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# Introduction to service evaluation and qualitative research

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# Conflicts of interest

- No conflicts of interest to declare

# Introduction

- Understanding how humans make decisions and its impact on:
  - Communicating findings
  - Conducting research
- Answering questions using qualitative and quantitative studies

# Introduction

- Understanding how humans make decisions and its impact on:
  - Communicating findings
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# What do we know about how people make decisions?

- Behavioural economics and cognitive psychology:
  - Bounded rationality (Herbert Simon 1978)
  - Dual process theory (Daniel Kahneman 2002)
  - Most decisions are informed by **brief reading** and **talking to other people**

- please find a piece of paper and a pen

- a list of words follows
- look at them once, do not re-read them
- when you have read the list close your eyes



**Flange**  
**Routemaster**  
**Laggard**  
**Sausages**  
**Automaton**  
**Approach**  
**Antichrist**  
**Research**  
**Slipper**  
**Haggle**  
**Fridge**  
**Locomotive**  
**Bracket**  
**Confused**  
**Telesales**  
**Professor**  
**Stool pigeon**  
**Hale**  
**Banquet**  
**Irrelevance**

Write down as many words as you can remember

A

Flange  
Routemaster  
Laggard  
Sausages

---

How many words  
that you remembered  
are in each group?

B

Automaton  
Approach  
Antichrist  
Research

---

C

Slipper  
Haggle  
Fridge  
Locomotive

---

D

Bracket  
Confused  
Telesales  
Professor

---

E

Stool pigeon  
Hale  
Banquet  
Irrelevance



Herbert Simon  
1978  
Economics

Bounded rationality  
Satisficing

Please list all the medicines which have a potential interaction with warfarin – both increasing and decreasing its effect

# Drug interactions with warfarin – decreased effect

- Amobarbital
- Butabarbital
- **Carbamazepine**
- Cholestyramine
- Dicloxacillin
- Griseofulvin
- Mercaptopurine
- Mesalamine
- Nafcillin
- Phenobarbital
- **Phenytoin**
- Primidone
- Ribavirin
- Rifabutin
- **Rifampin**
- Secobarbital
- Sucralfate
- Vitamin K
- Coenzyme Q10
- Ginseng
- St. John's wort
- Green tea

# Drug interactions with warfarin – increased effect

- Acetaminophen
- Alcohol (binge)
- **Allopurinol**
- **Amiodarone**
- Argatroban
- **Aspirin**
- Azithromycin
- Bactrim
- Chloral hydrate
- **Chloramphenicol**
- Cimetidine
- **Ciprofloxacin**
- **Citalopram**
- **Clarithromycin**
- Clofibrate
- Danazol
- **Diltiazem**
- Disopyramide
- Disulfiram
- **Doxycycline**
- Entacapone
- **Erythromycin**
- Felbamate
- **Fenofibrate**
- **Fluconazole**
- Fluorouracil

# Drug interactions with warfarin – increased effect

- Gemfibrozil
- **Influenza vaccine**
- Isoniazid
- Itraconazole
- **Levofloxacin**
- **Metronidazole**
- **Miconazole**
- Moxalactam
- Neomycin
- **Norfloxacin**
- **Ofloxacin**
- **Omeprazole**
- Phenylbutazone
- Piroxicam
- Propafenone
- **Propranolol**
- **Quinidine**
- Ritonavir
- **Sertraline**
- **Simvastatin**
- Sulfamethoxazole
- Sulfinpyrazone
- **Tamoxifen**
- **Testosterone**
- **Tetracycline**
- **Vitamin E**



# Drug interactions with warfarin – increased effect

- Voriconazole
- Zafirlukast
- **Anise**
- Asafoetida
- Chamomile
- **Clove**
- Danshen
- Devil's claw
- Dong quai
- Fenugreek
- Feverfew
- **Fish oil**
- **Garlic**
- **Ginger**
- **Ginkgo**
- **Grapefruit**
- **Horse chestnut**
- **Licorice root**
- **Mango**
- Meadowsweet
- **Onion**
- Papain
- Quassia
- **Red clover**
- Rue
- **Sweet clover**
- **Tumeric**
- Willow bark

