Reviewer’s report

Title: Specific barriers to the conduct of randomised clinical trials on medical devices

Version: 1 Date: 15 Jul 2017

Reviewer: Rakesh Aggarwal

Reviewer’s report:

Systematic reviews are a type of literature review that collects and critically analyzes multiple research studies or papers, which have been identified using a structured and pre-specified methodology, that answer a 'research question' or a set of related 'research questions'. They are designed to provide a complete, exhaustive summary of current literature relevant to a research question.

I don't think that the question this study addresses can be called a 'research question'. Hence, I would desist from calling this article (and other related articles) as systematic reviews.

Using the term 'systematic review' loosely for such reviews would take away from the importance of the phrase 'systematic search' for focussed research questions -- which use the PICO approach or PICO+design approach.

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