

INTRODUCTION

Hemophilia is a genetic condition characterized by recurrent bleeding into joints and muscles, often resulting in impairment of musculoskeletal (MSK) structures and function. Collaboration between patients and physiotherapists is necessary to manage MSK issues effectively. This purposeful partnership of patient and physiotherapist is described as the “therapeutic relationship.”

The significance of therapeutic relationships in the care of patients with hemophilia has been highlighted [1,2]. However, it is unclear whether a validated assessment tool for the physiotherapy therapeutic relationship has been established.

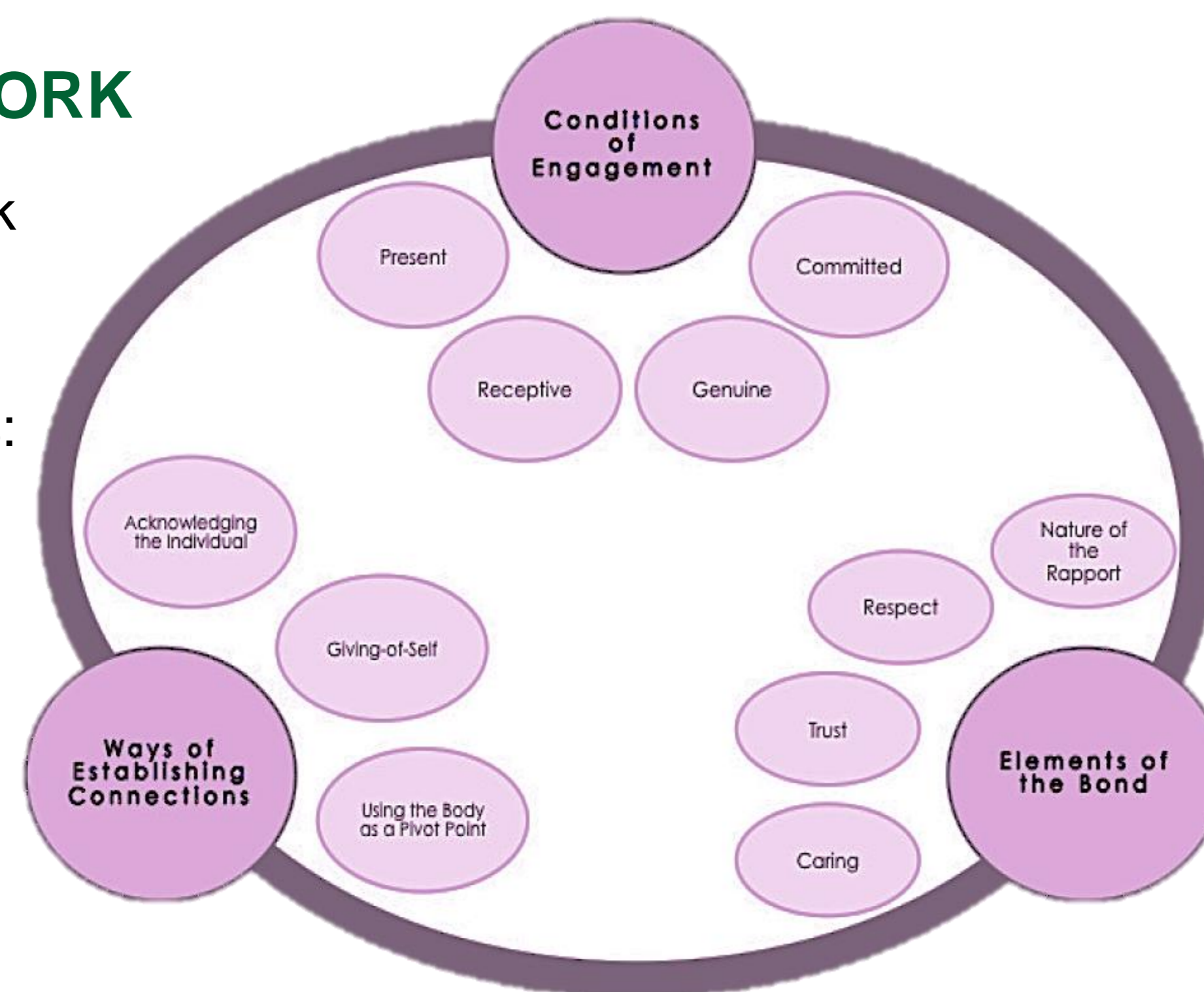
CONCEPTUAL FRAMEWORK

Miciak’s conceptual framework of the physiotherapy therapeutic relationship [3].

There are 3 main components:

- Elements of the Bond
- Conditions of Engagement
- Ways of Establishing Connections

Within each component, there are subcomponents.



