- ✓ Una problematica che recentemente è diventata importante è quella dalla Advance Online Publication: spesso l'articolo è pubblicato online molto prima di essere "ufficialmente" pubblicato.

Clarivate sta cercando di superare questi limiti lanciando nuovi indicatori



## Introducing the Journal Citation Indicator

A new approach to measure the citation impact  
of journals in the Web of Science Core Collection

→ Il problema è che non abbiamo comunque niente di veramente meglio dell'IF....

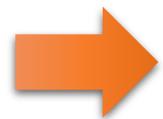
## Il Competitor dell'IF: CiteScore di Elsevier

- ✓ Inizialmente c'erano tre differenze fondamentali con l'Impact Factor:
  1. I dati erano (e sono ancora) disponibili a tutti, non soltanto agli abbonati al JCR come nel caso dell'IF
  2. Il CiteScore includeva tutti i tipi di articolo: non solo articles e reviews ma anche letters, notes, editorials, conference papers etc
  3. Venivano conteggiati 3 anni invece di 2

## Il Competitor dell'IF: CiteScore di Elsevier

Nel 2020 la metodologia è cambiata:

1. Solo gli articoli peer-reviewed sono inclusi nel numeratore e nel denominatore
2. Si contano tutti gli articoli e tutte le citazioni presenti andando indietro fino a 4 anni.
3. Il CiteScore può essere calcolato anche dopo un solo anno di pubblicazione
4. Questo cambio ha determinato una variazione improvvisa dei CiteScore precedenti per tutte le riviste e quindi i “vecchi” valori non sono più validi



Oggi è veramente complicato usare il CiteScore come indice di riferimento

## I Competitor dell'IF: Le bufale

- [Cosmos Impact Factor](#)
- [Directory of Indexing and Impact Factor](#)
- [General Impact Factor](#)
- [Global Impact Factor](#)
- [Global Science Citation Impact Factor](#)
- [Impact Factor Services for International Journals](#)
- [International Journal Impact Factor](#)
- [Journal Impact Factor](#)
- [Journals Impact Factor](#)
- [Research Journal Impact Factor](#)
- [Science Impact Factor](#)
- [Scientific Journal Impact Factor](#)
- [Systematic Impact Factor](#)
- [Technical Impact Factor](#)
- [Universal Impact Factor](#)



Journal of Medical - Clinical Research & Reviews (ISSN 2639-944X) is an international, open-access with **0.34 Impact Factor**, journal give special importance to publish research and reviews in the fields of general & scientific medical research and clinical practice. It also publishes valuable studies in Cardiology, Neurology, Obstetrics and Gynecology, Surgery, Internal medicine, Orthopaedics, Infectious diseases, and HIV/AIDs, Oncology and all related areas which come under the journal scope.

Journal of Medical - Clinical Research & Reviews requests and encourages researchers to submit their brilliantly orchestrated topics or recent developments in the field of Clinical and Medical areas in the form of Research and Reviews.

Our journal strongly supports the Open Access initiative. All published articles will be assigned DOI provided by Cross Ref. Journal of Medical - Clinical Research & Reviews will keep up-to- date with the latest advancements in the field of medical research. Abstracts and Pdfs of all articles published are freely available to everyone immediately after publication.

Authors are requested to submit manuscripts as an e-mail attachment to the Editorial Office at [editor.mcr@scivisionjournals.com](mailto:editor.mcr@scivisionjournals.com).



## I predatory publishers



Esiste un elenco “indicativo” di predatory publishers che purtroppo non è aggiornato

### The definition (Nature, dicembre 2019)

“Predatory journals and publishers are entities that prioritize self-interest at the expense of scholarship and are characterized by **false or misleading information, deviation from best editorial and publication practices, a lack of transparency, and/or the use of aggressive and indiscriminate solicitation practices.**”

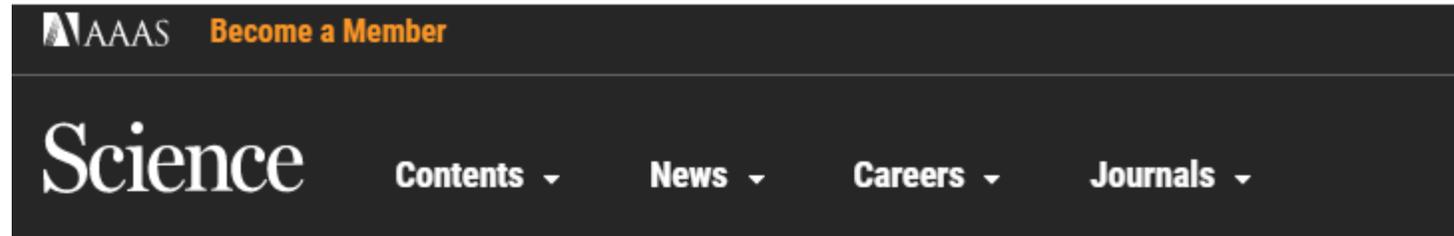
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Agnes Grudniewicz, David Moher, Kelly D. Cobey and 32 co-authors

210 | Nature | Vol 576 | 12 December 2019

 Stop Predatory Journals

La prima clamorosa evidenza sui predatory publishers risale a più di otto anni fa



NEWS

## Who's Afraid of Peer Review?

John Bohannon

+ See all authors and affiliations

*Science* 04 Oct 2013:  
Vol. 342, Issue 6154, pp. 60-65  
DOI: 10.1126/science.342.6154.60

Article

Figures & Data

Info & Metrics

eLetters

 PDF

A spoof paper concocted by *Science* reveals little or no scrutiny at many open-access journals.

# Nonostante tutto, i predatory publisher sono più attivi che mai...

**Da:** Journal of Medical - Clinical Research & Reviews <[medclinres@gmail.com](mailto:medclinres@gmail.com)>

**Inviato:** giovedì 22 aprile 2021 09:21

**Oggetto:** Accepting Reviews and Reports in Medical Research

Dear Dr., Greetings from Journal of Medical - Clinical Research & Reviews...

**Journal of Medical - Clinical Research & Reviews (ISSN 2639-944X)** is an open access journal designed for the widespread dissemination of research findings in the field of Clinical & Medical Research. For this upcoming issue, you are **welcome to submit original research articles, reviews, brief reports, case studies, rapid communications, and letters to the editor** which may advance our current knowledge about Clinical & Medical Research. **There is no restriction on the length of your manuscript.**

All manuscripts will be subjected to the double-blinded peer-review process. Manuscripts that are considered within the scope and meet quality expectations will be reviewed by experts. For more details please go through the link <http://www.scivisionpub.com/journals/journal-of-medical-clinical-research-reviews-home>.

Our journal is indexed in **Google Scholar, CrossRef, CiteFactor, ROAD, Scilit (Scientific Literature), Academic Resource Index (ResearchBib), (SIS) Scientific Indexing Services, ResearchGate, WorldCat, DRJI (Directory of Research Journals Indexing), Semantic Scholar.**

**Impact Factor: 0.34**

If possible, we would appreciate receiving your submission by **May 05, 2021**. Kindly send the article as an attachment to this email. Looking forward to your kind response.

With Regards,

Naina K

Editorial Assistant, Journal of Medical - Clinical Research & Reviews, ISSN 2639-944X

Delaware, US


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Journal of Medical - Clinical Research & Reviews (ISSN 2639-944X) is an international, open-access with 0.34 Impact Factor, journal give special importance to publish research and reviews in the fields of general & scientific medical research and clinical practice. It also publishes valuable studies in Cardiology, Neurology, Obstetrics and Gynecology, Surgery, Internal medicine, Orthopaedics, Infectious diseases, and HIV/AIDS, Oncology and all related areas which come under the journal scope.

Journal of Medical - Clinical Research & Reviews requests and encourages researchers to submit their brilliantly orchestrated topics or recent developments in the field of Clinical and Medical areas in the form of Research and Reviews.

Our journal strongly supports the Open Access initiative. All published articles will be assigned DOI provided by Cross Ref. Journal of Medical - Clinical Research & Reviews will keep up-to-date with the latest advancements in the field of medical research. Abstracts and Pdfs of all articles published are freely available to everyone immediately after publication.

Authors are requested to submit manuscripts as an e-mail attachment to the Editorial Office at editor.mccr@scivisionjournals.com.



Il rischio dei predatory publishers nella diffusione di fake news non deve essere sottovalutata

# Journal of Medical - Clinical Research & Reviews

## Review of COVID-19 Vaccines and the Risk of Chronic Adverse Events Including Neurological Degeneration

J. Bart Classen, MD\*

**\*Correspondence:**

J. Bart Classen, Classen Immunotherapies, Inc, 3637 Rockdale Road, Manchester, MD 21102, USA, Tel: 410-377-8526; E-mail: classen@vaccines.net.

Received: 20 March 2021; Accepted: 10 April 2021

Classen Immunotherapies, Inc, 3637 Rockdale Road, Manchester, MD 21102, USA.

**Citation:** J. Bart Classen. Review of COVID-19 Vaccines and the Risk of Chronic Adverse Events Including Neurological Degeneration. J Med - Clin Res & Rev. 2021; 5(4): 1-7.

### ABSTRACT

*Many have argued that the outbreak of COVID-19 is the result of the release of a viral based bioweapon. Vaccines to COVID-19 have been developed and a policy of universal immunization has been initiated with total disregard to the fact that the virus may be a bioweapon. The potential risk of a catastrophe exists in part because all the vaccines contain the spike protein and or the mRNA/DNA encoding for the COVID-19 associated spike protein. These vaccines were designed and placed on the market with little knowledge of how the spike protein or its nucleic acid causes disease and without knowledge of long-term adverse effects of the vaccines. This paper reviews many of the potential long-term risks that could result from receiving one of the COVID-19 vaccines. The potential for the spike protein and its mRNA to cause prion disease is reviewed as well as reasons why the vaccine could be much more dangerous than the natural infection. Adenoviral derived COVID-19 vaccines are particularly risky because of their potential to recombine with human DNA or viruses already in the human recipient. The result could be new infectious adenoviral species containing spike proteins that could infect humans and farm animals used for food. Some of the COVID-19 vaccines utilize novel technology including nanotechnology and novel adjuvants that increase intracellular penetration of cells and can potentially exacerbate chronic toxicity from the spike protein. Governments should consider suspending sale of the COVID-19 vaccines until they have a better understanding of their risks.*

Le conseguenze di “scegliere” un predatory journal:

- Fa perdere tempo
- Determina un eventuale danno economico
- Rende impossibile o comunque molto difficile ripubblicare i dati del lavoro su una rivista “seria”
- Aiuta un dark system che contribuisce alla disseminazione di fake-news credibili



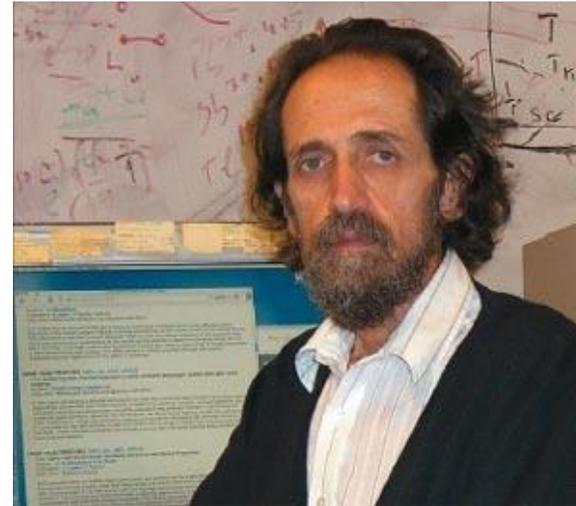


Author

## Indice bibliometrico che misura gli autori: l'H-Index

Indice molto più “giovane” dell'Impact Factor, creato 14 anni fa

*a scientist has an index  $h$  if  $h$  of their papers have at least  $h$  citations each, and their other papers have no more than  $h$  citations each*



Hirsch, Jorge (2005) PNAS 46: 16569

[arXiv:physics/0508025](https://arxiv.org/abs/physics/0508025)

Un h-index di 10 significa che un ricercatore ha pubblicato almeno 10 lavori che hanno avuto almeno 10 citazioni.

# H-index

Si guarda il numero di citazioni di ogni singolo articolo dell'autore

Article	Citations
A	18
B	25
C	9
D	35
E	2
F	6
G	3
H	50
I	15
L	40
M	7
N	2
O	1
P	33
Q	8
R	27
S	21
T	10
U	5
V	2

# H-index

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Article	Citations
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B	25
C	9
D	35
E	2
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H	50
I	15
L	40
M	7
N	2
O	1
P	33
Q	8
R	27
S	21
T	10
U	5
V	2



Si mettono gli articoli in ordine decrescente

Article	Rank	Citations
H	1	50
L	2	40
D	3	35
P	4	33
R	5	27
B	6	25
S	7	21
A	8	18
I	9	15
T	10	10
C	11	9
Q	12	8
M	13	7
F	14	6
U	15	5
G	16	3
E	17	2
N	18	2
V	19	2
O	20	1

# H-index

Si guarda il numero di citazioni di ogni singolo articolo dell'autore

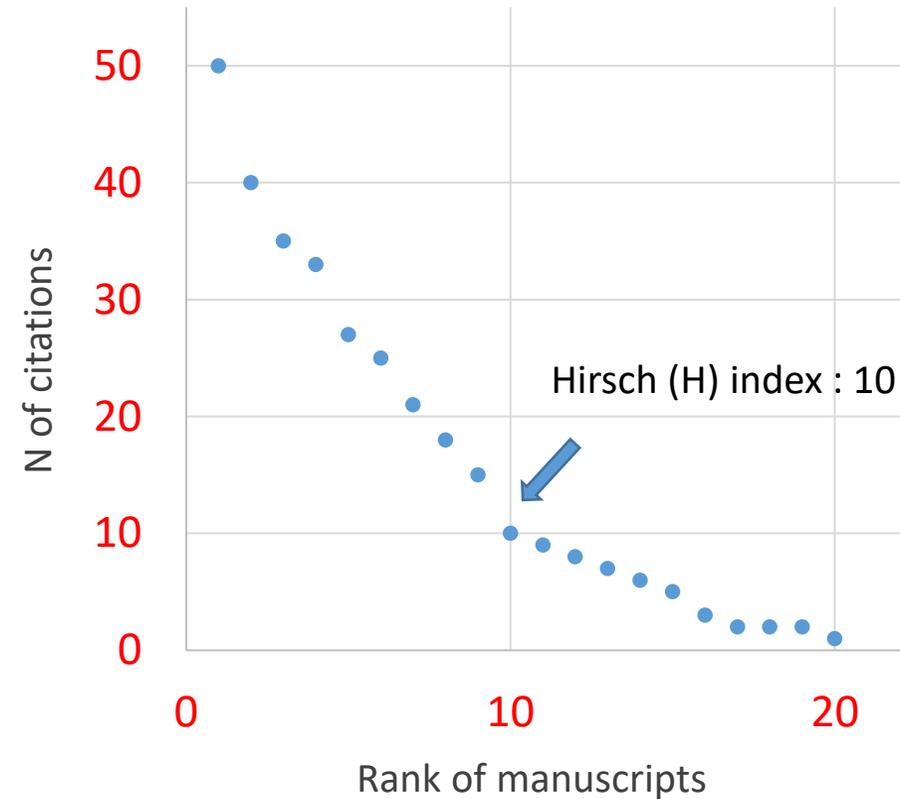
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Q	12	8
M	13	7
F	14	6
U	15	5
G	16	3
E	17	2
N	18	2
V	19	2
O	20	1

Si guarda il valore per cui ascissa e ordinata sono uguali



# H-index

- ✓ Diversi databases, tra cui Web of Science, Scopus e altri, calcolano automaticamente l'h-index
- ✓ L'h-index è un indicatore sia della quantità che della qualità dei lavori, inteso sempre come numero delle citazioni
- ✓ **Non è un indice per giovani** (è evidente che se un autore ha pubblicato pochi articoli non potrà avere un h-index alto)

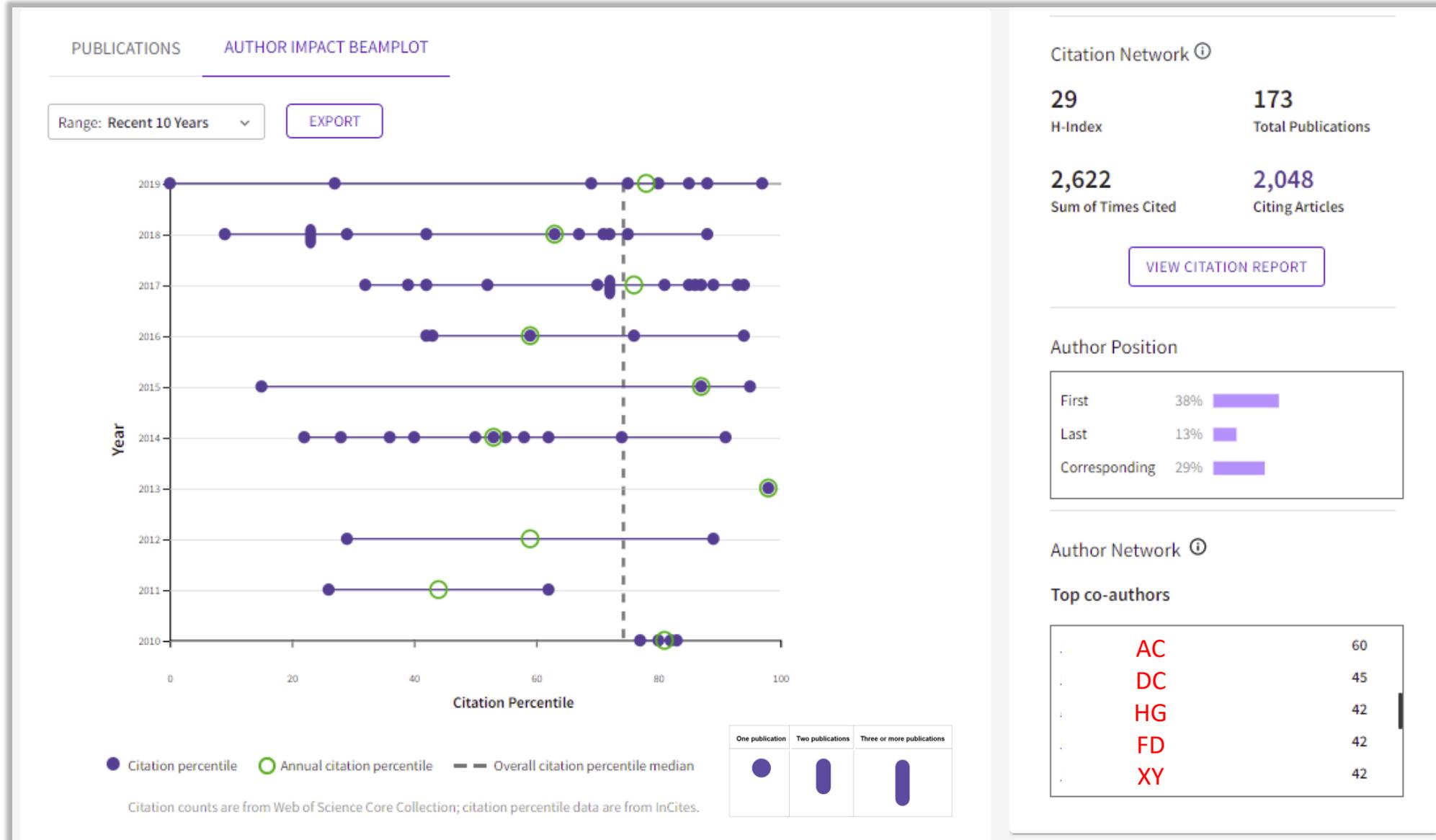
## Author Beamplots

Sono il nuovo indice alternativo all'h-index, disponibile dal Marzo 2021 e basato sui dati presenti in Web of Science.

Esprimono i dati in termine di percentile rispetto alle altre pubblicazioni dello stesso anno, dello stesso argomento e dello stesso tipo di documento (articolo di ricerca originale oppure review)

Questo consente di ottenere dei dati normalizzati, quindi più confrontabili tra diverse discipline e che non dipendono dall'età accademica.

