

**Title:**

Effect of Behavior-change Interventions on Daily Physical Activity in Patients with Intermittent Claudication: The OPTIMA Systematic Review with Meta-Analysis

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## ABSTRACT

**Aims:** The study aimed to synthesize evidence of daily physical activity (PA) following Behavior-change technique (BCT)-based interventions compared to any control in individuals with peripheral arterial disease/intermittent claudication (PAD/IC); and examine the relationship between BCTs and daily PA.

**Methods:** Systematic search of 11 databases from inception to 30/11/2022 was conducted, plus weekly email alerts of new literature until 31/8/2023. Studies comparing BCT-based interventions with any control were included. Primary analysis involved a pairwise random-effects meta-analysis. Risk of bias was assessed using the Cochrane-RoB-2 and ROBINS-I tools. Certainty of evidence was evaluated with the GRADE system. The Preferred Reporting Items for Systematic Reviews and Meta-analyses (PRISMA) guideline was followed. Outcome measures were short-term (<6 months) change in daily PA, and maintenance of the daily PA (6 months or longer) reported as standardized mean differences (SMDs) with 95% confidence intervals (95%CI).

**Results:** Forty-one studies (4,339 patients; 26 RCTs/3,357 patients; 15 non-RCTs/982 patients; study mean age 60.3 to 73.8, 29.5% female) were included. Eleven RCTs (15 comparisons, 952 participants) suggested that BCT-based interventions increased daily PA in the short term compared to non-SET [increase of 0.20 SMD (95%CI: 0.07 to 0.33), ~473 steps/day] with high certainty. Evidence of maintenance of daily PA (≥6 months) is unclear [increase of 0.12 SMD (95%CI: -0.04 to 0.29); ~288 steps/day; 6RCTs, 8 comparisons, 899 participants], with moderate certainty. For daily PA, compared to SET it was inconclusive both for < 6months change [-0.13 SMD, 95%CI: -0.43 to 0.16]; 3RCTs, 269 participants; low certainty] and ≥6months [-0.04 SMD, 95%CI: -0.55 to 0.47]; 1 RCT, 89 participants; very low certainty]. It was unclear whether the number of BCTs or any BCT domain were independently related to an increase in PA.

**Conclusion:** BCT-based interventions improve short-term daily PA in people with PAD/IC compared to non-SET controls. Evidence for maintenance of the improved PA at 6 months or longer and comparison with SET is uncertain. BCT-based interventions are effective choices for enhancing daily PA in PAD/IC.

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**Lay summary:** This study evaluated the effect of behavior-change interventions on daily physical activity (PA) in people with intermittent claudication.

- In individuals with intermittent claudication, behavior-change interventions improve short-term physical activity compared to controls, but additional research is needed to ascertain their sustained benefits at 6-months or longer, as well as their benefit compared to SET.
- Behavior-change technique (BCT) based interventions may support patients to engage in daily physical activity.

**Keywords:** Peripheral arterial disease, Intermittent claudication, Behaviour change techniques, Behaviour change interventions, physical activity

## Introduction

International guidelines recommend supervised exercise therapy (SET) as the primary treatment for intermittent claudication (IC) due to clinical and cost-effectiveness and lower rates of adverse events.<sup>1</sup> Availability of SET programs is limited by funding, staffing, and facilities,<sup>2</sup> whilst time, travel, pain-induced exercise intolerance, multimorbidity, low motivation, and limited disease understanding contribute to low enrolment and adherence.<sup>3-5</sup>

Optimum physical activity (PA) improves IC symptoms, cardiovascular risk factors, overall health, and quality of life.<sup>6</sup> Physical inactivity independently predicts disease outcomes and all-cause mortality in IC.<sup>7</sup> Individuals with PAD<sup>8</sup> and those with IC symptoms<sup>9,10</sup> are less physically active than peers without the disease. Increasing PA is crucial as engaging even in light-intensity PA is linked to 50% reduction in the risk of all-cause and cardiovascular mortality in patients with IC.<sup>11</sup>

Changing PA behavior is challenging.<sup>12</sup> Behavior change techniques are distinct, observable, and reproducible elements within interventions that aim to steer behavior.<sup>13</sup> Interventions utilising BCTs have been effective in promoting daily PA in various populations,<sup>14,15</sup> but their specific effectiveness in IC remains unclear. This paper aimed to report on the meta-analysis of the effectiveness of BCT-based interventions in enhancing and sustaining daily PA in people with IC, and the association between BCTs and daily PA.

## Methods

The OPTIMA project was conceptualised and conducted with a Patient and Public Involvement and Engagement panel, including patients with IC, and prospectively registered on PROSPERO (CRD42020159869).<sup>16</sup> This paper reports on the primary outcome measure from the quantitative review. The secondary outcomes are reported in a companion paper. Our report follows PRISMA reporting guidelines.<sup>17</sup>

### Information sources and search

Medline (OVID); Embase (OVID); CINAHL (EBSCO); Web of Science core collection (Clarivate); Psycinfo (OVID); NHS Economic Evaluation Database; Social Science Citation Index (Clarivate); Database of Abstracts of Reviews of Effects; CENTRAL (The Cochrane Library); PEDRO; Health Technology Assessment Database and trial registries (ClinicalTrials.gov and ICTRP (WHO)) were searched from inception to 30/11/2022. Additionally, we manually searched reference lists of included studies, and received weekly alerts about new literature until 31/8/2023. The search used a combination of controlled and free text vocabulary, using term sets for condition, (e.g. intermittent claudication), behavior-change interventions (e.g., home-based exercise), and outcomes (e.g. physical activity) (Supplementary material online, Table S1). No restrictions were used for language, publication year or publication status.

### Study Selection and Data Extraction

Reports of interventions that contained at least one BCT according to the BCT taxonomy v1,<sup>13</sup> in adults ( $\geq 18$  years) with IC, any study design with a BCT intervention, with or without a comparator arm were included. Two researchers (from UA, DS, EA, TG, CG, JD, CO) independently screened titles and abstracts, then full texts with disagreements discussed by a third reviewer. Authors were contacted (twice) when there was insufficient information. We extracted authors, year of publication, participants and intervention characteristics, and outcome data. Two trained reviewers (from LB, DS, TG, JM, SA) independently extracted BCTs, with discrepancies discussed by a third reviewer. The 93 BCTs were rated as present (clear evidence of inclusion) or absent, in both the intervention and

comparison groups. If the same BCT was present in both intervention and comparison groups, the BCT was excluded from the total.<sup>18</sup>

## **Outcomes**

This paper reports on daily PA, the primary outcome of the quantitative OPTIMA review. Measures (self-report or device-based) were included if they covered sufficient time (e.g. usual week), included a range of types and/or intensity of PA, and reported a suitable outcome (e.g. volume) to adequately report daily PA (screening tool in Supplementary material online, Table S2). Where PA was reported using more than one method, daily steps (the most common measure) were used. Data were synthesized at the following time points: less than 6-months: earliest change outcomes assessed within 6 months from baseline, and 6-months or longer: latest change outcomes assessed at 6 months or longer from baseline.

## **Risk of Bias Assessment**

Two reviewers (from UA, EA, SR, LB) independently assessed the risk of bias in included studies and evaluated the overall review quality of evidence, using the Risk-of-Bias 2 (RoB 2) tool<sup>19</sup> for RCTs, and the Risk of Bias in Non-Randomized Studies-of Interventions (ROBINS-I)<sup>20</sup> for non-RCTs. The Grading of Recommendations, Assessment, Development, and Evaluations (GRADE) method was applied to evaluate the certainty of evidence, considering bias, inconsistency, indirectness, imprecision, and publication bias<sup>21</sup>(See table S12 - Supplementary material online). Differences were resolved through discussion and consensus.

