

6. Simple and combined risk portrayals



Recommendation

"Combined presentations or simple risk presentations can be presented in graphic form."

Agreed: 9, Disagreed: 2, Abstentions: 1

Quality of the evidence: moderate quality

Comment on the recommendation:

The recommendation refers to the comparison of simple forms of presentation with combined forms of presentation (e.g. risk with or without treatment) by using bar charts or pictograms.

For this comparison, no consistent effect for the cognitive outcomes *understanding / risk perception* and *comprehensibility / readability* could be shown in three studies. There is a positive tendency towards simple presentations. In one study no effect could be seen for the outcome *knowledge*.

With regard to the affective outcomes *acceptance / attractiveness*, no consistent effect could be seen in three studies.

Summary of the findings

Characteristics of the included studies

For this comparison, four studies with a total of 3,497 participants were included.

The sample size was between 76 and 1,648 and the average age was between 20 and 59 years, depending on the target group. The studies were carried out in the USA (15, 27, 28) and Australia (25). Healthy women (15, 27, 28) and students were included (25). The interventions consisted of information about preventive and therapeutic measures for treating breast cancer (15, 27, 28) and about hypothetical survival rates depending on the treatment (25). Simple and combined presentations in pictograms (15, 25, 27, 28) and bar charts (27) were compared.



Results for the relevant outcomes

For the outcomes *understanding / risk perception*, *knowledge*, *comprehension / readability* and *acceptance / attractiveness* no consistent effect could be shown (15, 25, 27, 28).