Exercise 05, Searching for Evidence: PubMed and MeSH

The goals of these quick exercises are to:
(a) Learn how to create searches in PubMed with MeSH terms.
(b) Learn how to apply filters to narrow search results in PubMed

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**Question 5a:** Use the clinical question below and construct a search strategy using MeSH terms (feel free to include Boolean operators as well).

Clinical Question: In children is toothbrushing an effective therapy for reducing bad breath?

**Answer 5a:**

Search Strategy:

\[(\text{toothbrushing[mesh]} \text{ OR } \text{“tooth brushing”[title/abstract]} \text{ OR } \text{toothbrushing[title/abstract]}) \text{ AND } \text{halitosis[mesh]} \text{ OR } \text{“bad breath”[title/abstract]} \text{ OR } \text{halitosis[title/abstract]})\]

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**Question 5b:** Use the clinical question below and construct a search strategy using MeSH terms, non-MeSH terms, and two appropriate filters. Use that strategy to find a systematic review on the topic. Include your search strategy and citations below.

Clinical Question: In adults, is flossing or fluoride an effective treatment for dental caries? In children?

**Answer 5b:**

PubMed Search Strategies:

- dental caries AND (flossing OR fluoride)

\[\text{("dental caries”[mesh]} \text{ OR caries[title]} \text{) AND } \text{flossing[title/abstract]} \text{ OR fluorides[mesh]} \text{ OR fluoride[title]})\]

Appropriate filters:
- Language: English
- Ages: Adult, 19+ years, Child, birth-18 years
- Publication Dates: 5 or 10 years
- Article Types: Systematic Reviews

Relevant Systematic Reviews:


[There are others. Are all of these equally strong? Would you consider one or more of these better than others? Why?]