

Evidence-informed health reporting

Webinar 1

Finding the evidence: Navigating the Cochrane Library

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Learning objectives

- From question to answer: How to make your question clear
- Simple rules for searching electronic databases
- Searching and navigating the Cochrane Library
- Cochrane and COVID-19 resources

What's the story?

Currently there is no proven treatment to improve the outcome for hospitalised patients with COVID-19. South Africans with COVID-19 are being recruited by the South African National Blood Services for a clinical trial using blood plasma from recovered patients to treat COVID-19. The trial aims to explore whether this treatment could reduce deaths and shorten the hospital stay for patients.



Picture: Pixabay

SANBS at the forefront of convalescent plasma therapy research in treatment of Covid-19

What's the story?

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P population

I intervention

C comparison

O outcomes

Creating an 'answerable' question

South Africans with COVID-19 are being recruited by the South African National Blood Services for a clinical trial using blood plasma from recovered patients to treat COVID-19. The trial aims to explore whether this treatment could reduce deaths and shorten the hospital stay for patients.

Participants	Intervention	Comparison	Outcome
COVID-19	Convalescent plasma	No treatment	Death Hospital duration

In hospitalised people with COVID-19 what are the benefits and harms of using convalescent plasma to reduce deaths and shorten hospital stay?

Searching tips and tricks

Why clarify the question?

- Helps you locate information – saves time
- Allows you to conduct an effective and comprehensive search
- Able to replicate, verify and report your search (important for systematic reviews)

Starts with identifying key concepts

- Determine the PICO from your question
- Create search terms from the PICO
- Start with the 2-3 most important concepts
- Focus on terms most likely to be found in the title and abstract

Finding key terms

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Turning concepts into search terms

Participants	Intervention	Comparison	Outcome
COVID-19	Convalescent plasma		
Coronavirus SARS-CoV2	Immunoglobulins		

Combining your search terms

- Search terms are combined using BOOLEAN operators
- The most commonly used are:

– OR

- Used to join synonyms or related words (within one concept)
- Instructs the search tool to retrieve any record that contains either (or both) of the terms, thus broadening your search results

– AND

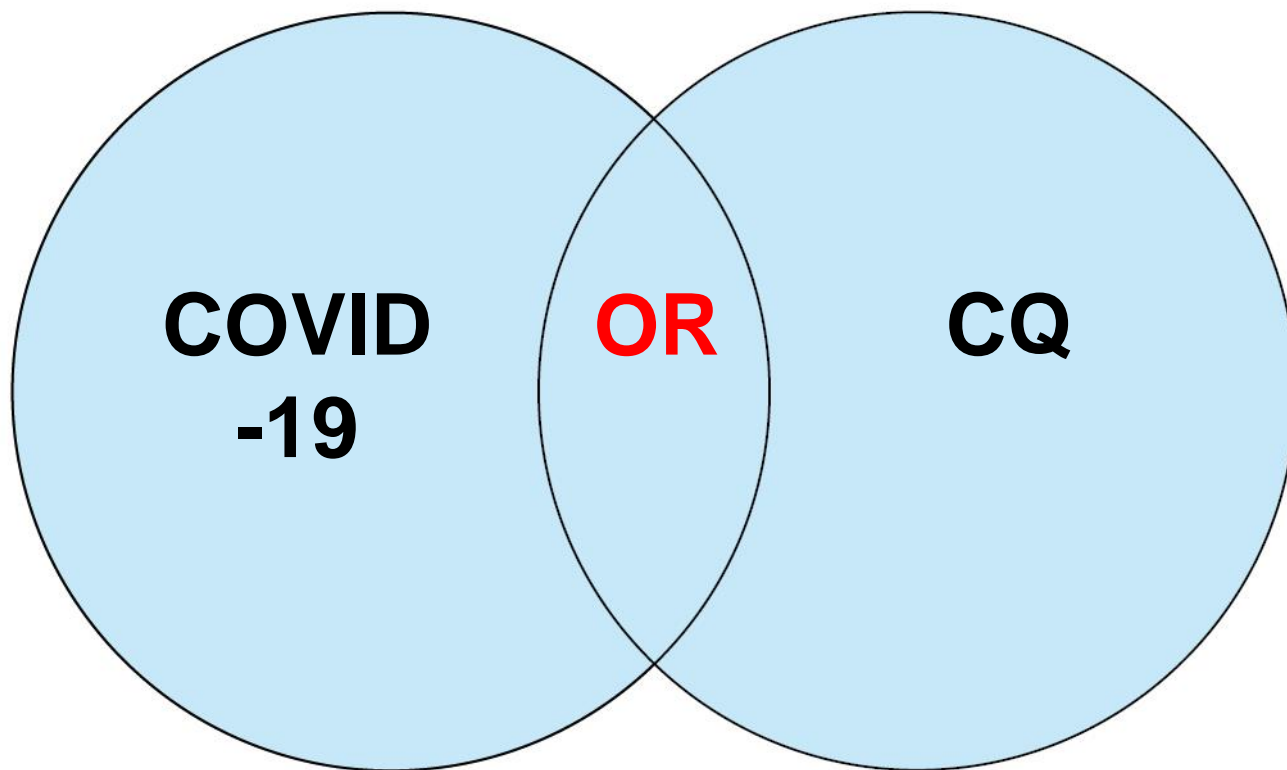
- Used to join words or phrases when both (or all) the terms must appear in the search results

