

Advanced PubMed@UCSF

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- How to approach a literature search
- Understand the Evidence Pyramid
- Find MeSH terms and use them to create more complex searches
- Use MyNCBI features
- Search using the Clinical Queries feature
- Extra Tips

How to Approach a Literature Search

a) Think of how you can break your research question into multiple concepts

Ex: How successful are beta-blockers in treat ingwomen with heart disease?

- b) Connect concepts with the appropriate Boolean operator (AND, OR, NOT – these must be capitalized)
- **AND** – connects different concepts
 - **OR** – connects synonyms/similar concepts
 - **NOT** – excludes a concept

c) Run a quick preliminary search

Ex: "heart disease"[ti] AND beta-blockers[ab]



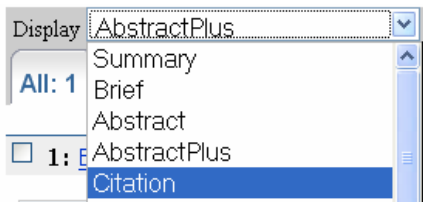
SEARCH TIPS: * Use the **[ti]** or **[ab]** tag to find a specific word or phrase in the title or abstract
* Put "quotation marks" around a phrase to find that exact phrase

Understand the Evidence Pyramid

- a) Using the **Limits** tab can help you refine your search results
- b) Limiting by the **Type of Article** helps to find evidence-based medical literature
- c) Especially helpful are RCT, systematic reviews, meta-analyses

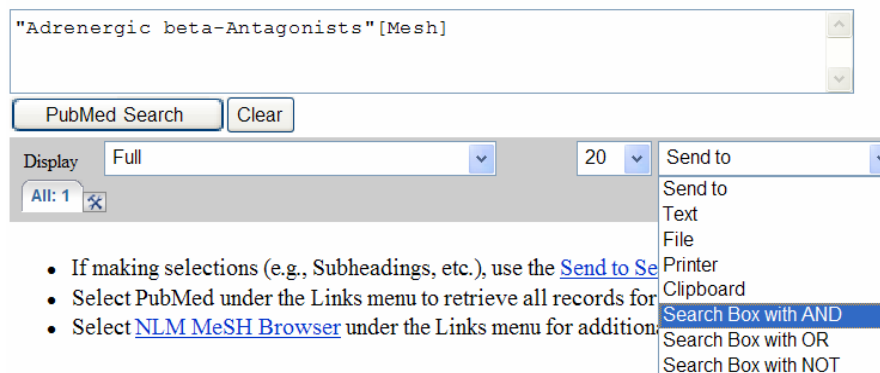


Find MeSH Terms and Use Them to Create More Complex Searches



- MeSH (medical subject heading) terms are assigned to every article in PubMed to help classify the topics of a paper
- Select the **Display Citation** option to view an abstract to see the MeSH terms assigned to that article

- Not down MeSH terms that you find helpful as you peruse several articles of interest
- You can use these terms later to build a more complex search
- You can also use the **MeSH Database** to find terms and build searches



- If making selections (e.g., Subheadings, etc.), use the [Send to Search Box with AND](#)
- Select PubMed under the Links menu to retrieve all records for this term
- Select [NLM MeSH Browser](#) under the Links menu for additional information

- Use the [MeSH Database](#) link in the left menu bar of PubMed
- Enter a topic > Select the MeSH term
- Use [Send to Search Box with AND](#) to create a search box for this term
- You can search for another MeSH term, select it, and then also send it to the search box
- Select [PubMed Search](#) button when you are ready to run your search



SEARCH TIP: You can select **subheadings** of a MeSH term in the MeSH Database to help you search only particular aspects of a term.

Adrenergic beta-Antagonists

[Links](#)

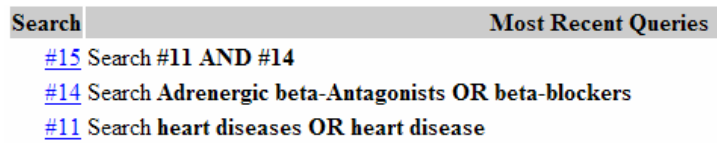
Drugs that bind to but do not activate beta-adrenergic receptors thereby blocking the actions of beta-adrenergic agonists. Adrenergic beta-antagonists are used for treatment of hypertension, cardiac arrhythmias, angina pectoris, glaucoma, migraine headaches, and anxiety.

