Influential factors on physicians’ perspectives about medical sources of information: An overview of systematic reviews

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The Problem

Despite growing availability of evidence and sources of information, it is not clear which are physicians’ preferences for filling gaps in their medical knowledge. Our objective is to summarize the available evidence about physicians’ preferences and perceived barriers and facilitators about medical information sources.

Methods

- We undertook an overview of systematic reviews (SR) according to PRISMA guidelines.
- We searched Epistemonikos, PROSPERO and Scopus from inception until March 2019.
- Inclusion criteria considered SRs (qualitative, quantitative or mixed methods).
- Two authors independently screened and selected records for inclusion.
- We appraised the quality of included SRs using the Joanna Briggs Institute checklist, and the overlap of primary studies according to the corrected covered area formula.
- We conducted a narrative synthesis of quantitative data and a thematic analysis of qualitative findings.

Key Results

Our initial search strategy yielded 4776 unique references, from which four SRs were finally included. Overall quality assessment was 81% and overlap was 0.64% (details on appendix).

Thematic analysis

- **Facilitators**: curiosity and uncertainty, emotions related with patient care, professional responsibilities and development and EBM training

Quantitative results

- Internet (15/18), journals (14/18) and textbook (13/18) are the most reported sources.
- From 57 studies, principal barriers identified were the lack of time (62.4%), followed by lack of skills and knowledge, (55%).

APPENDIX

- Fig 1. PRISMA flowchart
- Tab 1. JBI checklist
- Tab 2. Identified barriers

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