## **Statistical analysis**

RCTs with a measure of daily PA were combined in meta-analyses of pairwise comparisons using Stata v14 (College Station, TX). Pooled effect sizes with 95% confidence intervals were estimated using random-effects meta-analysis. Change from baseline and associated standard deviation (SD) was used in all analyses, where not reported we calculated using baseline and follow-up values and an imputed within-arm correlation of 0.5.<sup>22</sup> The rationale for using change scores is because an analysis based on changes from baseline is stated to be more effective as compared to using post-intervention values, as it removes an aspect of between-person variability from the analysis.<sup>22</sup> Standardized mean differences (SMD) were used to combine multiple measures used for the same outcome (e.g. total steps and PA duration).

Our primary analyses included robust evidence from RCTs comparing BCT-based interventions with any control. A control could be 'treatment as usual', attention control or an alternative intervention (without any BCTs or using fewer BCTs). We also separately analyzed studies that compared a BCT-based intervention to SET. When comparing BCT vs control, three-arm studies with two BCT interventions were included as two separate comparisons to a single control, halving the control group to avoid double counting. Data from some 3-arm studies were used twice: in analyses of BCT vs control and BCT vs supervised exercise. Data from non-RCTs were pooled separately.

Heterogeneity was assessed by visually inspecting forest plots and using the  $I^2$ , and  $\text{Tau}^2$  statistics.<sup>22</sup> We conducted sensitivity analyses for the primary outcome to assess robustness, including:

- Fixed effects meta-analysis.
- Imputing a within-person correlation of 0.8.
- Excluding studies with estimated SDs.
- Removing one arm from 3-arm studies.
- Excluding supervised BCT interventions.

- Excluding studies at high risk of bias.
- Excluding studies using self-reported measures.
- Using only studies that reported 'steps/day'.

SMD-analysed data was converted back to steps/day (most common format) by multiplying the SMD with the median control group change-from-baseline. Network meta-analysis (NMA)<sup>23</sup> was used to compare types of BCT interventions, including post-hoc grouping by mode of delivery.

We used random-effects meta-regression to explore the relationship between individual BCTs, BCT domains, and effect size for daily PA. We analysed each BCT and BCT domain separately, comparing studies using BCTs within the domain to those that didn't. We couldn't combine multiple domains due to limited data. We conducted meta-regression to explore how the number of BCTs exclusive to intervention relates to the effect size. For each BCT appearing in  $\geq$ five interventions, meta-regression was conducted comparing the effect size in trials of an intervention that contained the BCT with those that didn't.

## Results

Our search identified 6279 records, we screened 155 articles for full-text, and 41 studies (53 records) were included (Figure 1), 26 RCTs (3357 participants) and 15 non-RCTs (982 participants). An overview of included studies are in Table 1. Excluded records and the reason for their exclusion are documented in Supplementary material online, Table S3.

### Description of the population

There were 4,339 participants in included studies (range 11 to 882, 29.5% female, mean age 68.7 [mean age range 60.3 to 73.8] years). Study populations ranged from newly diagnosed individuals to those with longstanding disease and previous surgical interventions. When reported (29 studies did not), participants were predominantly white in 7 studies,<sup>24–30</sup> predominantly black or African American in 4 studies,<sup>31–34</sup> and a mix of white, black, and Hispanic in 1 study.<sup>33</sup>

### Description of the Interventions

Interventions in the included studies encompassed structured and home-based walking programs, resistance training, activity monitoring, psychological interventions, group exercise sessions, and communication with healthcare providers. Interventions often included goal setting, motivational techniques, and offered exercise-related education for PAD.

Fifteen studies included initial face-to-face structured walking/exercise sessions followed by telephone or mobile health follow-up for feedback, reinforcement, support, or monitoring.<sup>24,25,27,28,30,31,33,35–42</sup> Eight studies included an education component within a structured walking intervention without telephone or mobile health follow-up.<sup>34,43–49</sup> Seven studies used home-based structured walking programs without education or follow-up.<sup>26,50–55</sup> Six studies incorporated supervised exercise alongside education, community-based walking, lifestyle coaching, and feedback.<sup>29,56–60</sup> Two studies employed a mobile health intervention with goal and progress review during follow-up visits.<sup>42,61</sup> Two studies used individual motivational interviews,<sup>62,63</sup> with 1 additionally following up via smartphone.<sup>62</sup> One study combined health coaching and walking training.<sup>64</sup>

Eleven studies did not have a comparator arm<sup>34,36,47–49,53,55,56,59,64</sup> and six were 3-arm trials with two active arms.<sup>26,32,37,40,50,54</sup> Comparator groups were described as: usual care (10 studies)<sup>27,30,35,38,41,44,45,50,58,61</sup>, supervised exercise (6 studies)<sup>28,39,42,43,51,52</sup>, walking advice (4 studies)<sup>29,40,54,60</sup>, attention control (3 studies)<sup>24–26,37</sup>, health education (3 studies)<sup>31,32,63</sup>, and 'no

intervention' (1 study).<sup>62</sup> Additional active controls were used in 5 of the studies that reported 3 arms, including supervised exercise in 4 studies<sup>26,40,50,54</sup> and high-intensity walking in 1 study.<sup>32</sup>

The duration of intervention sessions ranged from 30 minutes to 3 hours (not reported in 9 studies<sup>27,34,36,37,42,44,51,53,64</sup>). Intervention frequency was mostly 3 times/wk<sup>25-29,31,32,34-37,39-42,45-52,54,55,57,59,60,64</sup> but three studies had one-off sessions followed by telephone calls every two weeks.<sup>33,38,63</sup> Three interventions lasted between 1-2 months,<sup>36,38,56</sup> the rest were 3 months or greater. The follow up period was less than 6 months in 12 studies,<sup>24,26,33,36,37,44,50,53,55,57,61,62</sup> between 6 and 9 months in 6 studies,<sup>25,28,30,41,43,59</sup> 12 months in 11 studies,<sup>31,32,40,42,45-47,49,52,58,60</sup> and 2 years in 1 study.<sup>65</sup> Eleven studies did not report any follow up beyond the period of intervention.<sup>27,29,34,38,39,48,51,54,56,63,64</sup>

### **BCTs in included studies**

Forty-six unique BCTs were identified across the 41 studies, implementing 47 unique interventions (Supplementary material online, Table S4). The mean (SD) number of BCTs coded per intervention was 7.60 (3.80), ranging from 2<sup>28</sup> to 17.<sup>28, 49</sup> The most frequently occurring BCT was Goal setting (behavior), which was coded in 36 (78%) interventions. Other commonly used BCTs were 'Instruction on how to perform a behavior' (63%), 'Behavioral practice/rehearsal' (52%), 'Feedback on behavior' (52%), 'Social support(unspecified)' (50%), 'Self-Monitoring of behavior' (48%), 'Review behavior goals(s)' (43%), 'Problem solving' (35%) and 'Information about health consequences' (35%). Overall, 31 (67%) BCTs were used in fewer than five interventions.

