Discussion: Searching Databases

When you decide to purchase a new car, you first decide what is important to you. If mileage and dependability are the important factors, you will search for data focused more on these factors and less on color options and sound systems.

The same holds true when searching for research evidence to guide your clinical inquiry and professional decisions. Developing a formula for an answerable, researchable question that addresses your need will make the search process much more effective. One such formula is the PICO(T) format.

In this Discussion, you will transform a clinical inquiry into a searchable question in PICO(T) format, so you can search the electronic databases more effectively and efficiently. You will share this PICO(T) question and examine strategies you might use to increase the rigor and effectiveness of a database search on your PICO(T) question.

Initial Post

The PICO(T) question I chose to search for was "In acute stroke patients with dysphagia, how does an oral care regimen help reduce aspiration pneumonia rather than no oral care regimen?" I chose this question because I currently work in a specialized position called Stroke Navigator. The hospital that I work for has a very strict protocol regarding stroke care. One of the guidelines for stroke patients is to complete a bedside dysphagia screen by nursing staff. If