

Duke University Medical Center Library

Ovid MEDLINE Quick Reference Card

<http://www.mclibrary.duke.edu>

Subject Search - Enter a single subject word or phrase in the search box and press *Enter* or the *Search* button. Mapping helps find relevant subject headings (called MeSH in MEDLINE).

Whenever possible select a Subject Heading. Click on the Subject Heading to find other related terms in the tree structure.

- **Explode** - will **expand** your search to include all the specific terms indented under the term you selected; (Generally RECOMMENDED, but be sure narrower terms are relevant before you explode)
- **Focus** - will **reduce** your search to subject headings that are the major topic of the article (NOT RECOMMENDED)

Subheadings - further refine a subject heading to a specific aspect. The DEFAULT is to use them all. Examples are:

adverse effects (ae)	diagnosis (di)
drug therapy (dt)	therapeutic use (tu)

Textword Search - .tw. - Enter a specific word or phrase followed by ".tw." or ".mp." [\$ = truncation or wildcard]

- **nebulizer.tw.** - searches for exact word in title or abstract
- **amiodarone.mp.** - searches for exact word in title, abstract, chemical registry field, and subject heading (if exact match)
- **computer\$.tw.** - retrieves "computer," "computers," "computerized," etc., in title or abstract
- **frozen shoulder.tw.** - retrieves exact phrase in title or abstract
- **taping adj2 patella\$.tw.** - retrieves "taping of the patella," "patella held by taping," "patellar taping," etc.

Combine - ex: 1 and 2

- "AND" will include **all the terms** in the same reference
- "OR" will include **either term** in the reference

Author Search - .au. - Enter the author's last name followed by first and second initials (if known), then by ".au."

- **corey gr.au.** (retrieves all coreys with these exact initials)
- **corey g\$.au.** (use truncation if unsure of middle initial)
- **corey \$.au.** (use truncation if unsure of either initial)

Journal Search - Enter the exact words of the journal title, then click on the *Journal* button.

Title Search - .ti. - Enter the specific word or words in the title followed by ".ti."

- **(body or temperature).ti.** - either term appears in the title
- **(body and temperature).ti.** - both terms appear in the title
- **body temperature.ti.** - exact phrase appears in the title

Finding a specific article - Click on *Find Citation* tab and enter known information about a citation in two or more fields.

Limit Set - Select common limits (e.g., **English**) on Main Search Page. Click on *More Limits* to restrict search results to attributes such as **Age Groups**, **Publication Types**, or **Journal Subsets**.

Note: Limiting to Full Text and Local Holdings is NOT recommended, as these miss many full-text articles available electronically.


EBM Filters/Clinical Queries (MEDLINE only) - These search strategies are designed to retrieve high quality evidence from published studies.

1. Conduct the search on your topic
2. Click on *More Limits*
3. Select appropriate filter from Clinical Queries dropdown menu
4. Click on *Limit a Search*

Save or Run a Search History

- **Save Search History** - click on *Save Search/Alert*; specify temporary or permanent (Personal Account only); give it a Search Name; click on *Save*.
- **Run Saved Searches** - click on *Saved Searches/Alerts* (top right); from the displayed list check the search, then click on *Run*.

Full Text Journals

- **Ovid Full Text** - links to the Ovid full text article. Choose PDF or Print Preview to print full article with normal size graphics
-  opens a new window with options for full text and links for the Library Catalog, Interlibrary Loan, and Ask a Librarian.

HELP - Call (919) 660-1100 or send an email message to mclref@mc.duke.edu

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