

Evaluation of Systematic Review Utilization in the Development of OB-GYN Randomized Controlled Trials



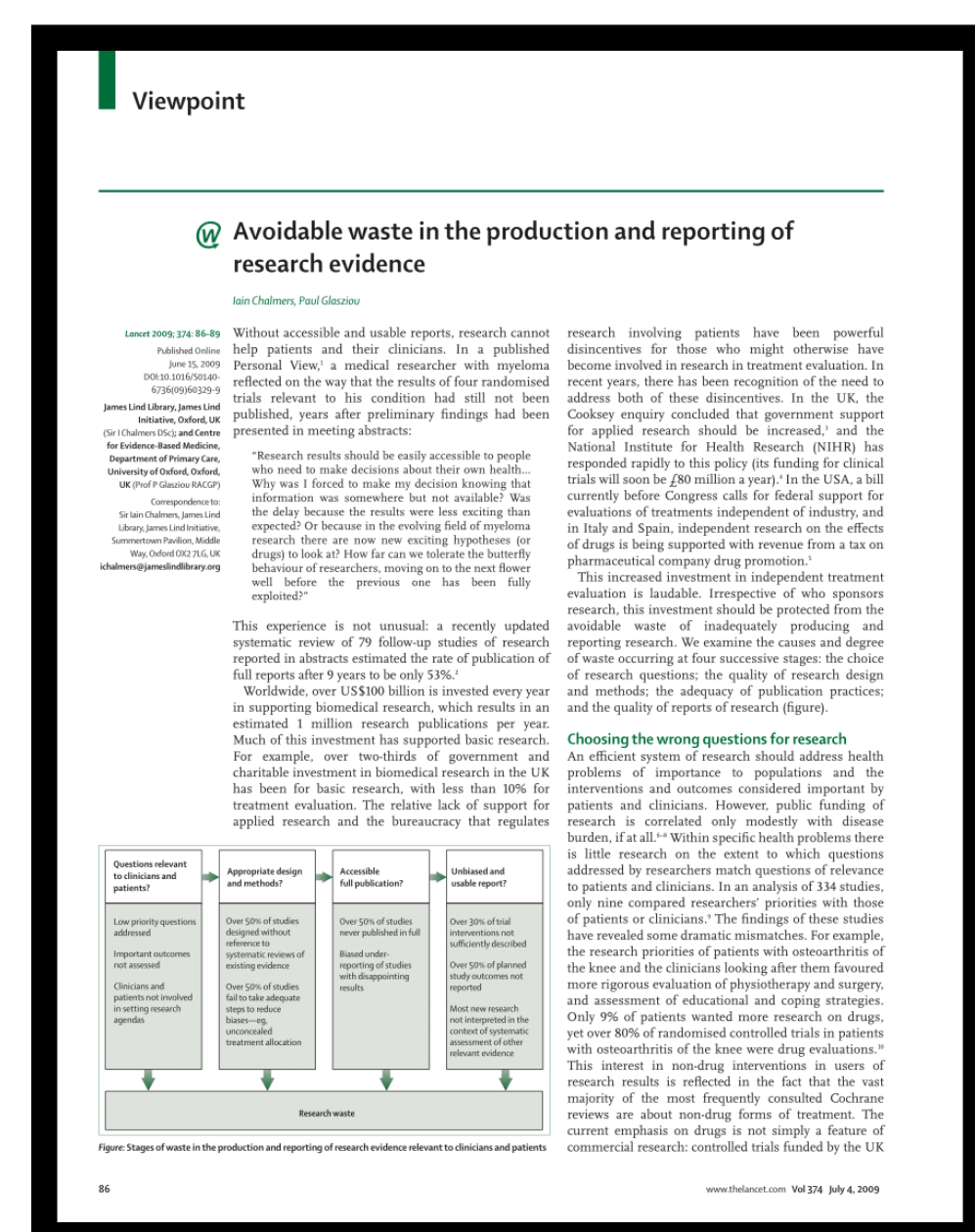
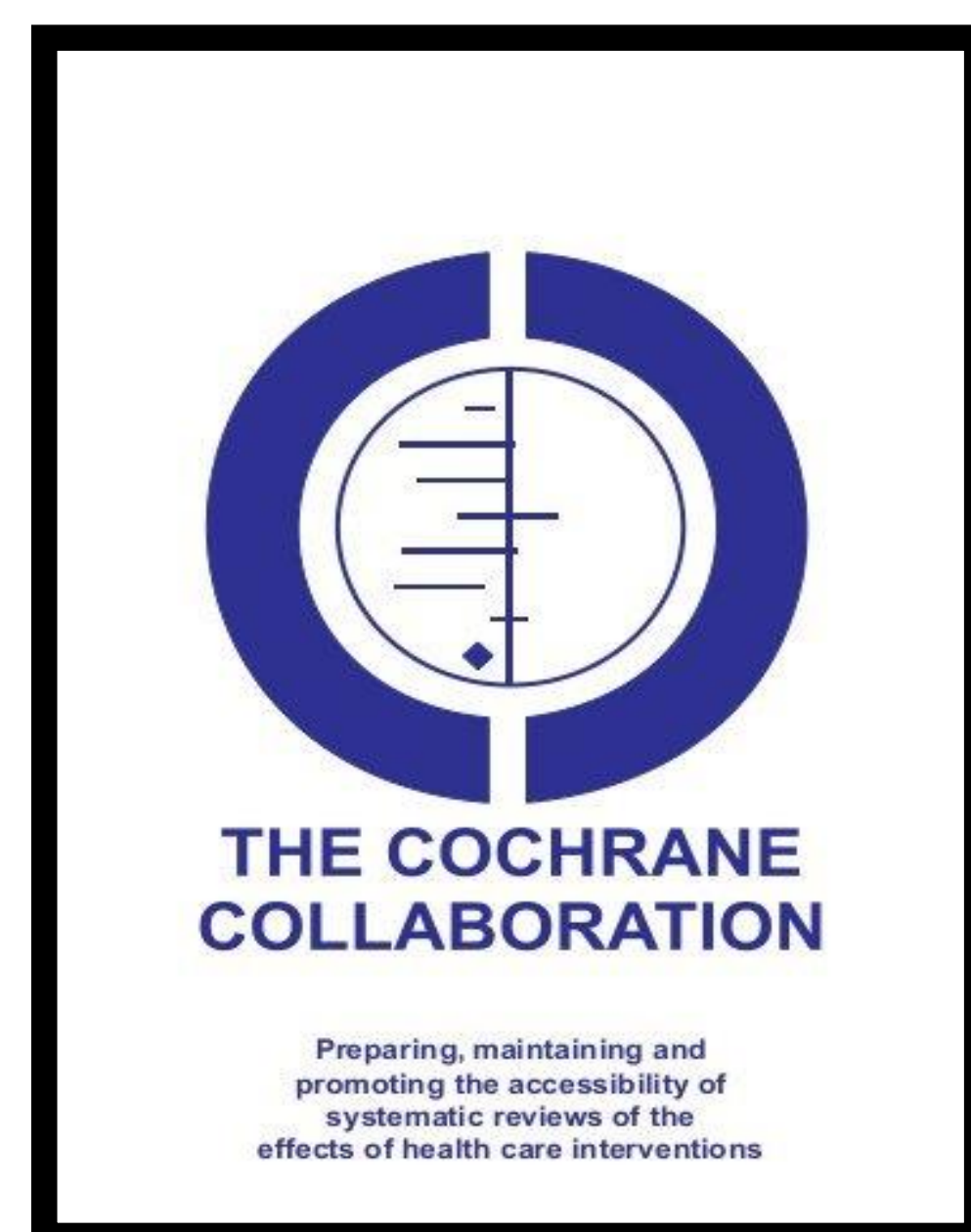
Nigro TAE, Rauh S, Sims MT, Vassar M

