

LEVELS OF THE EVIDENCE PYRAMID

Systematic Reviews, Meta-Analysis of Randomized Control Trials, Evidence-Based Clinical Practice Guidelines use a quantitative process to analyze original research studies to answer a specific question. The process minimizes bias by using a standardized tool to analyze the strength of the research.



1

Randomized Control Trials are original research designed to answer specific questions where participants are randomized to an experimental intervention group or a control group.



2

Controlled Trials without Randomization are designed to answer research questions where the participants are not randomized but are placed in various intervention groups with the intention to determine the effects of the studied interventions.



3

Cohort Studies follow a group of people over a period of time. The groups are defined by a specific attribute of interest for the study, such as a diagnosis of Huntington's Disease. The researchers follow this group over a period of time to examine any changes in specific areas of interest. A **case control study** will compare two people, one with a certain condition and the other without to assess differences between the two individuals in order to inform the general knowledge of others with the same condition.



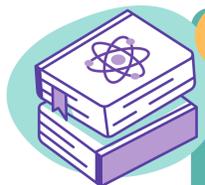
4

Case study may explore a phenomenon around a specific person or an event. This type of study often examines more complex situations or cases in order to gain a deeper understanding of the situation.



5

Background Information/Expert Opinion are based on clinical experience from practitioners who are well-versed in a certain area. This type of information usually does not contain any research methodology to arrive at certain conclusion or recommendation.



6

Evidence Elevates

ACADEMY OF NEUROLOGIC PHYSICAL THERAPY

References

Crowe, S., Cresswell, K., Robertson, A., Huby, G., Avery, A., & Sheikh, A. (2011). The case study approach. BMC medical research methodology, 11, 100. <https://doi.org/10.1186/1471-2288-11-100>
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