# Author Beamplots



### Citation Network ⓘ

**29**  
H-Index

**2,622**  
Sum of Times Cited

**173**  
Total Publications

**2,048**  
Citing Articles

VIEW CITATION REPORT

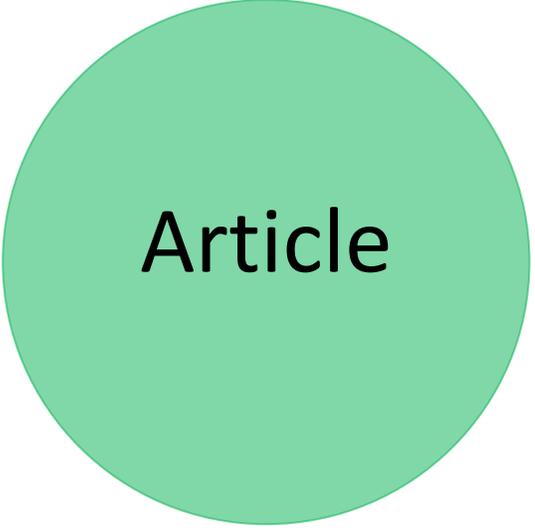
### Author Position

First	38%	<div style="width: 38%; height: 10px; background-color: purple;"></div>
Last	13%	<div style="width: 13%; height: 10px; background-color: purple;"></div>
Corresponding	29%	<div style="width: 29%; height: 10px; background-color: purple;"></div>

### Author Network ⓘ

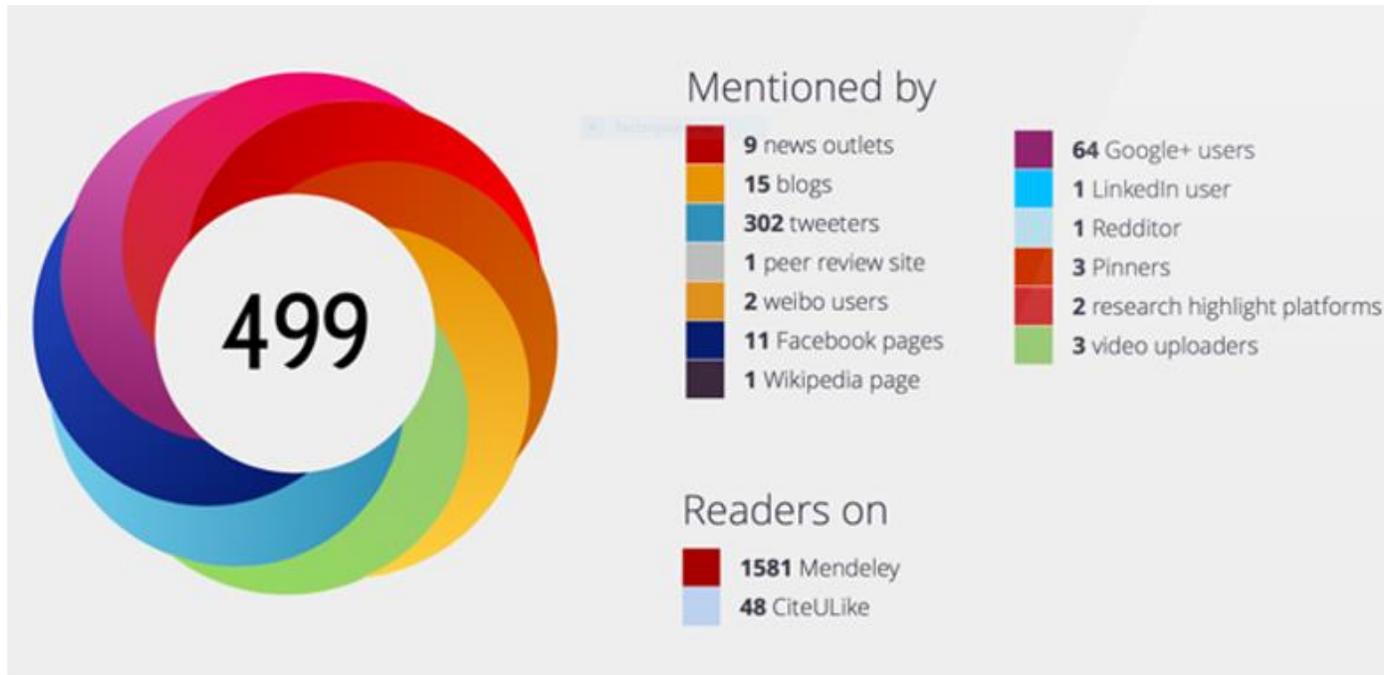
#### Top co-authors

AC	60
DC	45
HG	42
FD	42
XY	42



Article

Alcuni anni orsono sono stati sviluppati indici chiamati **Altmetric** che utilizzano i Social e altri Media come **indice di “impatto”** dell’articolo (ma non dell’autore o della rivista)



I colori che formano i “donuts” riflettono il mix delle fonti che determinano lo score, azzurro per Twitter, giallo per i blog etc etc

Rappresenta forse l’elemento più *disruptive* nella misurazione dell’impatto degli articoli scientifici su una audience fatta di addetti ai lavori ma non solo, grazie anche all’adozione sempre più larga dell’open access.

## Altmetric: l'Attention Score



Più un articolo è menzionato sul web, più aumenta lo score.

Più la fonte è “importante” più lo score si alza → una menzione sul blog di Science o su un articolo del WSJ vale di più di una menzione su altri fonti meno prestigiose.

L'impatto "mediatico" di alcuni articoli può far crescere in maniera vertiginosa l'indice Altmetric in poco tempo e questo rappresenta una "dissociazione" fondamentale tra indici bibliometrici classici e innovativi.

Questo è molto evidente guardando per esempio gli articoli che trattano il tema COVID-19

# Unexpected detection of SARS-CoV-2 antibodies in the prepandemic period in Italy.

Apolone G<sup>1</sup>, Montomoli E<sup>2</sup>, Manenti A<sup>3</sup>, Boeri M<sup>1</sup> , Sabia F<sup>1</sup>, Hyseni I<sup>4</sup>, Mazzini L<sup>2</sup>, Martinuzzi D<sup>4</sup>, Cantone L<sup>5</sup>, Milanese G<sup>6</sup>, Sestini S<sup>1</sup>, Suatoni P<sup>1</sup>, Marchianò A<sup>1</sup>, Bollati V<sup>5</sup>, Sozzi G<sup>1</sup>, Pastorino U<sup>1</sup>

## Author information

Tumori, 11 Nov 2020, 300891620974755

DOI: 10.1177/0300891620974755 PMID: 33176598

## Citations & impact

This article has not been cited yet.

## Impact metrics

### Alternative metrics

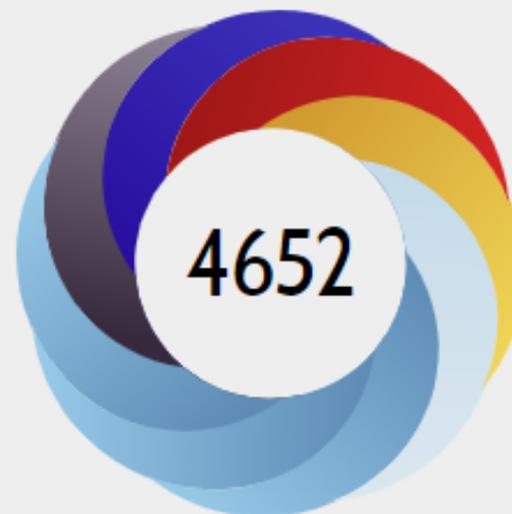


Altmetric

Discover the attention surrounding your research

<https://www.altmetric.com/details/94264046> 

Dati al 30 Novembre 2020



### About this Attention Score

In the top 5% of all research outputs scored by Altmetric

[MORE...](#)

### Mentioned by

-  205 news outlets
-  6 blogs
-  3679 tweeters
-  4 Facebook pages
-  1 Wikipedia page
-  19 Redditors

# Unexpected detection of SARS-CoV-2 antibodies in the prepandemic period in Italy

Overview of attention for article published in Tumori, November 2020



## About this Attention Score

In the top 5% of all research outputs scored by Altmetric

MORE...

## Mentioned by

- 205 news outlets
- 6 blogs
- 3679 tweeters
- 4 Facebook pages
- 1 Wikipedia page
- 19 Redditors

## Geographical breakdown

Country	Count	As %
United States	353	10%
United Kingdom	211	6%
Germany	137	4%
Poland	99	3%
Canada	75	2%
Italy	74	2%
France	61	2%
Netherlands	46	1%
Japan	44	1%
Other	440	12%
Unknown	2139	58%

## Demographic breakdown

	Count	As %
Members of the public	3399	92%
Scientists	139	4%
Practitioners (doctors, other healthcare professionals)	101	3%
Science communicators (journalists, bloggers, editors)	40	1%

Più del 90% dell'interesse viene da persone che NON sono addetti ai lavori

Il successo dell'Altmetric ha stimolato la competizione a creare degli indici che combinassero in qualche modo i dati bibliometrici con i dati di impatto mediatico

## The Five Categories:



**Citations** – This is a category that contains both traditional citation indexes such as Scopus, as well as citations that help indicate societal impact such as Clinical or Policy Citations.

*Examples:* citation indexes, patent citations, clinical citations, policy citations [Learn more](#)



**Usage** – A way to signal if anyone is reading the articles or otherwise using the research. Usage is the number one statistic researchers want to know after citations.

*Examples:* clicks, downloads, views, library holdings, video plays [Learn more](#)



**Captures** – Indicates that someone wants to come back to the work. Captures can be an leading indicator of future citations.

*Examples:* bookmarks, code forks, favorites, readers, watchers [Learn more](#)



**Mentions** – Measurement of activities such as news articles or blog posts about research. Mentions is a way to tell that people are truly engaging with the research.

*Examples:* blog posts, comments, reviews, Wikipedia references, news media [Learn more](#)

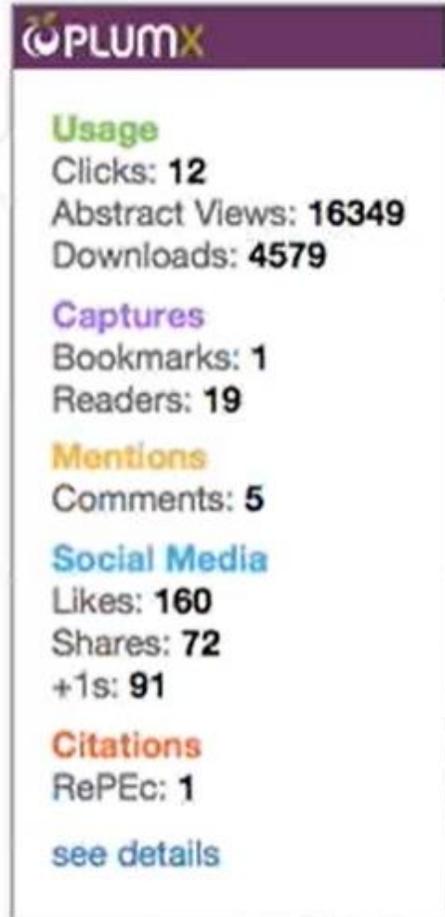


**Social media** -This category includes the tweets, Facebook likes, etc. that reference the research. Social Media can help measure “buzz” and attention. Social media can also be a good measure of how well a particular piece of research has been promoted.



# Visualizing Impact: Plum Print

- Includes the 5 categories of metrics
- Circles dynamically change size based on metrics in each category



- Citations
- Usage
- Captures
- Mentions
- Social Media



**ALLmetrics**

## Indici bibliometrici classici

Journals

Impact factor

Authors

H-index

Articles

Number of citations



## Indici innovativi (bibliometrici e non)

Journals

Journal Citation Indicator

Authors

Author BeampLOTS

Articles

Altmetric e PlumX metric



SCUOLA DI METODOLOGIA CLINICA  
IRCCS "Sacro Cuore - Don Calabria" Negrar di Valpolicella

8<sup>a</sup> EDIZIONE

2° MODULO

REVISIONI SISTEMATICHE E METANALISI

NEGRAR DI VALPOLICELLA  
11-12 FEBBRAIO 2022  
Centro Formazione IRCCS "Sacro Cuore-Don Calabria"



**11 Febbraio 2022**

- 10.30-10.45 Presentazione ed obiettivi del Corso  
**Stefania GORI - Fabrizio NICOLIS**  
**Giovanni L. PAPPAGALLO**
- 10.45-11.30 Tipologia delle Revisioni della Letteratura Scientifica  
Obiettivi di una Revisione Sistemática  
**Michela CINQUINI**
- 11.30-12.00 Definizione del quesito clinico e degli outcome di interesse; misure di associazione  
**Giovanni L. PAPPAGALLO**
- 12.00-13.00 Lavoro di gruppo  
*Summing-Up* (metodo: *What? So What? Now What?*)  
(valido come prova ECM)
- 13.00-14.00 Colazione di lavoro
- 14.00-14.45 Come trovare informazioni - I database bibliografici, i siti di linee guida e studi clinici...  
**Veronica Andrea FITTIPALDO**
- 14.45-15.30 Definizione della strategia di ricerca e di selezione degli studi; *study flow*  
**Michela CINQUINI**
- 15.30-16.00 Metodi di valutazione di autori e riviste scientifiche: indici bibliometrici classici e innovativi  
**Giulio ZUANETTI**
- 16.00-16.30 Coffee Break
- 16.30-17.30 Valutazione del rischio di *bias* negli studi selezionati  
**Ivan MOSCHETTI**
- 17.30-18.30 Lavoro di gruppo  
*Summing-Up* (metodo: *What? So What? Now What?*)  
(valido come prova ECM)

# VALIDITA' INTERNA

La misura in cui uno studio riesce a cogliere la relazione «vera» fra due variabili

ERRORE CASUALE

ERRORE SISTEMATICO (BIAS)

## **ERRORE CASUALE**

### **Errore che si verifica per effetto del caso**

Replicazioni multiple della stessa misurazione producono differenti risultati in tutte le direzioni per variazioni casuali ma la media dà il risultato corretto

## **ERRORE SISTEMATICO**

### **Errore che si verifica per la presenza di un fattore che distorce sistematicamente le osservazioni nella stessa direzione**

Es: mancanza di cecità e dati self report; pazienti diversi per fattori prognostici nei due gruppi a confronto

Replicazioni multiple della stessa misurazione producono risultati sempre nella stessa direzione e “sbagliati”

# Bias

Systematic distortion of the estimated intervention effect away from the truth, caused by **inadequacies** in the **design, conduct,** or **analysis** of a trial , or in the **publication of its results**. In other words, in a biased trial, the results observed reflect other factors in addition to (or, in extreme cases, instead of) the effect of the tested therapeutic procedure alone.

Altman DG, Schulz KF, Moher D, et al. The revised CONSORT statement for reporting randomized trials: explanation and elaboration. *Ann Intern Med* 2001;134:663–94

# Errore sistematico e validità interna di uno studio

- I risultati di uno studio sono tanto più validi (probabilmente veri) quanto meno esso è affetto da errori sistematici
- Gli errori sistematici vanno previsti ed evitati o ridotti in fase di disegno dello studio

# Checklists - le più note

Jadad 1996; ogni area

Pedro; 2000 per valutare i trials inclusi nel database di fisioterapia PEDro

Chalmers: 1981; terapia farmacologica; 32 items

Reisch ; 1989; ogni area; 34 items

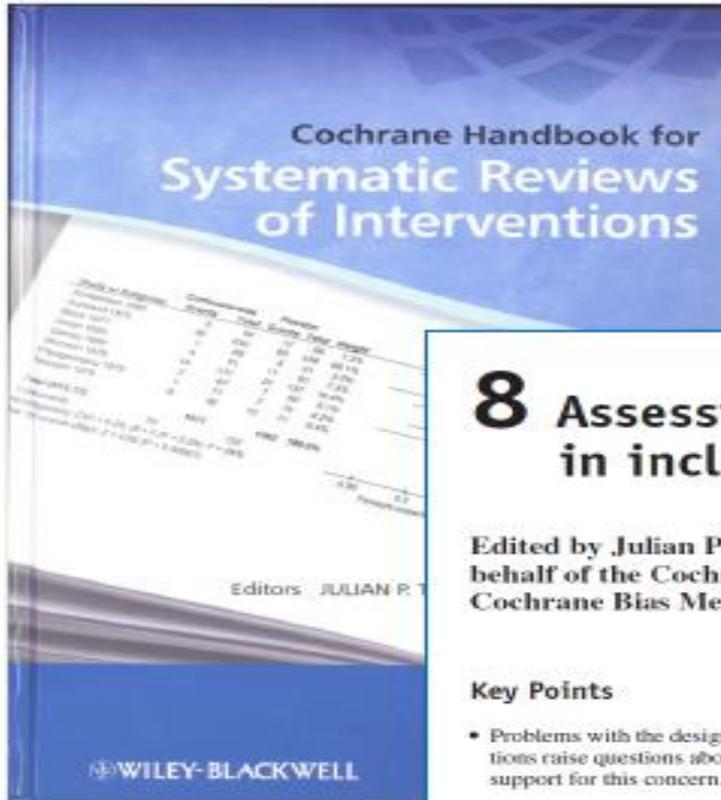
DELPHI list; 1998; 9 items; ogni area

Maastricht Amsterdam List (MAL): 1997; back pain

CONSORT (quality of reporting); 1996; aggiornato nel 2010; 25 items

Cochrane Collaboration risk of bias table 2008

# Dove approfondire



## 8 Assessing risk of bias in included studies

Edited by Julian PT Higgins and Douglas G Altman on behalf of the Cochrane Statistical Methods Group and the Cochrane Bias Methods Group

### Key Points

- Problems with the design and execution of individual studies of healthcare interventions raise questions about the validity of their findings; empirical evidence provides support for this concern.
- An assessment of the validity of studies included in a Cochrane review should emphasize the risk of bias in their results, i.e. the risk that they will overestimate or underestimate the true intervention effect.
- Numerous tools are available for assessing methodological quality of clinical trials. We recommend against the use of scales yielding a summary score.
- The Cochrane Collaboration recommends a specific tool for assessing risk of bias in each included study. This comprises a description and a judgement for each item in a 'Risk of bias' table, where each entry addresses a specific feature of the study. The judgement for each entry involves answering a question, with answers 'Yes' indicating low risk of bias, 'No' indicating high risk of bias, and 'Unclear' indicating either lack of information or uncertainty over the potential for bias.

## RESEARCH METHODS & REPORTING

### The Cochrane Collaboration's tool for assessing risk of bias in randomised trials

Julian P T Higgins,<sup>1</sup> Douglas G Altman,<sup>2</sup> Peter C Gøtzsche,<sup>3</sup> Peter Jüni,<sup>4</sup> David Moher,<sup>5,6</sup> Andrew D Oxman,<sup>7</sup> Jelena Savović,<sup>8</sup> Kenneth F Schulz,<sup>9</sup> Laura Weeks,<sup>9</sup> Jonathan A C Sterne,<sup>8</sup> Cochrane Bias Methods Group, Cochrane Statistical Methods Group

Flaws in the design, conduct, analysis, and reporting of randomised trials can lead to biased estimates of treatment effects. Until recently, Cochrane

## Methodological Expectations of Cochrane Intervention Reviews (MECIR)

Standards for the conduct and reporting of new Cochrane Intervention Reviews, reporting of protocols and the planning, conduct and reporting of updates

Julian PT Higgins, Toby Lasserson, Jackie Chandler, David Tovey and Rachel Churchill

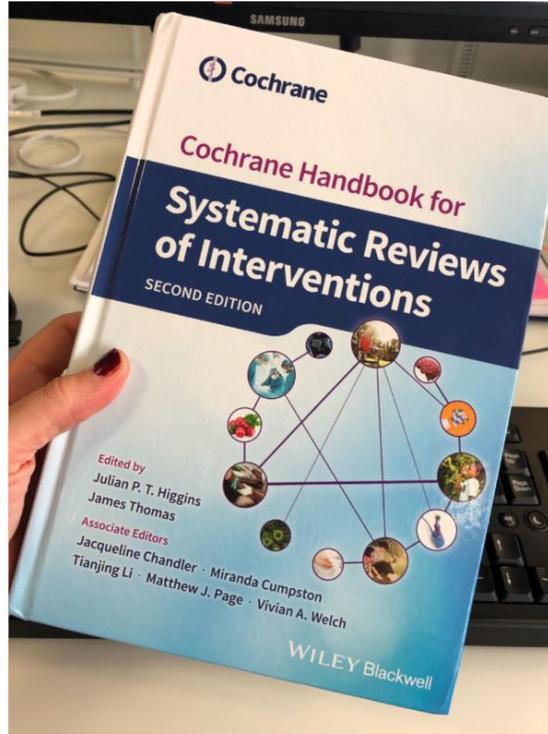
Collaboration's methods groups strategy for assessing the quality of randomised trials, and the process by which it was developed.

### Risk assessment tool

Methodologists, statisticians, epidemiologists, and review authors met for a three day meeting to develop the new tool. JPTH and DGA compiled an extensive list of sources of bias in clinical trials. The list was divided into seven areas: generation of the trial; concealment of the allocation sequence; concealment of the allocation sequence; attrition and exclusions; other generic biases specific to the trial design (such as selection bias in randomised trials); and biases that are specific to a clinical specialty. For each of the seven areas, a meeting participant prepared a review of the literature, a discussion of specific issues and a proposed set of criteria for assessing the risk of bias as adequate, inadequate, or unclear.