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INTRODUCTION

The Cochrane review defines RCTs as the highest level of evidence for an intervention which are collectively summarized in SRs

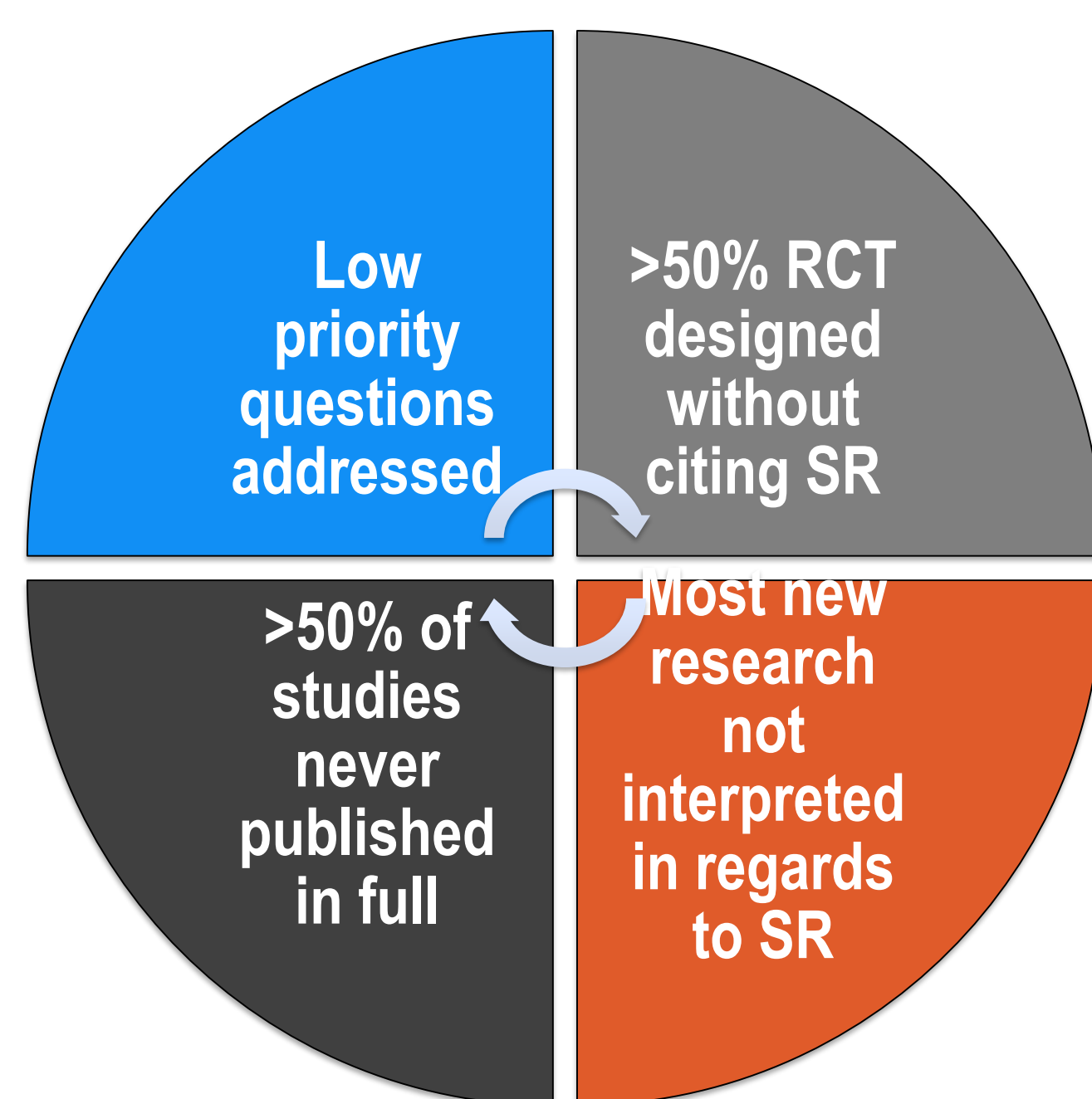
In 2009, Chalmers and Glasziou found that 85% of funding for biomedical research had been wasted and posed 4 steps to improve quality.



ACOG uses RCTs to determine the best form of clinical practice. For example, in 2016 they updated their guidelines in early vs. late umbilical cord clamping in order to prevent infections such as necrotizing enterocolitis.



