

PICO

The **PICO process** is a **technique** used in **evidence-based practice** to frame and answer a clinical or healthcare-related question.

The PICO **framework** is also used to develop **literature search** strategies.

The PICO acronym stands for:

P – **patient**, **problem** or **population**

I – **intervention**

C – **comparison**, control or **comparator**

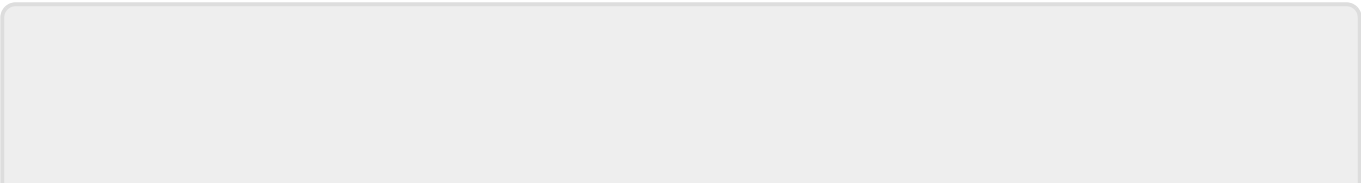
O – **outcome**

Example of a **PICO (Patients, Intervention, Comparator, Outcomes)** table for formulating a study question

	Inclusion	Exclusion
Patients What patient group do you want to include?	Symptomatic adults with cervical myelopathy due to spondylosis	• Patients under 18 years of age • Ossification of the posterior longitudinal ligament (OPLL) • Tumor • Trauma • Infection • Deformity
Intervention What surgical treatment, procedure, or implants are you interested in?	Cervical laminoplasty	
Comparison What is the comparison treatment?	Cervical laminectomy and fusion	
Outcomes What outcomes are you interested in (e.g., pain, function)?	• JOA recovery rate (primary outcome) • NDI • Neck or arm pain • SF-36 • Complications, including CSF leakage, dural tear, and C5 palsy	• Radiographic outcomes • Economic, cost-effectiveness

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see **FINER Criteria**



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