

Review of: "How many papers are published each week reporting on trials of interventions involving behavioural aspects of health?"

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I appreciate the invitation to submit a brief review of this interesting and pragmatic study. I enjoy these authors' work in general and also appreciated the series of critiques thus far. This is a study worth doing and my guess is the authors are 'dipping their toes in' for a much larger effort. My read of the paper raised a few thoughts. Immediately in the Abstract, I agreed with the need for the study and appreciated that it was couched in the 'problem' of evidence synthesis and the need for such efforts to help researchers, policy makers and the public keep pace with the 'fast clip' of behavioral science. I was, however, puzzled by the inclusion of studies of health behaviors as "key determinants of outcomes". Why not keep the pool narrow and include only RCTs of health behaviors as outcomes? Or at least separate the search into two reports? This might allow for more specificity when estimating the future tasks at hand. Early in the manuscript, the constraints of the search are mentioned which is great, but I continued to be puzzled by behaviors as determinants or factors of influence. Is this moderation studies in the context of RCTs? The search string of behaviors is very helpful in understanding the study parameters and thus I felt I had a general sense of the intended scope of the study. Overall, this is one piece of a larger agenda that, I believe, hopes to add value to the mass of science accumulating (beyond the incremental gains of each study whether it be on knowledge in the area or merely the study authors' tenure portfolio). For this I say Bravo! This is pragmatic and will lead to gains in knowledge, not only for the specific interventions and behaviors, but more importantly, for transtheoretical and transbehavioral knowledge that is long overdue.