Decisions were made by informal consensus of items that were truly potential biases of heterogeneity or imprecision. Potential biases were divided into domains, and strategies for assessing them were agreed, again by informal consensus. A new tool for assessing potential biases was developed, and participants also discussed how to summarise across domains, how to illustrate assessments in analyses, and how to incorporate assessments into analyses. Minutes of the meeting were transcribed and discussed in conjunction with written notes. Several pairs of authors developed detailed descriptions of each item in the tool and guidance for assessing the risk of bias. Documents were shared and discussed with the whole working group (including those who did not attend the meeting). Several email discussions, which also incorporated feedback from review authors, led to proposed guidance at various meetings in the Cochrane Collaboration and from

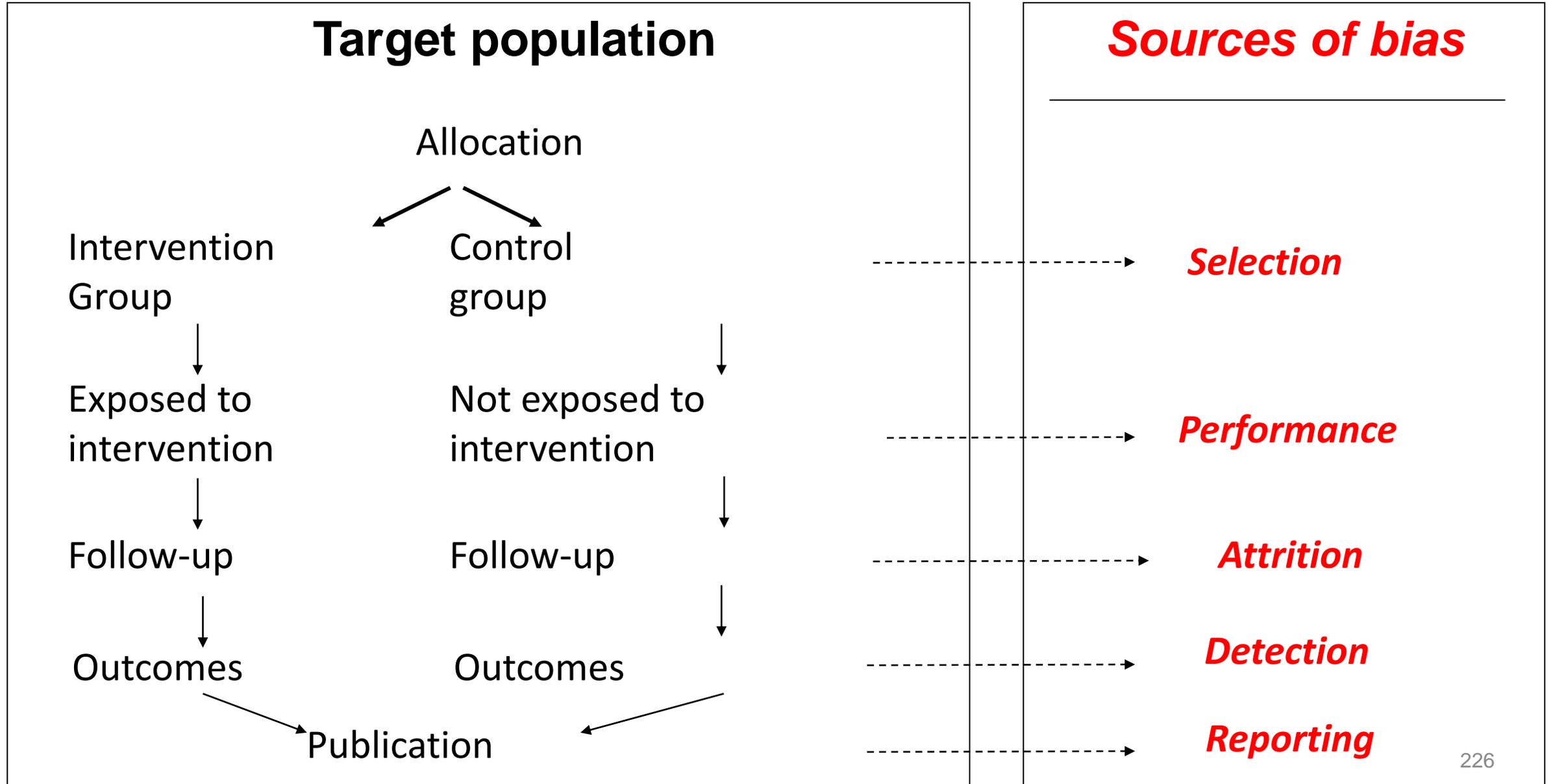
# New Cochrane Handbook for Systematic Reviews of Interventions



Bias arising from the randomization process	1.1 Was the allocation sequence random?	Y / PY / PN / N / NI	[Description]
	1.2 Was the allocation sequence concealed until participants were recruited and assigned to interventions?	Y / PY / PN / N / NI	[Description]
	1.3 Were there baseline imbalances that suggest a problem with the randomization process?	Y / PY / PN / N / NI	[Description]
	<b>Risk of bias judgement</b>	Low / High / Some concerns	[Support]
	Optional: What is the predicted direction of bias arising from the randomization process?		[Rationale]
Bias due to deviations from intended interventions	2.1. Were participants aware of their assigned intervention during the trial?	Y / PY / PN / N / NI	[Description]
	2.2. Were carers and trial personnel aware of participants' assigned intervention during the trial?	Y / PY / PN / N / NI	[Description]
	2.3. <u>If Y/PY/NI to 2.1 or 2.2</u> : Were there deviations from the intended intervention beyond what would be expected in usual practice?	NA / Y / PY / PN / N / NI	[Description]
	2.4. <u>If Y/PY to 2.3</u> : Were these deviations from intended intervention unbalanced between groups and likely to have affected the outcome?	NA / Y / PY / PN / N / NI	[Description]
	2.5 Were any participants analysed in a group different from the one to which they were assigned?	Y / PY / PN / N / NI	[Description]
	2.6 <u>If Y/PY/NI to 2.5</u> : Was there potential for a substantial impact (on the estimated effect of intervention) of analysing participants in the wrong group?	NA / Y / PY / PN / N / NI	[Description]
	<b>Risk of bias judgement</b>	Low / High / Some concerns	[Support]
Optional: What is the predicted direction of bias due to deviations from intended interventions?		[Rationale]	
Bias due to missing outcome data	3.1 Were outcome data available for all, or nearly all, participants randomized?	Y / PY / PN / N / NI	[Description]
	3.2 <u>If N/PN/NI to 3.1</u> : Are the proportions of missing outcome data and reasons for missing outcome data similar across intervention groups?	NA / Y / PY / PN / N / NI	[Description]
	3.3 <u>If N/PN/NI to 3.1</u> : Is there evidence that results were robust to the presence of missing outcome data?	NA / Y / PY / PN / N / NI	[Description]
	<b>Risk of bias judgement</b>	Low / High / Some concerns	[Support]
Optional: What is the predicted direction of bias due to missing outcome data?		[Rationale]	
Bias in measurement of the outcome	4.1 Were outcome assessors aware of the intervention received by study participants?	Y / PY / PN / N / NI	[Description]
	4.2 <u>If Y/PY/NI to 4.1</u> : Was the assessment of the outcome likely to be influenced by knowledge of intervention received?	NA / Y / PY / PN / N / NI	[Description]
	<b>Risk of bias judgement</b>	Low / High / Some concerns	[Support]
Optional: What is the predicted direction of bias due to measurement of the outcome?		[Rationale]	
Bias in selection of the reported result	Are the reported outcome data likely to have been selected, on the basis of the results, from...		
	5.1 ... multiple outcome measurements (e.g. scales, definitions, time points) within the outcome domain?	Y / PY / PN / N / NI	[Description]
	5.2 ... multiple analyses of the data?	Y / PY / PN / N / NI	[Description]
	<b>Risk of bias judgement</b>	Low / High / Some concerns	[Support]
Optional: What is the predicted direction of bias due to selection of the reported result?		[Rationale]	
Overall bias	<b>Risk of bias judgement</b>	Low / High / Some concerns	[Support]
	Optional: What is the overall predicted direction of bias for this outcome?		[Rationale]

Our vision is that healthcare decision-making throughout the world will be informed by high quality, timely research evidence

# Trial as a flow



# randomizzazione

- attribuzione casuale di ogni paziente al gruppo in trattamento sperimentale oppure al gruppo di controllo
- Se è affettutata correttamente, ogni soggetto ha la stessa probabilità di essere assegnato al gruppo sperimentale o al gruppo di controllo
- assicura che tutti i fattori prognostici - **sia noti che sconosciuti** - si distribuiscano omogeneamente nel gruppo sperimentale e in quello di controllo.

**Se la randomizzazione non è eseguita in maniera corretta è possibile introdurre un bias di selezione anche negli studi randomizzati**

