

Searching for research evidence: An introduction for occupational therapists

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Using this tutorial



- This tutorial is designed to improve your understanding of searching for research evidence to inform your practice. In order to get the most from this tutorial, a number of practice exercises are suggested for you to work through.
 - As you are working through this package, you will need access to the Internet to access the various databases.
 - You may use this tutorial for providing continuing education to other staff if you wish, provided the source is acknowledged.
-

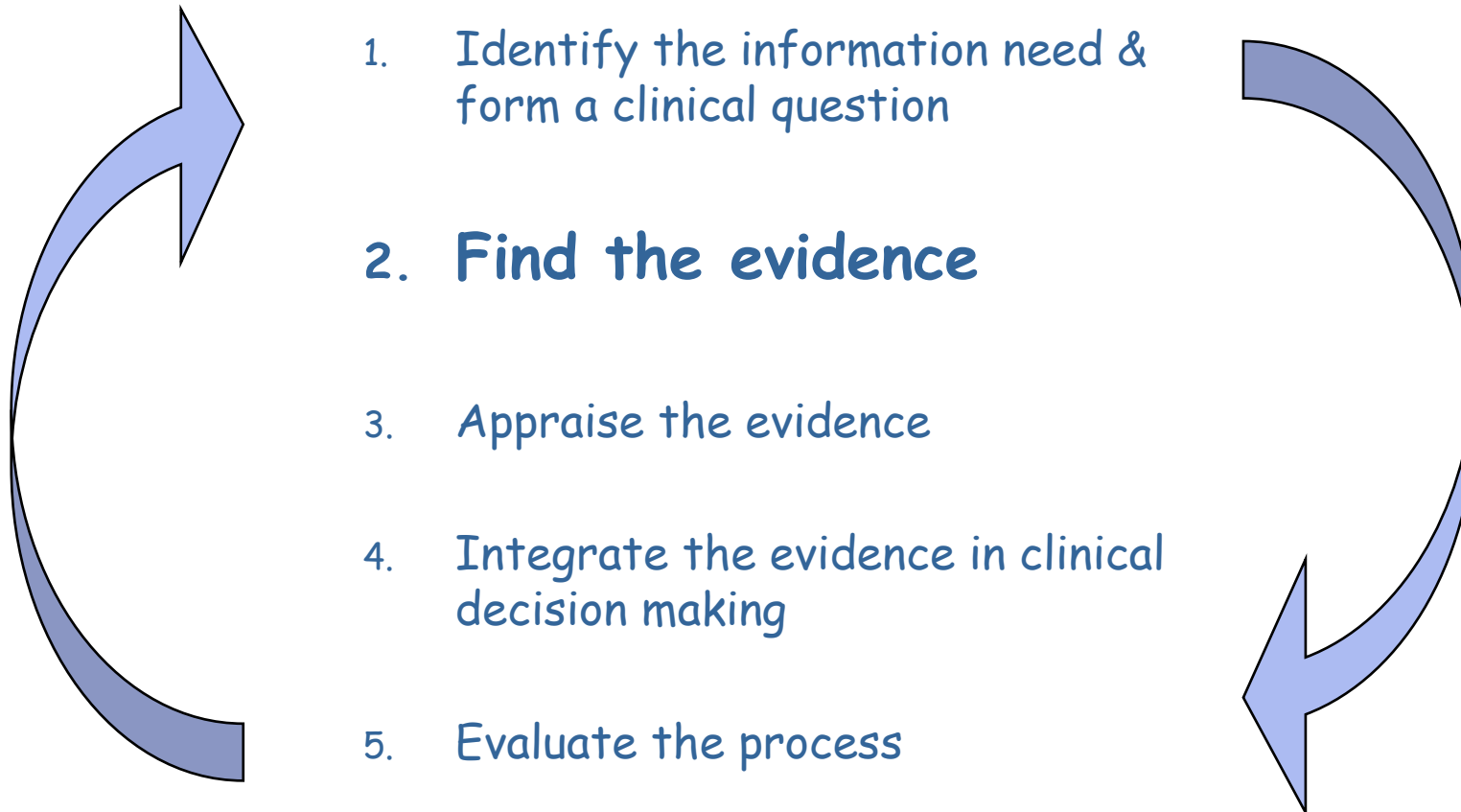
Evidence-based practice (EBP) is the *integration* of:

- clinical expertise
- with the best available external evidence from
- systematic research and
 - patients' preferences and goals



Sackett, D. L., Straus, S. E., Richardson, W. S.,
Rosenberg, W., & Haynes, R. B. (2000).
*Evidence based medicine: How to practice and teach
EBM* (2nd ed.). London: Churchill Livingstone.

EBP: The Process



Evidence-Based Medicine. A new approach to teaching the practice of medicine.
Evidence-based Medicine Working Group. JAMA. 1992;268:2420-2425.

Clinical Questions

- EBP is a problem-based approach
- Learning stems from our clinical information needs
- Form clinical questions based on these information needs



Which information needs can be informed by research?

- Some information needs are general knowledge or BACKGROUND questions eg. What is a Colles fracture?
 - Other information needs must be met by interaction with the client eg. Are any home modifications necessary?
 - Research can provide information about the management and experiences of clients.
-

Types of clinical questions

Many different types of information needs

Example:

Assessment: What is the most appropriate/accurate assessment ?