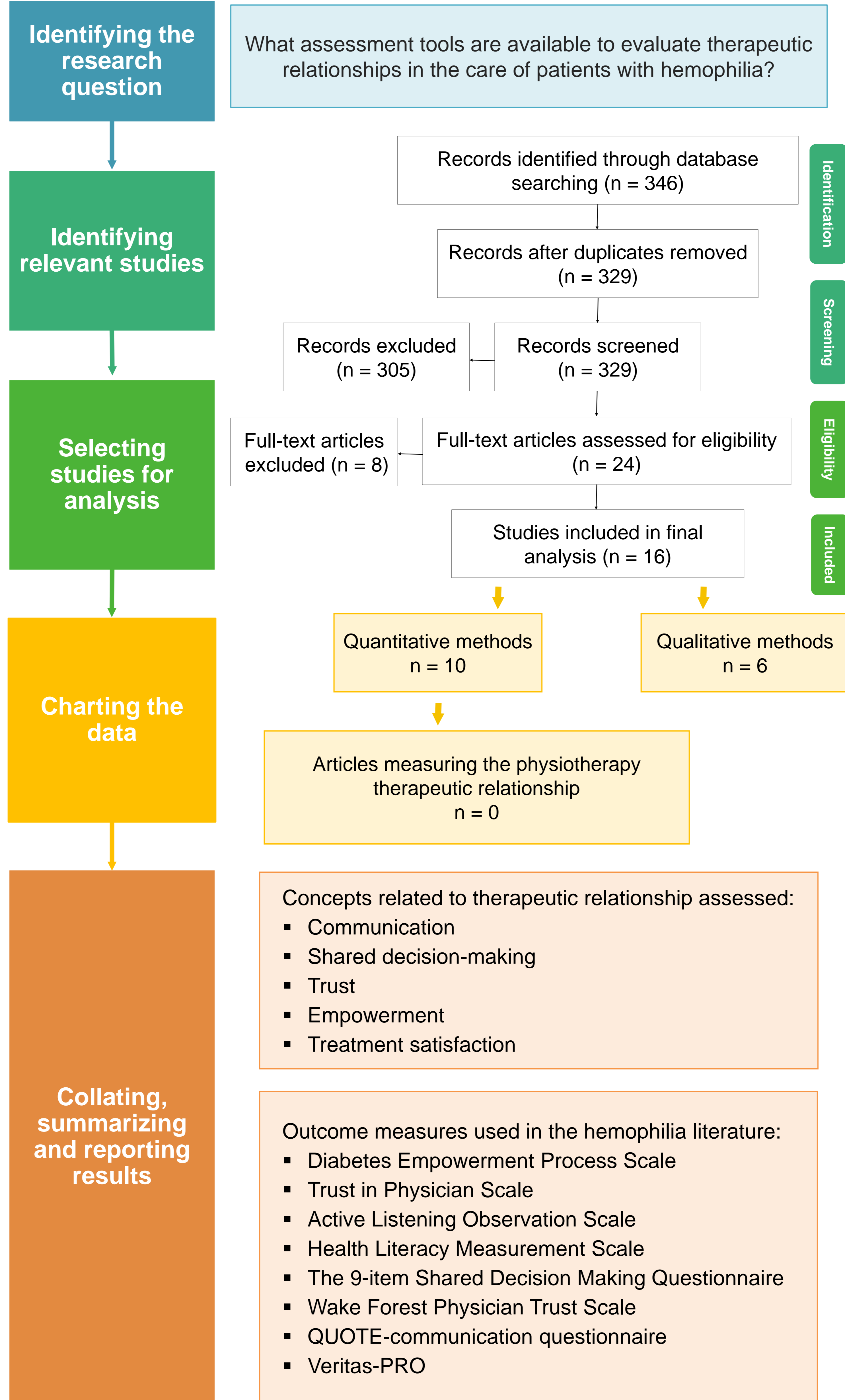
OBJECTIVE

To characterize the nature and extent of the research evidence concerning the assessment of the physiotherapy therapeutic relationship in hemophilia treatment.

METHODS

- We conducted a scoping review
- The search strategy was determined in consultation with a University of Alberta health research librarian.
- The following electronic databases were searched: MEDLINE, EMBASE, CINAHL, and PsycINFO, using a combination of subject headings and synonyms for the concepts ‘patient-provider relationship’ and ‘hemophilia’.
- Inclusion criteria:
 - Topic: Therapeutic relationship, plus related concepts
 - Population: Patients with haemophilia & other inherited bleeding disorders
 - Study: Assessed an aspect of the therapeutic relationship

RESEARCH PROCESS & RESULTS



Arksey & O'Malley's five step framework for scoping reviews [4].

RESULTS

- No articles assessed the physiotherapy therapeutic relationship in the care of patients with hemophilia.
- Therapeutic relationship with a healthcare provider (e.g. nurse, physician, healthcare team) was not assessed as a single construct in any article.
- Concepts related to therapeutic relationship were assessed in 10 studies (communication; shared decision-making; trust; empowerment; treatment satisfaction)
- In 7 articles, the authors provided validity evidence for the measures used.
- Qualitative methods were used in 6 studies to explore aspects of patient-provider relationships.

IMPLICATIONS

- A measure of therapeutic relationship is necessary to study the associations between the therapeutic relationship and health outcomes in hemophilia.
- While aspects of therapeutic relationship have been studied, there is no widely accepted method for measuring therapeutic relationship in hemophilia treatment.
- Future research should involve validation testing of measures of therapeutic relationship, or the development of a new measure in this population.

REFERENCES

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