Filtered Resources
- Systematic Reviews
  - Cochrane Database of Systematic Reviews
  - Database of Abstracts of Reviews of Effects
  - Indexed in Medline and CINAHL (including non-Cochrane sponsored systematic reviews)
- Critically Appraised Topics (evidence syntheses and guidelines)
  - ACP Smart Medicine, DynaMed
- Critically Appraised Individual Articles (Article Synopses)
  - ACP Journal Club

Unfiltered
- Randomized Controlled Trials, Cohort Studies, Case Controlled Studies – Case Series/Reports
  - Medline, CINAHL, PsycInfo

Background
Evidence in these resources may vary from expert opinion to high levels of evidence
- Books / eBooks – Books@Ovid, STAT!Ref, Clinical Key, Harrison’s Online, Lange Educational Library

Steps to Finding Evidence:
1. Clearly articulate your question. Close any gaps in your own knowledge by consulting the background literature/asking background questions. Make sure you understand the science!
   - Foreground questions should cover PICO elements.
2. Identify search terms/synonyms and any limits (for example, age groups).
3. Search Cochrane Library to determine if there are any Cochrane systematic reviews on the topic. If yes, stop and read the systematic review. If it answers your question, you’re done!
4. Search ACP Smart Medicine or DynaMed for evidence-based topic appraisals. If you find one that answers your question, you’re done!
5. If steps 3 and 4 do not yield useful information, it is time to search Medline. In addition to the search terms identified in step 2, think about types of evidence (article types) that would be likely to exist for the type of question you have. This will help you limit your search to articles that are more likely to be useful for answering clinical questions.
   - Therapy questions – systematic reviews/meta-analyses – if none, then randomized controlled trials – if none, then other level of clinical trial
   - Diagnosis questions – make sure articles discuss sensitivity/specificity
   - Etiology/Causation/Harm – cohort studies or case controlled studies
   - Prognosis/Natural History – Longitudinal studies
   - Search Note: never focus the prognosis subject heading in Medline
6. If these study types do not exist for your question, is there a case study that matches your patient? Is there a review article?
7. Have you asked a librarian for help with your search to be sure there is really nothing?
## Recommended Resources

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Cochrane Library</th>
<th>ACP Smart Medicine</th>
<th>DynaMed</th>
<th>Medline</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Resource Category:</strong> Evidence-based resource</td>
<td><strong>Resource Category:</strong> Evidence-based, point-of-care</td>
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<td><strong>Resource Category:</strong> Bibliographic database</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Why use? Provides high quality, independent evidence for health care decision making from collection of databases</td>
<td>Why use? Recommendations include strength of evidence ratings, studies are graded for level of evidence, synoptic format is fast/easy to read</td>
<td>Why use? Clinically organized summaries / Outline format, evidence integrated into content, some grading of evidence</td>
<td>Why use? Access primary literature, access systematic reviews from non-Cochrane sources, always available, premier biomedical database</td>
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<td>Scope - Composed of 6 databases:</td>
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<tr>
<td>1. <strong>Cochrane Database of Systematic Reviews</strong> - investigates the effects of interventions for prevention, treatment, &amp; rehabilitation in healthcare. If there is no Cochrane Review, then other good quality reviews and RCTs available in:</td>
<td><strong>Internal medicine focus</strong></td>
<td><strong>Designed with primary care clinicians in mind</strong></td>
<td><strong>Access primary literature</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>2. <strong>Database of Abstracts of Reviews of Effects (Other Reviews)</strong> - summarizes reviews not carried out by Cochrane; contains abstracts of systematic reviews that have been quality addressed</td>
<td><strong>Drug information from AHFS DI Drug Essentials</strong></td>
<td><strong>Includes drug entries</strong></td>
<td><strong>Access systematic reviews from non-Cochrane sources</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>3. <strong>Cochrane Central Register of Controlled Trials (Clinical Trials)</strong> – bibliographic information of articles from databases and other published resources</td>
<td>In STAT!Ref platform</td>
<td><strong>Search or browse</strong></td>
<td>It’s always available</td>
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<td>4. <strong>Cochrane Methodology Register (Method Studies)</strong> – bibliography of publications that report on methods used in conducting clinical trials</td>
<td>Enter search terms or browse by: Diseases, Screening/Prevention, Complementary, Alternative Medicine, Ethical/Legal Issues, Procedures, Quality Measures</td>
<td><strong>Diseases and drugs listed together for browsing</strong></td>
<td>It’s the premier biomedical database</td>
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<td>5. <strong>Health Technology Assessment Database (Technology Assessments)</strong> – brings together details of completed and ongoing health technology assessments (studies of medical, social and economic implications of healthcare technology)</td>
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<td>6. <strong>NHS Economic Evaluation Database (Economic Evaluations)</strong> – provides economic evaluations from around the world, appraising their quality and highlighting their relative strengths and weaknesses</td>
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