

Searching Medline On Ovid Online

User Guide
McGill Life Sciences Library

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This guide is designed to demonstrate a literature search in Medline using Ovid Online.

Topic: Find English language articles on effective treatments of colon cancer in the elderly.

For the topic above, the **individual, specific concepts** which need to be searched are:

- treatments
- colon cancer
- elderly
- English language

To provide an answer to the topic, the most appropriate bibliographic database to search is Medline, which is available through the Ovid Online Gateway.

The tutorial assumes you have connected to **Ovid** and have selected the **Medline** database. To do so, you must be connected to the McGill Library network.

Many individuals will begin the process by attempting to search the entire topic in a single search statement.

The screenshot shows the Ovid MEDLINE(R) interface. At the top, it says "Ovid MEDLINE(R) 1996 to July Week 2 2005". There are navigation icons (O, V, I, D) and a "ovid web gateway" link. Below this is a green bar with "Change Database", "Do you have a question? Ask a Librarian.", "Help", and "LOGOFF". A blue bar below that contains "Saved Searches/Alerts".

#	Search History	Results	Display
1	(colon cancer and treatment\$ and elderly).mp. [mp=title, original title, abstract, name of substance word, subject heading word]	35	DISPLAY

Below the table are buttons: "Combine Searches", "Delete Searches", and "Save Search/Alert".

Below the table is a search input form with tabs for "Advanced Search", "Basic Search", and "Find Citation". The "Basic Search" tab is active. It has a "Keyword" field, a "Map Term to Subject Heading" checkbox, and a "SEARCH" button. The "Keyword" field contains the search string: "(colon cancer and treatment\$ and elderly).mp. [mp=title, original title, abstract, name of substance word, subject heading word]".

As noted above, this method of searching frequently leads to poor or very few results. Why did the search generate only 35 articles for a topic that you suspect has a fair amount of literature?

By attempting to search many concepts in one search statement, Ovid defaulted to keyword searching. This method of searching retrieves records with the EXACT terms used in your search strategy, namely colon cancer, treatment, elderly. The search strategy did NOT retrieve records that use terminology such as colonic cancer, cancer of the colon, colon(ic) tumor(s), tumor(s) of the colon, colon(ic) neoplasm(s) and so on. Also, you did NOT retrieve articles that discuss treatment(s) by using terms such as specific drug names, or specific types of surgical interventions, and so on.

To overcome these problems, increase the retrieval, and provide adequate results to answer the topic, follow the tutorial below.

Subject Searching

Examine the topic. Since there are a number of individual concepts, attempt to identify the main subject of the search. Look for a disease, body organ, drug, and so on. In the topic above, the main subject is "colon cancer".

To begin the search on the **Main Search Page**, click in the box labeled Enter **Keyword** or phrase: and type in **colon cancer**. Enter a word or phrase representing ONE concept at a time.

OVID MEDLINE(R) 1996 to July Week 2 2005 ovid web gateway

[Change Database](#) | [Do you have a question? Ask a Librarian.](#) | [Help](#) | [LOGOFF](#)
[Saved Searches/Alerts](#)

#	Search History	Results	Display
-	-	-	-

[Advanced Search](#) | [Basic Search](#) | [Find Citation](#) | [More Fields](#) | [Search Tools](#)

Enter **Keyword** or phrase (use "\$" for truncation): Map Term to Subject Heading

Limits [More Limits](#)

Full Text
 Humans
 English Language

Review Articles
 Abstracts
 EBM Reviews

Latest Update
 Core Clinical Journals (AIM)

Publication Year: -

Make certain the box to the left of the **Map Term to Subject Heading** option contains a check mark. Once you have typed in your term, click on the **SEARCH** button.

With the **Map Term to Subject Heading** option turned on, the system automatically will attempt to "map" or direct your word or phrase to a valid MeSH subject heading.

Note that **Colon cancer** "maps" to the valid MeSH term **Colonic Neoplasms**

OVID Mapping Display ovid web gateway

[Main Search Page](#) | [Do you have a question? Ask a Librarian.](#) | [Help](#) | [LOGOFF](#)

Your term mapped to the following Subject Headings:
 Click on a subject heading to view more general and more specific terms within the tree.
 See term mapped to thesaurus term

Include All Subheadings
 Combine selections with:

Select	Subject Heading	Explode	Focus	Scope
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Colonic Neoplasms	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	i
<input type="checkbox"/>	colon cancer.mp. search as Keyword			

Hints:

- Click on a **Subject Heading** to view its tree - related terms that are more general and more specific.
- Select the **Explode** box if you wish to retrieve results using the selected term and all of its more specific terms.
- Select the **Focus** box if you wish to limit your search to those documents in which your subject heading is considered the major point of the article.
- If your search did not map to a desirable subject heading, select the box **Search as Keyword**.
- If you select more than one term, you can combine them using a boolean operator (AND or OR).
- If you wish to see the scope note for any term or heading, click on the information [i](#) icon, when available.

During mapping one of three possibilities will occur:

1. Your term will map directly to a valid MeSH heading as in the example above.
2. Your term will map to a list of "related" subject headings from which you will select the most appropriate subject heading. Usually the most valid MeSH subject heading for your term will be listed at the top.
3. Your term will map to a list of "related" subject headings. If **none** of the MeSH terms displayed are applicable, select the last option on the list **Search as Keyword** to search your original term in the designated keyword fields, often the title or abstract of the article.

To continue the search process, click on the subject heading **Colonic Neoplasms**.

Clicking on the term **Colonic Neoplasms** will cause the system to display the following:

The screenshot shows the Ovid MEDLINE search interface. At the top, there is a navigation bar with the word "Tree" and a "ovid web gateway" link. Below the navigation bar, there are links for "Previous Page", "Search Tools", "Main Search Page", and "Do you have a question? Ask a Librarian". There is also a "Help" link and a "LOGOFF" button. Below the navigation bar, there is a "Combine selections with:" dropdown menu set to "OR" and a "CONTINUE >" button. The main content area is titled "Tree for Colonic Neoplasms" and includes the text "Database: Ovid MEDLINE(R)" and a "Full Tree" link. Below this, there is a note "Scroll down for highlighted search term." and a table with the following columns: "Select Term(s)", "Subject Heading", "Hits", "Explode", "Focus", and "Scope Note". The table contains the following rows:


Select Term(s)	Subject Heading	Hits	Explode	Focus	Scope Note
<input type="checkbox"/>	Colorectal Neoplasms	17083	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	i
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Colonic Neoplasms	13368	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	i
<input type="checkbox"/>	Adenomatous Polyposis Coli	1827	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	i
<input type="checkbox"/>	Sigmoid Neoplasms	620	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	i

This broader/narrower hierarchy is referred to as a **Tree**. MeSH tree structures provide an effective way to browse broad and narrow MeSH terms in order to find most appropriate headings to search. MeSH terms in the Tree are listed from the more general (on the left) **Colorectal Neoplasms** to the more specific (indented to the right) **Colonic Polyps**.

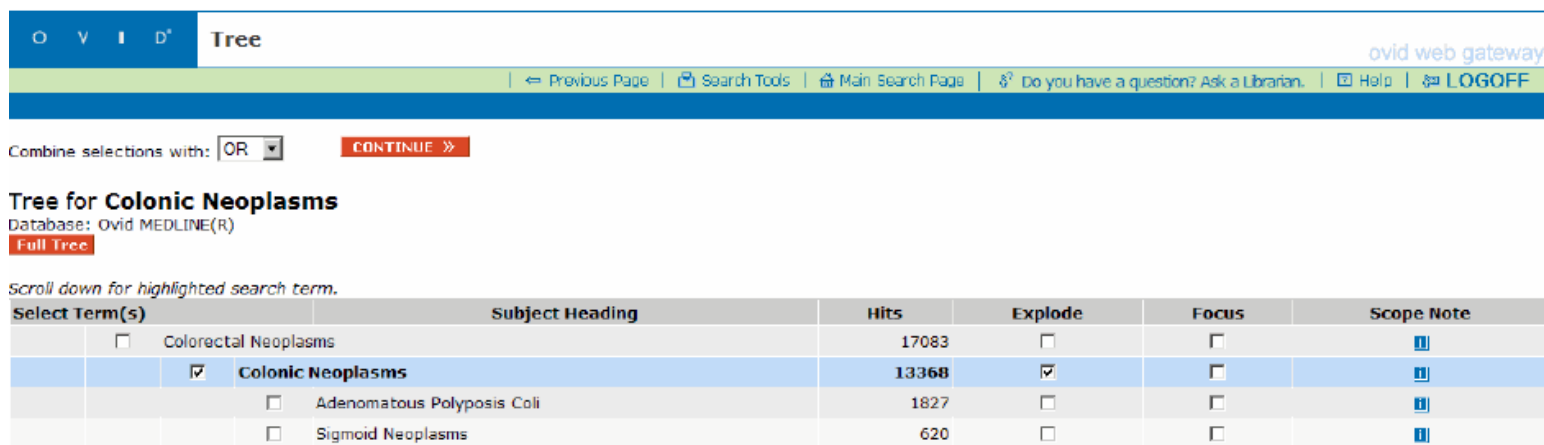
Explode

Remember that indexers have been mandated to index articles with the most specific MeSH heading available. Therefore, very specific, narrow terms indented below broad subject headings often generate higher retrievals since most authors tend to publish papers on precise, well defined areas of medicine.





Examine the Tree structure above. Note that the broadest term, **Colorectal Neoplasms**, yields 9492 references while the narrower term, **Colonic Neoplasms**, retrieves 9740 references. This is not surprising since most authors write about specific medical conditions rather than more general ones.

