ABSTRACT
Objective:
The purpose of this study was to illustrate the frequency of themes and publication types in the literature.

Design:
Document Analysis, of literature containing 'sports massage' from 1900-2008, retrieved from Google Scholar.

Results:

BACKGROUND
Sports massage has existed since classical times1 In numerous articles, it stated that a lack of credible literature exists surrounding sports massage.2,3,4

METHODOLOGY
Google Scholar search 'sports massage' English, 1900-2008 4 May, 2009

Excluded Documents
Duplicates
No Access
No 'sports massage' phrase

Predetermined Themes (n=9)
192 Articles
264 Books
78 Miscellaneous

Predetermined Publications (n=3)
Books, Citations, Journals

112 Articles
264 Books
78 Miscellaneous

127 Articles
256 Books
68 Miscellaneous
Pilot test 7 articles, 90% agreement

Final Themes (n=11)

Final Journal Types (n=7)

Data recorded using Excel

DISCUSSION
Findings show no documents retrieved prior to 1976 containing 'sports massage'. From 2000 onwards, there has been an increase in the number of publications. This suggests that those trained in massage therapy, allied health or sports medicine prior to 2000 had limited exposure to sports massage literature during their education. The frequency of University publications suggests that there may be increasing research into 'sports massage'.

KEY FINDINGS
There is little published between 1976 and 1995. The most popular theme was biomechanics. Sports Medicine- most frequent journal type. Rapid increase in number of 'sports massage' publications in last 10 years.

RECOMMENDATIONS
Broaden search by using a database such as Cinahl or SportDiscus, to see if articles exist prior to 1976. Further focus on content of articles, to better understand the themes, and biases held by the authors, and to see if there has been any change over time. For example positive versus negative findings. Focus research on comparing articles in a single publication type to see how 'sports massage' is reported to a specific audience. Audit of application of decision rules and data entry to increase accuracy.

REFERENCES