

Managing Recurrent Vulvovaginal Thrush from Patient and Healthcare Professional Perspectives: A Systematic Review and Thematic Synthesis

AIM

To identify what is known about **patient and healthcare professional experiences** of managing recurrent vulvovaginal thrush.

CONTEXT

1.2 MILLION WOMEN IN THE UK
SUFFER FROM RECURRENT
VULVOVAGINAL THRUSH

"It's a silent and shameful issue with little options available"
- Alex (patient representative)

METHOD

- 2 reviewers searched 5 databases
- Inclusion criteria: all studies on patient and/or healthcare provider experiences, attitudes, views
- No restrictions on publication date or country
- Full-texts were synthesised thematically

RESEARCH TEAM

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FINDINGS : UNCERTAIN MANAGEMENT

- 951 papers identified
- 39 papers included
- Included papers revealed patient and provider uncertainties around if recurrent thrush was worthy of investigation, medical attention, treatment, and influence.
- We developed 4 descriptive themes and an overarching analytic theme of 'interwoven uncertainties' as illustrated here. →

(Re)Experiencing Impacts

What matters about having this condition?

(Re)Identifying Recurrent Thrush

Are investigations needed?
If so, when and how?



(Re)Considering Consultation

Is this an issue worthy of medical attention?

(Re)Trying Treatments

Which treatment options are worthwhile?

CONCLUSIONS

Papers revealed inconsistencies in patient and provider **expectations, priorities, and concerns**, suggesting the need for further resources and research.

This review lays the foundation for our planned studies that will help **unpick these cumulative uncertainties**.

OUR NEXT STEPS


1
INTERVIEWS WITH PATIENTS



2
FOCUS GROUPS WITH HEALTHCARE PROVIDERS



3
ONLINE HEALTHTALK RESOURCE CREATION



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