Boolean operators

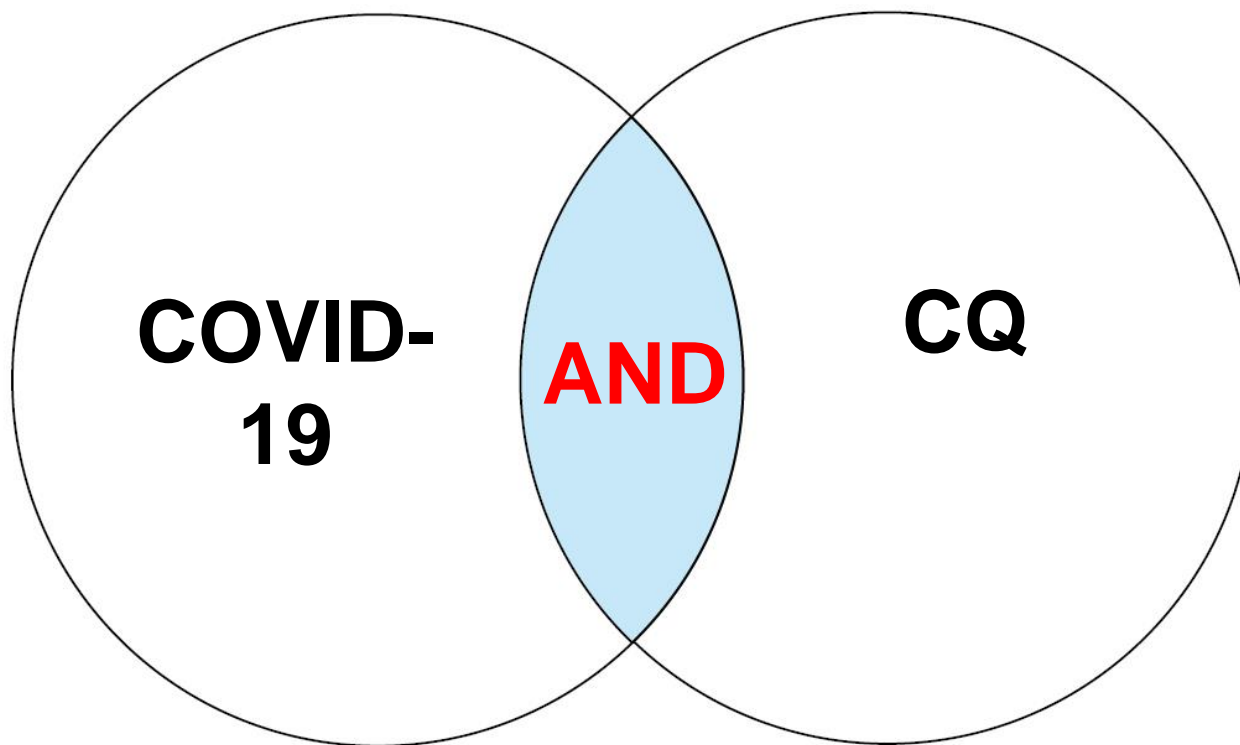
COVID-19

CHLOROQUINE (CQ)

