**EXAMPLE: using P I C O to plan a database search**

1. **Write an answerable clinical question:**

   In a dog with chronic osteoarthritis, will glucosamine chondroitin instead of NSAIDs improve joint function?

2. **Use P I C O to identify keywords in the clinical question:**

   | Patient | dog* or canine* or canis  
   | Problem | osteoarthri* or arthri* or joint* or cartilage or hip*  
   | Intervention | glucosamin* or chondro*  
   | Comparison | NSAID* or nonsteroidal anti-inflamm*  
   | Outcome | therap* or improv* or compar*  

   Tips: Add synonyms for species, brand/generic/chemical names, acronyms\(^1\)

   Always consider truncation to retrieve different endings/spellings\(^2\)

   Example: anesth* or anaesth*  

   [British spellings\(^3\) in CAB ABSTRACTS]

3. **Write out the search strategy.** Connect synonyms with OR. Connect PICO keywords with AND.

   \((dog^* \text{ or canine}) \text{ AND } (os\text{teoar}thri^* \text{ or arthri}^* \text{ or joint}^* \text{ or cartilage or hip}^*) \text{ AND } (glucosamin^* \text{ or chondroitin}^*) \text{ AND } (\text{NSAID}^* \text{ or nonsteroidal anti-inflamm}^*)\)

4. **Search:** [http://tinyurl.com/veterinarydatabases](http://tinyurl.com/veterinarydatabases)

   Top 4 databases  
   - **CAB ABSTRACTS** Always search CAB ABSTRACTS first to find the best evidence
   - **PubMed** Through the UT Library Databases menu at URL above to launch FindText
   - **VIN** Go to Journal Abstracts Tab. Avoid message boards.
   - **CONSULTANT** Search by Diagnosis. Covers about 7000 diseases of 8 species

Need a tutorial? [http://tinyurl.com/basicsearchtutorialpurdue](http://tinyurl.com/basicsearchtutorialpurdue)

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