

A scoping review on health concepts in the context of intellectual disabilities

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Background

- Emerging dynamic concepts of health emphasize self-management and adaptability.
- These concepts may not fully address the needs of people with intellectual disabilities (ID).
- Active involvement of people with ID in research is essential to ensure health concepts meet their needs.



Objective: to provide an overview of current conceptualizations of health for people with ID and to assess the extent of involvement of people with ID in developing and applying these health concepts.

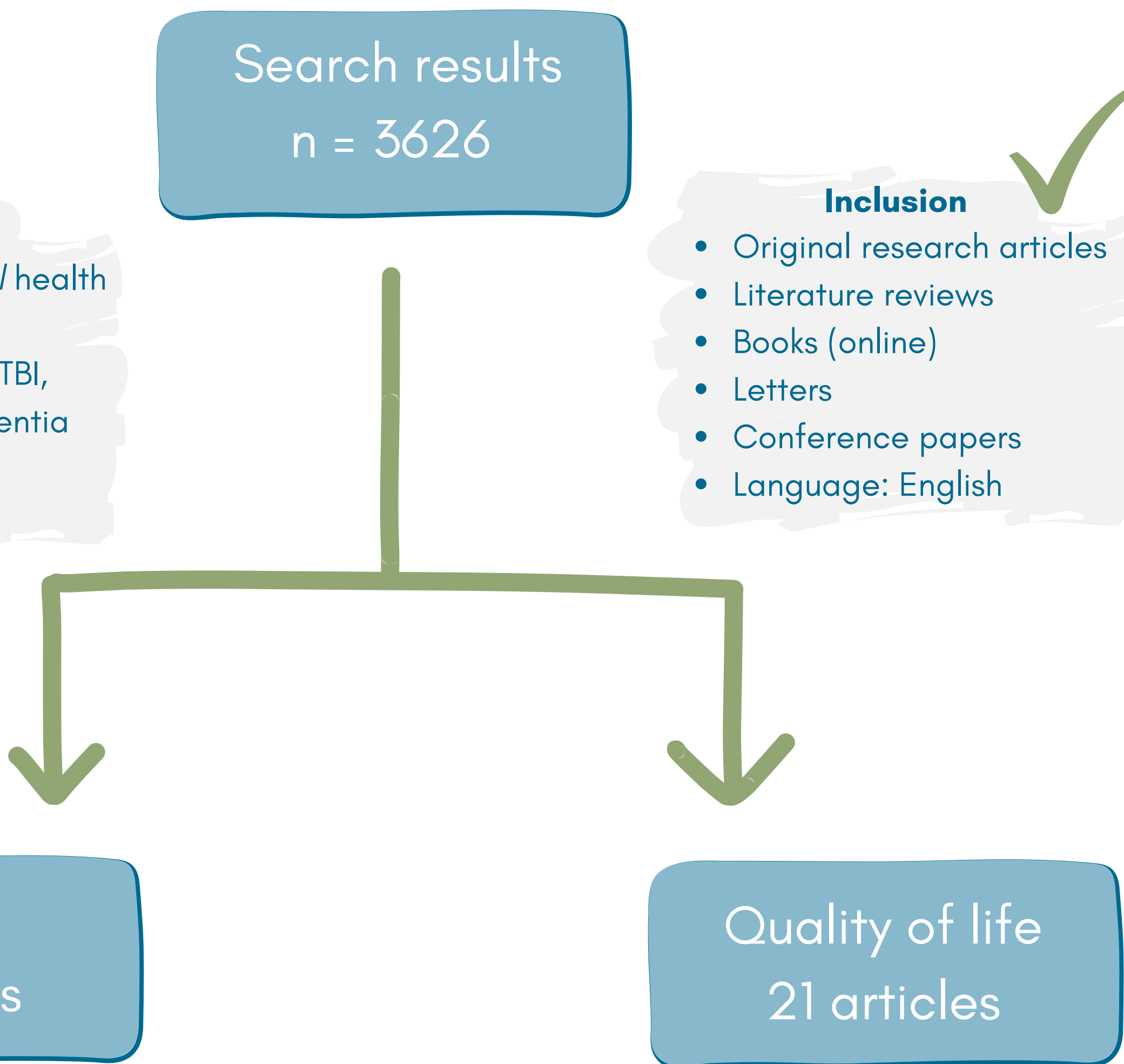
Methods



‘intellectual disability’
‘concept(ualisation) or definition of health’,
‘concept(ualisation) or definition of quality of life’
CINAHL, EMBASE, PubMed, PsycINFO, and Web of Science

- Exclusion**
- Focus primarily on oral health
 - Population: cognitive disabilities caused by TBI, stroke, cancer or dementia

- Inclusion**
- Original research articles
 - Literature reviews
 - Books (online)
 - Letters
 - Conference papers
 - Language: English



Results

- Most studies (n=15) used **qualitative research designs** aiming to define health from the perspective of people with ID.
- All studies were conducted in **Western countries**.
- Key factors related to health for people with ID include **nutrition, physical health, and meaningful occupation**.
- Within the QoL concept, health is predominantly considered an aspect of the domain of physical well-being.

Considering **inclusive research methods**, 12 studies employed a consultation approach, using methodologies that provide people with ID the opportunity for dialogue. Collaboration approaches that allow people with ID to make joint decisions were used in five studies.



Discussion and Conclusion

- Health for people with ID is currently conceptualized as a multifaceted construct, broadly incorporating physical, mental, and social well-being.
- Current conceptualizations of health for people with ID align with established health models, while highlighting unique challenges specific to this population.
- The majority of studies in this scoping review employed inclusive research methods to varying extents. However, not a single study provided individuals with ID with complete decision-making power.