# Selection bias: due componenti

**RANDOMIZZAZIONE**

```
graph TD; A[RANDOMIZZAZIONE] --> B[Generazione della lista di randomizzazione]; A --> C[Nascondimento della sequenza di randomizzazione (allocation concealment)];
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**Generazione della lista di randomizzazione**  
metodi per generare la lista di randomizzazione

**Nascondimento della sequenza di randomizzazione**  
*(allocation concealment)*  
metodi per implementare e nascondere la lista di randomizzazione fino all'assegnazione del paziente

# Generazione lista di randomizzazione

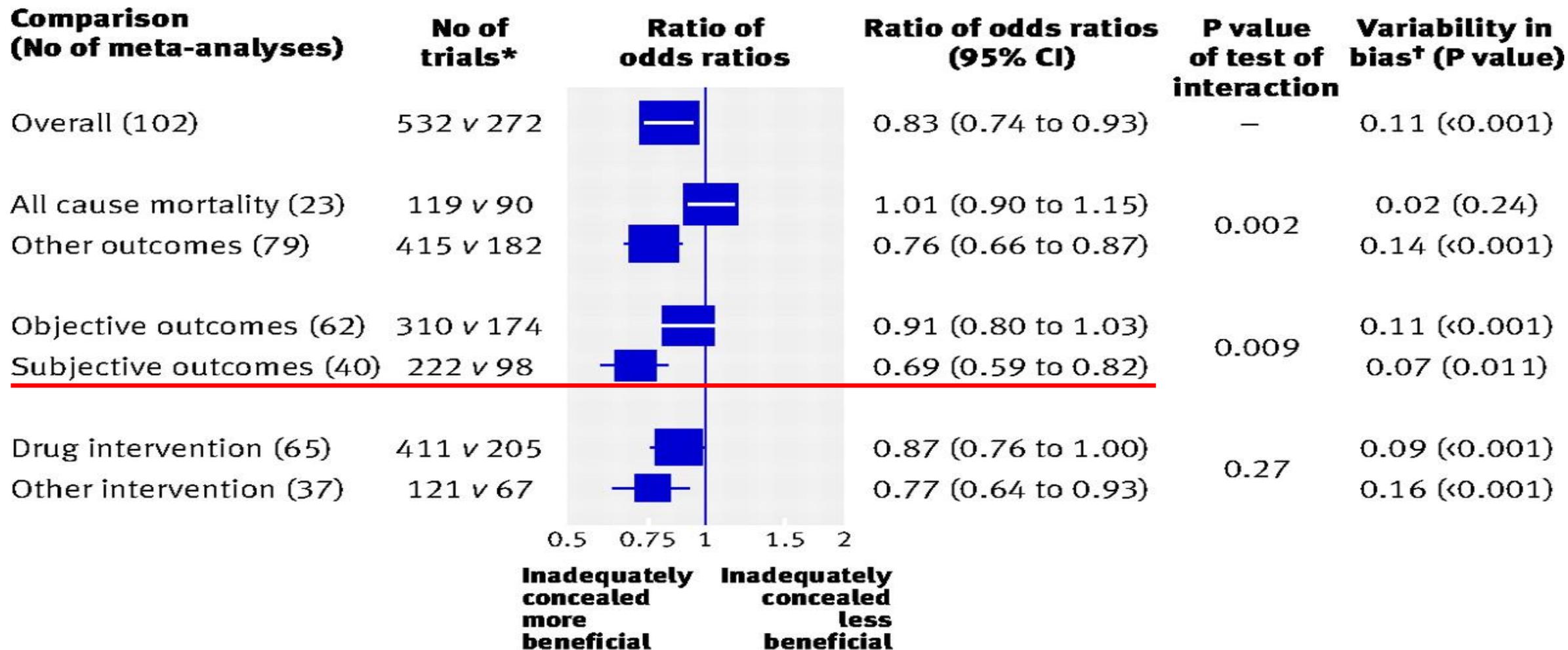
- **Basso rischio di bias.** Uso di metodi realmente casuali come ad esempio: tavole di numeri random, sistemi computerizzati, lancio di una moneta o di un dado, sorteggio.
- **Alto rischio di bias.** Uso di metodi **NON** realmente casuali come ad esempio: giorno di nascita o di ammissione in ospedale, giudizio del medico, preferenze del paziente, risultati di test di laboratorio, disponibilità del trattamento, alternanza
- **Rischio incerto.** Quando non sono disponibili sufficienti informazioni per definire il rischio (bassa qualità del reporting)

# Nascondimento della sequenza di randomizzazione\*

- **Basso rischio di bias.** Sperimentatori che arruolano i pazienti non possono prevedere in quale gruppo verrà inserito il paziente perché si usa uno dei seguenti metodi: randomizzazione centralizzata (telefonica, via web, o gestita da personale esterno alla sperimentazione - farmacista, statistico); buste chiuse e opache.
- **Alto rischio di bias.** Sperimentatori che arruolano i pazienti possono prevedere in quale gruppo verrà inserito il paziente perché si usa uno dei seguenti metodi: liste di randomizzazione, buste aperte o non opache, alternanza, data di nascita, numero di cartella, ect.
- **Rischio incerto.** Non sono disponibili sufficienti informazioni per definire il rischio (bassa qualità del reporting)

# Ratios of odds ratios comparing estimates of intervention effects

532 trials with inadequate or unclear allocation concealment versus 272 trials with adequate concealment



\* Inadequately or unclearly concealed v adequately concealed

† Between-meta-analysis heterogeneity variance

# Blinding

- Sperimentatori e partecipanti non conoscono gruppo di allocazione (*performance bias*)
- Valutatori degli esiti non conoscono gruppo di allocazione (*detection bias*)

## **Singolo cieco**

i pazienti inclusi nello studio non conoscono il gruppo al quale sono stati assegnati

## **Doppio cieco**

i pazienti e gli sperimentatori non conoscono il gruppo al quale (i pazienti) sono stati assegnati

## **Triplo cieco**

i pazienti, gli sperimentatori e i valutatori degli esiti non conoscono il gruppo di allocazione

...

Non sempre il significato è questo ... è sempre bene valutare chi è davvero in cieco!

# Performance bias

Si verifica quando i partecipanti allo studio (sperimentatori o pazienti) modificano i loro comportamenti perché sanno a quale gruppo è assegnato un dato paziente

## Esempi:

Lo sperimentatore controlla la presenza di effetti avversi più frequentemente nei pazienti assegnati al gruppo di trattamento.

Un paziente nel gruppo placebo assume altri farmaci, fa più (o meno) visite di controllo.

# Detection bias

Si verifica quando la valutazione degli esiti dello studio viene influenzata dalla conoscenza del gruppo al quale è assegnato un dato paziente

## Esempi:

Interpretazione di esiti radiologici, risoluzione dei sintomi, valutazione delle ricadute di malattia diversa nei pazienti assegnati al trattamento e al controllo

# Performance&Detection bias

- Derivano da comportamenti consci o non consci
- Sovrastimano/sottostimano l'effetto dell'intervento
- La distorsione potenziale è tanto maggiore quanto più soggettivo è l'esito misurato
- Si limitano se pazienti, sperimentatori, valutatori degli esiti dello studio non sono a conoscenza del trattamento che il paziente sta effettivamente ricevendo

# Performance bias

## Cecità di pazienti e sperimentatori

- **Basso rischio di bias.** Pazienti e sperimentatori non conoscono l'assegnazione dei pazienti al gruppo di controllo o di trattamento oppure è poco probabile che la mancanza di cecità influenzi la performance di pazienti e sperimentatori
- **Alto rischio di bias.** Pazienti e sperimentatori conoscono l'assegnazione dei pazienti o, durante lo studio, diventa chiaro a quale gruppo di trattamento sono allocati (rottura del cieco). Studi definiti come “open label”
- **Rischio incerto.** Quando non sono disponibili sufficienti informazioni per definire il rischio (bassa qualità del reporting)

# Conduzione dello studio in cieco

Trattamento sperimentale = controllo (ad esempio, capsule identiche nell'aspetto, forma, colore, sapore).

Non sempre si può fare (ad esempio confronto tra farmaci con profili di tossicità specifici, interventi fisioterapici, educativi, chirurgici, ecc).

Non basta pianificarlo. E' importante garantire che, durante lo studio, sperimentatori e pazienti non "scoprono" il gruppo di allocazione (ad esempio perché un trattamento ha effetti collaterali particolari).

# Detection bias

## Cecità del valutatore degli esiti dello studio (outcome)

- **Basso rischio di bias.** L'esito dello studio è valutato senza conoscere l'assegnazione dei pazienti al gruppo di controllo o di intervento; oppure è poco probabile che la mancanza di cecità influenzi la valutazione
- **Alto rischio di bias.** L'esito dello studio è valutato conoscendo l'assegnazione dei pazienti al gruppo di controllo o di intervento ed è probabile che la mancanza di cecità influenzi la valutazione
- **Rischio incerto.** Quando non sono disponibili sufficienti informazioni per definire il rischio (bassa qualità del reporting)

# Valutazione esiti in cieco

- Gli esiti di uno studio possono essere valutati dai pazienti stessi (diari, questionari), dagli sperimentatori, oppure da valutatori indipendenti
- Visite di follow up effettuate da uno sperimentatore diverso
- Non sempre si può fare (ad esempio esiti riferiti dal paziente in uno studio in aperto)
- Tanto più l'esito è soggettivo (dolore, qualità della vita, ecc.) tanto più il rischio di detection bias è alto se la valutazione non avviene in cieco.
- Anche esiti apparentemente oggettivi, non sempre lo sono (imaging, morte/causa)

# Performance and detection bias

- Impatto diverso su outcome **soggettivi** e **oggettivi** (quindi la valutazione va fatta separatamente)
- Se studio su **farmaco in doppio cieco** e dice che tutti gli operatori erano all'oscuro dell'assegnazione è probabile che sia in cieco anche l'outcome assessor, anche se non espressamente detto
- Se studio su **interventi che non possono essere in doppio cieco** (psicosociali, educativi, chirurgici, riabilitativi) importante che sia in cieco l'outcome assessor e deve essere specificato
  - Performance: high risk per outcomes soggettivi sempre
  - Detection: low risk se c'è blinding of outcome assessor anche per outcomes soggettivi

## Allocation concealment

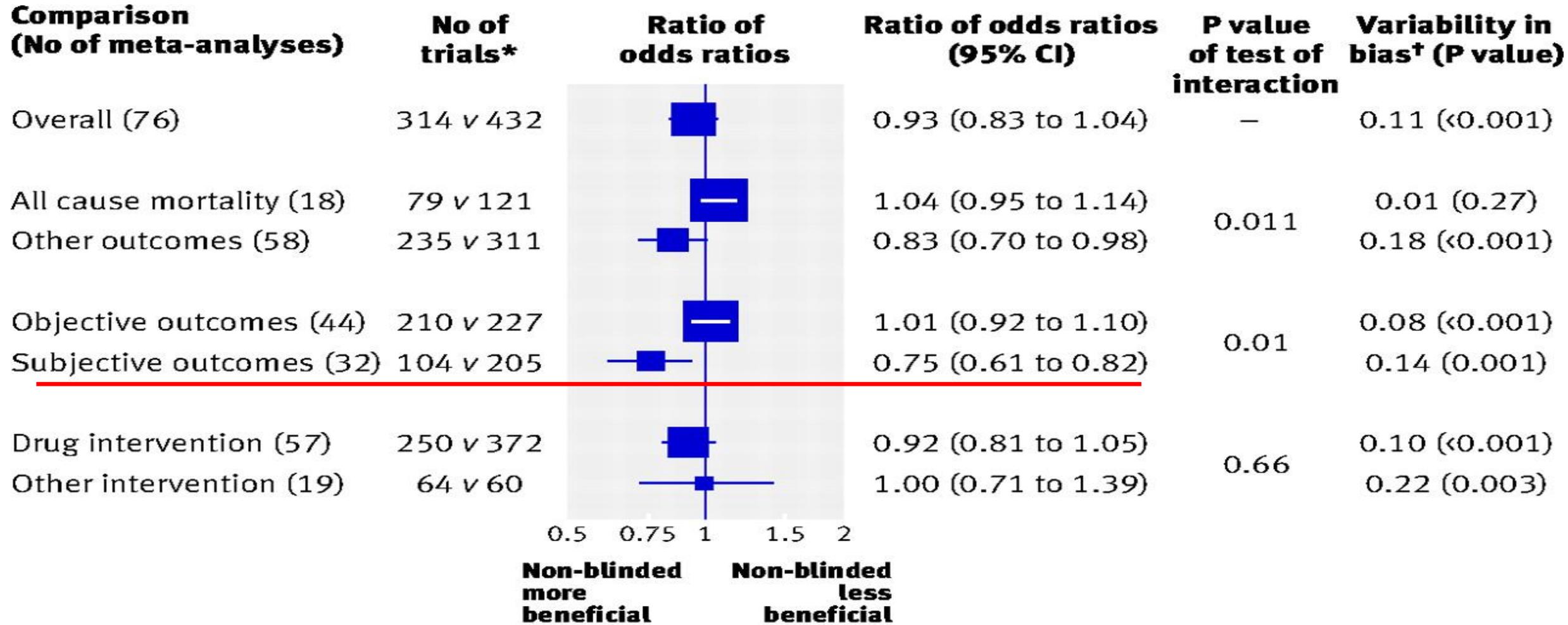
- It prevents **selection bias** in intervention assignment by protecting the allocation sequence **before and until** assignment
- It can always be successfully implemented regardless of the study topic

≠

## Blinding

- It seeks to prevent **performance and detection bias** by protecting the sequence **after** assignment
- Not always feasible – for example, in trials comparing surgical with medical interventions

# Ratios of odds ratios comparing intervention effect estimates in 314 non-blinded trials versus 432 blinded trials.



\* Non-blinded v blinded

† Between-meta-analysis heterogeneity variance

# Attrition bias

- Quando non tutti i soggetti randomizzati completano lo studio
- i soggetti non escono a caso dallo studio: è possibile che quelli che escono siano sistematicamente diversi da quelli che non escono: i gruppi non sono più randomizzati
- **Validità esterna** : es: escono tutti i più giovani, o i meno gravi, o i maschi: posso trarre conclusioni solo su quelli che rimangono
- **Validità interna (Bias)**: se la probabilità di uscire dallo studio è legata all'intervento o all'outcome, cioè se quelli che escono hanno sistematicamente probabilità più alte o più basse di avere l'outcome di quelli che restano

# Attrition bias

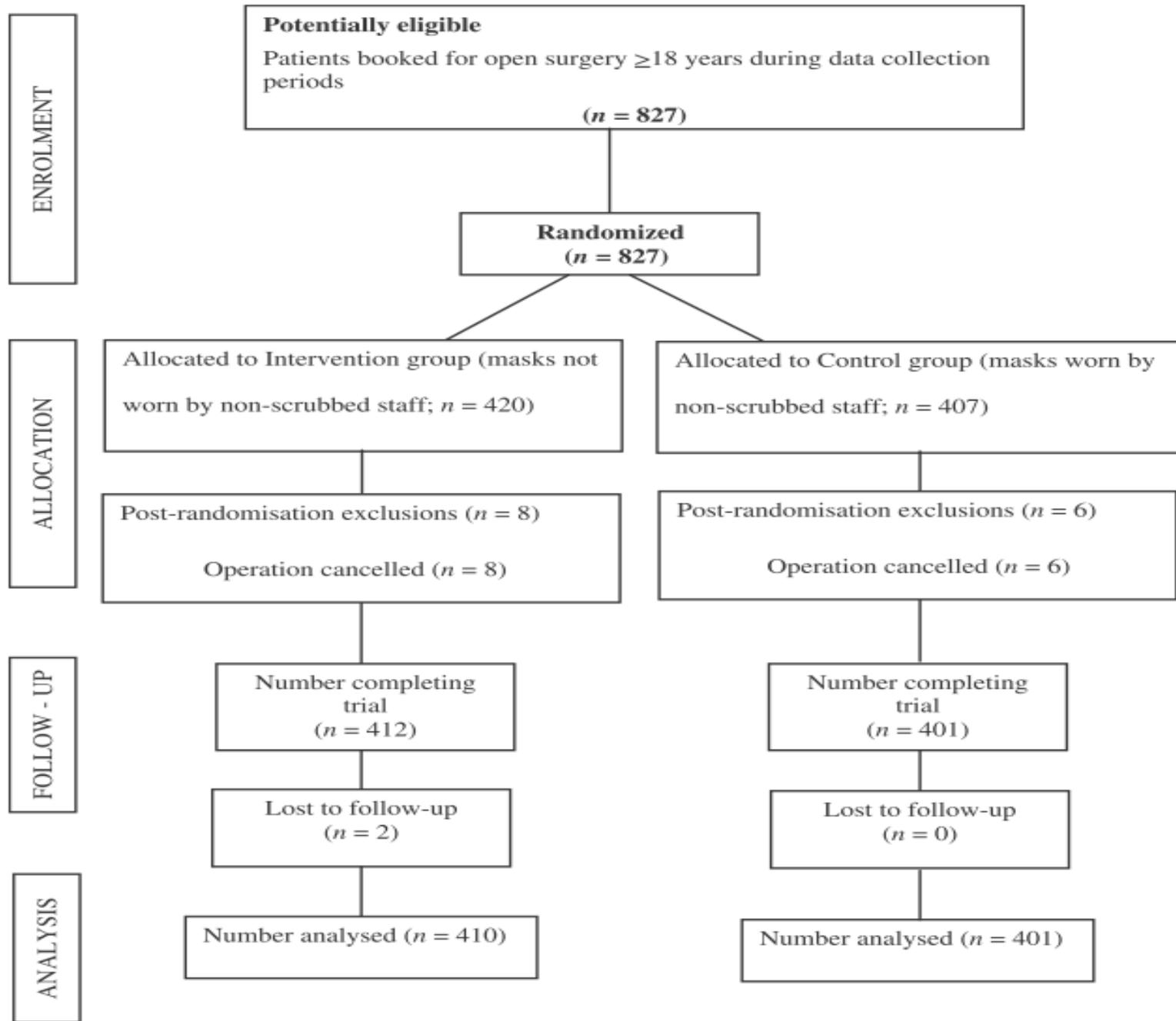
## Low risk of bias

- No missing outcome data;
- the **proportion of missing outcomes** compared with observed event risk **not enough** to have a relevant impact on the intervention effect;
- Missing outcome data **balanced in numbers across intervention** groups, with similar reasons across groups;
- Missing data **imputed using appropriate methods**
- All patients analysed in the group they were allocated to by randomisation irrespective of non-compliance and co-interventions (**intention to treat**)

## High risk of bias:

- the **proportion of missing outcomes** compared with observed event risk **enough** to induce relevant bias in intervention effect estimate
- Reason for missing outcome data likely to be related to true outcome, with either **imbalance in numbers or reasons** for missing data across intervention groups;

A total of 811 (98.1%) patients were enrolled and 811 (98.1%) patients completed the trial in the Intervention group and 410 No Mask group (Fig. 1).



# What is publication bias (1)?

- Definition

“Publication bias refers to the greater likelihood that studies with positive results will be published”

# What is publication bias (2)?

- An alternative definition:

Publication bias is the selective or *multiple* publication or *suppression* of trial results so that the scientific record is distorted

**Extension: applied to trial parts - outcomes, subgroups, adverse events** **REPORTING BIAS**

The likelihood of finding studies is related to the results of those studies (positive vs negative/detrimental)

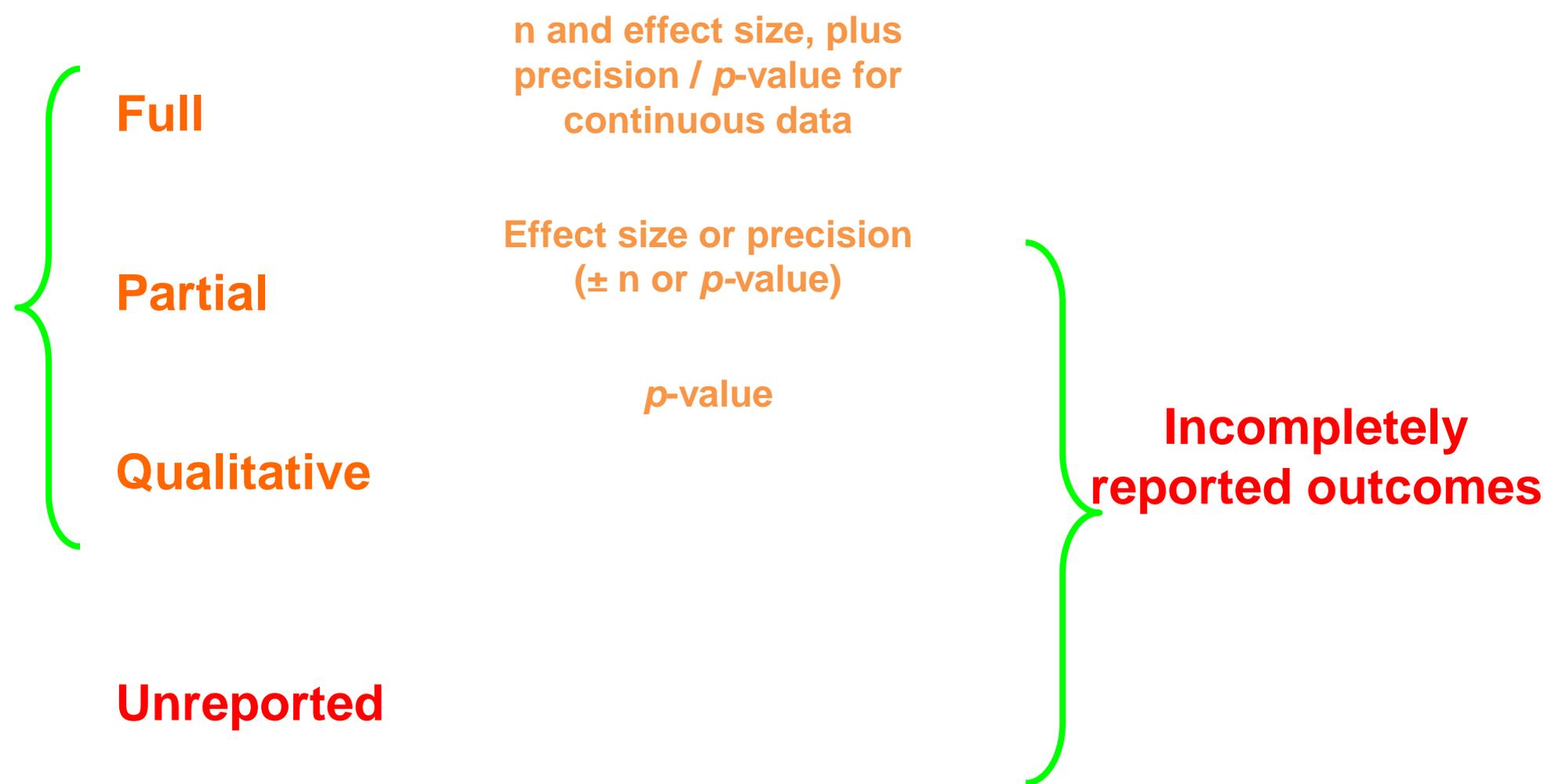
# Why does it matter?

- Distorts the scientific record
  - Hides the “truth”
  - Influences doctors’ decision making
  - Misleads policy makers
  - Causes harm to patients
  - Costly for the health service
  - A form of scientific and research misconduct
- 
- TO U: It will matter if the studies you don’t find differ systematically from the ones you have found
  - You might arrive at different answers, or even  
THE WRONG ANSWER

Outcome reporting bias

# Reporting bias is selection bias

- Reporting bias is perhaps the greatest source of selection bias
- Originally defined as the publication or non-publication of studies depending on the direction and statistical significance of the results
- Is a complex phenomenon



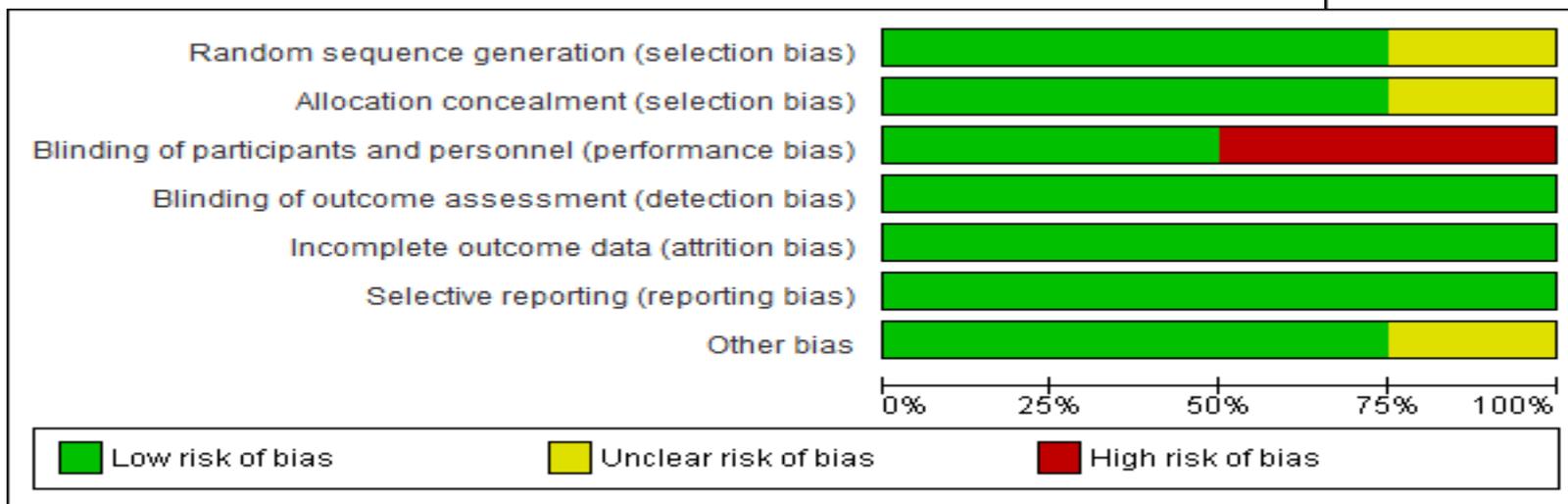
# Risk of bias in one study



## ☐ Risk of bias table

Bias	Authors' judgement	Support for judgement
Random sequence generation (selection bias)	Unclear risk ▼	NR
Allocation concealment (selection bias)	Unclear risk ▼	NR
Blinding of participants and personnel (performance bias)	High risk ▼	open label
Blinding of outcome assessment (detection bias)	Low risk ▼	An independent blinded endpoint committee adjudicated all reported bleeding and efficacy events
Incomplete outcome data (attrition bias)	Low risk ▼	ITT. all patients followed up
Selective reporting (reporting bias)	Low risk ▼	
Other bias	Low risk ▼	

# Risk of bias across studies/domains



	Random sequence generation (selection bias)	Allocation concealment (selection bias)	Blinding of participants and personnel (performance bias)	Blinding of outcome assessment (detection bias)	Incomplete outcome data (attrition bias)	Selective reporting (reporting bias)	Other bias