Prognosis: What is likely course of disease/disability?

Treatment: Which treatment is most effective?
Which preventive strategy is best to use?
What is the cost-effectiveness of treatments?

Experiences: What are patient experiences/concerns?

Etc...



- Form specific clinical questions based on these information needs
-

Information need example:

You want to know if there is evidence to support community based rehabilitation for people with brain injury.....

Forming a clinical question: (PICO)



- P A patient, population or problem being considered
- I An intervention, prognostic factor, assessment etc
- C A comparison intervention (if relevant)
- O An outcome or outcomes of interest

Sackett et al, 2000

Example: For people living in the community following brain injury does community based rehabilitation improve function compared with usual care?

Type of question?

→ Treatment

Finding research evidence to answer questions

1. What sort of research evidence do I look for?

2. How do I find research evidence?
 - a) How to form a search strategy
 - b) Which databases to use?



1. What sort of research evidence do I look for?



Different types of research provide 'best' answers for different types of questions:

EG:

- Treatment: Look for systematic reviews, randomised controlled trials, in some cases single-case experimental studies
- Patient experiences/concerns: Look for qualitative research
- Likely course of disease/disability: Look for cohort/ follow-up studies
- Cost-effectiveness: Look for economic studies comparing all outcomes against costs

Bennett JW, Glasziou P. Evidence-based practice: what does it really mean? *Disease Manage Health Outcomes* 1997; 1: 277-85.

Searching for evidence: Tips

- Aim to find clinical research evidence
- Aim to find papers using the best methods for a particular type of clinical question (not just randomised controlled trials!)
- Keep searching until the BEST AVAILABLE evidence is located



2. How do I find research evidence?

a) Forming a search strategy

1. Define your clinical question
2. Identify the key terms in your question (typically start the search using the 'P' and 'I' terms from your question)
3. List possible synonyms or related terms for those terms
- use **truncation** and **wildcards** to widen your search (see next page for more information)
4. Combine your search terms using the Boolean logical operators (use AND, OR to separate concepts & broaden or narrow your search)



Truncation & wildcards



- **Truncation symbol:** * (in most databases)
 - Is used to find alternative endings to a search term. To truncate is to substitute a symbol for the last part of a word. Truncation lets you search for words containing a common word root, with any number of characters following the root.
 - E.g. if you type in child*, the database will search for any word that starts with child but has any ending (usually up to 5 characters) such as child, children, childhood, child's, etc.
 - Very useful to use so that you don't miss articles that have used variations (or plural/singular) of the term that you're searching with

 - **Wildcard symbol:** either * or ? (depends on database - check the help function of each database before beginning searching)
 - The wildcard symbol is used to replace a letter or letters within a word. Usually, one wildcard symbol takes the place of one letter.
 - E.g. typing in orthop?edic will find both orthopaedic and orthopedic or typing in p?ediatric? will find paediatric, paediatrics, pediatric, pediatrics.
-

What to do if you get too many articles from your search?

- Use limits eg. publication type, year of publication
 - Narrow the question
 - Use the thesaurus. Select specific thesaurus subheadings (only in traditional databases)
 - Add in extra terms using 'AND' (for example, add in the 'O' term from your clinical question)
-

What to do if you don't get enough articles from your search?



- Broaden the question
 - Find other search terms from relevant records
 - Add in synonyms using 'OR'
 - Use 'explode' in thesaurus (only in traditional databases; explained later in package)
 - Use all subject headings in thesaurus
-

Other searching tips



- To search phrases (and keep words together), use double quotation marks "..." - e.g. "occupational therapy" will only search for these 2 words when grouped together, not occupational separately or therapy separately (which would give far too many hits)
 - In some databases, parentheses are used instead for searching phrases - e.g. (occupational therapy)
 - In some databases (traditional ones), the boolean operator 'NOT' can be used to exclude terms - e.g. female NOT male
-

Example:



Question: For people living in the community following brain injury does community based rehabilitation improve function compared with usual care?

Search terms (depending on the database being used):

(Brain Injur*) AND community AND rehabilitation

Searching for evidence: 2b. Which databases to search?



Select databases that:

- a) Are likely to contain research about your topic area AND
 - b) Are likely to contain the type of research you are looking for

 - c) There are some databases that have specialised content and/or already appraised the risk of bias in the research that may save you time. Examples are the Cochrane library, OTseeker, PEDro and PsycBITE which this tutorial describes later. They do not include all types of research however so you may need to look at the more 'traditional' databases such as MEDLINE or CINAHL etc.
-



Which databases to search?

Use of specialist databases

- ❑ Cochrane library (Health sciences content)
- ❑ OTseeker (www.otseeker.com) occupational therapy content
- ❑ PEDro (Physiotherapy)
- ❑ PsycBITE (Brain injury)

OR

Use of traditional databases (Contain all type of research)

- ❑ PubMed/MEDLINE
 - ❑ Embase
 - ❑ CINAHL
 - ❑ PsycINFO
 - ❑ ERIC
 - ❑ OTDBase (Occ Therapy)
-

Introducing databases



- The following slides provide information on some of the databases and how one might use them in relation to a clinical question.
 - You may find it useful to connect to the Internet and look at each of these databases as you work through this tutorial
-

Specialised databases



The first 4 are designed to facilitate EBP and provide research about treatment effectiveness.

