

Qualitative Searching Skills for the More Experienced

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Controversies

- Model from Quantitative Systematic Reviews? Or Primary Qualitative Research?
- Aggregative versus Interpretative
- Comprehensive versus Purposive Sampling
- Exhaustion versus Theoretical Saturation

Advanced Methods for Identifying Qualitative Research

Filters and Citations

What is a methodological filter?

- “A hedge or filter is a standardised search strategy that is designed to be used in conjunction with a subject search to retrieve valid studies from the (primary) medical literature”.
- Filters work in one of two ways:
 - by identifying particular **publication types** or **study designs** most likely to answer a question
 - by isolating **subject or free-text terms** most likely to be associated with high-quality studies

How do they work?

- Filters come from 3 different sources:-
 - Subject heading
 - Keyword
 - Publication type

Identifying Qualitative Research - Terminology

- Generic terms: e.g. “qualitative” plus
- **Exploratory Methods:** Focus group, Grounded theory, Action Research, Content analysis, Thematic analysis
- **Software:** Nudist or NVivo
- **Citations:** Glaser & Strauss
- **Application:** Ethnology, Psychology
- **Phenomenon:** Perceptions, Attitudes, User Views, Standpoint, Viewpoint
- **Approaches:** Ethnographic
- **Data:** Stories, Narratives, Descriptions, Themes, Findings
- **Experiences:** Encounters, Experiences

How do I use a methodological filter?

Step One: Carry out a subject search as usual using MeSH terms and/or free text

Step Two: Apply methodological filter appropriate to question you are asking

- One-line filter
- Maximum sensitivity filter
- Maximum specificity filter
- Mid-range filter

For today, some one-liners ...

- MeSH Heading
 - eg Qualitative Research [Medline 2003-]
- Keyword
 - “Findings”
- Publication Type
 - Research [CINAHL only]

Methodologic filters 1

MEDLINE

1. Nursing-Methodology-Research.DE.
2. qualitative ADJ research
3. grounded ADJ theory
4. ethnograph\$
5. 1 or 2 or 3 or 4

Marks S. "Qualitative Studies". In **McKibbon A**, editor. *PDQ Evidence-Based Principles and Practice*. 1st ed. Hamilton: B.C. Decker, Inc.; 1999. pp 187-204

Methodologic filters 2

1. qualitative\$
2. findings
3. interview\$
4. interviews.DE.
5. 1 OR 2 OR 3 OR 4

Grant MJ. “How does your searching grow? A survey of search preferences and the use of optimal search strategies in the identification of qualitative research.” *Health Info Libr J.* 2004 Mar; 21(1):21-32.

Methodologic filters 3

Sensitivity-maximising filter

interview\$ or px.fs. or health-services-administration.DE.

Specificity-maximising filter

qualitative or themes

Optimised filter

**interview\$.TI. or interview\$.AB. or interview\$.DE. or
experience\$.TI. or experience\$.AB. or experience\$.DE. or
qualitative**

Adapted from **Wong SS, Wilczynski NL, Haynes RB.** “Developing Optimal Search Strategies for Detecting Clinically Relevant Qualitative Studies in MEDLINE”. *Medinfo.* 2004; 2004:311-6.

Methodologic filters 4 – Ovid MEDLINE

Best Sensitivity

- interview:.tw. OR px.fs. OR exp health services administration

Best Sensitivity – Small decrease in Sensitivity with large increase in Specificity

- interview:.mp. OR px.fs. OR qualitative.tw.

Best Specificity

- qualitative.tw. OR themes.tw.

Best Specificity – Small decrease in Specificity with large increase in Sensitivity

- interviews.mp,pt. OR qualitative.mp. OR experiences.tw.

Best Optimization of Sensitivity and Specificity

- interview:.mp. OR experience:.mp. OR qualitative.tw.

Methodologic filters - 5

- Don't forget MeSH heading **Qualitative Research**
 - Introduced in 2003, so coverage is limited
 - But you can combine it with one of the previous filters by using the “OR” operator

Methodologic filters - 5

- Best sensitivity: [exp interviews](#)
- Best specificity: [audiorecording.sh.](#)
- Best optimization of sensitivity and specificity:
[exp study design](#)

- Wilczynski NL, Marks S, Haynes RB. Search strategies for identifying qualitative studies in CINAHL. *Qual Health Res.* 2007 May;17(5):705-10.

