

How to Use Cochrane PICO search ^{BETA}

Trusted evidence.
Informed decisions.
Better health.



What is PICO?

PICO is used in evidence-based healthcare to formulate questions and to develop search strategies.

PICO stands for...

- **Population (or Patient or Problem)**
What are the characteristics of the patient or population – for example condition?
- **Intervention**
What is the intervention under consideration for this patient or population – for example a drug or surgical intervention?
- **Comparison**
What is the alternative to the intervention – for example a different drug or a placebo?
- **Outcome**
What are the relevant outcomes – for example quality of life or adverse events?



What is Cochrane PICO search ^{BETA}?

- Cochrane has described over 4,500 Cochrane intervention reviews published since 2015 with controlled vocabulary terms... **and the PICO contexts for these terms**
- PICO search ^{BETA} allows you to search using these terms and their PICO contexts **to find reviews relevant to your research or clinical questions**

Search Search manager Medical terms (MeSH) **PICO search ^{BETA}**


Chronic Obstructive Pulmonary Disease

Population
 Outcome

PICO in Cochrane Library search results



To see PICO terms in Cochrane Reviews, run a search



The screenshot shows the Cochrane Library website interface. At the top left is the Cochrane Library logo and the tagline "Trusted evidence. Informed decisions. Better health." To the right, there is a search bar with a dropdown menu for "English" and a link to "Cochrane.org". Below the search bar are buttons for "Browse" and "Advanced search". A navigation bar contains links for "Cochrane Reviews", "Trials", "Clinical Answers", "About", and "Help".

Featured content includes:

- Are public health deworming programmes for children in endemic areas useful?** (Read the Review) - Image by PeopleImages/Gettyimages
- Diagnosing dementia** (Read the Special Collection) - Image by FatCamera/Gettyimages
- Pharmacological management of pain in children** (Read the Editorial) - Image by Gus Scott/University of Bath

Highlighted Reviews section:

- Inhaled steroids with and without regular formoterol for asthma: serious adverse events**
- Sadia Janjua, Stefanie Schmidt, Montse Ferrer, Christopher J Cates
- 25 September 2019

Cochrane Reviews 7 Cochrane Protocols 0 Trials 4 Editorials 4 Special collections 0 Clinical Answers 12 Other Reviews

7 Cochrane Reviews matching COPD in Title Abstract Keyword
Did you mean: [cod](#) | [coed](#) | [cold](#)

Cochrane Database of Systematic Reviews
Issue 9 of 12, September 2019

Select all (7) Export selected citation(s) [Show all previews](#)

Order by **Relevancy** Results per page **25**

1 **Airway clearance techniques for chronic obstructive pulmonary disease**
Christian R Osadnik, Christine F McDonald, Arthur P Jones, Anne E Holland
Intervention Review 14 March 2012
[Hide PICOs BETA](#) [Show preview](#)

Population (6)	Intervention (2)	Comparison (4)	Outcome (6)
Adult	Physiotherapy Of Chest	Deep Breathing And Cou...	Physiological or clinical
Aged (65+)	Physical	Physical	COPD Exacerbation
Chronic Obstructive Pul...		Sham Intervention	Resource use
Male and Female		No active treatment	Hospitalization
Chronic Bronchitis			Quality of Life

Show PICOs BETA displays terms used to describe the Populations, Interventions, Comparisons and Outcomes of the review...

