

Response to the Letter to the Editor From the Canadian Stroke Consortium

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We thank the Canadian Stroke Consortium Policy and Advocacy Committee for its Letter to the Editor regarding the Rapid Review on [Systemic Thrombolysis by Alteplase for Acute Ischemic Stroke](#). Many of the concerns raised were related to the limitations of the methods and processes used for CADTH [Rapid Reviews](#), which use abbreviated systematic review methods to complete syntheses in accelerated time frames.

CADTH's Rapid Reviews quickly identify, appraise, and summarize existing recent evidence on specific topics in response to customer questions. CADTH is committed to being as transparent as possible, while still meeting the demanding timelines inherent in the Rapid Review Service. Each Rapid Review report describes the research questions, selection criteria, selection of included studies, and methods and appraisal tools used. The abbreviated methods include a limited literature search of major biomedical bibliographic databases and grey literature.

Search limitations are often placed on date of publication (in this case, January 2014 to January 2022) or study design (beginning with existing systematic reviews) to ensure the scope of the review is manageable within Rapid Review timelines. We review existing syntheses that may capture older literature or other study designs. Studies that do not meet the predetermined inclusion criteria are excluded.

While care is taken to ensure the work is complete and up to date within Rapid Review methods and processes, Rapid Reviews are not comprehensive systematic reviews and are not intended to be used as substitutes for clinical or professional judgment.