### **Risk of bias in included studies**

Risk of bias judgment for each the 26 RCTs and overall certainty are summarised in **Table 2**. Overall risk of bias was deemed low in 11 trials<sup>26,29-32,35,38,40,40,41,50,65-71</sup> (42%; 18 records), having some concerns in 10 trials<sup>25,33,42,44,45,54,58,60,61,63,72-75</sup> (39%; 14 records), and high in 5 trials<sup>27,28,37,39,62</sup> (19%; 5 records). Risk of bias arising from the randomization process was deemed low in 20 trials<sup>25,26,29-33,35,38,40-42,50,54,58,60,61,63,65-77</sup> (77%; 31 records). Bias due to missing outcome data was deemed low in 18 trials<sup>24-38, 40-42, 44-47, 49-51, 56, 72, 77</sup> (69%; 28 records). Risk of bias because of deviation from the intended interventions was low in 16 trials<sup>24-26,29,30,30-32,35,38,40,41,45,50,54,58,60,65,67-70,72,73,75-77</sup> (62%; 27 records). Fifteen trials were assessed low risk in terms of bias due to measurement of the outcome<sup>24-27,29,30,30,31,35,38,40,41,50,54,61,65,67-70,74,76,77</sup> (58%; 23 records), and bias arising from selection of the reported outcomes<sup>24,26,30-32,35,38,41,41,42,50,58,60,61,65,67-75,77</sup> (58%; 25 records). The items that contributed most to the assessment of high risk of bias for the RCTs were deviations from intended interventions and missing outcome data. Overall, we judged thirteen of the 15 non-RCT studies to have serious concern regarding risk of bias, and 2 to have moderate risk of bias (Supplementary material online, Table S5). Bias due to confounding factors contributed most to assessment of serious risk of bias.

## **Meta-analysis**

### **Physical activity volume**

#### **BCT-based interventions vs Controls**

Evidence from 11 trials (15 comparisons, 952 patients) suggested that at <6months BCT-based interventions increase the volume of daily PA (Figure 2), with little evidence of heterogeneity (SMD, 0.20; 95%CI: 0.07-0.33; I<sup>2</sup>=0%; Tau<sup>2</sup>=0.00; high-certainty evidence). This improvement corresponded to an increase of 473 steps/day (95%CI: 165 steps/day to 780 steps/day). This result was similar after

conducting sensitivity analyses (Supplementary material online, Table S6) and there was no evidence of publication bias. Considering that some studies used subjective self-report measures of PA as opposed to objective device-based measures, a sensitivity analysis was conducted excluding such studies, however, the results were similar (Supplementary material online, Table S6). Combined data from three non-randomised studies (3 comparisons, 69 participants) suggested that BCT interventions increase daily PA by 786 steps/day (95%CI 198 steps/day to 1373 steps/day) which is consistent with the evidence from the RCTs (Supplementary material online, Figure S1). Evidence from 6 trials (8 comparisons, 899 patients; moderate-certainty evidence) leaves it unclear whether BCT-based interventions increase daily PA  $\geq 6$  months, with low heterogeneity (SMD, 0.12; 95%CI: -0.04-0.29;  $I^2=26.1\%$ , Tau-squared=0.01). This corresponds to an increase of 288 steps/day (95%CI: -102 steps/day to 676 steps/day) (Figure 2).

### **BCT-based interventions vs SET**

Low quality evidence from 3 trials (3 comparisons, 269 participants; low-certainty evidence) left it unclear whether BCT-based interventions increased daily PA in the short-term compared to SET (Figure 2), with little evidence of heterogeneity (SMD, 0.13; 95%CI: -0.43-0.16;  $I^2=0\%$ , Tau-squared=0.00). Very low certainty evidence from one trial (1 comparison, 89 participants) left it unclear whether BCT-based interventions increase daily PA  $\geq 6$  months (SMD, -0.04 SMD; 95%CI: -0.55 to 0.47) compared to SET.

Exploratory network meta-analysis comparing interventions by mode of delivery both  $<6$ months and  $\geq 6$ months left it unclear whether any intervention modality was better than any other (Supplementary material online, Table S7). Pairwise comparisons combining both direct and indirect evidence produced wide confidence intervals that did not rule out 'no difference'. Ranking and SUCRA estimates<sup>23</sup> suggested that supervised exercise was likely to offer the most benefit in terms of PA  $<6$ months, and that other BCT interventions or BCT interventions with technology were likely to offer the most benefit  $\geq 6$  months (Supplementary material online, Table S8).

### **Association between BCTs and intervention effects**

Meta-regression on the outcome of daily PA did not suggest a relationship between the number of BCTs and the magnitude of the effect size either  $<6$  months (effect -0.01: 95%CI -0.04 to 0.02) or  $\geq 6$  months (effect 0.00: 95%CI -0.04 to 0.04) (Supplementary material online, Table S9). After comparing interventions that did and did not use individual BCT domains, it was unclear whether any domain was independently related to increased PA (Supplementary material online, Table S10). For each commonly occurring BCT, we saw no evidence to suggest that interventions containing that BCT were associated with a larger effect size than interventions that did not (Supplementary material online, Table S11).

### **Discussion**

The primary finding was that BCT-based interventions lead to a significant increase in daily PA (approximately 473 steps/day) for individuals with IC at  $<6$  months, outperforming non-supervised exercise controls. The impact becomes less definitive at  $\geq 6$  months, resulting in a modest increase in daily PA (approximately 288 steps/day), with much uncertainty due to participant attrition, fewer trials and increased heterogeneity. When compared to SET, the effects of BCT-based interventions on daily PA are uncertain. Pairwise meta-analysis found no statistically significant difference, but exploratory network meta-analysis showed that SET was most effective  $<6$ months, while BCT-based interventions were most effective  $\geq 6$  months.

The increase of 473 steps/day found in this review represents 13% of the average daily steps (3586) of typical adults with IC.<sup>78</sup> Guidelines recommend 150 minutes per week (22 minutes/day) of moderate-to-vigorous aerobic PA.<sup>79</sup> In public health messaging this is often simplified as 3000 steps in 30 minutes.<sup>80</sup> At that rate, the 473 steps observed in our review would represent an additional 4.7 min of walking, approximately 20% of the PA daily guidelines. Many of the comparator arms in the included studies had active BCTs and also increased PA, meaning that the true effect of the BCT-based interventions may have been underestimated. International PA guidelines also recommend that any increase of PA among previously inactive individuals can improve overall health.<sup>81,82</sup> Individuals with IC face unique barriers to PA,<sup>3,4</sup> with low PA compared to peers,<sup>9,10</sup> and therefore any increase in daily PA represents an important health behavior-change with the potential to positively impact their clinical outcomes.<sup>7,11,83-85</sup> Indeed, members of our Patients and Public Involvement (PPI) group (CG, JD) believed that 400 steps/day was a meaningful improvement.

Investigating the maintenance of behavior changes over time, especially in the absence of intervention contact, is essential to understand whether positive changes can be maintained. There was a small increase in daily PA of BCT-based intervention over the non-SET sustained at  $\geq 6$  months, but the margins of the confidence intervals were wide and we could neither confirm nor rule out benefit. However, this small increase may be important given that IC is a progressive long-term condition, and the natural course of the disease would expect patients to reduce PA over time. The success in sustaining the gained PA benefit beyond 6 months needs further investigation.

Our meta-analysis did not confirm or rule out a superior outcome for daily PA for BCT-based interventions compared to SET, but our exploratory network meta-analysis suggested that BCT-based interventions were more beneficial than SET for daily PA beyond 6 months. Current guidelines recommend SET as the first line treatment in people with IC.<sup>1</sup> However, given that IC is a long-term condition and patients need to maintain long-term optimal PA to continue to derive positive disease outcomes, BCT-based interventions may represent a promising alternative for long-term maintenance of PA. However, further research would be needed to establish the evidence base.

The BCTs linked to improved daily PA can vary across different populations. For example, BCTs 'goal setting' and 'feedback' for cancer survivors<sup>86</sup>, and 'action planning', 'graded tasks,' and 'unspecified social support' in hospitalized patients were associated with interventions that increased PA.<sup>87</sup> This review did not identify any specific connections between individual BCTs or BCT domains and daily PA for people with IC. This does not conclusively rule out the existence of an association, but it highlights the challenge in establishing one due to the consistent use of a limited set of BCTs and BCT domains in the relatively small number of studies included. Further exploration in this area is warranted.