1. OTseeker (SRs & RCTs)
 2. PEDro (SRs & RCTs)
 3. Cochrane (SRs)
 4. PsycBITE
 5. PubMed (has specialised search function called 'clinical queries')
-

OTseeker



- Access at www.otseeker.com
 - **OTseeker** is a database that contains bibliographic information and abstracts of systematic reviews (SRs) and randomised controlled trials (RCTs) relevant to occupational therapy.
 - Trials have been **critically appraised and rated** to assist you to evaluate their validity and interpretability.
 - Straight-forward searching options - can search by keyword (searches title and abstract) or from a range of drop-down menus (such as intervention or diagnosis)
 - Results are returned with SRs at the top and then RCTs, ranked by their internal validity score
 - Click on, or select, results to obtain more details about the article, its rating, and abstract (if available), etc
-

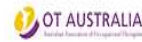


Occupational Therapy
Systematic
Evaluation of Evidence

Welcome to OTseeker

OTseeker is a database that contains abstracts of systematic reviews and randomised controlled trials relevant to occupational therapy. Trials have been critically appraised and rated to assist you to evaluate their validity and interpretability. These ratings will help you to judge the quality and usefulness of trials for informing clinical interventions. In one database, OTseeker provides you with fast and easy access to trials from a wide range of sources.

Search	Search the database. On the search page you will have the choice of doing a keyword and/or category search.
About	Read about the origin and development of the OTseeker database.
Questions	Find answers to questions such as 'How are the trials rated?' and 'How were the trials located?'
Resources	Learn about evidence-based practice and access power-point presentations, articles, and other resources.
Acknowledgments	See who has supported the development of OTseeker.
Contact	Find out how to contact us .
Links	Discover links to other sites about evidence - based practice.



Download an  brochure »

Download an OT Seeker Power Point Tutorial (2.4Mb)
(Right click Here and select 'Save Target As ...') »



Search

[Print Page](#) | [Refine Search](#) | [New Search](#)

Title	Method	Internal Validity Score (0 - 8)	Statistical Reporting Score (0 - 2)
<input type="checkbox"/> The efficacy of neurodevelopmental treatment in paediatrics: A systematic review	Systematic Review	N/A	N/A
<input type="checkbox"/> Evidence-based cognitive rehabilitation: recommendations for clinical practice	Systematic Review	N/A	N/A
<input type="checkbox"/> Early developmental intervention programs post hospital discharge to prevent motor and cognitive impairments in preterm infants	Systematic Review	N/A	N/A
<input type="checkbox"/> Community based rehabilitation after severe traumatic brain injury: a randomised controlled trial	Clinical Trial	6	2
<input type="checkbox"/> The effect of a scheduled telephone intervention on outcome after moderate to severe traumatic brain injury: a randomized trial	Clinical Trial	6	2
<input type="checkbox"/> Does intensive rehabilitation improve the functional outcome of patients with traumatic brain injury? Interim result of a randomized controlled trial	Clinical Trial	6	2
<input type="checkbox"/> The effect of aerobic training on rehabilitation outcomes after recent severe brain injury: A randomized controlled evaluation.	Clinical Trial	6	2
<input type="checkbox"/> Splinting the hand in the functional position after brain impairment: A randomized, controlled trial	Clinical Trial	6	2
<input type="checkbox"/> Does intensive rehabilitation improve the functional outcome of patients with traumatic brain injury (TBI)? A randomized controlled trial	Clinical Trial	5	2
<input type="checkbox"/> A randomised controlled trial to determine the effect of intensity of therapy upon length of stay in a neurological rehabilitation setting	Clinical Trial	5	2
<input type="checkbox"/> Cognitive rehabilitation for traumatic brain injury: A randomized trial	Clinical Trial	4	2
<input type="checkbox"/> The effects of increased rehabilitation therapy after brain injury: results of a prospective controlled trial	Clinical Trial	4	2
<input type="checkbox"/> A trial of neuropsychologic rehabilitation in mild-spectrum traumatic brain injury	Clinical Trial	4	2
<input type="checkbox"/> Brief mindfulness training for attentional problems after traumatic brain injury: A randomised control treatment trial	Clinical Trial	4	2
<input type="checkbox"/> A randomized controlled trial of the effects of intensive sit-to-stand training after recent traumatic brain injury on sit-to-stand performance	Clinical Trial	4	2
<input type="checkbox"/> Arm ability training for stroke and traumatic brain injury patients with mild arm paresis: A single-blind, randomized, controlled trial	Clinical Trial	4	2
<input type="checkbox"/> A randomized controlled trial of botulinum toxin on lower limb spasticity following acute acquired severe brain injury	Clinical Trial	4	2
<input type="checkbox"/> Efficacy of constraint-induced movement therapy for children with cerebral palsy with asymmetric motor impairment	Clinical Trial	4	2
<input type="checkbox"/> Training communication partners of people with traumatic brain injury: A randomised controlled trial	Clinical Trial	3	2
<input type="checkbox"/> Focused versus unstructured intervention for attention deficits after traumatic brain injury.	Clinical Trial	3	2

Result page: [Previous](#) [1](#) [2](#) [3](#) [4](#) [5](#) [Next](#)

Results 21 - 40 of 89.