# Making an important life decision







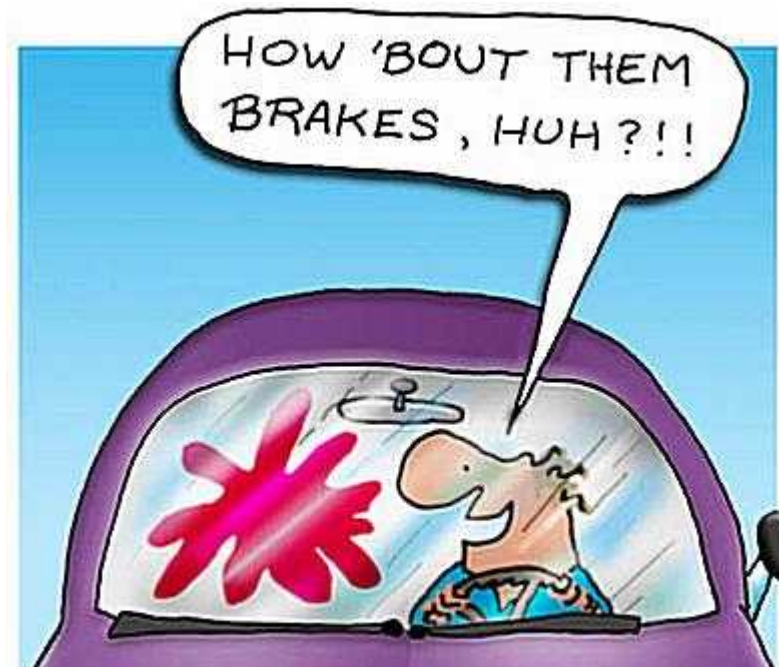


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# Humans make decisions by.....

Small number of variables

+

Allocate value to those variables

+

Time frame

=

DECISION

 HOW?

# Allocating value to those variables

- Brief reading
- Talking to other people






Automobile



**Yazaki's Quality is**

<p><b>Ground Vehicle Events</b></p> <p>26th Annual Brake Colloquium &amp; Exhibition October 12-15, 2008 Grand Hyatt, San Antonio, Texas, USA</p> <p><a href="#">More Events</a></p>	<p><b>Education and Training</b></p> <p>Fundamentals of Steering Systems Seminar October 27-28, 2008</p> <p><a href="#">More Education and Training</a></p>	<p><b>Convergence® 2008</b></p> <p>October 20-22, 2008 Detroit, Michigan, USA</p>
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**Understanding frontal and side-impact safety ratings**  
How safe is that new (or used) vehicle? While you might think the answer should be straightforward, experts typically advocate reviewing a range of test results. But which test results give the best information?

**Nissan enters supercar territory**  
The company's GT-R supercar is a treasure trove of

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Engine Testing: Theory & Practice, Third Edition brings together the large and scattered body of information on the theory and practice of engine testing, to which any engineer responsible for work of this kind must have access.

2008 Update: Surface Vehicle Electromagnetic Compatibility (EMC) Standards Manual

This collection is the single source of the most recent SAE EMC documents, also contains 3 revised standards.



Laminated Glass: Design Considerations for Vehicle Door Systems Fast Track - 40 minute presentation provides an overview of best practices for integration of the product into vehicle door systems based upon extensive testing and field experience.



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# How is knowledge managed in primary care?

Gabbay and le May BMJ 2004; 329: 1013 – 6.

- Not once was a guideline read
- Expert computer systems rarely used (never in real time)
- Shortcuts to evidence
  - free magazines
  - network of trusted colleagues (rarely if ever questioned)
  - Pharma reps – considerable scepticism (but not without influence)
  - Pharmaceutical adviser – highly trusted source.

“Clinicians rarely accessed, appraised, and used explicit evidence directly from research or other formal sources; rare exceptions were where they might consult such sources after dealing with a case that had particularly challenged them.”

“Instead, they relied on what we have called "**mindlines**," collectively reinforced, internalised tacit guidelines, which were informed by **brief reading**, but mainly by their **interactions with each other** and with opinion leaders, patients, and pharmaceutical representatives and by other sources of largely **tacit knowledge** that built on their early training and their own and their colleagues' experience.”



Daniel Kahneman  
Economics  
2002

Dual Process theory

Shout out the answer to these  
questions quickly

Who is this?



