

# Interventions in the sexuality of men with elimination stoma: scoping review protocol

## Intervenções na sexualidade de homens com estomas de eliminação: protocolo de scoping review

## Intervenciones en la sexualidad de hombres con estoma de eliminación: protocolo de revisión del alcance

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# REVISA

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### RESUMO

**Objetivo:** Mapear as intervenções direcionadas à sexualidade de homens com estomias de eliminação. **Método:** Protocolo de Scoping Review, orientado pelo método proposto por Joanna Briggs Institute, norteado pela pergunta "quais as intervenções direcionadas à sexualidade de homens com estomias de eliminação?" Fontes de informação definidas foram: PubMed, Literatura Latino-Americana e do Caribe em Ciências da Saúde (LILACS) via Biblioteca Virtual em Saúde, Web of Science, Scopus, Embase, Biblioteca Digital da Scientific Electronic Library Online, Biblioteca Digital Brasileira de Teses e Dissertações, Catálogo de Teses e Dissertações CAPES, Repositórios Científicos de Acesso Aberto de Portugal. A seleção e avaliação final dos estudos serão conduzidas por dois revisores independentes, sendo as divergências resolvidas por um terceiro revisor. Os dados extraídos serão inseridos em um instrumento de extração de dados, contendo informações sobre autores, título, ano de publicação, país de origem, objetivo, tipo de estudo, participantes, intervenções identificadas, conclusões relevantes, DOI e link de acesso. Os resultados serão apresentados de forma narrativa, imagética e tabular.

**Descritores:** Estomas Cirúrgicos; Educação em Saúde; Saúde do Homem; Sexualidade; Tecnologia Biomédica.

### ABSTRACT

**Objective:** To map interventions targeting the sexuality of men with elimination ostomies. **Method:** Scoping Review Protocol, guided by the method proposed by the Joanna Briggs Institute, guided by the question "what are the interventions targeting the sexuality of men with elimination ostomies?" The following sources of information were defined: PubMed, Latin American and Caribbean Literature on Health Sciences via the Virtual Health Library, Web of Science, Scopus, Embase, Scientific Electronic Library Online Digital Library, Brazilian Digital Library of Theses and Dissertations, CAPES Catalog of Theses and Dissertations, and Open Access Scientific Repositories of Portugal. The selection and final evaluation of the studies will be conducted by two independent reviewers, with any disagreements resolved by a third reviewer. The extracted data will be entered into a data extraction tool, containing information on authors, title, year of publication, country of origin, objective, type of study, participants, identified interventions, relevant conclusions, DOI and access link. The results will be presented in narrative, imagery and tabular form.

**Descriptors:** Surgical Stomas; Health Education; Men's Health; Sexuality; Biomedical Technology..

### RESUMEN

**Objetivo:** Mapear intervenciones dirigidas a la sexualidad de hombres con ostomías de eliminación. **Método:** Protocolo de revisión del alcance, guiado por el método propuesto por el Instituto Joanna Briggs, guiado por la pregunta "¿cuáles son las intervenciones dirigidas a la sexualidad de los hombres con ostomías de eliminación?" Las fuentes de información definidas fueron: PubMed, Literatura Latinoamericana y del Caribe en Ciencias de la Salud vía Biblioteca Virtual en Salud, Web of Science, Scopus, Embase, Biblioteca Electrónica Científica Biblioteca Digital en Línea, Biblioteca Digital Brasileña de Tesis y Disertaciones, Catálogo de Tesis y Disertaciones CAPES, Repositorios Científicos Portugueses de Acceso Abierto. La selección y evaluación final de los estudios será realizada por dos revisores independientes, resolviendo los desacuerdos un tercer revisor. Los datos extraídos se insertarán en un instrumento de extracción de datos, que contendrá información sobre autores, título, año de publicación, país de origen, objetivo, tipo de estudio, participantes, intervenciones identificadas, conclusiones relevantes, DOI y enlace de acceso. Los resultados se presentarán en formato narrativo, visual y tabular.

**Descriptores:** Estomas Quirúrgicos; Educación para la Salud; Salud del Hombre; Sexualidad; Tecnología Biomédica.

## Introduction

Sexuality is closely related to quality of life, several factors can have a negative impact on its experience, including psychological, physical, sociocultural, religious and historical.<sup>1</sup> It is considered by the World Health Organization as a central aspect of the human being, covering sex, gender identity and roles, sexual orientation, erotism, pleasure, intimacy and reproduction.<sup>2</sup> In this context, some groups are more affected by conditions that negatively impact this dimension of life, among them are men who live with elimination stomata.<sup>3,4</sup>