Methodological Filters – 6 EMBASE

Best Sensitivity (Single term)

- interview:.mp.

Best Sensitivity (Combination)

- interview:.mp. OR qualitative.tw. OR exp health care organization

Best Specificity (Single term)

- qualitative.tw.

Best Specificity (Combination)

- qualitative.tw. Or qualitative study.tw.

Best Optimization of Sensitivity and Specificity (Single)

- exp health care facilities and services

Best Optimization of Sensitivity and Specificity (Combination)

- interview.tw. OR exp health care organization OR experiences.tw.

So how does this work in practice?

You are conducting a systematic review to examine the lack of support available for the husbands of women who have been diagnosed with breast cancer.

The review commissioners want to answer “what counselling and support services should be offered in response to the husbands’ needs?”

You start by searching Medline for published accounts of the husbands’ attitudes to their wives’ disease.

Example 1

SPICE breakdown

- You break search down into following components:

Setting: Primary and Community Care

Perspective: Husbands

Intervention/

Exposure: Wife with breast cancer

**Comparison: [Perhaps] the needs of the
wives themselves**

Evaluation: Attitudes

Example 1 continued

Mapping to MeSH

- Match SPICE components to relevant MeSH headings (if any):

Setting: **[*Primary-Health-Care*]**

Perspective: **Spouses**

Exposure: **Breast-Neoplasms**

Comparison: ???

Evaluation: **Attitude-To-Health**

Example 1 continued

Search strategy

1. husband\$ OR Spouses.W..DE.
2. 1 AND Breast-Neoplasms#.DE.
3. 2 AND (qualitative OR interview\$ OR findings OR Interviews.W..DE. OR Attitude-To-Health#.DE.)

Note that in line 3 we have used Grant's filter

Example 1 continued

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Ovid: Search Form

http://ovidsp.tx.ovid.com/spb/ovidweb.cgi

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English | Français | Deutsch | Español

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| <input type="checkbox"/> | # ▲ | Searches | Results | Search Type | Actions |
|--------------------------|-----|--|---------|-------------|-----------------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> | 2 | exp breast neoplasms/ | 167355 | Advanced | Display More >> |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | 3 | (qualitative or interview\$ or finding\$).mp. or interviews/ or exp attitude to health/ [mp=title, original title, abstract, name of substance word, subject heading word] | 1404794 | Advanced | Display More >> |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | 4 | 1 and 2 and 3 | 76 | Advanced | Display More >> |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | 5 | limit 4 to english language | 71 | Advanced | Display More >> |

Remove Selected Save Selected Combine selections with: And Or

RSS Save Search History

EXPAND

Search

Ovid MEDLINE(R) 1950 to September Week 1 2009

Basic Search Find Citation Search Tools Search Fields **Advanced Ovid Search** Multi-Field Search

Enter Keyword or phrase (use "" or "\$" for truncation):

Keyword Author Title Journal

Map Term to Subject Heading Universal Search

Search >>

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Your search
 Search terms used:
 attitude to health
 breast neoplasms
 finding\$
 husband
 interview\$
 interviews
 qualitative
 spouses

Narrow search
 Narrow your results by:
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 ▶ Authors
 ▶ Journals

Mexican immigrant male knowledge and support toward breast and cervical cancer screening.

1. Thiel de Bocanegra H. Trinh-Shevrin C. Herrera AP. Gany F.
Journal of Immigrant & Minority Health. 11(4):326-33, 2009 Aug.
 [Journal Article. Research Support, N.I.H., Extramural]
 UI: 18551367

Authors Full Name
 Thiel de Bocanegra, Heike. Trinh-Shevrin, Chau. Herrera, Angelica P. Gany, Francesca.
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Effects of a cognition-oriented breast self-examination intervention for Korean women and their spouses.

