Abstract

Objective: The present study aimed to classify the evidence of the systematic reviews from the Cochrane

y : Evidence based medicine; Anesthesiology; Systematic review; Meta-analyzes; Scienti c research

Systematic reviews are one of the best methods for mapping, gathering and producing scienti c evidence, because they assess several data from di erent studies simultaneously, based on reproducible and consistent methodology. According to the number and type of included studies in systematic reviews, meta-analyses can be plotted, representing the combined statistical data from the trials that have met the inclusion criteria.

e Cochrane Collaboration has the largest database of systematic reviews and it aim1C /66-1ng (en-GBMCID 73615o2.004 Tc 0.004 Tw 9 0 0 9 176.6819 193.5178 Tm[(t)-10(he) 1m( )11e(en-616EMC 7Sp6n-GBMCID 7 the highest standard of quality

to these several advantages, systematic reviews are o en criticized due to the production of data with no statistical signi cance, the inconsistency of evidence and the absence of solid recommendations for interventions in clinical practice. Only a small proportion of these systematic reviews have been

anesthesiology,

***Corresponding author:** Paulo do Nascimento Jr, Department of Anesthesiology, Botucatu Medical School, UNESP, Distrito de Rubião Jr s/n, CEP 18.618-970m, Botucatu/SP, Brazil, Tel: 5571991165794; E-mail: pnasc@fmb.unesp.br

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it is due to the poor methodological quality of the primary studies, speci cally no clear randomization [8], single-center research with small sample sizes, no concealment of patients' distribution into groups, lack of blinding of results for outcome evaluators [9], bias due to pharmaceutical company nancing [10] and di erent types of heterogeneity.

Publication bias can also erroneously a ect the clinical care of patients and future research. De Oliveira et al. [11] analyzed 1163 papers in anesthesiology, demonstrating that a positive result, or a result favorable to an intervention, was an independent predictive factor for publication in higher-impact journals. Moreover, a study with negative or unfavorable results took considerably more time to be accepted for publication [12]. In the present study, there were a higher number of systematic reviews with positive or favorable results in comparison to the negative outcomes, similarly to the fact previously described. A recently published meta-epidemiological analysis [13] that included 93 meta-analyses from 735 randomized controlled trials, published in journals from di erent specialties, showed signi cant variation in the sample sizes of the studies in their meta-analyses, with the smaller studies having a higher probability of overestimation of the positive e ects of the tested

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