

Searching for systematic reviews: Can Epistemonikos replace The Cochrane Library?

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Background



- Launched 1996 ⁽¹⁾
- Cochrane Database of Systematic Reviews (CDSR)
- Database of Abstracts of Reviews of Effects (DARE)
- Health Technology Assessment Database (HTA)



- Launched 2012 ⁽²⁾
- Aims to be a one-stop-shop for systematic reviews
- Regular searches in 26 sources including CDSR, DARE, HTA ⁽³⁾

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Combines **the best of Evidence-Based Health Care** and **information technologies** to provide a unique tool for people making decisions concerning clinical or health-policy questions.

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Epistemonikos foundation is a not for profit organization based in Santiago, Chile, and Epistemonikos database follows its policies. **All the content and features of Epistemonikos database are available for free.**

Big hairy goal

To aggregate
all the relevant
health evidence
(for decision-
making) into a
single database



Search strategies

Electronic databases

Epistemonikos was developed and is maintained by systematically searching the following databases for systematic reviews, broad synthesis or structured summaries:

1. Cochrane database of systematic reviews (CDSR)
2. Database of Abstracts of Reviews of Effectiveness (DARE)
3. HTA Database
4. PubMed
5. LILACS
6. CINAHL
7. PsychINFO.
8. EMBASE.
9. EPPI-Centre Evidence Library
10. CADTH Rx for Change
11. 3ie Systematic Reviews and Policy Briefs
12. Campbell Library
13. SURE policy briefs
14. Clinical Evidence.
15. European Observatory on Health Systems and Policies
16. DFID
17. SUPPORT Summaries
18. WHO Institutional Repository for Information Sharing
19. NICE public health guidelines and systematic reviews
20. Guide to Community Preventive Services
21. McMaster Plus KT+
22. McMaster Health Forum
23. ACP Journal Club.
24. Evidencias en Pediatría
25. Chinese Journal of Evidence Based Medicine
26. The JBI Database of Systematic Reviews and Implementation Reports

Objective

To investigate whether Epistemonikos can replace The Cochrane Library when searching for systematic reviews (SR), by comparing the results of similar search strategies in both sources

Methods

Searches on 57 topics performed in Cochrane and Epistemonikos using similar strategies



(CDSR, DARE, HTA)



Results exported to EndNote



Identification of internal duplicates, overlap, unique hits, and unique relevant hits

2016_033	
01 CL – rådata	(88)
02 Epi – rådata	(175)
03 CL – interndubletter	(1)
04 Epi – interndubletter	(1)
05 CL – alle	(87)
06 Epi – alle	(174)
07 Alle	(261)
08 Dubletter	(42)
09 CL – unike	(66)
10 Epi – unike	(153)
11 CL – unike relevante	(1)
12 Epi – unike relevante	(12)

Each SR counted only once

Original
systematic review

Acceptance-based interventions for the treatment of chronic pain:
A systematic review and meta-analysis

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ABSTRACT

Acceptance-based interventions such as mindfulness-based stress reduction program and acceptance and commitment therapy are alternative therapies for cognitive behavioral therapy for treating chronic pain patients. To assess the effects of acceptance-based interventions on patients with chronic pain, we conducted a systematic review and meta-analysis of controlled and noncontrolled studies reporting effects on mental and physical health of pain patients. All studies were rated for quality. Primary outcome measures were pain intensity and depression. Secondary outcomes were anxiety, physical wellbeing, and quality of life. Twenty-two studies (9 randomized controlled studies, 5 clinical controlled studies, 1 with-

Structured summary
of that systematic
review

Acceptance-based interventions for the treatment of chronic
pain: a systematic review and meta-analysis (Provisional
abstract)

Centre for Reviews and Dissemination

Database of Abstracts of Reviews of Effects 2015 Issue 2

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Original article: Veehof MM, Oskam MJ, Schreurs KM, Bohlmeijer ET. Acceptance-based interventions for the treatment of chronic pain: a systematic review and meta-analysis. *Pain*. 2011;152(3):533-542. [Links](#)

Internal duplicates and overlap



■ Systematic Review

Acceptance-based interventions for the treatment of chronic pain: a systematic review and meta-analysis.

