

Indirect [evidence](#), also sometimes referred to as circumstantial evidence, is a fact or set of facts that, if true, allow a person can infer the fact at issue.

[Network meta-analysis](#) (NMA) is a relatively recent development, which extends principles of [meta-analysis](#) to the [evaluation](#) of multiple [treatments](#) in a single analysis. This is achieved by combining the direct and [indirect evidence](#). [Direct evidence](#) refers to evidence obtained from [randomized control trials](#) (RCTs); for example, in a trial comparing treatments A and B, direct evidence is the estimate of relative effects between A and B. [Indirect evidence](#) refers to the evidence obtained through one or more common comparators.

in the absence of RCTs that directly evaluate A and B, interventions A and B can be compared indirectly if both have been compared to C in studies (forming an A-B-C “loop” of evidence). The combination of [direct evidence](#) and [indirect evidence](#) is called [mixed evidence](#).

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