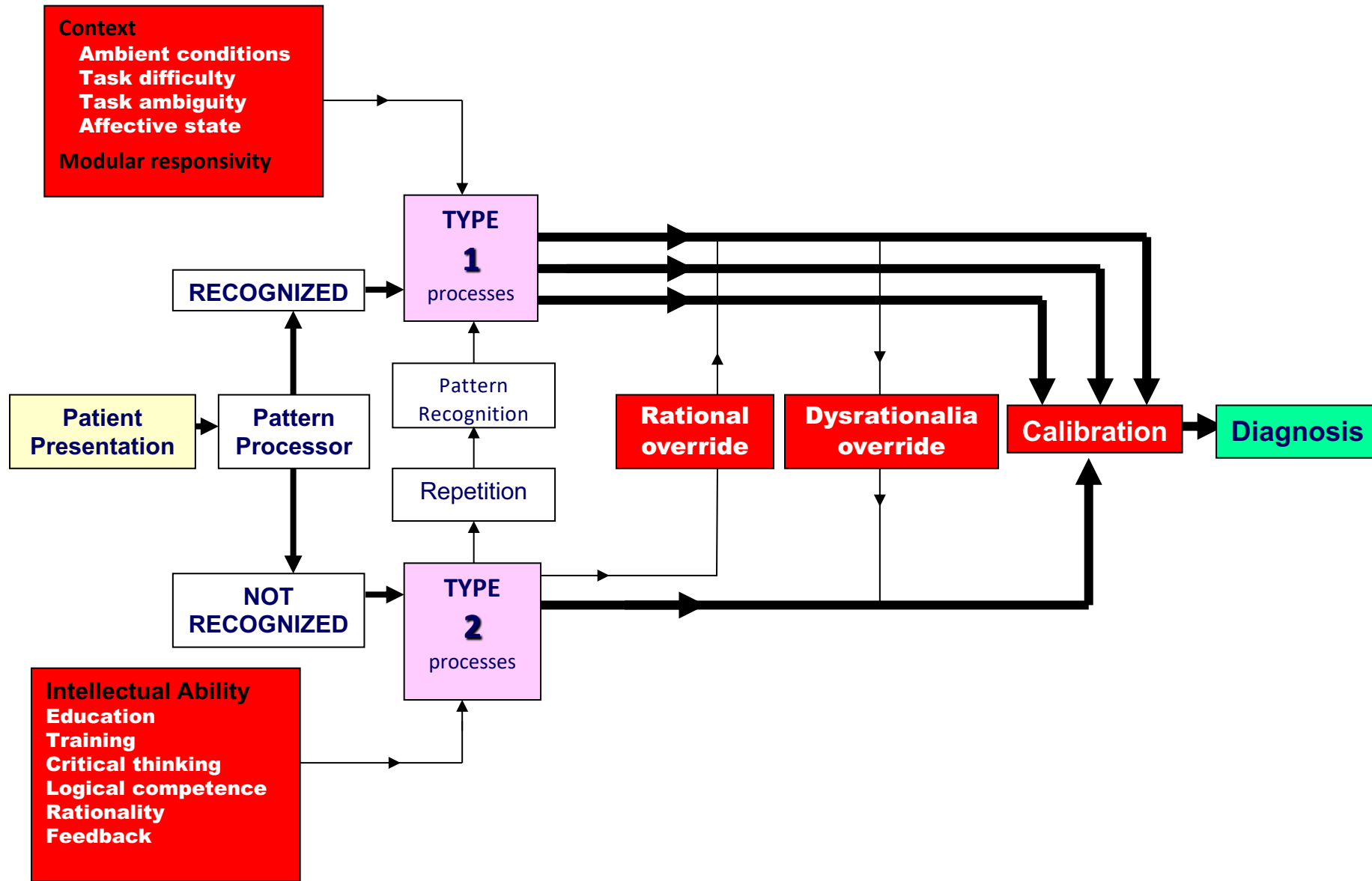
What is the diagnosis?





What treatment would you use  
here?





Who knows the story of Noah in  
the Bible?

Imagine you are working as a doctor in a remote village. It's the weekend. There are no other health care professionals around. But you do have a new piece of technology called THE MARVELTRON.

- The MARVELTRON will save the life of any patient you are treating
- But you have to answer correctly the question the MARVELTRON asks of the attending doctor before it works its magic.

- A young child is brought to you. She is seriously ill and will die imminently
- You switch on the MARVELTRON and await the question
- You must write down your answer immediately the question is asked, or the child will die
- You will be blamed for the patient's death only if you do not write down an answer. No blame will be attached to you if you get the answer wrong
- **ARE YOU READY?**
- Have you got paper and something to write with?



- According to the Bible, how many sheep did Noah take into the Ark?

- Answer quickly
- Write it down
- The child is dying.

End of answer period

# How many sheep?

- 0
- 1
- 2
- 3
- 4
- 5
- 6
- 7
- More than 7

# The correct answer

## Genesis ch 7

- v1 And the LORD said unto Noah, Come thou and all thy house into the ark; for thee have I seen righteous before me in this generation.
- v2 Of every clean beast thou shalt take to thee by **sevens**, the male and his female: and of beasts that are not clean by two, the male and his female.
- v3 Of fowls also of the air by sevens, the male and the female; to keep seed alive upon the face of all the earth.

