

MeSH Database

Articles are indexed using a powerful vocabulary, called Medical Subject Headings (MeSH). The MeSH Database provides the option of identifying appropriate MeSH terms for searches.

Click on **MeSH** under Advanced Search Queries or **MeSH Database** on the PubMed homepage to search for a particular term or concept. After finding a term, click on the link to view and select subheadings and to refine aspects of the MeSH term. Check the terms desired, then click on the **Send To** Search Box feature. When finished adding terms, click **Search PubMed** to run the search.

Clinical Queries

PubMed's **Clinical Queries** section, accessed from the homepage or under Advanced Search, makes it easier to find articles that report applied clinical research. Select one of the three options.

To search by clinical study category, type search terms in the box provided. Then select one of the filter categories: etiology, diagnosis, therapy, prognosis, or clinical prediction guides and then either "narrow, specific search" or "broad, sensitive search".

Search by Clinical Study Category [↑ Top](#)

This search finds citations that correspond to a specific clinical study category. The search may be either broad and sensitive or narrow and specific. The search filters are based on the work of [Haynes RB et al.](#) See the [filter table](#) for details.

search

Category	Scope
<input type="radio"/> etiology	<input checked="" type="radio"/> narrow, specific search
<input type="radio"/> diagnosis	<input type="radio"/> broad, sensitive search
<input checked="" type="radio"/> therapy	
<input type="radio"/> prognosis	
<input type="radio"/> clinical prediction guides	

Select **Find Systematic Reviews** to locate systematic reviews, meta-analyses, reviews of clinical trials, evidence-based medicine, consensus development conferences, and guidelines.

Select **Medical Genetics Searches** to find citations related to various topics in medical genetics. Choose one or more of the filter categories provided.

Printing, E-mailing, Downloading Results

After selecting your citations (e.g. on the Clipboard) print directly from the browser or select a text setting from **Display Settings** before printing. Alternatively, select either File or E-mail from the **Send To** menu. **File** offers format and sort options before saving the downloadable file. **E-mail** asks for a selection of options and an email address.

When downloading citations for citation management software, use the MEDLINE Display format.

My NCBI

PubMed's **My NCBI** feature stores both citations and search strategies and provides automatic e-mail updates of stored searches. Register for My NCBI by creating a User Name and Password. Click **Manage Filters** to select or create up to five search filters.

Accessing Full-Text

Many PubMed citations have links to the full-text of articles through PubMed Central (a free digital archive of life sciences journal literature), through your library's electronic and print holdings, or through the publisher (the latter may require a subscription or may make an article available by pay-per-view). **Loansome Doc** allows registered users to order copies of articles from a medical library. Check with your library for details about your full text links or call your Regional Medical Library at **800-338-7657**.

*Developed and updated by NN/LM staff. Funded by NLM under contract No. N01-LM-6-3503 with UIC. This brochure may be freely reproduced. It is on the internet at: <http://nmlm.gov/training/resources/pmtri.pdf>
Revised: October 2009*



PubMed BASICS

PubMed® is the U.S. National Library of Medicine's premiere search system for health information. It is available *free* on the Internet at <http://pubmed.gov>.

PubMed Content

- MEDLINE®: NLM's database of millions of references to articles published in biomedical and related journals which have been fully indexed
- In-process citations that have not yet been analyzed and indexed for MEDLINE
- Publisher supplied citations that may not receive full indexing for MEDLINE because they are not biomedical in nature

PubMed Features

- Sophisticated search capabilities, including spell checker, advanced search, and special tools for searching clinical topics
- Assistance in finding search terms using the MeSH (Medical Subject Heading Database), a guide to MEDLINE's controlled vocabulary
- Ability to store citations and automatically receive email updates for saved searches using PubMed's My NCBI
- Links to full-text articles, to information about library holdings, and to other NLM databases
- Links to other NLM search systems, such as ClinicalTrials.gov®, MedlinePlus®, NIH Clinical Alerts and Advisories, and PubMed Central

Assistance and Training

Click on **Help** above the search box or on **PubMed Tutorials** under More Resources on the homepage.