- Cochrane Reviews 7
- Cochrane Protocols 0
- Trials 4
- Editorials 4
- Special collections 0
- Clinical Answers 12
- Other Reviews

7 Cochrane Reviews matching **COPD in Title Abstract Keyword**

Did you mean: [cod](#) | [coed](#) | [cold](#)

Cochrane Database of Systematic Reviews

Issue 9 of 12, September 2019

[Select all \(7\)](#) [Export selected citation\(s\)](#) [Show all previews](#)

Order by [Relevancy](#)

Results per page [25](#)

1 **Airway clearance techniques for chronic obstructive pulmonary disease**

Christian R Osadnik, Christine F McDonald, Arthur P Jones, Anne E Holland

[Intervention Review](#) 14 March 2012

[Hide PICOs](#) ^{BETA} [Show preview](#)

Population (6)

Adult
Aged (65+)
Chronic Obstructive Pul...
Male and Female
Chronic Bronchitis

Intervention (2)

Physiotherapy Of Chest
Physical

Comparison (4)

Deep Breathing And Cou...
Physical
Sham Intervention
No active treatment

Outcome (6)

Physiological or clinical
COPD Exacerbation
Resource use
Hospitalization
Quality of Life

.... allowing you to see important details about the review, right in your search results

PICO search ^{BETA} in Advanced Search



To run a search using PICOs, go to the Advanced Search and select the new tab, “PICO search ^{BETA}”

Advanced Search

Search Search manager Medical terms (MeSH) PICO search^{BETA}

Save search

View saved searches

Search help

Did you know you can now select fields from Search manager using the **S** button (next to the search box)?

Search manager lets you add unlimited search lines, view results per line and access the MeSH browser using the new **MeSH** button.

Title Abstract Keyword

COPD

+

Search limits

Send to search manager

Run search

Clear all

Or go directly to: <https://www.cochranelibrary.com/advanced-search/pico>

Advanced Search

Search Search manager Medical terms (MeSH) **PICO search^{BETA}**

About / Help

Enter a search term and select a PICO vocabulary term from the dropdown

Asthma

Population
 Outcome

Mild Asthma

Acute Asthma

Asthma Management

Seasonal Asthma

Exercise-induced Asthma

Allergic Asthma

Asthma Monitoring

Clear All

Run search

Enter your search term and select the corresponding vocabulary term from the dropdown that appears

Cochrane PICO search^{BETA} is a pre-release made available for large-scale testing. It currently searches Cochrane systematic reviews from most of our review groups published since 2015 (over 4500 reviews). [Tell us what you think about PICO search^{BETA}](#)

Search tip: Simple terms work best.
Use a single word instead of a long phrase

Advanced Search

Search Search manager Medical terms (MeSH) **PICO search^{BETA}**

About / Help

Enter a search term and select a PICO vocabulary term from the dropdown

Asthma

Population
 Outcome

+

Select the PICO context for your term, or leave the default selection

Clear All

Run search

Cochrane PICO search^{BETA} is a pre-release made available for large-scale testing. It currently searches Cochrane systematic reviews from most of our review groups published since 2015 (over 4500 reviews). [Tell us what you think about PICO search^{BETA}](#)

Run your search

Advanced Search

Search Search manager Medical terms (MeSH) PICO search^{BETA}

Asthma

Population Outcome



Clear All

Run search

For this example, search results retrieve Cochrane Reviews with Asthma as the Population

Filter your results

Population

Condition

- Asthma.....190
- Acute Asthma..... 38
- Emergency Care..... 17
- Exercise-induced Asthma..... 7
- Hospitalization..... 6
- Chronic Obstructive Pulmonary Disease... 4
- Discharged from Hospital..... 3
- Allergic Conjunctivitis..... 2

Cochrane Reviews 233

233 Cochrane Reviews matching "Asthma" 30, September 2019

Select all (233) Export selected citation(s) Show all PICO^s BETA

Order By Relevancy

Results per page 25

- Vaccines for preventing influenza in people with asthma
ShowPICO^s BETA 19 December 2012
- Azoles for allergic bronchopulmonary aspergillosis associated with asthma
ShowPICO^s BETA 04 June 2014
- Caffeine for asthma

Advanced Search

- Search
- Search manager
- Medical terms (MeSH)
- PICO search^{BETA}

Asthma

- Population
- Outcome



Clear All

Run search

Search again with Asthma as an Outcome, and retrieve a different set of Cochrane Reviews