Click on the scope note  icon to obtain a definition of the MeSH subject heading

Examine each of the subject headings indented below the term **Colonic Neoplasms**



The screenshot shows the Ovid MEDLINE search interface. At the top, there is a navigation bar with 'Tree' selected. Below the navigation bar, there is a search bar with 'Combine selections with: OR' and a 'CONTINUE >' button. The main content area is titled 'Tree for Colonic Neoplasms' and shows a tree structure of subject headings. The 'Colonic Neoplasms' term is selected, and its 'Explode' box is checked. The table below shows the following data:

Select Term(s)	Subject Heading	Hits	Explode	Focus	Scope Note
<input type="checkbox"/>	Colorectal Neoplasms	17083	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Colonic Neoplasms	13368	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
<input type="checkbox"/>	Adenomatous Polyposis Coli	1827	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
<input type="checkbox"/>	Sigmoid Neoplasms	620	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	

If all the MeSH headings indented below the term are appropriate for your search, click in the **Explode** box to the right of the term. This unique, yet safe, search capability will automatically "OR" together all the subject headings in a particular TREE sequence and generate a single search set.

The **Explode** feature will INCREASE your search results since it allows multiple subject headings to be searched together.

- It is recommended that you use the **Explode** feature routinely to retrieve as much of the literature related to your topic as possible, since subject headings in a **Tree** sequence are very closely related.
- If one or more, but NOT ALL, of the terms displayed are useful to your search, click in the **Select** box to the LEFT of the term.

Focus

To the right of the term, the **Focus** box allows you to retrieve only the articles in which the MeSH subject heading(s) you have selected is/are the MAIN FOCUS or major point of the article.

The **Focus** option will DECREASE the results of your search. It is a good choice here since you are interested in a single, general topic, **colon cancer**.

Do NOT apply it, at least not initially, to your search if you are searching a more complex topic.

To apply both the **Explode** and **Focus** options to the MeSH term **Colonic Neoplasms**, click in the appropriate check boxes.

Tree ovid web gateway

← Previous Page | Search Tools | Main Search Page | Do you have a question? Ask a Librarian. | Help | LOGOFF

Combine selections with: [CONTINUE >>](#)

Tree for Colonic Neoplasms

Database: Ovid MEDLINE(R)

[Full Tree](#)

Scroll down for highlighted search term.

Select Term(s)	Subject Heading	Hits	Explode	Focus	Scope Note
<input type="checkbox"/>	Colorectal Neoplasms	17083	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	[i]
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Colonic Neoplasms	13368	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	[i]
<input type="checkbox"/>	Adenomatous Polyposis Coli	1827	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	[i]
<input type="checkbox"/>	Sigmoid Neoplasms	620	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	[i]

Click on [CONTINUE >>](#)

Subheadings

On the subsequent screen, Ovid will display the MeSH subject heading you have selected, **Colonic Neoplasms**, at the top of the screen, together with a list of **Subheadings** or "secondary" headings that can be applied to it. Subheadings are used to better define a topic or express a certain aspect of a MeSH heading.

Since the topic does not specify a type of "treatment", click in the checkbox of ALL the subheadings that imply "therapy"; that is, diet therapy, drug therapy, radiotherapy, rehabilitation, surgery, therapy.

OVID Subheading Display ovid web gateway

Search Tools | Main Search Page | Do you have a question? Ask a Librarian. | Help | LOGOFF

Combine selections with: **CONTINUE >>**

Subheadings for: **exp *Colonic Neoplasms**


Include All Subheadings

-- or choose one or more of these subheadings --

- | | |
|--|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> /bl - Blood | <input type="checkbox"/> /mi - Microbiology |
| <input type="checkbox"/> /bs - Blood Supply | <input type="checkbox"/> /mo - Mortality |
| <input type="checkbox"/> /cf - Cerebrospinal Fluid | <input type="checkbox"/> /nu - Nursing |
| <input type="checkbox"/> /ci - Chemically Induced | <input type="checkbox"/> /ps - Parasitology |
| <input type="checkbox"/> /ch - Chemistry | <input type="checkbox"/> /pa - Pathology |
| <input type="checkbox"/> /cl - Classification | <input type="checkbox"/> /pp - Physiopathology |
| <input type="checkbox"/> /co - Complications | <input type="checkbox"/> /pc - Prevention & Control |
| <input type="checkbox"/> /cn - Congenital | <input type="checkbox"/> /px - Psychology |
| <input type="checkbox"/> /di - Diagnosis | <input type="checkbox"/> /ra - Radiography |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> /dh - Diet Therapy | <input type="checkbox"/> /ri - Radionuclide Imaging |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> /dt - Drug Therapy | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> /rt - Radiotherapy |
| <input type="checkbox"/> /ec - Economics | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> /rh - Rehabilitation |
| <input type="checkbox"/> /em - Embryology | <input type="checkbox"/> /sc - Secondary |
| <input type="checkbox"/> /en - Enzymology | <input type="checkbox"/> /se - Secretion |
| <input type="checkbox"/> /ep - Epidemiology | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> /su - Surgery |
| <input type="checkbox"/> /eh - Ethnology | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> /th - Therapy |
| <input type="checkbox"/> /et - Etiology | <input type="checkbox"/> /us - Ultrasonography |
| <input type="checkbox"/> /ge - Genetics | <input type="checkbox"/> /ul - Ultrastructure |
| <input type="checkbox"/> /hi - History | <input type="checkbox"/> /ur - Urine |
| <input type="checkbox"/> /im - Immunology | <input type="checkbox"/> /ve - Veterinary |
| <input type="checkbox"/> /me - Metabolism | <input type="checkbox"/> /vi - Virology |

By applying specific subheadings you will **DECREASE** the results of your search.

If you are uncertain about which subheadings to apply to your subject heading, select the **Include All Subheadings** option at the top.

Click on the  scope note icon for the subheading to obtain information about it, including a definition, the year the subheading was introduced into the MeSH vocabulary, and so on.

Once you have selected all your subheadings, click on **CONTINUE >>**. Ovid will return to the **Main Search Page** with your first search results.

#	Search History	Results	Display
1	exp *Colonic Neoplasms/dh, dt, rt, rh, su, th [Diet Therapy, Drug Therapy, Radiotherapy, Rehabilitation, Surgery, Therapy]	2682	DISPLAY

Combine Searches | Delete Searches | Save Search/Alert

Advanced Search | Basic Search | Find Citation | More Fields | Search Tools

Keyword | Author | Title | Journal

Enter **keyword** or phrase (use "\$" for truncation):

Map Term to Subject Heading

This specific search strategy has generated 2682 references at this time.

The **Search History** window summarizes the search process thus far:

- The **explode** (“**exp**”) command enabled you to search the MeSH heading **Colonic Neoplasms** as well as the more specific subject headings indented below it.
- The asterisk * enabled you to **focus** or restrict the search results to articles in which **Colonic Neoplasms** is the main topic, or major focus, of the article.
- The slash / separates, or distinguishes, the main subject heading **Colonic Neoplasms** from its list of "therapy" **subheadings** such as diet therapy (dh); drug therapy (dt), and so on. The subheadings are listed as two-letter abbreviations and then written out in full.

Limits

Since the retrieval is large (2682 references), you may DECREASE the search results, and more importantly, fulfill certain aspects of the topic, by applying one or more specific **Limits**.

Limits can be applied in one of two ways:

First, on the **Main Search Page** note the **Limit To** option below the search window. The options listed here represent the most frequently used limits.

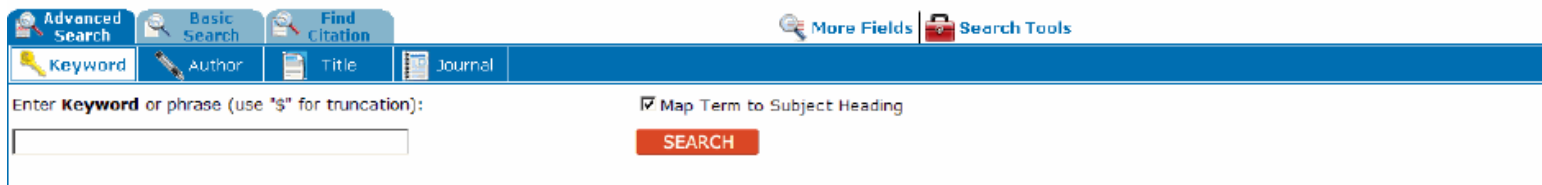
Since the topic requires that you locate English language articles on the elderly, click in the check boxes marked Human and English.

Since this segment of Medline contains references back to 1996, you may also limit the retrieval by decreasing the number of years being searched; for example, 2002 to present.



#	Search History	Results	Display
1	exp *Colonic Neoplasms/dh, dt, rt, rh, su, th [Diet Therapy, Drug Therapy, Radiotherapy, Rehabilitation, Surgery, Therapy]	2682	DISPLAY

Combine Searches Delete Searches Save Search/Alert



Then click on the  button

#	Search History	Results	Display
1	exp *Colonic Neoplasms/dh, dt, rt, rh, su, th [Diet Therapy, Drug Therapy, Radiotherapy, Rehabilitation, Surgery, Therapy]	2682	DISPLAY
2	limit 1 to (humans and english language and yr="2002 - 2005")	805	DISPLAY

Combine Searches | Delete Searches | Save Search/Alert

Advanced Search | Basic Search | Find Citation | More Fields | Search Tools

Keyword | Author | Title | Journal

Enter **keyword** or phrase (use "\$" for truncation):

Map Term to Subject Heading

SEARCH

Limits [More Limits](#)

Full Text
 Review Articles
 Latest Update
 Humans
 Abstracts
 Core Clinical Journals (AIM)
 English Language
 EBM Reviews
 Publication Year: - - -

By applying the 3 limits, (human, english language, 2002 to present), the initial search results now decrease to 805 references.

A second method of limiting search results is to click on the [More Limits](#) button at the top of the **Main Search Page**. This action will cause Ovid to display the following:

Limits

Humans
 Abstracts
 Latest Update
 Female
 All EBMR Article Reviews
 Article Reviews (DARE)
 English Language
 Ovid Full Text Available
 Animals
 Core Clinical Journals (AIM)
 Topic Reviews (Cochrane)
 Review Articles
 Full Text
 Male
 Evidence Based Medicine Reviews
 Article Reviews (ACP Journal Club)
 Publication Year: - - -

To select or remove multiple items from a list below, hold down the Shift, Ctrl, or "Apple" key while selecting.

