



Background

- Cochrane Schizophrenia reviews cite and describe every randomised trial's rating scale/measure which provides usable data.
- Unless these citations and descriptions are consistent readers will have different understandings of the meaning of the evidence.

Aim

- To investigate consistency in reporting of scales within Cochrane Schizophrenia reviews.

Methods - 1

Cochrane Library search - 'Schizophrenia' in review title (n=166)

Reviews with no outcome scales (n=24)

Withdrawn reviews (n=2)

Reviews with useable data from outcome scales (n=140)

Methods - 2

- Data were manipulated in MS Excel and Access and ordered by frequency of use*
- The 10 most popular scales were selected and their relevant information tabulated from a reference textbook^{1**} and from out of the Cochrane reviews.
- The results were compared.

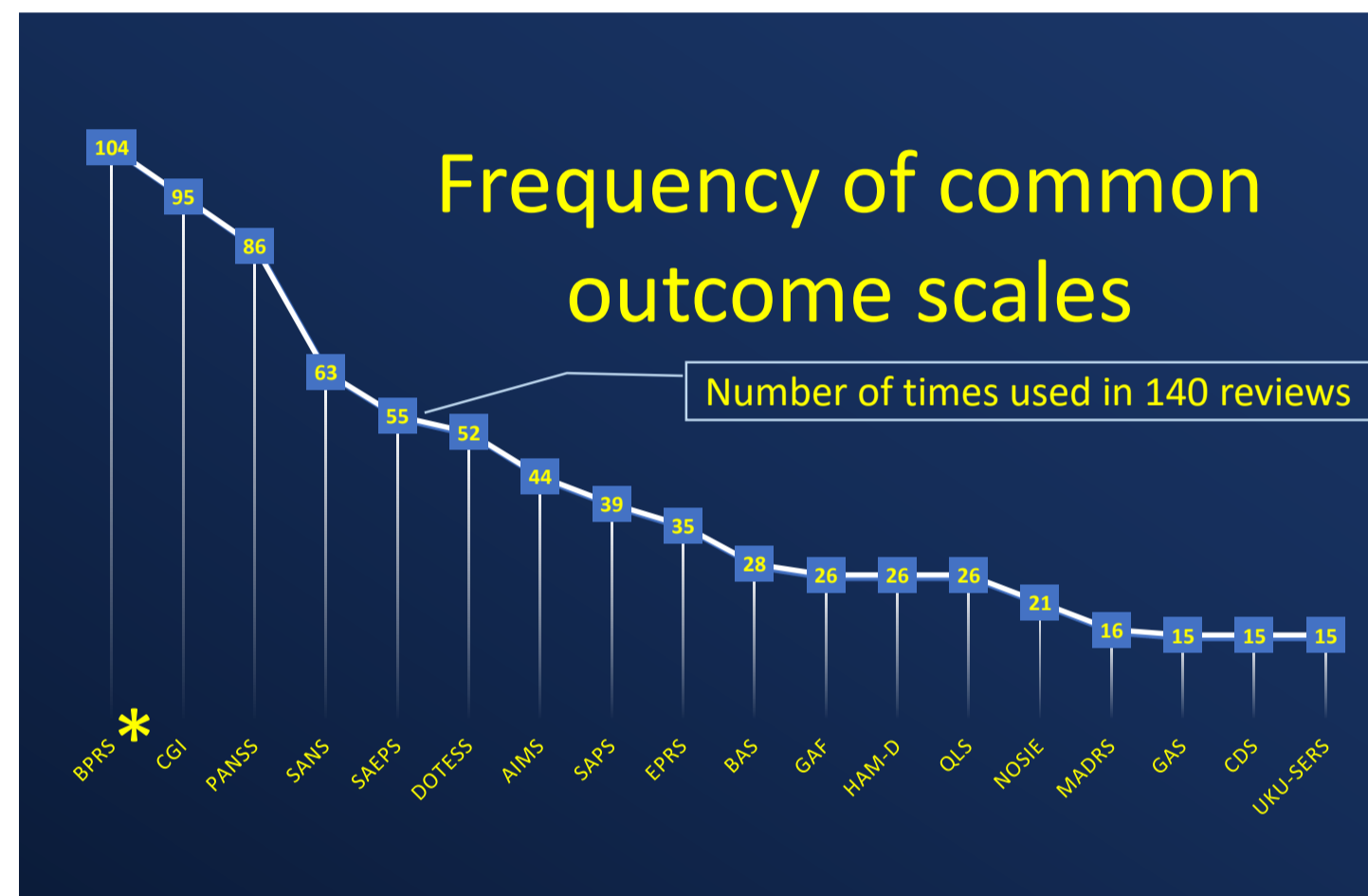
Results

- 140 reviews contained 307 unique scales (~ 2.2 new scales/review)
- 18 scales (6%) scales were used in more than 10 reviews
- Cochrane reviews are highly – but not perfectly – consistent.
- For the 10 most common scales:
 - there is consistent use of abbreviations (80%), names (80%) and references (70%); but
 - discrepancies frequently occur in the exact *description* of each scale (40% of reviews) ***



QR code links to:

- *Full Names
- **Master Scales
- ***List of discrepant scales



Conclusions

Cochrane review consistency is high – but use of standard text (name, abbreviation, reference, description and utility) would save time, improve the product, and assist automation.

Reference 1. Van Riezen et al. Rating Scales for Psychoneuropharmacology. 2000. Elsevier Science: Amsterdam, Netherlands.

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