Mini–Symposium on

Systematic reviews and metaanalyses – opportunities and challenges

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Synopsis

In the recent 20 years we have observed enormous increase in the number of studies published as systematic reviews or metaanalyses.

According to the Cochrane Handbook „Systematic reviews seek to collate evidence that fits pre-specified eligibility criteria in order to answer a specific research question. They aim to minimize bias by using explicit, systematic methods documented in advance with a protocol”. Systematic reviews may use meta-analysis - a statistical technique - to analyse and summarise the results of the studies. However many of the studies published as systematic reviews do not meet basic quality criteria. During mini-symposium we would like to discuss not only the principles of systematic reviews, but also quality criteria for systematic review and provide overview of the assessment of the quality of studies published as systematic reviews. We would like to discuss opportunities and challenges faced by those working on systematic reviews.

New, more sophisticated and more complex methods for producing pooled estimates from several studies are being developed and used, such as for example network metaanalysis, which enables comparisons between more than two interventions using both direct and indirect comparisons. We would like to discuss the opportunities and challenges faced by the authors working on network metaanalyses, which has gained a lot of popularity in recent years.