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&
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meta analysis

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Introduction: It is widely recognised that obesity in childhood is a worldwide public health issue. For any intervention the first step is to identify overweight status which problematizes the child's current weight to legitimises action. This involves all those in the therapeutic triad: children themselves, parents and healthcare professionals. In policy and health promotion, it is generally accepted that a significant barrier to intervention is that parents (caregivers) of children with obesity underestimate their child's weight status. Furthermore, research has shown that healthcare professionals may be also be underestimating. The aim of this study is to systematically identify and critically evaluate relevant research to investigate the prevalence of, and factors associated with, underestimation of children's weight status.

Methods: Abstracts published between 2000 to 2017 were included, and were identified using the following search engines: CINAHL, EMBASE, PUBMED, and Psych-Info. References of relevant articles were hand-searched for additional studies and the "Related Articles" and "Cited by" functions in search databases were also used. Both qualitative and quantitative research that assessed caregivers, children and healthcare professional's perception of children's weight using Likert scale questions, classification into weight categories, pictorial methods, or reporting of height and weight, and were then compared with documented standards for defining overweight for example (IOTF).