

# Inhaled Isopropyl Alcohol in the Emergency Department

## A non-invasive therapy for the management of nausea and vomiting

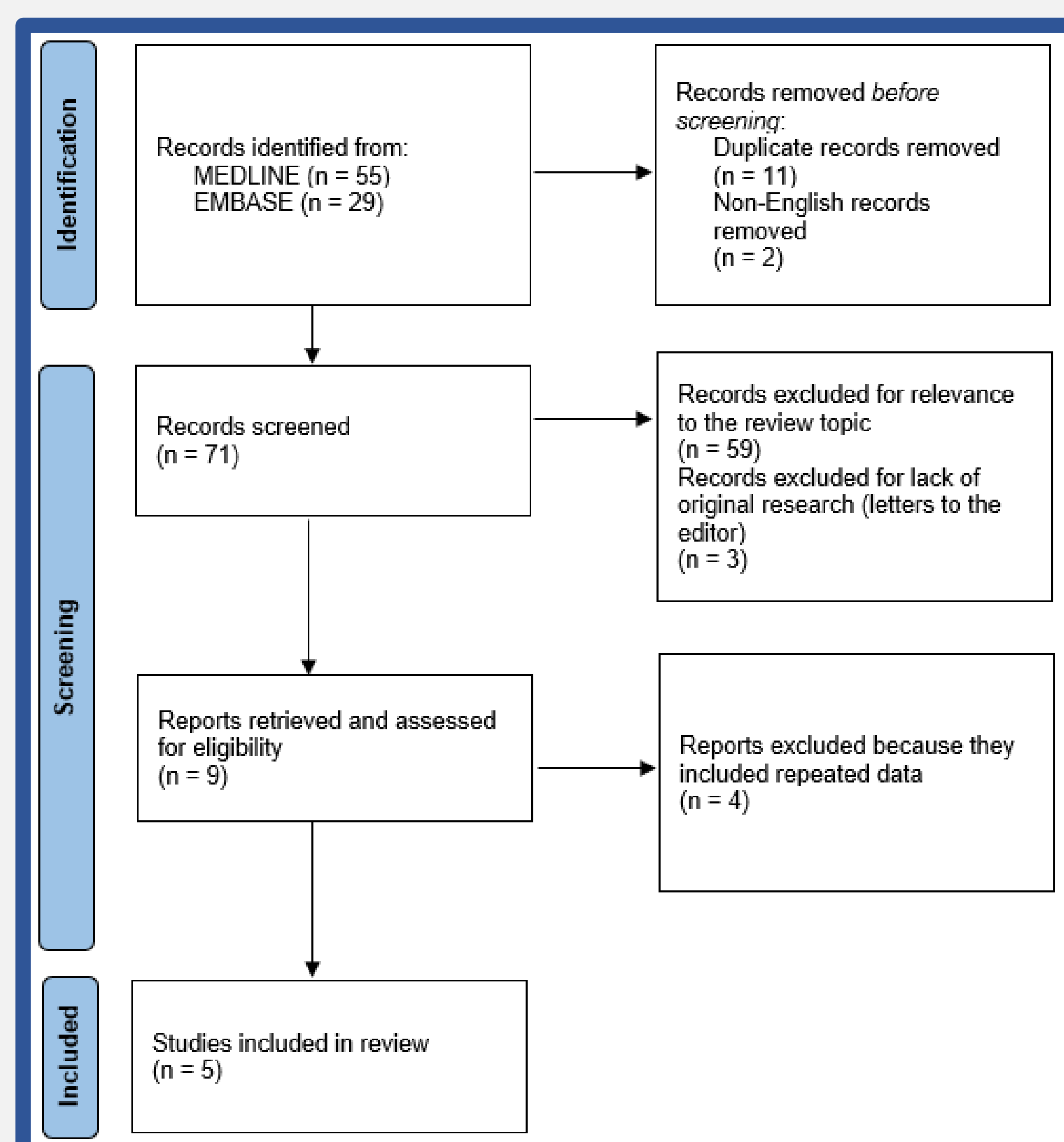
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### INTRODUCTION

