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Background

Facing the sustainability challenge, health systems are increasingly interested in the appropriate use of resources to improve healthcare quality and performance. Efforts have been made in USA, UK, New Zealand, Australia, and Canada to exhaustively examine the research on inappropriateness of clinical practices. Spain has promoted activities at national level to address variability and appropriateness of clinical practices. This scoping review will map these activities in the Spanish health system.

Objective

The aim of this scoping review is to describe the extension and nature of research on the inappropriate use of clinical practices in Spain.

Research Questions

What is the extension and variability of research on the inappropriate use of clinical practices in Spain?

- Which dimensions of appropriate care are considered in the published studies quantifying potentially inappropriate practices in Spain?
- Which are the methods used in the published studies to estimate the inappropriate use of clinical practices?
- How frequent are the different types of inappropriateness of health care practices in Spain reported in the published literature (overuse, underuse and misuse)?
- What is the impact of Spanish interventions to reduce the potentially inappropriate use of clinical practices?

Methods

Database search: An initial search in MEDLINE (Pubmed) identified relevant keywords and MeSH terms. A second search in MEDLINE and Embase was performed. The research team will use its network at the initiative to Improve the Appropriateness of Healthcare and Clinical Practice (MAPAC Commissions) to identify additional sources of evidence, adjust the final presentation of the review results and to disseminate them through its channels. Identified systematic and scoping reviews will be used as reference lists. Studies are being screened, selected and extracted in duplicate by six pairs of researchers, and data will be presented in tables and suitable visual materials, including the Preferred Reporting Items for Systematic Reviews and Meta-analyses extension for scoping review (PRISMA-ScR) flow diagram.

Eligibility criteria

Concept: Published studies quantifying the potentially inappropriate use of clinical practices.

Context: The potentially inappropriate clinical practices should have taken place in the Spanish health system published from 2000 onwards.

Population: We did not applied any inclusion or exclusion criteria for the population.

Types of sources: Experimental and quasi-experimental study designs, observational studies, systematic reviews and scoping reviews.