2. Park S. Song HY. Hur HK. Kim G.
Public Health Nursing. 26(3):259-68, 2009 May-Jun.
 [Controlled Clinical Trial. Journal Article. Multicenter Study. Research Support, Non-U.S. Gov't]
 UI: 19386061

Authors Full Name
 Park, SoMi. Song, Hee-Young. Hur, Hea Kung. Kim, GiYon.
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Depression and perceptions of quality of life of breast cancer survivors and their male partners.

3. Rabin EG. Heldt E. Hirakata VN. Bittelbrunn AC. Chachamovich E. Fleck MP.
Oncology Nursing Forum. Online. 36(3):E153-8, 2009 May.
 [Journal Article]

Abstract Reference
 Complete Reference
 Library Holdings
 Find It

Abstract Reference
 Complete Reference
 Full Text
 Library Holdings
 Find It

Abstract Reference
 Complete Reference
 Library Holdings
 Find It

Example 2 – User Views

Strategy One

Exp Attitude/
Attitude\$ OR
(user\$ adj view\$) OR
opinion\$

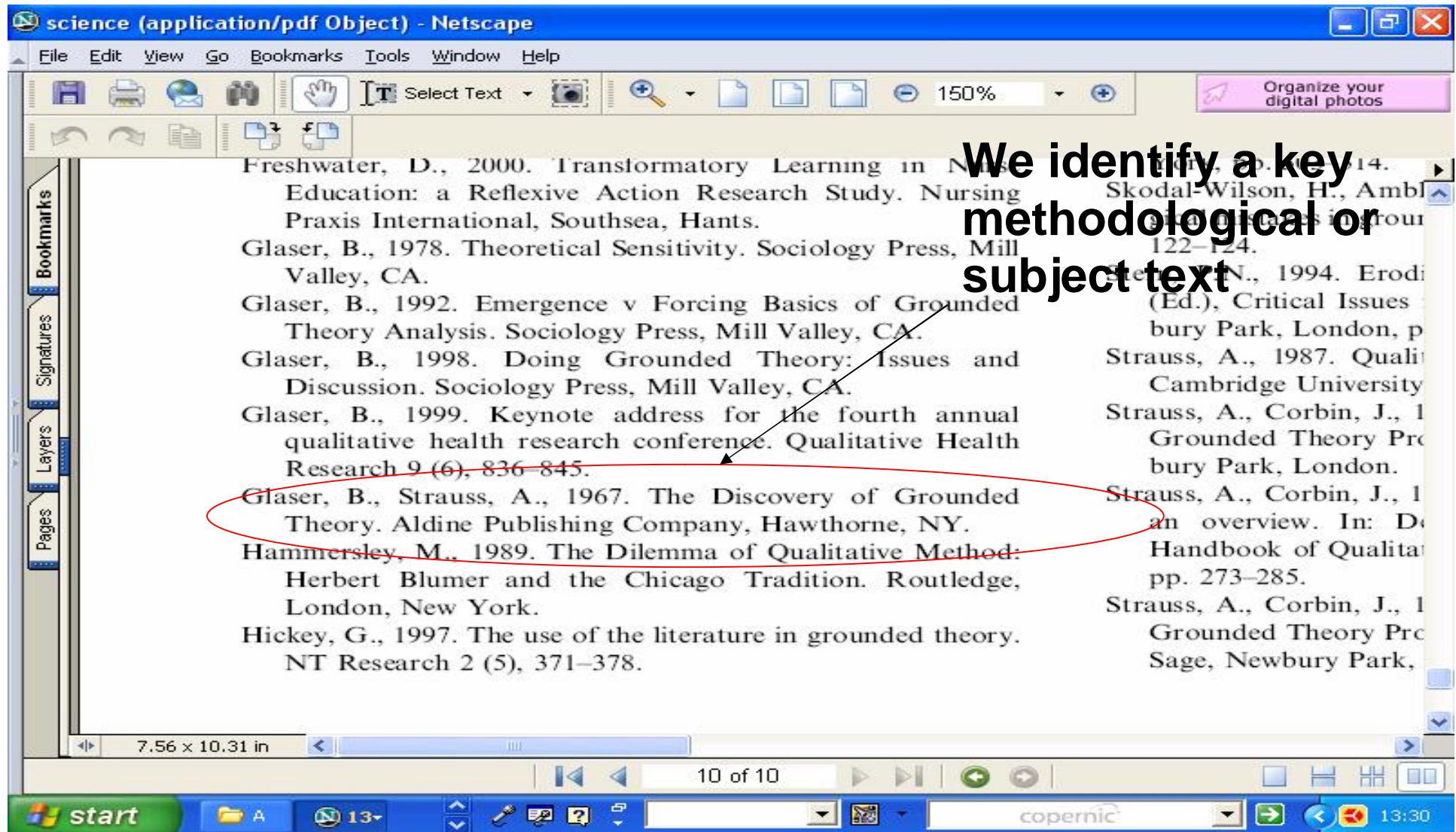
Strategy Two

- Client\$ or Consumer\$
or Patient\$ or User\$

And

- Empower\$ or
involve\$ or participa\$
or represent\$

Citation Searching



We identify a key methodological or subject text

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http://apps.isiknowledge.com.eresources.shef.ac.uk/WOS_CitedReferenceSearch_input.do?product=WC

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Example: O'Brian C OR OBrian C**

Cited Work: 
*Example: J Comput Appl Math**
[journal abbreviation list](#)

Cited Year(s) 
Example: 1943 or 1943-1945

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| <input type="checkbox"/> | GLASER B | DISCOVERY GROUNDED T | 1967 | | 6 | | 2 | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | GLASER B | DISCOVERY GROUNDED T | 1967 | | 21 | | 3 | |
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| <input type="checkbox"/> | GLASER B | DISCOVERY GROUNDED T | 1967 | | 53 | | 3 | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | GLASER B | DISCOVERY GROUNDED T | 1967 | | 61 | | 10 | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | GLASER B | DISCOVERY GROUNDED T | 1967 | | 81 | | 1 | |

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- REVIEW (94)
- EDITORIAL MATERIAL (47)
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- Title: "Why doesn't she seek help for partner abuse?" An exploratory study with South Asian immigrant women
 Author(s): Ahmad F, Driver N, McNally MJ, et al.
 Source: **SOCIAL SCIENCE & MEDICINE** Volume: 69 Issue: 4 Pages: 613-622 Published: **AUG 2009**
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 Times Cited: 0
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 Author(s): Grinyer A
