

CADTH RAPID RESPONSE REPORT: SUMMARY OF ABSTRACTS

Fall Risk Assessment Tools in Obstetric Populations: Clinical Utility and Guidelines

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Questions or requests for information about this report can be directed to requests@cadth.ca

Research Questions

1. What is the clinical utility of fall risk assessment tools in obstetric populations?
2. What are the evidence-based guidelines regarding the use of fall risk assessment tools in obstetric populations?

Key Findings

No relevant literature was identified regarding the clinical utility of fall risk assessment tools in obstetric populations. No evidence-based guidelines were identified regarding the use of fall risk assessment tools in obstetric populations.

Methods

A limited literature search was conducted by an information specialist on key resources including PubMed, the Cochrane Library, the University of York Centre for Reviews and Dissemination (CRD) databases, the websites of Canadian and major international health technology agencies, as well as a focused Internet search. The search strategy was comprised of both controlled vocabulary, such as the National Library of Medicine's MeSH (Medical Subject Headings), and keywords. The main search concepts were pregnancy and accidental falls. No filters were applied to limit the retrieval by study type. The search was also limited to English language documents published between January 1, 2014 and December 10, 2019. 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

| | |
|----------------------|---|
| Population | Obstetric populations (pre-delivery and post-delivery) |
| Intervention | Fall risk assessment tools (e.g., the Obstetric Falls Risk Assessment System, Fall Risk Assessment for Perinatal Patients) |
| Comparator | Q1: Other fall risk assessment tools; no screening for risk of falling Q2: No comparator required |
| Outcomes | Q1: Clinical utility (e.g., predictive accuracy, relative risk of falling) Q2: Evidence-based guidelines |
| Study Designs | Health technology assessments, systematic reviews, meta-analyses, randomized controlled trials, non-randomized studies, and evidence-based guidelines |

Results

No relevant health technology assessments, systematic reviews, meta-analyses, randomized controlled trials, and non-randomized studies were identified regarding the clinical utility of fall risk assessment tools in obstetric populations. No evidence-based guidelines were identified regarding the use of fall risk assessment tools in obstetric populations.

Additional references of potential interest are provided in the appendix.

Overall Summary of Findings

No relevant literature was identified regarding the clinical utility of fall risk assessment tools in obstetric populations. No evidence-based guidelines were identified regarding the use of fall risk assessment tools in obstetric populations. 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.

Guidelines and Recommendations

No literature identified.

Appendix — Further Information

Non-Randomized Studies

Alternative Intervention

1. Danna-Dos-Santos A, Magalhaes AT, Silva BA, et al. Upright balance control strategies during pregnancy. *Gait Posture*. 2018 Oct;66:7-12.
[PubMed: PM30134216](#)

No Comparator

2. Inanir A, Cakmak B, Hisim Y, Demirturk F. Evaluation of postural equilibrium and fall risk during pregnancy. *Gait Posture*. 2014 Apr;39(4):1122-1125.
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3. Thompson K, Haddad L, Smith S. Reliability and validity of the postepidural fall risk assessment score. *J Nurs Care Qual*. 2014 Jul-Sep;29(3):263-268.
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Clinical Practice Guidelines

4. Alberta Health Services. Maternal and infant fall prevention and management [guideline]. Edmonton (AB): Alberta Health Services; 2019 Oct:
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<https://www.kemh.health.wa.gov.au/~media/Files/Hospitals/WNHS/For%20health%20professionals/Clinical%20guidelines/OG/WNHS.OG.FallsRisksPreventionManagement.pdf>
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<https://www.alliedacademies.org/articles/design-application-and-evaluation-of-maternal-fall-risk-assessment-scale.pdf>
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[PubMed: PM25630284](https://pubmed.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/25630284/)