WHAT WORKS?
Exploring Clinical Effectiveness Research in PubMed Health

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About me and the NNLM:

• Graduate work at the Universities of Pennsylvania and Washington, in public health and demography (and later, librarianship!)

• 10 years as epidemiologist in assessment unit at Public Health-Seattle & King County

• 8 years as medical librarian at what’s now Kaiser Permanente-Washington, at The Seattle Public Library, and now at the University of Washington in the NNLM

• NNLM= 8 regional offices, serve as outreach arms/branches of the National Library of Medicine
Today’s presentation

• What is PubMed Health?
• (And how is it different than PubMed?)
• Finding systematic reviews
• Filtering by methods
• Consumer health focus
• Search tips
• Further exploration
What is PubMed Health?
Overview of PubMed Health (PMH)

• Specializes in reviews of clinical effectiveness research
• Based on systematic reviews (SRs) of clinical trials
• Summaries and full texts of selected SRs in one place
• Includes a methods resources collection with best stats techniques for SRs and effectiveness research
• Has extensive links and resources for consumers; includes easy-to-read summaries such as plain language summaries from Cochrane
How is it different than PubMed?

- It is in effect a subset of PubMed (some small exceptions)
- It includes content only from selected providers and partners that focus on clinical effectiveness
- It has a different search strategy as a result
- Its content is curated
- Some of its content starts in PMH and moves to PubMed
- It has amazing filters that PubMed does not
- It has links to content for consumers that PubMed does not
- It has an excellent glossary
Sections to browse:

• Health A-Z – the PubMed Health glossary and more
• For Researchers
• What’s New
• What is Clinical Effectiveness Research?
• What is a Systematic Review?
• Finding Systematic Reviews at PubMed Health and PubMed
• Understanding Research Results – free books
• Blog
Finding SRs

NOTE: The results are sorted by relevance, not date! This result set does have a 2017 result and other recent ones.
Filtering for methods resources

About - Age-Related Macular Degeneration (Macular degeneration)

A slow breakdown of cells in the center of the retina (the light-sensitive layers of nerve tissue at the back of the eye). This blocks vision in the center of the eye and can cause problems with activities such as reading and driving.

Results: 12

- Evaluation of Biomarkers and Surrogate Endpoints in Chronic Disease
  - Many people naturally assume that the claims made for foods and nutritional supplements have the same degree of scientific grounding as those for medication, National Academies Press (US).
  - Version: 2010
  - Show search results within this document

- Use of Mixed Treatment Comparisons in Systematic Reviews [Internet]
  - To summarize publicly available guidance for, and current use of, meta-analytic methods for mixed treatment comparison (MTC) evidence synthesis; to identify Methods Research Reports - Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality (US).
Age-Related Macular Degeneration (AMD) (Macular degeneration)

A slow breakdown of cells in the center of the retina (the light-sensitive layers of nerve tissue at the back of the eye). This blocks vision in the center of the eye and can cause problems with activities such as reading and driving.

About the Macula of the Eye

About Age-Related Macular Degeneration

AMD is a common eye condition and a leading cause of vision loss among people age 50 and older. It causes damage to the macula, a small spot near the center of the retina and the part of the eye needed for sharp, central vision, which lets us see objects that are straight ahead.

In some people, AMD advances so slowly that vision loss does not occur for a long time. In others, the disease progresses faster and may lead to a loss of vision in one or both eyes. As AMD progresses, a blurred area near the center of vision is a common symptom. Over time, the blurred area may grow larger or you may develop blank spots in your central vision. Objects also may not appear to be as bright as they used to be.

AMD by itself does not lead to complete blindness, with no ability to see. However, the loss of central vision in AMD can interfere with simple everyday activities, such as the ability to see faces, drive, read, write, or do close work, such as cooking or fixing things around the house. ... Read more about Age-Related Macular Degeneration
Search tips

• Use the filters on the left
• Try to narrow your search terms (“diabetes” will give you 3500+ results—there are A LOT of SRs out there!)
• Check out the glossary for better terms to use, especially for methods
• If you have an SR from a PubMed search, enter it in PMH so you can get additional links in the record
Improvements coming…

• More focus on educational resources
• Enhanced presence on social media (check out their FB and Twitter presence, and also the blog linked from the home page)
• New partnerships being added (CDC and WHO)
• Better functionality with NCBI accounts
Further exploration

• Check out the “What’s New” page!
• Familiarize yourself with the content providers
• Understand how to use the “Systematic Review Methods Filter” directly in PubMed:
  • Use this search string in PubMed's search box:
    • sysrev_methods [sb]
  • You can combine it with other search terms, for example:
    • sysrev_methods [sb] AND meta-analysis
• Use the link provided to set up PMH and PubMed alerts (and a MyNCBI account!)
Questions? Contact me!

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