

# Application of the Meta-Aggregative Approach to Qualitative Data Synthesis to Research on Problematic Alcohol Consumption After Bariatric Surgery

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## Introduction

There is growing recognition of the value of qualitative studies in health psychology research. Many methods of synthesizing qualitative evidence have emerged in recent years. Meta-aggregation is the strategy proposed by the Joanna Briggs Institute for synthesizing evidence from qualitative studies. This poster presents an application of the meta-aggregation to research on bariatric surgery and alcohol consumption.

During the last decade, several studies have indicated an increased rate of alcohol use disorder after bariatric surgery (BS). Unfortunately, there are few known risk factors and explanatory hypotheses for this phenomenon. The relationship between BS and problematic alcohol consumption (PAC), from the perspective of patients, was explored in this review.

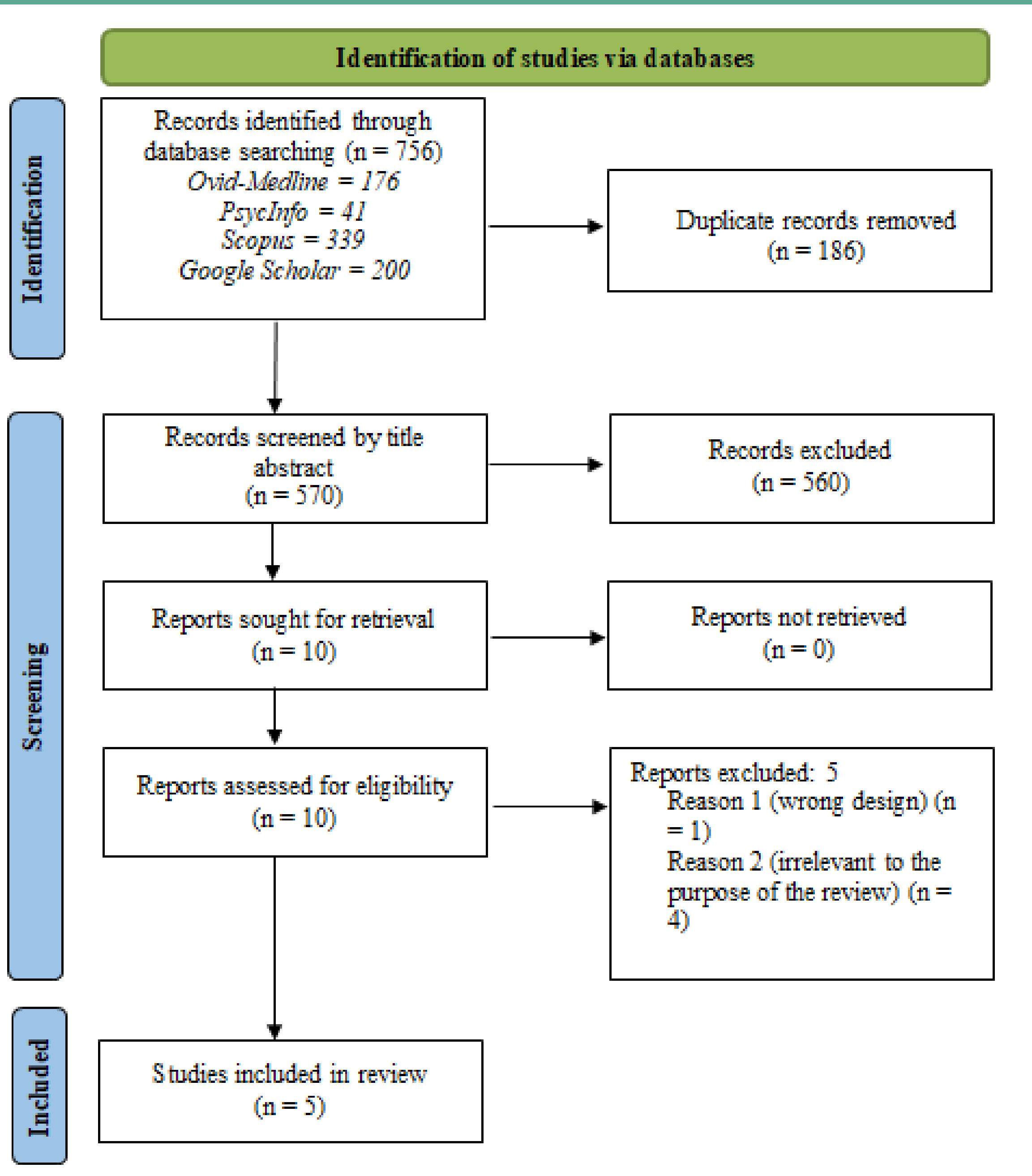
## Review question

The review question was developed based on the PICo mnemonic:

- **Population:** patients with a BS and a PAC
- **Phenomenon of Interest:** their perceptions of the mechanisms leading to PAC after BS
- **Context:** any context, any setting

➔ What are patients' perceptions of the mechanisms leading to PAC after BS ?

## Preliminary Results



4 included studies

- 35 extracted findings :
- 26 unequivocal
  - 6 credible
  - 3 not supported (not included in the synthesis)

Included studies' methodological quality ranged from high to low

## Methods

**A priori protocol :** An a priori protocol was written for the current review and registered with Prospero (CRD42021268700).

**Eligibility Criteria :** The current review considered qualitative studies:

- Including adults with a BS and a PAC already existing before or developed post-surgery
- Regarding patients' perceptions of the mechanisms leading to PAC after BS
- Conducted in any context, any setting
- Without restriction as to the methodology or data collection method or emerging from mixed methods studies.

**Search Strategy:** The search was conducted on Medline, PsycInfo, Scopus and Google Scholar, using keywords such as "bariatric surg\*", "sleeve", "alcohol\*", "qualitative", etc.

**Screening:** The titles/abstracts screening was realized independently by two reviewers using Covidence.

**Methodological Quality Assessement:** This step was realized independently by two reviewers with the "JBI Critical Appraisal Checklist for Qualitative Research".

**Data Extraction:** Data were extracted in 3 stages: (1) general characteristics of included studies; (2) findings and illustrations; (3) assignment of a credibility level to each finding (by two reviewers).

**Data synthesis:** It involved grouping findings into categories, then grouping categories into synthesized results.

**Assessment of the confidence in the review findings:** The ConQual approach was used to assess the confidence in the synthesized results emerging from this review.

Interest of the current review:

- Better understanding of patients' own perceptions of the mechanisms leading to PAC after BS
- Formulating new hypotheses regarding the etiology of PAC post-surgery
- Comparaing results emerging from qualitative studies with those of previous quantitative studies

## References

King, W. C., Chen, J. Y., Mitchell, J. E., Kalarichian, M. A., Steffen, K. J., Engel, S. G., Courcoulas, A. P., Pories, W. J., & Yanovski, S. Z. (2012). Prevalence of alcohol use disorders before and after bariatric surgery. *JAMA*, 307(23), 2516–2525.

Lockwood, C., Munn, Z., & Porritt, K. (2015). Qualitative research synthesis: Methodological guidance for systematic reviewers utilizing meta-aggregation. *International journal of evidence-based healthcare*, 13(3), 179–187.