Filter your results

Population

Condition

- Asthma.....98
- Infant.....7
- Acute Asthma.....3
- Neonate.....3
- Exercise-induced Asthma.....2
- Ethnic Group.....2
- Very Low Birth Weight Infant.....2
- Extremely Preterm Infant (<28 weeks).....2

Cochrane Reviews
110

110 Cochrane Reviews matching "Asthma"
30, September 2019

Select all (110) Export selected citation(s) Show all PICO^s ^{BETA}

Order By Relevancy

Results per page 25

- Vaccines for preventing influenza in people with asthma**
ShowPICO^s ^{BETA} 19 December 2012
- Addition of anti-leukotriene agents to inhaled corticosteroids in children with persistent asthma**
ShowPICO^s ^{BETA} 27 September 2013

Birth to 1 mo.....28
[Show all](#)

Intervention / Comparison

Intervention Name

Glucocorticoids - Inhaled.....37

Formoterol.....17
Selective Beta-2-adrenoreceptor Agoni...13
Salmeterol.....12
Glucocorticoids - Systemic.....9
Asthma Education.....9
Selective Beta-2-adrenoreceptor Agonis...8
Usual Care.....8
Anticholinergics, Inhaled.....7
Leukotriene Receptor Antagonists.....6
[Show all](#)

High-level Intervention Classification

Pharmacological.....160
Educational.....17
Behavioral.....16
Physical.....16

- [ShowPICOs BETA](#) 11 June 2012
- 11 Inhaled corticosteroids in children with persistent asthma: effects on growth
[ShowPICOs BETA](#) 19 August 2014
- 12 Addition of anti-leukotriene agents to inhaled corticosteroids in children with persistent asthma
[ShowPICOs BETA](#) 27 September 2013
- 13 Swimming training for asthma in children and adolescents aged 18 years and under
[ShowPICOs BETA](#)
- 14 Antileukotriene agents for children with mild asthma
[ShowPICOs BETA](#)
- 15 Vitamins C and E for children with asthma
[ShowPICOs BETA](#)
- 16 Inhaled steroids for children with asthma
[ShowPICOs BETA](#) 13 November 2012
- 17 Addition of intravenous aminophylline to inhaled beta2-agonists in adults with acute asthma
[ShowPICOs BETA](#) 13 November 2012
- 18 Pet allergen control measures for allergic asthma in children and adults
[ShowPICOs BETA](#) 01 October 2008
- 19 Fluticasone at different doses for chronic asthma in adults and children
[ShowPICOs BETA](#) 27 April 2009
- 20 Dehumidifiers for chronic asthma
[ShowPICOs BETA](#) 04 June 2014

Refine results by using PICO filters – the filters change with each search to show terms used to describe the reviews in your search results

Search tip: For best results, run a simple search and use filters to narrow down your results

- Asthma

- AND Glucocorticoids - Inhaled

- Population
- Outcome
- Intervention
- Comparison

Clear All

Run search

+ **When you select a PICO filter, that term is added to your search query**

Filter

Population

Condition

Asthma.....	52
Acute Asthma.....	2
Discharged from Hospital.....	1
Wheezing.....	1
Exercise-induced Asthma.....	1
Chronic Obstructive Pulmonary Disease...	1
Exacerbation Of Asthma.....	1

Cochrane Reviews
55

55 Cochrane Reviews matching "Asthma AND Glucocorticoids - Inhaled"

27, September 2019

Select all (55) Export selected citation(s) Show all PICOs^{BETA}

Order By **Relevancy**

Results per page **25**

- 1 **Inhaled corticosteroids in children with persistent asthma: effects on growth**
ShowPICOs^{BETA} ▼ 19 August 2014
- 2 **Addition of anti-leukotriene agents to inhaled corticosteroids in children with persistent asthma**
ShowPICOs^{BETA} ▼ 27 September 2013