Subject Subsets
 AIDS
 Bioethics
 Cancer
 Complementary Medicine
 History of Medicine
 EBM Reviews
 Evidence Based Medicine Reviews
 Topic Reviews (Cochrane)
 Article Reviews (ACP Journal Club)
 Age Groups
 Adolescent (13 to 18 years)
 Adult (19 to 44 years)
 Middle Age (45 to 64 years)
 Middle Aged (45 plus years)
 All Aged (65 and Over)
 Aged (80 and Over)
 Animal Types
 Cats
 Cattle
 Chick Embryo
 Dogs
 Goats
 Clinical Queries
 Therapy (sensitivity)
 Therapy (specificity)
 Therapy (optimized)
 Diagnosis (sensitivity)
 Diagnosis (specificity)
 Languages
 Afrikaans
 Albanian
 Arabic
 Armenian
 Azerbaijani
 Publication Types
 Practice Guideline
 Published Erratum
Randomized Controlled Trial
 Retraction of Publication
 Retracted Publication
 Review
 Journal Subsets
 AIDS/HIV Journals
 Core Clinical Journals (AIM)
 Bioethics Journals
 Biotechnology Journals
 Communication Disorders Journals

Note that the **Limit a Search** page includes not only the limits found on the **Main Search Page**, but also new limits such as animal types, languages, age groups, publication types, and so on.

Examine carefully each of the limit options by clicking on the pull down menus. Since Limits are used frequently in conducting searches, it is highly recommended that you familiarize yourself with each of these subgroups, as well as the individual options they contain.

While there is a large set of literature (805 references in English) on the treatment of colon cancer, you may filter or decrease the results to references where there is substantial "evidence" that a treatment is effective.

In evidence based practice, the gold standard for "therapy" is the Randomised Controlled Trial (RCT). Therefore, to restrict your results to this type of trial, in the **Publication Types** box, click on the pull down menu and select **Randomised Controlled Trial**.

As you are scanning the listing in this window, note other type of trials such as Clinical Trial, Controlled Clinical Trial and so on.

To restrict to articles pertaining to the elderly, in the **Age Groups** box, click on the pull down menu and select **Aged 65 and Over**.

To select two options, for example **Aged 65 and Over** as well as **Aged 80 and Over** in this case, , hold down the **Shift key** and click with the mouse.

To apply the limits you have selected, click on the **LIMIT A SEARCH >>** button.

The screenshot shows the Ovid MEDLINE search interface. At the top, it displays "Ovid MEDLINE(R) 1996 to July Week 2 2005" and "ovid web gateway". Below this is a navigation bar with links for "Change Database", "Do you have a question? Ask a Librarian", "Help", and "LOGOFF".

#	Search History	Results	Display
1	exp *Colonic Neoplasms/dh, dt, rt, rh, su, th [Diet Therapy, Drug Therapy, Radiotherapy, Rehabilitation, Surgery, Therapy]	2682	DISPLAY
2	limit 1 to (humans and english language and yr="2002 - 2005")	805	DISPLAY
3	limit 2 to (("all aged (65 and over)" or "aged (80 and over)") and randomized controlled trial)	38	DISPLAY

Below the table are buttons for "Combine Searches", "Delete Searches", and "Save Search/Alert".

The search interface also includes tabs for "Advanced Search", "Basic Search", and "Find Citation". Below these are search filters for "Keyword", "Author", "Title", and "Journal". A search box is present with the text "Enter Keyword or phrase (use '\$' for truncation):" and a "SEARCH" button. A checkbox for "Map Term to Subject Heading" is also visible.

Your results have decreased to 38 references.

Having fulfilled all the aspects of your topic, you are now ready to evaluate your search results.

Display / Save Records

To view the records which your search has generated, click on the **Display** option after the number of search **Results** on the **Main Search Page**. (Note: the first 10 references of the last set can be displayed by scrolling down the **Main Search Page**.)

Ovid MEDLINE(R)
1996 to July Week 2 2005

ovid web gateway

[Change Database](#) |
 [Do you have a question? Ask a Librarian.](#) |
 [Help](#) |
 [LOGOFF](#)

[Saved Searches/Alerts](#)

#	Search History	Results	Display
1	exp *Colonic Neoplasms/dh, dt, rt, rh, su, th [Diet Therapy, Drug Therapy, Radiotherapy, Rehabilitation, Surgery, Therapy]	2682	DISPLAY
2	limit 1 to (humans and english language and yr="2002 - 2005")	805	DISPLAY
3	limit 2 to (("all aged (65 and over)" or "aged (80 and over)") and randomized controlled trial)	38	DISPLAY

[Combine Searches](#) |
 [Delete Searches](#) |
 [Save Search/Alert](#)

[Advanced Search](#) |
 [Basic Search](#) |
 [Find Citation](#)

[More Fields](#) |
 [Search Tools](#)

[Keyword](#) |
 [Author](#) |
 [Title](#) |
 [Journal](#)

Enter **Keyword** or phrase (use "\$" for truncation):

Map Term to Subject Heading

[SEARCH](#)

Title Display

By default, the first 10 records of your set will display in the "Titles Display" format.

The screenshot shows the Ovid Online search results interface. At the top, there are navigation icons (O, V, I, D*) and the text "Search Results". On the right, there is a link for "ovid web gateway" and a navigation bar with "Main Search Page", "Do you have a question? Ask a Librarian.", "Help", and "LOGOFF". Below this, there are links for "Results Manager", "Customize Display", and "Reset Display". The main content area displays the search criteria: "Results of your search: limit 2 to (("all aged (65 and over)" or "aged (80 and over)") and randomized controlled trial)". It indicates "Viewing 1-10 of 38 Results" and provides a "Go to #:" field with the number "1" and a "GO" button. A "Next Result" button with a right-pointing arrow is also visible. The search results are listed in a table-like format with four entries:

1. Twelves C, Wong A, Nowacki MP, Abt M, Burns H 3rd, Carrato A, Cassidy J, Cervantes A, Fagerberg J, Georgoulas V, Hussein F, Jodrell D, Koralewski P, Kroning H, Maroun J, Marschner N, McKendrick J, Pawlicki M, Rosso R, Schuller J, Seitz JF, Stabuc B, Tujakowski J, Van Hazel G, Zaluski J, Scheithauer W. **Capecitabine as adjuvant treatment for stage III colon cancer.[see comment].** [Clinical Trial. Journal Article. Multicenter Study. Randomized Controlled Trial] *New England Journal of Medicine*. 352(26):2696-704, 2005 Jun 30. UI: 15987918
[Find Similar](#) | [Find Citing Articles](#)
Options: [Abstract](#), [Complete Reference](#), [Find It @ McGill](#)
2. Uyl-de Groot CA, Vermorken JB, Hanna MG Jr, Verboom P, Groot MT, Bonsel GJ, Meijer CJ, Pinedo HM. **Immunotherapy with autologous tumor cell-BCG vaccine in patients with colon cancer: a prospective study of medical and economic benefits.** [Clinical Trial. Clinical Trial, Phase III. Journal Article, Multicenter Study. Randomized Controlled Trial] *Vaccine*. 23(17-18):2379-87, 2005 Mar 18. UI: 15755632
[Find Similar](#) | [Find Citing Articles](#)
Options: [Abstract](#), [Complete Reference](#), [Full Text](#), [Find It @ McGill](#)
3. Kaiser AM, Kang JC, Chan LS, Vukasin P, Beart RW Jr. **Laparoscopic-assisted vs. open colectomy for colon cancer: a prospective randomized trial.** [Clinical Trial. Journal Article. Randomized Controlled Trial] *Journal of Laparoendoscopic & Advanced Surgical Techniques-Part A*. 14(6):329-34, 2004 Dec. UI: 15684776
[Find Similar](#) | [Find Citing Articles](#)
Options: [Abstract](#), [Complete Reference](#), [Find It @ McGill](#)
4. Poplin EA, Benedetti JK, Estes NC, Haller DG, Mayer RJ, Goldberg RM, Weiss GR, Rivkin SE, Macdonald JS. **Phase III Southwest Oncology Group 9415/Intergroup 0153 randomized trial of fluorouracil, leucovorin, and levamisole versus fluorouracil continuous infusion and levamisole**
Options: [Abstract](#), [Complete Reference](#)

Use the [Next Result](#) or [Previous Result](#) buttons at the top and bottom of the screen to view all of the citations in the set.

Record with Abstract

To view a record with an abstract, click on **Abstract** .

Search Results ovid web gateway

| [Results Display](#) | [Main Search Page](#) | [Do you have a question? Ask a Librarian.](#) | [Help](#) | [LOGOFF](#)

[Results Manager](#)

Results of your search: **limit 2 to (("all aged (65 and over)" or "aged (80 and over)") and randomized controlled trial)**

Viewing **1** of **38** Results [Next Result](#)

Go to #: [GO](#)

Result 1.

[Find Similar](#) | [Find Citing Articles](#)

Link to...