# How we acquire and use information

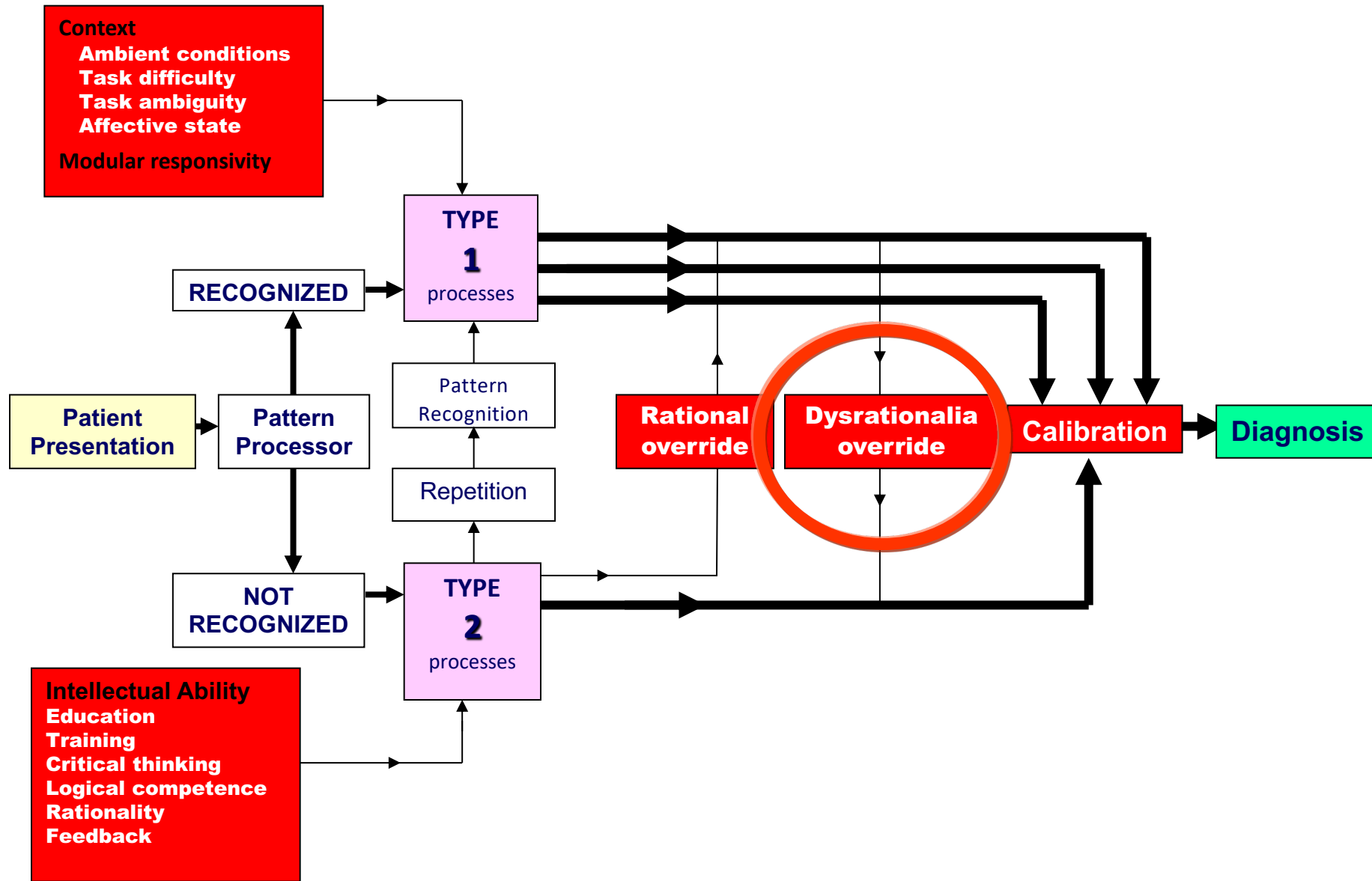
- Where did you get the information from to make that decision about Noah and the sheep?
- If you had had time, what would you have done to make sure you had the right answer?



Genesis 7	
<b>New International Version (NIV)</b> <a href="#">Listen to this passage</a>	<b>King James Version (KJV)</b> <a href="#">Listen to this passage</a> <a href="#">View commentary related to this passage</a>
<b>Genesis 7</b> <p>1 The LORD then said to Noah, "Go into the ark, you and your whole family, because I have found you righteous in this generation. 2 Take with you seven [a] of every kind of clean animal, a male and its mate, and two of every kind of unclean animal, a male and its mate, 3 and also seven of every kind of bird, male and female, to keep their various kinds alive throughout the earth. 4 Seven days from now I will send rain on the earth for forty days and forty nights, and I will wipe from the face of the earth every living creature I have made."</p> <p>5 And Noah did all that the LORD commanded him.</p>	<b>Genesis 7</b> <p>1 And the LORD said unto Noah, Come thou and all thy house into the ark; for thee have I seen righteous before me in this generation. 2 Of every clean beast thou shalt take to thee by sevens, the male and his female: and of beasts that are not clean by two, the male and his female. 3 Of fowls also of the air by sevens, the male and the female; to keep seed alive upon the face of all the earth. 4 For yet seven days, and I will cause it to rain upon</p>

Vanderbilt University  
Basic Course in Medical Decision Making







Once you see a pattern, its hard to  
not see it.....

