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Pain management interventions in the Paediatric Intensive Care Unit: A scoping review

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Abstract: Objective: To map research based pain management interventions used in the paediatric intensive care unit . Methodology: A scoping review of research literature has been conducted . Five databases were searched from their inception to end 2015 (CINAHL, EMBASE, MEDLINE, PsychINFO, and ProQuest Dissertations & Theses Global). Reference lists from the screened full text articles were reviewed. Results: 7046 articles were identified, 100 underwent full text screening and 27 were included in the scoping review. Seventeen (63%) were non-experimental, and 10 (37%) were experimental, of which 8 (30%) were randomised controlled trials. The majority of the articles focused on pharmacological interventions (n = 21, 78%), one on physical, and one on psychological interventions. Four studies included more than one category of interventions. The majority of the studies focused on post-operative pain management (n = 18, 67%), three (11%) on analgesia and sedation management and six (22%) on other pain management for different conditions . Discussion: Most studies included in this scoping review focused on medications and post-operative pain management and most were non clinical trials. More research, including clinical trials, is warranted to determine the effectiveness of pharmacological and non-pharmacological interventions for pain management in the paediatric intensive care unit.