Metasynthesis approach in pediatric nursing literature: a scoping review

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Introduction

Metasynthesis is defined as the synthesis of qualitative research using the meta-aggregative approach (JBI, 2014). Despite the growing interest in this approach in adult nursing literature it is not clear how it has been used in pediatric nursing literature.

Scoping reviews aims to assess and map with detail the existed knowledge related to a particular area of study. It is considered the first step of a systematic review and allows to summarize and to find gaps in the produced evidence (Arksey, O'Malley, 2005).

Objectives: To characterize the scientific production using metasynthesis in pediatric nursing literature.

Methods

The review was conducted across:

- International data bases (Cumulative Index to Nursing and Allied Health Literature (CINAHL), MedicLatina, Academic Search Complete, MEDLINE with Full Text), B-On, PubMED, RCAAP, The Joanna Briggs Institute and Cochrane Database of Systematic Reviews).
- Portuguese nursing web journals (*Revista Nursing*, *Referência* and *Pensar Enfermagem*).

Search terms (Abstract):

metasynthesis OR meta-synthesis OR meta synthesis OR methasynthesis OR metasyntese OR metasíntesis OR metassummaries OR meta-summary OR meta-ethnography OR meta-study OR meta study OR critical interpretative synthesis OR formal grounded theory OR framework analysis OR meta-aggregation OR narrative synthesis OR realist review OR thematic synthesis

Included studies published in English, Portuguese and Spanish peer-reviewed journals, until August 2015.

AND

pediatr* OR infant OR child* OR adolescen*

AND

nurs*

Results

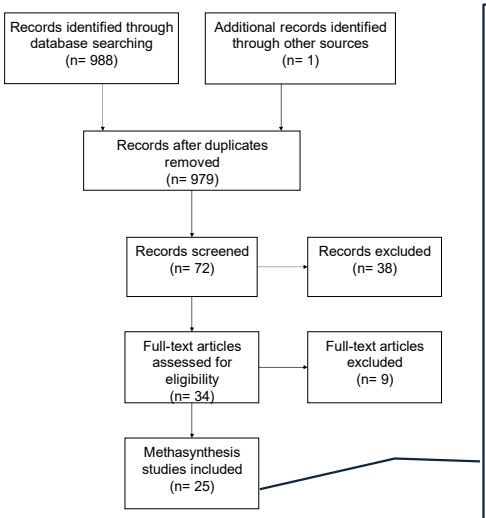

Figure 1 – Flow diagram of the research protocol.

Year	Author
1998	Burke et al.
2002	Beck
2002	Nelson
2003	Clemmens
2003	Nelson
2005	Swartz
2006	Coffey
2006	Dundon
2008	Aagaard, Hall
2008	McInnes, Chambers
2008	Tong et al.
2008	Venning et al.
2010	Elmir et al.
2010	Vallido et al.
2012	Nelson
2012	Wilken
2013	Dolman et al.
2013	Foster et al.
2013	Rowland, Metcalfe
2014	Fenech, Thomson
2014	Manning et al.
2014	Villamizar et al.
2015	Gibbs et al.
2015	Provenzi, Santoro
2015	Vittner et al.

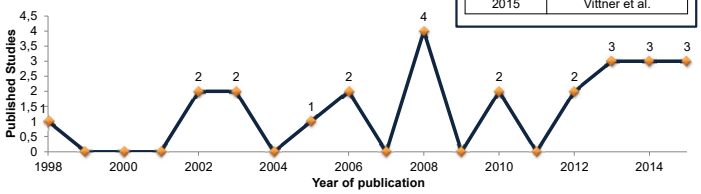

Chart 1 – Number of metasynthesis in PN literature by year of publication.

Most frequents phenomena were **parenting** and **experiences of parents** in several health contexts.

Metasynthesis (n=10) and meta-ethnography (n=8) were most frequent.

Noblit and Hare (1988) framework was most cited and sample ranged from 3 to 47 original studies.

Discussion

Metasynthesis research is providing evidence to nursing practice mostly in neonatal and intensive care regarding parenting.

Challenges were encountered by the authors in regard of the use of metasynthesis due to the diversified methodology of qualitative studies that are used as samples. Some studies included small samples which means that the findings may not be representative.

Conclusions

Metasynthesis is being use in PN, but in specific contexts and phenomena related to psychosocial experiences in complex parent-child illness. Other qualitative research should be analyzed toward metasynthesis, such as in contexts that are not neonatal or intensive care units, with a wider and diversified sample (demographic, socio, ethnic and cultural diversity).

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