YEAR » 2011

AUTHORS » Veehof MM , Oskam MJ , Schreurs KM , Bohlmeijer ET

JOURNAL » Pain

LINKS » Pubmed , DOI

OVERLAP

Acceptance-based interventions for the treatment of chronic pain: a systematic review and meta-analysis (Provisional abstract)

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Database of Abstracts of Reviews of Effects 2015 Issue 2
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Original article:Veehof MM, Oskam MJ, Schreurs KM, Bohlmeijer ET. Acceptance-based interventions for the treatment of chronic pain: a systematic review and meta-analysis. *Pain* 2011;152(3):533-542. [Links](#)

■ Structured Summary of Systematic Reviews

Acceptance-based interventions for the treatment of chronic pain: a systematic review and meta-analysis

YEAR » 2011

AUTHORS » Veehof MM , Oskam MJ , Schreurs KM , Bohlmeijer ET

JOURNAL » Database of Abstracts of Reviews of Effects (DARE)

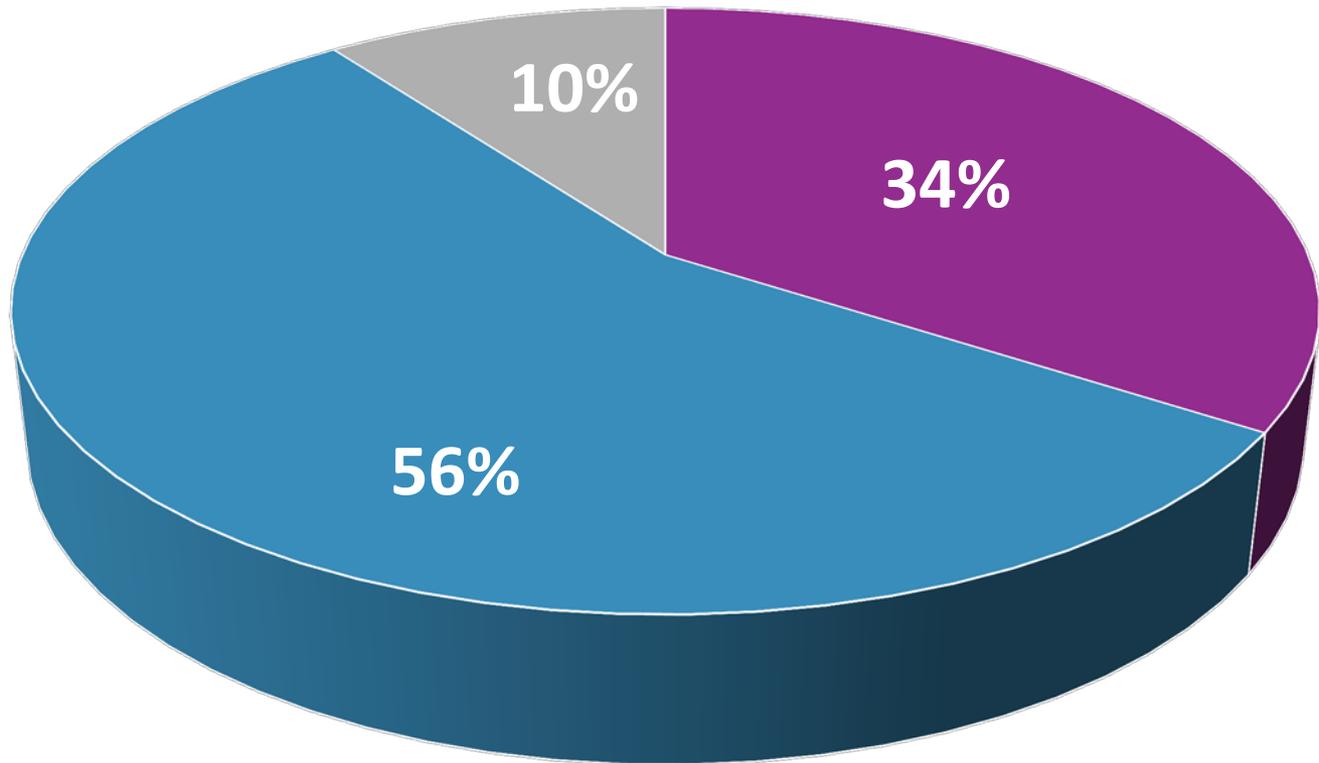
LINKS » Database of Abstracts of Reviews of Effects (DARE)

