

5.0 Limitations

The limitations of a literature review of this nature is the complete reliance on previously published research and the availability of these studies using the method outlined in the search methodology (section 3.2) and the appropriateness of these studies with the criteria of the selection/exclusion procedure (section 3.5).

Of the original twenty-two studies which were appropriate to this literature review, three were excluded for non-compliance with the selection criteria and thus their findings were not included in the final analysis. Reasons for the removal of these studies are provided below:

- One study (Bulbulian, Pringle & Liddy, 1996) was removed as only the abstract had been published and there was no corresponding full-text article.
- One study (Bahadori, Wallner, Schneider, Wascher & Toplak, 1997) was removed as the full-text article was only available in German and selection criteria had been limited to English language studies.
- One study (Hoeger, Harris, Long & Hopkins, 1998) was removed from the final analysis, as the dose of chromium picolinate was not provided. Also, the large number of agents which were used in the treatment group made individual analysis of the effect of chromium picolinate impossible.