


1. Using graphics

	<p>Recommendation</p> <p>“Graphics may be used to supplement numerical presentations in texts or tables.”</p> <p>Agreed: 11, Disagreed: 0, Abstentions: 0</p> <p>Quality of the Evidence: Low quality</p>
<p>Comment on the recommendation:</p> <p>The recommendation refers to the comparison of supplementary graphic presentations in texts or tables with the numerical presentation only.</p> <p>Overall, no relevant effect on the cognitive outcomes could be shown in this comparison. In two out of six studies, a positive effect for using graphics was shown for the outcomes <i>understanding / risk perception</i>. One study showed a positive effect for using tables and three studies showed no effect. For the outcome <i>knowledge</i>, three out of seven studies showed positive effects for using graphics; the other studies showed no effects. Five studies showed no effects or no consistent effects for the outcomes <i>comprehensibility / readability</i>.</p> <p>For the affective outcomes <i>acceptance / attractiveness</i> one study showed a positive effect for using graphics. The results for the outcome <i>trust / credibility</i> (two studies) were inconsistent.</p>	

Summary of the findings

Characteristics of the included studies

For this comparison, nine studies were included with a total of 9,019 participants. The sample sizes were between 106 and 4,685; the average age was between 36 and 61 depending on the target group. The studies were carried out in the USA (7-13) and Canada (14). The people included were healthy participants (7, 9, 10, 14), groups such as veterans (8), patients of both sexes (13) as well as special target groups for the respective information (11, 12, 15). The interventions consisted of information (online or in paper form) about risk factors for illnesses (8), about benefits and risks

of possible therapies (7, 11-13) or preventive measures (9, 15), about transfusion medicine (14) as well as information on the results of medical tests (10). Numerical data in text or tables were supplemented by various graphics.

Results for the relevant outcomes

Overall, for the outcomes *understanding / risk perception, knowledge, comprehensibility / readability*, and *trust / credibility* no relevant and consistent effect could be shown (7-15). For the outcomes *acceptance / attractiveness* a positive effect for the use of graphics was shown (13).