BACKGROUND

Despite a rapid growth in the provision of health information, the quality of the information remains variable. The critical appraisal of medical literature is a demanding process that requires epidemiological skills and careful reading of the selected evidence. Time consumption is one of the biggest problems when we need to provide full information and meet the deadline for when the decision must be taken.

OBJECTIVE

To provide free online tools in English and Spanish in order to facilitate the critical appraisal process and the summary of scientific evidence.

METHODS

A systematic review to identify critical appraisal tools and articles about the criteria to be applied to critical appraisal was carried out. Then a software application in the Spanish language was designed. This first instrument was validated by an assessment of its “content and face validity”.

The Critical Appraisal Tools (CAT) have been recently translated from Spanish into English. Website for Critical Appraisal: www.lecturacritica.com

RESULTS

Website for Critical Appraisal: www.lecturacritica.com

As a result of this process, a Web Platform 2.0 has been developed containing 7 different instruments for Critical Appraisal depending on different study designs (diagnostic tests, systematic reviews, clinical trials, cohort studies, case-control studies, economic assessments and case series). Each instrument consists of a checklist divided into 10 domains. The Web platform 2.0 has some very interesting features to facilitate the critical appraisal including: a guided process to complete the appraisals, automatic generation of evidence tables meanwhile you can easily complete the evaluation, bilingual glossary of epidemiological terms, immediate access from any computer connected to internet, automatic updates of the version online, option to share your appraisals with other researchers, etc.

CONCLUSIONS

Although several instruments for critical appraisal have been already published until now, www.lecturacritica.com is the first website to offer both appraisal of the medical information and resources of the Web 2.0 to share our assessments and outcomes.


For further information: Eva Reviriego: ereviriego@ej-gv.es and Marta López-Argumedo: osteba5-san@ej-gv.es