

BACKGROUND

The therapeutic relationship is the coming together of patient and provider to address the health needs of the patient¹.

It is considered foundational in the care of patients with haemophilia.² Patients and treatment providers must work together to address and manage bleeding concerns, and to design and implement an effective treatment plan.

With this in mind, we sought to examine how therapeutic relationships are evaluated in the haemophilia patient population.

OBJECTIVE

The purpose of this project was to characterize the nature and extent of the research evidence concerning assessment of therapeutic relationships in the care of patients with haemophilia.

METHODS

We adopted the scoping review framework proposed by Arksey & O'Malley (2005).³ Our search was carried out in consultation with a health research librarian from the University of Alberta.

MEDLINE, EMBASE, CINAHL, and PsycINFO electronic databases were searched, using a combination of subject headings, keywords and synonyms for the concepts *therapeutic relationship*, and *haemophilia*.

Articles were reviewed, and those that described a method of evaluating therapeutic relationship or a related construct within a haemophilia patient population were included in the analysis.

INCLUSION/EXCLUSION CRITERIA

Topic: Therapeutic relationship, plus related constructs (e.g. patient-provider relationships, working alliance, patient-centredness, satisfaction with treatment, shared decision-making, trust, empathy, communication).

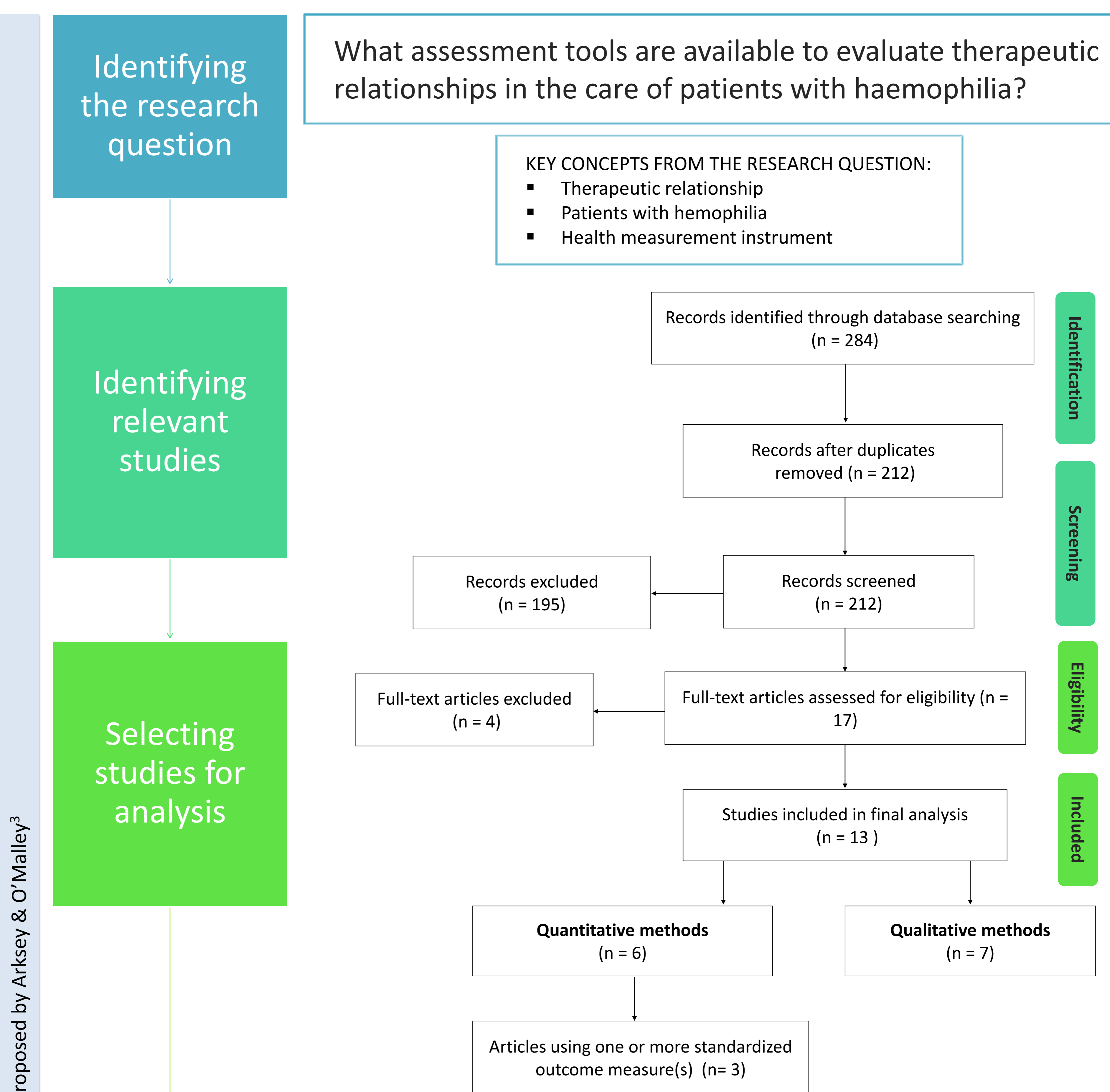
Population: Patients with haemophilia and other inherited bleeding disorders

Study: Evaluates therapeutic relationship

RESEARCH PROCESS & RESULTS

What assessment tools are available to evaluate therapeutic relationships in the care of patients with haemophilia?

- KEY CONCEPTS FROM THE RESEARCH QUESTION:
- Therapeutic relationship
 - Patients with hemophilia
 - Health measurement instrument



Outcome measures used to assess relational constructs in the haemophilia literature:

- Diabetes empowerment process scale
- Trust in physician scale
- Active Listening Observation Scale
- Health Literacy Measurement Scale
- The 9-item Shared Decision Making Questionnaire
- Wake Forest Physician Trust Scale
- QUOTE-communication questionnaire

Results

Our search identified 284 records. After conference abstracts and duplicates were removed, 212 records were screened for relevance, 17 full text articles were reviewed, and 13 articles met our inclusion criteria and were included in analysis.

Therapeutic relationship was not assessed as a single construct in any articles. Related constructs were assessed using patient-reported outcome measures: communication in the context of shared decision making (n=1), trust (n=1), caring attitudes (n=1), satisfaction with care (n=2), multiple dimensions (trust, emotional support, attentive listening, and information provision) (n=1).

Qualitative methods were used in 7 studies to solicit patients' experiences of their relationships with their haemophilia care providers (interviews n=5, questionnaire n=1, open writing format n=1).

Charting the data

Collating, summarizing and reporting results

CONCLUSIONS & FUTURE DIRECTIONS

Standardized assessment tools have been used with the haemophilia patient population to evaluate subcomponents of the therapeutic relationship. However, we did not find any articles describing the assessment of the therapeutic relationship as a single construct.

Future research should involve validation testing of existing measures of therapeutic relationship, or the development of a new measure in the this population. This will allow rigorous research of the associations between therapeutic relationship and outcomes of treatment to be carried out.

Citations

1. Miciak MA. *Bedsides Matter: A Conceptual Framework of the Therapeutic Relationship in Physiotherapy*. 2015. <https://era.library.ualberta.ca/files/9z903246q#.WEWHmQrlfE>. Accessed December 5, 2016

2. Makris M, Kasper C, Srivastava A, et al. Guidelines for the management of hemophilia. *Haemophilia*. <http://www1.wfh.org/publications/files/pdf-1472.pdf>

3. Arksey H, O'Malley L. Scoping studies: towards a methodological framework. *Int J Soc Res Methodol*. 2005;8(1):19-32.