Preliminary results

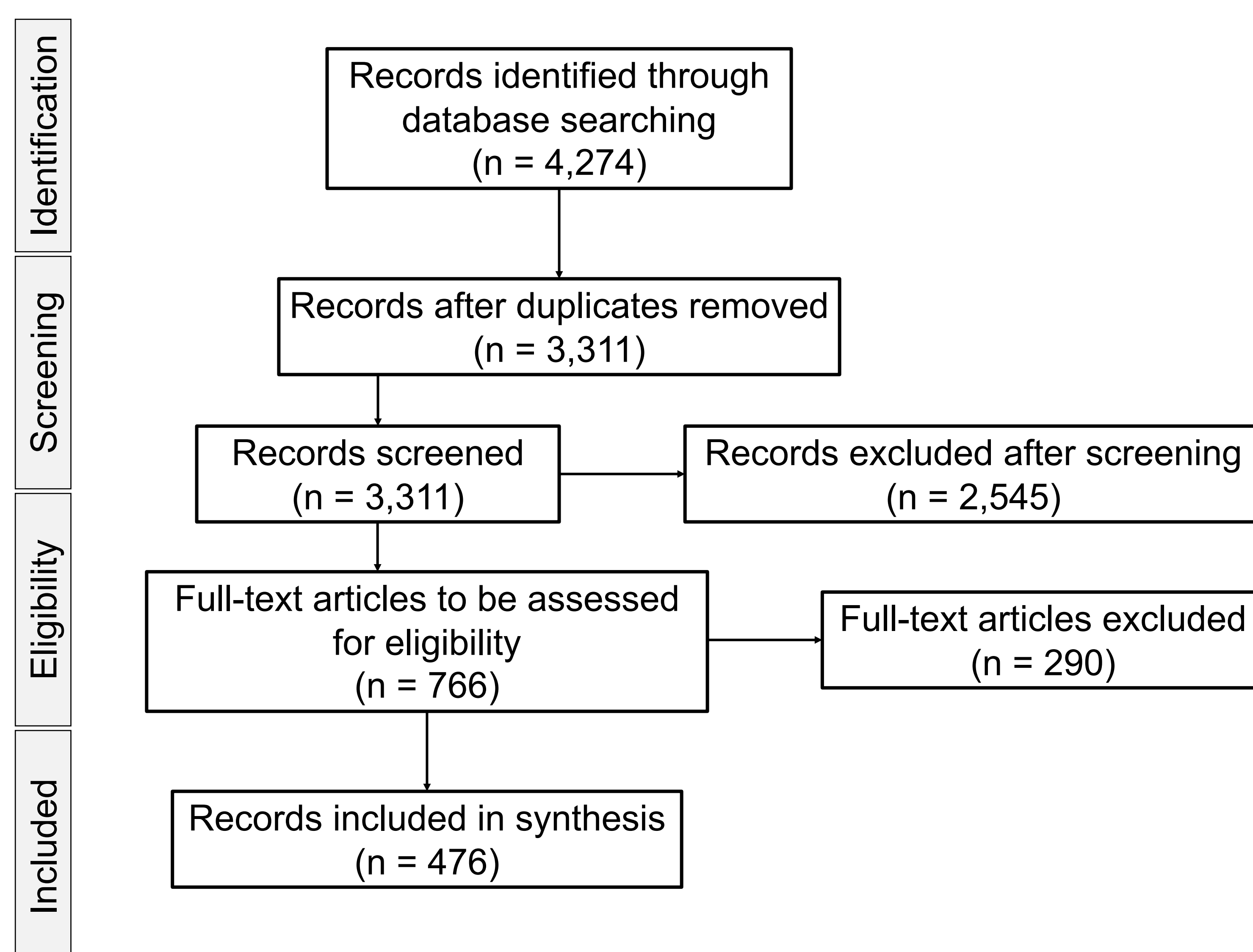


Figure 2: PRISMA Flow Diagram of information through the different phases of the scoping review.

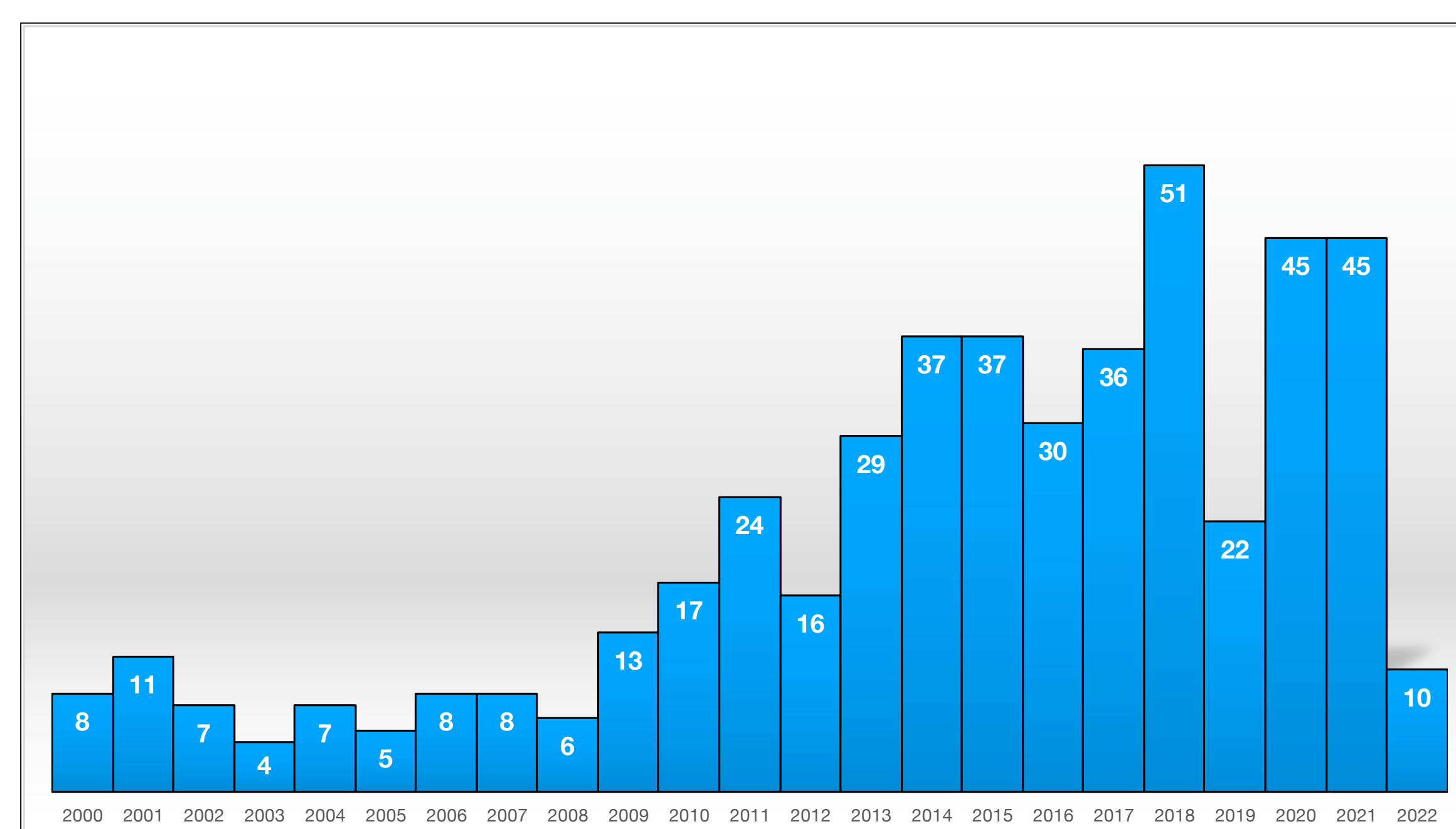


Figure 3: Studies evaluating inappropriateness of clinical practices in Spain over time.

