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## Selecting rapid review methods for HTA

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**Background:** Rapid reviews are of increasing importance within HTA due to time and resource constraints. There are many rapid review methods available<sup>1</sup> although there is little guidance as to the most suitable methods.<sup>2</sup> A recent paper outlines issues to consider when selecting rapid review methods.<sup>3</sup>

**Aim:** to identify key issues to consider when selecting a rapid review method.

**Methods:** We examined three recently completed rapid reviews to identify approaches (including reasons, strengths and weaknesses) to rapid reviewing and to identify key aspects to consider when selecting rapid review methods.

**Results:** Key themes identified when selecting rapid review methods are shown in Table 1.

**Table 1. Key themes identified**

Key theme	Recommendations
Assessing the evidence	Assess potential evidence base before choosing a rapid review method
	Scoping searches are key to estimating the number of relevant studies
Assessing the included studies	Carefully consider the heterogeneity / homogeneity across and within the evidence base
	Consider using existing systematic reviews
Interaction with commissioners	Ensure a common understanding as to the purpose and expectation of the review
	Clearly report rapid review methods, limitations and interpretation of findings



## Conclusions:

- Rapid review methods need to be chosen to fit the needs of the review, each of which may have different challenges.
- Collaboration between those producing rapid reviews and commissioners is crucial when choosing methods to ensure that the needs of commissioners are met and limitations associated with the chosen methods are understood.

**References:** 1. Tsertsvadze A, Chen YF, Moher D, Sutcliffe P, McCarthy N. How to conduct systematic reviews more expeditiously? *Systematic Reviews*. 2015; 4:160. 2. Polisena J, Garritty C, Umsheid CA, Kamel C, Samra K, Smith J, Vosilla A. Rapid review summit: an overview and initiation of a research agenda. *Systematic Reviews*. 2015;4:111. 3. Kaltenthaler E, Cooper K, Pandor A, Martyn-St James M, Chatters R, Wong R. The use of rapid review methods in health technology assessments: 3 case studies. *BMC Medical Research Methodology* 2016; 16(1):26.

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