

Development of a clinical practice guideline for assessment, prevention and treatment of pain in children with cancer

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Introduction

High-quality evidence-based guidelines for supportive care in children with cancer are needed. **Pain in children with cancer** has been identified as an area where many clinicians seek guidance.

Objectives

To **develop a clinical practice guideline (CPG)** for pain in children with cancer with recommendations on

1. assessment of pain;
2. pharmacological treatment of
 - a) tumor-related pain;
 - b) treatment-related pain;
 - c) procedure-related pain;
3. physical and psychological treatment
 - a) tumor- and treatment-related pain
 - b) procedure-related pain.

Materials and Methods

The international and inter-professional guideline panel comprises a core group and six working groups and includes **44 individuals**. Previously **25 clinical questions** were prioritized to be answered through systematic literature reviews. After performing the literature appraisal and independent dual data extraction of the included studies (see figure 1), the **project group met in Amsterdam** (35/44 members attending) to complete and discuss the **evidence-to-decision frameworks** and formulate draft recommendations.

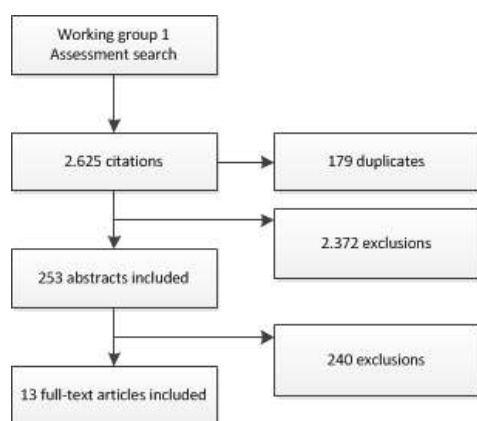


Image 1. Current status of the project.

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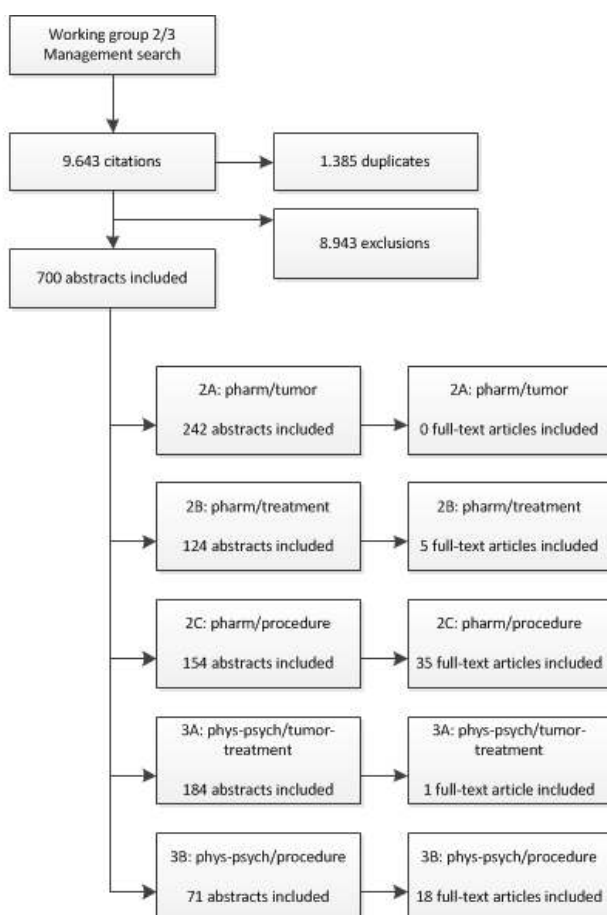
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Results

Various draft recommendations were formulated for all working groups. These recommendations are currently being discussed with the members not present at the guideline meeting and various patient- and parent-representatives. Hereafter the recommendations will be finalized.

Conclusion

We have developed a **CPG regarding pain** in children with cancer. Currently the recommendations are being finalized, thereafter the guideline will be written in three parts. In the next phase we will work on implementation of the CPG.



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