



Qualitative Research Methods ”Patients and Research” 16th Cochrane Colloquium

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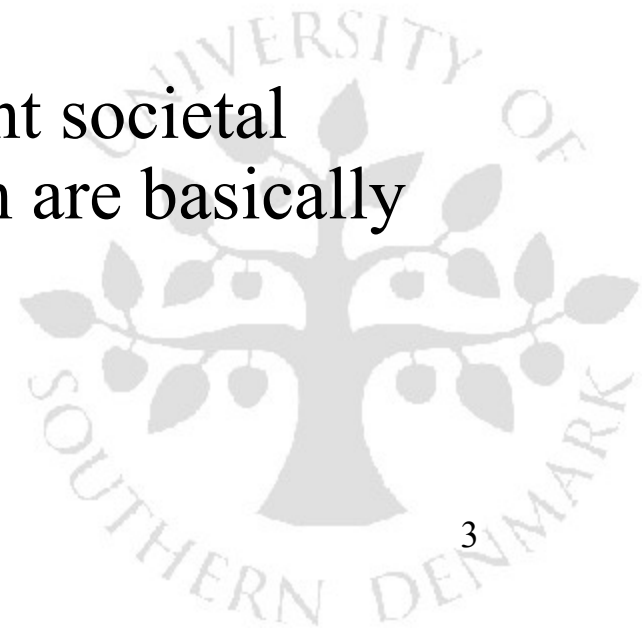
Disposition

- Secondary and primary research
- Syntheses of qualitative studies
- Qualitative methods



Technology is nothing in itself

- Health technology always mediates risks, knowledge, kinship, life and death, power and autonomy
- Health technology embodies current societal values, norms and intentions which are basically relational



Secondary and primary research

It is important that the initiation of primary research about patient aspects in an HTA **only** is considered relevant **if** the knowledge that can be gained from a prior review of the literature (secondary research) proves inadequate



Why do secondary research?

Because researchers do not need to:

- establish new expensive research that is not necessary
- intrude in for example severe sick patients life



Advice and suggestions in relation to literature reviews

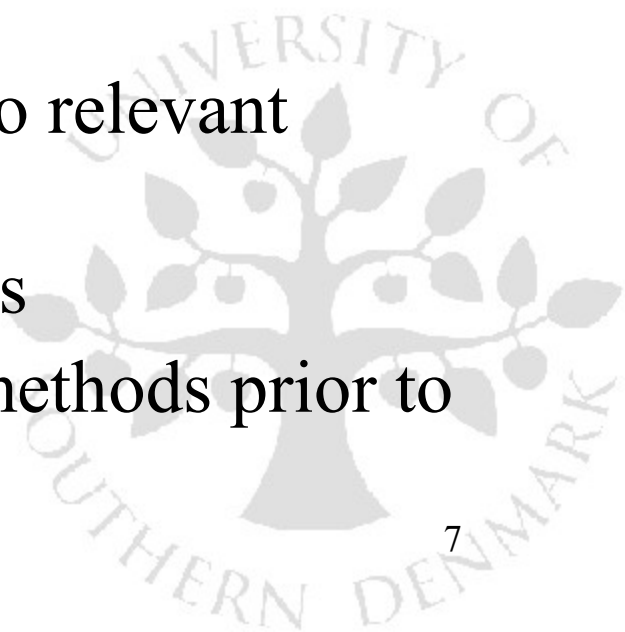
Literature assessment of qualitative studies

- It is important to decide who can/should assess the results based on qualitative methods
- It is important to reflect on the range and validity of the results based on qualitative methods



Syntheses of qualitative studies

- Can contribute to the decision-makers having the best possible evidence-based foundation to assess, for instance, core patient aspects in relation to a given HTA
- Can be used to assess whether there is a need for primary research
- Can be used to gain new insight into relevant patient or organizational aspects
- Can be used to make generalisations
- Requires in-depth insight into the methods prior to use in connection with HTA



