Answering Clinical Questions (optometry)

For more tips and resources visit http://www.eboptometry.com/

Search Strategy Flowchart

**Website resources (free)**
1. Evidence-based guidelines
   - [http://www.cos-sco.ca/](http://www.cos-sco.ca/)
   - [http://one.aoa.org/CE/PracticeGuidelines/PPP.aspx](http://one.aoa.org/CE/PracticeGuidelines/PPP.aspx)
2. Critical Appraisal Topics (CATS)
   - [http://www.bestbets.org](http://www.bestbets.org)
3. Cochrane library & Cochrane Eye Vision Group
   - [http://eyes.cochrane.org](http://eyes.cochrane.org)
4. PubMed
5. Google Scholar
6. Trip

Many good resources (i.e. databases and scientific journals) require subscription. This may be available through your workplace, professional association membership or university. Look for: Medline, CINAHL, AMED, Embase, Scopus, Evidence-Based Medicine, Essential Evidence Plus, Joanna Briggs Institute, etc.

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**Clinical question**

**Patient Problem**
Describe those that are relevant to your practice. Think about type of patient (e.g. Gender, race, age) and problem (e.g. Disease) you are facing.

**Intervention**
Interventions can be vision devices, drug therapies, placebos, or recommendations for environmental modifications or ways in which the information is given to patient. They can also be diagnostic tests.

**Comparison Intervention**
This can be standard therapy or no intervention or a placebo or an alternative treatment, exposure or diagnostic test.

**Outcome**
Make a decision between the outcome which is relevant to your patient or problem and the outcome measures deployed in studies. Spend some time working out exactly what outcome is important to you, your patient, and the time-frame which is appropriate.

Modified from: www.cebm.net/