[Complete Reference](#) | [Find It @ McGill](#)

Unique Identifier	15987918
Authors	Twelves C. Wong A. Nowacki MP. Abt M. Burns H.3rd. Carrato A. Cassidy J. Cervantes A. Eagerberg J. Georgoulas V. Husseini F. Jodrell D. Koralowski P. Kroning H. Maroun J. Marschner N. McKendrick J. Pawlicki M. Rosso B. Schuller J. Seitz JF. Stabuc B. Tujakowski J. Van Hazel G. Zaluski J. Scheithauer W.
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Title	Capecitabine as adjuvant treatment for stage III colon cancer.[see comment].
Comments	Comment in: <i>N Engl J Med.</i> 2005 Jun 30;352(26):2746-8; PMID: 15987925
Source	<i>New England Journal of Medicine.</i> 352(26):2696-704, 2005 Jun 30.
Abstract	BACKGROUND: Intravenous bolus fluorouracil plus leucovorin is the standard adjuvant treatment for colon cancer. The oral fluoropyrimidine capecitabine is an established alternative to bolus fluorouracil plus leucovorin as first-line treatment for metastatic colorectal cancer. We evaluated capecitabine in the adjuvant setting. METHODS: We randomly assigned a total of 1987 patients with resected stage III colon cancer to receive either oral capecitabine (1004 patients) or bolus fluorouracil plus leucovorin (Mayo Clinic regimen; 983 patients) over a period of 24 weeks. The primary efficacy end point was at least equivalence in disease-free survival; the primary safety end point was the incidence of grade 3 or 4 toxic effects due to fluoropyrimidines. RESULTS: Disease-free survival in the capecitabine group was at least equivalent to that in the fluorouracil-plus-leucovorin group (in the intention-to-treat analysis, $P < 0.001$ for the comparison of the upper limit of the hazard ratio with the noninferiority margin of 1.20). Capecitabine improved relapse-free survival (hazard ratio, 0.86; 95 percent confidence interval, 0.74 to 0.99; $P = 0.04$) and was associated with significantly fewer adverse events than fluorouracil plus leucovorin ($P < 0.001$). CONCLUSIONS: Oral capecitabine is an effective alternative to intravenous fluorouracil plus leucovorin in the adjuvant treatment of colon cancer. Copyright 2005 Massachusetts Medical Society.
Publication Type	Clinical Trial. Journal Article. Multicenter Study. Randomized Controlled Trial.

Complete Record

To view the entire record, including the abstract and subject headings, click on **Complete Record**

Complete Record

To view the entire record, including the abstract and subject headings, click on **Complete Record**

Unique Identifier	15987918
Record Owner	NLM
Authors	Twelves C , Wong A , Nowacki MP , Abt M , Burns H 3rd , Carrato A , Cassidy J , Cervantes A , Fagerberg J , Georgoulis V , Husseini F , Jodrell D , Koralowski P , Kroning H , Maroun J , Marschner N , McKendrick J , Pawlicki M , Rosso R , Schuller J , Seitz JE , Stabuc B , Tujakowski J , Van Hazel G , Zal J , Scheithauer W .
Authors Full Name	Twelves, Chris, Wong, Alfred, Nowacki, Marek P, Abt, Markus, Burns, Howard 3rd, Carrato, Alfredo, Cassidy, Jim, Cervantes, Andres, Fagerberg, J, Georgoulis, Vassilis, Husseini, Fares, Jodrell, Duncan, Koralowski, Piotr, Kroning, Hendrik, Maroun, Jean, Marschner, Norbert, McKendrick, Joseph, Pawlicki, Marek, Rosso, Riccardo, Schuller, Johannes, Seitz, Jean-Francois, Stabuc, Borut, Tujakowski, Jerzy, Van Hazel, Guy, Zaluski, Jerzy, Scheithauer, Werner.
Institution	University of Leeds and Bradford NHS Hospitals' Trust, Leeds, United Kingdom. c.twelves@bradford.ac.uk
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Source	New England Journal of Medicine. 352(26):2696-704, 2005 Jun 30.
Abbreviated Source	N Engl J Med. 352(26):2696-704, 2005 Jun 30.
Publishing Model	Print
NLM Journal Code	0255502
Journal Subset	AIM, IM
Country of Publication	United States
MeSH Subject Headings	Adult Aged Aged, 80 and over Antimetabolites, Antineoplastic / ae [Adverse Effects] *Antimetabolites, Antineoplastic / tu [Therapeutic Use] Chemotherapy, Adjuvant *Colonic Neoplasms / dt [Drug Therapy] Colonic Neoplasms / mo [Mortality] Colonic Neoplasms / su [Surgery] Deoxycytidine / ae [Adverse Effects] *Deoxycytidine / aa [Analoge & Derivatives] *Deoxycytidine / tu [Therapeutic Use] Disease-Free Survival Female Humans Male Middle Aged Multivariate Analysis Neoplasm Staging Research Support, Non-U.S. Gov't Survival Analysis
Abstract	BACKGROUND: Intravenous bolus fluorouracil plus leucovorin is the standard adjuvant treatment for colon cancer. The oral fluoropyrimidine capecitabine is an established alternative to bolus fluorouracil plus leucovorin as first-line treatment for metastatic colorectal cancer. We evaluated capecitabine in the adjuvant setting. METHODS: We randomly assigned a total of 1987 patients with resected stage III colon cancer to receive




Note that author names and subject headings are active links. Therefore, you can perform ADDITIONAL searches simply by clicking on any of the active links in the record.

Be careful with subject headings that are combined with subheadings. For example, the record above contains the subject heading ***acute-phase reaction / et [etiology]**. Note that each part is distinct; that is, the main subject heading, acute-phase reaction, has been separated by a space from the subheading, etiology.

If you click on ***acute-phase reaction**, the system will retrieve all references which contain this subject heading as the main focus, (note the * asterisk), regardless of the subheading.

If you click on the subheading **et [etiology]**, the system will search and retrieve all references with this specific main subject heading /subheading combination, that is, ***acute-phase reaction / et [etiology]**.


Any new searches you have conducted will appear as additional search sets when you click back to the  [Main Search Page](#) icon.





Once you have finalised your search results, you may print, email, or save either ALL the citations retrieved in your set, or you may scan the set and select or "mark" only certain records by clicking in the check box provided.

Once all the records have been marked or selected, scroll down the page to the **Citation Manager**.

Citation Manager

The **Citation Manager** allows you to **Display/Print**, **Email** or **Save** results.

Results Manager 

Results	Fields	Result Format	Actions
<input type="radio"/> Selected Results <input checked="" type="radio"/> All on this page <input type="radio"/> All in this set (1-254) and/or Range: <input type="text"/>	<input type="radio"/> Citation (Title,Author,Source) <input checked="" type="radio"/> Citation + Abstract <input type="radio"/> Citation + Abstract + Subject Headings <input type="radio"/> Complete Reference <input type="button" value="SELECT FIELDS"/>	<input checked="" type="radio"/> Ovid <input type="radio"/> BRS/Tagged <input type="radio"/> Reprint/Medlars <input type="radio"/> Brief (Titles) Display <input type="radio"/> Direct Export <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Include Search History	 DISPLAY  PRINT PREVIEW  EMAIL  SAVE
Sort Keys			
Primary:	<input type="text" value="-"/>	<input type="text" value="Ascending"/>	
Secondary:	<input type="text" value="-"/>	<input type="text" value="Ascending"/>	

Display/Print Results from the Citation Manager

1. From the **Citations** menu, select either **All in this set** or **Selected (all pages)** if you have scanned the retrieval and marked relevant records. Note the latter option is the system default.
2. From the **Fields** menu, select the amount of information you would like to print for each record. The system default **Citation + Abstract** will print the bibliographic information; that is, author, title, and source (journal name, year, volume, and pagination), together with the abstract. You may change this option by clicking on any of the other boxes provided, including the final box, **Select Fields** which will prompt you to select the specific fields you wish to print.
3. The **Citation Format** menu allows you to select the "style" in which your records will print. Do NOT change the system default, Ovid, if you are printing records.
4. Finally, from the **Action** menu, click on **Display**. Your citations will now be displayed in the format and style which you have selected. Use the PRINT icon at the top of the Browser screen to print the results

Email Results From the Citation Manager

1. Follow steps 1 and 2 of the "Display/Print Results" section above.
2. Follow step 3 above if you plan to email and then print your results. However, if you plan to export your references into a bibliographic software program such as Reference Manager, EndNote, or ProCite, remember to change the **Citation Format** to **Direct Export**. Also, if you are exporting records, do NOT check the **Include Search History** box.
3. From the **Action** menu, click on **Email**.

Enter complete email address of each desired recipient using the format: username@hostname.

To: john.doe@mail.mcgill.ca

Enter your email address.

From: Ovid_Online@ovid.com

Subject: Ovid Results

Annotations: Ovid Technologies, Inc. Email Service

 Search for: limit 2 to (("all aged (65 and over)" or "aged (80 and over)") and randomized controlled trial)
 Results: 1-5

Include Search History

SEND EMAIL >>

Hints:

- Enter the email address of the intended recipients in the **To:** box. Use their full email address, eg. *jdoe@stateu.edu*
- Separate multiple email addresses with commas. Do not use any spaces between the addresses.
- If you are sending these results to someone other than yourself, put your own address in the **From:** line. If you do not enter an address, the system will use a default address.
- Email addresses must be valid and complete. An incorrect address will cause the system to discard the results. You will not be notified if this occurs.

4. In the **Email Citations To:** box, enter your FULL email address. Multiple addresses are separated by commas.
5. In the **Subject:** window, type in the subject of the search. This is especially useful if you are emailing a series of search results to yourself.
6. Click on the **SEND EMAIL >>** icon at the top of the page.
7. You will receive confirmation that your results have been sent:

Your results were emailed to john.doe@mail.mcgill.ca. If no email is received, there may be a problem with email delivery.