Boolean operators



OR - to expand the search

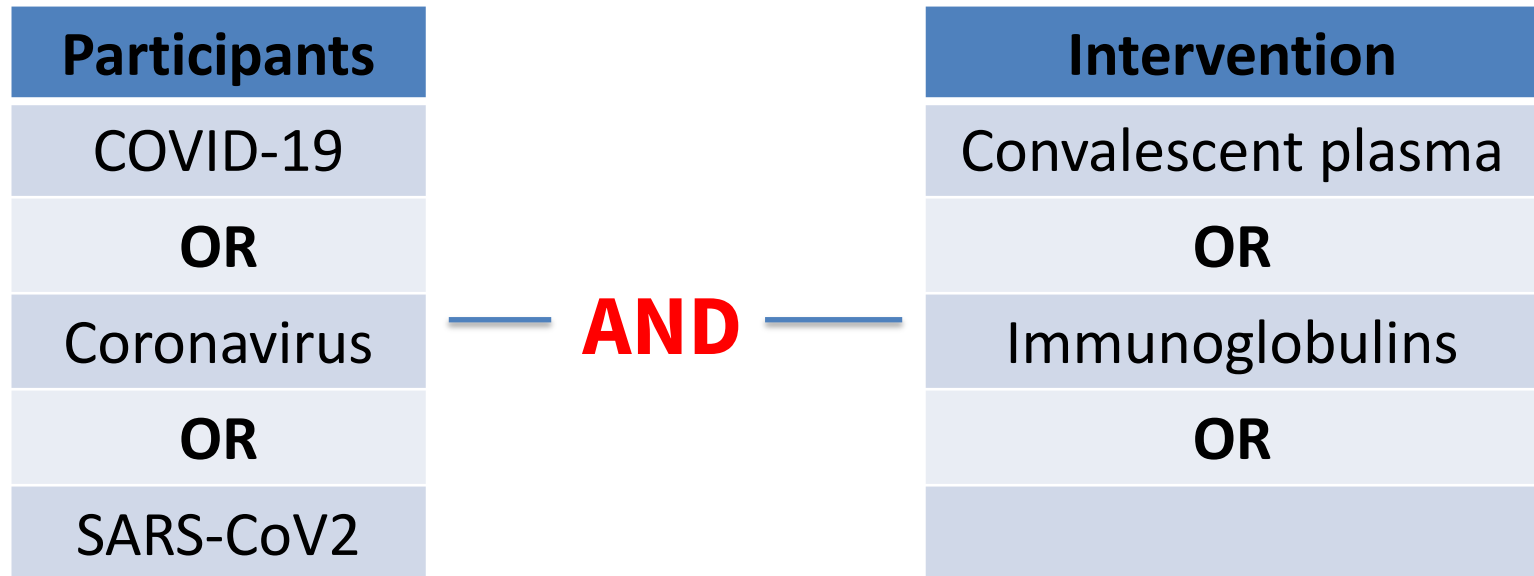


AND - to narrow the search

Turning concepts into search terms

Participants	Intervention	Comparison	Outcome
COVID-19	Convalescent plasma		
Coronavirus SARS-CoV2	Immunoglobulins		

Bringing it all together




Let's go and look for the evidence



<https://www.cochranelibrary.com/>



Coronavirus (COVID-19): remote care through telehealth
Read the Special Collection



Coronavirus (COVID-19): evidence relevant to critical care
Read the Special Collection



Convalescent plasma or hyperimmune immunoglobulin for COVID-19
Read the Rapid Review

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Coronavirus (COVID-19) resources



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<https://www.cochrane.org/about-us>



Relevant resources

- Media links: <https://www.cochrane.org/media>
- COVID-19 resources on Cochrane:
<https://www.cochrane.org/coronavirus-covid-19-cochrane-resources-and-news>
- <https://www.wiley.com/network/cochranelibrarytraining>



Thanks

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Cochrane South Africa www.southafrica.cochrane.org, South African Medical Research Council; the Centre for Evidence-based Health Care www.sun.ac.za/cebhc, Stellenbosch University, and Cochrane Nutrition collaborate to promote evidence-informed healthcare decision making within Africa. We see the media as a vital stakeholder in the dissemination of reliable research evidence and are therefore delighted to participate in this webinar series to build linkages as well as facilitate knowledge exchange.

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