

Parallel Sessions C  
C2 – AGMB, Annual Meeting of the German MLA

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## **Efficient Medline Search Filters for Clinical Queries**

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For unbiased systematic reviews (as, for example, by the Cochrane Collaboration), the identification of all relevant articles is a crucial requirement. Considerable efforts have been made by experienced searchers to achieve acceptable precision and recall rates and to reduce retrieval bias. Cochrane Review Groups, in particular, have contributed to sophisticated search strategies. Some tested and published strategies (i.e., in Clinical Evidence, [www.clinicalevidence.com](http://www.clinicalevidence.com)) with critical search terms to efficiently identify articles about therapy, diagnosis, etiology, prognosis, systematic reviews and guidelines are presented and compared to the corresponding PubMed "Clinical Queries" feature. It is demonstrated that the easy-to-use clinical query tools provided by PubMed are, for the most part, not sufficient. The design of specific search strategies without using this feature is preferable, as it allows more flexibility. An example is demonstrated, showing the advantages and weakness of both methods.