

# WHICH RESEARCH DESIGN SHOULD YOU FIND?

The chart below clarifies which study would best address your clinical question.

Type of Questions	Example	Preferred Study Designs	Other Study
<b>Screening/Diagnosis</b> Assess accuracy in differentiating clients with or without a condition	Is an auditory brainstem response or an otoacoustic emissions screening more accurate in identifying newborns with hearing loss?	Prospective, blind comparison to reference standard	Cross-sectional
<b>Treatment/Service Delivery</b> Determine the efficacy of an intervention	What is the most effective treatment to improve cognition in adults with traumatic brain injury?	Randomized controlled trial (RCT)	Controlled trial (non-randomized) Single-subject/single-case experimental design
<b>Etiology/Prognosis</b> Identify causes or risk factors of a condition or predict the client's likelihood of outcomes over time due to factors other than intervention	What are the risk factors for speech and language disorders?  What is the prognosis of a child with autism spectrum disorder?	Cohort	Case-control Case series
<b>Quality of Life/Perspective</b> Obtain and assess clients' opinions and experiences	How do parents feel about implementing parent-mediated interventions?	Qualitative studies (e.g., case study, case series)	Not Applicable
<b>Cost</b> Compare cost of treatments, tests, and other factors due to the disorder	What is the cost of care for individuals with dysphagia requiring a feeding tube compared to those requiring diet modification?	Economic analysis	Not Applicable
<b>Prevention</b> Identify factors to reduce likelihood of a disorder	What are some strategies to prevent hearing loss?	RCT	Controlled trial (non-randomized) Cohort Case-control