

Generating Better Boolean Queries

- Aim:
 - More effective queries means **less time spent screening** studies
 - Boolean queries have lots of different possible, complex **variations**
 - **Little is known** about the performance of a query until after the screening process is over
 - Transform Boolean queries into **more effective** Boolean queries

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- Method:
 - Define **transformations** that can be applied to clauses of Boolean queries
 - **No new terms are added or removed** (except the use of MeSH explosion)
 - Only **syntactic changes** made to query
 - **Apply** all transformations to a query (application)
 - **Select** the best query (candidate selection)
 - **Repeat** until some criteria is met (stopping criteria)