

Evidence based health care – critical appraisal skills in the context of neuro-disability

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Summary

Health care professionals across the board are encouraged to base their treatment and intervention on 'evidence-based practice'. The question is, however, is there now, or will there ever be, a robust evidence base to inform what we do to and with those with disability arising from impaired neurology?

In this session, this question will be discussed and explored.

Whatever the answer to the question, the imperative to base our treatment and intervention on 'evidence' will be with us from now on. Accordingly, a basic knowledge of how to critically appraise papers on research is required.

In order to 'test' research for validity, reliability and generalisability, there are a number of questions that must be answered systematically, i.e. critical appraisal. In this session, focusing on the randomised controlled trial, the questions will be set out and their meaning explained.

Learning objectives

- To raise awareness of the issues involved in building an evidence base for our client group (those with neuro-disability)
- To provide an introduction to critical appraisal skills