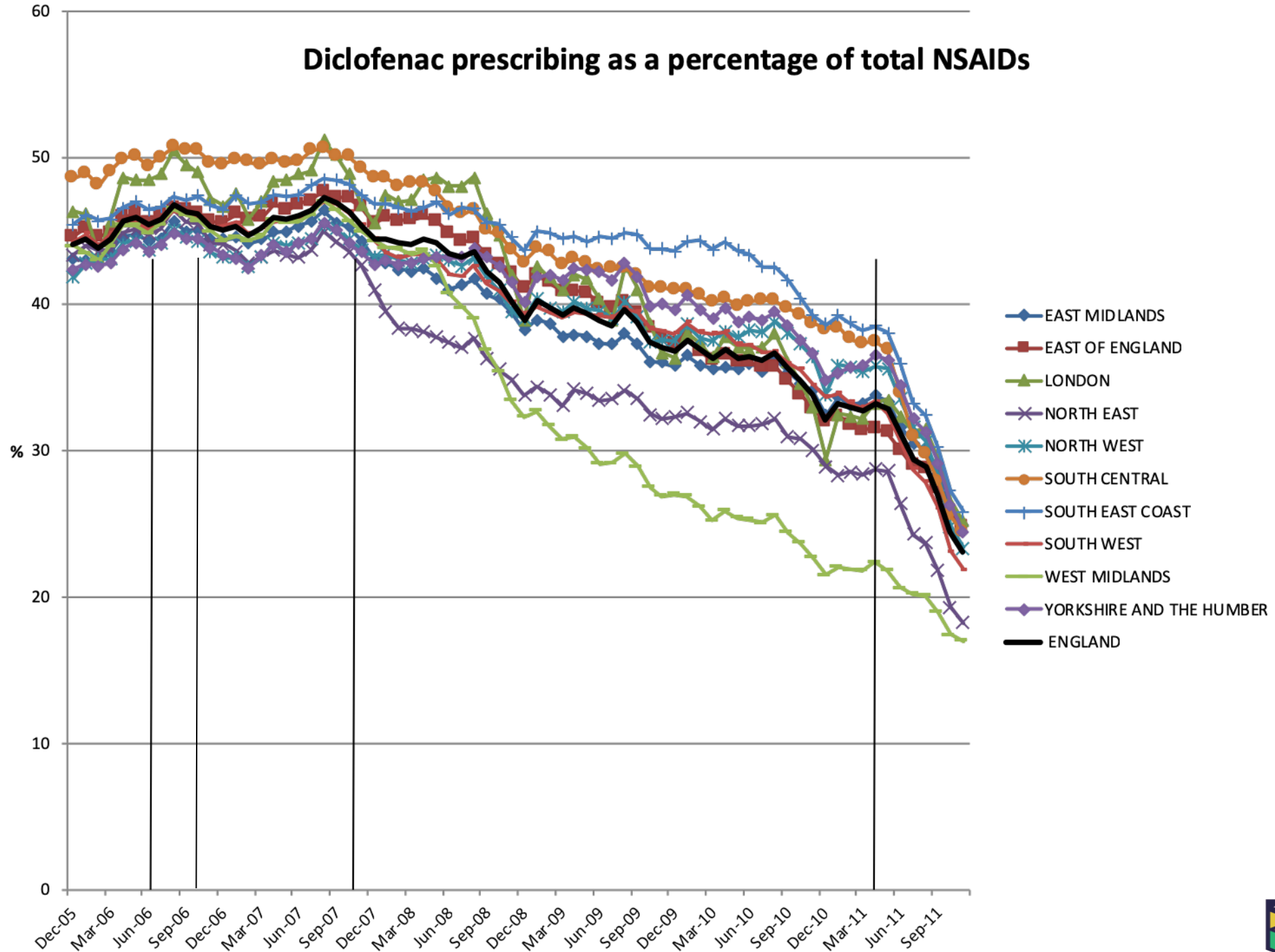








# Diclofenac prescribing as a percentage of total NSAIDs



# >100 cognitive biases

- Anchoring bias – early salient feature
- Ascertainment bias – thinking shaped by prior expectation
- Availability bias – recent experience dominates evidence
- Bandwagon effect – we do it this way here
- Omission bias – natural disease progression preferred to those occurring due to action of physician
- Sutton's slip – going for the obvious
- Gambler's fallacy – I've seen 3 recently; this can't be a fourth
- Search satisficing – found one thing, ignore others
- Vertical line failure – routine repetitive tasks leading to thinking in silo
- Blind spot bias – other people are susceptible to these biases but I am not