Vicious cycle of research waste

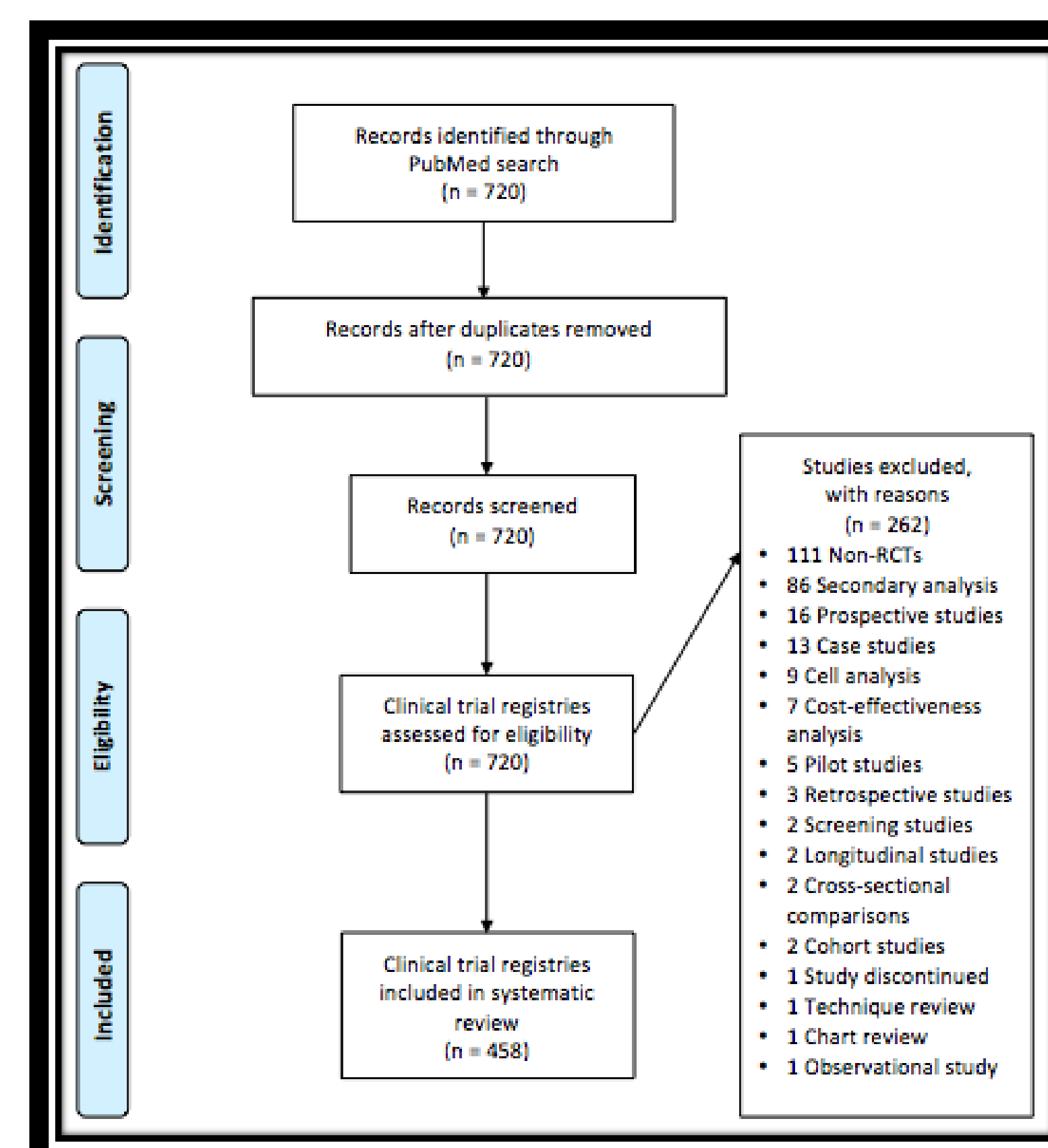


METHODS

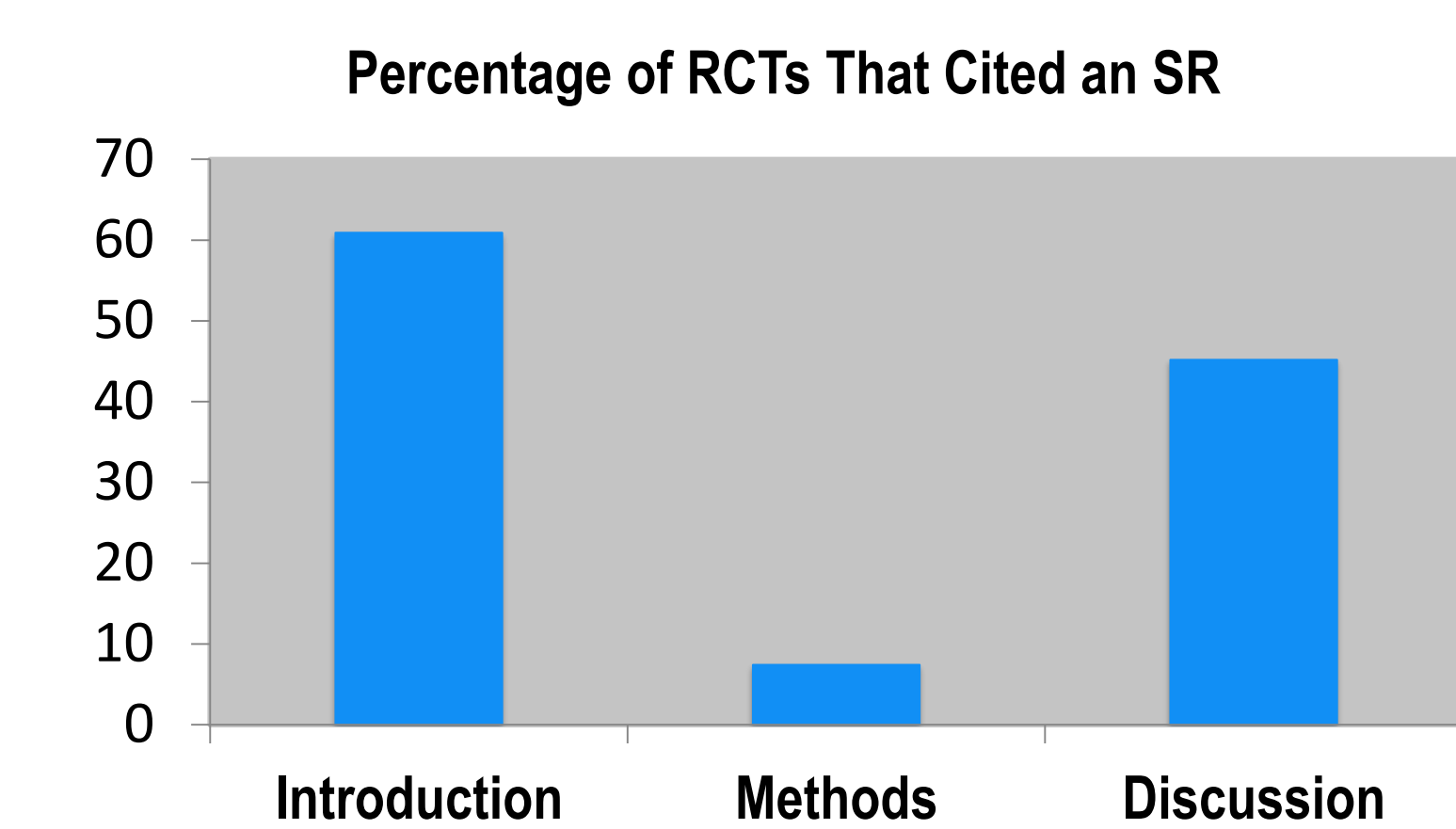
We selected the top 10 gynecology and obstetrics journals based on the Google Scholar Metrics. We conducted a PubMed search of studies published between 2014 to 2018 to collect articles in order to evaluate their use of SRs in the RCT.

Included gynecology & obstetrics journals based on Google Scholar Metrics			
Rank	Journal	h5-index	h5-median
1	Obstetrical & Gynecological Survey	116	224
2	Obstetric Anesthesia Digest	77	114
3	American Journal of Obstetrics & Gynecology	76	105
4	Obstetrics & Gynecology	76	102
5	Human Reproduction Update	74	106
6	Gynecologic Oncology	66	90
7	BJOG – An International Journal of Obstetrics and Gynaecology	64	91
8	Ultrasound in Obstetrics & Gynecology	58	93
9	Prenatal Diagnosis	47	73
10	European Journal of Obstetrics & Gynecology and Reproductive Biology	43	50

Our search produced 720 studies. Of the 720 studies, 262 were excluded based on the reasons presented in the PRISMA diagram.