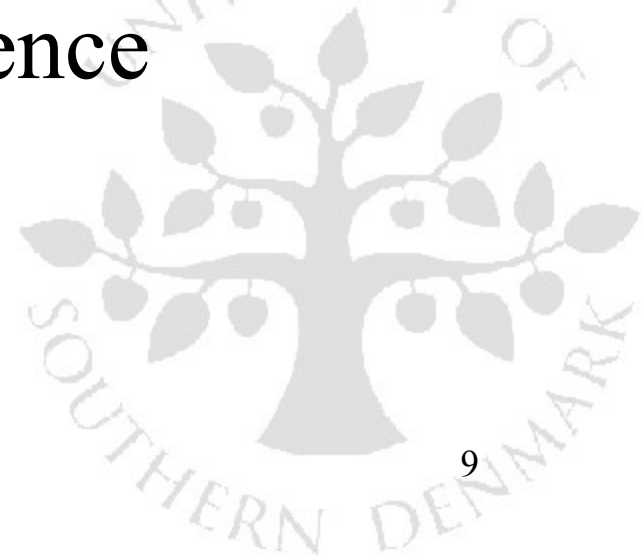
Definition of Syntheses of qualitative studies

Some kind of combinations of qualitative methods to construct adequate interpretive explanations from multiple studies



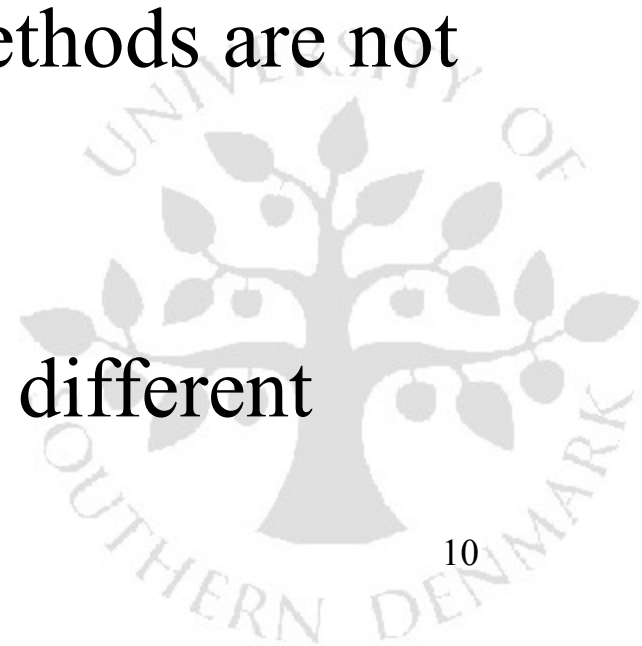
Why using SQR?

- Because it enables researchers to meet the needs of policy-makers and practitioners, who need to benefit from the range of available evidence



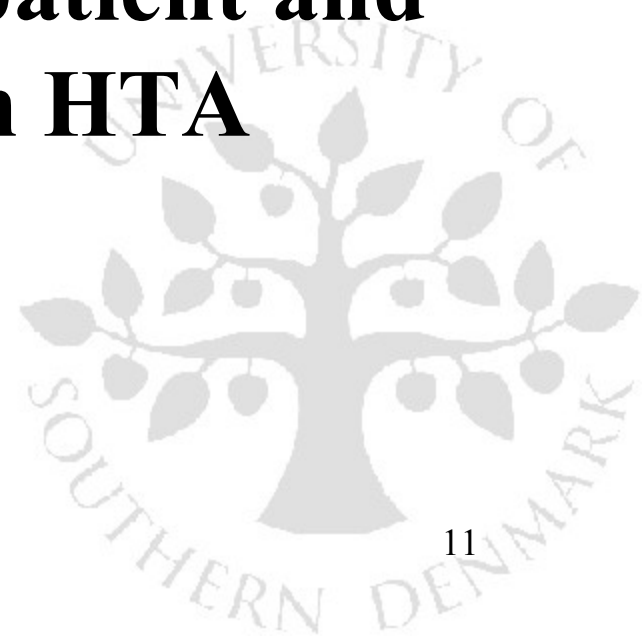
The hierarchy between quality and quantity