2011	+	+	+	+	+	+	+
LE-J	?	?	-	+	+	+	+
2011	+	+	-	+	+	+	?
MI 48	+	+	+	+	+	+	+
2012	?	?	+	+	+	+	+
2009	+	+	-	+	+	+	+
2011	+	+	+	+	+	+	+
YAMASHITA 2012	+	+	-	+	+	+	?

SCUOLA DI METODOLOGIA CLINICA  
IRCCS "Sacro Cuore - Don Calabria" Negrar di Valpolicella

8<sup>a</sup> EDIZIONE

2° MODULO

REVISIONI SISTEMATICHE E METANALISI

NEGRAR DI VALPOLICELLA  
11-12 FEBBRAIO 2022  
Centro Formazione IRCCS "Sacro Cuore-Don Calabria"



**11 Febbraio 2022**

- 10.30-10.45 Presentazione ed obiettivi del Corso  
**Stefania GORI - Fabrizio NICOLIS  
Giovanni L. PAPPAGALLO**
- 10.45-11.30 Tipologia delle Revisioni della Letteratura Scientifica  
Obiettivi di una Revisione Sistemática  
**Michela CINQUINI**
- 11.30-12.00 Definizione del quesito clinico e degli outcome di interesse; misure di associazione  
**Giovanni L. PAPPAGALLO**
- 12.00-13.00 Lavoro di gruppo  
*Summing-Up* (metodo: *What? So What? Now What?*)  
(valido come prova ECM)
- 13.00-14.00 Colazione di lavoro
- 14.00-14.45 Come trovare informazioni - I database bibliografici, i siti di linee guida e studi clinici...  
**Veronica Andrea FITTIPALDO**
- 14.45-15.30 Definizione della strategia di ricerca e di selezione degli studi; *study flow*  
**Michela CINQUINI**
- 15.30-16.00 Metodi di valutazione di autori e riviste scientifiche: indici bibliometrici classici e innovativi  
**Giulio ZUANETTI**
- 16.00-16.30 Coffee Break
- 16.30-17.30 Valutazione del rischio di *bias* negli studi selezionati  
**Ivan MOSCHETTI**
- 17.30-18.30 Lavoro di gruppo  
*Summing-Up* (metodo: *What? So What? Now What?*)  
(valido come prova ECM)

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NEGRAR DI VALPOLICELLA  
11-12 FEBBRAIO 2022

Centro Formazione IRCCS "Sacro Cuore-Don Calabria"

12 Febbraio 2022

- 09.00-10.00 Eterogeneità  
**Michela CINQUINI**
- 10.00-11.00 Summary of Findings Tables (1<sup>a</sup> parte)  
**Ivan MOSCHETTI**
- 11.00-11.30 Coffee Break
- 11.30-12.00 Summary of Findings Tables (2<sup>a</sup> parte)  
**Ivan MOSCHETTI**
- 12.00-13.00 Lavoro di gruppo  
*Summing-Up* (metodo: *What? So What? Now What?*)  
(valido come prova ECM)
- 13.00-13.15 Conclusione del Corso  
**Stefania GORI - Giovanni L. PAPPAGALLO**

# Principi di una meta-analisi

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Una **meta-analisi** può:

- Combinare i risultati dei singoli studi per ottenere una stima complessiva dell'effetto del trattamento;
- Esplorare l'eterogeneità tra gli studi (e le relative fonti di eterogeneità).

# E' efficace?

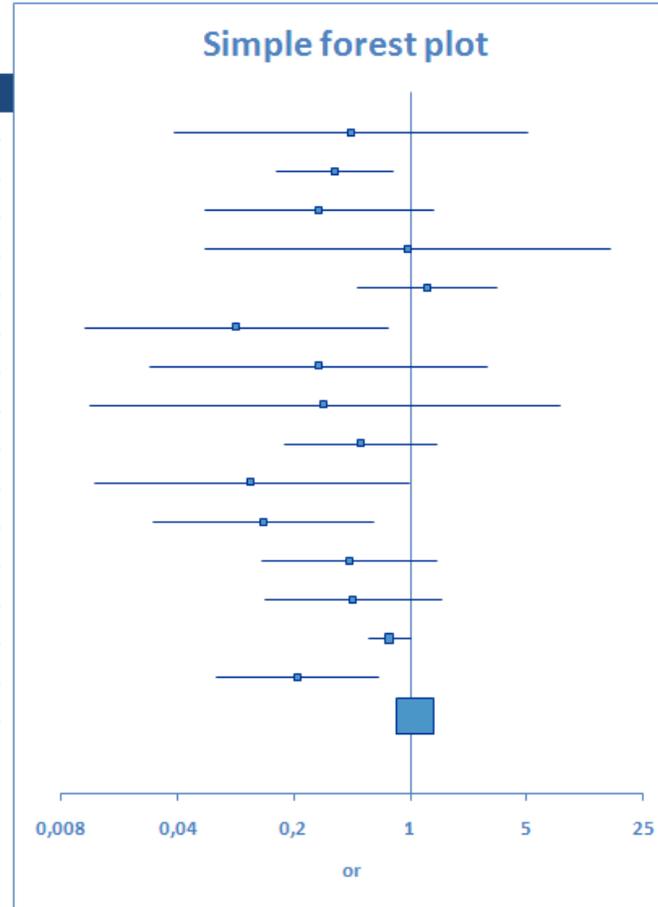
**Author(s)**  
Teo et al

**Reference**  
Effects of intravenous magnesium in suspected acute myocardial infarction. BMJ 1991;303:1499-50

<b>Outcome object</b>	<b>Unit</b>	<b>Intervention (e)</b>		<b>Control (c)</b>		
<b>Mortality</b>	<b>Event</b>	<b>Intravenous magnesium</b>		<b>Control</b>		
<b>Study ID</b>	<b>Ref #</b>	<b>n[e]</b>	<b>n[e](E=1)</b>	<b>n[c]</b>	<b>n[c](E=1)</b>	<b>Study date</b>
Morton	1	40	1	36	2	1984
Rasmussen	2	135	9	135	23	1986
Smith	3	200	2	200	7	1986
Abraham	4	48	1	46	1	1987
Feldstedt	5	150	10	148	8	1988
Schechter	6	59	1	56	9	1989
Ceremuzynski	7	25	1	23	3	1989
Bertschal	8	22	0	21	1	1989
Singh	9	76	6	75	11	1990
Pereira	10	27	1	27	7	1990
Schechter 1	11	89	2	80	12	1991
Golf	12	23	5	33	13	1991
Thogersen	13	130	4	122	8	1991
LIMIT-2	14	1159	90	1157	118	1992
Schechter 2	15	107	4	108	17	1995
ISIS-4	16	29011	2216	29039	2103	1995

# Forest plot (meta-graph) analitico

author	year	n[I]	N[I]	n[C]	N[C]	Weight
Morton	1984	1	40	2	36	0,06%
Rasmussen	1986	9	135	23	135	0,54%
Smith	1986	2	200	7	200	0,14%
Abraham	1987	1	48	1	46	0,05%
Feldstedt	1988	10	150	8	148	0,39%
Schechter	1989	1	59	9	56	0,08%
Ceremuzyansk	1989	1	25	3	23	0,07%
Bertschat	1989	0	22	1	21	0,03%
Singh	1990	6	76	11	75	0,32%
Pereira	1990	1	27	7	27	0,08%
Schechter 1	1991	2	89	12	80	0,15%
Golf	1991	5	23	13	33	0,24%
Thogersen	1991	4	130	8	122	0,24%
LIMIT-2	1992	90	1159	118	1157	4,33%
Schechter 2	1995	4	107	17	108	0,28%
ISIS-4	1995	2216	29011	2103	29039	92,99%



or	ci-	ci+	p
0,44	0,04	5,02	0,51
0,35	0,15	0,78	0,01
0,28	0,06	1,36	0,11
0,96	0,06	15,77	0,98
1,25	0,48	3,26	0,65
0,09	0,01	0,74	0,02
0,28	0,03	2,88	0,28
0,30	0,01	7,88	0,47
0,50	0,17	1,43	0,19
0,11	0,01	0,97	0,05
0,13	0,03	0,60	0,01
0,43	0,13	1,44	0,17
0,45	0,13	1,54	0,21
0,74	0,56	0,99	0,04
0,21	0,07	0,64	0,01
1,06	1,00	1,13	0,07

## META-ANALYSIS

### General

Number of studies	16
Number of participants	62607 (62607)

### OR (MH) - Fixed effect model

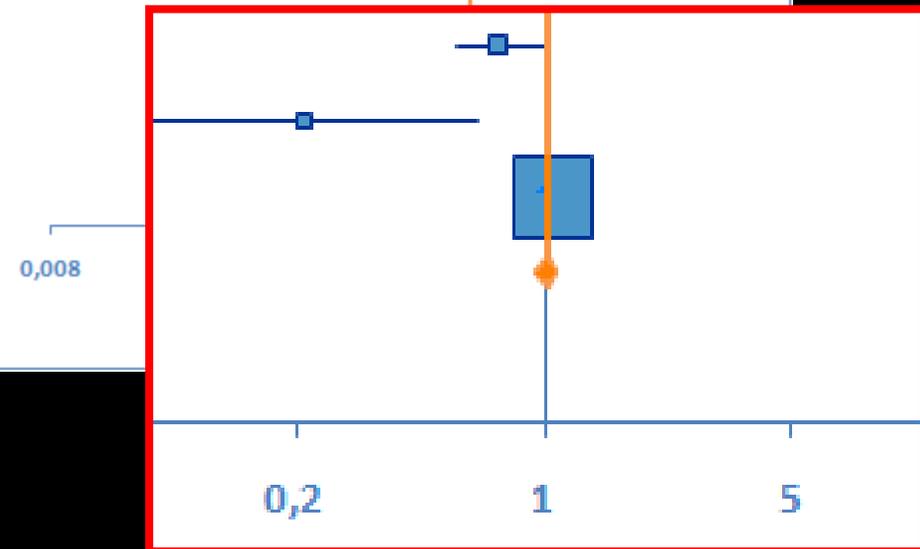
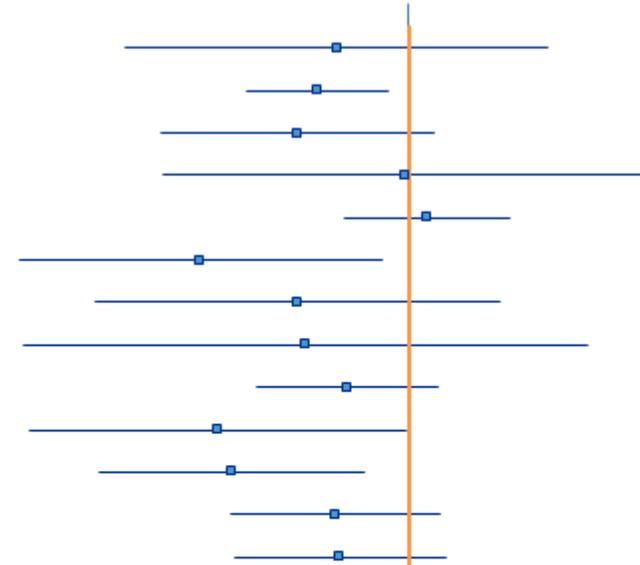
Meta-analysis outcome	1,0063
95% CI lower limit	0,9482
95% CI upper limit	1,068
z	0,2073
p-value (two-tailed)	0,8358

### Heterogeneity

Q	47,1363
p-value (two-tailed)	< 0,0001

I <sup>2</sup>	68,18%
95% CI lower limit	46,53%
95% CI upper limit	81,06%

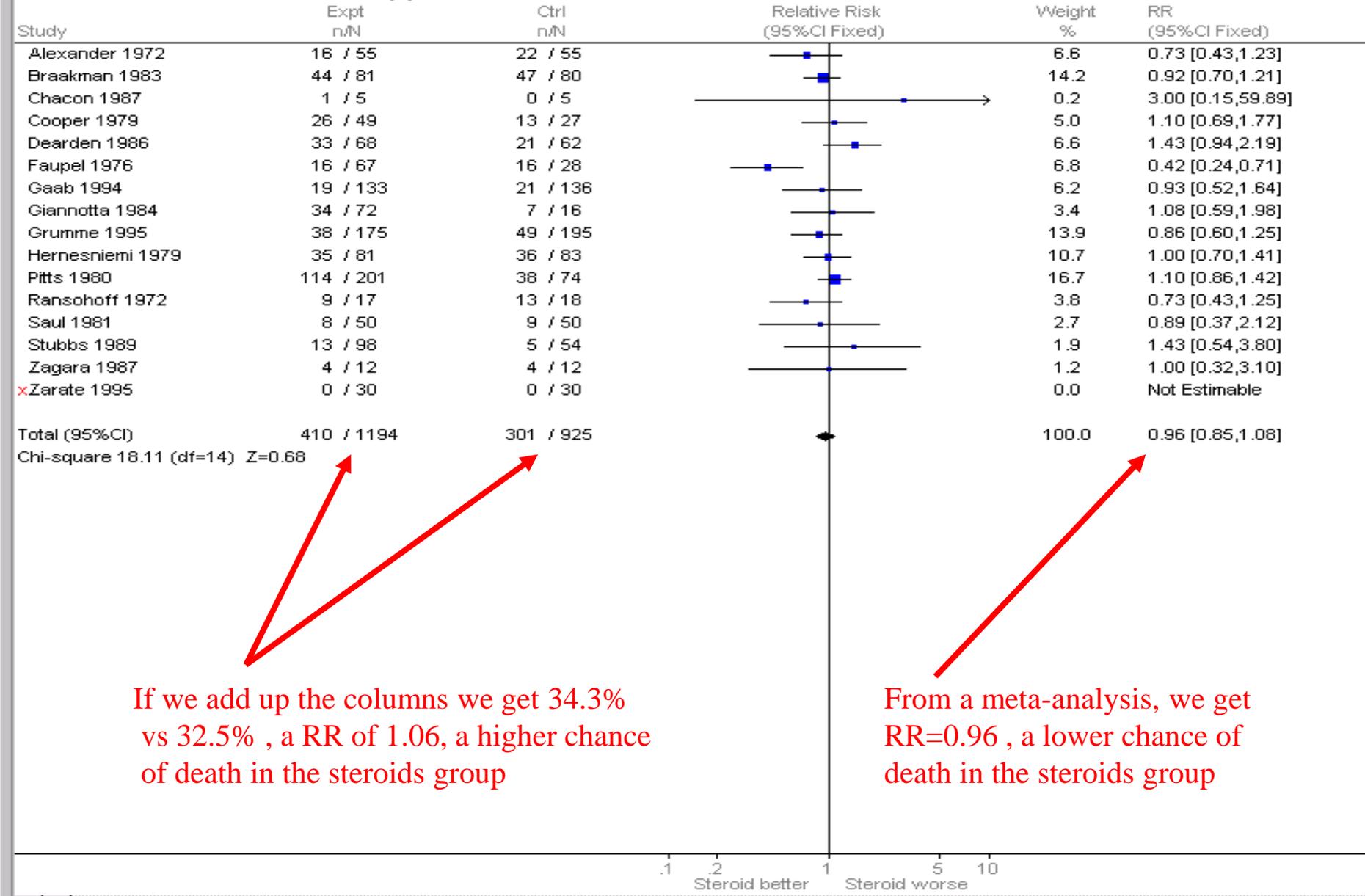
## Synthesis forest plot



## **Could we just add the data from all the trials together?**

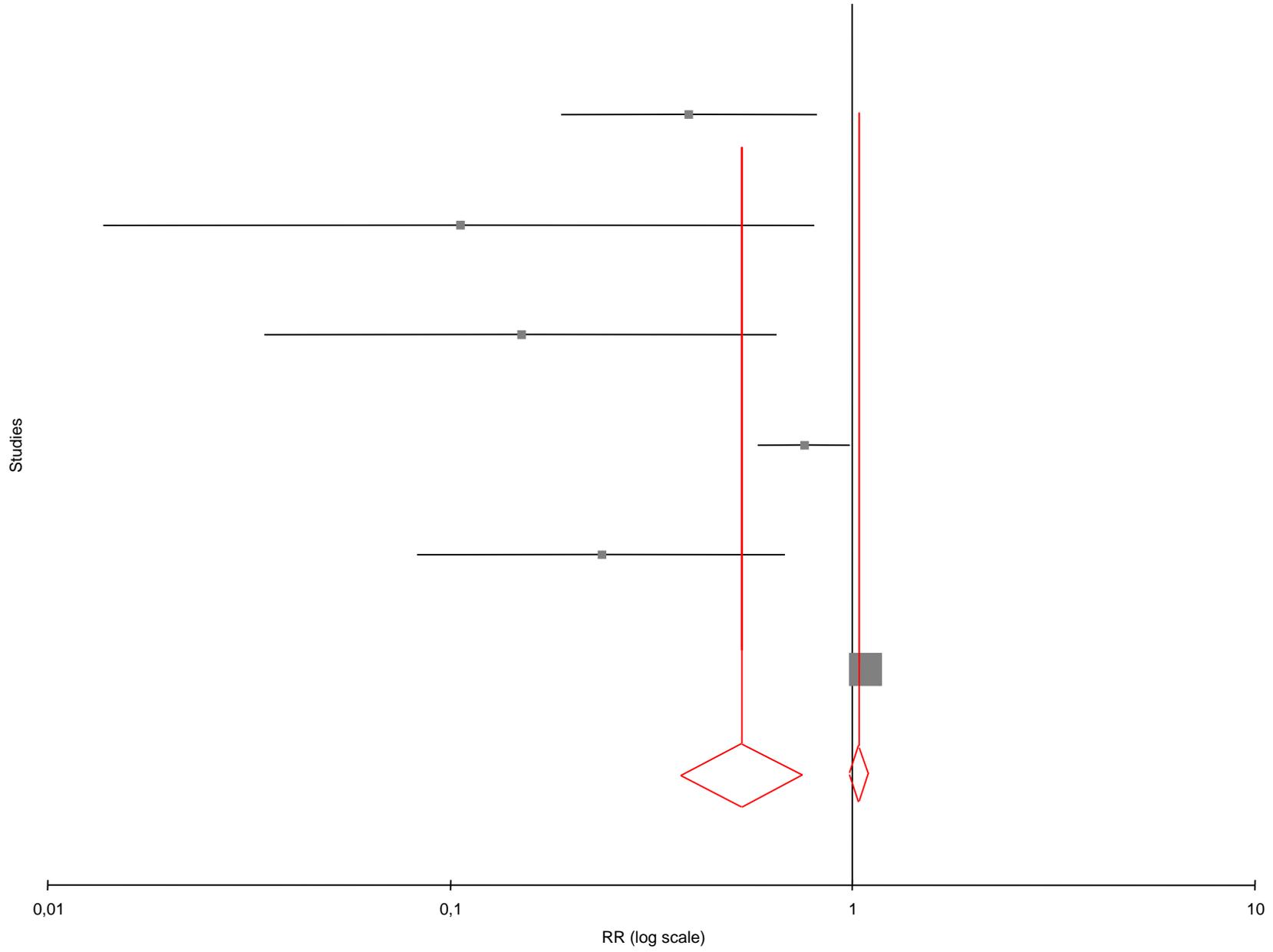
- One approach to combining trials would be to add all the treatment groups together, add all the control groups together, and compare the totals
- This is wrong for several reasons, and it can give the wrong answer

**Comparison: Any steroid administered in any dose against no steroid**  
**Outcome: Death at end of follow up period**



If we add up the columns we get 34.3% vs 32.5% , a RR of 1.06, a higher chance of death in the steroids group

From a meta-analysis, we get RR=0.96 , a lower chance of death in the steroids group



## Come si decide quanto pesa uno studio?

- Il peso è proporzionale al contributo informativo dello studio alla capacità di effettuare una stima
- Studi di ampie dimensione e/o con molti eventi potrebbero contribuire di più
- In gergo sono quelli più precisi
  
- Ma tutto è relativo ... tutti gli studi stanno misurando lo stesso effetto?

Mettere insieme ... studi diversi... che testano quesiti diversi... considerando popolazione diverse... usando interventi lievemente diversi... ma partendo da protocolli profondamente diversi... e dando risultati ...

**Eterogeneità**

## **What is heterogeneity?**

- Heterogeneity is variation between the studies' results

# What is **heterogeneity**?

Differences between studies with respect to:

**Clinical** heterogeneity (clinical diversity)

- *Participants*
  - e.g. conditions under investigation, eligibility criteria for trials, geographical variation
- *Interventions*
  - e.g. intensity / dose / duration, sub-type of drug, mode of administration, experience of practitioners, nature of the control (placebo/none/standard care)
- *Outcomes*
  - e.g. definition of an event, follow-up duration, ways of measuring outcomes, cut-off points on scales

# What is **heterogeneity**?

Differences between studies with respect to:

**Methodological** heterogeneity (methodological diversity)

- *Design*
  - e.g. randomised vs non-randomised, crossover vs parallel group vs cluster randomised, pre-test and long follow up
- *Conduct*
  - e.g. allocation concealment, blinding etc, approach to analysis, imputation methods for missing data

# What is heterogeneity?

What do we do if there *is* statistical heterogeneity?

- Variation in the *true effects* underlying the studies
- ...which may manifest itself in **more observed variation than expected by chance alone**
- May be due to **clinical diversity** (different treatment effects) or **methodological diversity** (different biases)

Come si misura questa  
eterogeneità?

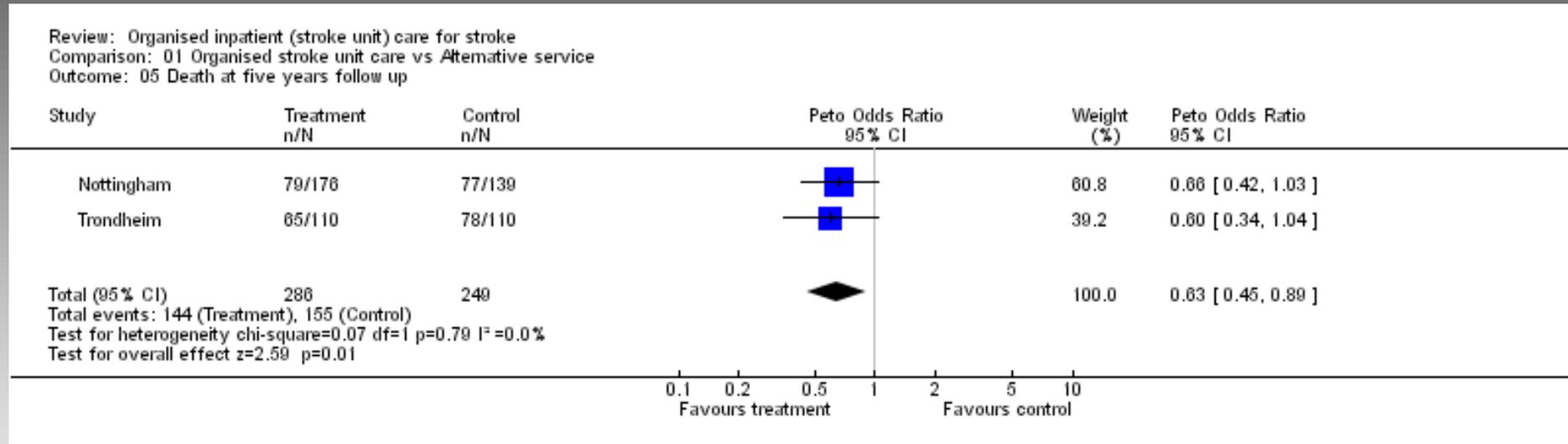
**KEEP  
CALM**

**e fà**

**BALA'  
L'OEUCC!**

- Confidence interval overlapping **Eyeball test**
- **Cochran's Q**: to assess whether observed differences in results are compatible with change alone  
 $\chi^2$  distribution; low power (small number of studies, small sample size)  
 $p < 0.10$  (heterogeneity)
- **I<sup>2</sup>** quantifying heterogeneity (describes the percentage of variation across studies that is due to heterogeneity rather than chance)  
0-40% might not be important  
30-60% may represent moderate heterogeneity  
50-90% may represent substantial heterogeneity  
75-100% considerable heterogeneity
- Tau....

# Esempio di Metaview



## How to deal with heterogeneity

1. Do not pool at all
2. Ignore heterogeneity: use *fixed effect model*
3. Allow for heterogeneity: use *random effects model*
4. Explore heterogeneity: subgroups analysis or meta-regression (tricky)

**SOTTOGRUPPI**

Review Manager 5.1

File Edit Format View Tools Table Window Help

[MASTER Trastuzumab\_containing\_regimens\_for\_EBC\_2011\_11\_3.rm5.xml.rm5] Trastuzumab containing regimens for early breast cancer

Text of Review 1.1 Overall Survival...

Comparison: 1 Effect of trastuzumab Outcome: 1.1 Overall Survival - all studies

**Forest plot**

Study or Subgroup	log[Hazard Ratio]	SE	Experimental		Control		Hazard Ratio	
			Total	Total	Total	Weight	IV, Random, 95% CI	
B31 (1)	-0.4	0.17	1672	1679	22.0%	0.67	[0.48, 0.94]	
BCIRG006	-0.46	0.13	1074	1073	37.7%	0.63	[0.49, 0.81]	
Buzdar	0	0	23	19			Not estimable	
FinHer	-0.6	0.36	115	116	4.9%	0.55	[0.27, 1.11]	
HERA	-0.46	0.17	1703	1698	22.0%	0.63	[0.45, 0.88]	
NOAH	-0.48	0.3	117	118	7.1%	0.62	[0.34, 1.11]	
PACS-04	0.24	0.32	260	268	6.2%	1.27	[0.68, 2.38]	
<b>Total (95% CI)</b>			<b>4964</b>	<b>4971</b>	<b>100.0%</b>	<b>0.66</b>	<b>[0.57, 0.77]</b>	

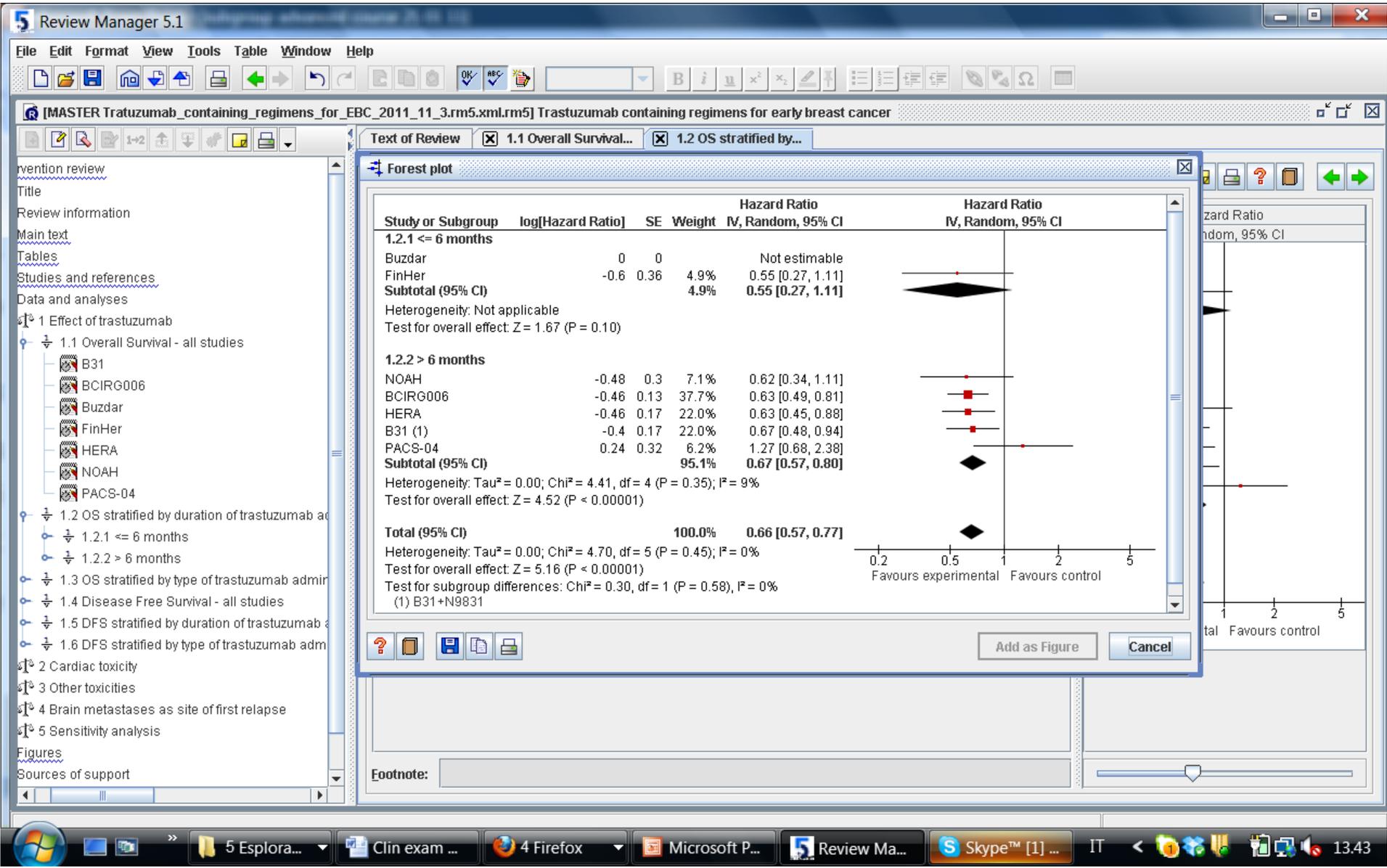
Heterogeneity: Tau<sup>2</sup> = 0.00; Chi<sup>2</sup> = 4.70, df = 5 (P = 0.45); I<sup>2</sup> = 0%  
 Test for overall effect: Z = 5.16 (P < 0.00001)

(1) B31+N9831

Favours experimental Favours control

Footnote:

IT 13.41



# General Assumptions in Subgroup Analysis

- Hypotheses tested usually address an overall or ‘average’ treatment effect in the study population
- No assumption of homogeneity of effect across subgroups - **interaction**
- Direction, not magnitude, of the treatment effect is expected be the same in subgroups

*• Only one thing is worse than doing subgroup analyses---  
believing the results*

**R. Peto**

SCUOLA DI METODOLOGIA CLINICA  
IRCCS "Sacro Cuore - Don Calabria" Negrar di Valpolicella

8<sup>a</sup> EDIZIONE

2° MODULO

REVISIONI SISTEMATICHE E METANALISI

NEGRAR DI VALPOLICELLA  
11-12 FEBBRAIO 2022

Centro Formazione IRCCS "Sacro Cuore-Don Calabria"

12 Febbraio 2022

- 09.00-10.00 Eterogeneità  
Michela CINQUINI
- 10.00-11.00 Summary of Findings Tables (1<sup>a</sup> parte)  
Ivan MOSCHETTI
- 11.00-11.30 Coffee Break
- 11.30-12.00 Summary of Findings Tables (2<sup>a</sup> parte)  
Ivan MOSCHETTI
- 12.00-13.00 Lavoro di gruppo  
*Summing-Up* (metodo: *What? So What? Now What?*)  
(valido come prova ECM)
- 13.00-13.15 Conclusione del Corso  
Stefania GORI - Giovanni L. PAPPAGALLO

## Cos'è la Summary Of Findings

- **Summary of findings:** tabular presentation of key information about relevant outcomes of alternative health care interventions. It presents information about the body of evidence, key numerical results, and **summary judgment about the certainty of underlying evidence** for each outcome. SoF table has been chosen by the Cochrane Collaboration to present main findings of a **systematic review**.

