

Type of Question Related to Levels of Evidence and Study Methodology

Type of Question	Type of Study or Methodology of Choice	Question Focus	Why Study?
Therapy/ Prevention	Meta-analysis or Systematic Review [SR] of RCT's Single Randomized Controlled Trial SR of Cohort Studies	Study effect of therapy or test on real patients; allows for comparison between intervention group and control groups for a particular condition. Largest volume of EB Literature.	To select treatments, if any, that do more good than harm (improve function, avoid adverse events) that are worth the effort and cost.
Diagnosis	Meta-analysis or SR of Controlled Trials (Prospective cohort study) Single Controlled Trial (Prospective-compare tests with a reference or "gold" standard test.)	Measures reliability of a particular diagnostic measure/test for a disease against the "gold standard" diagnostic measure for the same disease. Sensitivity and specificity of the measures are compared.	To select and interpret diagnostic methods or tests. To determine the degree to which a test is reliable and useful; establish the power of an intervention to differentiate between those with and without a target condition or disease.
Etiology, Causation, Harm	Meta-analysis or SR of RCTs Single RCT SR of Cohort Studies Single Cohort Study (Prospective data collection with formal control group.)	Compares a group exposed to a particular agent with an unexposed group. Important for understanding prevention and control of disease.	To identify causes of a disease or condition including iatrogenic forms. To determine relationships between risk factors, potentially harmful agents, and possible causes of a disease or condition.
Prognosis	Meta-analysis or SR of Inception Cohort Studies (Follow patients from when disease 1st becomes clinically manifest) Cohort Study	Follows progression of a group with particular disease and compares with a group without the disease. Groups must be as similar as possible and must have good follow-up>80% of each group.	To estimate clinical course or progression of a disease or condition over time and anticipate likely complications (and prevent them).

Forrest, JL. Evidence-based decision making: Introduction and formulating good clinical questions. Continuing Dental Education. Retrieved on June 21, 2014, from <http://www.dentalcare.com/en-US/dental-education/continuing-education/ce311/ce311.aspx>.