Finding articles quickly: Teaching tips

Teaching Evidence Based Medicine

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Finding clinical information

Why do this?

- Encourage participation at the start of a session
- Gives you an idea of their current knowledge?
- Learning point:
  - illustrates the variety of resources available
  - opportunity to point out the pros / cons of different resources
- If no one mentions Google – you need to work harder
- For non-clinicians use question from everyday life – planning a holiday, choosing a smartphone etc…

Clinical scenario: Formulating search questions

- Real clinical cases
  - From clinical rounds / consultations
  - Journal clubs
  - Online video clips
- News stories
  - Newspapers, news web-sites
  - Blogs / twitter
  - Journal web-sites – In the news

Mail Online health

E-cigarettes could 'save the lives of tens of thousands of smokers,' claim scientists

Inferno alert on exploding e-cigs: Charging devices now start one fire each week

E-cigarettes are 'less harmful than ordinary cigarettes': Healthcare professionals may recommend smokers use them instead of cigarettes

E-cigarettes 'DON'T help cancer patients stop smoking because they become more nicotine dependent'

http://www.dailymail.co.uk/ (Accessed 05/11/2014)

Questions

Why do this?

- Get people to think of searching as related to patient care
- Make searching relevant to day to day work
- Less threatening than starting off asking people to think of their own questions
- Get people thinking there may be more than 1 question to ask

Useful sources: Clinical scenarios

- News stories:
  - Medical News Today http://www.medicalnewstoday.com/
  - Behind the headlines http://www.nhs.uk/News/Pages/NewsIndex.aspx
  - National / local news web-sites
- Video clips:
  - Embarrassing bodies http://www.channel4embarrassingillnesses.com/
  - healthtalkonline http://www.healthtalkonline.org/
  - Ehow health http://www.ehow.com/ehow-health/
  - Youtube http://www.youtube.com/

Search off

Find a quick answer

- Are electronic cigarettes safe and effective as a smoking cessation technique?
- Key search terms
  - Electronic cigarettes
  - Smoking cessation

Why do this?

- Get people out of the habit of using only 1 or 2 resources
- Opportunity to discuss pros / cons of different resources
- Introduce participants to point of care search tools e.g. research synopses & evidence syntheses
- Publicise what the organisation pays for

Useful resources: Free

1. TRIP http://www.tripdatabase.com
2. PubMed Clinical Queries http://www.pubmed.gov
3. Google http://www.google.co.uk
4. GoogleScholar http://scholar.google.co.uk
5. Wikipedia http://en.wikipedia.org
6. NICE Evidence Search http://www.evidence.nhs.uk

Useful resources: Subscription-based http://solo.bodleian.ox.ac.uk

1. Cochrane Library (free in UK)
2. Point of care information tools
    1. Best Practice, Clinical Evidence, DynaMed, UpToDate…
3. Bibliographic databases
    1. CINAHL, Embase, Medline, PsycINFO, Scopus…
4. Electronic text-books

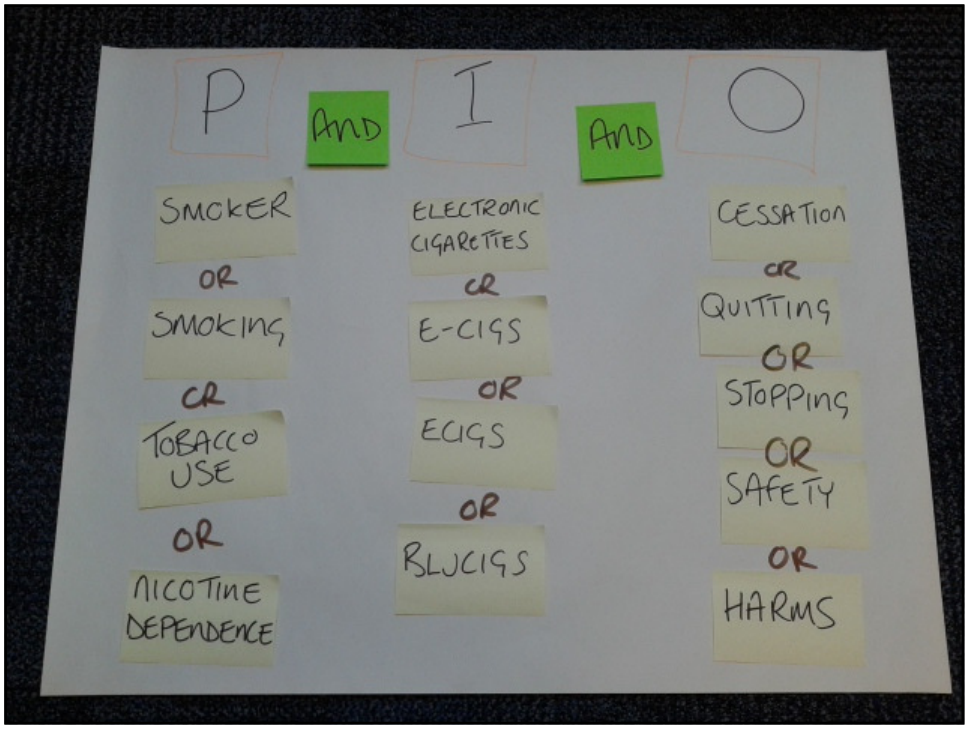
Formulating a search strategy

- P = Patient, Population, Problem
- I = Intervention
- C = Comparator, Control
- O = Outcomes
- S = Study type

Could also be PICOT, PECO, PECOT, PECOS, ECLIPSE, SPIDER….or none of the above

Are electronic cigarettes safe and effective as a smoking cessation technique?

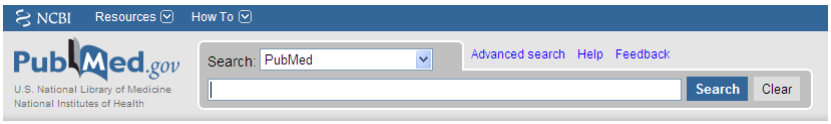
Finding synonyms



Why do this?

- Getting people thinking about using and combining words
- People working together to balance out different language abilities and backgrounds
- Initial brainstorm on post-it notes/cards
  - Add/remove terms as you finalise strategy
- Take it from simple search to a systematic review search

Use MeSH to build a better Pubmed query: online tutorial



http://www.nlm.nih.gov/bsd/disted/pubmed.html

Why do this?

- Allows you to teach a mixed group using a blended learning approach
- Ideal for distance learning
- Self-paced learning allows participants to focus on what they want to know
- Introduce participants to resources they can use after the session to help them with searching

Useful online tutorials

- Finding the Evidence videos
  http://www.cebm.net/index.aspx?o=1038
- PubMed tutorials
  http://www.nlm.nih.gov/bsd/disted/pubmed.html
- Cochrane Library
  http://www.thecochranelibrary.com/view/0/HowtoUse.html
- YouTube – literature searching
  http://www.youtube.com/

Questions & Comments

Searching tips:

- Think about different key words & phrases to describe your search terms
- Combine searches:
  - **OR** – broadens the search, used to combine synonyms e.g. “common cold” OR cough
  - **AND** – focuses the search, used to combine different concepts e.g. “common cold” AND “vitamin c”
  - ***** - truncation, use for words with multiple endings e.g. child* will search for child, children, childhood
- Use limits if available e.g. language, publication date, study type
- Use **“”** to search for phrases e.g. “common cold”