



PICO and its variations

The PICO methodology facilitates a literature search and helps to form a well-built clinical query.

PICO is a mnemonic for the key components of a well-constructed clinical query.

How to cite this resource

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PICO	Population	Intervention	Comparison	Outcome	-	-
PIO	Population	Intervention	-	Outcome	-	-
PICOC	Population	Intervention	Comparison	Outcome	Context	-
PICOS	Population	Intervention	Comparison	Outcome	Study type	-
PICOT	Population	Intervention	Comparison	Outcome	Time	-
PICOTS	Population	Intervention	Comparison	Outcome	Timing	Setting
PICOTT	Population	Intervention	Comparison	Outcome	Type of question	Type of study
PICo	Population	Intervention	Context	-	-	-

PECO	Population	Exposure	Comparison	Outcome	-	-
PEO	Population	Exposure	-	Outcome	-	-
PICODR	Population	Exposure	Comparison	Outcome	Duration	Results
PECOT	Population	Exposure	Comparison	Outcome	Time	

When can the following variations be used:

TYPE OF STUDY	TYPE OF PICO
Clinical queries on the effects of exposures and the efficacy of interventions / treatments.	PECO (PECOT, PECODR, PEO) PICO (PIO, PICOC, PICOS, PICOT, PICOTS, PICOTT)
Diagnostic evaluation	PICo
Evaluation of certain phenomenon (Qualitative)	PEO PICo