The National Network of Libraries of Medicine® (NN/LM), an outreach program of NLM™, provides assistance and training nationwide. To find a local library, please call 800-338-7657 or go to <http://nmlm.gov/members>

NCBI Resources How To My NCBI | Sign In

PubMed.gov U.S. National Library of Medicine National Institutes of Health

Search: PubMed RSS Save search Advanced search Help

Search Clear

Display Settings: Summary, 20 per page, Sorted by Title Send to:

PubMed Searching

To Search PubMed, type a word or phrase into the query box, including subject, author and/or journal. Then click on the Go button or press the Enter key. Combine search terms with connector words: “AND”, “OR” or “NOT” using upper case letters.

PubMed offers alternative searching options including the auto suggest drop down menu when entering words and an **Also Try** box available after a search.

PubMed Advanced Search


The Advanced Search link provides options to refine and focus a search.

Details located above the search box, provides information on how PubMed ran a search. PubMed looks first for the search words as MeSH terms, then journal titles, then authors and also searches “All Fields” for the words. **Details** shows how PubMed maps terms to MeSH headings. Changes to the search may be made in the box provided.

PubMed Search History keeps track of search statements and numbers them as links. Clicking on the numbered link provides a menu allowing search statements to be combined into a new search with the AND, OR or NOT connectors, or to be run, deleted, examined in Details, or saved in My NCBI.

Search by Author, Journal, Publication Date, and more Use this search feature to identify an article from a citation. Click any **Search** button after making selections to run the search.

Limit by Topics, Languages, and Journal Groups

Limit the search by selecting checkboxes for Types of Article, Languages, Subsets such as journal groups or topics, Ages, Humans or Animals, Gender. Restrict a search to items with abstracts or links to full text, and make multiple choices within a category. Click any **Search** button after making selections to run the search. The icon  **Limits Activated:** in the right hand column identifies the limits checked. Limits remain in effect until removed.

Index of Fields and Field Values

feature allows viewing and selecting of searchable fields and subject terms. Use the drop-down menu, search box and **Index** button to construct and combine search statements using the AND, OR, or NOT terms. Consult **Help** for more information.

More Resources provides additional searching quick links to: PubMed **Clinical Queries** searches, **Topic-Specific Queries** with links to additional pre-constructed search queries and interfaces, to the **MeSH** and **Journals** databases, and to the **Single Citation Matcher**.

Clipboard:

This feature allows collecting of selected citations from one or more searches for saving, printing, e-mailing, ordering, or storing in My NCBI Collections. The link is visible only when items are stored on the Clipboard. Click the check box beside citations to select them. Then go to the **Send To** pull-down menu and select Clipboard. To see the selected citations, click on the **Clipboard** link in the right hand column.

PubMed Search Results

After clicking on the **Go** button, PubMed displays a list of results in Summary format. To retrieve more information about the search results, use the **Display Settings** menu next to view to the **Abstract** or **MEDLINE** formats.

Display Settings: Summary, Sorted by Recently Added

Send to:

Results: 5

- [Loss of metal ions, disulfide reduction and mutations related to familial ALS promote formation of amyloid-like aggregates from superoxide dismutase.](#)
- Oztug Durer ZA, Cohlberg JA, Dinh P, Padua S, Ehrenclou K, Downes S, Tan JK, Nakano Y, Bowman CJ, Hoskins JL, Kwon C, Mason AZ, Rodriguez JA, Doucette PA, Shaw BF, Selverstone Valentine J. PLoS One. 2009;4(3):e5004. Epub 2009 Mar 27. PMID: 19325915 [PubMed - indexed for MEDLINE] [Related articles](#) [Free article](#)

Related Articles

A helpful PubMed feature is the ability to find citations that are similar to those of interest. To retrieve Related Articles, click on the **Related Articles** link under the PMID of each citation in Summary format or select citations from the boxed list in the Abstract format.

Sensors

PubMed examines search terms for certain elements and provides a shaded area above the search results with links to one or more citations or databases.

- **Citation Sensor:** matches search terms with citation elements (e.g. blood choi 2009)
- **Gene Sensor:** checks for the symbol of a gene found in the Entrez Gene database (e.g. CFTR)
- **Sequence Sensor:** detects accession numbers of nucleotides or proteins (e.g. X62176)
- **Structure Sensor:** detects items (proteins, etc.) in the Structure database (e.g. 1R10)