
Table 2: Commonly cited limitations and misperceptions of evidence-based medicine

Limitations

Universal to the practice of medicine

- Shortage of coherent, consistent scientific evidence
- Difficulties in applying evidence to the care of individual patients
- Barriers to the practice of high-quality medicine

Unique to the practice of evidence-based medicine

- The need to develop new skills
 - Limited time and resources
 - Paucity of evidence that evidence-based medicine “works”
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Misperceptions

- Evidence-based medicine denigrates clinical expertise
 - It ignores patients’ values and preferences
 - It promotes a cookbook approach to medicine
 - It is simply a cost-cutting tool
 - It is an ivory-tower concept
 - It is limited to clinical research
 - It leads to therapeutic nihilism in the absence of evidence from randomized trials
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