The Well-Built, Patient-Oriented Clinical Question

Question Components	Your Question
P – Patient or Population Describe the most important characteristics of the patient. (e.g., age, disease/condition, gender)	
I – Intervention; Prognostic Factor; Exposure Describe the main intervention. (e.g., drug or other treatment, diagnostic/screening test)	
C – Comparison (if appropriate) Describe the main alternative being considered. (e.g., placebo, standard therapy, no treatment, the gold standard)	
O – Outcome Describe what you're trying to accomplish, measure, improve, affect. (e.g., reduced mortality or morbidity, improved memory, accurate and timely diagnosis)	
The well-built clinical question:	

Type of Question	Ideal Type of Study
☐ Therapy	RCT
☐ Prevention	RCT > Cohort Study > Case Control
☐ Diagnosis	Prospective, blind controlled trial comparison to gold standard
☐ Prognosis	Cohort Study > Case Control > Case Series/Case Report
☐ Etiology/Harm	RCT > Cohort Study > Case Control
☐ Cost analysis	economic analysis
Note: Meta-analyses and systematic reviews, when available, often provide the best answers to clinical questions.	

Search Strategy Development

	Primary search term	Synonym 1	Synonym 2
P			
I			
C			
O			