[View Selected Articles](#) **0 articles selected** [Clear Selection](#)

Articles to send in email: All articles displayed on this page
 Selected articles only

Email address to send results to: [Send](#)

To perform a search, fill in the "Keywords" and/or other search criteria below, then select "Search". [Help with searching.](#)
Note: Not all search boxes need to be filled out.

Keywords: [Search](#)

Hint: Try using synonyms combined with OR to find more articles (eg. leisure OR recreation).

Author / Association:

Detailed Search Results

[Return to Search Page](#)

This trial has been rated according to reported aspects of its internal validity and interpretability. To make decisions about the application of the trial to clinical practice it is necessary to obtain and read the full article.

Community based rehabilitation after severe traumatic brain injury: a randomised controlled trial

J. Powell, J. Heslin and R. Greenwood (2002)

Journal Title: Journal of Neurology, Neurosurgery, & Psychiatry
Volume 72; Issue 2; Pages 193-202

Method: Clinical trial

Internal Validity Score: 6/8

Statistical Reporting Score: 2/2

- Random allocation: Yes
- Concealed allocation: Yes
- Baseline comparability: Yes
- Blind assessors: Yes
- Blind subjects: No
- Blind therapists: No
- Adequate follow-up: Yes
- Intention-to-treat analysis: Yes
- Between-group comparisons: Yes
- Point estimates and variability: Yes

Eligibility Criteria Specified: Yes

Rating Status: This rating has been confirmed.

Critical appraisal details

Abstract

OBJECTIVE: Evaluation of multidisciplinary community based outreach rehabilitation after severe traumatic brain injury (TBI). **METHODS:** A randomised controlled trial compared outreach treatment (mean of two sessions a week for 27.3 (SD 19.1) weeks) in community settings such as participants' homes, day centres, or workplaces, with provision of written information detailing alternative resources. Follow up for an average of 24.8 months after initial allocation was by a blinded independent assessor. Participants were aged 16-65, had sustained severe TBI between 3 months and 20 years previously, and had no other neurological conditions. Of 110 initially allocated, 48 outreach and 46 information participants were successfully followed up. Primary outcome measures (Barthel index (BI) and the brain injury community rehabilitation outcome-39 (BICRO-39)) focused on levels of activity and participation. Secondary measures were the functional independence measure and the functional assessment measure (FIM+FAM) and, in a subgroup of 46 participants, the hospital anxiety and depression scale. Analyses were non-parametric. **RESULTS:** outreach participants were significantly more likely to show gains on the BI and the BICRO-39 total score and self organisation and psychological wellbeing subscales. There were likewise strong trends ($p < 0.10$) for BICRO personal care and mobility, and on the FIM+FAM for personal care and cognitive functions. Differential improvements were not seen for indices of socializing, productive employment, anxiety, or depression. Median changes on individual subscales were small, reflecting the diversity of the clinical population; however, 40% of outreach but only 20% of information participants made a clinically significant improvement of 2+ points on at least one BICRO-39 scale. Time since injury was unrelated to the magnitude of gains. **CONCLUSIONS:** This is the first RCT of multidisciplinary community rehabilitation after severe TBI, and suggests that even years after injury it can yield benefits which outlive the active treatment period.

Full text of articles from this journal may be free to access 1 year following publication from Journal of Neurology, Neurosurgery, & Psychiatry's website. More information is available at jnnp.bmjournals.com

If this record is indexed on MEDLINE you may be able to obtain the full text of this article by visiting the [PubMed](#) web site.

Email format: Web Page (as shown above)

Tagged text format (suitable for importing into EndNote, etc)

Instructions for importing search results into reference management systems:

[Web page](#) (new window) or [Download Microsoft Word document](#)

Email address to send results to:

PEDro (Physiotherapy Evidence Database)



- Access at www.pedro.fhs.usyd.edu.au/
 - PEDro is a database that contains abstracts of systematic reviews and randomised controlled trials relevant to physiotherapy. Also contains clinical practice guidelines.
 - Trials have been **critically appraised and rated** to assist you to evaluate their validity and interpretability.
 - Similar searching options to OTseeker - can search by keyword (simple search) or on 'Advanced Search' page from a range of drop-down menus (such as problem or body part)
 - Results are returned with Practice guidelines at the top, then SRs, then RCTs
 - Click on, or select, results to obtain more details about the article, its rating, and abstract (if available), etc
-



Welcome to PEDro, an initiative of the Centre for Evidence-Based Physiotherapy (CEBP).

PEDro is the Physiotherapy Evidence Database. It has been developed to give rapid access to bibliographic details and abstracts of randomised controlled trials, systematic reviews and evidence-based clinical practice guidelines in physiotherapy. Most trials on the database have been rated for quality to help you quickly discriminate between trials which are likely to be valid and interpretable and those which are not.

