



THE ECOSYSTEM
OF EVIDENCE

Lessons learned in the pandemic
era and future challenges

10th International Conference for EBHC Teachers and Developers
10th Conference of the International Society for EBHC
Taormina, 25th - 28th October 2023

#EBHC2023



Vitamin D for prevention and treatment of Covid-19

Transformation of a Rapid Review in a living Systematic Review

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Background

Challenging situation: To find rapid answers while maintaining a rigorous methodology.



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Aims

- Could vitamin D have a favourable benefit/risk balance for preventing severe COVID-19 and/or treating the disease?
- To contextualize the answer inside the health care crisis, adapting the rapid review in a living systematic review.



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Methods

Definition of PICO Question

clinical practice guidelines, systematic reviews,
published preprint and ongoing studies

Search strategies

MEDLINE



Web of Science™



Cochrane Library



Other HTA agencies

Gradually the document evolved with the methodology

Cochrane Rapid Reviews. Interim Guidance from the Cochrane Rapid Reviews Methods Group. March 2020

Living systematic reviews Cochrane published

Australian Living guidelines for the clinical care of people with COVID-19.



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Methods

Continuous review of selection criteria

Adoption the PRISMA statement's recommendation

Incorporation the characteristics of a living systematic review:
planification of frequency of surveillance to assess the available resources

The rules in successive versions of

- re To highlight the new text added
- To specify the withdrawal of obsolete or irrelevant studies due to new publications of better quality
- To remove redundant evidence, articles retraction and predatory publications
- Specific preprints sources were removed from the searchable sources list.

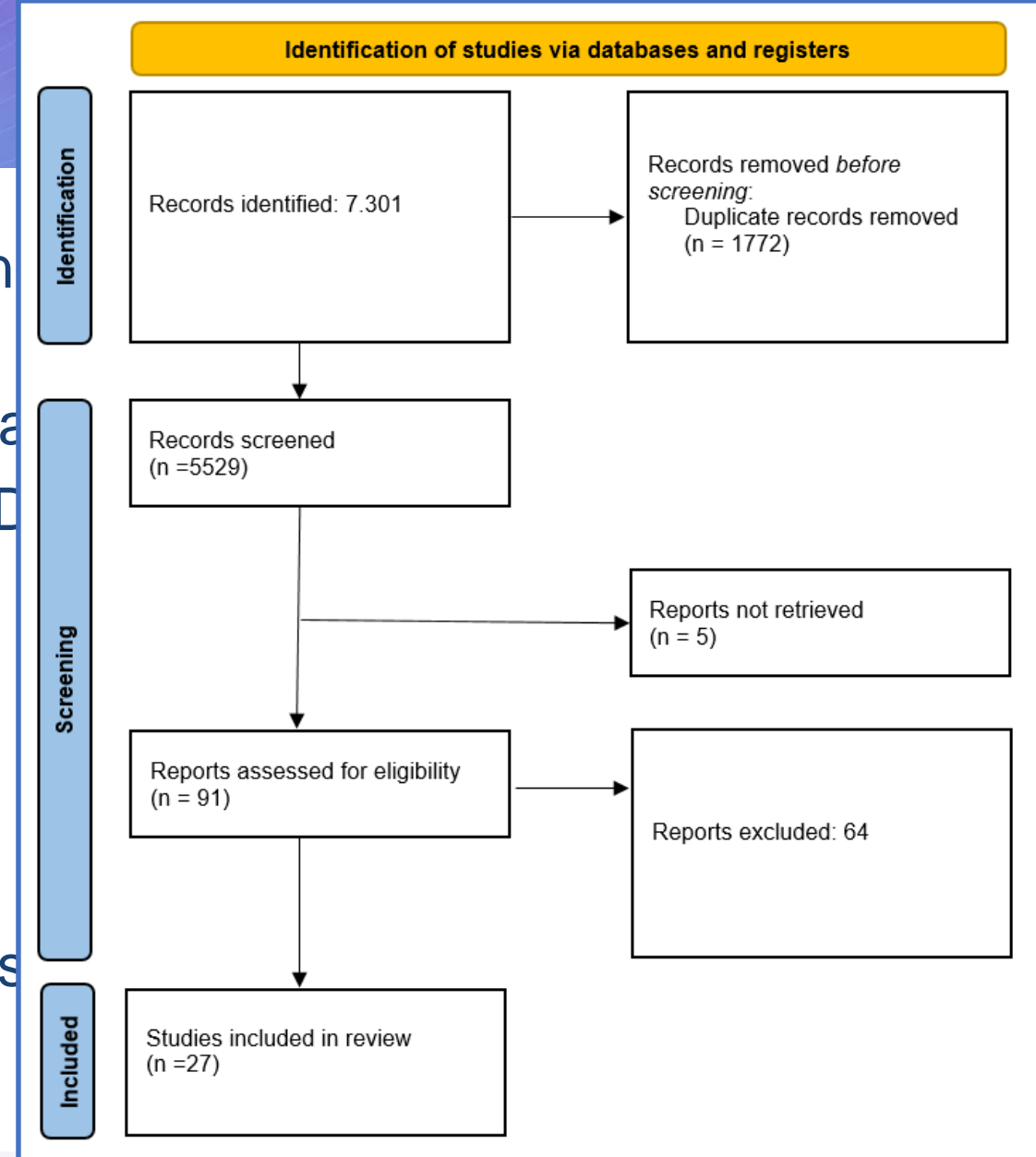


Results

Search Strategy

- Updated continuously (date, terminology normalization)
- Periodic searches of evidence in databases
- Alerts in LOVE platform and COVID PLUS

- The searches retrieved >7000 documents
- Included studies in the last version of the review:
 - 21 RCTs and 6 quasi-experimental studies included
- 43 ongoing studies



Results

A rapid review evolved through 22 versions

- First 6 versions: weekly update
- 6 version to 12 version: update every 15 days
- 12.1 version to 12.7 version: monthly update
- From the version developed in December 2021, changing frequency of the update, until the current version.

EVIDENCIA SOBRE EL USO DE VITAMINA D PARA LA PREVENCIÓN Y TRATAMIENTO DEL COVID-19 EN EL SISTEMA SANITARIO PÚBLICO – RESPUESTA RÁPIDA. VERSIÓN 12.10

FECHA: 23/12/2022

Elaboración: Área de Evaluación de Tecnologías Sanitarias de la Fundación Progreso y Salud

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Limits

- Poor evidence-quality studies (at the initial stage of review)
- Lack of peer review of the literature
- **HIGH HETEROGENEITY** detected in population and intervention.

Prevented from pooling the outcomes

Opportunities

- Helping stakeholders with decision-making process
- Learning and building synergies

Weaknesses

- Lack of visibility, slow and inflexible publication process



Conclusions

Vitamin D for prevention and treatment of COVID-19 was adapted from a rapid review to a living SR in the context of pandemic evolution.

- Sharing data and information was essential to generate knowledge.
- All type of available evidence was included at the beginning and only RCTs, SR, HTA reports are currently being accepted.

In pandemic context, Intra e interdisciplinary collaboration,
trustworthy sources
are essential to provide evidence and decision making support .



Thank you

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