# Information and decision making

- Most decisions are based on what we **think** is the evidence, not what we **know** is the evidence
- No one has time to appraise all of the evidence on everything, and even if that were possible the human brain can't recall and compute it, and certainly not in a 10 minute primary care consultation
- We use **brief reading** and **talking to other people** as our information sources
- We often use **patterns** to make a diagnosis
- We create **mindlines** (= patterns) of what to do in common situations



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# Qualitative or quantitative?

Based on an idea by Cecil Helman, quoted by Trisha Greenhalgh

- A small child runs in from the garden and says “Mummy! The leaves are falling off the trees!”
- “Tell me more”, his mother says
- “Well, 5 leaves fell in the first hour, 10 fell in the second hour, then....”
- His twin sister also runs in with the same excited statement
- “Tell me more”, her mother says
- “Well, the leaves that are falling are big and flat and mostly yellow or red, but leaves are falling off some trees but not others, and why didn’t any fall last month?...”

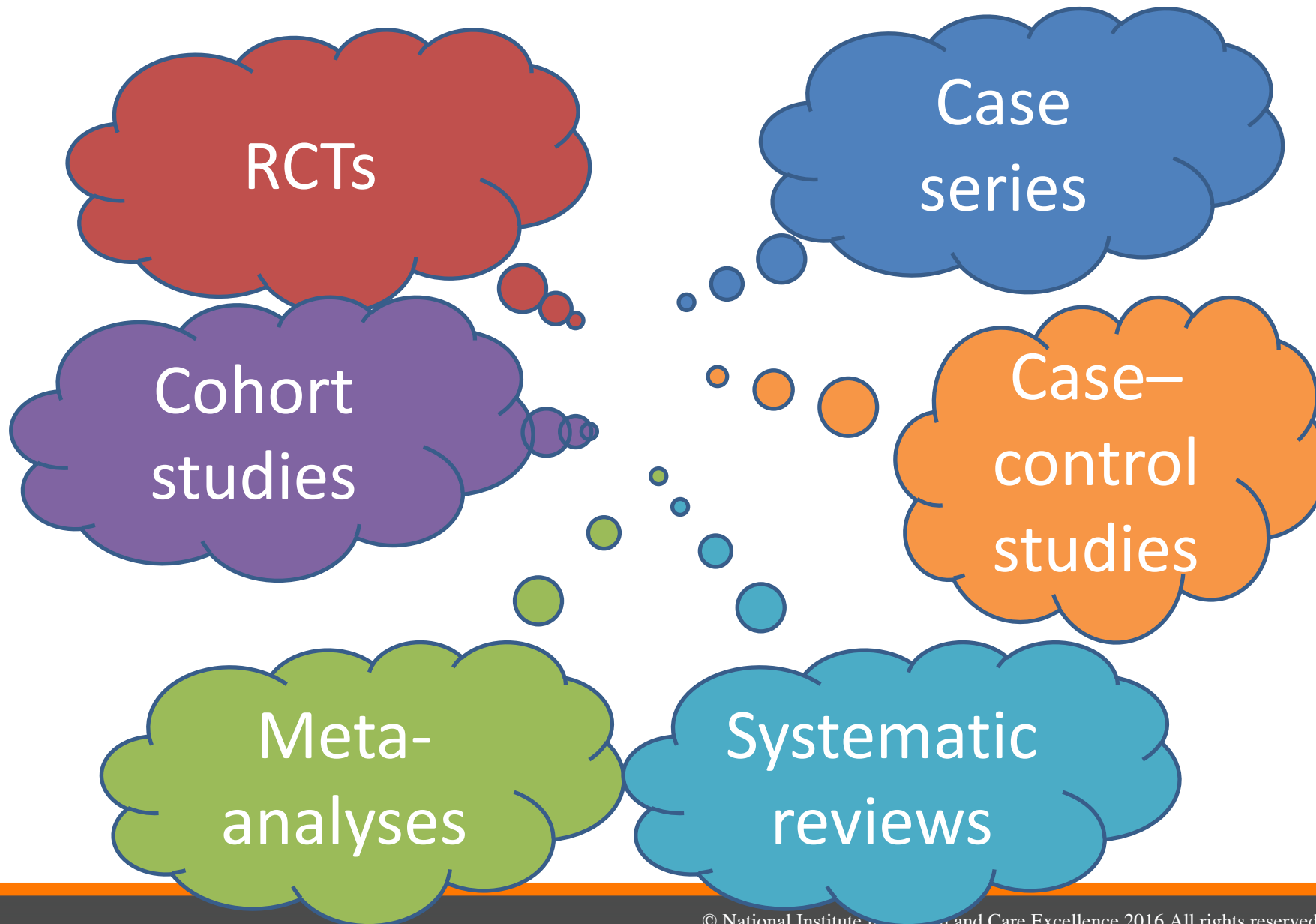
You see a young man with severe Crohn's disease of recent onset.



