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A systematic review of antiepileptic drug randomised control trials over 20 years

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Epilepsy is a neurological condition which manifests itself by causing alterations in the brain and this leads to seizures. Seizures can affect people in many ways and therefore anti-epileptic drug management is a key part to these people's lives. The guidelines on the use of antiepileptic drugs are derived from randomised control trials undertaken on these medications. The aim of the paper was to assess and evaluate antiepileptic drug RCTs over the past 20 years. A database search was conducted and from this, data was extracted via double data extraction. A total of 148 trials from the years 1995-2015 were analysed and included in our

systematic review. Papers were scrutinised by identifying types of patients included in trials, types of methods that trials conducted, and the outcomes measured from these. After interpreting results, from the majority of studies it was evident that documentation of clinical trials did not meet the CONSORT guidelines for what information to include in RCTs and therefore more care should be taken when writing trial reports in future as treatment decisions are based on these trials.

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