RAPID CRITICAL APPRAISAL OF A LITERATURE REVIEW

PROJECT DESCRIPTION/LEVEL OF STUDY

Project title: 

Date: 

Reviewer(s) name(s): 

PICOT Question: 

Article citation (APA): 

Indicate the level of the study you are appraising:

Recommendation for article inclusion in the body of evidence to answer your question:

GENERAL DESCRIPTION OF LITERATURE REVIEW

OVERVIEW

1. Purpose of article: 

2. Summary of article: 

QUALITY OF LITERATURE REVIEW

VALIDITY: Are the results of this study valid?

1. Was the literature review conducted in a systematic way? □ Yes □ No □ Unknown

2. Did the literature review address a focused clinical question? □ Yes □ No □ Unknown
   • What was the focused clinical question?

3. Was the search for relevant literature detailed and exhaustive? □ Yes □ No □ Unknown
   • Was it unlikely that important, relevant studies were missed? □ Yes □ No

4. Was the date range of the cited literature current? □ Yes □ No □ Unknown
   Unknown
   • What date ranges were included? _____ to _____
     o If older literature was included, why was it included?

5. What were the levels of the literature that were included? □ Yes □ No □ Unknown
   • Meta-Analysis __________
   • Systematic Review __________
   • Randomized Controlled Trial __________
   • Controlled Clinical Trial __________
   • Cohort/Case Control __________
   • Systematic Review of Descriptive Study __________
   • Systematic Review of Qualitative Study __________
   • Single Descriptive Study __________
   • Single Qualitative Study __________
   • Expert Opinion __________
6. Was criteria used to select articles for inclusion? □ Yes □ No □ Unknown
   - What were the criteria for inclusion?

7. Were populations in the included studies comparable and appropriate? □ Yes □ No □ Unknown

8. Were the measurements of the interventions and outcomes in the included studies comparable and appropriate? □ Yes □ No □ Unknown

9. Was there freedom from conflict of interest? □ Yes □ No □ Unknown
   - Sponsor/funding agency
   - Investigators

RELIABILITY: Is the summary of this literature review important?

10. Were the results of the literature reviewed summarized? □ Yes □ No □ Unknown

11. Were the results in the literature reviewed consistent across all of the studies? □ Yes □ No □ Unknown

12. Were adverse events discussed? □ Yes □ No □ Unknown
13. Were recommendations made based on the literature review?  

![Checkboxes: Yes, No, Unknown]

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14. Can the results be applied to my population of interest?  

- Is the treatment feasible in my care setting?  
  - Yes  
  - No  

- Do the outcomes apply to my population of interest?  
  - Yes  
  - No  

- Are the likely benefits worth the potential harm and costs?  
  - Yes  
  - No  

- Were the subjects/participants in this study/article similar to my population of interest?  
  - Yes  
  - No  

- Were all clinically important outcomes considered?  
  - Yes  
  - No

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15. Will you include the article/study in your practice decision to make a difference in outcomes?  

- Yes  
- No  
- Unknown  

- If yes, why would you do this & how would you do this?  
- If no, why would you not include the results to make a difference?

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### STRENGTH OF STUDY

**Level of study/article:** I, II, III, IV, V, VI, VII  
(Circle one)

**Quality of study/article:** High | Medium | Low  
(Circle one)

**STRENGTH = LEVEL + QUALITY**

What is the strength of the study/article?

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What is your recommendation for article inclusion in the body of evidence to answer your question?  

- Include this article in the body of evidence (place article on evaluation & synthesis tables)  
- Do NOT include this article in the body of evidence

**Additional Comments:**