

Item 30b: Discussion - Limitations of evidence

Discuss any limitations of the evidence included in the review.

<b>Title</b>	1	Title
<b>Abstract</b>	2	See tip sheets for Abstracts
<b>Summary</b>	3	Plain language summary
<b>Open Science</b>	4	Registration and protocol <i>a. Registration information</i> <i>b. Accession of protocol</i> <i>c. Protocol amendments</i>
	5	Support
	6	Competing interests
	7	Availability of data and other materials
<b>Introduction</b>	8	Rationale
	9	Objectives
<b>Methods</b>	10	Followed guidelines
	11	Eligibility criteria
	12	Information sources
	13	Search strategy
	14	Selection process
	15	Data collection process
	16	Data items
	17	Study risk of bias assessment
	18	Measurement properties
	19	Synthesis methods <i>a. Eligibility processes</i> <i>b. Methods for synthesis</i> <i>c. Causes of inconsistency</i> <i>d. Sensitivity analyses</i>
	20	Certainty assessment
<b>Results</b>	21	Formulating recommendations
	22	Study selection <i>a. Results of search and selection</i> <i>b. Excluded reports with reasons</i>
	23	OMI characteristics <i>a. Characteristics of OMIs</i> <i>b. Interpretability aspects of OMIs</i> <i>c. Feasibility aspects of OMIs</i>
	24	Study characteristics
	25	Risk of bias in studies
	26	Results of individual studies
	27	Results of syntheses <i>a. Results of syntheses conducted</i> <i>b. Results of causes of inconsistency</i> <i>c. Results of sensitivity analyses</i>
	28	Certainty of evidence
	29	Recommendations
<b>Discussion</b>	<b>30</b>	<b>Discussion</b> <i>a. Interpretation of results</i> <b><i>b. Limitations of evidence</i></b> <i>c. Limitations of review processes</i> <i>d. Implications</i>

**Tips for reporting this item:**

- Discuss any limitations of the evidence included in the review.

**Examples:**

*“Also for other measurement properties, information was sometimes reported poorly or unclear. Thus, as a team, we had to make decisions on how to value the information.”*

Elsman EBM et al. Systematic review on the measurement properties of diabetes-specific patient-reported outcome measures (PROMs) for measuring physical functioning in people with type 2 diabetes. *BMJ Open Diabetes Res. Care*, 2022;10(3):e002729. <https://doi.org/10.1136/bmidrc-2021-002729>.

*“There were a number of limitations in the studies reviewed. First, the number of studies examining self-report measures of exercise designed to be used within an eating disorder population is small. Only 12 studies were found that met inclusion criteria. In addition, this number was not distributed evenly between the tests, with only three studies examining the EED. Results pertaining to the quality of the CET and EED should therefore be interpreted with caution. Second, sample sizes varied significantly in the included studies. Some studies had small sample sizes and did therefore not meet the recommended criteria of 10 participants per item or more than 1000 participants for factor analysis.”*

Harris A et al. Psychometric properties of instruments assessing exercise in patients with eating disorders: a systematic review. *J. Eat. Disord.*, 2020;8:1-14. <https://doi.org/10.1186/s40337-020-00315-2>.

*“One of the main limitations [of the included studies] is represented by the fact that the included studies were only a few, very heterogeneous, with small samples and considerable differences in the age range; moreover, studies lacked in reporting the complete characteristics of the patients (as for example, the Gross Motor Function Classification System data), which are suggested to be described in future papers in order to allow the assessment of external validity of the findings”*

Pizzinato A et al. Detection and assessment of postoperative pain in children with cognitive impairment: A systematic literature review and meta-analysis. *Eur J Pain*, 2022;26(5):965-979. <https://doi.org/10.1002/eip.1936>.

From: Elsman EBM, Mokkink LB, Terwee CB, Beaton D, Gagnier JJ, Tricco AC, et al. Guideline for reporting systematic reviews of outcome measurement instruments (OMIs): PRISMA-COSMIN for OMIs 2024. *J Clin Epidemiol*, 2024. <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.jclinepi.2024.111422>.

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