You can search the PEDro database by clicking on the Search button above.

Download:

- [PEDro EndNote Filter](#)
- [PEDro Information Leaflet](#)



You are visitor number **2139262** to this site since 01/10/99
The database was last updated on 30 June 2008 (this includes records added or amended since 2 June 2008).
The next update is planned for Monday 4 July 2008. The total number of records on the database is 12,975.

Contact us at PEDro@george.org.au

Click on a title to view details of that record. If your search has returned many records you may need to click on "More Results" (at the bottom of the page). To display a list of records from one or a series of searches, click on "Select" and then "Display Selected Records" (at the bottom of the page).

Title	Method	Score (/10)	Select Record
Clinical practice guidelines for the care of people living with traumatic brain injury in the community [with systematic review]	practice guideline	N/A	Select
Clinical practice guidelines for the care of people living with traumatic brain injury in the community: summary of key points [quick reference guide for clinicians]	practice guideline	N/A	Select
Multi-disciplinary rehabilitation for acquired brain injury in adults of working age (Cochrane review) [with consumer summary]	systematic review	N/A	Select
Twelve weeks of nightly stretch does not reduce thumb web-space contractures in people with a neurological condition: a randomised controlled trial	clinical trial	8/10	Select
Community based rehabilitation after severe traumatic brain injury: a randomised controlled trial	clinical trial	8/10	Select
The effects of increased rehabilitation therapy after brain injury: results of a prospective controlled trial [with consumer summary]	clinical trial	6/10	Select
A multidisciplinary TBI inpatient rehabilitation programme for active duty service members as part of a randomized clinical trial	clinical trial	1/10	Select

[display selected records](#)

[continue searching](#)

[new search](#)

[new simple search](#)

If you know of a randomised controlled trial or systematic review that is not indexed on PEDro, please click [here](#)

Cochrane Collaboration



The Cochrane Collaboration is an international organisation that aims to help people make well-informed decisions about healthcare by preparing, maintaining and promoting the accessibility of systematic reviews of the effects of healthcare interventions

The Cochrane library contains a number of resources, such as:

- The Cochrane Database of Systematic Reviews
(This is the main database that contains full text systematic reviews)
 - Database of Abstracts of Reviews of Effectiveness (DARE) -
Abstracts of systematic reviews
 - The Cochrane Controlled Trials Register - RCTs & controlled trials
 - The Cochrane Methodology Register
-

When to use Cochrane library



- For questions of treatment/intervention effectiveness:
 - What is the effectiveness of treatment x?
 - What is the effective treatment of y?
 - Is z effective in treating y?
 - Is x better than z at treating y?

Although reviews are now being added about diagnostic tests....

BROWSE

Cochrane Reviews: [By Topic](#) | [New Reviews](#) | [Updated Reviews](#) | [A-Z](#) | [By Review Group](#)


Other Resources: [Other Reviews](#) | [Clinical Trials](#) | [Methods Studies](#) | [Technology Assessments](#) | [Economic Evaluations](#)

[More Info](#)

SEARCH

brain injury AND comr Title, Abstract or Keywords

[Advanced Search](#) | [MeSH Search](#) | [Search History](#) | [Saved Searches](#)



Welcome to The Cochrane Library

The Cochrane Library contains high-quality, independent evidence to inform healthcare decision-making. It includes reliable evidence from Cochrane and other systematic reviews, clinical trials, and more. Cochrane reviews bring you the combined results of the world's best medical research studies, and are recognised as the gold standard in evidence-based health care.

More About The Cochrane Library

[What are Systematic Reviews & Protocols?](#) | [Product Descriptions](#) | [About the CD-ROM](#)

Notice to all users: This site will be undergoing scheduled system maintenance for approximately 4 hours from 0900 EDT/1400 BST, July 5th 2008. Every effort will be made to minimize the downtime period. We apologize for any inconvenience caused.

Help! New Users Start Here

As a new user we recommend you use the following resources to help you navigate through the evidence and get the most out of The Cochrane Library. [More](#)

For Clinicians

As a clinician you are under constant pressure to have high-quality, up-to-date evidence at your fingertips. [More](#)

For Researchers

The internet has given us instant access to a huge amount of research, but the large volume of available information is a problem in itself. [More](#)

For Patients

Healthcare consumers and patients need high-quality evidence about the effectiveness of treatments. [More](#)

For Policy Makers

As a policy maker or healthcare manager you are a generalist in search of high-quality information across a broad range of issues. [More](#)

What's New in Issue 2, 2008?