### **Limitations**

Data were combined from different BCT-based interventions and comparisons. Including studies from single and multicomponent interventions delivered across different settings via different modes potentially increases clinical heterogeneity, which could limit the chances of drawing accurate inferences from the findings. Despite that the analysis showed little evidence of heterogeneity when estimated with the  $I^2$  test, sensitivity analyses including a fixed effect meta-analysis were conducted to ensure robustness. The sensitivity analyses showed similar results, however, it is important for future research to include a broader set of BCTs in the intervention and ensure that the control groups are devoid of BCTs to help for more homogeneity across studies. The BCTs in the included studies were identified through coding of various indicative sentences by



trained reviewers, as most of the studies did not specifically name the BCTs they used. Future research should use a comprehensive classification system such as the BCT ontology in describing and reporting of the BCTs implemented in interventions to facilitate identification and coding of the BCTs and subsequently linking intervention effectiveness to the specific BCTs used. It is important to approach the exploratory network meta-analysis results with caution due to the limited direct evidence, affecting the reliability of the inferred summary effect, and the imprecision that impacts the overall quality of evidence in the comparisons.

### **Conclusions**

There is high-quality evidence that BCT-based interventions compared to controls improve daily PA, in the short term. Evidence for the maintenance of this benefit beyond 6 months or the benefit of BCT-based interventions compared with SET is unclear and necessitates further primary research. Our findings support BCT-based intervention for improving daily PA in people with IC. Clinicians could consider recommending BCT-based interventions to patients with IC as a strategy towards improving the PA uptake in the population group.

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### **Conflict of interest**

None declared.

### **Authors contributions**

U.O.A. P.D., C.S., T.G., J.D., C.G., J.M., C.F., D.A.S. contributed to the conception and design of the systematic review and meta-analysis. U.O.A., L.B., E.M.A., S.R., P.D., C.S., T.G., J.M., J.D., S.A., C.F., D.A.S. were involved in the acquisition and analysis of the data. U.O.A., S.R., P.D., C.S., T.G., J.M., J.D., S.A., C.F., L.B., J.B., K.F., S.R. were involved in the interpretation of the results. U.O.A. drafted this manuscript. All authors provided critical revisions of the protocol and approved the submission of the final manuscript.

### **Data availability**

There is no data linked to this manuscript.

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**Table 1: Characteristics of the Included Studies**

Source and Design	Sample / Age (years)		Intervention	Control	Duration (weeks)		Outcomes reported					
	n	Mean (SD)			Intervention	Follow-up	Physical Activity		Quality of Life			Others
							Behavior	Capacity	Generic	Health	PAD	
Holmes et al, 2018 <sup>24</sup> RCT	24	66.8 (9.4)	Motivational intervention + structured walking	Attention	12	16	Steps/day	6MW		X		BASIC
Collins et al, 2011 <sup>25</sup> RCT	145	66.5 (10.1)	Walking program+ Telephone support	Attention	24	24		ACD, ICD, WIQ	X	X		Depression
Cunningham et al, 2012 <sup>35,65</sup> RCT	58	65.3 (8.5)	Patient education + motivational interviewing	Usual care	16	104	Steps/day	ICD	X	X	X	Disease progression
GOALS Trial <sup>31,67-70</sup> RCT	194	69.3 (9.5)*	Walking program	Health education	24	52	Activity units	ACD, ICD, 6MW, WIQ		X		Self-efficacy
LITE Trial <sup>32,77</sup> RCT	305	69.3 (9.5)	1. Low intensity walking program 2. High intensity walking program	Health education	52	52	Activity score	ACD, 6MW, WIQ		X		
TrackPAD study <sup>61,74</sup> RCT	39	64.6 (9.8)	Mobile phone intervention + Structured exercise	Usual care	12	12		6MW		X	X	
Collins et al, 2009 <sup>33</sup> RCT	51	67.4 (8.9)	Communication intervention	Education video	12	12		WIQ				
Fowler et al, 2002 <sup>45</sup> RCT	882	73.1	Education + Walking Advice + Structured exercise	Usual care	8	52	Self-report PA	ACD		X		
Fukaya et al, 2021 <sup>37</sup> RCT	41	66.1 (9.4)	Walking program + Feedback + Behavioral	Attention	12	12	Steps/day	6MW, WIQ		X		

			monitoring + Motivational updates									
Gardner et al, 2014 <sup>26</sup> RCT	18 0	65.7	Walking program	Attention	12	12	Strides/d ay, Total activity time	ACD, ICD, 6MW, WIQ		X		Peak VO <sub>2</sub>
Mays et al, 2015 <sup>29</sup> RCT	39	67.6 (11.8)	Community based walking exercise structured training, monitoring, and coaching (TMC)	Usual care	14			ACD, ICD, WIQ		X		Physical fitness, Peak VO <sub>2</sub>
HONOR Trial <sup>41</sup> RCT	20 0	70.2 (10.4)	Walking program + wearable activity monitor +Telephone coaching	Usual care	36	36	Activity outcom e, Distance walked, Exercise frequen cy	6MW, WIQ		X		
Quirk et al, 2012 <sup>62</sup> RCT	19	73.2 (8.0)	Motivational interviewing	Usual care	12	12	MET mins/we ek			X	X	
CIPIC Rehab Study <sup>58,75</sup> RCT	11 8	70.3 (7.2)	Walking program + Health education + Text messages	Usual care	12	12		ACD, ICD			X	Anxiety, Depression,
Tew et al, 2015 <sup>38</sup> RCT	23	71 (8)	Education + Follow-up telephone support	Usual care	6		Steps/da y	ACD, ICD, 6MW, WIQ		X	X	
Gardner et al, 2011 <sup>50</sup> RCT	11 9	65 (11)	Walking program	Usual care	12	12	Total strides/d ay, Total	WIQ		X		BASIC, Peak VO <sub>2</sub>

							Activity time/day					
Duscha et al, 2018 <sup>27</sup> RCT	19	69.4 (8.4)	Walking program	Usual care	12		Steps/day, Distance/week, Distance/day, Total active min/day	ACD, ICD				Peak VO <sub>2</sub>
MOSAIC Trial <sup>30,71</sup> RCT	190	68	Walking program + Telephone support	Usual care	12	24	MET min/week	ACD, 6MW			X	WELCH score, NEADL, BIPQ score
Pochstein & Wegner 2010 <sup>44</sup>	90	65.48 (7.07)	Strengthening of volitional competence	Usual care	6	12		ACD, ICD, WIQ		X		
EXITPAD Study <sup>60,72,73</sup> RCT	304	66.2	1. SET + Feedback 2. SET alone	Verbal walking advice	52	52		ACD			X	ABPI, BMI, Heart rate, Systolic BP, Diastolic BP
Sandercock 2007 <sup>54</sup> RCT	44	65	Walking program + Telephone support	Walking advice	12			ACD				Pain intensity, Peak VO <sub>2</sub> , Heart rate
Spronk 2003 <sup>53</sup> Non-RCT	104	68	Walking program	NA	16	16		Corridor/ Outdoor test				BIPQ score
Normahani 2018 <sup>42</sup> RCT	37	69.1 (10.4)	Walking program + Routine SEP	SEP	12	52		ACD, ICD			X	
Regensteiner <sup>39</sup> 1997 RCT	20	64 (7)	Walking program + Patient Education	SEP	12			ACD, ICD WIQ		X		ABPI, Peak VO <sub>2</sub> , Heart rate