Save or Download Results from the Citation Manager

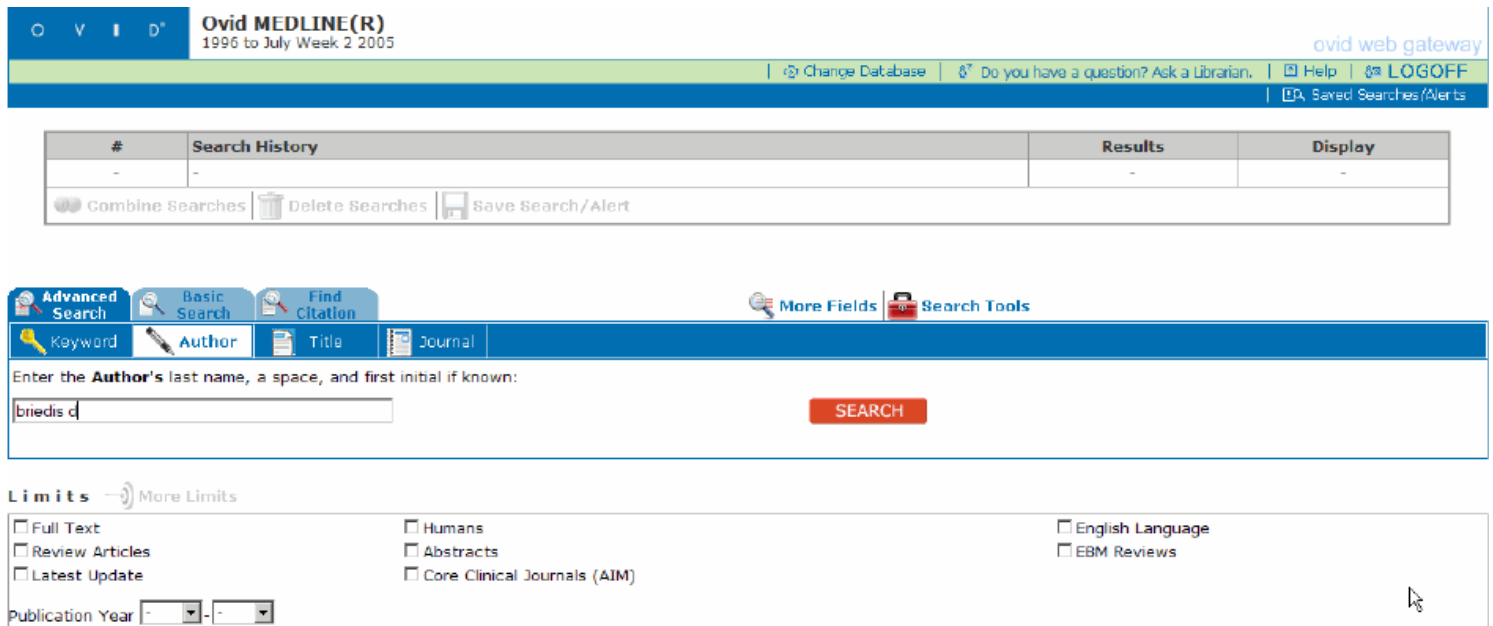
1. Follow steps 1 - 3 in the "Email Results" section above.
2. From the **Save Format** menu, select the text format depending on your computer. The default has been set for **Windows** based computers. Change the option if you are using a Macintosh or Unix based machine.
3. From the **Action** menu, click on **Save**.
4. Designate a path and filename as required by your computer. If you are using Windows, do NOT change the file extension *.txt* assigned by Ovid.

If you have completed your search, remember to **LOGOFF** Ovid .

Author Searching

To conduct a search by author, click on the  icon at the top of the **Main Search Page**.

A new "author" search window will appear. Type in the author surname followed by the first initial, if known.



The screenshot shows the Ovid MEDLINE(R) search interface. At the top, there is a navigation bar with "OVID" and "Ovid MEDLINE(R) 1996 to July Week 2 2005". On the right, there are links for "ovid web gateway", "Change Database", "Do you have a question? Ask a Librarian.", "Help", "LOGOFF", and "Saved Searches/Alerts". Below this is a table with columns for "#", "Search History", "Results", and "Display". The table is currently empty. Below the table are buttons for "Combine Searches", "Delete Searches", and "Save Search/Alert".

The main search area has tabs for "Advanced Search", "Basic Search", and "Find Citation". Under "Basic Search", there are sub-tabs for "Keyword", "Author", "Title", and "Journal". The "Author" tab is selected. The search prompt says "Enter the Author's last name, a space, and first initial if known:". The search input field contains "briedis d" and there is a red "SEARCH" button to the right.

Below the search area is the "Limits" section, which includes a "More Limits" link and several checkboxes: "Full Text", "Review Articles", "Latest Update", "Humans", "Abstracts", "Core Clinical Journals (AIM)", "English Language", and "EBM Reviews". There are also dropdown menus for "Publication Year".

Click on the  button.

The system will display a list of author entries.

- Since authors frequently use a middle initial, select as many of the author index entries provided as necessary.

Enter a new start term: ◀ A-Z BACK IN INDEX | FORWARD IN INDEX A-Z ▶

Choose from among the following index entries:

[PERFORM SEARCH >>](#)

	Term	Postings		Term	Postings
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	briedis d.au.	1	<input type="checkbox"/>	briegel a.au.	2
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	briedis dj.au.	4	<input type="checkbox"/>	briegel d.au.	1
<input type="checkbox"/>	briedis j.au.	2	<input type="checkbox"/>	briegel h.au.	9
<input type="checkbox"/>	briedis jh.au.	1	<input type="checkbox"/>	briegel j.au.	72
<input type="checkbox"/>	briedis v.au.	6	<input type="checkbox"/>	briegel jr.au.	7
<input type="checkbox"/>	brieditis i.au.	2	<input type="checkbox"/>	briegel k.au.	2
<input type="checkbox"/>	briedl jg.au.	1	<input type="checkbox"/>	briegel kj.au.	4

Ovid will return to the **Main Search Page** with the search results integrated into a single search statement.

#	Search History	Results	Display
1	(briedis d or briedis dj).au.	5	DISPLAY

Note the author search statement is enclosed in parenthesis and qualified **.au.** ; that is, by a period, the two-letter abbreviation **au**, followed by another period.

When conducting author searches, keep in mind the ever changing author index policy of the National Library of Medicine.

- from 1966 to 1983 - all authors listed on the title page of the article were indexed
- from 1984 to 1995 - only the first 10 authors on the title page of the article were indexed
- from 1996 to 1999 - only the first 25 authors on the title page of the article are indexed
- from 2000 forward - all authors listed on the title page of the article are indexed

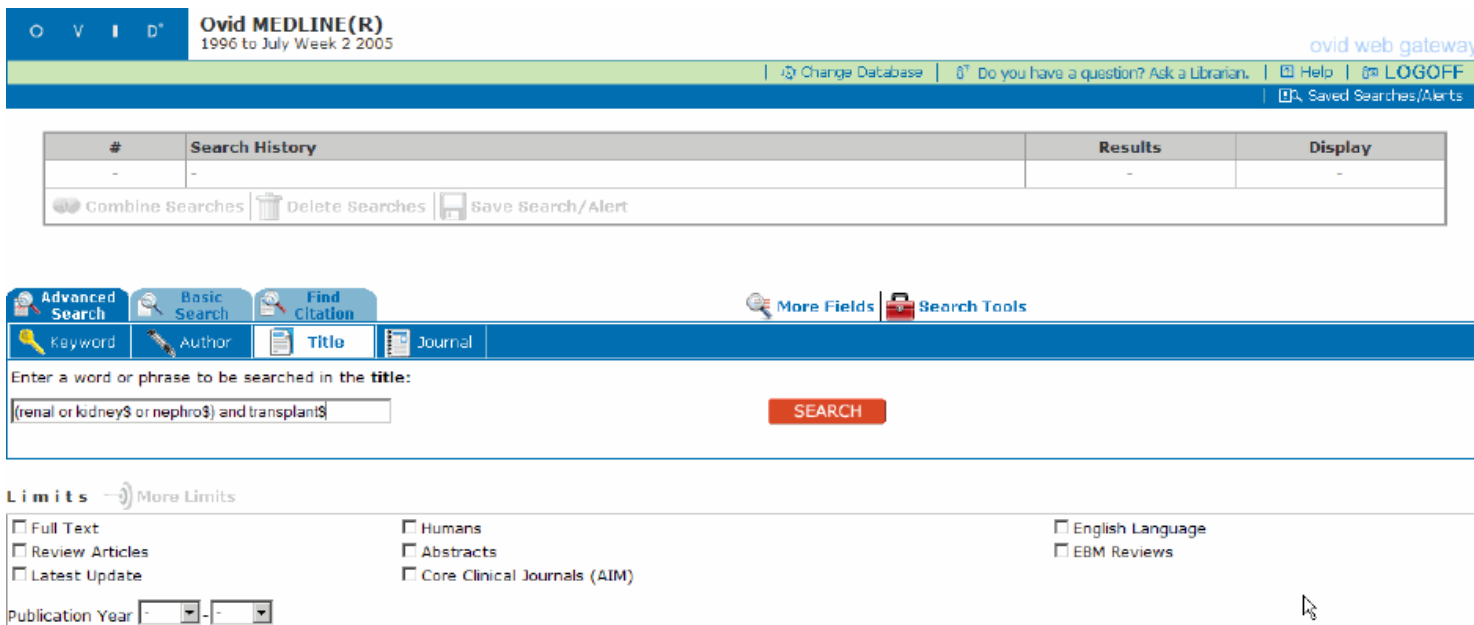
Title Searching

If you are unfamiliar with **MeSH**, you may begin your search by locating articles in which your topic is part of the title. Once you have located some references scan the records retrieved for appropriate MeSH terms. Title searching is also practical when you are attempting to verify incorrect or incomplete references.

To begin a title search click on the  icon at the top of the **Main Search Page**. In the new search window provided, type in your search terms.

- Since you are restricting your search to one field only, remember to use **truncation** and as many synonyms as possible.

To search the topic of renal transplantation in the title field:



The screenshot shows the Ovid MEDLINE(R) search interface. At the top, there is a navigation bar with the Ovid logo and the text "Ovid MEDLINE(R) 1996 to July Week 2 2005". On the right side of the navigation bar, there are links for "ovid web gateway", "Change Database", "Do you have a question? Ask a Librarian.", "Help", "LOGOFF", and "Saved Searches/Alerts". Below the navigation bar is a search history table with columns for "#", "Search History", "Results", and "Display". The table is currently empty. Below the search history table is a search bar with a "SEARCH" button. The search bar contains the text "(renal or kidney\$ or nephro\$) and transplant\$". Below the search bar is a "Limits" section with a "More Limits" link. The "Limits" section contains several checkboxes for filtering results: "Full Text", "Review Articles", "Latest Update", "Humans", "Abstracts", "Core Clinical Journals (AIM)", "English Language", and "EBM Reviews". There is also a "Publication Year" dropdown menu.

