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CLINICAL TOOLS USED TO ASSESS BALANCE IN CHILDREN WITH DOWN SYNDROME: A SYSTEMATIC REVIEW

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ABSTRACT

Introduction: This study aimed to review the characteristics and measurement properties of clinical tools used to evaluate balance in children with Down Syndrome.

Methods: A search was conducted in seven databases (PubMed, Cochrane, Embase, Scopus, CINAHL, PEDro & OvidSP) to find relevant literature from observational studies from inception to March 2021. The COSMIN tool and Terwee criteria were used to assess the quality of the studies. The combined level of evidence was interpreted as recommended by the Cochrane Back Review.

Results: The review included six studies and identified seven tools. One study had fair quality whereas the rest had poor quality, according to COSMIN. The combined level of evidence was unknown for the Four Square Step Test and was limited for the other tools.

Conclusions: There was a paucity of information due to insufficient data regarding the properties of the tools, poor study quality and a limited level of evidence. Future studies with larger sample sizes should be conducted to evaluate the psychometric properties of tools assessing balance in children with Down Syndrome.