[2007 Impact Factor \(PDF\)](#)
[Important changes to The Cochrane Library \(PDF\)](#)
[Highlights of new and updated Reviews \(PDF\)](#)
[Most Accessed Reviews 2007 \(PDF\)](#)

[Antioxidant supplements for prevention of mortality in healthy participants and patients with various diseases](#)
[Anti-histamines for prolonged non-specific cough in children](#)
[Exercise for the management of cancer-related fatigue in adults](#)
[Effect of timing of umbilical cord clamping of term infants on maternal and neonatal outcomes](#)
[Dopamine agonist therapy in early Parkinson's disease](#)
[House dust mite control measures for asthma](#)
[Interventions for enhancing medication adherence](#)
[Cognitive-behavioural interventions for preventing youth gang involvement for children and young people \(7-16\)](#)
[Interventions for treating wrist fractures in children](#)
[Physical activity and enhanced fitness to improve cognitive function in older people without known cognitive impairment](#)
[Short-course versus long-course antibiotic therapy for non-severe community-acquired pneumonia in children aged 2 months to 59 months](#)

[Protocols for Cochrane Reviews of Diagnostic Test Accuracy](#)

[New Reviews](#) | [Updated Reviews](#) | [Press Room](#) | [Podcasts](#)

Release Notes

16 April: Changes with Issue 2, 2008... [More](#)

Access to The Cochrane Library

The Cochrane Library is available online through Wiley InterScience.

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Podcasts from
The Cochrane Library
Evidence for healthcare decision-making

Search Results

Show Results in:

Cochrane Reviews [7] | [Other Reviews \[10\]](#) | [Clinical Trials \[220\]](#) | [Methods Studies \[1\]](#) | [Technology Assessments \[5\]](#) | [Economic Evaluations \[20\]](#) | [Cochrane Groups \[0\]](#)

There are 7 results out of 5320 records for: "brain injury and rehabilitation in Title, Abstract or Keywords in Cochrane Database of Systematic Reviews"

[Save Search](#)
[Edit Search](#)

View: 1-7

[Export All Results](#)

Record Information

Restrict to: [Reviews](#) | [Protocols](#) Sort by: [Record Title](#) | [Match %](#) | [Year](#)

- | | |
|--------------------------|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> | <p>Multi-disciplinary rehabilitation for acquired brain injury in adults of working age
 L Turner-Stokes, PB Disler, A Nair, DT Wade
 Year: 2005
 Record Review</p> |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | <p>Sensory stimulation for brain injured individuals in coma or vegetative state
 F Lombardi, M Taricco, A De Tanti, E Telaro, A Liberati
 Year: 2002
 Record Review</p> |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | <p>Pharmacological management for agitation and aggression in people with acquired brain injury
 S Fleming, RJ Greenwood, DL Oliver
 Year: 2008
 Record Review</p> |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | <p>Speech and language therapy for dysarthria due to non-progressive brain damage
 C Sellars, T Hughes, P Langhorne
 Year: 2005
 Record Review</p> |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | <p>Monoaminergic agonists for acute traumatic brain injury
 RJ Forsyth, B Jayamani, TC Paine
 Year: 2006
 Record Review</p> |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | <p>Non-pharmacological interventions for perceptual disorders following stroke and other adult, acquired, non-progressive brain injury
 A Bowen, P Knapp, D Gillespie, A Vail
 Year: 2008
 Record New Protocol</p> |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | <p>Vocational rehabilitation for acquired brain injury in adults
 A Nair, L Turner-Stokes, A Tyerman
 Year: 2006
 Record Protocol</p> |

[Select All](#) (to export citations)

[Export Selected Citations](#) [Export All Results](#)

View: 1-7

PsycBITE



Psychological Database for Brain Impairment Treatment
Efficacy www.psycbite.com

Contains research about interventions:

- Systematic reviews
 - RCT's
 - Non RCT's
 - Case series
 - Single Subject Designs
-



PsycBITE™

Psychological Database For Brain Impairment Treatment Efficacy

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Welcome to PsycBITE™ Psychological Database for Brain Impairment Treatment Efficacy

PsycBITE™ is a database that catalogues studies of cognitive, behavioural and other treatments for psychological problems and issues occurring as a consequence of acquired brain impairment (ABI). The types of studies contained on this database are Systematic Reviews, Randomised Controlled Trials (RCT), Non-Randomised Controlled Trials (non-RCT), Case Series (CS), and Single-Case Experimental Designs (SCED).

These studies are rated for their methodological quality, evaluating various aspects of scientific rigour. For a detailed discussion of the process of rating the studies see [Rating](#).

This website gives you access, free of charge, to the PsycBITE™ database, thus enabling you to search for relevant articles.

[SEARCH](#)

[Search the database](#)

[READ](#)

[Read more about PsycBITE™](#)



Not looking for RCTs or systematic reviews
or want to look more broadly ??



Use of traditional databases (Contain all type of research)

- ❑ PubMed/MEDLINE
 - ❑ Embase,
 - ❑ CINAHL,
 - ❑ PsycINFO
 - ❑ ERIC
 - ❑ OTDBase(Occ Therapy)
-

Pubmed - some hints...



- At <http://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/sites/entrez>
 - Includes over 18 million citations from MEDLINE and other articles. PubMed includes links to full text articles and other related resources.
 - Using * and " " turns the intelligent search tool off
 - Use () to group terms
 - **Clinical Queries** - most useful EBP feature in Pubmed (access from menu on left side of screen; see screen shot on next page)
-

- About Entrez
- Text Version
- Entrez PubMed
- Overview
- Help
- FAQ
- Tutorials
- New/Noteworthy
- E-Utilities
- PubMed Services
 - Journals Database
 - MeSH Database
 - Single Citation Matcher
 - Batch Citation Matcher
 - Clinical Queries
 - Special Queries
 - LinkOut
 - My NCBI
- Related Resources
 - Order Documents
 - NLM Mobile
 - NLM Gateway
 - TOXNET
 - Consumer Health
 - Clinical Alerts
 - ClinicalTrials.gov
 - PubMed Central
- Privacy Policy

This page provides the following specialized PubMed searches for clinicians:

- Search by Clinical Study Category
- Find Systematic Reviews
- Medical Genetics Searches

After running one of these searches, you may further refine your results using PubMed's [Limits](#) feature.