Note that the first part of the search statement is enclosed in parentheses.

#	Search History	Results	Display
1	((renal or kidney\$ or nephro\$) and transplant\$).m_titl.	11634	DISPLAY

[Combine Searches](#) |
 [Delete Searches](#) |
 [Save Search/Alert](#)

[Advanced Search](#) |
 [Basic Search](#) |
 [Find Citation](#) |
 [More Fields](#) |
 [Search Tools](#)

[Keyword](#) |
 [Author](#) |
 [Title](#) |
 [Journal](#)

Enter **Keyword** or phrase (use "\$" for truncation):

Map Term to Subject Heading

[SEARCH](#)

Limits [More Limits](#)

Full Text |
 Review Articles |
 Latest Update |
 Humans |
 Abstracts |
 Core Clinical Journals (AIM) |
 English Language |
 EBM Reviews

Publication Year: -

Results are returned and to remind you that only the title field was searched, the search statement is qualified by **m_titl.**

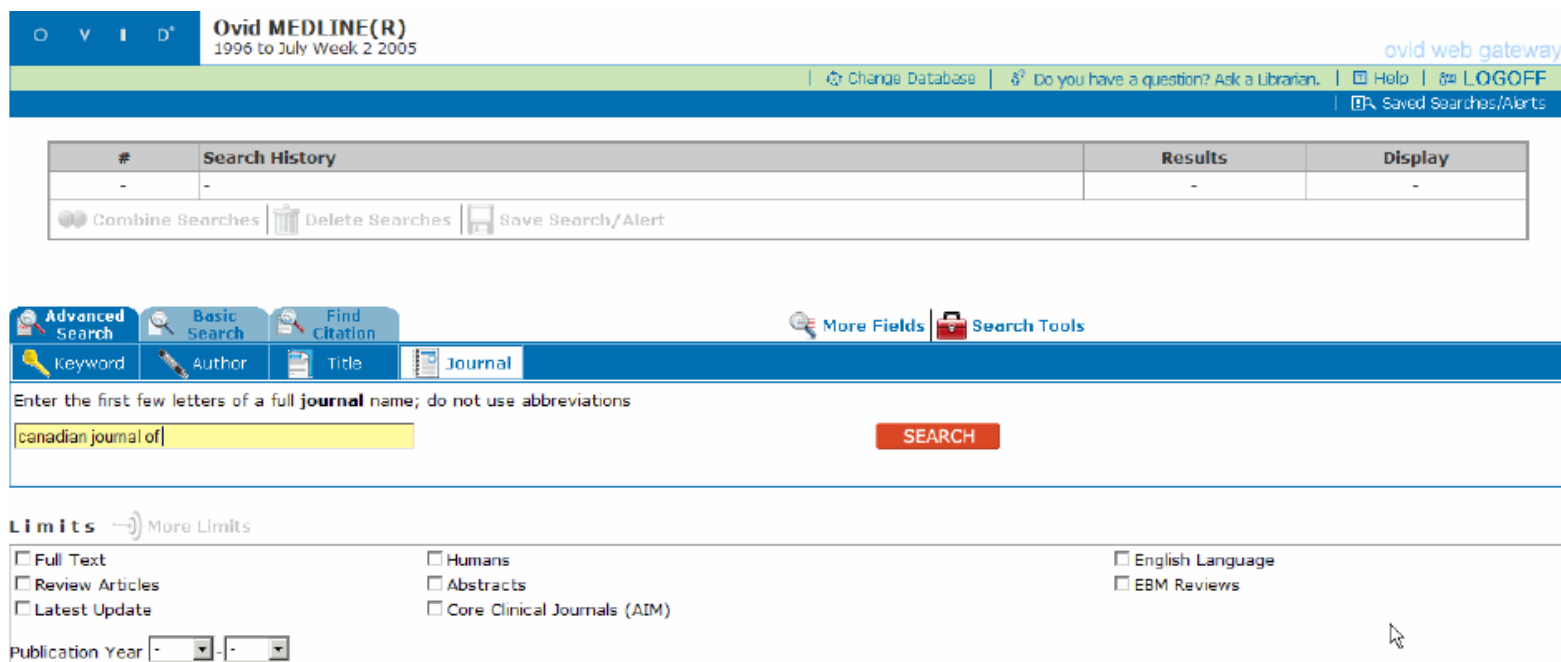
Scan the **Complete Record** of some of the references retrieved to identify appropriate MeSH subject headings that will allow you to search the topic of renal transplantation by subject.

Journal Searching

Journal title searches are useful in helping you to identify the journals indexed by the database, to verify incomplete or incorrect references, or to search for articles in a specific journal.

To begin a journal search, click on the  **Journal** icon.

In the search window provided type in the first few words of the FULL title of the journal. The example below can be used to identify all the journals in MEDLINE beginning with the words “Canadian journal of”.



The screenshot shows the Ovid MEDLINE(R) search interface. At the top, there is a navigation bar with the Ovid logo and the text "Ovid MEDLINE(R) 1996 to July Week 2 2005". On the right side of the navigation bar, there are links for "ovid web gateway", "Change Database", "Do you have a question? Ask a Librarian.", "Help", "LOGOFF", and "Saved Searches/Alerts". Below the navigation bar is a table with columns for "#", "Search History", "Results", and "Display". The table is currently empty. Below the table are buttons for "Combine Searches", "Delete Searches", and "Save Search/Alert". The main search area has tabs for "Advanced Search", "Basic Search", "Find Citation", "Keyword", "Author", "Title", and "Journal". The "Journal" tab is selected. Below the tabs, there is a search input field containing the text "canadian journal of" and a "SEARCH" button. Below the search input field, there is a "Limits" section with a "More Limits" link. The "Limits" section contains several checkboxes: "Full Text", "Review Articles", "Latest Update", "Humans", "Abstracts", "Core Clinical Journals (AIM)", "English Language", and "EBM Reviews". There is also a "Publication Year" field with two dropdown menus.

The system will display a list of journal title entries. Again, select as many of the journal entries as necessary.

Enter a new start term:

GO

[◀ A-Z BACK IN INDEX](#) | [FORWARD IN INDEX A-Z ▶](#)

Choose from among the following Index entries:

PERFORM SEARCH »

Term	Postings	Term	Postings
<input type="checkbox"/> canadian journal of anaesthesia.jn.	2564	<input type="checkbox"/> canadian journal of rural medicine.jn.	46
<input type="checkbox"/> canadian journal of applied physiology.jn.	386	<input type="checkbox"/> canadian journal of surgery.jn.	959
<input type="checkbox"/> canadian journal of behavioural science.jn.	1	<input type="checkbox"/> canadian journal of urban research.jn.	1
<input type="checkbox"/> canadian journal of botany revue canadienne de botanique.jn.	5	<input type="checkbox"/> canadian journal of urology.jn.	285
<input type="checkbox"/> canadian journal of cardiology.jn.	1580	<input type="checkbox"/> canadian journal of veterinary research.jn.	461
<input type="checkbox"/> canadian journal of cardiovascular nursing.jn.	100	<input type="checkbox"/> canadian journal of womens health care for physicians addressing womens health issues.jn.	1
<input type="checkbox"/> canadian journal of chemistry.jn.	1	<input type="checkbox"/> canadian journal on aging.jn.	15
<input type="checkbox"/> canadian journal of clinical pharmacology.jn.	142	<input type="checkbox"/> canadian medical association journal journal de l'association medicale canadienne.jn.	135
<input type="checkbox"/> canadian journal of community mental health.jn.	135	<input type="checkbox"/> canadian nurse.jn.	803
<input type="checkbox"/> canadian journal of comparative medicine.jn.	11	<input type="checkbox"/> canadian oncology nursing journal.jn.	211
<input type="checkbox"/> canadian journal of comparative medicine & veterinary science.jn.	6	<input type="checkbox"/> canadian operating room nursing journal.jn.	151
<input type="checkbox"/> canadian journal of dietetic practice & research.jn.	102	<input type="checkbox"/> canadian psychology.jn.	4
<input type="checkbox"/> canadian journal of economics.jn.	4	<input type="checkbox"/> canadian respiratory journal.jn.	421
<input type="checkbox"/> canadian journal of experimental psychology.jn.	214	<input type="checkbox"/> canadian review of sociology & anthropology.jn.	7

Use the **Back** or **Forward** buttons at the top and bottom of the screen to view all the index entries

Other Searchable Fields

Once you become familiar with the conventions of Ovid, you will be able to search different fields **directly** simply by typing in your term(s) followed by the desired field qualifiers.

For example: **kidney\$.ti.** will search for the term “kidney” or “kidneys” in the **title** field only.

To search multiple fields, separate each field by a comma.

For example: **tylenol.ti,ab.** will search for the term “tylenol” in the **title** and **abstract** fields only.

Complete List of Searchable Fields

Field	Definition	Example	Field	Definition	Example
.ab.	Abstract	foot.ab.	.ms.	Molecular Sequence	genbank-02117.ms.
.au.	Author	melzack r\$.au.	.no.	Grant Number	05526.no.
.cp.	Country of Publication	canada.cp.	.pb.	Publisher	elsevier.pb.
.em.	Entry Month	200108.em.	.pn.	Personal Name as Subject	osier w.pn.
.fs.	Floating Subheading	im.fs.	.pt.	Publication Type	review.pt.
.gs.	Gene Symbol	dna.gs.	.rn.	CAS Registry Number	64-17-5.rn.
.gw.	Gene Symbol Word	nuc.gw.	.sb.	Journal Subset	d.sb. (d=dental)
.hw.	Subject Heading Word	robotics.hw.	.rw.	Registry Word	alcohol.rw.
.ip.	Issue/Part	3.ip.	.sh.	Subject Heading	neoplasms.sh.
.in.	Institution	mcgill.in.	.ti.	Title	herpes.ti.
.is.	ISSN	0317-0926.is.	.tw.	Textword (ti,ab,)	heart attack.tw.
.jn.	Journal Name	lancet.jn.	.ui.	Unique Identifier	21255568.ui.
.jw.	Journal Word	cancer.jw.	.vo.	Volume	14.vo.
.lg.	Language	fre.lg.	.yr.	Year	2001.yr.

