

Review of: "Effect of Animal-Assisted Activities on Symptoms and Emotions of Children with Neoplastic Disease: A Systematic Review with Meta-Analysis"

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Potential competing interests: No potential competing interests to declare.

Although the article is easy to follow, well-written, and addresses a pertinent topic, it has some areas of concern. The meta-analysis includes only three randomized controlled trials (RCTs). For a meta-analysis, this number is limited and undermines the robustness and generalizability of the conclusions. Including so few studies does not provide a solid foundation for drawing meaningful conclusions. Also, the quality of evidence is rated as low to very low according to the GRADE methodology. This means that the study's results are highly uncertain and do not provide a reliable basis for implementing AAAs in pediatric oncology. The article's conclusions are contradictory. The text claims that the effects of AAAs are promising, but the statistical results and the quality assessment of the evidence do not support this claim. Given the low quality of evidence, the study has a limited impact on clinical practice. The study does not offer a substantial contribution to the field despite the authors' important efforts in rigor and scientific robustness.

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