



**NEWSLETTER #134 December 2024 See [ABOUT](#) WIKISTIM**

### **New Meta-Analysis Section**

In our [July newsletter](#), we reported a new initiative to support spinal cord stimulation (SCS) meta-analyses (MAs) explicitly and directly. As promised, we have since made a major addition to the WIKISTIM website, namely a comprehensive database of all published MAs of SCS (47 in number as of December 15, 2024) with a dedicated search function. The first 25 entries, each with 15 completed data fields, were derived from tables published by Kleppel et al. ([Kleppel et al., 2024](#)), which we gratefully acknowledge here and in the individual database entries. Using the same data fields (for now), we have abstracted an additional 22 MAs that, for various reasons, were not included by Kleppel et al. (who, for example, excluded 7 for “wrong outcomes,” whereas we include MAs considering any outcome).

We have expanded not only the number of included MAs (as subscribers can see by visiting our page displaying [Searchable Meta-Analyses Papers](#)) but also the available data fields (see [Meta Data Categories](#)) from 15 to 64. This expanded format follows the example of our SCS clinical database, which from its inception 11 years ago has contained some 200 fields (see [SCS Data Categories](#)).

Also in [July](#), we discussed Traeger's ([Traeger 2024](#)) critical comments about a network MA published by Eldabe et al. ([Eldabe et al., 2024](#)). In their response to Traeger, Eldabe et al. ([Eldabe et al., 2024](#)) make it clear that Traeger's major criticism (inclusion of studies) reflects Traeger's misunderstanding of the network MA's inclusion criteria (treatment of nonsurgical low back pain). We think our new MA resource will help avoid such misunderstandings because by including all published MAs and their salient data fields, we are making it easier for readers (including peer reviewers and even authors, such as Traeger) to keep track of the details of this growing, complex body of literature.

This is the first stage of our MA project, for which we plan a number of enhancements, many of which were outlined [previously](#). Like WIKISTIM as a whole, this always will be a work in progress, for which we rely upon volunteer support and efforts. For the new MA database in particular, we gratefully acknowledge the work of Sujeivan Mahendram,

MD, and Mahtab Darvish, MD, who, in conformity with AMSTAR 2 quality control measures ([Shea et al. 2017](#)), abstracted the new MAs independently, following the scheme used by Kleppel et al. ([Kleppel et al. 2024](#)), and reconciled their results. In the future, we will include new MAs of SCS in our list of new citations in this newsletter.

- [Eldabe S, Nevitt S, Bentley A, Mekhail NA, Gilligan C, Billet B, Staats, PS, Maden M, Soliday N, Leitner A, Duarte RV](#). **Network meta-analysis and economic evaluation of neurostimulation interventions for chronic nonsurgical refractory back pain.** Clin J Pain 2024 40(9):507-517
- [Eldabe S, Nevitt S, Bentley A, Mekhail NA, Gilligan C, Billet B, Staats PS, Maden M, Soliday N, Leitner A, Duarte RV](#). **Response to “Competing narratives: moving the field forward on spinal cord stimulation.”** Clin J Pain 2024 40(9):557-560
- [Kleppel DJ, Copeland R, Hussain N, Karri J, Wang E, D’Souza RS](#). **Methodological and statistical characteristics of meta-analyses on spinal cord stimulation for chronic pain: a systematic review.** Reg Anesth Pain Med 2024 epub rapm-2023-105249
- [Shea BJ, Reeves BC, Wells G, Thuku M, Hamel C, Moran J, Moher D, Tugwell P, Welch V, Kristjansson E, Henry DA](#). **AMSTAR 2: a critical appraisal tool for systematic reviews that include randomised or non-randomised studies of healthcare interventions, or both.** BMJ 2017 epub
- [Traeger A](#). **Competing narratives: moving the field forward on spinal cord stimulation.** Clin J Pain 2024 40(9):518-519

## Thank You to Mohammed Omar!

Mohammed Omar is our hero of the month because he heeded our call for donations. We are grateful for his support. Please remember that our existence depends entirely upon grants and donations. If WIKISTIM is valuable to you, please don't wait until you "hit the jackpot" to support us.

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**Citations Added From Search on December 10-13, 2024**

Whenever possible, we provide free full-text links. In most cases, we link directly to a PDF. In a few cases, Our Free Full Text link points instead to the link leading to the PDF because clicking the PDF link causes an **immediate download**. Here is an example: Lopez Rios AL, et al. Deep brain stimulation in Latin America in comparison with the US and Europe in a real-world population: indications, demographics, techniques, technology, and adverse events. J Neurosurg 2024 epub 1-8 [Free Full Text](#). We also do this in cases where the URL has a “watermark” or is ridiculously long.

We remind our readers that it might be necessary to click “View Entire Message” in our email to see all of the citation lists in this newsletter.

We only list correction citations if the error was substantial. For small changes, such as a missing initial in an author's name, we simply update the WIKISTIM database.

### **Deep Brain Stimulation (now 8714 citations)**

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### **Dorsal Root Ganglion Stimulation (now 293 citations)**

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**Gastric Electrical Stimulation (still 531 citations)**

**Peripheral Nerve Stimulation (now 846 citations)**

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**Contact**

The Neuromodulation Foundation, Inc.

822 Guilford Avenue #102  
Baltimore, MD 21202

[wikistim@gmail.com](mailto:wikistim@gmail.com)