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"Why doesn't she seek help for partner abuse?" An exploratory study with South Asian immigrant women

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Author(s): Ahmad F (Ahmad, Farah)¹, Driver N (Driver, Natasha)², McNally MJ (McNally, Mary Jane)³, Stewart DE (Stewart, Donna E.)⁴

Source: SOCIAL SCIENCE & MEDICINE Volume: 69 Issue: 4 Pages: 613-622 Published: AUG 2009

Times Cited: 0 References: 88 Citation Map

Abstract: This study explores why South Asian immigrant women with experiences of partner abuse delay seeking help from professionals. Three focus groups were conducted in Hindi language with South Asian immigrant women in Toronto. Twenty-two women participated with a mean age of 46 years (range 29-68 years). Thematic analysis was conducted on the transcribed data using constant comparison techniques within and across the groups. We found that three major themes emerged from the discussions: reasons for delayed help-seeking, turning points and talking to professionals. Women expressed delaying help-seeking to the point when "Pani sar se guzar jata he" (water crosses over your head). Their dominant reasons for delayed help-seeking were social stigma, rigid gender roles, marriage obligations, expected silence, loss of social support after migration and limited knowledge about available resources and myths about partner abuse. Women usually turned for help only after experiencing pronounced mental and physical health problems.

The findings are interpreted in light of participants' immigration context and the socio-cultural norms of patriarchy, collectivism and familism. Prevention approaches to address partner abuse and delayed help-seeking among South Asian immigrant women should include tailored community education, social services to reduce vulnerability, and cultural competency of professionals. Further research and program evaluation is needed to advance the field. (C) 2009 Elsevier Ltd. All rights reserved.

Document Type: Article

Language: English

Author Keywords: Partner abuse; Women; South Asian; Immigrant; Help-seeking; Canada

KeyWords Plus: DOMESTIC VIOLENCE; BATTERED WOMEN; QUALITATIVE RESEARCH; SOCIAL SUPPORT; FOCUS GROUPS; HEALTH; PREVALENCE;

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New research from Flemming & Briggs (2007)

- Findings showed that a simple search strategy (broad-based terms - 3 search terms) was as effective as a complex one (free text - 48 search terms) in locating qualitative research on patients' experiences of living with a leg ulcer.
- It may be feasible to restrict searches with a clear nursing focus to the CINAHL bibliographic database.
- Replication of findings with other nursing topics is required.

