

Finding articles in medical statistics

If the statistical method used is immaterial, or you want to explore methods used, use a standard template like PICO or SPICE. To find articles that use a particular statistical method, try these variants.

To find an article that uses a particular statistical method, try **PIMO**:

	Keywords, synonyms, limits
P Population, Patient, Problem	
I Intervention	
M Statistical Method	
O Outcome	

If a particular study type is the method, or likely to use the method of interest, try **PISO**:

	Keywords, synonyms, limits
P Population, Patient, Problem	
I Intervention	
S Study type	
O Outcome	

S in PISO could be a publication type limit (note that publication type limits are not always consistently applied in Medline) or a search filter.

PIMO and PISO may not find the same results, so you might want to use both and OR the two sets of results.

An example

Topic: Studies using logistical models to look at risk factors for development of diabetic foot in 50 year olds

Using **PIMO**, we get:

P – fifty year olds

I – risk factors (the general term “risk factors” and specific risk factors like diet, lifestyle)

M – logistical models

O – diabetic foot

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