Ovid Main Search Page Icons



Click on this icon to search for articles by a specific author. Enter the author's last name followed by first initial, if known. Select as many of the author index entries provided as necessary. Note: many authors often use a middle initial.



Click on this icon to search for a word or phrase in the title field only. Remember to use synonyms and truncation.



Click on this icon to search for articles in a specific journal. Type in the full name of the journal.



Click on this icon to search for a word or phrase contained in one or more specified fields. Type in a word or phrase and then select the specific field(s) to search from the list provided.



Click on this icon to access *database specific* indexing tools such as Tree, Thesaurus, Permuted Index, and so on. A tree is organized hierarchically and provides an effective way to browse "*broader*" and "*narrower*" terms in order to find appropriate concept(s) to search. A thesaurus is an alphabetical compilation of subjects or concepts. A Permuted Index provides a way to view all multi-worded index phrases that have a particular word in them.



Click on this icon to combine the results of two or more existing search statements using the Boolean operators "AND" or "OR"



Click on this icon to restrict the results of a search to a specific limit(s) such as language(s) and publication type(s). Select a search statement to limit and then apply one or more specific limits from the lists provided. Frequently used limits are also provided on the Main Search Page and can be directly applied to the last search statement.



Click on this icon to change the mode of searching from "advanced" to "basic". BASIC MODE IS NOT RECOMMENDED.



Click on this icon to change the database. Select a new database or database segment from the "Choose a database" listing. You will have the option to rerun your strategy in the new database. Do NOT rerun your search, unless you are searching another segment of the SAME database, or know that the new database uses the same thesaurus (indexing terms) as the one you have completed searching. Subject headings may vary from one database to another.



Click on this icon to logoff (exit) the system. Please logoff the system when you are finished. The system will automatically log off after 15 minutes of no activity.



Click on this icon to access Ovid's Online Help Manual.



Click on this icon to send your input and/or selections to the system for processing.



Click on this icon to go to the next step in the search process.



Click on this icon to re-execute a previously saved search strategy.



Click on this icon to save the search strategy so that you can reuse it at a later time. Fill in the form to save your strategy.



Click on this icon to delete some or all of the search statements on the Main Search Page.

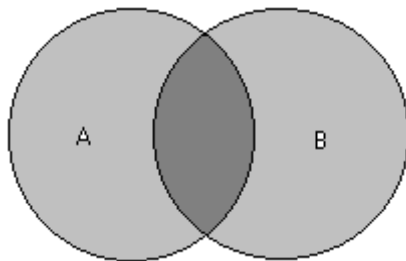


Click on this icon to expand the Main Search Page to list all the search statements in your search strategy. Ovid defaults to listing the last 4 search sets.

Boolean Logic

Developed by George Boole, an English mathematician, Boolean logic uses the logical operators - OR, AND, NOT - to create relationships between concepts or subject headings. With the advent of the Web, understanding and applying Boolean logic correctly has become fundamental to all online searching.

Use Boolean logic to develop search strategies or combine search statements.



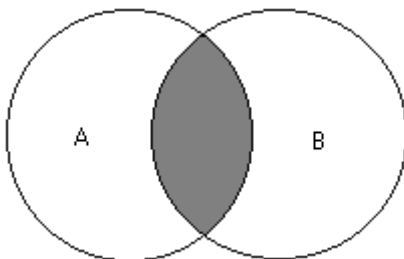
OR

This example requires that a record contain any one of the terms being searched. The OR operator is used to broaden a search or increase results. Items in either circle A or circle B will be retrieved.

Example:

1. diet OR nutrition
2. diet OR nutrition OR food

The second example will yield **more** references than the first



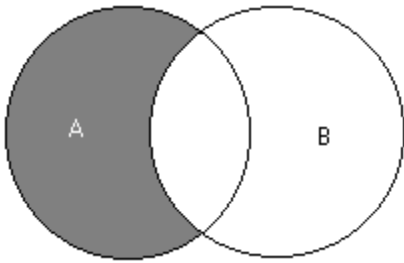
AND

This example requires that BOTH terms be found in the SAME record. The AND operator is used to narrow a search or decrease results. Only items in the intersection of circle A and B will be retrieved

Example:

1. pregnancy AND smoking
2. pregnancy AND smoking AND adolescence

The second example will yield fewer references than the first



NOT

This example requires that a term or terms be excluded from a set. The NOT operator is used to narrow or decrease results. Only items in the partial circle A will be retrieved

Example:

pregnancy NOT smoking

The NOT operator is the least used operator, since it may exclude potentially valuable references. Use with extreme caution.

Applying Boolean Logic

Topic A: What are the adverse effects of cyclosporins on the kidneys

Define the topic by identifying the individual, specific concepts

- adverse effects
- cyclosporins
- kidneys

Formulate the search strategy by applying Boolean logic.

- adverse effects
- cyclosporins
- kidneys
- 1 AND 2 AND 3

Topic B: Does having a pet, such as a cat, dog, or other type of animal, benefit the elderly?

Define your topic by identifying the individual, specific concepts

- pet
- benefit
- elderly

Formulate the search strategy by applying Boolean logic.

- pet OR pets OR dog OR dogs OR cat OR cats OR animal OR animals
- benefit OR beneficial OR therapy OR therapeutic
- elderly OR aged
- 1 AND 2 AND 3

Advanced Boolean Logic

Warning! Consult the section below only if you have a basic understanding of Boolean logic and can easily, and correctly, compose simple Boolean statements

What happens when more than one Boolean operator appears in a single search statement? Examine the following search statement that represents the concept of "pet therapy"

dog OR cat OR pet AND therapy

Surprisingly, this statement will yield many thousands of articles, few of which will have anything to do with pet therapy! What is wrong? The answer lies in how computer systems process Boolean logic.

Computers have been configured to process Boolean operators in the following manner:

1. examine the search statement from left to right for the Boolean operator NOT. If one is present, exclude the search term to the right of the operator from the term to the left of the operator.
The example above does not contain the NOT operator, therefore the computer will
2. examine the search statement from left to right for the Boolean operator AND. If one is present, it will combine the search term to the left AND to the right of the operator.
In the example above, the system will combine the terms pet AND therapy. The computer will then
3. examine the search statement from left to right for the Boolean operator OR. If one is present, it will retrieve ALL articles with either term to the left OR the right of the operator, then ADD these references to any previous results.
In the example above, the system will retrieve ALL articles discussing dogs OR cats, then ADD these references to the combined results of pet AND therapy, thereby yielding the very large, irrelevant retrieval.

Parenthetical or Nested Logic

To solve the problem of multiple operators in one search statement, parenthetical or nested logic was developed. This logic uses parentheses () strategically placed around similar (usually synonymous) search terms.

Most important, parenthetical logic takes precedence over Boolean logic. Therefore, in the example above, an opening parentheses in front of the term "dog" and closing parentheses after the term "pet" solves the problem.

(dog OR cat OR pet) AND therapy

Now, all the terms and Boolean operators within the parentheses will be processed first, and then combined with the term "therapy".

A search statement may have more than one set of parentheses usually placed around synonyms or subject related terms. For example

(dog OR cat OR pet) AND (therapy OR treatment)

In parenthetical or nested logic there always should be an equal number of "opening" and "closing" parentheses.

What are Medical Subject Headings (MeSH)?

Since the late 1800s, the U.S. National Library of Medicine (NLM) has used its own list of terms for medicine. This vocabulary is used by the NLM to catalogue books, other library materials, and to index articles for inclusion in health related databases including MEDLINE. This preferred list of terms is known as Medical Subject Headings®, or MeSH®.

MeSH is an international standard used by numerous health organizations and medical libraries, including the McGill Health Sciences Library, to organize materials and index information. This dynamic thesaurus of some 19,000 main subject headings is continually updated by subject specialists in various areas. Each year hundreds of new concepts are added and modifications are made to the MeSH vocabulary.

MeSH as Controlled Vocabulary

MeSH vocabulary is utilised to retrieve information about a medical topic. For example, in MEDLINE, MeSH terms are used to conduct specific subject searches.

MeSH terminology provides a "**controlled**" or consistent way of retrieving information that may use different terminology for the same concept. Compare the following titles of articles:

- **Childhood victimization** and the development of personality disorders
- **Childhood maltreatment** increases risk for personality disorders during early adulthood
- The medical evaluation of the sexually **abused child**: lessons from a decade of research
- Estimation of stress in **child neglect** from thymic involution.

Each of the authors above is writing about the same topic, child abuse, yet each employs different terminology such as "childhood victimization"; "childhood maltreatment", "abused child", and "child neglect". Without applying MeSH to conduct a specific subject search, a thorough search of the topic would be an onerous task. To assure the retrieval of the most relevant literature on the topic would require the user to find as many of these synonyms, variations ("child abuse" vs "abused child"), and spellings as possible.

By using MeSH, synonymous terms are brought together often under a **single heading**. Using the single MeSH term child abuse allows the user to retrieve, quickly and effectively, a vast amount of literature on this topic regardless of the author's choice of wording.

Familiarity with MeSH, as well as other preferred vocabularies, will ensure rapid, more effective, and comprehensive searches.

MeSH Tree Structures

In addition to its alphabetical listing, MeSH terminology is organized hierarchically. This hierarchical listing is referred to as **tree structures**. The tree structures provide an effective way to browse broad and narrow MeSH terms in order to find appropriate concepts to search.

The tree structures consist of 15 broad subject categories which are further subdivided into more specific sub-categories. When searching MeSH, the term being searched will be displayed within a hierarchy of broader (more general) headings above it, and narrower (more specific) headings below it. The user may select to search the most appropriate MeSH heading for the topic.

