Pharmacological Medications used with Thickening Agents: Comparative Clinical Effectiveness
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**About CADTH:** CADTH is an independent, not-for-profit organization responsible for providing Canada’s health care decision-makers with objective evidence to help make informed decisions about the optimal use of drugs, medical devices, diagnostics, and procedures in our health care system.
Research Question

What is the comparative clinical effectiveness of pharmacological medications in patients taking xanthan gum-based thickeners versus starch-based thickeners?

Key Findings

No literature was identified regarding the comparative clinical effectiveness of pharmacological medications in patients taking xanthan gum-based thickeners versus starch-based thickeners.

Methods

A limited literature search was conducted on key resources including PubMed, PubMed Central, The Cochrane Library, University of York Centre for Reviews and Dissemination (CRD) databases, CINAHL, Canadian and major international health technology agencies, as well as a focused Internet search. No filters were applied to the main search to limit retrieval by study type. A second broader search was also included, with methodological filters applied to limit retrieval to health technology assessments, systematic reviews, meta-analyses, randomized controlled trials, and non-randomized studies. For all searches, retrieval was limited to the human population, and to English language documents published between January 1, 2012 and December 5, 2017. Internet links were provided, where available.

Selection Criteria

One reviewer screened citations and selected studies based on the inclusion criteria presented in Table 1.

Table 1: Selection Criteria

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Population</th>
<th>All individuals using food or liquid thickeners (e.g., patients with dysphagia)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Interventions</td>
<td>Pharmacological medications taken by patients who are using xanthan gum-based thickeners (e.g., ThickenUp, SimplyThick)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Comparator</td>
<td>Pharmacological medications of the same type or class taken by patients who are using starch-based thickeners (e.g., Thick-It, Thick &amp; Easy)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Outcomes</td>
<td>Clinical effectiveness of medication (e.g., drug effectiveness)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Study Designs</td>
<td>Health technology assessments, systematic reviews, meta-analyses, randomized controlled trials, non-randomized studies</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Results

Rapid Response reports are organized so that the higher quality evidence is presented first. Therefore, health technology assessment reports, systematic reviews, and meta-analyses are presented first. These are followed by randomized controlled trials and non-randomized studies.

No health technology assessments, systematic reviews, meta-analyses, randomized controlled trials, or non-randomized studies were identified regarding the comparative clinical effectiveness of pharmacological medications in patients taking xanthan gum-based thickeners versus starch-based thickeners.

References of potential interest are provided in the appendix.

Overall Summary of Findings

No literature was identified regarding the comparative clinical effectiveness of pharmacological medications in patients taking xanthan gum-based thickeners versus starch-based thickeners; therefore no summary can be provided.

References Summarized

Health Technology Assessments

No literature identified.

Systematic Reviews and Meta-analyses

No literature identified.

Randomized Controlled Trials

No literature identified.

Non-Randomized Studies

No literature identified.
Appendix — Further Information

Non-Randomized Studies

**Alternative Comparator**


**In Vitro Studies**


**Alternative Intervention**


**Review Articles**