**Evidence profile:** summary of evidence for a given question; it represents relevant information about the body of evidence, key numerical results, and with a **detailed quality assessment** and an explicit judgment of each factor that determines the quality. **Used by guideline producers**

# PICO

## Self management for patients with chronic obstructive pulmonary disease

**Patient or population:** patients with chronic obstructive pulmonary disease

**Settings:** primary care, community, outpatient

**Intervention:** self management<sup>1</sup>

**Comparison:** usual care

Outcomes	Illustrative comparative risks* (95% CI)		Relative effect (95% CI)	No of Participants (studies)	Quality of the evidence (GRADE)	Comments
	usual care	self management				
<b>Quality of Life</b> St George's Respiratory Questionnaire. Scale from: 0 to 100. (follow-up: 3 to 12 months)	The mean quality of life ranged across control groups from <b>38 to 60 points</b>	The mean Quality of Life in the intervention groups was <b>2.58 lower</b> (5.14 to 0.02 lower)		698 (7)	⊕⊕⊕○ <b>moderate</b> <sup>2</sup>	Lower score indicates better quality of life. A change of less than 4 points is not shown to be important to patients.
<b>Dyspnoea</b> Borg Scale. Scale from: 0 to 10. (follow-up: 3 to 6 months)	The mean dyspnoea ranged across control groups from <b>1.2 to 4.1 points</b>	The mean Dyspnoea in the intervention groups was <b>0.53 lower</b> (0.96 to 0.1 lower)		144 (2)	⊕⊕○○ <b>low</b> <sup>3,4</sup>	Lower score indicates improvement
<b>Number and severity of exacerbations</b> <sup>5</sup>	See comment	See comment	Not estimable <sup>5</sup>	591 (3)	See comment	Effect is uncertain
<b>Respiratory-related hospital admissions</b> (follow-up: 3 to 12 months)	<b>Low risk population</b> <sup>6</sup>		<b>OR 0.64</b> (0.47 to 0.89)	966 (8)	⊕⊕⊕○ <b>moderate</b> <sup>7</sup>	
	<b>10 per 100</b>	<b>7 per 100</b> (5 to 9)				
	<b>High risk population</b> <sup>6</sup>					
	<b>50 per 100</b>	<b>35 per 100</b> (27 to 46)				
<b>Emergency department visits for lung diseases</b> (follow-up: 6 to 12 months)	The mean emergency department visits for lung diseases ranged across control groups from <b>0.2 to 0.7 visits per person per year</b>	The mean Emergency department visits for lung diseases in the intervention groups was <b>0.1 higher</b> (0.2 lower to 0.3 higher)		328 (4)	⊕⊕⊕○ <b>moderate</b> <sup>4</sup>	
<b>Doctor and nurse visits</b> (follow-up: 6 to 12 months)	The mean doctor and nurse visits ranged across control groups from <b>1 to 5 vists per</b>	The mean Doctor and nurse visits in the intervention groups was <b>0.02 higher</b> (1 lower to 1 higher)		629 (8)	⊕⊕⊕○ <b>moderate</b> <sup>8</sup>	



# Primary outcomes – up to 7

## Self management for patients with chronic obstructive pulmonary disease

**Patient or population:** patients with chronic obstructive pulmonary disease

**Settings:** primary care, community, outpatient

**Intervention:** self management<sup>1</sup>

**Comparison:** usual care

Outcomes	Illustrative comparative risks* (95% CI)		Relative effect (95% CI)	No of Participants (studies)	Quality of the evidence (GRADE)	Comments
	Assumed risk usual care	Corresponding risk self management				
<b>Quality of Life</b> St George's Respiratory Questionnaire. Scale from: 0 to 100. (follow-up: 3 to 12 months)	The mean quality of life ranged across control groups from <b>38 to 60 points</b>	The mean Quality of Life in the intervention groups was <b>2.58 lower</b> (5.14 to 0.02 lower)		698 (7)	⊕⊕⊕○ <b>moderate</b> <sup>2</sup>	Lower score indicates better quality of life. A change of less than 4 points is not shown to be important to patients.
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	<b>10 per 100</b>	<b>7 per 100</b> (5 to 9)				
	<b>High risk population</b> <sup>6</sup>					
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<b>Doctor and nurse visits</b> (follow-up: 6 to 12 months)	The mean doctor and nurse visits ranged across control groups from <b>1 to 5 visits per</b>	The mean Doctor and nurse visits in the intervention groups was <b>0.02 higher</b> (1 lower to 1 higher)		629 (8)	⊕⊕⊕○ <b>moderate</b> <sup>8</sup>	

- Choose primary outcomes early – avoid reporting bias
- Choose patient important outcomes
- Include primary outcomes – even if no information
- Describe the outcome – scale, follow-up

# Results – Baseline risks (Assumed Risk)

## Self management for patients with chronic obstructive pulmonary disease

**Patient or population:** patients with chronic obstructive pulmonary disease

**Settings:** primary care, community, outpatient

**Intervention:** self management<sup>1</sup>

**Comparison:** usual care

Outcomes	Illustrative comparative risks* (95% CI)		Relative effect (95% CI)	No of Participants (studies)	Quality of the evidence (GRADE)	Comments
	Assumed risk usual care	Corresponding risk self management				
<b>Quality of Life</b> St George's Respiratory Questionnaire. Scale from: 0 to 100. (follow-up: 3 to 12 months)	The mean quality of life ranged across control groups from <b>38 to 60 points</b>	The mean Quality of Life in the intervention groups was <b>2.58 lower</b> (5.14 to 0.02 lower)		698 (7)	⊕⊕⊕○ <b>moderate</b> <sup>2</sup>	Lower score indicates better quality of life. A change of less than 4 points is not shown to be important to patients.
<b>Dyspnoea</b> Borg Scale. Scale from: 0 to 10. (follow-up: 3 to 6 months)	The mean dyspnoea ranged across control groups from <b>1.2 to 4.1 points</b>	The mean Dyspnoea in the intervention groups was <b>0.53 lower</b> (0.96 to 0.1 lower)		144 (2)	⊕⊕○○ <b>low</b> <sup>3,4</sup>	Lower score indicates improvement
<b>Number and severity of exacerbations</b> <sup>5</sup>	See comment	See comment	Not estimable <sup>5</sup>	591 (3)	See comment	Effect is uncertain
<b>Respiratory-related hospital admissions</b> (follow-up: 3 to 12 months)	<b>Low risk population</b> <sup>6</sup> <b>10 per 100</b>	<b>7 per 100</b> (5 to 9)	<b>OR 0.64</b> (0.47 to 0.89)	966 (8)	⊕⊕⊕○ <b>moderate</b> <sup>7</sup>	
	<b>High risk population</b> <sup>6</sup> <b>50 per 100</b>	<b>35 per 100</b> (27 to 46)				
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<b>Doctor and nurse visits</b> (follow-up: 6 to 12 months)	The mean doctor and nurse visits ranged across control groups from <b>1 to 5 visits per</b>	The mean Doctor and nurse visits in the intervention groups was <b>0.02 higher</b> (1 lower to 1 higher)		629 (8)	⊕⊕⊕○ <b>moderate</b> <sup>8</sup>	

- From meta-analysis
- Needs to be representative of population
- Can present mean, range, low risk, moderate risk, high risk

# Results – Risk with intervention (Corresponding Risk)

**Self management for patients with chronic obstructive pulmonary disease**

**Patient or population:** patients with chronic obstructive pulmonary disease  
**Settings:** primary care, community, outpatient  
**Intervention:** self management<sup>1</sup>  
**Comparison:** usual care

Outcomes	Illustrative comparative risks* (95% CI)		Relative effect (95% CI)	No of Participants (studies)	Quality of the evidence (GRADE)	Comments
	Assumed risk usual care	Corresponding risk self management				
<b>Quality of Life</b> St George's Respiratory Questionnaire. Scale from: 0 to 100. (follow-up: 3 to 12 months)	The mean quality of life ranged across control groups from <b>38 to 60 points</b>	The mean Quality of Life in the intervention groups was <b>2.58 lower</b> (5.14 to 0.02 lower)		698 (7)	⊕⊕⊕○ <b>moderate</b> <sup>2</sup>	Lower score indicates better quality of life. A change of less than 4 points is not shown to be important to patients.
<b>Dyspnoea</b> Borg Scale. Scale from: 0 to 10. (follow-up: 3 to 6 months)	The mean dyspnoea ranged across control groups from <b>1.2 to 4.1 points</b>	The mean Dyspnoea in the intervention groups was <b>0.53 lower</b> (0.96 to 0.1 lower)		144 (2)	⊕⊕○○ <b>low</b> <sup>3,4</sup>	Lower score indicates improvement
<b>Number and severity of exacerbations</b> <sup>5</sup>	See comment	See comment	Not estimable <sup>5</sup>	591 (3)	See comment	Effect is uncertain
<b>Respiratory-related hospital admissions</b> (follow-up: 3 to 12 months)	<b>Low risk population</b> <sup>6</sup> <b>10 per 100</b>	<b>7 per 100</b> (5 to 9)	<b>OR 0.64</b> (0.47 to 0.89)	966 (8)	⊕⊕⊕○ <b>moderate</b> <sup>7</sup>	
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<b>Doctor and nurse visits</b> (follow-up: 6 to 12 months)	The mean doctor and nurse visits ranged across control groups from <b>1 to 5 visits per</b>	The mean Doctor and nurse visits in the intervention groups was <b>0.02 higher</b> (1 lower to 1 higher)		629 (8)	⊕⊕⊕○ <b>moderate</b> <sup>8</sup>	

- Calculated using the Relative Effect or Mean Differences
- Confidence intervals provided

# Results – Relative effects

## Self management for patients with chronic obstructive pulmonary disease

**Patient or population:** patients with chronic obstructive pulmonary disease

**Settings:** primary care, community, outpatient

**Intervention:** self management<sup>1</sup>

**Comparison:** usual care

Outcomes	Illustrative comparative risks* (95% CI)		Relative effect (95% CI)	No of Participants (studies)	Quality of the evidence (GRADE)	Comments
	usual care	self management				
<b>Quality of Life</b> St George's Respiratory Questionnaire. Scale from: 0 to 100. (follow-up: 3 to 12 months)	The mean quality of life ranged across control groups from <b>38 to 60 points</b>	The mean Quality of Life in the intervention groups was <b>2.58 lower</b> (5.14 to 0.02 lower)		698 (7)	⊕⊕⊕○ <b>moderate</b> <sup>2</sup>	Lower score indicates better quality of life. A change of less than 4 points is not shown to be important to patients.
<b>Dyspnoea</b> Borg Scale. Scale from: 0 to 10. (follow-up: 3 to 6 months)	The mean dyspnoea ranged across control groups from <b>1.2 to 4.1 points</b>	The mean Dyspnoea in the intervention groups was <b>0.53 lower</b> (0.96 to 0.1 lower)		144 (2)	⊕⊕○○ <b>low</b> <sup>3,4</sup>	Lower score indicates improvement
<b>Number and severity of exacerbations</b> <sup>5</sup>	See comment	See comment	Not estimable <sup>5</sup>	591 (3)	See comment	Effect is uncertain
<b>Respiratory-related hospital admissions</b> (follow-up: 3 to 12 months)	<b>Low risk population</b> <sup>6</sup>		<b>OR 0.64</b> (0.47 to 0.89)	966 (8)	⊕⊕⊕○ <b>moderate</b> <sup>7</sup>	
	<b>10 per 100</b>	<b>7 per 100</b> (5 to 9)				
	<b>High risk population</b> <sup>6</sup>					
	<b>50 per 100</b>	<b>35 per 100</b> (27 to 46)				
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<b>Doctor and nurse visits</b> (follow-up: 6 to 12 months)	The mean doctor and nurse visits ranged across control groups from <b>1 to 5 visits per</b>	The mean Doctor and nurse visits in the intervention groups was <b>0.02 higher</b> (1 lower to 1 higher)		629 (8)	⊕⊕⊕○ <b>moderate</b> <sup>8</sup>	

- From meta-analysis
- Relative Risks, Odds ratios, Hazard ratios, etc.

# Results – Number of Participants/studies

## Self management for patients with chronic obstructive pulmonary disease

**Patient or population:** patients with chronic obstructive pulmonary disease

**Settings:** primary care, community, outpatient

**Intervention:** self management<sup>1</sup>

**Comparison:** usual care

Outcomes	Illustrative comparative risks* (95% CI)		Relative effect (95% CI)	No of Participants (studies)	Quality of the evidence (GRADE)	Comments
	usual care	self management				
<b>Quality of Life</b> St George's Respiratory Questionnaire. Scale from: 0 to 100. (follow-up: 3 to 12 months)	The mean quality of life ranged across control groups from <b>38 to 60 points</b>	The mean Quality of Life in the intervention groups was <b>2.58 lower</b> (5.14 to 0.02 lower)		698 (7)	⊕⊕⊕⊖ <b>moderate</b> <sup>2</sup>	Lower score indicates better quality of life. A change of less than 4 points is not shown to be important to patients.
