

Latest Reviews...

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MORE RESEARCH NEEDED!

The Cochrane Library and other sources regularly publish new reviews, some of which highlight the lack of good quality studies on which to base recommendations. This is a good starting point for identifying a new area of research. The second step is to find out what else has been published. If you would like a literature search on any of these topics please contact the Library Service on ext 3831.

Adrenocortical dysfunction in liver disease: A systematic review

The mechanisms by which liver disease leads to adrenal dysfunction are not sufficiently documented. The review evaluates published data regarding adrenal function in patients with liver disease, with particular focus on the potential limitations of these studies, and suggestions for future studies.

<http://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pubmed/22234976>

Effects of Arthroscopic Partial Meniscectomy on Quadriceps Strength: A Systematic Review

Homogeneous effect sizes indicate quadriceps weakness in the involved limb. Effects were strong at less than 1 month ($d = -1.01$ to -1.62), while weak to strong effects were found between 1-3 months ($d = -.40$ to -8.04), and 3-6 months ($d = -.40$ to -5.11). Weak effects were found at greater than 6 months ($d = -.30$ to $.37$). Definitive effects with a CI not crossing zero were found in 65% of the data. Although APM patients return to function within weeks following surgery, prolonged quadriceps strength deficits may increase the risk of knee joint degeneration. Furthermore, evidence of bilateral dysfunction following unilateral injury may suggest neuromuscular deficits post APM are greater than the inter-limb differences found in this review. Further research should

be conducted to determine the nature of strength deficits and the best methods for restoring strength following APM.

<http://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pubmed/22234935>

Using Whole-Body Vibration Training in Patients Affected with Common Neurological Diseases: A Systematic Literature Review.

There is moderate evidence that one session of WBV has positive effects on strength, whereas there is a weak level of evidence that WBV could improve proprioception and health-related quality of life measures in neurological patients. With respect to long-term effects of WBV, there is minor evidence from the studies with the best methodological quality that WBV improves strength, proprioception, gait, and balance. Further research on the intervention is strongly needed.

<http://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pubmed/22233167>

Preoperative muscle weakness as defined by handgrip strength and postoperative outcomes: a systematic review.

Impaired preoperative handgrip strength may be associated with poorer postoperative outcomes, but further work exploring its predictive power is warranted using prospectively acquired, objectively defined measures of postoperative morbidity.

<http://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pubmed/22251661>

Paediatric cardiac rehabilitation in congenital heart disease: a systematic review.

Cardiac Rehabilitation Programmes in the paediatric population are greatly underutilised, and clinical research on this promising form of therapy has been limited. Questions remain regarding the optimal structure and efficacy of the programmes. The complex needs of this unique population also mandate that additional outcome measures, beyond serial cardiopulmonary exercise testing, be identified and studied.

<http://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pubmed/22251378>

The prognostic value of elevated vascular endothelial growth factor in patients with osteosarcoma: a meta-analysis and systemic review.

The prognostic significance of VEGF expression in all its isoforms is still unknown based on the limited data available, but we find VEGF165 may play an important role. Future studies should examine the relationship between VEGF isoform expression and patients' survival and the relationship between VEGF isoform expression and EMMPRIN expression, which could be helpful for predicting the prognosis of patients with osteosarcoma. Once the conclusion of whether the VEGF and its isoforms playing a role in osteosarcoma were reached, it would help guide clinical decision-making regarding therapy and outcomes. In addition, we recommend a >25% positive staining of the cells as a VEGF-positive cut-off value in immunohistochemistry, since we find a relatively strict detecting method is likely to yield significant result in the 5-year survival of patients.

<http://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pubmed/22274866>

Evaluating Outcomes Associated with Alternative Dosing Strategies for Piperacillin/Tazobactam: A Qualitative Systematic Review

The limited evidence available does not

firmly support widespread adoption of administering piperacillin/tazobactam as prolonged intermittent or continuous infusions to improve clinical outcomes despite the achievement of higher pharmacodynamic targets in simulated studies. Retrospective studies indicate that critical care patients are the subgroup most likely to benefit from these dosing strategies. Well-designed prospective clinical trials are required to confirm potential benefits observed in retrospective studies.

<http://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pubmed/22274145>

Pharmacological interventions in the treatment of the acute effects of Cannabis: a systematic review of literature.

Although scarce, the evidence on pharmacological interventions for the management of cannabis intoxication suggests that propranolol and rimonabant are the most effective compounds currently available to treat the physiological and subjective effects of the drug. Further studies are necessary to establish the real effectiveness of these two medications, as well as the effectiveness of other candidate compounds to counteract the effects of cannabis intoxication, such as cannabidiol and flumazenil.

<http://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pubmed/22273390>

Quality of Life, Fertility Concerns, and Behavioral Health Outcomes in Younger Breast Cancer Survivors: A Systematic Review.

Younger women with breast cancer were found to experience distinct psychosocial and menopause-related concerns, weight gain, and physical inactivity. A need for more longitudinal research, including efforts at intervention to manage these symptoms and adverse health outcomes, remains.

<http://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pubmed/22271773>