

The Associates of Emotional Intelligence in Medical Students: Protocol for a Systematic Review

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Emotional Intelligence can be defined as the capacity to be aware of, control, and express one's emotions, and to handle interpersonal relationships judiciously and empathetically. Studies have found a positive effect between Emotional intelligence (EI) and academic/professional success and shows that EI has a positive contribution in doctor-patient relationship, high empathy levels, teamwork, communication skills, managing stress, institutional obligations and leadership. EI becomes important especially for medical undergraduates due to the long and relatively strenuous medical course. Few studies suggest that training strategies on EI would help medical students to improve their leadership and empathy skills, through their clinical years. Therefore, the objective of conducting this Systematic Review (SR) is to find the best evidence on associates of Emotional Intelligence in Medical students, which would facilitate designing strategies to address the targeted groups. The research question was defined using the PICOS(T) format: P - Participants are medical students, I - Phenomenon of EI, C – NONE, Outcome - associated factors of EI, Site – all continents of the world, Time scale - 2010 to 2019. The review protocol was created by all three authors. A Systematic search in line with the PICOST elements, will be carried out. Retrieved articles will be added to Mendeley desktop software and uploaded to Rayyan, the Web application for screening in SR. The study inclusion/exclusion criteria were developed according to PICOST elements and will be used to screen the articles in Rayyan, independently by two review authors. Required data from selected articles will be extracted by three review authors. Each selected article/study will be subjected to quality assessment, using Newcastle-Ottawa Scale by two authors independently. Only the articles of desired quality will be selected to include in the review. Findings of those included articles will be used in a narrative synthesis process, to produce a final interpretation for the review.

Key words: Protocol, systematic reviews, emotional intelligence, medical students, best evidence