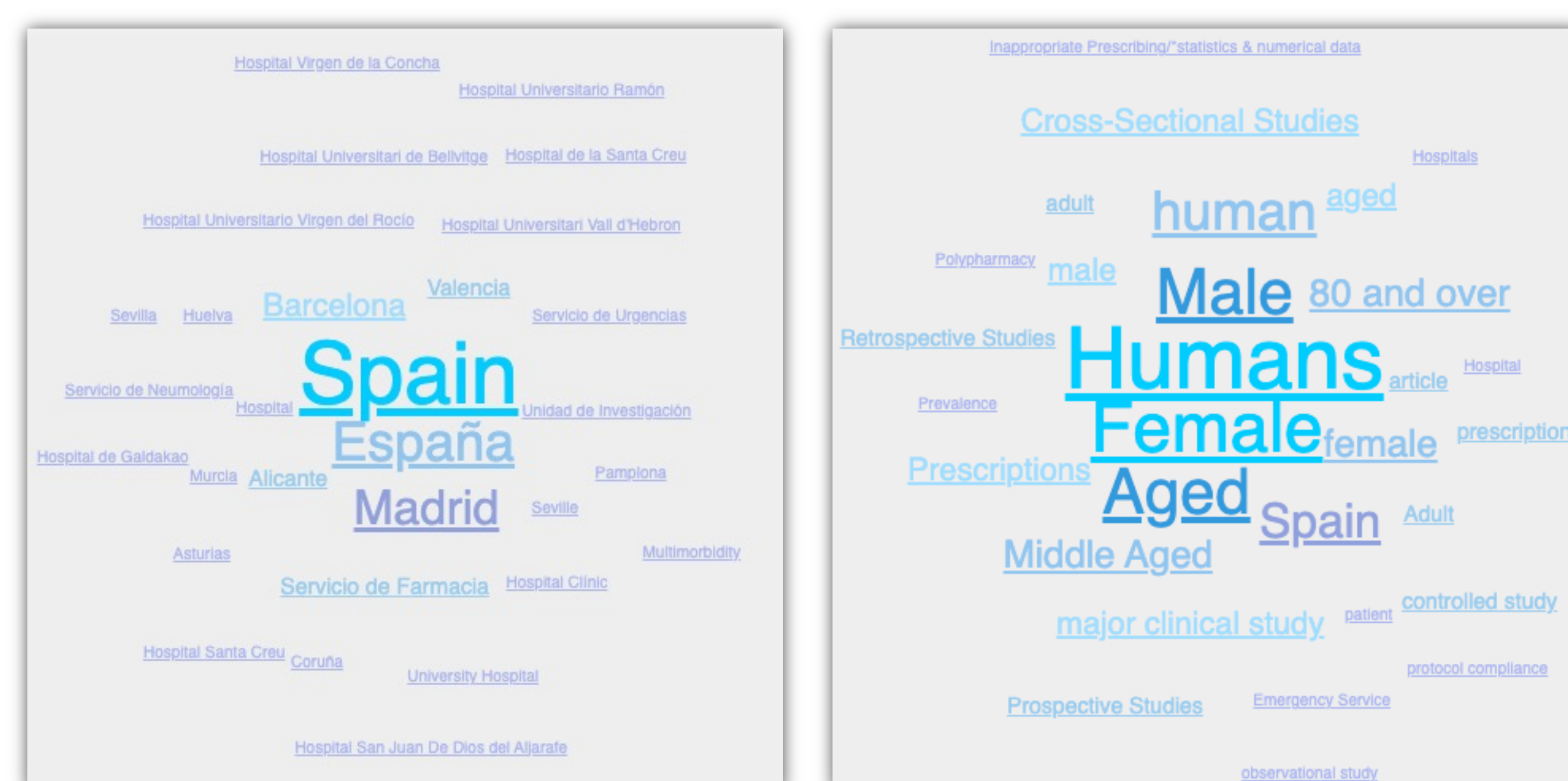


Figure 4 and 5: Most mentioned locations and topics among the included studies, created through Rayyan software.

Conclusions

Appropriateness research has increased over the last 20 years in Spain. A wide range of study designs has been identified, including systematic reviews, randomized controlled trials, pragmatic trials, case series, cross sectional, cohort and pre-post studies and interrupted time series. We expect this scoping review to provide useful information about variability of practices, and areas of potential appropriateness improvement.