FINDING THE EVIDENCE:
Review of Search process
March 23, 2020
Example

As a therapist working at Sunny Hill you wonder how effective active exercise is in improving motor function in children with cerebral palsy.
Building Blocks

- Patient, Population, Problem
- Intervention, Issue
- Comparison, Control
- Outcome

Search Terms
(MeSH & keywords) and
Combinations
Structured Search Template

1. $P$ subject heading
2. $P$ keyword
3. 1 or 2
4. $I$ subject heading
5. $I$ keyword
6. 4 or 5
7. 3 and 6
8. Limit

See example on handout
Twins: Subject Heading and Keyword

Hold hands with OR
Combining search sets (Boolean)

\[ \text{mORe} \]

\[ \text{AND} \]
Exploding the ASTHMA Tree

Asthma and the more specific concepts are all searched together with OR
Example

As a therapist working at Sunny Hill you wonder how effective active exercise is in improving motor function in children with cerebral palsy.
Practice

Your patient is receiving treatment for whiplash. She recently watched a documentary about using massage to treat neck pain following a car accident. She noticed that video had been made several years ago and she asks you whether results of clinical trials continue to support this treatment and whether she should give it a try.
Search tips

1. MeSH nets specific subjects
2. Keywords unlock many results
3. OR is more; AND is less
4. Limit the Limits
5. Putting it all together in saved search
Step 1: MeSH nets specific subjects

1. Check ON Map to Subject heading
2. Search your P
3. How many choices did you get?
4. **Click** on the link of the **best one**
   - Does the tree show a more specific heading? Or, is a broader one better?
5. **Click** on the *i* for the definition
   - Check the **used for** list. What keywords might you use in your search?
MeSH nets specific subjects

Tools and techniques:

SCOPE - definition

TREE - explode

Subheadings/qualifiers
Step 2: Keywords unlock many results

1. Switch **off** Map to Subject Heading
2. Search your P condition
   - How many hits did you get?
   - Are there any other words to consider?
   - Are there spelling differences?
Keywords unlock many results

Finding the right words to search:

How many ways can you describe dizziness?
Vertigo
Giddiness
Dizzy
Giddy

Will you be a physiotherapist or physical therapist?
Keywords unlock many results

Tools and Techniques:

- Truncation  *
- Wildcards #, ?
- Proximity Adj, N
Step 3: Combine P searches
Steps 4 and 5

Search the I concept
Repeat steps 1 and 2 for the I concept
Step 6: Combine I searches

OR

keywords

MeSH
Structured Search Template

1. P keyword
2. P subject heading
3. 1 or 2
4. I subject heading
5. I keyword
6. 4 or 5
7. 3 and 6
8. Limit

See example on handout
Step 7: Combine

AND

P
AND
I

AND
Step 8: Limit the Limits

Publication characteristics:
  language, date, type
Population characteristics:
  age, gender, ethnicity
Use with caution!
Full text - do NOT use
Step 9: Send a search history

1. Check **one** reference
   1. Highest level of evidence for the exam
2. Click on *Email*
3. In the popup box add *your email*
4. In the From box type *your email*
5. In Subject line provide *your name*
6. In Message box type your *PICO(T) question*
7. Check **Include Search History**