Using the Internet to Identify Qualitative Research

Using the Internet – Alta Vista [Advanced]

The screenshot shows a Firefox browser window with the URL `http://uk.altavista.com/web/adv`. The browser's address bar and tabs are visible at the top. The main content area displays the 'Advanced Web Search' interface with the following elements:

- Search Query:** A text input field containing the query `breast cancer AND (husband or spouse$) AND (qu`. A red **FIND** button is positioned to the right of the input field.
- Advanced Options:** Four empty text input fields for 'this exact phrase:', 'any of these words:', and 'and none of these words'.
- Geographic and Language Settings:** Radio buttons for 'Worldwide' and 'United Kingdom' (selected). Radio buttons for 'All languages' and 'English' (selected).
- Date Settings:** A 'Date:' section with a radio button for 'by timeframe:' (selected) and a dropdown menu set to 'Anytime'. Below it, a radio button for 'by date range:' is followed by two rows of date range selectors: '1 January 1980' and '14 September 2009'.
- File Type and Location:** A 'File type:' dropdown menu set to 'Any format'. A 'Location' section with radio buttons for 'by domain:' (selected) and 'By URL:'.
- Display Settings:** A 'Display:' section with a checkbox for 'site collapse (on/off)' (unchecked) and a dropdown menu for '10 results per page'.
- Buttons:** A red **FIND** button at the bottom left and a 'Clear Settings' button at the bottom right.

Google Scholar (scholar.google.com)

Google Scholar: (breast cancer) AND (husband\$ OR spouse) AND (qualitative OR interview* OR findings) - Netsc...

File Edit View Go Bookmarks Tools Window Help

Google Scholar BETA

(breast cancer) AND (husband\$ OR spouse) Search

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The "AND" operator is unnecessary -- we include all search terms by default. [\[details\]](#)

Scholar Results 1 - 10 of about 3,680 for **(breast cancer) AND (husband\$ OR spouse) AND (qualitative OR interview* OR findings)**

[Coping with **breast cancer**: Patient, **spouse**, and dyad models](#)
GO Ben-Zur H, S Lev - *Psychosom Med*, 2001 - [ncbi.nlm.nih.gov](#)
... Coping with **breast cancer**: patient, **spouse**, and dyad ... factors in a patient's adjustment to **breast cancer**. ... Psychological*; Adult; Aged; **Breast** Neoplasms/psychology ...
Cited by 16 - [Web Search](#)

[... **breast cancer**. Results of a prospective comparative **interview** study following mastectomy and **breast** ...](#)
M Omne-Ponten, L Holmberg, T Burns, HO Adami, R ... - *Eur J Cancer*, 1992 - [ncbi.nlm.nih.gov](#)
... In a prospective **interview** study, designed to compare the ... 99 women with **breast cancer** histopathological TNM stages I ... Living together with the **spouse** seems to ...
Cited by 23 - [Web Search](#)

[A **qualitative** study of **breast cancer** self-help groups](#)
R Gray, M Fitch, C Davis, C Phillips - *Psycho-Oncology*, 1997 - [doi.wiley.com](#)
... This paper reports on a **qualitative** descriptive study ... My **husband** ... really supports it ... I have unloaded ... not meet the needs of **breast cancer** survivors, who ...
Cited by 26 - [Web Search](#) - [doi.wiley.com](#) - [ncbi.nlm.nih.gov](#)

[... care coverage and the use of **cancer** screening tests. Results from the 1992 National Health **Interview** ...](#)
AL Potosky, N Breen, BI Graubard, PE Parsons - *Med Care*, 1998 - [lww-medicalcare.com](#)
The National Health **Interview** Survey (NHIS) is an ... Being currently married with **spouse**

start A 12- copernic 12:50

And now, it's over to you!

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<http://www.evidencenetwork.org/Documents/wp19.pdf>

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