

Cochrane Reviews and the COMET Initiative.

Do they consider the same outcomes for palliative care interventions?

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The problem

Palliative care interventions are focused on improving the quality of life of patients and families facing a life-threatening illness and relieving suffering by identification, assessment and treatment of pain, physical, psychosocial and spiritual problems [1]. The **COMET Initiative** has promoted discussion of the importance of establishing a core set outcomes for each health condition, mainly to provide support for clinical trials that are being planned.

Objectives

To compare the outcomes considered by **CSR** to those recommended by the **COMET Initiative**.

Key Results

Advance care planning, reference to hospice care, preferred place of death and well-being were considered by both. Published CRs have not considered caregiver- and family-oriented outcomes (bereavement support and carer satisfaction) and quality of death.

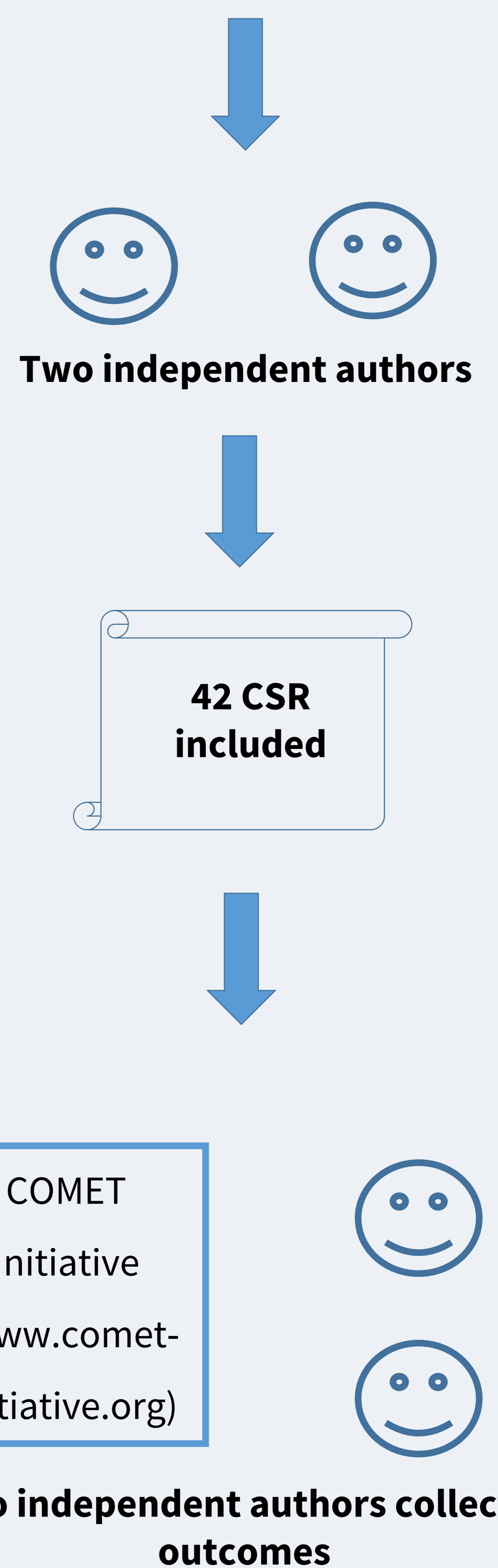
Table 2. Outcomes considered by CSR and by The COMET Initiative

Oriented-outcome	Cochrane systematic reviews	COMET Initiative
Patient-oriented	Coping skills, disease progression, symptoms (anxiety, weakness, tiredness, exhaustion, nausea and vomiting, pain, pruritus, noisy breathing, constipation, insomnia), treatment acceptance.	Patient satisfaction, mobility, morbidity, symptoms (sexual and bowel functioning) and quality of death
Caregiver- or family-oriented	Caregiver burden, caregiver knowledge, decisional conflict of the surrogate.	Bereavement support, carer satisfaction
Health system-oriented	Cost-effectiveness of care	Cause of death
Common outcomes	Advance care planning (do-not-resuscitate order), adverse events/ complications, breathlessness/dyspnoea, death/survival, depression, fatigue, functionality/disability (physical, emotional and social), hospital admission, quality of life and well-being, reference to hospice care.	

Methods

Table 1. Search strategy for CSR about palliative care

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#1 MeSH descriptor: [Palliative Care] explode all trees
#2 (Care, Palliative) OR (Palliative Treatment) OR (Palliative Treatments) OR (Treatment, Palliative) OR (Treatments, Palliative) OR (Therapy, Palliative) OR (Palliative Therapy) OR (Palliative Supportive Care) OR (Supportive Care, Palliative)
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