INTERNAL DUPLICATE

RESULTS

Total hits: 5081

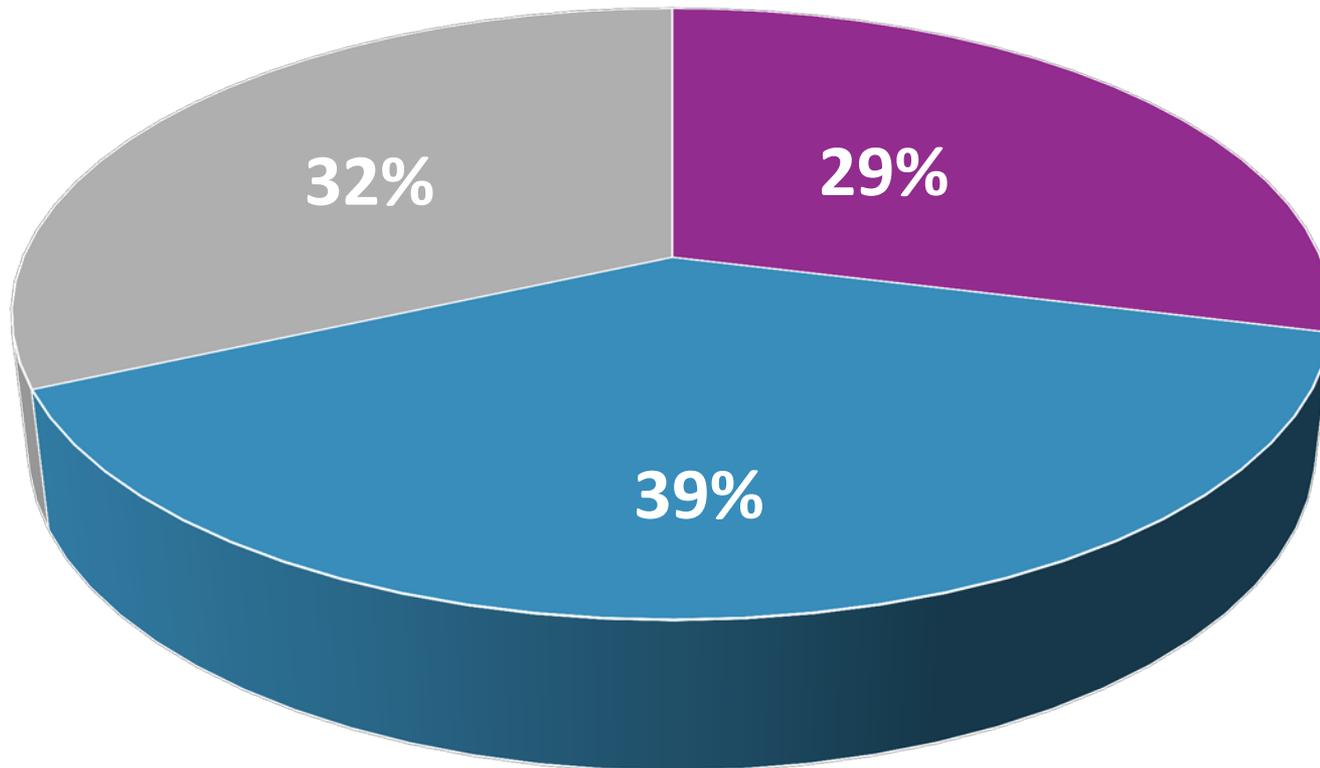
(internal duplicates removed)