<b>Dyspnoea</b> Borg Scale. Scale from: 0 to 10. (follow-up: 3 to 6 months)	The mean dyspnoea ranged across control groups from <b>1.2 to 4.1 points</b>	The mean Dyspnoea in the intervention groups was <b>0.53 lower</b> (0.96 to 0.1 lower)		144 (2)	⊕⊕⊖⊖ <b>low</b> <sup>3,4</sup>	Lower score indicates improvement
<b>Number and severity of exacerbations</b> <sup>5</sup>	See comment	See comment	Not estimable <sup>5</sup>	591 (3)	See comment	Effect is uncertain
<b>Respiratory-related hospital admissions</b> (follow-up: 3 to 12 months)	<b>Low risk population</b> <sup>6</sup>		<b>OR 0.64</b> (0.47 to 0.89)	966 (8)	⊕⊕⊕⊖ <b>moderate</b> <sup>7</sup>	
	<b>10 per 100</b>	<b>7 per 100</b> (5 to 9)				
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	<b>50 per 100</b>	<b>35 per 100</b> (27 to 46)				
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<b>Doctor and nurse visits</b> (follow-up: 6 to 12 months)	The mean doctor and nurse visits ranged across control groups from <b>1 to 5 visits per</b>	The mean Doctor and nurse visits in the intervention groups was <b>0.02 higher</b> (1 lower to 1 higher)		629 (8)	⊕⊕⊕⊖ <b>moderate</b> <sup>8</sup>	

- From meta-analysis
- Or when no meta-analysis from individual studies

# Results

## Self management for patients with chronic obstructive pulmonary disease

**Patient or population:** patients with chronic obstructive pulmonary disease

**Settings:** primary care, community, outpatient

**Intervention:** self management<sup>1</sup>

**Comparison:** usual care

Outcomes	Illustrative comparative risks* (95% CI)		Relative effect (95% CI)	No of Participants (studies)	Quality of the evidence (GRADE)	Comments
	usual care	self management				
<b>Quality of Life</b> St George's Respiratory Questionnaire. Scale from: 0 to 100. (follow-up: 3 to 12 months)	The mean quality of life ranged across control groups from <b>38 to 60 points</b>	The mean Quality of Life in the intervention groups was <b>2.58 lower</b> (5.14 to 0.02 lower)		698 (7)	⊕⊕⊕○ <b>moderate</b> <sup>2</sup>	Lower score indicates better quality of life. A change of less than 4 points is not shown to be important to patients.
<b>Dyspnoea</b> Borg Scale. Scale from: 0 to 10. (follow-up: 3 to 6 months)	The mean dyspnoea ranged across control groups from <b>1.2 to 4.1 points</b>	The mean Dyspnoea in the intervention groups was <b>0.53 lower</b> (0.96 to 0.1 lower)		144 (2)	⊕⊕○○ <b>low</b> <sup>3,4</sup>	Lower score indicates improvement
<b>Number and severity of exacerbations</b> <sup>5</sup>	See comment	See comment	Not estimable <sup>5</sup>	591 (3)	See comment	Effect is uncertain
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	<b>10 per 100</b>	<b>7 per 100</b> (5 to 9)				
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- Describes the score on a scale (38 to 60 points)
- Describes change on the scale with intervention (2.58 points lower)

# Results – Outcomes not reported / not measured / not pooled

## Self management for patients with chronic obstructive pulmonary disease

**Patient or population:** patients with chronic obstructive pulmonary disease

**Settings:** primary care, community, outpatient

**Intervention:** self management<sup>1</sup>

**Comparison:** usual care

Outcomes	Illustrative comparative risks* (95% CI)		Relative effect (95% CI)	No of Participants (studies)	Quality of the evidence (GRADE)	Comments
	Assumed risk  usual care	Corresponding risk  self management				
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- Outcomes without data are still presented
- Outcomes not pooled are still presented and graded

# Comments

## Self management for patients with chronic obstructive pulmonary disease

**Patient or population:** patients with chronic obstructive pulmonary disease

**Settings:** primary care, community, outpatient

**Intervention:** self management<sup>1</sup>

**Comparison:** usual care

Outcomes	Illustrative comparative risks* (95% CI)		Relative effect (95% CI)	No of Participants (studies)	Quality of the evidence (GRADE)	Comments
	Assumed risk usual care	Corresponding risk self management				
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- More description
- E.g. relevance of findings, notes when no data, no meta-analysis, or meta-analysis plus studies not in meta-analysis

# SoF: Quando e Perché?

- Nelle revisioni Cochrane è obbligatorio (si parla di *Summary of Findings*)
- Per concludere una revisione sistematica per sintetizzare i risultati e la loro qualità (si parla di *Summary of Findings*)
- Come materiale di base per la elaborazione di Linee Guida per la pratica clinica (si parla di *Evidence Profile*)

## 2. Scegliere quali *outcomes* per la SoF

Di interesse per i pazienti e decisori

Utili per prendere decisioni cliniche

E' possibile riportarne al **massimo 7** (desiderabili e indesiderabili)

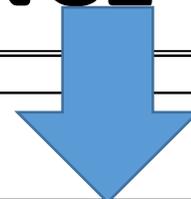
In genere solo gli **outcomes primari** della revisione

Dovrebbero essere definiti nel protocollo

# Outcomes

Should be  
importance driven  
NOT  
evidence driven

# QUALITY OF EVIDENCE



## Self management for patients with chronic obstructive pulmonary disease

**Patient or population:** patients with chronic obstructive pulmonary disease

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# Formulate question

P  
I  
C  
O

Select outcomes

Rate importance

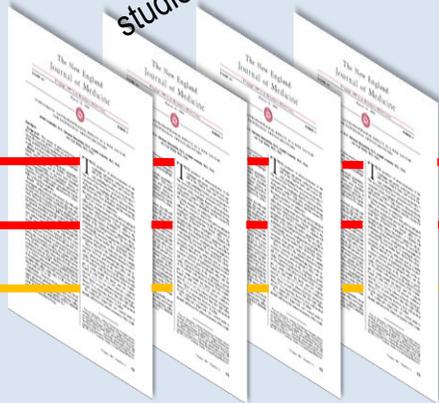
Outcome Critical

Outcome Critical

Outcome Important

Outcome Not important

# Outcomes across studies



# Create evidence profile with GDT

Quality assessment	Summary of findings
High	Moderate
Low	Very low
<p><b>Summary of findings &amp; estimate of effect for each outcome</b></p> <p>Outcome 1: High</p> <p>Outcome 2: Moderate</p> <p>Outcome 3: Low</p> <p>Outcome 4: Very low</p>	<p>1. Risk of bias</p> <p>2. Inconsistency</p> <p>3. Indirectness</p> <p>4. Imprecision</p> <p>5. Publication bias</p>

# Rate quality of evidence for each outcome

High

Moderate

Low

Very low

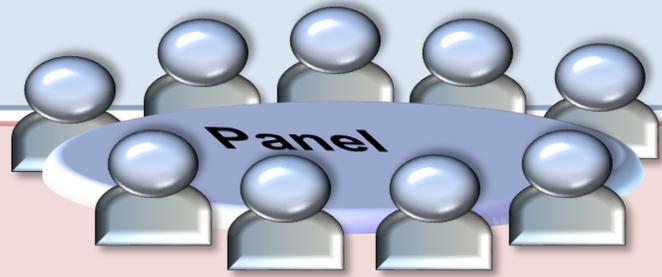
Randomization raises initial quality

RCTs: high

Observational: low

- Grade down
1. Risk of bias
  2. Inconsistency
  3. Indirectness
  4. Imprecision
  5. Publication bias
- Grade up
1. Large effect
  2. Dose response
  3. Opposing bias & Confounders

Grade overall quality of evidence across outcomes based on lowest quality of **critical** outcomes



EtD framework with GRADEpro

# Guideline/Decision

# Formulate Recommendations/Decision

“The panel recommends that ....should...”

“The panel suggests that ....should...”

“The panel suggests to **not** ...”

“The panel recommends to **not**...”

**Transparency, clear, actionable Research?**

# Evidence synthesis (SR, HTA)

# Recommendation/Decision

# Grade recommendations (Evidence to Decision)

- For or against (direction) ↓↑
- Strong or conditional/weak (strength)

By considering balance of consequences (evidence to recommendations):

- ❑ Quality of evidence
- ❑ Balance benefits/harms
- ❑ Values and preferences
- ❑ Feasibility, equity and acceptability
- ❑ Resource use (if applicable)

ISSUES	ASSESSMENT	Research evidence	EXPLANATION/CRITICAL DECISIONS
What is the overall quality of evidence?	<input type="checkbox"/> High <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Moderate <input type="checkbox"/> Low <input type="checkbox"/> Very low	1. High quality RCTs 2. Low risk of bias 3. Consistent results 4. Precise estimates 5. Direct evidence	1. High quality RCTs 2. Low risk of bias 3. Consistent results 4. Precise estimates 5. Direct evidence
What is the balance of benefits and harms?	<input type="checkbox"/> Benefits outweigh harms <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Benefits and harms are similar <input type="checkbox"/> Harms outweigh benefits	1. Benefits 2. Harms 3. Values and preferences	1. Benefits 2. Harms 3. Values and preferences

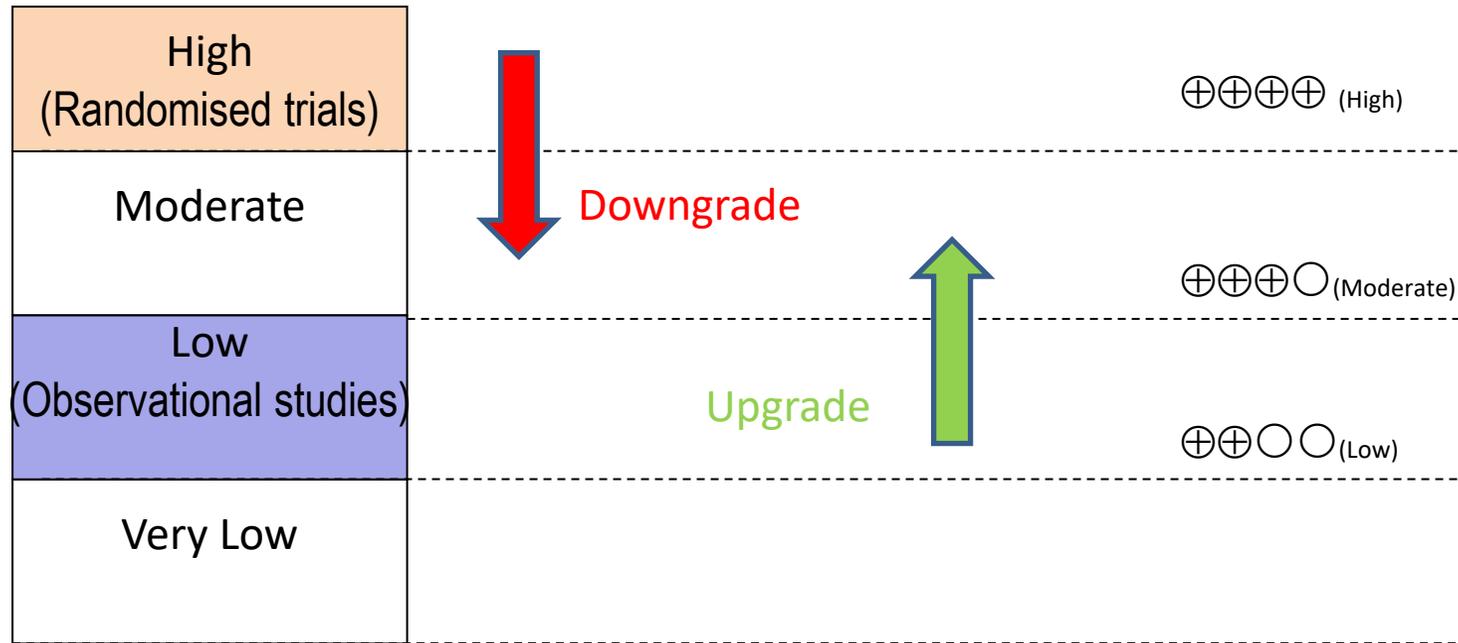


# Quality of evidence

- **GRADE is “outcome centric”**: rating is made for each outcome, and quality **may differ** -indeed, is likely to differ - **from one outcome to another within a single study and across a body of evidence**
- E.g: subjective outcomes are prone to performance and detection bias, while objective outcomes are not
- E.g. one outcome within a review could have imprecision in the pooled estimate of the effect, while another could have not
- E.g. one outcome could have high attrition bias (use of substance) while another could have not (drop out)

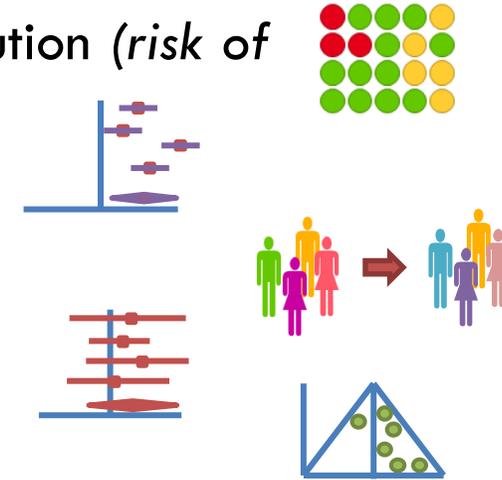
# Rating quality of evidence

GRADE's approach begins with the study design. Randomized controlled trials (RCTs) start as high-quality evidence and observational studies as low-quality evidence supporting estimates of intervention effects



# Determinants of quality/certainty of a body of evidence

- **RCTs** ⊕⊕⊕⊕
- **observational studies** ⊕⊕○○
- **5 factors that can lower quality**
  1. limitations in detailed study design and execution (*risk of bias criteria*)
  2. Inconsistency (*or heterogeneity*)
  3. Indirectness (*PICO and applicability*)
  4. Imprecision
  5. Publication bias
- **3 factors can increase quality**
  1. large magnitude of effect
  2. opposing plausible residual bias or confounding
  3. dose-response gradient



# 1. Study limitations (risk of bias)

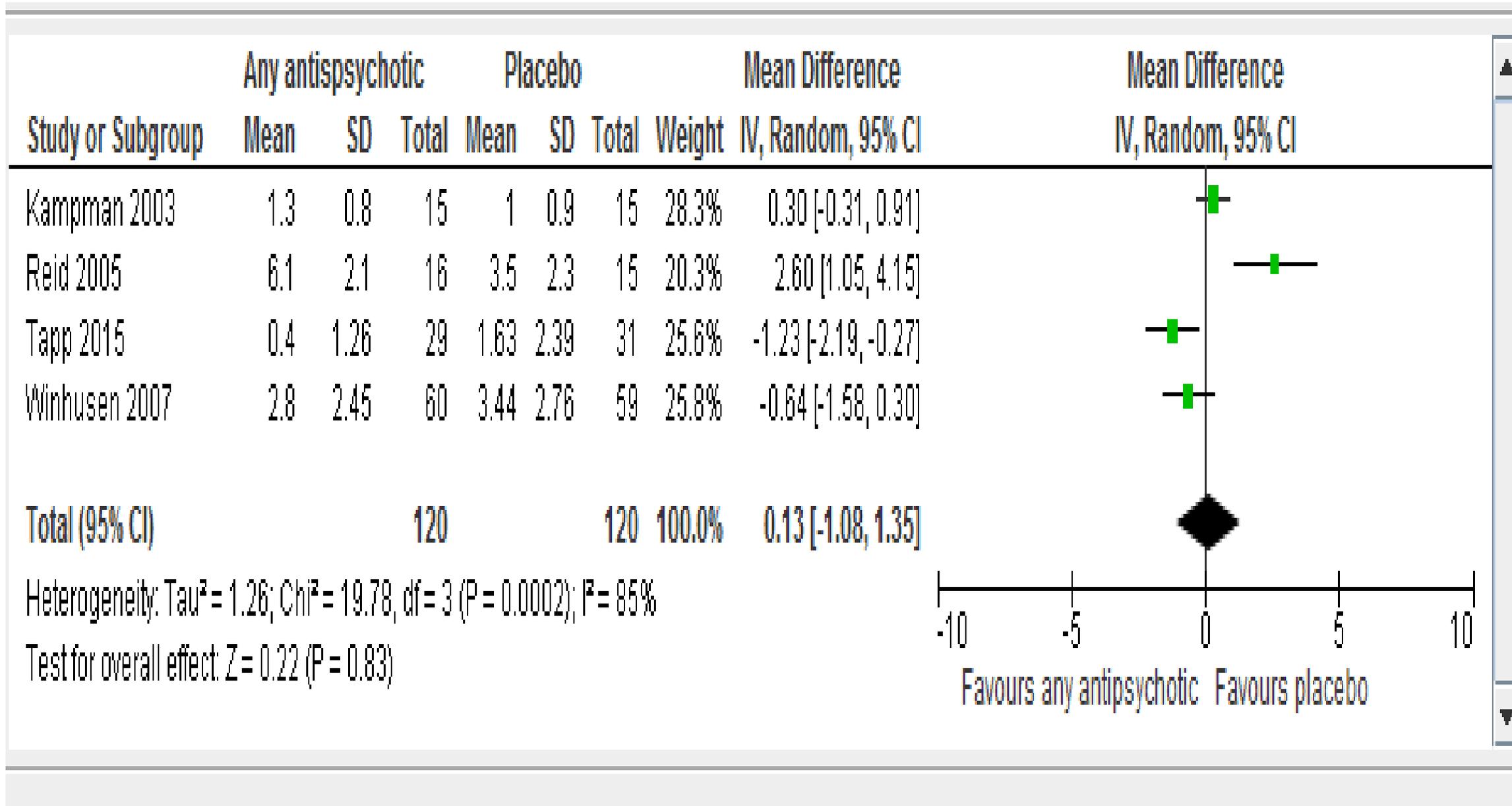
	Adequate sequence generation?	Allocation concealment?	Blinding?	Incomplete outcome data addressed?	Free of other bias?
Altinbas 2004	?	?	+	?	?
Kakkar 2004	+	+	+	+	+
Klerk 2005	+	+	+	-	+
Lebeau 1994	?	+	+	+	+
Sideras 2006	?	+	+	?	+

# Risk of bias

- Outcome specific
- Do not average risk quality across the studies
- Evaluate the extent to which each trial contributes toward the estimate of magnitude of effect. This contribution will usually reflect **study sample size** and **number of outcome events** -larger trials with many events will contribute more, much larger trials with many more events will contribute much more ( **look at the weight of each study in the forest plot**)

## 2. Inconsistency (heterogeneity) between studies results

- Variation in size of effect ( **Point estimates vary widely** across studies)
- **Confidence intervals** (CIs) show minimal or **no overlap**
- The statistical test for heterogeneity which tests the null hypothesis that all studies in a meta-analysis have the same underlying magnitude of effect shows a low **P-value** ( $< 0.05$ )
- The **I<sup>2</sup>** which quantifies the proportion of the variation in point estimates due to among-study differences ( $< 40\%$  : low, 30 e 60% : moderate, **60 e 90% : substantial, 75 e 100% : considerable**)
- All statistical approaches have limitations, and their results should be seen in the context of a subjective examination of the variability in point estimates and the overlap in CIs.



### 3. Directness of Evidence generalizability, transferability, applicability

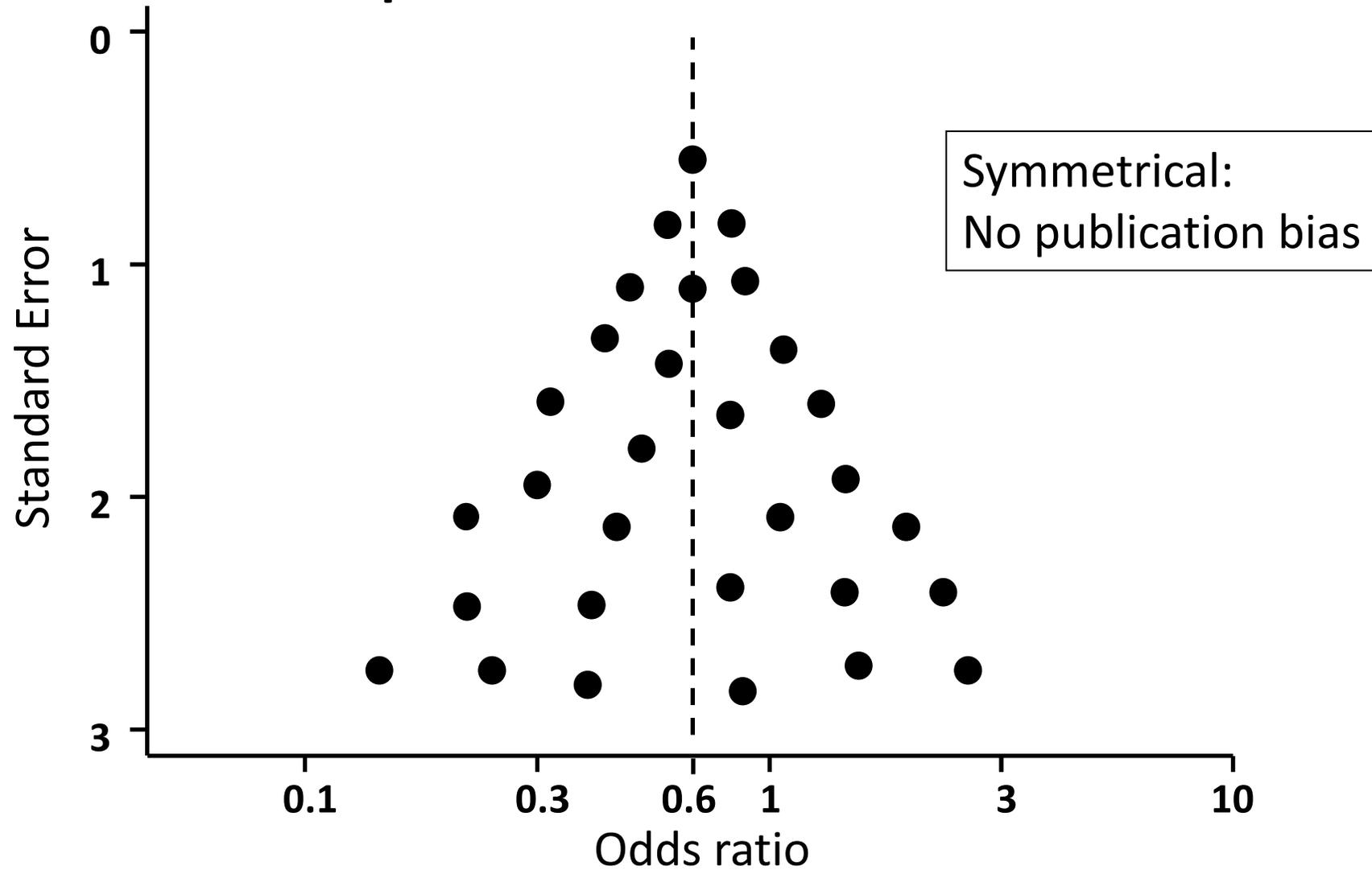
- differences between PICO and available evidence in
  - **populations**/patients (interested in children but found adults population)
  - **interventions** (interested in high dosage but found low dosage, interested in long treatment but found short, etc)
  - **outcomes** (interested in important but we found surrogate; e.g hip fracture vs bone density; interested in long term but found short term results)
- indirect **comparisons**
  - interested in A versus B
  - found A versus C and B versus C

# 4. Publication Bias

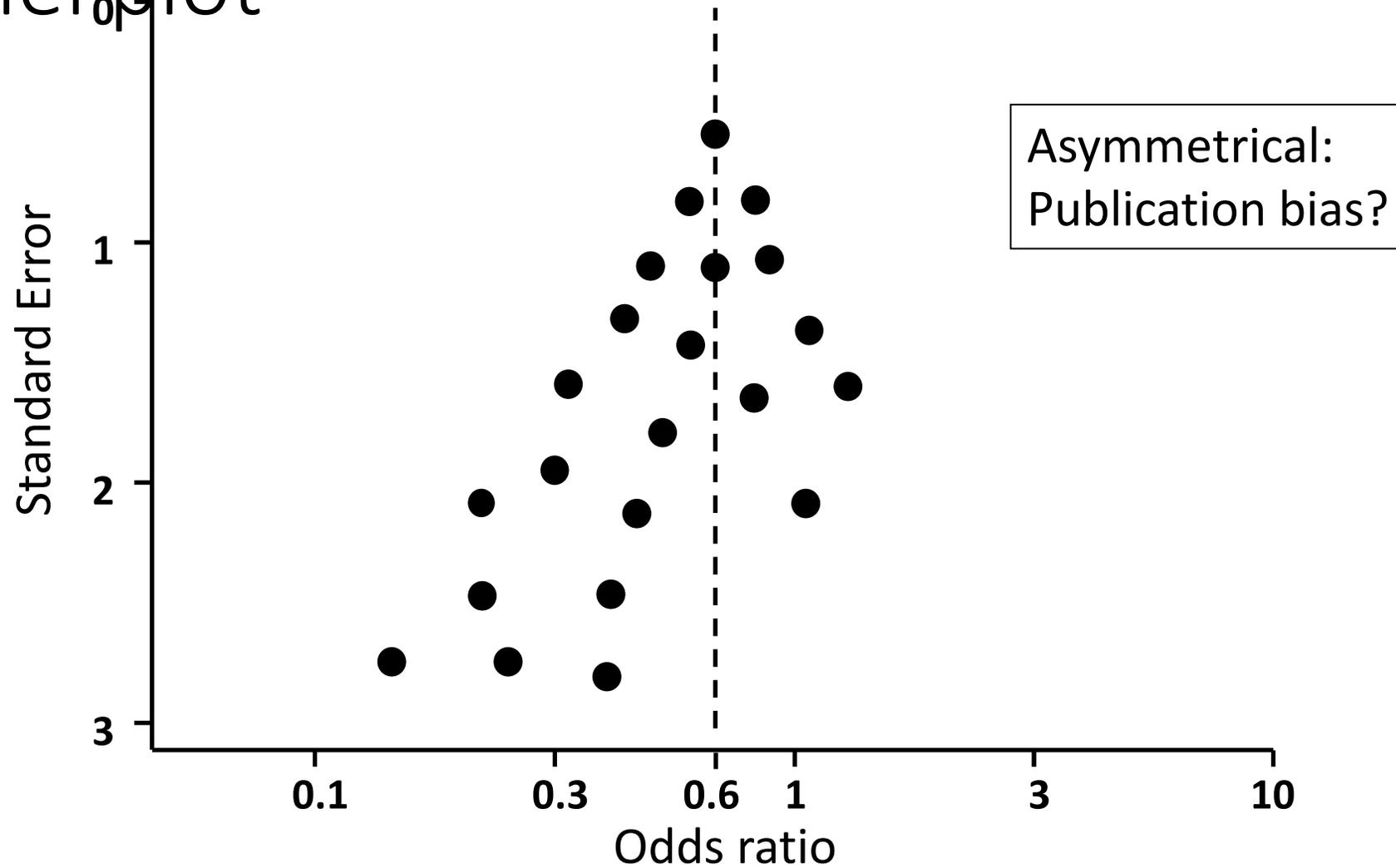
Consider rating down if:

