TOOLS FOR ASSESSING CLINICIANS’ KNOWLEDGE IN PAIN MANAGEMENT: A SYSTEMATIC LITERATURE REVIEW

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INTRODUCTION / AIM

Despite a growing comprehensive understanding of the multifactorial nature of Chronic pain (CP), research continues to demonstrate a high prevalence of inadequately managed CP patients. Lack of knowledge and inadequate attitudes among clinicians appear to be reasons behind this stalled knowledge translation. As a result, many efforts are now directed to provide knowledge to clinicians managing CP. However, all these efforts will not have any significant benefits, unless there is a clear view regarding baseline knowledge level, and knowledge deficits regarding CP. This study aims to systematically review the literature addressing the question: How valid and reliable are the existing questionnaires used to assess clinicians’ knowledge in CP and its practices?

METHODS

Electronic database: EMBASE, Medline, PubMed supp., CINAHL and HAPI were searched from inception to July 2015. Reference lists were also screened. The COSMIN checklist was used to evaluate the psychometric properties of these questionnaires.

RESULTS

Fifteen questionnaires used to assess knowledge, attitude and behavior were retrieved. Questionnaires varied widely in their characteristics in terms of targeted population, settings, focus and length of administration. All questionnaires lacked well-established concepts and a clear framework of the various stages of scale development. Blueprints for each questionnaire were not clearly declared. Additionally, the majority of existing questionnaires were not subjected to adequate reliability/validity testing. No "gold standard' tool was found.

DISCUSSION / CONCLUSIONS

This paucity in knowledge questionnaire for CP demonstrates a clear need for the development of a new valid questionnaire to assess knowledge among clinicians involved in CP management.