Results of searches on these pages are limited to specific clinical research areas. For comprehensive searches, use [PubMed](#) directly.

Search by Clinical Study Category

This search finds citations that correspond to a specific clinical study category. The search may be either broad and sensitive or narrow and specific. The search filters are based on the work of [Haynes RB et al.](#) See the [filter table](#) for details.

Search

- | Category | Scope |
|--|--|
| <input type="radio"/> etiology | <input checked="" type="radio"/> narrow, specific search |
| <input type="radio"/> diagnosis | <input type="radio"/> broad, sensitive search |
| <input type="radio"/> therapy | |
| <input checked="" type="radio"/> prognosis | |
| <input type="radio"/> clinical prediction guides | |

Find Systematic Reviews

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

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

Search

Medical Genetics Searches

This search finds citations and abstracts related to various topics in medical genetics. See the [filter table](#) for details.

Search

- Category
- All
 - Diagnosis
 - Differential Diagnosis
 - Clinical Description
 - Management
 - Genetic Counseling
 - Molecular Genetics
 - Genetic Testing

Pubmed Clinical Queries



- **Therapy** - The therapy filter will retrieve clinical studies that discuss treatment/intervention
 - **Diagnosis** - The diagnosis filter will retrieve clinical studies addressing diagnosis
 - **Etiology/Aetiology** - The etiology filter will retrieve clinical studies addressing causation/harm in disease and diagnostics
 - **Prognosis** - The prognosis filter will retrieve clinical studies addressing prognosis
-

Example:



- You are working in a neurological rehabilitation unit with patients who have had head injuries. One of your patients is a 22 year old chef who sustained a moderate head injury after a motor vehicle accident. He had a very brief period of post traumatic amnesia and now complains of head and neck pain. He has a number of fractures to his right arm and leg. He wants to know how likely it is that he could return to his work.
-

Constructing your search



1. Determine the question

What factors predict return to work for patients with moderate head injury?

2. Type of question? - Prognosis (therefore look for cohort studies)

3. Identify the key concepts or terms

What factors predict return to work for patients with moderate head injury?

4. Synonyms and related terms

returning to work, returning to the workplace,
traumatic brain injury, TBI, head injuries, acquired brain injuries

5. Combine search

return to work **AND** head injury

Which database?



- Can't use OTseeker, PEDro, or Cochrane as clinical question is about prognosis, not treatment effectiveness
 - **Must use a traditional databases**
PubMed/MEDLINE, CINAHL, Embase, ERIC, or PsychINFO
 - Try 'clinical queries' function in PubMed
-

http://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/sites/entrez?term=Clinical=%28return%20to%20work%29%20AND%20%28brain%20injury%29&precision=specificity&strat...

All Databases PubMed Nucleotide Protein Genome Structure OMIM PMC Journals Books

Search PubMed for ((return to work) AND (brain injury)) AND (prognos* Go Clear Advanced Search (beta) Save Search

Limits Preview/Index History Clipboard Details

Display Summary Show 20 Sort By Send to

All: 22 Review: 2

Items 1 - 20 of 22

- 1: [Lachapelle J, Bolduc-Teasdale J, Ptito A, McKerral M.](#)
Deficits in complex visual information processing after mild TBI: electrophysiological markers and vocational outcome prognosis.
Brain Inj. 2008 Mar;22(3):265-74.
PMID: 18297598 [PubMed - in process]
- 2: [Sveen U, Mongs M, Røe C, Sandvik L, Bautz-Holter E.](#)
Self-rated competency in activities predicts functioning and participation one year after traumatic brain injury.
Clin Rehabil. 2008 Jan;22(1):45-55.
PMID: 18089663 [PubMed - indexed for MEDLINE]
- 3: [Stulemeijer M, van der Werf SP, Borm GF, Vos PE.](#)
Early prediction of favorable recovery six-months after mild traumatic brain injury.
J Neurol Neurosurg Psychiatry. 2007 Oct 19. [Epub ahead of print]
PMID: 17951281 [PubMed - as supplied by publisher]
- 4: [Holtslag HR, Post MW, van der Werken C, Lindeman E.](#)
Return to work after major trauma.
Clin Rehabil. 2007 Apr;21(4):373-83.
PMID: 17613579 [PubMed - indexed for MEDLINE]
- 5: [Wang MC, Temkin NR, Deyo RA, Jurkovich GJ, Barber J, Dikmen S.](#)
Timing of surgery after multisystem injury with traumatic brain injury: effect on neuropsychological and functional outcome.
J Trauma. 2007 May;62(5):1250-8.
PMID: 17495732 [PubMed - indexed for MEDLINE]
- 6: [Deutsch PM, Kendall SL, Daninirsch C, Cimino-Ferguson S, McCollom P.](#)
Vocational outcomes after brain injury in a patient population evaluated for Life Care Plan reliability.
NeuroRehabilitation. 2006;21(4):305-14.
PMID: 17361047 [PubMed - indexed for MEDLINE]
- 7: [Guérin F, Kennepohl S, Léveillé G, Dominique A, McKerral M.](#)
Vocational outcome indicators in atypically recovering mild TBI: a post-intervention study.
NeuroRehabilitation. 2006;21(4):295-303.
PMID: 17361046 [PubMed - indexed for MEDLINE]
- 8: [Walker WC, Marwitz JH, Kreutzer JS, Hart T, Novack TA.](#)
Occupational categories and return to work after traumatic brain injury: a multicenter study.
Arch Phys Med Rehabil. 2006 Dec;87(12):1576-82.
PMID: 17141636 [PubMed - indexed for MEDLINE]
- 9: [Chamelian L, Feinstein A.](#)
Outcome after mild to moderate traumatic brain injury: the role of dizziness.
Arch Phys Med Rehabil. 2004 Oct;85(10):1662-6.
PMID: 15468028 [PubMed - indexed for MEDLINE]
- 10: [Stranjalis G, Korfiatis S, Papapetrou C, Kouyialis A, Boviatisis E, Psachoulia C, Sakas DE.](#)
Elevated serum S-100B protein as a predictor of failure to short-term return to work or activities after mild head injury.