Year introduced: 1995; was ADRENERGIC BETA RECEPTOR BLOCKADERS 1969-1994 (Prov 1969-1972)

Subheadings: This list includes those paired at least once with this heading in MEDLINE and may not reflect current rules for allowable combinations.

administration and dosage adverse effects analysis antagonists and inhibitors blood cerebrospinal fluid chemical synthesis chemistry classification contraindications diagnostic use economics history immunology isolation and

- d) Use the **History tab** to combine your search concepts
- 1) Create a search line for each concept
 - 2) In the History tab, create searches using a combination of the search sets created

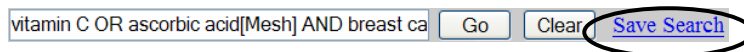


- 3) Can use **Limits** to further narrow your search results

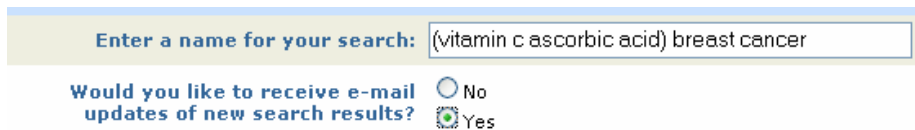
Use MyNCBI Features




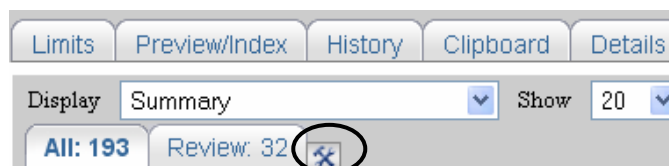
- a) Create a free MyNCBI account from the link at the upper right of a PubMed webpage
- b) On the set of results you would like to save, select **Save Search** to the right of the search box



- c) Sign into your MyNCBI account and select the **Yes** option if you want new search results emailed to you



- d) Setting up filter tabs can help you review your searches more efficiently
 - 1) Use the hammer  icon to set up filter tabs to help you review your searches more efficiently (NOTE: you must be on a page of results to see this hammer icon)



2) On the next screen, select the **Browse** tab



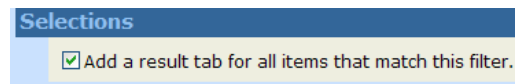
3) Click on **Publication Types** in the Properties section



4) Click on any of the options you wish to create a filter tab for (can have a total of 5 tabs)



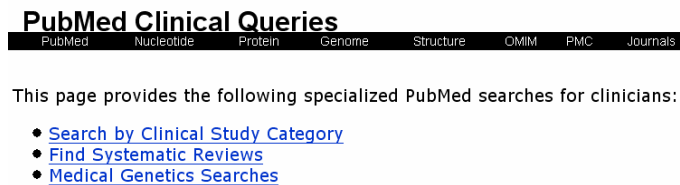
5) Check the box to select the filter tab



Highlight Your Search Terms

e) When in MyNCBI, in the left menu, select the **User Preferences** link to select a highlighting color

Search Using the Clinical Queries Feature

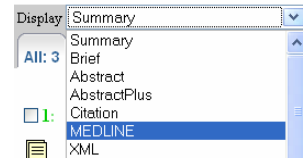


- a) Access the **Clinical Queries** link in the left menu bar of PubMed
- b) Search by Clinical Study Category (ex: etiology, diagnosis, prognosis, therapy)
- c) Can also search for Systematic Reviews

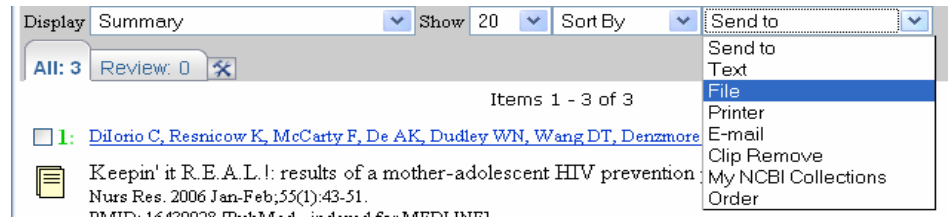
Extra Tips

Download PubMed Results into EndNote/RefWorks

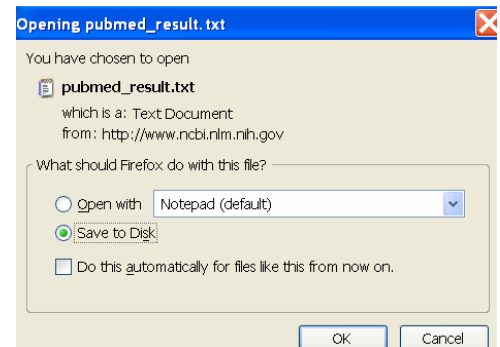
1) Select the Display **MEDLINE** view of an abstract



2) Select the Send to: **File** option



3) In the pop-up window, select **Save to Disk** and click OK to save the file to the Desktop



4) Open up your EndNote or RefWorks account and Import the saved file from the Desktop

Subscribe to Have a Journal's Table of Contents Emailed to You from PubMed

1) Connect to the **Single Citation Matcher** link in the left menu bar of PubMed

2) Start typing in the journal title you want to track & select the title that matches & hit Go

3) On the next screen, click on the Save Search link to the right of the search box

4) Sign into your **MyNCBI** account and select Yes to have the latest articles of this journal emailed to you

Additional PubMed Tutorials available at:

PubMed@UCSF Advanced Search Tips - <http://library.ucsf.edu/db/pubmed/help/advtips.html>

National Library of Medicine - <http://www.nlm.nih.gov/bsd/disted/pubmed.html>