- Asthma

- AND Glucocorticoids - Inhaled

- Population
- Outcome
- Intervention
- Comparison

Clear All Run search

To remove the filter, select the “-” button and run search to return to your original results

Filter by

Population

Condition

Asthma.....	52
Acute Asthma.....	2
Discharged from Hospital.....	1
Wheezing.....	1
Exercise-induced Asthma.....	1
Chronic Obstructive Pulmonary Disease...	1
Exacerbation Of Asthma.....	1

55 Cochrane Reviews matching "Asthma AND Glucocorticoids - Inhaled"
27, September 2019

Select all (55) Export selected citation(s) Show all PICOs^{BETA}

Order By Relevancy

Results per page 25

- Inhaled corticosteroids in children with persistent asthma: effects on growth**
ShowPICOs^{BETA} 19 August 2014
- Addition of anti-leukotriene agents to inhaled corticosteroids in children with persistent asthma**
ShowPICOs^{BETA} 27 September 2013

AND

Population Outcome Intervention Comparison

Clear All Run search

Filter your results

Population

- Condition
- Asthma.....52
- Acute Asthma..... 2
- Discharged from Hospital..... 1
- Wheezing..... 1
- Exercise-induced Asthma..... 1
- Chronic Obstructive Pulmonary Disease... 1
- Exacerbation Of Asthma..... 1

Age

Cochrane Reviews
55

55 Cochrane Reviews matched
27, September 2019

Select all (55) Export selected citation(s) Show all PICO^{BETA}

Order By Relevancy

Results per page 25

- Inhaled corticosteroids in children with persistent asthma: effects on growth**
ShowPICO^{BETA} 19 August 2014
- Addition of anti-leukotriene agents to inhaled corticosteroids in children with persistent asthma**
ShowPICO^{BETA} 27 September 2013
- Inhaled steroids for acute asthma following emergency department discharge**
ShowPICO^{BETA} 13 November 2012

Select results and export your references

- Population
- Outcome
- Intervention
- Comparison

- Asthma

- AND Glucocorticoids - Inhaled

+

Clear All

Run search

Filter your results

Population

Condition

- Asthma.....52
- Acute Asthma..... 2
- Discharged from Hospital..... 1
- Wheezing..... 1
- Exercise-induced Asthma..... 1
- Chronic Obstructive Pulmonary Disease... 1
- Exacerbation Of Asthma..... 1

Age

Cochrane Reviews 55

55 Cochrane Reviews matching "Asthma" 27, September 2019

Or view the full review

Select all (55) [Export selected citation\(s\)](#) [Show all PICO^{BETA}](#)

Order By Relevancy

Results per page 25

- 1 **Inhaled corticosteroids in children with persistent asthma: effects on growth**
[ShowPICO^{BETA}](#) 19 August 2014
- 2 **Addition of anti-leukotriene agents to inhaled corticosteroids in children with persistent asthma**
[ShowPICO^{BETA}](#) 27 September 2013
- 3 **Inhaled steroids for acute asthma following emergency department discharge**
[ShowPICO^{BETA}](#) 13 November 2012

Asthma

Population Outcome

+

Clear All

Run search

Filter your results

Population

Condition

- Asthma.....190
Acute Asthma..... 38
Emergency Care..... 17
Exercise-induced Asthma..... 7
Hospitalization.....6
Chronic Obstructive Pulmonary Disease... 4
Discharged from Hospital.....3
Allergic Conjunctivitis..... 3

Cochrane Reviews 233

233 Cochrane Reviews 26, September 2019

Select all (233)

Order By Relevancy

Click Show PICOs BETA to see the PICO description for a review

- 1 Vaccines for preventing influenza in people with asthma ShowPICOs BETA 19 December 2012
2 Azoles for allergic bronchopulmonary aspergillosis associated with asthma ShowPICOs BETA 04 June 2014
3 Caffeine for asthma ShowPICOs BETA 11 July 2012

