



“Strengthening **confidence** in the use of **evidence** for decision-making in **National immunization programs** in latin america through a methodological approach to the **evaluation of systematic reviews**”

“Towards informed decisions in trusted evidence in Latin America: quality and risk of bias in systematic reviews about vaccines”

 **Huaman Karen**, Caballero Patricia, Obregon Cristian, Anaya Elizabeth, Reyes Nora
National Institute of Health, Lima -Peru

The Problem

Over the last few years, systematic reviews (SR) have contributed to decision-making and, as a consequence, generate confidence in decision-makers and policy makers. Ensuring the validity and methodological rigor of SRs is essential given that the degree of quality and the presence of risk of bias could have a direct impact on the analysis of findings and estimates of vaccines’ effects. Currently, there are tools such as AMSTAR 2 and ROBIS for evaluating methodological rigor and risk of bias in SR, omission of their use in the critical assessment can represent a potential risk in the analysis and therefore in evidence-based decision making. Their application contributes to improvements in the National Immunization Programs' performance, trust and benefit.

Objectives

To assess the quality and risk of bias in SR about vaccines included in the national immunization programs of Latin American countries using AMSTAR 2 and ROBIS.

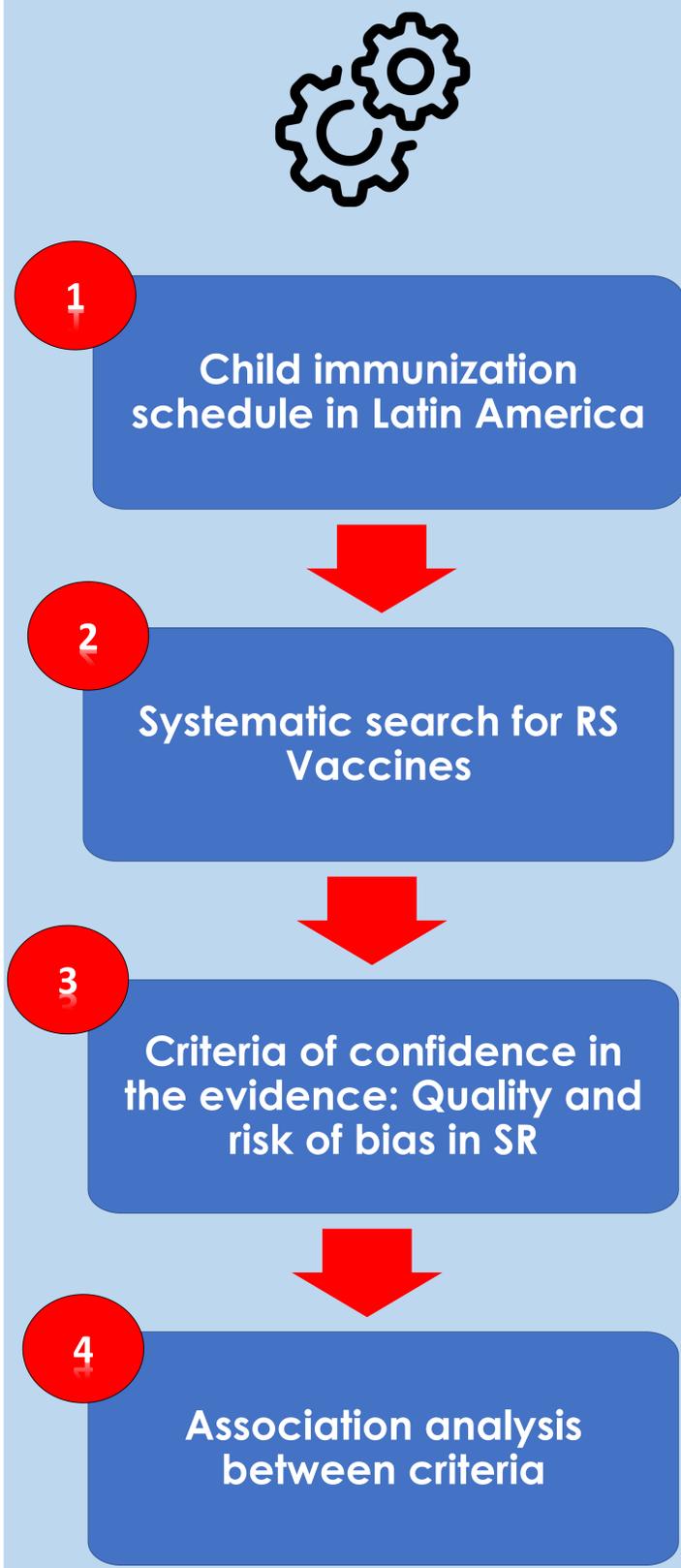
Methods

First phase (initial recognition): we will identify basic and complementary vaccines for the infant population in 20 Latin American countries, registered in the World Health Organization (WHO) immunization surveillance system up to October 2018. We will not consider vaccines used in outbreak situations or for comorbidities.

Second phase (systematic search): we will develop search strategies in MEDLINE (PubMed), Embase (Ovid), the Cochrane Library and LILACS databases. We will select all SR on efficacy, effectiveness and safety of vaccines.

Third phase (methodological rigor): quality and risk of bias will be evaluated by two paired and blinded reviewers with different levels of experience (high level and low level) using AMSTAR 2 and ROBIS.

Fourth phase (association analysis): we will evaluate the statistical association between quality and the risk of bias, as well as the inter-rater reliability assessment for each tool.



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