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Title: Developing Summary of Findings Tables in Network Meta-Analysis: A user testing study

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Background: When multiple interventions are available for managing the same disease or condition, network meta-analysis (NMA) using direct and indirect comparisons may provide the optimal estimates of their relative effectiveness. The best approaches to presentation and interpretation of NMA results for users remains, however, uncertain.

Objectives: To develop NMA-'Summary of findings' (SoF) tables that display the most important aspects of NMA results.

Methods: Principles of fundamental qualitative description informed processes to develop and pilot NMA-SoF tables. We conducted three rounds of interviews. Following development, the NMA-SoF table was presented to a purposeful sample of ten clinicians, each who had used a meta-analysis or NMA at least once in the previous year to answer research or clinical questions related to patient health care. In-depth semi-structured interviews were conducted to obtain feedback on the positive and negative aspects of the table. Data were analyzed using conventional content analysis. After each round, we modified the NMA-SoF table based on feedback. A refined version of the NMA-SoF table was presented to a new set of ten users in a subsequent round. The definitive table will emerge from the third round of feedback.

Results: At the end of this study, we will have one or more formats of NMA-SoF table that summarize the NMA results that users find friendly and informative.

Conclusions: Effective presentation can increase the usability and help health professionals make better-informed decisions. Our work aimed to meet optimal formats for NMA-SoFs.