

INPLASY PROTOCOL

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Conflicts of interest:
The authors declare that they have no competing interests.

Critical appraisal of Clinical Practice Guidelines for Depression in Children and Adolescents: a protocol for systematic review

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Review question / Objective: To evaluate the rigor of the development of clinical practice guidelines for depression in children and adolescents and will identify, in these documents, the recommendations for depression in children and adolescents.

Condition being studied: Depression as a clinically significant and growing public health issue, is the third leading cause of disability, which surpassed only by diarrheal diseases and respiratory infections. Approximately 300 million people were affected by this disorder in 2015. Adolescence is the lifetime peak periods for onset of major depressive disorder (MDD). Furthermore, adolescent-onset depression has been associated with psychiatric, anxiety disorders, suicidality, medical comorbidities and an elevated risk of MDD episodes later in life. Clinical practice guidelines (CPGs) are the best guiding documents proposed after systematic evaluation of relevant scientific evidence and analysis of the pros and cons of various alternative intervention methods, which are one of the more authoritative tools that can help medical staff make decisions in specific clinical situations. However, the quality of such guidelines is not yet clear, and specific recommendations may vary depending on the target population, included evidence, and expert opinions, which is not conducive to the selection of medical staff and affects clinical application to a certain extent. This study aims to evaluate the rigor of the development of clinical practice guidelines for depression in children and adolescents and will identify, in these documents, the recommendations for depression in children and adolescents.

INPLASY registration number: This protocol was registered with the International Platform of Registered Systematic Review and Meta-Analysis Protocols (INPLASY) on 01 August 2020 and was last updated on 01 August 2020 (registration number INPLASY202080002).

INTRODUCTION

Review question / Objective: To evaluate the rigor of the development of clinical practice guidelines for depression in children and adolescents and will identify,

in these documents, the recommendations for depression in children and adolescents.

Rationale: This systematic review of CPGs about depression in children and adolescents will involve assessment,

diagnosis, screening, treatment and management. We devised this study using the Appraisal of Guidelines for Research & Evaluation II (AGREE II) instrument and Instrument and Reporting Items for Practice Guidelines in Healthcare (RIGHT) checklist to evaluate the methodological and reporting quality of CPGs about depression in children and adolescents.

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METHODS

Participant or population: We will include clinical practice guidelines for depression in children and adolescents.

Intervention: We include any kinds of interventions for depression in children and adolescents.

Comparator: Not applicable.

Study designs to be included: Clinical practice guidelines for depression in children and adolescents.

Eligibility criteria: Inclusion criteria (1) Issued in the form of guidelines or recommendations; (2) Mainly for depression in children and adolescents, which involves assessment, diagnosis, screening, treatment and management; (3) Language is limited to English and Chinese; (4) If there is an updated relationship, the latest version is included. Exclusion criteria. (1) The available version is incomplete or contains only a summary of the information; (2) translation version based on the original; (3) Guidelines developed by individuals; (4) consensus guideline, evidence summary or algorithm.

Information sources: We will search PubMed, Web of Science, Cochrane Library, EMBASE, Chinese biomedical literature database (CBM). Specific databases for clinical guidelines will be searched, for example: the National Institute for Health and Clinical Excellence (NICE, <https://www.nice.org.uk>), Scottish Intercollegiate Guidelines Network (SIGN, <https://www.sign.ac.uk>), Guidelines International Network (GIN, <https://www.g-i-n.net>), Yimaitong website (<http://www.medlive.cn>), Chinese Medical Association (CMA, <https://www.cma.org.cn>). The MeSH search and text word search will be used with the terms related to the guideline, best practices, depression, depressive disorder, child or adolescent. In order to identify other possible guidelines, we will check the reference list of eligible studies, review studies, and secondary studies. For guidelines published only in summary or where important information is missing, we will try to search complete information by contacting the authors.

Main outcome(s): We will conduct a systemic review of CPGs for depression in children and adolescents by evaluating methodological and reporting quality assessments and perform statistical analysis. At the same time, we will also analyze consistency and inconsistency of the recommendations in CPGs, including assessment, diagnosis, screening, treatment and management.

Data management: Records will be managed by EndNote X 8.0 (Thomson Reuters (Scientific) LLC Philadelphia, PA, US) software to exclude duplicates.

Quality assessment / Risk of bias analysis: Reviewers who were trained to perform CPG appraisals using the Appraisal of Guidelines Research and Evaluation (second version) (AGREE II) and Reporting Items for Practice Guidelines in Healthcare (RIGHT) will conduct an independent review of the quality of each eligible CPG. Whenever a disagreement arises, we will resolve discordant evaluations by discussion to reach consensus and issue the final verdict. Finally, Intraclass correlation coefficients (ICCs) will calculate to assess inter-rater reliability.

Strategy of data synthesis: For each CPG, the AGREE II score for each domain will be calculated as a percentage of the maximum possible score and standardized range, and the descriptive values included mean and standard deviation (SD). Reporting quality data plan to present as the number of RIGHT checklist items reported in each CPG, as well as the number of CPGs that reported individual RIGHT checklist items. Intraclass correlation coefficients (ICCs) will be calculated to assess inter-rater reliability and the measure of agreement between reviewers. The degree of agreement between 0.01 and 0.20 was deemed minor, 0.21–0.40 fair, 0.41–0.60 moderate, 0.61–0.80 substantial, and 0.81–1.00 very good. STATA 14.0 software plan to be used for statistical analysis. Descriptive analyses were conducted to summarize recommendations of the CPGs, including assessment, diagnosis, screening,

treatment and management, simultaneously we will analyze the reasons for the inconsistency and consistency. Information on the strength of the recommendation and the level of evidence was extracted to determine the main gap between evidence. Bubble charts will be used to show the differences in methodological and reporting quality using Microsoft Excel 2019 (Microsoft Corp, Redmond, WA, <http://www.microsoft.com>). Subgroup analysis will be conducted according to the result of evaluation.

Subgroup analysis: Subgroup analysis will be conducted according to the result of evaluation.

Sensibility analysis: Not Applicable.

Language: The language is limited to English and Chinese.

Country(ies) involved: China.

Keywords: clinical practice guidelines; depression; children; adolescents; quality assessment.

Contributions of each author:

Author 1 - Li Du - The Author (1) conceived this study (2) designed the inclusion/exclusion criteria and the searching strategy (3) will be searched for the literature(4) will be collected the data and made statistical analysis(5) drafted the protocol and revised the manuscript.

Author 2 - Yamin Chen - The author (1) conceived this study (2) designed the inclusion/exclusion criteria and the searching strategy(3) will be searched for the literature(4) will be collected the data and made statistical analysis.

Author 3 - Xiu Jin - The author designed a data extraction table.

Author 4 - Wei Yuan - The author will be collected the data and made statistical analysis.

Author 5 - Jianshu Wang - The author (1) conceived this study (2) designed the inclusion/exclusion criteria and the searching strategy (3) drafted the protocol and revised the manuscript.