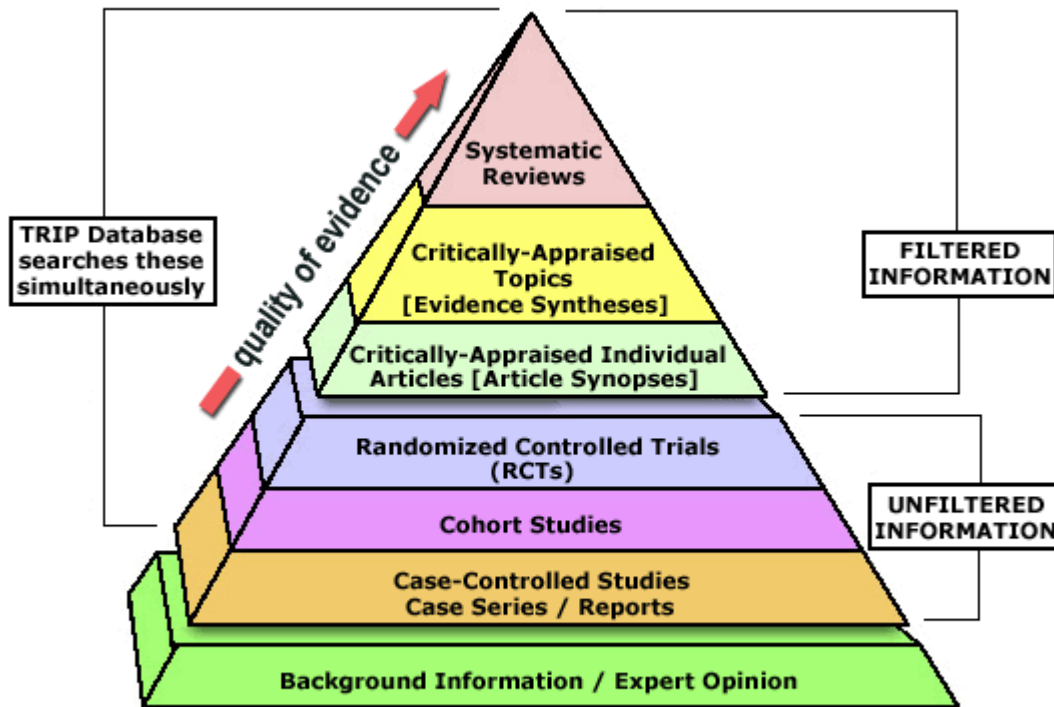


## TRIP Database & 7 Levels of Evidence



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## Rating System for the Hierarchy of Evidence

<b>Level I:</b>	<i>Systematic review</i> – summary of the medical literature that uses explicit methods to perform a comprehensive literature search and critical appraisal of individual studies and that uses appropriate statistical techniques to combine these valid studies. <i>Meta-analysis</i> – systematic review that uses quantitative methods to synthesize and summarize the results.
<b>Level II:</b>	<i>CAT</i> – short summary of evidence on a topic, usually focused around a clinical question. A shorter and less rigorous version of a systematic review. Authors of critically-appraised topics evaluate and synthesize multiple research studies.
<b>Level III:</b>	Authors of critically-appraised individual articles evaluate and synopsise an individual research study.
<b>Level IV:</b>	<i>RCT</i> – Participants are randomly allocated into an experimental group or a control group and followed over time for the variables/outcomes of interest.
<b>Level V:</b>	Involves identification of two groups (cohorts) of patients, one which received the exposure of interest, and one which did not, and following these cohorts forward for the outcome of interest.
<b>Level VI:</b>	<i>Case-controlled study</i> - Study which involves identifying patients who have the outcome of interest (cases) and patients without the same outcome (controls), and looking back to see if they had the exposure of interest. <i>Case series</i> – report on a series of patients with an outcome of interest. No control group is involved.
<b>Level VII:</b>	Evidence from the opinion of authorities and/or reports of expert committees