Abstract

J Wallace
DPhil Programme in Evidence-Based Health Care, University of Oxford

One of the most common findings from health research is the failure to routinely translate research evidence into daily practice. Studies simply can’t guarantee the use of their findings. There is just too much research to keep track of and to translate findings into practice reliably and efficiently is often ignored for years. The literature is constantly changing and when an answer to a clinical question is sought, it often comes from an out-of-date textbook. Remaining knowledgeable of current, relevant research is difficult.

Consequently, easy access to scientifically valid and up-to-date information is a prerequisite for providing the best care and there is a need for every clinician hoping to stay up to date. Finding the best research evidence requires knowledge of the most appropriate information sources and the best ways to search them. The question can then be answered by searching online bibliographic databases that allow easy access to scientifically valid and up-to-date information. It is then possible to

The Science of Searching - How to Find the Evidence Quickly and Efficiently

Introduction

Significant resources and time are invested in the production of research knowledge. However, it often takes as long as 17 years to translate research findings into clinical practice. Evidence-based medicine (EBM) is about the conscientious, explicit and judicious use of current best evidence, including individual patient characteristics, in making decisions about the care of individual patients. It involves integrating individual clinical expertise and the patient preferences with the best available clinical evidence from current research. There are a number of steps in practicing EBM. Initially, the process involves answering an answerable question and then searching for the available evidence. The literature is constantly changing and when an answer to a clinical question is sought, it often comes from an out-of-date textbook. Remaining knowledgeable of current, relevant research is difficult.

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