The manufacture of an elimination stoma, defined as the surgical opening of an orifice that allows the communication of a hollow organ with the external environment, often performed in the intestine and/or bladder to divert feces and/or urine, generates biological, psychological and social impacts on the life of the person undergoing surgery, with repercussions on sexuality.<sup>5</sup>

In the biological dimension, among the problems faced by the male population, especially cisgender men, erectile dysfunction, changes in sexual drive, arousal, libido, infertility and ejaculatory dysfunctions are mentioned, which can be seen as fragilities, threatening the masculinity of these men.<sup>6,7</sup> A study with 64 patients showed that the majority (78.1%) were sexually active before the ostomy and only 34% resumed sexual activity after surgery. Among those who resumed, 28.2% of men had erectile dysfunction.<sup>8</sup>

In the psychological dimension, feelings of stigmatization, anguish, distortion of body image, fear of accidental episodes with the pouch can be experienced, in addition to the fear of failure during sexual intercourse.<sup>9</sup> These difficulties in the social sphere led to changes in family dynamics, limitation of professional activity, abandonment of work and social isolation.<sup>10</sup>

In view of the above, it is essential that men have access to specialized professional care, as well as the understanding of sexuality and its impact on quality of life, therefore, actions by health professionals aimed at promoting sexuality are necessary, considering its multidimensionality and the management of sexual dysfunctions in this population group.<sup>9</sup>

However, the theme is not always addressed during the consultations, either because the professionals do not feel prepared to address aspects of sexuality or because they understand the theme from a limited perspective, attributing it only to the sexual and phallic act, which makes them feel ashamed, afraid and embarrassed, in the face of the social taboo imposed, which implies a reductionist practice in the clinical and social management of human sexuality.<sup>10,11</sup>

That said, the challenges that permeate sexuality faced by the male population after stoma preparation are described in the literature, however there is little knowledge about interventions aimed at this important dimension of life. Therefore, there is a need to map the extent, scope and nature of this field of research. This scoping review will contribute to the dissemination of research results and identification of possible existing knowledge gaps, providing a description and summary of existing information.<sup>12</sup>

A preliminary search was conducted in July 2023 in PubMed, Virtual Health Library (VHL), Scopus, OSF Search, JBI Evidence Synthesis and found no Scoping Reviews or Protocols to map targeted interventions for sexuality in

men with elimination ostomies. Therefore, the aim of this study is to map interventions targeting the sexuality of men with elimination ostomies.

## Method

Scoping Review Protocol. The Scoping Review follows a systematic approach that aims to map available evidence on a given topic. This review will be developed according to the proposed method Joanna Briggs Institute (JBI).<sup>12</sup> The protocol was registered on the Open Science Framework (OSF) platform, (DOI 10.17605/OSF.IO/X9DSC) and can be consulted through the link: [https://osf.io/x9dsc/?view\\_only=a9c62ef6c11f44499f7b2bfe1fe379f9](https://osf.io/x9dsc/?view_only=a9c62ef6c11f44499f7b2bfe1fe379f9)

### Review question

To formulate a review question, the mnemonic strategy PCC: population (men with elimination stomas), concept (interventions directed at sexuality) and open context<sup>12</sup> were used, with a view to expanding the retrieval of publications, since the sexuality of men with stomas can be addressed in different scenarios, such as health services, support groups, associations of people with ostomies. Thus, the question formulated was: What are the interventions directed to the sexuality of men with elimination ostomies?

### Inclusion criteria

#### Participants

Studies involving adult men with elimination ostomies (ileostomies, colostomies, urostomies)

#### Concept

Studies that discuss interventions directed to sexuality, in its biological, psychological and social dimensions.

### Sources of evidence

This scoping review will consider quantitative and qualitative studies, theses and dissertations, as well as systematic reviews, depending on the proposed objective, available in the health databases listed, without time and language restrictions, with a view to retrieving the largest possible number of publications. Editorials, letters, comments, books and book chapters will be excluded. For potentially eligible studies that are not retrieved in full, contact will be made with the corresponding author in an attempt to obtain them.

### Research strategy

The information sources defined were: PubMed, Latin American and Caribbean Literature on Health Sciences (LILACS) via Virtual Health Library (VHL), Web of Science, Scopus, Embase, Digital Library of the Scientific Electronic Library Online (Scielo). For theses and dissertations: Brazilian Digital Library of Theses and Dissertations (BDTD), CAPES Thesis and Dissertation Catalog (Coordination for the Improvement of Higher Education Personnel), Open Access Scientific Repositories of Portugal (RCAAP).

The search strategy was defined with the help of a librarian experienced in review studies, using the descriptors/MESH "ostomy" OR "ileostomy" OR

"colostomy" OR "cystostomy" AND "sexuality" AND "Men". It is emphasized that the search strategy will be adapted to each database, as can be seen in Figure 1. The reference list of all sources of evidence included in the full-text search will be included for later retrieval of the studies.