You are struck by the fact that his diet has, for the last four years, consisted largely of three bowls of breakfast cereal a day.

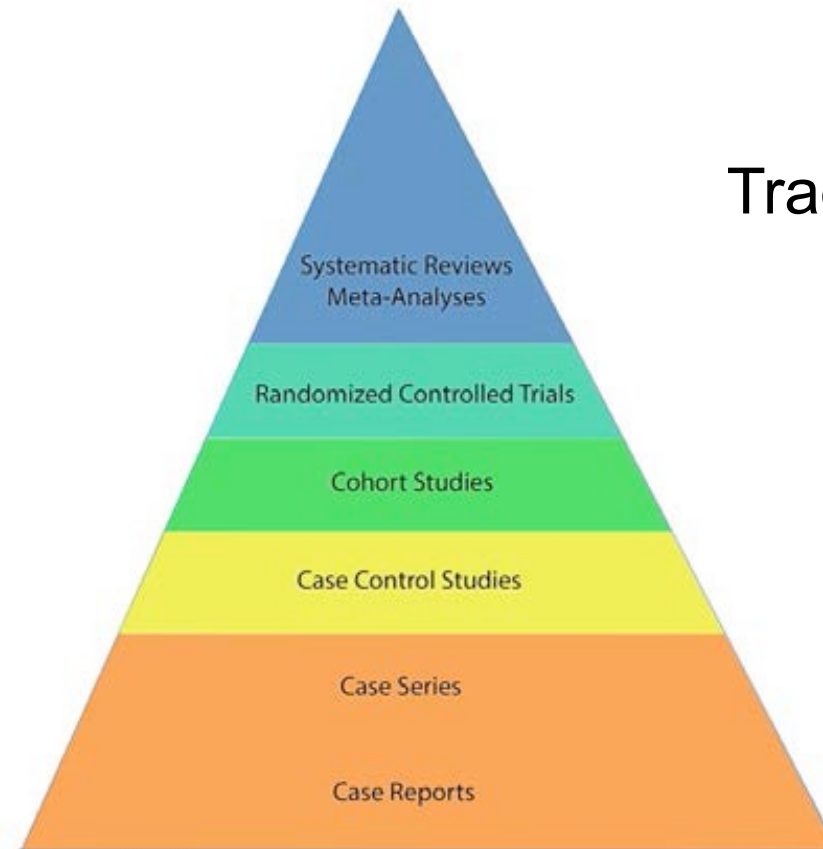
Over the next three months you see four more cases of Crohn's disease and two of them have a similar dietary history.

- Does this mean breakfast cereals cause Crohn's disease?
- How could you find out?



# A traditional hierarchy of evidence

Murad H, et al Newsletter of the International Society for Evidence-Based Health Care October 2015



Traditional pyramid

# Why are RCTs the “gold standard”?

Egger M, et al. *BMJ* 1998; 316: 140-4

Does beta-carotene reduce CV mortality?

