

Looking past the paper

Using checklists to critically analyse the methodology from academic research articles

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Reporting Guidelines

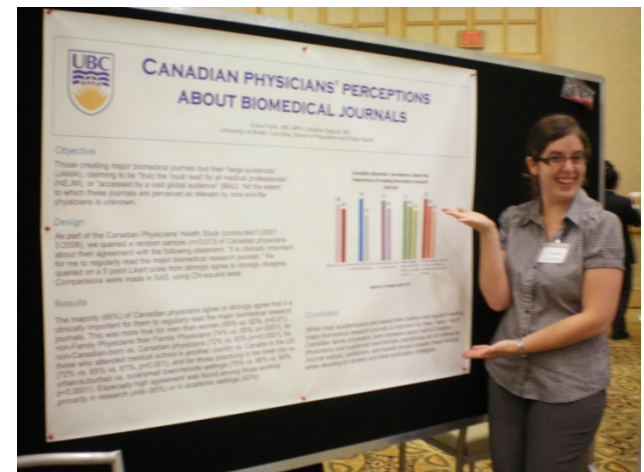
- ▶ Oxford-based EQUATOR guidelines
 - ▶ Peer Review Congress – Vancouver
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Reporting is a Big Problem



SIXTH INTERNATIONAL CONGRESS ON
PEER REVIEW AND
BIOMEDICAL PUBLICATION

September 10-12, 2009, Vancouver, BC, Canada





P R I S M A

TRANSPARENT REPORTING of SYSTEMATIC REVIEWS and META-ANALYSES


- ▶ Preferred Reporting Items for Systematic Reviews and Meta-Analyses
- ▶ evidence-based minimum set of items for reporting in systematic reviews and meta-analyses

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

Activity

- ▶ *Efficacy of progesterone and progestogens in management of premenstrual syndrome: systematic review*
BMJ, Vol 323, Oct 2001

First Look –

- ▶ Take a look at the following paper and do a critical assessment
 - ▶ Don't look to your reporting guidelines for reference!
 - ▶ Discuss with people around you
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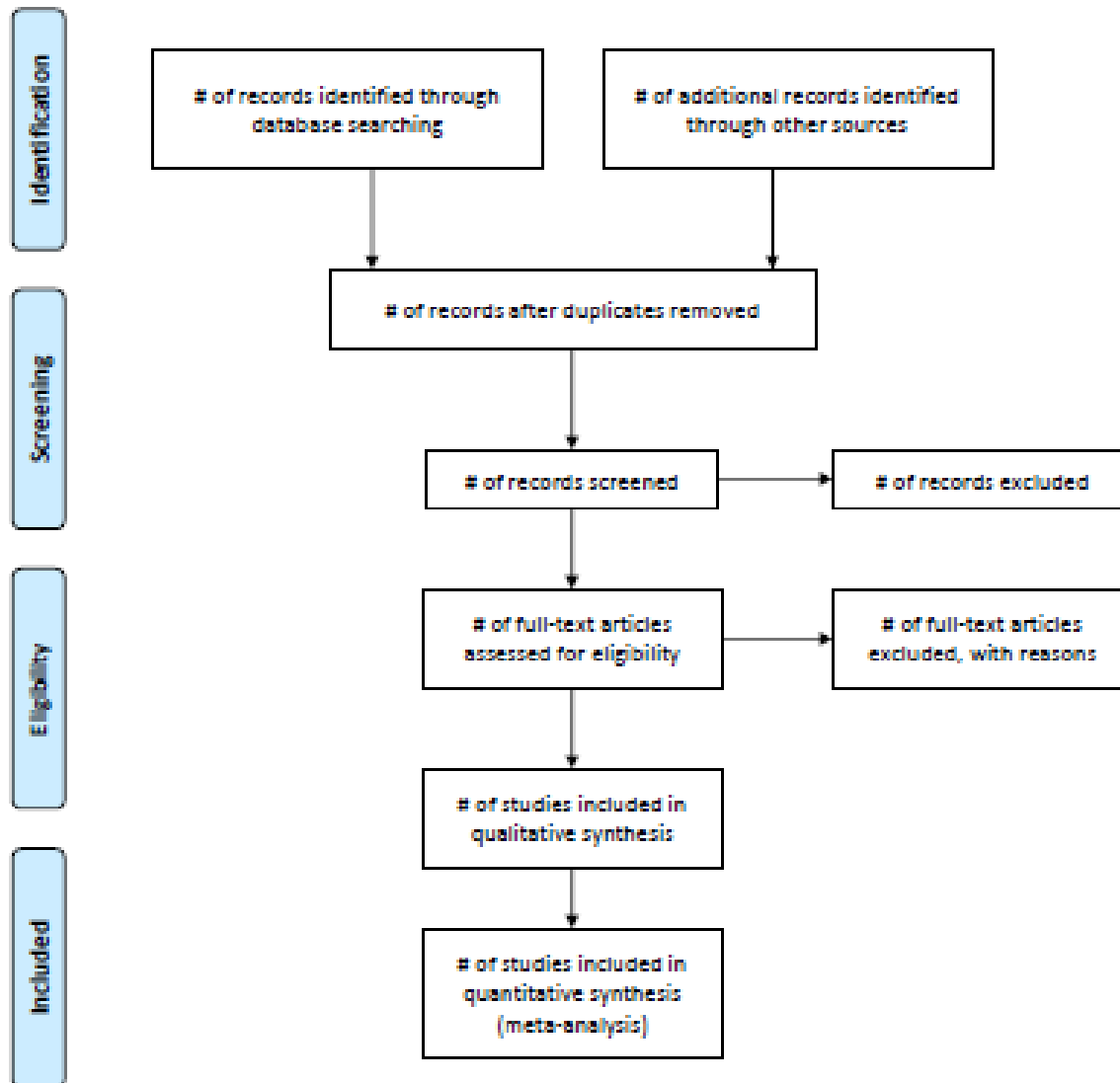
Methods

- ▶ Protocol and Registration
 - ▶ Search
 - ▶ Risk of bias in individual studies
- 


Results

- ▶ Study Selection
 - Is this clearly explained by the authors?
- ▶ Other pointers:
 - Be explicit
 - Are all the proposed hypotheses addressed?
 - Is statistical reporting complete and appropriate?


Example-Systematic Reviews



Discussion

- ▶ Item 24: Consider the relevance to key groups
 - Be specific, what should be done next?
 - ▶ Item 25: Limitations
 - Be honest, what can be tried next to improve?
 - ▶ Item 26: In the context of other evidence
 - Should be current, draw clear relationships
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Funding

- ▶ Other conflicts of Interest
 - ▶ What things about the author could change the way the reader interprets the information?
 - ▶ i.e. political affiliations
 - ▶ Not a problem, report at the get go!
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Future Steps

- ▶ www.ubcmj.com
- ▶ Submit by Oct 30th
- ▶ Write or review!
- ▶ Sign up today!
- ▶ (See the Daves 😊)

