

Critical analysis of literature. A basic process in exercising evidence based clinical practice [Análisis Crítico de la Literatura. Un proceso elemental en el ejercicio de la práctica clínica basada en la evidencia]

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To carry out clinical practice based on evidence (CPBE), it is necessary to acquire some skills, including systematic literature search and application of formal rules for evaluation of the literature found, thereby obtaining the best evidence available. Thus, one could summarize the CPBE process includes several steps, one of which is critical appraisal of the evidence found in literature search. It is essential to understand that not all the information from scientific journals is reliable or valid, and therefore suitable to be instituted in clinical practice. For this reason, the information must be critically analyzed; i.e. carefully and systematically examining research to judge its validity and reliability, or stated another way, its value and relevance in a particular context. The aim of this article is to hierarchy the existing information on strategies to realize critical analysis of the scientific literature and to describe the tools most commonly used for this purpose. © 2014, Universidad de la Frontera. All rights reserved.

Critical appraisal of biomedical articles

Evidence-Based Practice

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