What about qualitative research??

Example:

What are the perceptions of people who receive educational interventions following a spinal cord injury?

This is a question about a client's experiences:

Look for qualitative research evidence.

Search terms:

perceptions AND (spinal cord injury) AND patient education

Could try CINAHL database

Results for: patient education AND spinal cord injury AND ... Show key terms added Add search to folder Display link to search Create alert for this search

Find: patient education in Select a Field (optional) Search Clear
and spinal cord injury in Select a Field (optional)
and perceptions in Select a Field (optional) Add Row
in: CINAHL

(Searching: CINAHL)

Folder is empty.

All Results: 1.4 of 4 Page: 1

Sort by: Date Add (1-4)

See: All Results Periodicals

1. Perceptions of issues associated with the maintenance and improvement of long-term health in people with SCI. (includes abstract); Manns PJ; May LA *Spinal Cord*, 2007 Jun; 45 (6): 411-9 (journal article - research) ISSN: 1362-4393 PMID: 17003772 CINAHL AN: 2009602454

PDF Full Text



Add

2. Perceptions of patient education in spinal cord injury rehabilitation. (includes abstract); May L; Day R; Warren S *Disability & Rehabilitation*, 2006 Sep 15; 28 (17): 1041-9 (journal article - research, tables/charts) ISSN: 0963-8288 PMID: 16950734 CINAHL AN: 2009314247

Cited References (35)

PDF Full Text



Add

3. Perceptions of pressure ulcers among young men with a spinal injury. (includes abstract); Gibson L *British Journal of Community Nursing*, 2002 Sep; 7 (9): 451-2, 454-6, 458-[60] (journal article - research) ISSN: 1462-4753 PMID: 12362141 CINAHL AN: 2002170732

Cited References (41)

Get it at UQ Library

Add

4. Evaluation of a videotape: orientation of patients to rehabilitation. (includes abstract); Alexiewich D *SCI Nursing*, 1990 Jun; 7 (2): 31-3 (journal article - research) ISSN: 0888-8299 PMID: 1695021 CINAHL AN: 1990111879

Get it at UQ Library

Add

All Results: 1.4 of 4 Page: 1

Add (1-4)

Challenges of finding qualitative research



- May need to search across multiple databases: CINAHL, MEDLINE, PsychInfo, EMBASE etc
- Need to redesign search for each database
- Use thesaurus terms, free text and broad-based searches

Shaw et al, (2004). Finding qualitative research: an evaluation of search strategies
BMC Medical Research Methodology, 4:5 doi:10.1186/1471-2288-4-5

- Best multiple term strategy with optimization of sensitivity and specificity in MEDLINE = interview:mp. OR experience:mp. OR qualitative.tw.

Wong S., Wilczynski, N., & Haynes, R.B. (2004). Developing Optimal Search Strategies for Detecting Clinically Relevant Qualitative Studies in MEDLINE. MEDINFO 2004. 11(Pt 1):311-6.

Finding free, full text journals



- Many online journals offer full-text articles either immediately or after a specified time period. The following 3 sites list journals with some to full free text access.
 - Free Medical Journals
<http://www.freemedicaljournals.com>
 - Directory of Open Access Journals
<http://www.doaj.org>
 - BMC Journals
<http://www.biomedcentral.com/browse/journals/>
-

Other important resources...



- Critically appraised papers:
 - www.OTCATS.com
 - The Australian Occupational Therapy Journal
 - OT Now (Canadian Association of Occupational Therapy)
 - American Occupational Therapy Association's "Evidence Brief" Series

- Evidence Based Medicine Journal series

- Clinical Evidence

- EBP resource: www.otevidence.com

- Centre for Allied health Evidence
 - <http://www.unisa.edu.au/cahe/default.asp>

