


2. Facts boxes

	<p>Recommendation</p> <p>“Health information may be presented as facts boxes.”</p> <p>Agreed: 9, Disagreed: 0, Abstentions: 0</p> <p>Quality of the evidence: high quality</p>
<p>Comment on the recommendation:</p> <p>The recommendation refers to the comparison of facts boxes and short summaries for medications (American advertisements).</p> <p>For this comparison a positive effect on the cognitive outcomes <i>risk perception / knowledge</i> was shown in one study in favor of facts boxes. This effect was also found for <i>comprehensibility / readability</i>.</p>	

Summary of the findings

Characteristics of the included studies

For this comparison two randomized-controlled studies (*symptom & prevention trial*, two studies in a journal (12)) were included with a total of 518 participants. These studies were conducted in the USA and were supplemented by a survey (7, 12). The intervention was a compact presentation (facts box) on therapeutic-medicinal measures (H2 blockers or proton pump inhibitors for acid indigestion) or preventive-medicinal measures (statins or Clopidogrel for secondary prevention of cardiovascular events) (12). The facts box supplied basic information about the medication and presented in a table the likelihood of a benefit or harm occurring through the drug, using numerical formats which laypersons can understand. The control intervention consisted of the short summaries of medications that the *American Food and Drug Administration* require as mandatory for advertisements addressed directly to patients and which do not stipulate any standardized information about benefits and harm.

Results for the relevant outcomes

Positive effects in favor of the facts box were shown for the outcomes *risk perception / knowledge and comprehensibility / readability* (7, 12).