Savage 2001 <sup>28</sup> RCT	21	66.3 (8.8)	Walking program	SEP	24	24		ACD, ICD		X		ABPI, Peak VO <sub>2</sub>
SUNFIT Trial RCT <sup>40,76</sup>	166	72	1.Home-based structured exercise  2.Supervised exercise	Walking advice	52	52	Active steps/day	6MW, WIQ		X	X	ABPI, Disease progression, Cardiovascular events
Collins 2022 <sup>88</sup> RCT	29	66.0 (8.12)	Motivational interviewing + Telephone support	Education and walking plan via app	12			6MW			X	BMI, Systolic BP, Diastolic BP
Cornelis 2021 <sup>36</sup> Non-RCT	20	64.6 (10.6)	Walking program + resistance training	NA	4	12	Steps/day	ACD, ICD, WIQ		X	X	Physical fitness, Self-efficacy
Endicott 2018 <sup>34</sup> Non-RCT	49	67.4 (7.8)	Education + Ongoing counselling	NA	24		Steps/day					
Prevost 2015 <sup>46</sup> Non-RCT	48	60.3 (8)	Educational workshop + Walking program	NA	52	52		ACD, ICD		X		Pain intensity, ABPI
Roberts 2008 <sup>55</sup> Non-RCT	47	67.7 (7)	Walking program + Telephone support	NA	12	12		ACD				Pain intensity
Matthews 2021 <sup>56</sup> Non-RCT	11	70	SEP + Cardiovascular education	NA	8			6MW, WIQ		X		Anxiety, Depression, Systolic BP
Racodon 2018 <sup>47</sup> Non-RCT	68	62.7 (9.7)	Therapeutic education + Vascular Rehabilitation	NA	52	52		ACD, Corridor/outdoor test				BMI
Fakhry 2011 <sup>52</sup> Non-RCT	217	67.5	Structured walking program	SEP	24	52		ACD, ICD	X	X	X	ABPI
Jacobsen 2022 <sup>59</sup> Non-RCT	35	71.5 (7.7)	Lifestyle counselling + SEP	NA	12	24		ACD, ICD, 6MW			X	

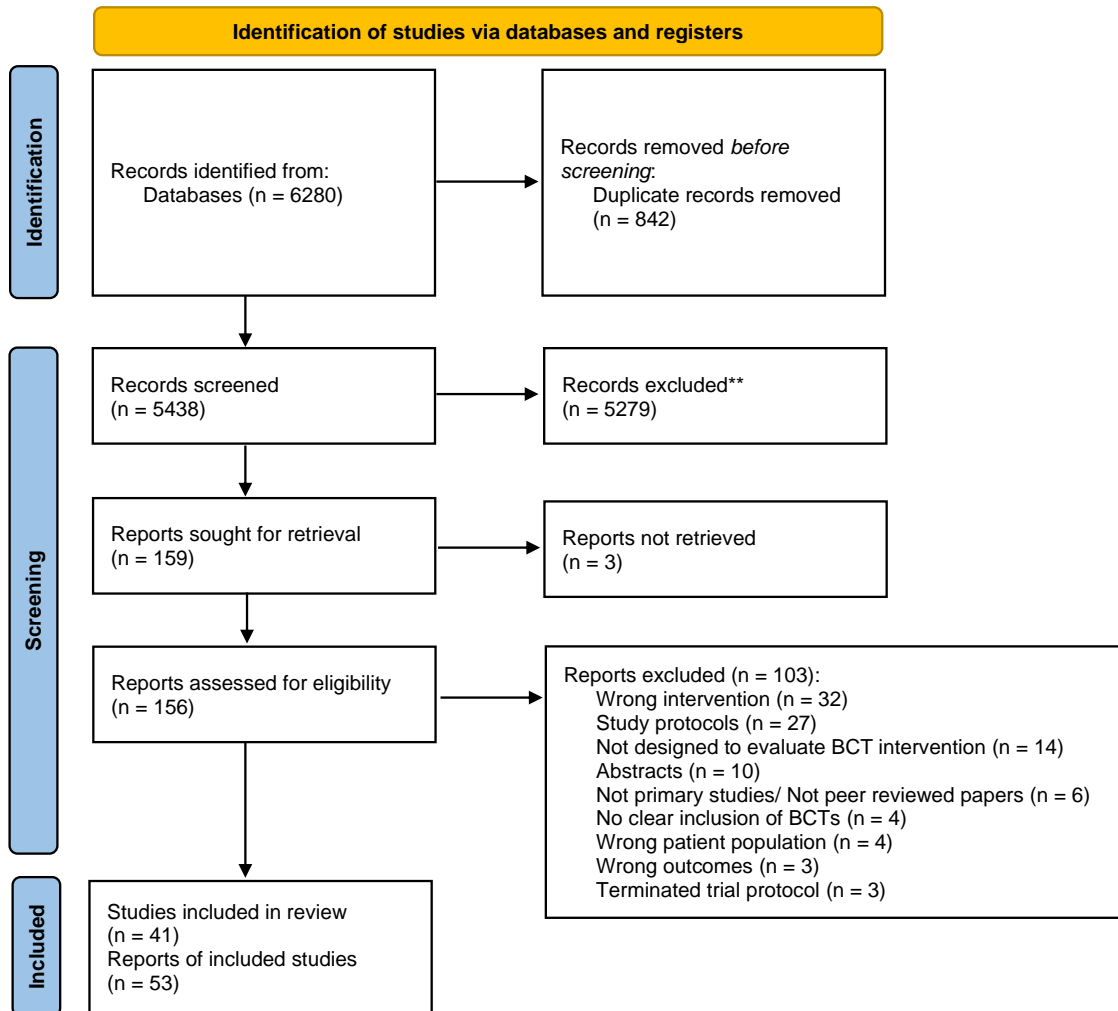
Mouser 2009 <sup>48</sup> Non-RCT	12 0	67.4 (10.3)	Education + Walking program	NA	24			ACD, ICD				
Aalami 2022 <sup>49</sup> Non-RCT	13 9	65	SEP	NA	12	52		WIQ				
Wullink 2001 <sup>64</sup> Non-RCT	31	66 (14)	Home-based walking program	NA	24			ACD, ICD, WIQ, Corridor/ Outdoor test				
Jonason 1981 <sup>43</sup> Non-RCT	17	66	Education + Home- based walking program	SET (Same participant s)	12	24	Walking activity	ACD, ICD				
Otsuka 2021 <sup>57</sup> Non-RCT	30	73.8	Home-based exercise with Triaxial accelerometer + telephone instruction	Attention control with Triaxial accelerom eter	12	12	Activity, Steps/da y	6MW, WIQ		X	X	Self-efficacy
Leslie 2022 <sup>51</sup> Non-RCT	46	69 (11)	Walking program	SET	12			ACD, ICD				ABPI

Key/ abbreviations: ACD (Absolute claudication distance), ICD (Initial claudication distance), WIQ (Walking impairment questionnaire), 6MWD (6 minutes walking distance), ABPI (Ankle brachial pressure index).

