

Pairwise [meta-analysis](#) is an established statistical [tool](#) for synthesizing [evidence](#) from multiple [trials](#), but it is informative only about the relative [efficacy](#) of two specific interventions. The usefulness of pairwise meta-analysis is thus limited in real-life medical practice, where many competing interventions may be available for a certain condition and studies informing some of the pairwise comparisons may be lacking. This commonly encountered scenario has led to the development of [network meta-analysis](#) (NMA). In the last decade, several applications, methodological developments, and empirical studies in NMA have been published, and the area is thriving as its relevance to public health is increasingly recognized ¹⁾.

¹⁾

Efthimiou O, Debray TP, van Valkenhoef G, Trelle S, Panayidou K, Moons KG, Reitsma JB, Shang A, Salanti G; GetReal Methods Review Group. GetReal in network meta-analysis: a review of the methodology. *Res Synth Methods*. 2016 Sep;7(3):236-63. doi: 10.1002/jrsm.1195. Epub 2016 Jan 11. PMID: 26754852.

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