

Comparative Assessment

Definition: A **comparative assessment** is a structured evaluation that directly compares two or more methods, interventions, or entities to determine their relative advantages, disadvantages, and outcomes.

Key Elements:

- **Multiple comparators:** e.g., treatments, devices, or strategies.
- **Defined evaluation criteria:** such as effectiveness, safety, cost, usability, or efficiency.
- **Systematic methodology:** may include randomized trials, observational studies, or meta-analyses.
- **Goal:** to establish which option performs better or is more appropriate under specific conditions.

Example (Medical Context): A comparative assessment between **stereoelectroencephalography (SEEG)** and **subdural electrodes (SDE)** aims to determine which technique more effectively localizes seizure onset zones, has fewer complications, and leads to better surgical outcomes.

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