It is important to remember that articles are indexed with the *most specific heading(s)* available. For example, an article about cystic fibrosis will be indexed under the subject heading **Cystic Fibrosis** and NOT under the broader heading **Pancreatic Diseases**.

Examine closely the following examples.

Example 1: Tree structure of DIGESTIVE SYSTEM DISEASES

Note the relationships between MeSH terms. **Diseases** is the broadest term followed by the more specific term **Digestive System Diseases**. This term, **Digestive System Diseases**, is further subdivided into **Abdominal Pain**, **Biliary Tract Diseases**, **Digestive System Abnormalities**, and so on, which are narrow, more specific types of digestive system diseases.

- Diseases
 - Digestive System Diseases
 - Abdominal Pain
 - Biliary Tract Diseases
 - Digestive System Abnormalities
 - Digestive System Fistula
 - Digestive System Neoplasms
 - Esophageal Diseases
 - Gastrointestinal Diseases
 - Liver Diseases
 - Pancreatic Diseases
 - Peritoneal Diseases

Example 2: Tree structure of PANCREATIC DISEASES

Note that the MeSH "tree" for **Pancreatic Diseases** contains specific types of pancreatic diseases such as **Cystic Fibrosis**, **Pancreatic Cysts**, **Pancreatic Fistula**, and so on.

- Diseases
 - Digestive System Diseases
 - Pancreatic Diseases
 - Cystic Fibrosis
 - Pancreatic Cyst
 - Pancreatic Fistula
 - Pancreatic Insufficiency
 - Pancreatic Neoplasms
 - Pancreatitis

The user can select to search at any level, and include as many, or as few, of the subject headings as appropriate to answer the question or search the topic.

MeSH Subheadings

In addition to the over 19,000 main subjects headings, MeSH provides 82 *secondary headings* commonly referred to as "**subheadings**", or "MeSH qualifiers" (s). Subheadings are used to better define a topic, narrow retrieval, or express a certain aspect of a main MeSH heading.

For example, a user interested in locating information on the "diagnosis of cystic fibrosis" should NOT have to scan the entire list of references on "cystic fibrosis" to locate the few articles that discuss "diagnosis". By qualifying the main subject heading "cystic fibrosis" with the subheading "diagnosis", the user can retrieve articles which pertain to this single aspect of the disease.

To search a subheading you must use its two letter abbreviation. A MeSH main heading may be qualified with either a single or multiple subheadings.

Examples of main headings with subheading combinations are as follows:

- cystic fibrosis/di - (cystic fibrosis/diagnosis)
- blood cells/im - (blood cells/immunology)
- ibuprofen/ae,po,to - (ibuprofen/adverse effects or poisoning or toxicity)

Example 3: Subheadings Applicable to **Cystic Fibrosis**

Blood	Metabolism
Chemically Induced	Microbiology
Classification	Mortality
Complications	Nursing
Diet Therapy	Pathology
Diagnosis	Prevention & Control
Drug Therapy	Physiopathology
Economics	Psychology
Ethnology	Radiography
Embryology	Rehabilitation
Enzymology	Radionuclide Imaging
Epidemiology	Surgery
Etiology	Therapy
Genetics	Urine
History	Ultrasonography
Immunology	Virology

Complete List of **MeSH Subheadings** with Two Letter Qualifiers Required for Searching

Abnormalities (AB)	Legislation & Jurisprudence (LJ)
Administration & Dosage (AD)	Manpower (MA)
Adverse Effects (AE)	Metabolism (ME)
Agonists	Methods (MT)
(AG) Analogs & Derivatives (AA)	Microbiology (MI)
Analysis (AN)	Mortality (MO)
Anatomy & Histology (AH)	Nursing (NU)
Antagonists & Inhibitors (AI)	Organization & Administration (OG)
Biosynthesis (BI)	Parasitology (PS)
Blood (BL)	Pathogenicity PY)
Blood Supply (BS)	Pathology (PA)
Cerebrospinal Fluid (CF)	Pharmacokinetics (PK)
Chemical Synthesis (CS)	Pharmacology (PD)
Chemically Induced (CI)	Physiology (PH)
Chemistry (CH)	Physiopathology (PP)
Classification (CL)	Poisoning (PO)

Complications (CO)	Prevention & Control (PC)
Congenital (CN)	Psychology (PX)
Contraindications (CT)	Radiation Effects (RE)
Cytology (CY)	Radiography (RA)
Deficiency (DF)	Radionuclide Imaging (RI)
Diagnosis (DI)	Radiotherapy (RT)
Diagnostic Use (DU)	Rehabilitation (RH)
Diet Therapy (DH)	Secondary (SC)
Drug Effects (DE)	Secretion (SE)
Drug Therapy (DT)	Standards (ST)
Economics (EC)	Statistics & Numerical Data (SN)
Education (ED)	Supply & Distribution (SD)
Embryology (EM)	Surgery (SU)
Enzymology (EN)	Therapeutic Use (TU)
Epidemiology (EP)	Therapy (TH)
Ethnology (EH)	Toxicity (TO)
Etiology (ET)	Transmission (TM)
Genetics (GE)	Transplantation (TR)
Growth & Development (GD)	Trends (TD)
History (HI)	Ultrasonography (US)
Immunology (IM)	Ultrastructure (UL)
Injuries (IN)	Urine (UR)
Innervation (IR)	Utilization (UT)
Instrumentation (IS)	Veterinary (VE)
Isolation & Purification (IP)	Virology (VI)

Problems Encountered Using MeSH

Unfortunately, MeSH can be a difficult tool to use and initially users may have problems in locating appropriate subject headings. MeSH requires a certain amount of knowledge before it can be used productively. Some MeSH peculiarities include:

- MeSH prefers clinical terms such as neoplasms as opposed to more common terms such as " cancer" or " tumors". However, MeSH will often provide what is known as "cross-referencing" from the common or invalid term to the preferred term. For example, "**cancer see neoplasms** "
- MeSH vocabulary is derived from a variety of languages. This would not be a problem except for the fact that the same word may be derived from Latin, Greek or English. Therefore, when searching for MeSH headings under kidney consider also terms under renal or nephro..
- MeSH permits *term inversion*. In an attempt to list headings in the same alphabetical sequence, some compound terms are **NOT** listed in natural word order, but in inverted order. For example, the term juvenile rheumatoid arthritis becomes arthritis, juvenile, rheumatoid in order to keep all arthritis subject headings in the same alphabetical sequence
- MeSH distinguishes body systems and organs, such as the kidney, from their diseases, kidney diseases. Similarly, bacteria and viruses, such as HIV, are distinguished from the infections they cause, HIV infections
- Some main headings are also listed as subheadings; for example, pathology, psychology, transplantation, and so on. To distinguish between the two, the subheading is always indicated in lower case and begins with a slash. For example:
 - **/pathology**
 - **/transplantation**

Keyword Searching

In almost all databases, including MEDLINE, a topic can be searched in one of two ways:

1. by using the thesaurus, often referred to as the "controlled vocabulary", of the database. This method of searching is known as "subject searching". Subject searching generally yields more precise and relevant results, consequently you should always attempt to conduct a search by subject. Many databases on the McGill Libraries' Ovid system use a controlled vocabulary to index articles and to assist users in their search for appropriate terminology. In MEDLINE, the controlled vocabulary is known as MeSH.
2. searching the non-subject fields such as title and abstract. This method of searching is known as "keyword" or "textword" searching. Keyword searching, while more comprehensive, generally tends to be less accurate, and yields more irrelevant results than a subject search since words or phrases may have more than one meaning. For example, conducting a keyword search for the topic "**new treatment modalities in AIDS**" will yield many references that discuss "AIDS in New York" or "AIDS in New Delhi".

Seriously consider "keyword searching"

- **To search for the proverbial "needle in the haystack" or to search topics that do not have subject heading equivalents.** Examples include:
 - relatively new concepts, such as "Internet addiction"
 - buzzwords, such as "drug holidays" or "sick building syndrome"
 - rare medical terms or conditions such as "Adams-Oliver syndrome"
- **When the available subject heading in the thesaurus is not specific enough.** For example, to search the topic of "**spontaneous hypertension**":
 1. search the MeSH term "hypertension"
 2. search as a keyword the term "spontaneous"
 3. combine the 2 results
- **To search for a valid subject heading.** For example, in MEDLINE searching "Gilles de la Tourette's disease" will "map" or direct you to the preferred MeSH term [Tourette Syndrome](#).
- **To verify references for bibliographies.** For example, search the title, author, and/or journal name fields to verify incomplete or incorrect references.

Since authors rarely use the identical terminology, when conducting a keyword search always remember to consider synonyms or related terms, variant spellings (American vs. British), and word endings (singular and plural forms of a word).

Truncation - \$

Truncation is an integral part of keyword searching as it allows the user to incorporate variant word endings into a search strategy. Truncation is used to search a word stem and retrieve all variations of the stem. Examine the following terms:

TISSUE	CELL	IMMUNOLOGY
TISSUES	CELLS	IMMUNOLOGIC
	CELLULAR	IMMUNOLOGICAL
		IMMUNOLOGIST
		IMMUNOLOGISTS

Each of the terms above has a common root that can be searched by using the root and truncation symbol to retrieve all variant endings. The \$ (dollar sign) is the truncation symbol in the Ovid system. Searching

TISSUE\$
CELL\$
IMMUNOLOG\$

will retrieve all of the terms listed above as well as any other term beginning with one of the roots.

Be careful with short roots that are 2 or 3 letters. These roots may cause problems in your search as they may generate many terms which you do not want, and therefore retrieve irrelevant results.

For example, if you are looking for information on cats and truncate as follows, CAT\$, in addition to the feline literature, you will retrieve:

CAT
CATS
CATALOGS
CATARACT
CATHODE
CATHOLICISM
CATIONS
CATTLE

In other words, a CATastrophe! For short roots, it may be safer to search the singular and plural forms of the word, rather than use truncation.