



# Poor quality in systematic reviews on PTSD and EMDR

Examination of search methodology and reporting

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**Poor Quality in Systematic Reviews on PTSD and EMDR – An Examination of Search Methodology and Reporting**

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**Background:** Different user groups regard systematic reviews as reliable sources for answering research questions. For systematic reviews to fulfill their purpose, the methodological quality in all stages are of importance. The studies included in a systematic search form the basis of the review, thus the search process is important for both performing and reporting the search. The purpose of this study was to evaluate the quality of non-Cochrane systematic reviews on how they perform and report the search. This is exemplified by systematic reviews on eye movement desensitization and reprocessing (EMDR), a trauma-focused therapy commonly used for post-traumatic stress disorder (PTSD).

**Methods and Results:** We examined the method chapters of 20 systematic reviews on the subject, and rated their searches and reporting using relevant elements from the Cochrane Handbook and PRISMA. We found inadequacies in the methods for searching and reporting the search strategy, which could have been avoided by greater adherence to guiding documents for performing systematic reviews.

**Conclusion:** Our findings raise important questions for future debate on conducting systematic reviews, thus impairing the conclusions in a systematic review. For this purpose, researchers should investigate if, and how, the search strategy in a systematic review affects the body of knowledge and the results.

**Keywords:** systematic reviews, Cochrane handbook, PRISMA, search methodology, critical appraisal

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Grunn til å  
være skeptisk?



Kilde: Arcompany.co

## Mål og metode - 1

- Evaluere kvalitet på systematiske oversiktsartikler (Non-Cochrane) gjennom å analysere hvordan søk utføres og rapporteres.
  - Eksemplifisert gjennom PTSD og EMDR (2010 – 2017)
- Kritisk vurdering sjekklister for oversiktsartikler

3. Er det sannsynlig at alle viktige og relevante studier ble funnet?  JA  UKLART  NEI

Tips:  
Se etter:

- hvilke databaser og eventuelle søkemotorer forfatterne søkte i, og hvordan de søkte i dem (søkestrategi)
- om de søkte etter ikke-publiserte studier (i f.eks. Trials.gov)
- om det var noen vesentlige begrensninger med hensyn til språk eller tid (hvis kun studier på engelsk er tatt med, kan det gi skjevhet)

- Cochrane Handbook (søkemetode)
- PRISMA guidelins (dokumentasjon av søk)

## Mål og metode - 2

- Cochrane handbook (søk)
  - Minimum: Central, Medline, Embase
  - Fagspesifikke databaser: PsycInfo, PILOTS
  - Emneord
- PRISMA (rapportering)
  - Tittel
  - Databasenavn og databasevert, tidsperiode, dato siste søk
  - Supplerende teknikker
  - Søkestrategi
  - Flytdiagram
- Kontekst



Cochrane Handbook (searching)									PRISMA				
Forfatter:	År:	Central	Medlin	Embas	Psycln	Pilots	Emneord	Sum:	Titt	Informati	Db	Prov	t
Chen, L	2015	1	1	0	0	0	0	2	2	1	1	0	
Chen, Y.R.	2014	1	1	1	1	0	1	5	4	1	1	0	
Cusack, K	2016	1	1	1	1	1	1	6	5	1	1	0	
Ehring, T	2014	1	1	0	1	1	0	4	4	1	1	0	
Erford, B. T.	2016	0	1	0	1	0	0	2	2	1	1	0	
Goodson, J.	2011	0	1	0	1	1	0	3	3	1	1	0	
Haagen, J. F.	2015	0	1	1	1	1	0	4	4	1	1	1	
Haugen, P.T.	2012	1	1	1	1	1	0	5	5	1	1	0	
Ho, M	2012	0	1	0	1	0	0	2	2	0	1	1	
Jong, K.	2014	0	1	0	1	0	0	2	2	1	1	0	
Lapp, L. K.	2010	0	1	0	0	1	0	2	2	0	1	0	
Lenz, A. S.	2017	0	0	0	1	0	0	1	1	1	1	0	
Mello, P.	2013	0	1	1	0	0	0	2	2	0	1	0	
Stergiopoulc	2011	0	1	1	1	0	1	4	3	1	1	0	
Swan, S	2017	0	1	1	1	0	0	3	3	1	1	0	
Thomaes, K	2014	1	1	1	1	1	1	6	5	1	1	0	
Torchalla, I.	2017	1	1	1	1	1	0	5	5	1	1	0	
Tribe, R.H.	2017	0	1	0	1	1	0	3	3	1	1	1	
Watts, B. V.	2013	1	1	0	1	1	0	4	4	1	1	0	
Zantvoord, J.	2013	1	1	1	1	1	0	5	5	1	1	0	
Antall:		9	19	10	17	11	4			17	20	3	

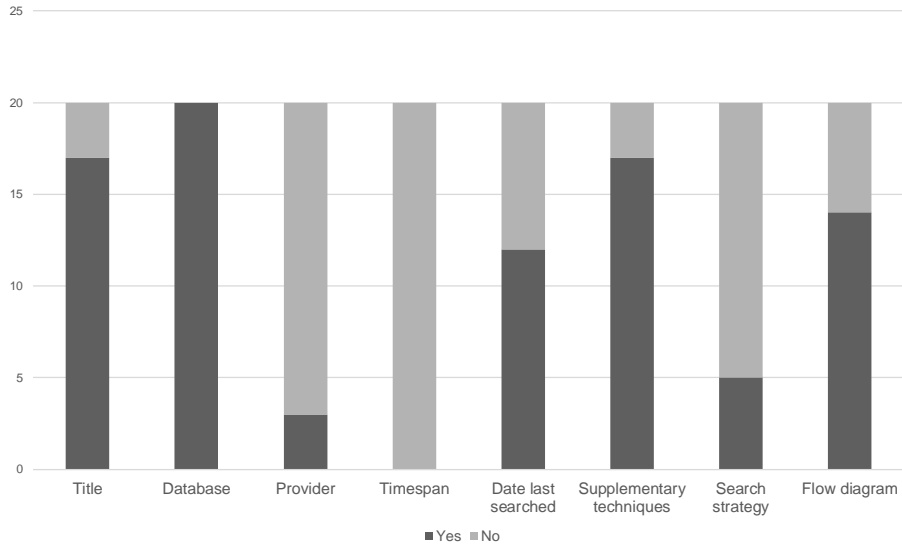
## Søkemetode

1 point	1 SR	50%
2 points	6 SRs	
3 points	3 SRs	
4 points	4 SRs	40%
5 points	4 SRs	
6 points	2 SR	10%

*SR, systematic review. Higher score indicate better search characteristics.*



# Rapportering av søk PRISMA



## Grunn til å være skeptisk?



## Gode råd for søk og rapportering av søk



Kilde: riksantikvaren.no

- Identifiser eksisterende, relevante systematiske oversikter for å unngå overflødig arbeid
- Snakk med erfarne bibliotekarer
- Gjør deg kjent med sentrale ressurser på søkemetode
- Les nøye og følg PRISMA-anbefalinger

## Referanser:

- Opheim, E., Andersen, P. N., Jakobsen, M., Aasen, B. & Kvaal, K. (2019). Poor quality in systematic reviews on PTSD and EMDR - An examination of search methodology and reporting. *Frontiers in Psychology*, 10(JULY). DOI: 10.3389/fpsyg.2019.01558
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