Source of information	Search Strategy	No. of items
Pubmed	(((((ostomy) OR (ileostomy)) OR (colostomy)) OR (cystostomy)) AND (sexuality)) AND (men) ("ostomy"[MeSH Terms] OR "ostomy"[All Fields] OR "ostomies"[All Fields] OR ("ileostomy"[MeSH Terms] OR "ileostomy"[All Fields] OR "ileostomies"[All Fields]) OR ("colostomy"[MeSH Terms] OR "colostomy"[All Fields] OR "colostomies"[All Fields]) OR ("cystostomy"[MeSH Terms] OR "cystostomy"[All Fields] OR "cystostomies"[All Fields])) AND ("sexual behavior"[MeSH Terms] OR ("sexual"[All Fields] AND "behavior"[All Fields]) OR "sexual behavior"[All Fields] OR "sexual"[All Fields] OR "sexually"[All Fields] OR "sexualities"[All Fields] OR "sexuality"[MeSH Terms] OR "sexuality"[All Fields] OR "sexualization"[All Fields] OR "sexualize"[All Fields] OR "sexualized"[All Fields] OR "sexualizing"[All Fields] OR "sexuals"[All Fields]) AND ("men"[MeSH Terms] OR "men"[All Fields]))	77
Scopus	( TITLE-ABS-KEY ( ostomy ) OR TITLE-ABS-KEY ( ostomies ) OR TITLE-ABS-KEY ( ileostomy ) OR TITLE-ABS-KEY ( ileostomies ) OR TITLE-ABS-KEY ( colostomy ) OR TITLE-ABS-KEY ( colostomies ) OR TITLE-ABS-KEY ( cystostomy ) OR TITLE-ABS-KEY ( cystostomies ) AND TITLE-ABS-KEY ( "sexual behavior" ) OR TITLE-ABS-KEY ( sexually ) OR TITLE-ABS-KEY ( sexualities ) OR TITLE-ABS-KEY ( sexuality ) OR TITLE-ABS-KEY ( sexualization ) OR TITLE-ABS-KEY ( sexualize ) OR TITLE-ABS-KEY ( sexualized ) OR TITLE-ABS-KEY ( sexualizing ) OR TITLE-ABS-KEY ( sexuals ) AND TITLE-ABS-KEY ( men ) )	61

Figure 1 - Search strategy in the databases. Best Time to See Salvador, BA, Brazil 2023

Selection of studies

After the search, all identified citations will be grouped and uploaded to the EndNote software (Clarivate Analytics, USA),<sup>13</sup> to remove duplicate studies and will later be sent to Rayyan,<sup>14</sup> where title and abstract will be evaluated, meeting the previously established exclusion and inclusion criteria. The selected studies will undergo a complete evaluation for data extraction. This process will be conducted by two reviewers independently and blindly, and the divergences will be resolved by a third reviewer. Reasons for exclusion of full-text evidence sources that do not meet the inclusion criteria will be recorded. The flow of identification and selection of studies will be presented following the flowchart Preferred Reporting Items for Systematic reviews and Meta-Analyses extension for Scoping Review (PRISMA-ScR).<sup>15</sup>

Data extraction

The data will be extracted by the two reviewers independently using a JBI data extraction instrument,<sup>12</sup> adapted by the authors, containing information such as type of study, year of publication, country of origin, objective, identified interventions, DOI and access link, shown in figure 2. If divergences occur during data extraction, they will be resolved through a consensus or evaluation by a fourth reviewer. It should be noted that this instrument may undergo modifications during the process, to better meet the objective of this review.

Data Extraction Instrument								
<b>Title:</b> Interventions in the sexuality of men with elimination stomata: Scoping Review Protocol								
<b>Objective:</b> To map interventions targeting the sexuality of men with elimination ostomies								
<b>Research Question:</b> What are the interventions aimed at the sexuality of men with elimination ostomies?								
<b>Q:</b> Men with elimination ostomies <b>CC:</b> Interventions targeting sexuality								
Data Extraction								
Autho rs	Title	Country/Ye ar of Publication	Objective of the study	Study Type	Population	Interventions Identified	Relevant findings	DOI/ Access link

**Figure 2** – Data Extraction Instrument. Best Time to See Salvador, BA, Brazil 2023  
**Source:** JBI Manual for Evidence Synthesis adapted from Peters et al., 2020.

Analysis and presentation of results

The results will be presented in a narrative, imagery and tabular way. A table will be prepared that will contain information regarding the title, authors, year of publication, study method and interventions described, according to the PCC mnemonic. In addition, an analysis of the content identified on the subject will be made, followed by basic coding.<sup>12</sup>

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