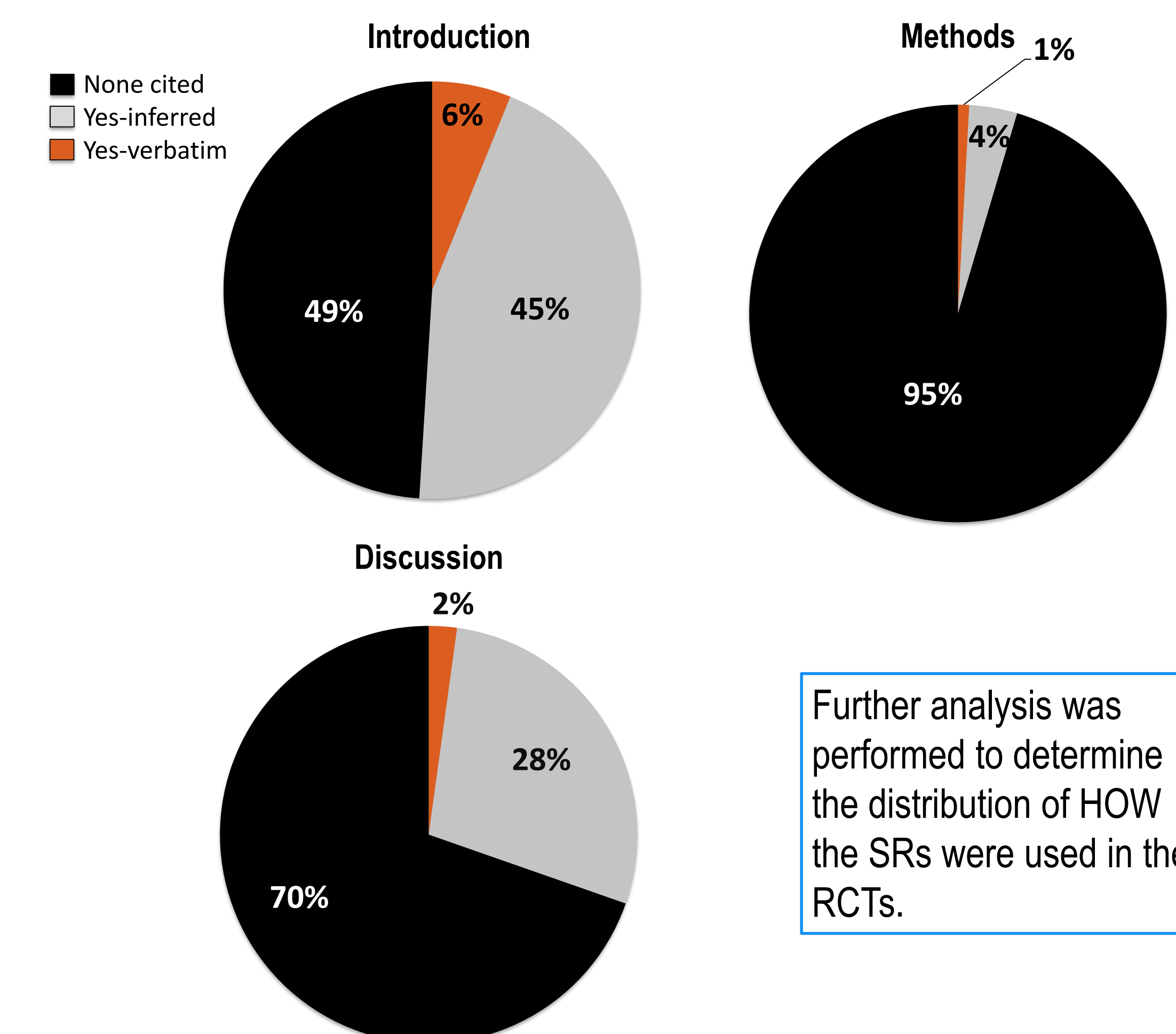


RESULTS



Of the 458 included articles, 60.92% cited an SR in the introduction, 7.42% cited an SR in the methods, and 45.20% cited an SR in their discussion section

What was the distribution of SRs cited as justification in each article section?



Further analysis was performed to determine the distribution of HOW the SRs were used in the RCTs.

CONCLUSIONS

- The majority of RCTs published in OB-GYN journals aren't citing SRs as justification for performing their study.
- When RCTs do cite SRs, the majority are inferring that they are using the SR as justification but do not state it verbatim.
- It is necessary as future physicians to ensure that the information obtained from biomedical research is addressing relevant questions and building upon what is already known, therefore journals need a system in place to ensure this is happening.

