


5. Illustrative drawings

	<p>Recommendation</p> <p>“Illustrative drawings can be used to supplement a text.”</p> <p>Agreed: 9, Disagreed: 0 Abstentions: 1</p> <p>Quality of the evidence: moderate quality</p>
<p>Comment on the recommendation:</p> <p>The recommendation refers to the comparison of text supplemented by illustrative drawings with text only.</p> <p>For this comparison a positive effect for using illustrative drawings was seen in two out of four studies with regard to the cognitive outcome <i>understanding</i>. In the other two studies either no effect or no clear effect was found. Regarding the cognitive outcomes <i>knowledge</i> and <i>readability</i> no effect could be seen in one respectively two studies. No studies concerning the affective outcomes could be included.</p>	

Summary of the findings

Characteristics of the included studies

For this comparison five studies were included that had a certain heterogeneity (4, 12-15). The interventions consisted of health information on various subjects (i.e. a guide for inhalation or wound treatment, screening, risks of operations) that had been supplemented by illustrative drawings. The term “drawings” here combines different types of illustrations that sometimes cannot be clearly differentiated from cartoons, pictograms or anatomical images. They were used to visualize instructions (12, 14), to illustrate medicinal concepts (4) and to improve understanding for benefit-risk communication (13, 15). A total of 372 participants with an average age between 20 and 72 years took part and included patients of both sexes (12, 15) as well as healthy people. The investigations were carried out in the USA (4, 12), Canada (15), Great Britain (13) and in the Netherlands (14). One study (15) examined particularly the effect depending on the level of education and in a further study the age of the participants was focused on (4).

Results for the relevant outcomes

For the outcomes understanding, knowledge and comprehensibility / readability no effect or no clear effect was seen for using illustrative drawings (12, 13). No results are available concerning the affective outcomes.