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What kinds of knowledge are constitutive for knowledge translation?

Some epistemological remarks on EBHC

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Background

- › PhD in philosophy:

The concept of evidence-based practice: Critical standard and standardized critique – an exploration of the EBP philosophy of science discussion within health care.

- › An adequate understanding of «EBP» and «EBHC» is necessary, including what «knowledge translation» entails.
- › Broadly defined:
 - › EBHC is about using research evidence, by translating it into (clinical) practice (in accordance with patient's preferences).

Aims

- › To investigate knowledge types inherent in the concept of EBHC
- › In particular in relation to translating evidence into action

Methods

- › Philosophical conceptual analysis. Descriptive investigation.
- › Epistemological investigation:
 - › study of knowledge, justification of beliefs
- › Identifying specific kinds of knowledge and their relations.

Epistemological findings

In general, there are two main types of knowledge in EBHC:

- › Scientific knowledge
- › Practical knowledge

› Main thesis:

Knowledge translation is constituted by scientific and practical knowledge

- › «***Evidence-based practice***»

Scientific knowledge

- «Evidence» = «Research result»,
- from well-designed and conducted research,
- where the evidence is (hierarchically) classified and assessed, on basis of clin.epi. principles.
- Iterative (rule-following) knowledge via explicit rules
- Methodically generated knowledge
- Typically expressed through «evidence», «method», «certainty».

Practical knowledge

- Based on personal experience
- “Practical reflection”, or “deliberation” (*phronesis*)
- Knowledge inherent in practical *abilities* (e.g., sensitivity to patient’s needs)
- Based on discretion instead of rules, towards action, “learning by doing”
- Situational knowledge: what is valid in one case may not be valid in another
- Typically expressed through «clinical reasoning», «expertise»; «integration»
- Knowledge types constitutive of practical knowledge are not objects of scientific reasoning.

Limits

Philosophical conceptual analysis is a formal method, not directly linked to clinical practice.

Bottom lines

- › Knowledge translation in EBHC requires specific knowledge types, constituted by scientific and practical knowledge.
- › Education of KT in EBHC should provide adequate understanding of these different kinds of knowledge.
- › Thank you for your time!