

THE ECOSYSTEM OF EVIDENCE

Navigating the future
of the ecosystem of evidence

Artificial intelligence and digital transformation
in research and healthcare

11th EBHC International Conference
Taormina, 21st – 24th October 2026

#EBHC2026

Patient-important outcomes account for fewer than half of reported outcomes and are synthesized differently from surrogate outcomes in rehabilitation systematic reviews.

Oliveros MJ, Seron P, MacKinlay P, Morales C, Salazar J, Gutiérrez-Vega L, Gutierrez-Arias R, Ulloa C, Contreras MF, Inostroza-Quiroz J, Kim JS, Bae H, Kuriyama A, Santesso N, Guyatt G, Brignardello-Petersen R.

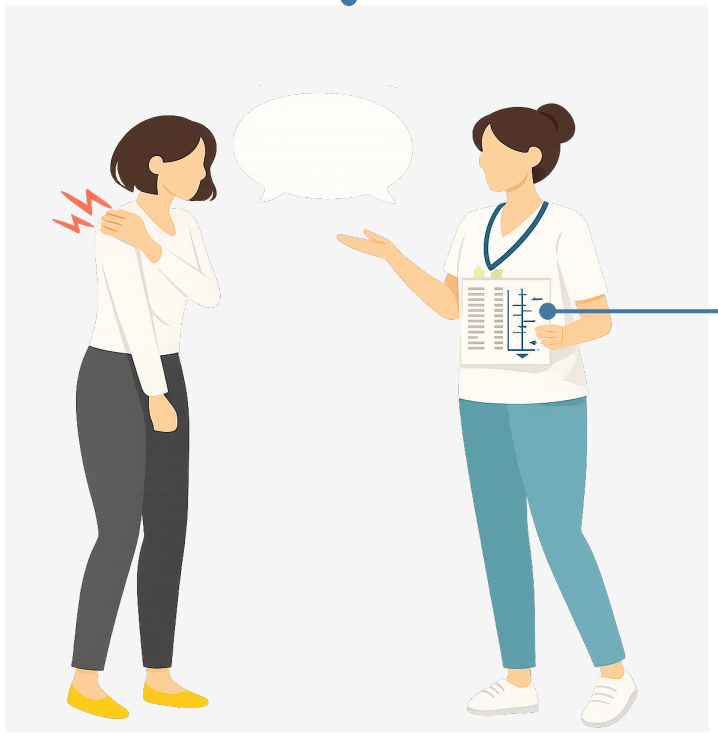
UNIVERSIDAD DE LA FRONTERA, CHILE
MC.MASTER UNIVERSITY, CANADA.

30th GIMBE 1996-2026 EVIDENCE FOR HEALTH

UNIVERSIDAD DE LA FRONTERA

McMaster University

Background and aims



BACKGROUND

Rehabilitation maximize functioning to enable activities and participation in meaningful life; outcomes reflecting these domains should guide decision-making.

GAP

How patient-centred are current rehabilitation SRs informing healthcare decisions?

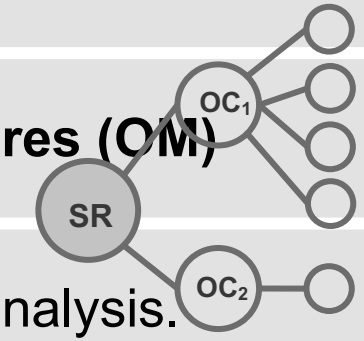
STUDY DESIGN – how?

We conducted a descriptive methodological study.

SR, Systematic Review; PIO, Patient-important outcome.

Methods

Question and Eligibility Criteria	Question (rehab context)– design – eligibility criteria
Searching	**Current practice,** searched rehab SRs published in the last 5 years
Study Selection	**Representativeness**, random sample.
Data extraction	**Outcome constructs (OC) & Outcome measures (OM)**
Summarizing the Data	Outcome-level analysis & SR-level descriptive analysis.



SR, Systematic Review; PIO, Patient-important outcome.

Results



PIOs accounted for ~42% of OM and ~49% of OC
74.5% of SRs reported ≥1 PIO

PIOs are frequently included, but account for less than half of all outcomes.



Mostly body function–focused, single, short-term, and performance-based

Limited evidence on participation and long-term outcomes



Compared to surrogates, PIOs had a similar number of contributing studies, but were less often meta-analysed.

PIOs are synthesised and reported differently than surrogate

SR, Systematic Review; PIO, Patient-important outcome; OC, Outcome construct; OM, Outc

Limits and conclusions

Snapshot of outcomes currently summarized in SRs to inform decisions



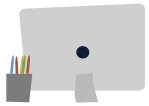
<50% PIOs

- Much of the evidence **is not patient-relevant,** may be misleading.
- Represents **avoidable research waste**: evidence that does not reflect patient priorities; **limited value for decision-making.**

What could we do differently moving forward?

More patient-centred evidence

- Align outcome selection in research with patient priorities.
- Reviewers: Prioritise PIOs; report gaps and justify surrogate use.



SR, Systematic Review; PIO, Patient-important outcome.