- quantity is a kind of quality but quality is not a kind of quantity
- qualitative and quantitative methods are not each others opposites
- they rely epistemologically on different ‘trusted ideas’



Qualitative methods

- **Qualitative methods will often be appropriate for exploring patient and organisational aspects in an HTA**



Qualitative methods

The main qualitative methods for generating data are:

- In-depth individual interviews
- Focus group discussions and interviews
- Participant observation
- Fieldwork



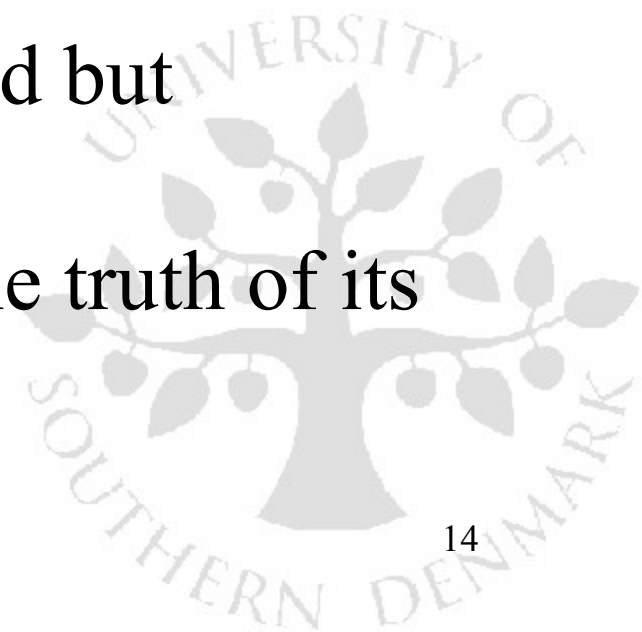
Qualitative methods

- **Qualitative methods are especially useful in order to address patients' views in relation to:**
 - knowledge
 - values
 - emotions
 - ethics
 - beliefs
 - social interactions
 - cultural practices
 - effect from the patient's point of view



Important

- knowledge can never be free from interpretation and contexts
- it is not possible to establish facts without values
- data are generated not collected but generated
- science can never guarantee the truth of its conclusions



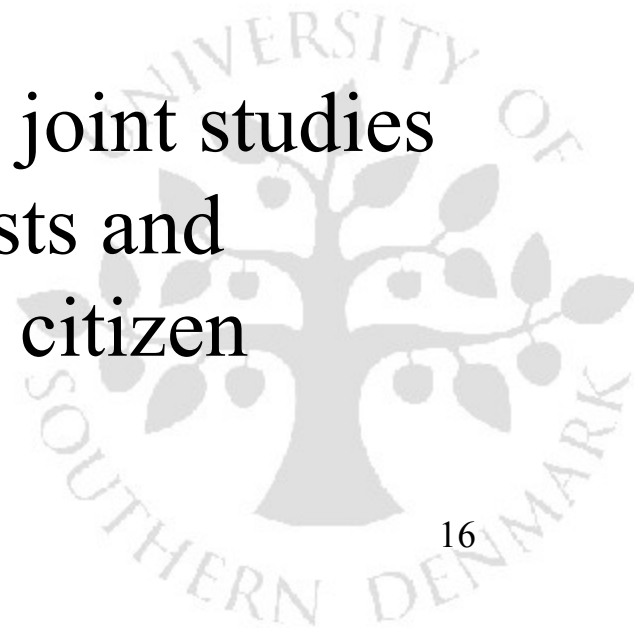
Conclusion

- No facts without value
- No reason without emotion
- No knowledge without experience



Conclusion

- It is important that qualitative research strategies become more integrated in future health technology assessments
- There is a need for developing joint studies for instance with anthropologists and sociologists about patient- and citizen aspects.



Thank you
for listening