Results per page 25

Population

Condition

Asthma.....	190
Acute Asthma.....	38
Emergency Care.....	17
Exercise-induced Asthma.....	7
Hospitalization.....	6
Chronic Obstructive Pulmonary Disease... 4	
Discharged from Hospital.....	3
Allergic Conjunctivitis.....	3
Wheezing.....	3
Allergic Asthma.....	3

[Show all](#)

Age

Adolescent 13-18 years.....	208
Child 6-12 years.....	196
Young Adult 19-24 years.....	190
Adult 19-44 years.....	189

233 Cochrane Reviews matching "**Asthma**"

26, September 2019

[Select all \(233\)](#) [Export selected citation\(s\)](#) [Show all PICO^{BETA}](#)

Order By

- 1 **Vaccines for preventing influenza in people with asthma**
[Hide PICO^{BETA}](#) ▲ 19 December 2012
- 2 **Azoles for allergic bronchopulmonary aspergillosis associated with asthma**
[Hide PICO^{BETA}](#) ▲ 04 June 2014
- 3 **Caffeine for asthma**
[Hide PICO^{BETA}](#) ▲ 11 July 2012
- 4 **Continuous versus intermittent beta-agonists for acute asthma**
[Hide PICO^{BETA}](#) ▲ 11 March 2011
- 5 **House dust mite control measures for asthma**
[Hide PICO^{BETA}](#) ▲ 16 August 2011
- 6 **Ketotifen alone or as additional medication for long-term control of asthma and wheeze in children**
[Hide PICO^{BETA}](#) ▲ 17 June 2010
- 7 **Magnesium sulfate for treating exacerbations of acute asthma in the emergency department**
[Hide PICO^{BETA}](#) ▲ 18 May 2016

... Or select **Show all PICO^{BETA}** to see PICO terms for all your search results

Aged, 80 and over 80+ years..... 179

Infant 1 to 23 mo..... 38

Birth to 1 mo.....28

Interven

Interven

Glucocorticoids - Inhaled..... 17

Formoterol.....17

Selective Beta-2-adrenoreceptor Agoni... 13

Salmeterol..... 12

Glucocorticoids - Systemic..... 9

Asthma Education.....9

Selective Beta-2-adrenoreceptor Agonis... 8

Usual Care..... 8

Anticholinergics, Inhaled..... 7

Leukotriene Receptor Antagonists..... 6

[Show all](#)

High-level Intervention classification

Pharmacological..... 160

Educational..... 17

Quickly scan many PICO's to find reviews of interest to you

3

Caffeine for asthma

HidePICO's ^{BETA} ▲ 11 July 2012

Population (4)

Male and Female
Adult
Aged (65+)
Asthma

Intervention (3)

Caffeine
Oral
Pharmacological

Comparison (2)

Placebo
No active treatment

Outcome (2)

Physiological or clinical
Lung Function

Continuous versus intermittent beta-agonists for acute asthma

HidePICO's ^{BETA} ▲ 11 March 2011

Population (6)

Male and Female
Adult
Aged (65+)
Child
Acute Asthma
Emergency Care

Intervention (5)

Selective Beta-2-adrenor...
Nebulizer Therapy
Inhaled
Pharmacological
Medical Devices

Comparison (3)

Selective Beta-2-adrenor...
Inhaled
Pharmacological

Outcome (8)

Physiological or clinical
Resource use
Adverse events
Lung Function
Hospitalization
Vital Signs Finding
Clinical Finding
Adverse Event

5

House dust mite control measures for asthma

HidePICO's ^{BETA} ▲ 16 August 2011

Population (6)

Male and Female
Adult
Aged (65+)
Child
House Dust Mite Allergy
Asthma

Intervention (10)

Environmental Interventi...
House Dust Mite Barrier ...
Air Filter
Therapeutic Air Ionizer, S...
House Dust Mite Barrier ...
House Dust Mite Barrier ...
House Dust Mite Barrier ...