**Table 2: Risk of Bias Assessment in Randomised Control Trials**

Study	D1	D2	D3	D4	D5	Overall	Judgement
Holmes et al, 2019 <sup>24</sup>	+	+	+	+	+	+	Low risk
Cunningham et al, <sup>35,65</sup>	+	+	+	+	+	+	Some concerns
GOALS Trial, <sup>31,67-70</sup>	+	+	+	+	+	+	High risk
LITE Trial, <sup>32,77</sup>	+	+	+	+	+	+	D1 Randomisation process
TrackPAD study, <sup>61,74</sup>	+	⊥	+	+	+	⊥	D2 Deviation from the intended interventions
MOSAIC Trial, <sup>30,71</sup>	+	+	+	+	+	+	D3 Missing outcome data
Collins et al, 2009 <sup>33</sup>	+	⊥	+	⊥	⊥	⊥	D4 Measurement of the outcome
Fowler et al, 2002 <sup>45</sup>	+	+	+	⊥	⊥	⊥	D5 Selection of the reported results
Fukaya et al, 2021 <sup>37</sup>	⊥	⊖	⊥	⊥	⊥	⊖	
Gardner et al, 2014 <sup>26</sup>	+	+	+	+	+	+	
Mays et al, 2015 <sup>29</sup>	+	+	+	+	+	+	
HONOR Trial <sup>41</sup>	+	+	+	+	+	+	
Quirk et al, 2012 <sup>62</sup>	⊖	⊖	⊖	⊖	⊥	⊖	
CIPIC Rehab Study, <sup>58,75</sup>	+	+	+	⊥	+	⊥	
Tew et al, 2015 <sup>38</sup>	+	+	+	+	+	+	
Gardner et al, 2011 <sup>50</sup>	+	+	+	+	+	+	
Collins et al, 2011 <sup>25</sup>	+	+	+	+	⊥	⊥	
EXITPAD Trial <sup>60,72,73</sup>	+	+	⊥	⊥	+	⊥	
SUNFIT Trial <sup>40,76</sup>	+	+	+	+	+	+	
Collins et al, 2022 <sup>63</sup>	+	⊥	+	⊥	⊥	⊥	
Savage et al, 2007 <sup>28</sup>	⊥	⊖	⊥	⊥	⊥	⊖	
Regensteiner et al, 1997 <sup>39</sup>	⊥	⊖	⊖	⊥	⊥	⊖	
Normahani et al, 2018 <sup>42</sup>	+	⊥	⊥	⊥	+	⊥	
Sandercock et al, 2007 <sup>54</sup>	+	+	⊥	+	⊥	⊥	
Duscha et al, 2018 <sup>27</sup>	⊥	⊖	⊖	+	⊥	⊖	
Pochstein & Wegner 2010 <sup>44</sup>	⊥	⊥	+	⊥	⊥	⊥	

**Figure 1:** PRISMA diagram for systematic review of effects of behavior-change intervention in people with intermittent claudication.







## SUPPLEMENTARY MATERIAL - The OPTIMA Systematic Review and Meta-Analysis

**eTable 1: Sample search strategy**

MEDLINE In-process and other non-indexed citations and MEDLINE 1950-November 2022 (Ovid SP)

1 Intermittent Claudication/
2 exp Peripheral Vascular Diseases/
3 exp Peripheral Arterial Disease/
4 exp Arterial Occlusive Diseases/
5 exp Leg/bs
6 Iliac Artery/
7 Popliteal Artery/
8 Femoral Artery/
9 Tibial Arteries/
10 (PVD or PAOD).ti,ab.
11 ((arter* or vascular or vein* or veno* or peripher*) adj3 (occlus* or steno* or obstruct* or lesio* or block* or harden* or stiffen* or obliter*)).ti,ab.
12 (peripheral adj3 dis*).ti,ab.
13 claudic*.ti,ab.
14 arteriopathic.ti,ab.
15 dysvascular*.ti,ab.
16 (leg adj3 (occlus* or steno* or obstruct* or lesio* or block* or harden* or stiffen* or obliter*)).ti,ab.
17 (limb adj3 (occlus* or steno* or obstruct* or lesio* or block* or harden* or stiffen* or obliter*)).ti,ab.
18 ((lower extrem*) adj3 (occlus* or steno* or obstruct* or lesio* or block* or harden* or stiffen* or obliter*)).ti,ab.
19 ((iliac or femoral or popliteal or femoro* or fempop* or crural or tibial) adj3 (occlus* or steno* or obstruct* or lesio* or block* or harden* or stiffen* or obliter*)).ti,ab.
20 or/1-19
21 exp Motivation/
22 Mentoring/
23 Self Efficacy/
24 action plan*.ti,ab.
25 (behavior* adj3 change*).ti,ab.
26 behavioral contract.ti,ab.
27 (behaviour* adj3 change*).ti,ab.
28 behavioural contract.ti,ab.
29 biopsychosocial.ti,ab.
30 cognitive behavioural therapy.ti,ab.

31 CBT.ti,ab.  
32 goal setting.ti,ab.  
33 motivational interview\*.ti,ab.  
34 patient centered.ti,ab.  
35 patient centred.ti,ab.  
36 problem solving.ti,ab.  
37 psychological intervention\*.ti,ab.  
38 self belief.ti,ab.  
39 self efficacy.ti,ab.  
40 self management.ti,ab.  
41 self monitor\*.ti,ab.  
42 social support.ti,ab.  
43 coach\*.ti,ab.  
44 encourage\*.ti,ab.  
45 feedback.ti,ab.  
46 mentor\*.ti,ab.  
47 motivati\*.ti,ab.  
48 reward.ti,ab.  
49 home\*.ti,ab.  
50 Face-to-face.ti,ab.  
51 brief psychological intervention\*.ti,ab.  
52 supervised.ti,ab.  
53 Lifestyle.ti,ab.  
54 Community-based.ti,ab.  
55 wSTEP.ti,ab.  
56 supported exercise.ti,ab.  
57 prescribed exercise.ti,ab.  
58 group education.ti,ab.  
59 or/21-58  
60 20 and 59  
61 exp Exercise/  
62 exp Exercise Therapy/  
63 exp Walking/  
64 Exercis\*.ti,ab.  
65 physical activit\*.ti,ab.  
66 treadmill.ti,ab.

67 walk\*.ti,ab.

68 or/61-67

69 60 and 68

**eTable 2: The screening criteria to include articles reporting on daily physical activity**

#	Criteria	Y/Part/N
1	Does the measurement consider physical activity over a suitable total time frame to represent habitual physical activity?	
2	Does the measurement consider physical activity over an adequate part of each day of measurement to represent habitual physical activity?	
3	Does the measurement consider a suitable range of types and intensities of physical activity to be considered habitual physical activity?	
4	Does the measurement report outcomes which represent habitual physical activity?	

**eTable 3: Excluded Studies and Reasons for Exclusion**

Bronas et al, 2019	Not BCI and/or not design to target PA
Johnson et al, 1989	Not BCI and/or not design to target PA
Malagoni et al, 2011	Not BCI and/or not design to target PA
Langbein et al, 2002	Not BCI and/or not design to target PA
Salisbury et al,2022	Not BCI and/or not design to target PA
Coy et al, 2022	Not BCI and/or not design to target PA
Lamberti et al, 2021	Not BCI and/or not design to target PA
Abbassian et al,2006	Not BCI and/or not design to target PA
Crowther et al, 2012	Not BCI and/or not design to target PA
Chowdhury et al, 2021	Not BCI and/or not design to target PA
Nestares et al, 2003	Not BCI and/or not design to target PA
Otsuka et al, 2017	Not BCI and/or not design to target PA
Dziubek et al, 2020	Not BCI and/or not design to target PA
Fakhry et al, 2012	Not BCI and/or not design to target PA
Kruidenier et al, 2009	Not BCI and/or not design to target PA
Oakey et al, 2017	Not BCI and/or not design to target PA
Elissa Altin et al, 2022	Not BCI and/or not design to target PA
Almed et al, 2019	Not BCI and/or not design to target PA
Lamberti et al, 2018	Not BCI and/or not design to target PA
Manfredini at al, 2022	Not BCI and/or not design to target PA
Domanchuk et al, 2023	Not BCI and/or not design to target PA
Novakovic et al, 2019	Not BCI and/or not design to target PA
Kakkos et al, 2005	Not BCI and/or not design to target PA
Miauts et al, 2017	Not BCI and/or not design to target PA
Creasy et al, 1990	Not BCI and/or not design to target PA
Fokkenrood et al, 2015	Not BCI and/or not design to target PA
Lamberti et al, 2018	Not BCI and/or not design to target PA
Salisbury et al, 2019	Not BCI and/or not design to target PA
Crowther,et al 2009	Not BCI and/or not design to target PA
Mazari et al, 2012	Not BCI and/or not design to target PA
Crowther et al, 2008	Not BCI and/or not design to target PA
Alzamora et al,2022 (ARTPERfit Study)	Ongoing studies
ISRCTN23904851	Ongoing studies
Kumlien 2023 (NCT04390282)	Ongoing studies
Banerjee 2022 (NCT05209724)	Ongoing studies
TEXT-PAD (NCT05260567)	Ongoing studies
CHU de Reims, 2022 (NCT05457738)	Ongoing studies

