

Quality in Qualitative Research
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Why use qualitative research?

- Evidence-based practice often focuses on quantitative research
- Quantitative research asks narrow, specific questions and gives narrow, specific answers
- Qualitative research asks broad, complex questions and gives broad, complex answers
- Qualitative research gives insight on the complexity of human experience
- Qualitative research embraces the complexity of human experience

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Quality criteria

- Began to be articulated for qualitative research in the 1970s and 1980s
- Guba and Lincoln's (1985) quality criteria were adopted by many
 - And are still cited by many today
- Checklists and standards were developed in the 1990s and 2000s
 - Checklists are not without problems

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Today's presentation

- Little technical jargon
- Not meant to make you an expert qualitative article reviewer
- About helping you identify qualitative research that you can trust and apply in clinical practice

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What do I look for?

- Highly descriptive writing
 - Context
 - Quotations
 - Counter examples are important

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What do I look for?

- Complexity
 - After reading a qualitative research article, you should feel that the phenomenon becomes bigger, not smaller
 - The article should make you think more, not less

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What do I look for?

- The researcher follows the phenomenon
 - A rigid, structured interview guide can be a red flag
- Clinical implications
 - You should intuitively feel that you have more information for clinical decision-making
 - The answers should not be simple

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What do I look for?

- Ethics
 - Goes beyond institutional review boards
 - Community engagement with vulnerable populations
 - The researchers affect the research
 - Nothing identifiable in the data (unless participant wanted to be identified)
 - Avoid misery porn

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References

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