Comparison (2)

Placebo
No active treatment

Outcome (10)

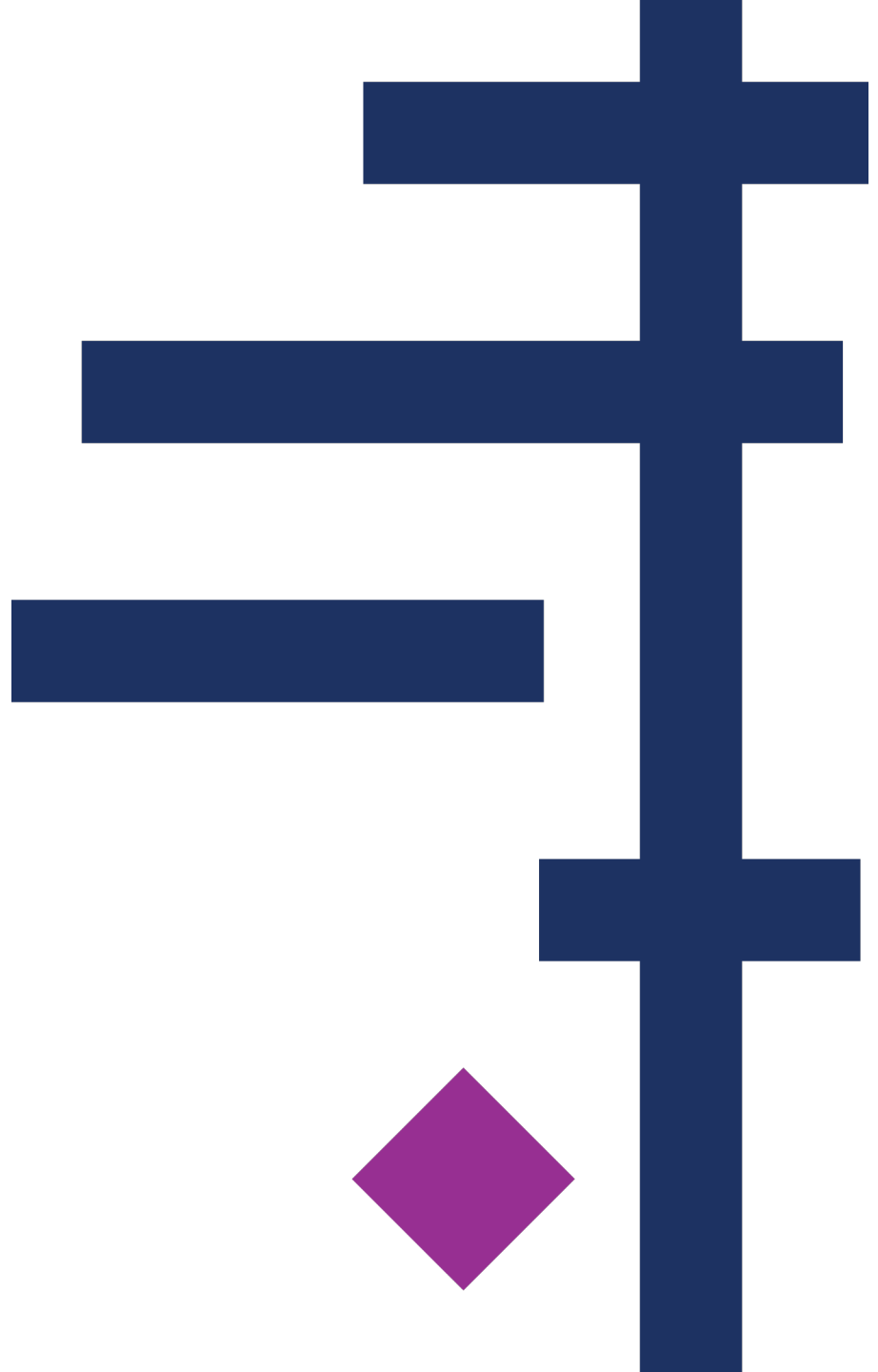
Physiological or clinical
Resource use
General Well-being Finding
Asthma Finding
Medication Dose Changed
Absenteeism
FEV1



WILEY

More complex searches ...

