

BACKGROUND

- Complex colorectal conditions including Hirschsprung disease (HD), anorectal malformations (ARM), and chronic constipation, affect the everyday lives of children and their families.¹⁻³
- These conditions can impact upon their physical health and psychological well-being such as anxiety, depression, and stress.¹⁻⁵

AIMS

- Determine how complex colorectal conditions may affect children's mental health and quality of life.
- Compare the outcomes (mental, psychological health, and quality of life) between Hirschsprung's disease, anorectal malformation, and constipation.

METHODS

DATABASE

MEDLINE, EMBASE, PsycINFO, PubMed, and The Cochrane Library.

QUALITY APPRAISAL

PEDro scale, Cochrane RoB tool, Newcastle-Ottawa Scale (NOS), Joanna Briggs Institute (JBI) Critical Appraisal tool, Critical Appraisal Skills Programme (CASP) checklist.

DATA EXTRACTION

Study Information, Methods, Measures.

OUTCOME MEASURES

Quality of life, Anxiety level, Depression level, Stress level, Emotional problems.

RESULTS and DISCUSSION

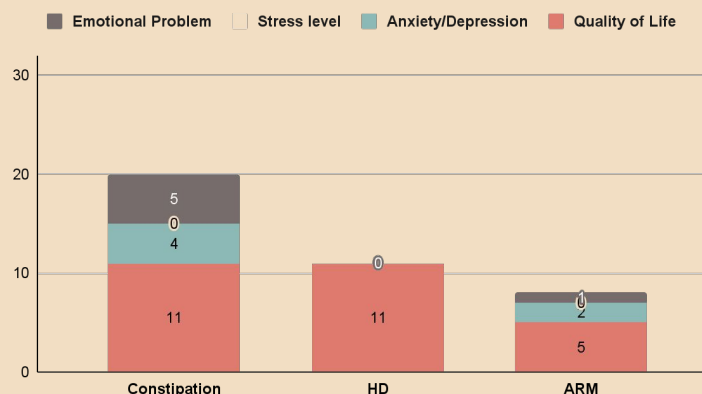


Figure 2. Number of studies according to outcome measures and conditions

- Thirty-two studies⁷⁻³⁸ satisfied the inclusion criteria and were included in this review (1 RCT, 4 cohort studies, 13 case-control studies, 14 cross-sectional studies).
- Five out of thirty-two studies are of poor quality.
- Sixteen studies focused on constipation, eleven on HD, and eight on ARM.
- In seven studies, the quality of life of patients with constipation are significantly lower than control.
- Higher anxiety/depression scores in constipated children are reported in three studies.
- Heterogeneous outcomes were found in the quality of life, anxiety/depression score, and/or emotional problems of children with HD and ARM.

LIMITATIONS

- Inconsistent diagnosis and assessment tools impacted upon comparability of findings across studies.
- No data on children's stress level.

CONCLUSION

Strong conclusions could not be drawn due to the variety of methods used to diagnose the conditions, as well as the range of assessment tools used. However, the findings suggest that quality of life of children with constipation is lower compared to control groups. Inconsistent results were found in those with HD and ARM. Further studies should utilize similar validated measures of assessment to enable comparisons between results.

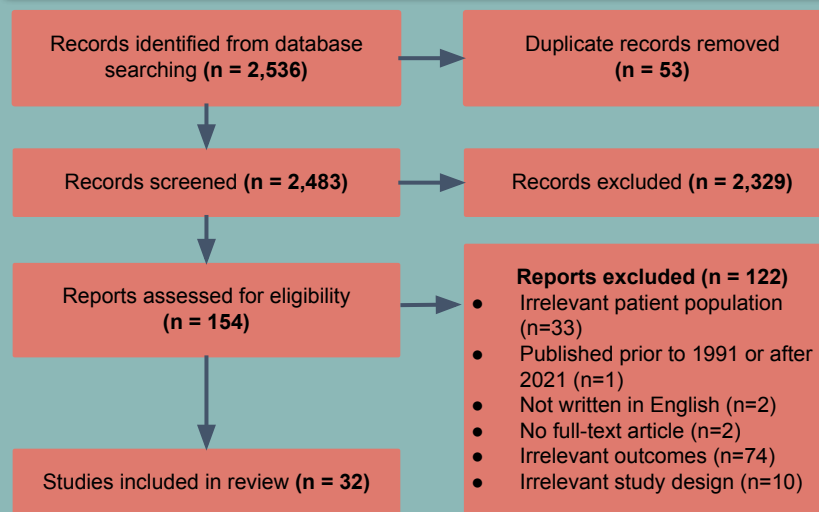


Figure 1. PRISMA flow diagram⁶