Community-based exercise following revascularisation for PAD (NCT04252950)	Ongoing studies
The EASY FIT Trial (NCT03099369)	Ongoing studies
HY-PAD pilot Trial (NCT03649204)	Ongoing studies
McColloum, 2018 (The RESPECT-PAD Trial)	Ongoing studies
GAMEPAD (NCT04536012)	Ongoing studies
Harzand et al, 2020	Ongoing studies
Roche-Nagle, 2016 (NCT02510807)	Ongoing studies
Silva et al, 2022	Ongoing studies
Kim, 2019 (NCT03640767)	Ongoing studies
Gardner, 2023 (NCT03845036)	Ongoing studies
NHS Grampian 2021 (NCT04753281)	Ongoing studies
Jackson, 2021 (NCT02022423)	Ongoing studies
UMIN000030550	Ongoing studies
VA Office of Research and Development (NCT04889105)	Ongoing studies
Burton et al, 2016	Ongoing studies
Cucato et al, 2022	Ongoing studies
Mid and South Essex NHS Foundation Trust 2023 (NCT04925219)	Ongoing studies
ACTRN12618000250235	Ongoing studies
Manfredini, 2021	Ongoing studies
Shah, 2022 (NCT03479255)	Ongoing studies
Archer, 2019	Ongoing studies
NCT04832308	Studies terminated early for some reasons
Rennes University Hospital 2016 (NCT01065740)	Studies terminated early for some reasons
Tsai, 2021 (NCT04113057)	Studies terminated early for some reasons
McDermott et al, 2018	not primary studies or not peer reviewed journal publications
McDermott & Polonsky 2016	Not primary studies
Beard 2012	Not primary studies
de Müllenheim et al, 2018	Not primary studies
Jakubsevičienė et al, 2014	Included a patient population without intermittent claudication
Love et al, 2016	Included a patient population without intermittent claudication
Christiansen et al, 2018	Included a patient population without intermittent claudication

Collins et al, 2018	Included a patient population without intermittent claudication
Corriere et al, 2020	conference abstracts without full studies reports
Pucheu et al, 2020	conference abstracts without full studies reports
Coca-Martinez et al, 2021	conference abstracts without full studies reports
Ravin et al, 2019	conference abstracts without full studies reports
Harland et al, 2019	conference abstracts without full studies reports
Mays et al, 2019	conference abstracts without full studies reports
Elfghi et al, 2022	conference abstracts without full studies reports
Machin et al, 2021	conference abstracts without full studies reports
Hayden et al, 2021	conference abstracts without full studies reports
Aalami et al, 2019	conference abstracts without full studies reports
Salisbury et al, 2019	Not designed to evaluate or report the effect of behavior change intervention
Oakley et al, 2017	Not designed to evaluate or report the effect of behavior change intervention
Spafford et al, 2014	Not designed to evaluate or report the effect of behavior change intervention
Matthews et al, 2016	Not designed to evaluate or report the effect of behavior change intervention
Manfredini et al, 2004	Not designed to evaluate or report the effect of behavior change intervention
Collins et al, 2015	Not designed to evaluate or report the effect of behavior change intervention
Simmons et al, 2013	Not designed to evaluate or report the effect of behavior change intervention
Gardner et al, 2022	Not designed to evaluate or report the effect of behavior change intervention
Galea et al, 2013	Not designed to evaluate or report the effect of behavior change intervention
University of Pennsylvania 2022	Not designed to evaluate or report the effect of behavior change intervention
Cornelis et al, 2018	Not designed to evaluate or report the effect of behavior change intervention
Kawamura et al, 2021	Not designed to evaluate or report the effect of behavior change intervention

Degischer et al, 2002	Not designed to evaluate or report the effect of behavior change intervention
Patterson et al, 1997	Not designed to evaluate or report the effect of behavior change intervention
Manfredini et al, 2022	No clear inclusion of BCT techniques
Manfredini et al, 2008	No clear inclusion of BCT techniques
Dopheide et al, 2015	No clear inclusion of BCT techniques
Pasqualini et al, 2021	No clear inclusion of BCT techniques
Degischer et al, 2002	Wrong outcomes
Kim et al, 2022	Wrong outcomes
Shalan et al, 2018	Wrong outcomes
McCoy, 2009	Dissertation/thesis
Christman, 2003	Dissertation/thesis



**eTable 5: Risk of bias assessment for non-RCT**

Reference	Domain 1	Domain 2	Domain 3	Domain 4	Domain 5	Domain 6	Domain 7	Overall bias
Cornelis et al, <sup>30</sup> 2021	Serious	Low	Low	Low	Low	Moderate	Moderate	Serious
Endicott et al, <sup>28</sup> 2019	Moderate	Low	Low	Low	Moderate	Moderate	Moderate	Moderate
Otsuka et al, <sup>51</sup> 2021	Serious	Low	Low	Low	Moderate	Moderate	Moderate	Serious
Matthews et al, <sup>50</sup> 2021	Serious	Low	Low	Low	Low	Moderate	Moderate	Serious
Wullink et al, <sup>58</sup> 2001	Serious	Low	Low	Low	Moderate	Moderate	Moderate	Serious
Aalami et al, <sup>43</sup> 2022	Serious	Low	Low	Low	Moderate	Serious	Moderate	Serious
Racodon et al, <sup>41</sup> 2018	Serious	Low	Low	Low	low	Moderate	Moderate	Serious
Roberts et al, <sup>49</sup> 2008	Serious	Low	Low	Low	Low	Moderate	Moderate	Serious
Spronk et al, <sup>47</sup> 2003	Serious	Low	Low	Low	Moderate	Moderate	Moderate	Serious
Fakhry et al, <sup>46</sup> 2011	Moderate	Low	Low	Low	Low	Moderate	Moderate	Moderate
Jacobsen et al, <sup>53</sup> 2022	Serious	Low	Low	Low	Low	Moderate	Moderate	Serious
Mouser et al, <sup>42</sup> 2009	Serious	Low	Low	Low	Moderate	Moderate	Moderate	Serious
Pre'vost et al, <sup>40</sup> 2015	Serious	Low	Low	Low	Low	Moderate	Moderate	Serious
Jonason et al, <sup>37</sup> 1981	Serious	Low	Low	Low	Moderate	Moderate	Moderate	Serious
Leslie et al, <sup>45</sup> 2022	Serious	Low	Low	Low	Low	Moderate	Moderate	Serious

*Domain 1: Bias due to confounding; Domain 2: Bias in selection of participants into the study; Domain 3: Bias in classification of interventions; Domain 4: Bias due to deviation from intended interventions; Domain 5: Bias due to missing data; Domain 6: Bias in measurement of outcomes; Domain 6: Bias in measurement of outcomes; Domain 7: Bias in selection of the reported result*

**eTable 6: Sensitivity analyses for effect of behaviour change intervention on the primary outcome of physical activity**

