

PICO Worksheet and Search Strategy

1. Develop your search strategy using the PICO concept:

Patient/Problem: Middle aged women suffering migraines
Intervention: Botulinum toxin type A
Comparison: Placebo
Outcome: Decreased migraine frequency

Write out your question:

In middle aged women suffering migraines, is Botulinum toxin type A compared to placebo effective at decreasing migraine frequency?

2. List the main concepts and alternative terms from your question that you can use to search:

Women	Migraine	Botulinum
Women Woman Female	Migraine Migraine disorders Migraine headaches	Botulinum toxin type A Botulinum toxins Clostridium botulinum toxins

3. Use Boolean operators to combine your terms:

Use **OR** to broaden your search
Use **AND** to narrow your search
Use **NOT** to exclude terms

Search tips (*Note: Check the search tips within each database because requirements may vary*)

Use truncation e.g. disorder* for disorder, disorders
Use wildcards e.g. wom?n for woman or women
Phrase searching e.g. "migraine headache"

4. Write out your search strategy:

Botulinum toxin type A OR botulinum toxins OR clostridium botulinum toxins
AND
Migraine OR migraine disorder* OR migraine headache
AND
Women OR female

5. State your inclusion/exclusion criteria:

6. Check any limit/s that may pertain to your search:

Age: Middle aged (45 to 64 years) Language: English
Year of publication: 2001 -

7. Type of study/publication you want to include in your search:

e.g. Systematic Review/Meta-Analysis, Randomized Controlled Trial, Cohort study etc.

Systematic review or Meta-Analysis
Randomised controlled trials

8. Note the databases you searched:

Medline (Ovid) - 25 results (with all limits applied)
Cochrane Library - 1 result (with all limits applied)
CINAHL with full text – 11 results (year and evidence based practice limits applied only)