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The Prevalence of Scoliosis in Spina Bifida Subpopulations: A Systematic Review.

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Abstract

Prevalence of scoliosis within **spina bifida subpopulations** is important for diagnostics and therapeutic purposes. This **review** determined the **prevalence of scoliosis** within **spina bifida subpopulations** by means of a **systematic literature review** by using the following databases: Medline PubMed, Embase, Cochrane, and Pedro. All Dutch- and English-written literature using the MESH terms "spinal dysraphism," "neural tube defects," and "**scoliosis**" was analyzed using the exclusion criteria: animal studies, case reports, studies regarding the **prevalence of spina bifida** among patients with **scoliosis**, studies with inclusion of patients with **scoliosis** of less than 11 degrees without possibility to identify subgroups with **scoliosis** of greater than 10 degrees, studies without an own study group, articles comprising the same patient group as another article, neural tube defects besides **spina bifida**, and articles without specification of **spina bifida** subtype. It resulted in six articles, two concerning diastematomyelia (103 patients, 82 females and 21 males) and four about myelomeningocele (479 patients, 283 females and 196 males) with an overall weighted **prevalence of scoliosis** (20-degree Cobb angle cutoff) of 44.4% and 52.5%, respectively. It can be concluded that most studies have a lot of methodological flaws, so there is a need for further research with standardization of data collection to allow comparison of different data.

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