Systematic Review Search Protocol

Working Title - A systematic review of the current methods for the diagnosis and treatment of concussion and mTBI across sport.

Aim

The primary aim of this review is to evaluate the current methods for the identification, diagnosis and treatment of concussion and mTBI across sport.

Research question 'PICO' (working)

What are the current methods for the diagnosis and treatment of concussion and mTBI across sports in adult populations.

Criteria for inclusion

Types of studies

Retrospective data analysis, cross sectoral and parallel study design to be considered

Timeline

Search of databases and extraction April – May 2020

Types of outcome measures

Outcome data on diagnosis and/or treatment methods for concussion/mTBI injuries sustained in sport

Types of participants

Participants will be adults aged 18 years (including mixed populations) or over who participate in amateur, semi-professional and professional sport. Participants under 18 will be excluded.

Types of interventions

Interventions of interest will include those where concussion was diagnosed and how it was treated or not treated. These will include (but may not be limited to) reported:

1. Concussion

2. mTBI

3. Cervical neck injury

Exclude – non sports related Concussion/mTBI

These interventions may be provided by any practitioner/ research team.

Interventions that may not be considered are clinical treatments that are used such as rehab interventions from spinal injury or falls that result in concussion/mTBI.

These inclusion and exclusion criteria are summarised in Table 1.

Table 1: Inclusion and exclusion criteria

PICO	Inclusion	Exclusion
Population	Humans Adults ≥18 years involved in amateur, semi-professional and professional sports	Animals Children Under 18's Adults experiencing concussion/mTBI in non-sports & recreation activities. Geriatric adults who fall due to health or illness status
Intervention	Studies where concussion/mTBI/ cervical neck injury was diagnosed and/or treated	
Comparator	N/A	N/A
Outcome	Identification, diagnosis and/or treatment methods for injuries sustained above	
Study design	Retrospective data analysis, cross sectional study design, parallel studies, abstracts (with data) will be included initially. English language only	All other study designs and non-English publications

Search term development

In order to select key words/search terms and identify appropriate databases for the SLR an initial search of electronic databases will be conducted (Phase I) using all potential key word terms (initial search terms). A second search using limited keywords/terms will be completed using most appropriate databases and number of hits recorded (phase II). Key words, search criteria and databases will be discussed. A database search will be carried using suggested keywords and databases with hits recorded (phase III). A search of finalised databases and keywords will be carried out and citations exported to endnote library. A print screen of the search will be saved and recorded (phase IV).

Potential Databases

Science Direct

PubMed

CINAHL

Web of Science

PsycInfo

SportDiscus