- You find **systematic reviews performed early, when only few initial studies are available**, that will overestimate effects when “negative” studies face delayed publication. Early positive studies, particularly if small in size, are suspect.
- You find **only small “positive” studies, mainly if sponsored by industry**
- **Funnel plot showing asymmetry** but
- Funnel plot should be seen as a generic means of displaying small-study effects – a tendency for the intervention effects estimated in smaller studies to differ from those estimated in larger studies (Sterne 2000). Small-study effects may be due to reasons other than publication bias ( low methodological quality, chance, patients characteristics).
- **Funnel plot should be used only when there are at least 10 studies** included in the meta-analysis, because when there are fewer studies the power of the tests is too low to distinguish chance from real asymmetry

# Funnel plot



# Funnel plot



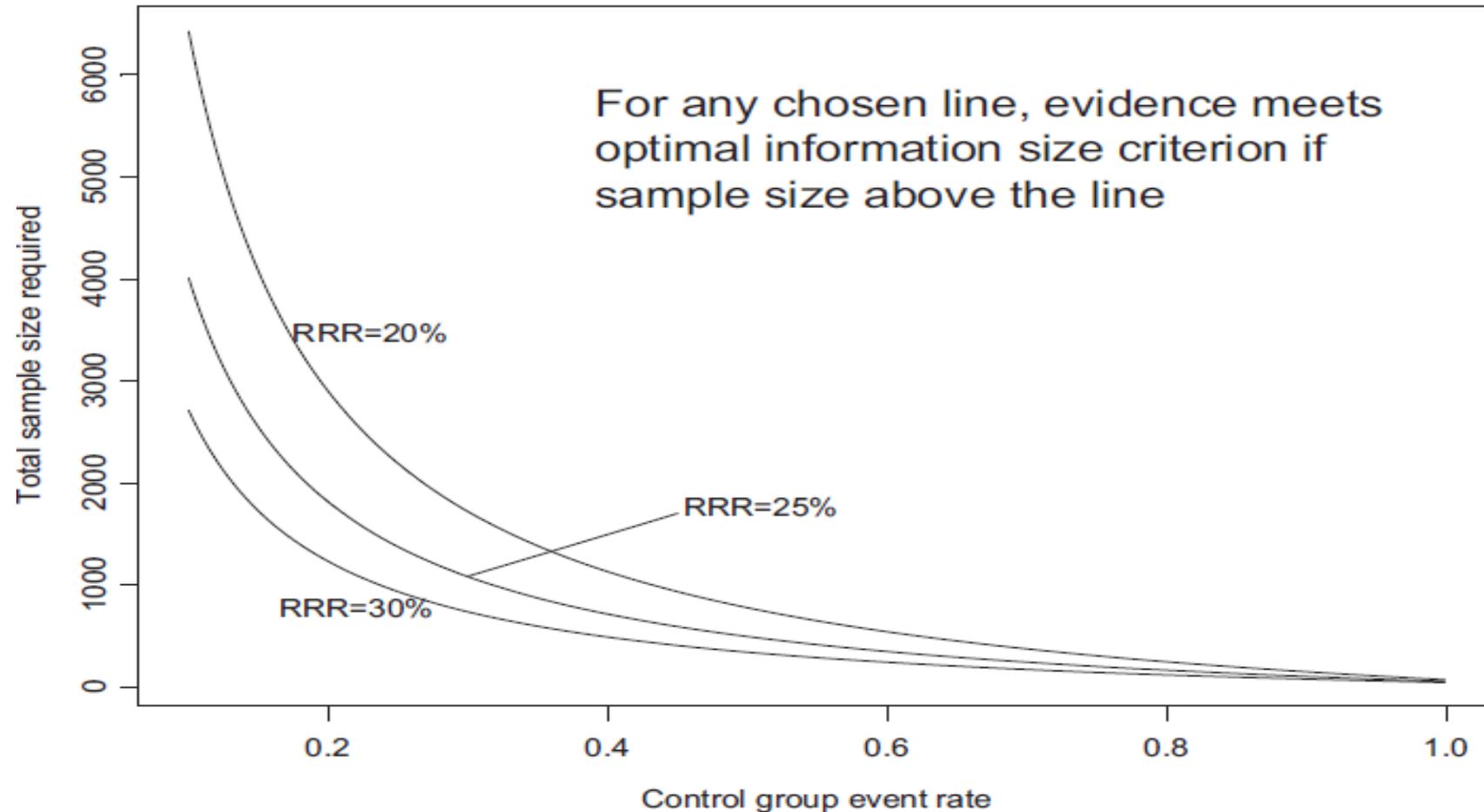
# 5. Imprecision of the overall estimate

- **Wide confidence intervals** (CIs inform the impact of random error on evidence quality; CI expresses the range in which the truth plausibly lies)
- **Small number of events**
- **Small sample size**
- recommendation or **clinical course of action would differ** if the **upper versus the lower boundary** of the CI represented the truth

# Optimal information size

- We suggest the following: if the total number of patients included in a systematic review is less than the number of patients generated by a **conventional sample size calculation** for a single adequately powered trial, consider rating down for imprecision. Authors have referred to this threshold as the “**optimal information size**” (OIS)

Required sample size (assuming  $\alpha$  of 0.05, and  $\beta$  of 0.2) for RRR of 20%, 25%, and 30% across varying control event rates. For example, if the best estimate of control event rate was 0.2 and one specifies an RRR of 25%, the OIS is approximately 2,000 patients (GRADE guideline n.6 Journal of Clinical Epidemiology 64 (2011) 1283e1293)



Optimal information size given  $\alpha$  of 0.05 and  $\beta$  of 0.2 for varying control event rates and relative risks.

# Power is more closely related to number of events than to sample size

( GRADE guideline n.6 Journal of Clinical Epidemiology 64 (2011) 1283e1293)

Calculating the OIS for **dichotomous outcome** requires specifying:

- probability of detecting a false effect – type I error ( $\alpha$ ; usually 0.05)
- probability of detecting a true effect – power (usually 80% [power = 1 – type II error;  $\beta$ ; usually 0.20])
- realistic relative risk reduction (RRR; we suggest a default of 25%)
- control event rate (we suggest the median of the available trials, or the rate from a dominating trial, if it exists).

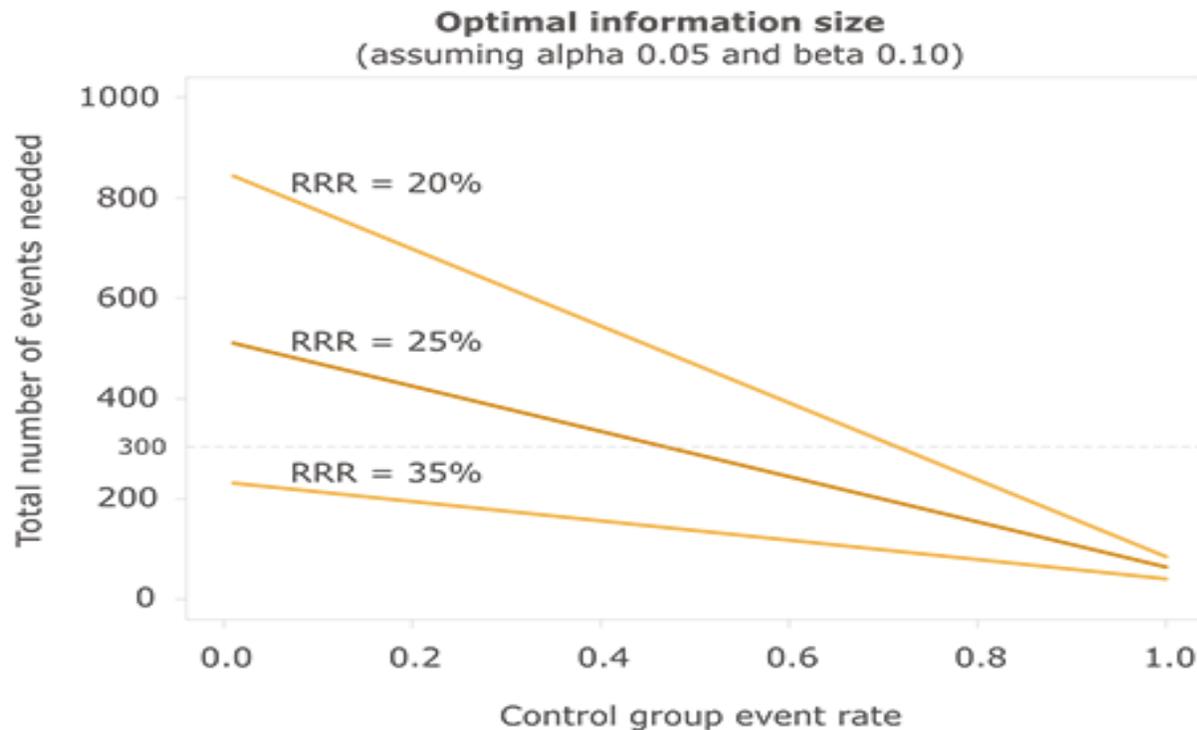


Table 1: Optimal information size implications from Figure above

Total Number of Events	Relative Risk Reduction	Implications for meeting OIS threshold
100 or less	$\leq 30\%$	Will almost never meet threshold whatever control event rate
200	30%	Will meet threshold for control event rates for ~ 25% or greater
200	25%	Will meet threshold for control event rates for ~ 50% or greater
200	20%	Will meet threshold only for control event rates for ~ 80% or greater
300	$\geq 30\%$	Will meet threshold
300	25%	Will meet threshold for control event rates ~ 25% or greater
300	20%	Will meet threshold for control event rates ~ 60% or greater
400 or more	$\geq 25\%$	Will meet threshold for any control event rate
400 or more	20%	Will meet threshold for control event rates of ~ 40% or greater

# OIS for continuous outcomes

- Authors can calculate the OIS for continuous variables in exactly the same way they can for binary variables by specifying the  $\alpha$  and  $\beta$  errors (we have suggested 0.05 and 0.2) and the  $\Delta$  ( i.e. the difference one wishes to detect as clinically relevant ), and choosing an appropriate standard deviation from one of the relevant studies.
- A particular challenge in calculating the OIS for continuous variables arises when studies have used different instruments to measure a construct, and the pooled estimate is calculated using a standardized mean difference.
- we suggest authors choose one of the available instruments (ideally, one in which an estimate of the minimally important difference is available) and calculate an OIS using that instrument

# OIS for continuous outcomes

whenever there are **sample sizes that are less than 400**, review authors and guideline developers should certainly consider rating down for imprecision.

# Downgrading and OIS

- if OIS not met downgrade for imprecision
- If OIS met and the 95% CI excludes a relative risk (RR) of 1.0 (statistically significant results), precision is adequate.
- if OIS met but the 95% CI includes a RR of 1 ( null effect) , authors should consider whether CIs include appreciable benefit or harm (we suggest a RR of under 0.75 or over 1.25 as a rough guide) ; if yes downgrading for imprecision may be appropriate.

# What can raise quality?

1. **large magnitude of effect** can upgrade (**RRR 50%/RR 2**)
  - very large two levels (RRR 80%/RR 5) ; modeling studies suggests that **confounding** (from nonrandom allocation) alone **is unlikely to explain associations with a relative risk (RR) greater than 2** (or less than 0.5), and very unlikely to explain associations with an RR greater than 5 (or less than 0.2)
  - Es: relationship between infant sleeping position and sudden infant death syndrome (SIDS) found an odds ratio (OR) of 4.1 (95% confidence interval [CI]: 3.1, 5.5) of SIDS occurring with front vs. back sleeping positions

# What can raise quality?

## 2. dose response relation

- higher INR – increased bleeding
- childhood lymphoblastic leukemia
  - risk for CNS malignancies 15 years after cranial irradiation
  - no radiation: 1% (95% CI 0% to 2.1%)
  - 12 Gy: 1.6% (95% CI 0% to 3.4%)
  - 18 Gy: 3.3% (95% CI 0.9% to 5.6%)

# Residual confounding

- 3. all plausible residual confounding may be working to reduce the demonstrated effect or increase the effect if no effect was observed (underestimate of the treatment effect)
- Es: effect of condom use on HIV infection among men who have sex with men RR: 0.34 [0.21, 0.54] (RRR: 66%) in favor of condom use compared with no condom use. Condom users were more likely to have more partners (but studies did not adjust for this confounding factor in their analyses). Considering the number of partners would, if anything, strengthen the effect estimate in favor of condom use.

# Assessing Certainty in the Evidence by Outcome

**Table: GRADE's approach to rating quality of evidence (aka confidence in effect estimates)**

For each outcome based on a systematic review and across outcomes (lowest quality across the outcomes critical for decision making)

**1.**  
Establish initial  
level of confidence

Study design	Initial confidence in an estimate of effect
Randomized trials →	High confidence
Observational studies →	Low confidence

**2.**  
Consider lowering or raising  
level of confidence

Reasons for considering lowering or raising confidence	
↓ Lower if	↑ Higher if*
Risk of Bias Inconsistency Indirectness Imprecision Publication bias	Large effect Dose response All plausible confounding & bias <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>would reduce a demonstrated effect</li> <li>or</li> <li>would suggest a spurious effect if no effect was observed</li> </ul>

**3.**  
Final level of  
confidence rating

Confidence in an estimate of effect across those considerations
High ⊕⊕⊕⊕
Moderate ⊕⊕⊕○
Low ⊕⊕○○
Very low ⊕○○○

\*upgrading criteria are usually applicable to observational studies only.



# Lowering certainty in RCTs

**Table: GRADE's approach to rating quality of evidence (aka confidence in effect estimates)**

For each outcome based on a systematic review and across outcomes (lowest quality across the outcomes critical for decision making)

1. Establish initial level of confidence		2. Consider lowering or raising level of confidence		3. Final level of confidence rating
Study Design	Initial confidence in an estimate of effect	Reasons for considering lowering or raising confidence		Confidence in an estimate of effect across those considerations
		Lower	Higher*	
Randomized trials →	High confidence	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Risk of Bias</li> <li>Inconsistency</li> <li>Indirectness</li> <li>Imprecision</li> <li>Publication Bias</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Large effect</li> <li>Dose response</li> <li>All plausible confounding &amp; bias would reduce demonstrated effect or would suggest spurious effect if no effect was observed</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>High (⊕⊕⊕⊕)</li> <li>Moderate (⊕⊕⊕□)</li> <li>Low (⊕⊕□□)</li> <li>Very low (⊕□□□)</li> </ul>
Observational studies →	Low confidence			

\*upgrading criteria are usually applicable to observational studies only.

# Altering certainty in observational studies

**Table: GRADE's approach to rating quality of evidence (aka confidence in effect estimates)**

For each outcome based on a systematic review and across outcomes (lowest quality across the outcomes critical for decision making)

1. Establish initial level of confidence		2. Consider lowering or raising level of confidence		3. Final level of confidence rating
Study Design	Initial confidence in an estimate of effect	Reasons for considering lowering or raising confidence		Confidence in an estimate of effect across those considerations
		Lower	Higher*	
Randomized trials →	High confidence	Risk of Bias	Large effect	High ++++
		Inconsistency	Dose response	Moderate +++□
		Indirectness	All plausible confounding & bias would reduce demonstrated effect or would suggest spurious effect if no effect was observed	Low ++□□
Observational studies →	Low confidence	Imprecision		Very low +□□□
		Publication bias		

\*upgrading criteria are usually applicable to observational studies only.



# Grades of evidence and Interpretation

Symbol	Quality	Interpretation
⊕⊕⊕⊕	<b>High</b>	We are very confident that the true effect lies close to that of the estimate of the effect
⊕⊕⊕○	<b>Moderate</b>	We are moderately confident in the effect estimate: The true effect is likely to be close to the estimate of the effect, but there is a possibility that it is substantially different
⊕⊕○○	<b>Low</b>	Our confidence in the effect estimate is limited: The true effect may be substantially different from the estimate of the effect
⊕○○○	<b>Very low</b>	We have very little confidence in the effect estimate: The true effect is likely to be substantially different from the estimate of effect

# **grades of evidence and Interpretation**

Quality of evidence = certainty of the results

Magnitude of Effect



Likelihood of and certainty in the evidence or effect

Certainty or Quality of evidence  
Confidence in effect

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2° MODULO



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11-12 FEBBRAIO 2022

Centro Formazione IRCCS "Sacro Cuore-Don Calabria"

12 Febbraio 2022

- 09.00-10.00 Eterogeneità  
Michela CINQUINI
- 10.00-11.00 Summary of Findings Tables (1<sup>a</sup> parte)  
Ivan MOSCHETTI
- 11.00-11.30 Coffee Break
- 11.30-12.00 Summary of Findings Tables (2<sup>a</sup> parte)  
Ivan MOSCHETTI
- 12.00-13.00 Lavoro di gruppo  
*Summing-Up* (metodo: *What? So What? Now What?*)  
(valido come prova ECM)
- 13.00-13.15 Conclusione del Corso  
Stefania GORI - Giovanni L. PAPPAGALLO

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