Trusted evidence.
Informed decisions.
Better health.



Advanced Search

Search

Search manager

Medical terms (MeSH)

PICO search

To add another term to your search, select the “+/-” button and add another line

Asthma

OR

- Chronic Obstructive Pulmonary Disease
- COPD Action Plan
- COPD Exacerbation
- Copper
- Able To Cope
- Coping Support
- Carer Able To Cope
- Cancer

Advanced Search

Search

Search manager

Medical terms (MeSH)

PICO search

- Asthma

- OR COPD

+

Chronic Obstructive Pulmonary Disease

COPD Action Plan

COPD Exacerbation

Copper

Able To Cope

Coping Support

Carer Able To Cope

Select "AND" to search with all of your terms, or "OR" to search with any of your terms

Population
Outcome

Run search

Advanced Search

Search

Search manager

Medical terms (MeSH)

Add more
lines and
select more
terms

With your
new terms,
make sure the
correct PICO
contexts are
selected

- Population
- Outcome
- Population
- Outcome
- Intervention
- Comparison
- Intervention
- Comparison

Filter your results

Population

Condition

Asthma.....52

Chronic Obstructive Pulmonary Diseases... 18

Cochrane Reviews
72**72 Cochrane Reviews matching "(Asthma OR Chronic Obstructive Pulmonary Disease) AND (Salbutamol OR Glucocorticoids - Inhaled)"**

23, September 2019

 Select all (72) [Export selected citation\(s\)](#) [Show all PICOs BETA](#)

Asthma

OR

AND

OR

- Population
- Outcome
- Population
- Outcome
- Intervention
- Comparison
- Intervention
- Comparison

Filter your results

Population

Condition

- Asthma.....52
- Chronic Obstructive Pulmonary Diseases... 18
- Acute Asthma..... 2
- Discharged from Hospital..... 1
- Wheezing..... 1
- Exercise-induced Asthma..... 1
- Exacerbation Of Asthma.....1
- COPD Exacerbation..... 1

Cochrane Reviews
72

72 Cochrane Reviews matching "(Asthma OR Chronic Obstructive Pulmonary Disease) AND (Salbutamol OR Glucocorticoids - Inhaled)"

23, September 2019

Select all (72) [Export selected citation\(s\)](#) [Show all PICO^{BETA}](#)

Order By

- 1 **Inhaled corticosteroid effects on bone metabolism in asthma and chronic obstructive pulmonary disease**
[Hide PICO^{BETA}](#) ▲ 30 July 2008
- 2 **Inhaled short-acting beta2-agonists versus ipratropium for acute exacerbations of chronic obstructive pulmonary disease**
[Hide PICO^{BETA}](#) ▲ 30 July 2008

Check the query above the results to check that your search was translated correctly

