Basics in Literature Searching:

PubMed and Other Resources

# Exercise 1: Determine possible PICO questions for these situations

1. A friend of yours has severe asthma. After lunch with him you see an advertisement about the HochgebirgsklinikDavos, a clinical rehabilitation center for diseases of the respiratory system situated in the mountains in Switzerland. You are wondering if a stay in a mountain climate might indeed reduce the asthmatic attacks of your friend.
2. After the newspaper “20 Minuten” reported on the difficulties of obese children in Bettingen, the municipality contacts you. They would like to reduce the risk of the children contracting diabetes mellitus and ask what is better: increase recreational activities in the community or introduce educational programs for lifestyle changes.
3. Accurate and fast diagnosis of malaria is essential for the initiation of proper treatment. New molecular diagnostic based on PCR are available and you would like to know if they are more accurate than the currently used rapid diagnostic tests (RDTs).
4. Your neighbour, a healthy older woman, broke her hip. She does not want to have surgery. Since you get along very well, you are concerned about what her relative risk is of dying within a year.
5. You have a heated discussion with a sound engineer at a concert about the adherence to the 80dB threshold. He arguments that 5dB more or less is just nit-picking. You wonder if that is true.

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **P** | **I** | **C** | **O** |
| 1. For adults with … |  |  |  |
|  |  |  |  |
|  |  |  |  |
|  |  |  |  |
|  |  |  |  |
|  |  |  |  |

# Exercise 3a:

# Add synonyms and perform search in PubMed:

1. **Add the following terms to a meaningful free-text search:**

Meniscus tear

Meniscal tear

Physiotherapy

Physical therapy

Manual therapy

Exercise therapy

Non-surgical intervention

Arthroscopic meniscal resection

Arthroscopic partial meniscectomy

Pain

1. **Enter your search string in PubMed:** [**https://pubmed.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/?otool=unibaslib**](https://pubmed.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/?otool=unibaslib)
2. **Check the number of hits**
3. **Now activate the filter "Systematic Reviews" – How does the number of hits change?**

# Exercise 3b:

# Add synonyms and perform search in PubMed:

1. **Add the following terms to a meaningful free-text search:**

teenager

adolescent

teen

advertising

promoting

tobacco

cigarettes

smoking prevalence

smoking habit

smoking susceptibility

1. **Enter your search string in PubMed:** [**https://pubmed.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/?otool=unibaslib**](https://pubmed.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/?otool=unibaslib)
2. **Check the number of hits**
3. **Now activate the filter "Systematic Reviews" – How does the number of hits change?**
4. **Now activate the filter “last 5 years” – How does the number of hits change?**