## Cohorts

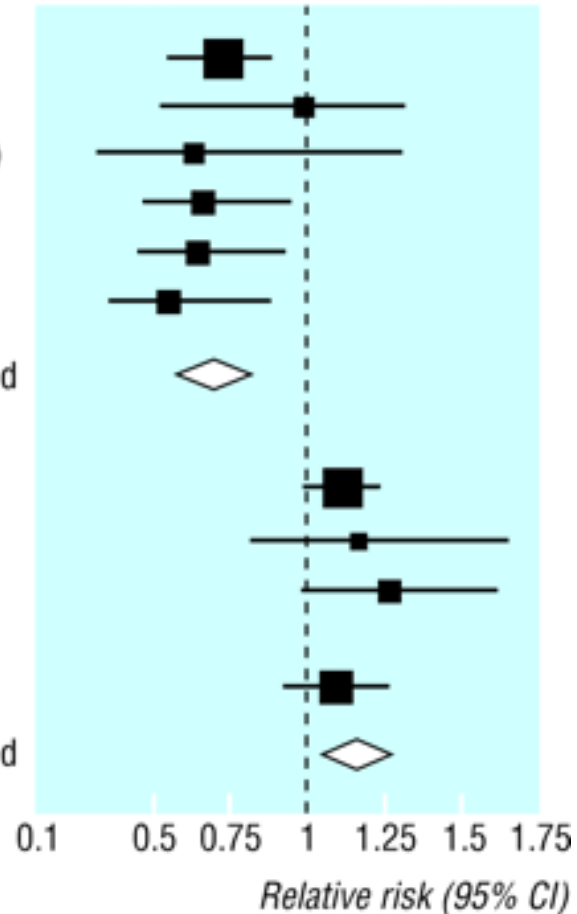
Male health workers (United States)  
Male social insurance workers (Finland)  
Female social insurance workers (Finland)  
Male chemical workers (Switzerland)  
Hyperlipidaemic men (United States)  
Nursing home residents (United States)

Cohorts combined

## Trials

Male smokers (Finland)  
Patients with skin cancer (United States)  
Former smokers, asbestos workers  
(United States)  
Male physicians (United States)

Trials combined



# Why don't we always use an RCT?

- Ethics
  - An RCT on the effect of smoking on heart disease would not be ethical
- Feasibility/ practicality/appropriateness
  - It might not be feasible to recruit enough people with a rare condition to conduct an RCT large enough to give a reliable answer
  - An RCT may not be needed (an RCT of parachutes?) or suitable (e.g. risk of rare or very long term adverse effects)
- Cost
  - A large RCT is very expensive to run. Is the cost justified by the importance of the research question?

# Summary

- There are several types of evidence available
- The 'gold standard' is a large, well designed, applicable RCT where potential bias has been minimised
  - A well conducted meta-analysis of several such RCTs provides very high quality evidence
- RCTs may not always be available or indeed appropriate to the question we have
- Using a hierarchy of evidence will help us judge the level of evidence available



# the MedBridge study, 2017-2020

Medication Reviews Bridging Healthcare:



<https://www.akademiska.se/forskning-och-utbildning/forskning/har-bedriver-vi-forskning/medbridge-studien/medbridge-study/>

**Aim:**

- To study the effects of hospital-initiated comprehensive medication reviews, including active follow-up, on older patients' healthcare utilisation

[Study protocol published in *Contemp Clin Trials*. 2017 Jul 21;61:126-132]



**Design:**

- RCT (Pragmatic, open-label, outcome-blinded, multicentre, three-treatment, cluster-randomised, controlled, crossover trial)
- 8 wards at 4 hospitals in 3 Swedish regions: Uppsala University Hospital and hospitals in Enköping, Gävle and Västerås
- Inclusion criteria:  $\geq 65$  years admitted to study ward



## Interventions:

- Intervention 1:  
Medication reconciliation upon admission, comprehensive medication review, medication reconciliation upon discharge
- Intervention 2:  
Same as 1, incl. medication referral to GP if needed, 2 phone calls: 2-7 days and 1-2 months after discharge
- Control:  
Usual care (no pharmacist involved)



# MedBridge

## The interventions

**Admission** →

Patient interview  
Medication reconciliation



Medication review  
Discussions with  
physician and patient  
Daily monitoring  
Patient education

• Follow-up phone call(s)

← **Discharge** ←

Discharge counseling  
Transferral of information  
Medication referral to GP



**Outcome measures:**

Power calculation: 2310 patients

Primary

- **Incidence of unplanned hospital visits during 12-month follow-up**

Secondary

- Medication-related admissions, GP visits, Costs of hospital based care, Mortality during 12-months,
- Time-to-primary outcome, primary outcome during 1-, 3- and 6-month



Waiting for the results on  
primary and secondary  
outcomes...

What else do you want/need to know??



## Some examples

Process evaluation		Qualitative evaluation
Recruitment process OK? Bias? Flow diagram	Intervention delivery assessment	If interventions were not delivered, why?
Baseline characteristics? Charlson Comorbidity Index score	-Did all patients receive all parts of the int.? How much time did it take?	What did the patient and carers think of the interventions?
Groups comparable?	Identification of DRP – what types? Same in all hospitals? DRP resolved?	Was there a multiprofessional team in place, where the pharmacist was truly integrated?
		What did the physicians think? What worked/did not work well?





# Conclusions

- Remember how humans operate and make decisions
  - Bounded rationality
  - Pattern recognition and cognitive biases
- Qualitative research is very different to quantitative and requires a different approach