- Nausea and vomiting are common emergency department (ED) symptoms
- Current therapies are expensive, have well documented adverse effects, and often require IV access if patients are actively vomiting
- Inhaled isopropyl alcohol is an effective antiemetic therapy in the post-operative setting with no significant adverse events
- There is a growing body of evidence for its use in the ED

### METHODS



### RESULTS

#### Is isopropyl alcohol an effective antiemetic?



Four RCTs have shown that inhaled isopropyl alcohol is an effective antiemetic with **superior** symptomatic relief compared to both placebo and ondansetron with no significant adverse events

#### Are there other benefits to using inhaled isopropyl alcohol?

An implementation study using inhaled isopropyl alcohol as a nurse-initiated antiemetic therapy at the ED triage desk found the following:



More patients received symptomatic treatment (66% vs 97%) more quickly (7 minutes vs 1 minute)



Patients required fewer alternative antiemetic treatments, resulting in a decreased cost per patient visit by 50% (\$2 CAD to \$1 CAD)



A survey of nurses showed that they found inhaled isopropyl alcohol to be quick and easy to administer

### CONCLUSIONS

- Isopropyl alcohol is a safe and effective antiemetic for use in the ED
- Isopropyl alcohol is inexpensive and can reduce healthcare costs in the treatment of nausea and vomiting
- Use of isopropyl alcohol can increase the number of patients receiving symptomatic treatment in a shorter period of time
- Isopropyl alcohol should be strongly considered for implementation as nurse-initiated therapy at the triage desk in all emergency departments

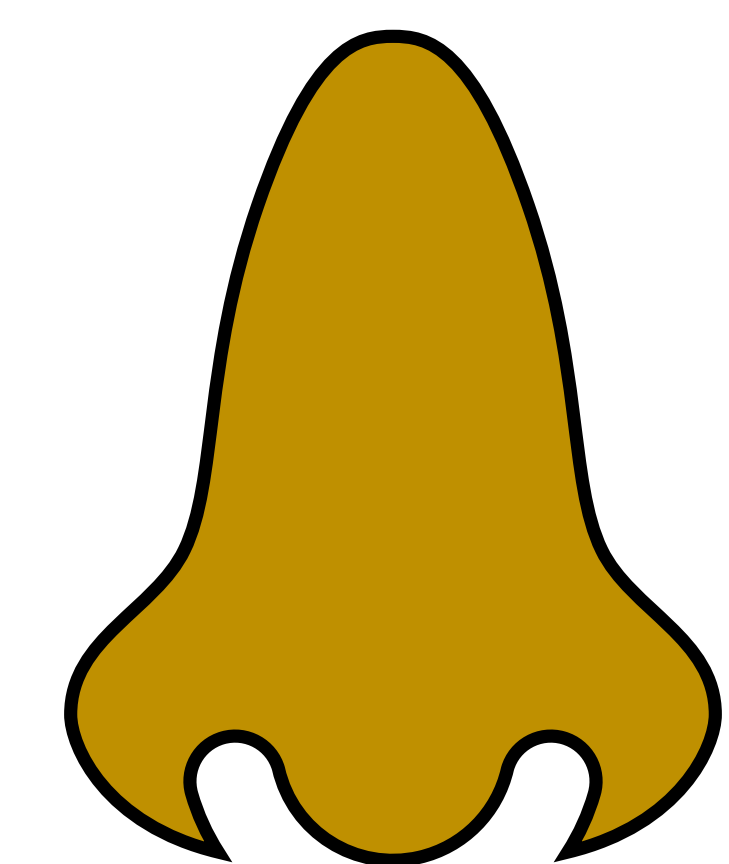
### LIMITATIONS

- Small studies but robust methodology
- Not studied in specific populations – notably, pediatric and pregnant populations

### REFERENCES

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### EASY TO USE!



**2 - 3 cm**  
Inhale as needed  
until relief of  
symptoms



\*must remove packaging for effectiveness!

### ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

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