■ Unique Cochrane ■ Unique Epistemonikos ■ Overlap

Relevant hits: 626

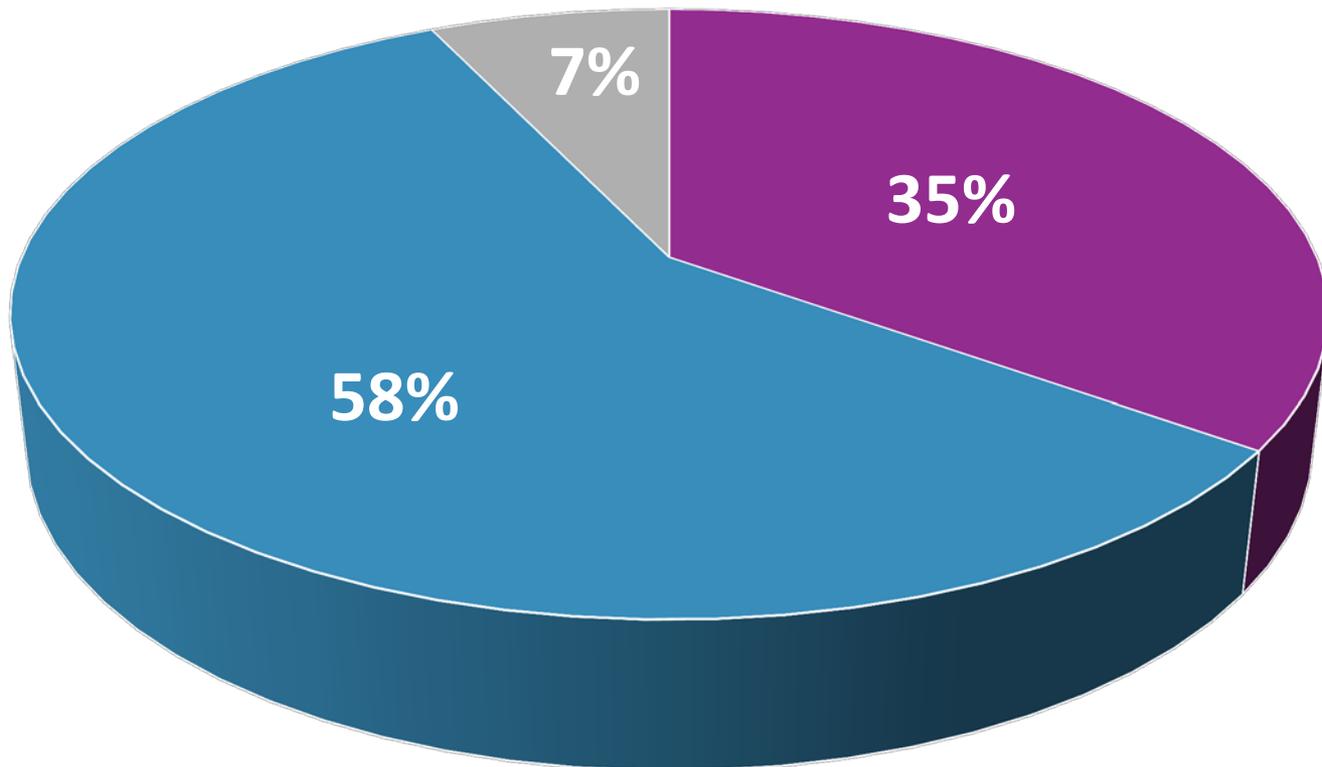
(internal duplicates removed)



■ Relevant unique Cochrane ■ Relevant unique Epistemonikos ■ Overlap

Irrelevant hits: 4455

(internal duplicates removed)



■ Irrelevant unique Cochrane ■ Irrelevant unique Epistemonikos ■ Overlap

Discussion

- Results in accordance with other studies ^(4,5)
- More irrelevant hits in Epistemonikos due to
 - more literature on questions other than effect?
 - limited search functionalities?
- The unique hits in Cochrane Library
 - were they not in Epistemonikos at all?
 - or did our strategies not find them?

Conclusion

For all of our searches we found unique hits in both sources.

Based on that we conclude that Epistemonikos cannot replace the Cochrane Library when searching for systematic reviews.

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