

What does "PICO" mean?

Did you know the "I" varies depending on the type of question?

P

Population/health condition/age/gender

I

Intervention (or issue if NOT intervention question)

C

Comparison (*if applicable*)

O

Outcome (e.g., pain, disability)

T

Time (*if applicable*): Follow up - when the outcome was measured - e.g., 5 weeks

Type of question: Effectiveness of intervention or prevention

I: intervention

Example: In ___(P), what is the effectiveness of ___(I) on ___(O) compared with ___(C) within ___(T)

Type of question: Diagnostic accuracy

I: diagnostic test

Example: Is ___ test (I) more accurate than ___ test (C) for ruling in a ___(O) in ___(P)?

Type of question: Prognostic/risk factors

I: prognostic or risk factor

Example: Does ___ (I) predict a return to function (O) in ___ (P)?

Type of question: Prediction rules (diagnosis, prognosis, or responses to treatment)

I: clinical prediction rule

Example: Can a ___(I) predict the ___(O) in ___(P)?

Type of question: Measurement properties

I: measurement properties (e.g., reliability, validity, responsiveness)

Example: What is the ___(I) of goniometer in measuring ___(O) in ___(P)

Type of question: Perspectives, opinions, experiences

I: phenomenon of interest (e.g., experiences, attitudes, opinions)

Example: What is the perspective (I) of patients with ___(P) regarding ___(O)