

EBP-database 3.0

Update of an electronic database for German speaking Occupational Therapists

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Common barriers to evidence-based practice (EBP) include lack of time, of access, of critical appraisal skills and language skills (e. g. Arumugam et al. 2023; Samuelsson & Wressle 2015; Upton et al. 2014). To tackle these barriers for German speaking occupational therapists, the German Association of Occupational Therapy (DVE) launched the EBP-database in 2010. Earlier this year, an update with new features and a focus on easy use was released (<https://ebp.dve.info>). It's free for DVE members.



Aims of the database

The EBP-database contains research evidence on efficacy, effectiveness and economic evaluation of Occupational Therapy interventions in all working areas (proportional distribution see Fig. 1). It aims to facilitate steps 1-3 of EBP (Bennett & Bennett 2000) for German speaking occupational therapists:

- 1. Asking clinical questions:** The „help“ section gives step-by-step instructions on example of the PICO(ST) scheme. Filters help confine the P, I, S and T (Population, Intervention, Study design, Time).
- 2. Literature search:** Currently, the database contains about 1.380 entries, mostly (85%) systematic reviews and (randomized) controlled trials. Thus, the number of search results stays manageable. Search terms can be entered in German. The search masks have been designed for maximum simplicity (Fig. 2 and 3).
- 3. Critical appraisal:** The summaries are written in German and generally contain a critical appraisal of the DVE in form of a commentary and/or standardized tools (e.g. PEDro scale, AMSTAR 2).

New features

On top of the more user-friendly interface and the higher speed of the updated database, users benefit from differentiated keywords, a new filter „critical appraisal“, and more export options: PDF, CSV, RIS and URL.

The advanced search now offers the possibility to limit the search on „title/abstract/objectives“, link search terms and filters individually with the Boolean operators AND and OR, and the opportunity to save searches.

Editorial maintenance

PubMed and peer reviewed Occupational Therapy journals are searched on an ongoing basis. Articles meeting the inclusion criteria are selected, extracted, summarized and critically appraised in a structured process (more information: <https://ebp.dve.info/hilfe/hintergrundinformationen/>).

Evaluation, funding and access

The 2010 version continuously belonged to the most frequently accessed pages on the website of DVE. The updated version (2024) has been well accepted so far. Further evaluations are planned as a basis for refinement.

The database is financed by DVE membership fees. That's why only members can use all features. Members of foreign professional occupational therapy organizations can get full access at reduced membership fees (84 € per year). Non-members can use a limited version of the simple search.

Fig. 1: Working areas

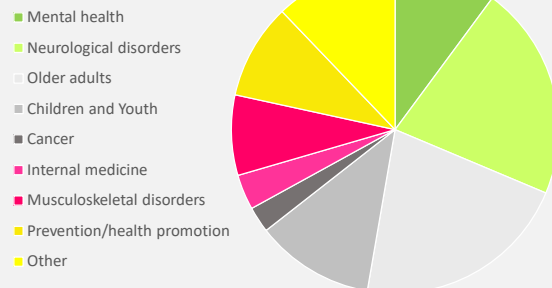


Fig. 2: Simple search

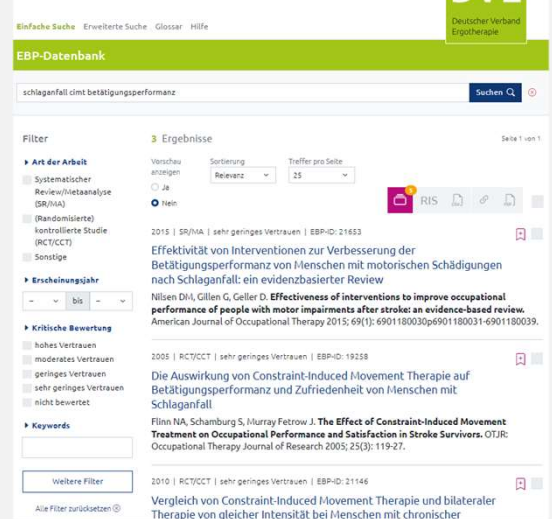
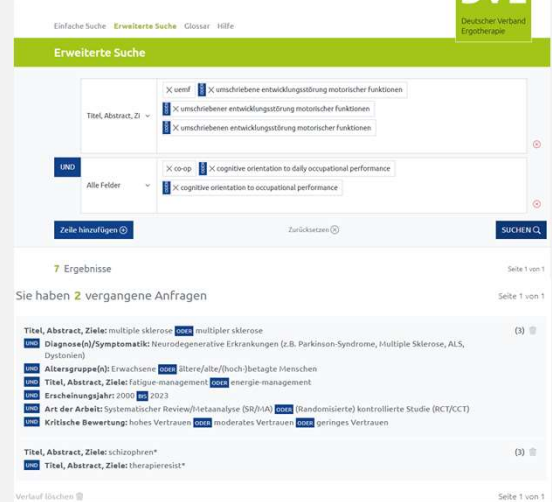


Fig. 3: Advanced search



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