<b>Analysis</b>	<b>Short term SMD(95% CI)</b>	<b>Medium term SMD(95% CI)</b>
<b>Primary analysis</b>	<b>0.20 (0.07 to 0.33)</b>	<b>0.12( -0.04 to 0.29)</b>
Fixed effects	0.20(0.07 to 0.33)	0.11(-0.02 to 0.25)
Using within-person correlation =0.8	0.26(0.13 to 0.39)	0.17(-0.04 to 0.37)
Removing studies with imputed SDs using IQR	As for primary	As for primary
Excluding arm from 3-arm studies	0.17(0.03 to 0.31)	0.15(-0.06 to 0.35)
Excluding supervised exercise interventions	0.18(0.04 to 0.33)	0.15(-0.02 to 0.32)
Excluding low quality studies	0.19(0.06 to 0.33)	0.12(-0.04 to 0.29)
Excluding subjective measures of volume of physical activity	0.24(0.09 to 0.39)	0.15(-0.04 to 0.35)
Analysing steps per day instead of SMD of change scores	620 steps per day(223 steps per day to 1018 steps per day)	206 steps per day(-994 steps per day to 1408 steps per day)

**e-Table 7:** Results of network meta-analysis comparing interventions by modality of delivery for daily physical activity outcomes at less than 6 months and 6 months or longer. Effect sizes expressed as standardised mean differences.

Column vs row	Attention control/usual care	Supervised exercise	BCT with tech	Other BCT
<b>Less than 6 months SMD(95% CI)</b>				
Attention control/usual care		0.27(-0.02 to 0.56)	0.18(-0.03 to 0.38)	0.18(-0.03 to 0.39)
Supervised exercise			-0.10(-0.45 to 0.26)	-0.10(-0.45 to 0.26)
BCT with tech				0.00(-0.29 to 0.29)
Other BCT				
<b>6 months of longer SMD(95% CI)</b>				
Attention control/usual care		-0.16(-0.75 to 0.43)	0.11(-0.29 to 0.52)	0.16(-0.06 to 0.38)
Supervised exercise			0.27(-0.44 to 0.99)	0.32(-0.30 to 0.95)
BCT with tech				0.05(-0.41 to 0.51)
Other BCT				

**e-Table 8: Probability of ranking, mean rank and SUCRA from network meta-analysis of daily physical activity at less than 6 months and 6 months or longer.**

Rank	Interventions			
	Attention control/Usual care	Supervised exercise	BCT with tech	Other BCT
<b>Less than 6 months</b>				
<b>Best</b>	0	58.9	18.7	22.4
<b>2nd</b>	0.2	21.2	40.4	38.2
<b>3rd</b>	11	16.9	36.7	35.4
<b>Worst</b>	88.8	3	4.2	4
<b>MEAN RANK</b>	3.9	1.6	2.3	2.2
<b>SUCRA</b>	0	0.8	0.6	0.6
<b>6 months and Longer</b>				
<b>Best</b>	1.2	10.5	41.6	46.7
<b>2nd</b>	22.9	9.2	26.9	41
<b>3rd</b>	56.7	13.6	19.2	10.5
<b>Worst</b>	19.2	66.7	12.3	1.8
<b>MEAN RANK</b>	2.9	3.4	2	1.7
<b>SUCRA</b>	0.4	0.2	0.7	0.8

**eTable 9: Total number of individual BCTs used within each intervention (BCTs exclusive to intervention only) and results of meta-regression exploring the relationship between number of BCTs and effect size of daily physical activity.**

	Total number of BCTs		Increase in effect per additional BCT (95% CI) from meta-regression
	Mean (SD)	Median (range)	
Studies reporting volume of physical activity at less than 6 months	8.5 (4.0)	9 (3 to 17)	-0.01 (-0.04 to 0.02)
Studies reporting volume of physical activity at 6 months or longer	8.8 (5.6)	7 (3 to 17)	0.00 (-0.04 to 0.04)
All interventions	7.6 (3.8)	7 (2 to 17)	-

**eTable 10: Results of exploratory meta-regression looking at the independent effect of the use of each BCT domain on daily physical activity.**

BCT Domain	Less than 6 months	6 months or longer
	Effect of BCT domain (95% CI) N=15	Effect of BCT domain (95% CI) N=8
1 Goals & Planning	-	-
2 Feedback & Monitoring	-0.14(-0.49 to 0.21)	-0.53(-1.21 to 0.15)
3 Social support	-0.05(-0.34 to 0.24)	0.37(-0.12 to 0.85)
4 Shaping Knowledge	0.00(-0.38 to 0.38)	0.37(-0.12 to 0.85)
5 Natural consequences	0.06(-0.24 to 0.36)	0.06(-0.41 to 0.53)
6 Comparison of behaviour	0.02(-0.30 to 0.34)	-0.11(-0.57 to 0.34)
7 Associations	0.38(-0.64 to 1.40)	-
8 Repetition & Substitution	-0.33(-0.82 to 0.16)	-0.42(-0.83 to 0.00)
9 Comparison of Outcome	0.09(-0.38 to 0.56)	-
10 Reward and treat	0.38(-0.64 to 1.40)	-
11 Regulation	-0.16(-0.52 to 0.19)	-0.10(-0.56 to 0.34)
12 Antecedent	-0.11(-0.42 to 0.20)	-0.11(-0.54 to 0.32)
13 Identity	-0.03(-0.35 to 0.29)	0.09(-0.44 to 0.62)
14 Scheduled consequences	-	-
15 Self belief	-0.07(-0.41 to 0.27)	-0.11(-0.56 to 0.34)
16 Covert learning	-	-

**e-Table 11: Results of exploratory meta-regression looking at the independent effect of each commonly occurring BCT, comparing trials containing the commonly occurring BCT with those that don't (RCTs with daily physical activity outcome data)**

BCT (commonly used BCTs only*)	Less than 6 months Effect of BCT (95% CI) N=15	6 months or longer Effect of BCT (95% CI) N=8
1.1 Goal setting	\$	\$
1.2 Problem solving	-0.046(-0.336 to 0.244)	0.053(-0.427 to 0.533)
1.4 Action planning	0.012(-0.305 to 0.328)	0.243(-0.180 to 0.668)
1.5 Review behaviour goals	0.030(-0.281 to 0.341)	0.053(-0.427 to 0.533)
2.2 Feedback on behaviour	-0.089(-0.390 to 0.213)	0.077(-0.443 to 0.600)
2.3 Self monitoring of outcomes	-0.120(-0.459 to 0.219)	-0.535(-1.22 to -.0147)
3.1 Social support (unspecified)	-0.458(-0.336 to 0.244)	0.366(-0.118 to 0.849)
3.3 Social support (emotional)	-0.166(-1.29 to 0.960)	-0.011(-0.630 to 0.608)
4.1 Instructions on how to perform the behaviour	0.000(-0.384 to 0.383)	0.366(-0.118 to 0.849)
5.1 Information on health consequences	0.061(-0.408 to 0.531)	0.122(-0.385 to 0.630)
6.1 Demonstrating the behaviour	-0.297(-1.068 to 0.474)	-0.297(-1.068 to 0.464)
8.1 Behavioural practice/rehearsal	-0.069(-0.373 to 0.236)	-0.239(-0.654 to 0.177)
8.7 Graded task	-0.117(-0.449 to 0.214)	-0.108(-0.541 to 0.324)
9.1 Credible source	0.100(-0.366 to 0.567)	£
12.5 Adding objects to the environment	-0.093(-0.293 to 0.105)	-0.079(-0.338 to 0.179)

\*used in 5 or more interventions; \$ all interventions contributing to this analysis contained this BCT; £ no interventions contributing to this analysis contained this BCT

**eFigure 1: Forest plot showing meta-analysis of non-randomised data of the effect of behaviour change intervention on habitual physical activity compared to non-supervised exercise controls**