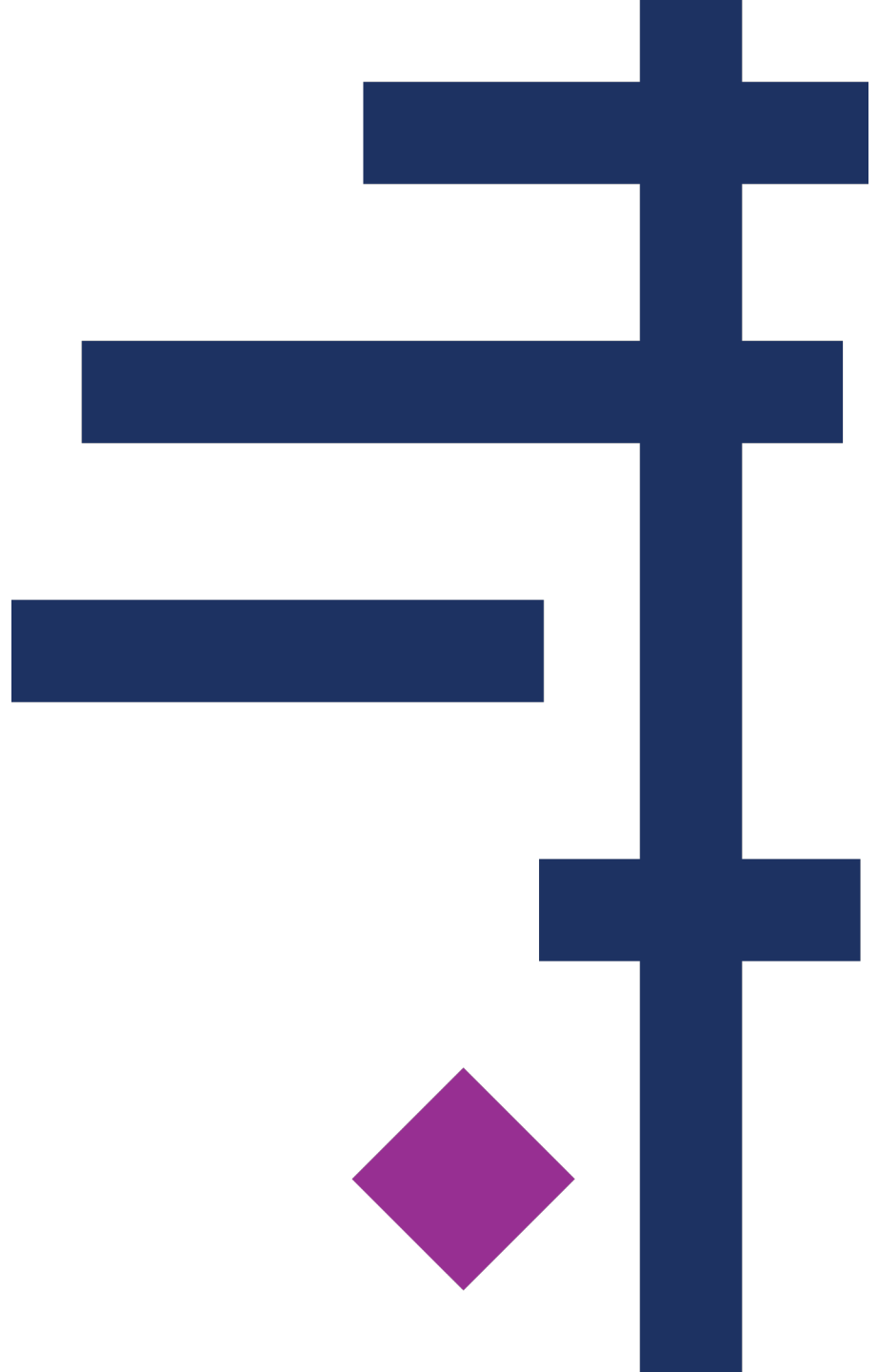
Currently, PICO search ^{BETA} does not offer these features

- Search history
- Save search function
- Option to include PICO vocabulary terms in Cochrane Library Search manager
- Option to send PICO search ^{BETA} queries to the Cochrane Library Search manager



Final note...

Trusted evidence.
Informed decisions.
Better health.



Let us know what you think

Advanced Search

[Search](#)[Search manager](#)[Medical terms \(MeSH\)](#)[PICO search^{BETA}](#)

Enter a search term and select a PICO vocabulary term from the dropdown

Use our feedback form to share comments or suggestions about PICO search^{BETA}

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Or go directly to: <https://community.cochrane.org/form/pico-search-beta-feedback>