|  |
| --- |
| **Health literacy assessment tools for children: A systematic review** |
| **Background/Objectives**Assessing children`s health literacy has become of particular interest, especially in health promotion and education. Compared to the wider availability of tools for adults, including an online database of health literacy measures, only a few tools are known for younger age groups. The objective of this study is to present a systematic review on generic health literacy assessment tools for children from 2015 and results of an updated systematic review from 2018.**Methods**We systematically searched five major databases (last updated July 2015) in order to identify tools addressing children ≤ 18 years old. The results have been published as a systematic review in 2018. Using the exact same search strategy, we have updated our earlier search to retrieve new tools that were published until January 2018.**Results**A total of 25 health literacy tools for the age-group were identified, n=15 in the original review and n=10 in its update. All, except two, are self-administered instruments. Seven are objective measures (performance tests), eleven are subjective measures (self-reporting), and seven use a mixed-method measurement. Among the instruments, more than 30 different components related to health literacy were identified. Accordingly, the studies use different conceptual and operational definitions. While the youngest age group studied was 7-year-old children within a parent-child study, there are only two instruments specifically designed for primary school children. Most instruments applied a broad and multidimensional understanding of health literacy that is also close to health promotion practice. Eight instruments were developed by involving users in the development process, applying methods such as interviews, focus groups, test-retest, or group discussions. In general, and with a few exceptions, reporting of methodological quality was weak in most assessed studies.**Discussion**The results to both reviews are verify that health literacy assessment for children is uprising in the international community, especially the context of health promotion is gaining importance. The results of our published review show only two studies involving users in the development process, while six out of ten studies published within the last three years have included children and adolescents. However, further rigorous research is required to improve health literacy instruments and to provide in-depth knowledge to inform effective health promotion interventions.**Keywords**Health literacy, assessment tools, measurement, children and adolescents, systematic review |