



MeSH®

Region-wide Webconference
March 18, 2008



AGENDA

- The Basics
- Why was I excited about Skin Care?
- Qualifiers or Subheadings
- Using MeSH®
- MeSH Database or Browser



What is MeSH®?

- National Library of Medicine's controlled vocabulary thesaurus
- Sets of descriptors are arranged in hierarchical and alphabetical structures
- Used for indexing articles from 4,800 of the world's leading biomedical journals for MEDLINE/PubMED®



- **Descriptors (24,000+)**
 - Main Headings
 - Geographic Headings
 - Check Tags
 - Publication Types
- **Qualifiers (83)**
- **Supplementary Chemicals (170,000)**

Parts of Mesh

[http://www.nlm.nih.gov/mesh/presentations/
EAHIL_krakow_2007_sep/mesh_overview/in
dex.htm](http://www.nlm.nih.gov/mesh/presentations/EAHIL_krakow_2007_sep/mesh_overview/in dex.htm)



Parts - continued

- **Check tags** – A group of Medical Subject Headings (MeSH) which indexers are expected to consider (“check” for) routinely for every article indexed.
- **Publication Type** - The type of material that the article represents. It characterizes the nature of the information or the manner in which it is conveyed.



Why was I excited about Skin Care?



A young librarian's journey



- The year – 1993
- Place – rural North Carolina
- My first professional librarian job and only my second library job!
- Elhill training months away in Chapel Hill



Skin Care

Scope note - Maintenance of the hygienic state of the skin under optimal conditions of cleanliness and comfort. Effective in skin care are proper washing, bathing, cleansing, and the use of soaps, detergents, oils, etc. In various disease states, therapeutic and protective solutions and ointments are useful. The care of the skin is particularly important in various occupations, in exposure to sunlight, in neonates, and in pressure ulcer.

- Therapeutics
 - Hygiene
 - Oral Hygiene
 - Skin Care

- Therapeutics
 - Acoustic Stimulation
 - ...
 - Cosmetic Techniques
 - Dermabrasion
 - ...
 - Hygiene



Subheadings/Qualifiers



- Therapy
 - Diet Therapy
 - Drug Therapy
 - Nursing
 - Prevention & Control
 - Radiotherapy
 - Rehabilitation
 - Surgery
 - Transplantation



Subheadings

- Analysis
- Anatomy and Histology
- Chemistry
- Diagnosis
- Etiology
- Organization & administration
- Pharmacology
- Physiology
- Statistics & numerical data
- Therapeutic Use
- Therapy
- Blood
- Innervation
- Radionuclide Imaging
- Secondary
- Economics
- Toxicity
- Deficiency
- Utilization
- Transplantation



**Be not afraid of greatness, some are
born great, some achieve greatness,
and some have greatness thrust upon
them.**

William Shakespeare's Twelfth Night



Born Great

- AE – adverse effects
- TH – therapy
- DI – diagnosis
- NU - Nursing



Achieved Greatness

- CI – Chemically Induced
- TU – Therapeutic Use
- VE – Veterinary
- SN – Statistics & Numerical Data



Greatness thrust on them

- PK –
Pharmacokinetics
- ET – Ethnology
- IN – Injuries
- CN - Congenital





**What is your favorite
overlooked subheading?**



Using MeSH®

- **Bring a search into focus**
 - Too many results
 - Results are not exactly right

- **Find the invisible**
 - Topics too new to have a MeSH term
 - Topic too complex to express one term



Bringing into Focus

- Hyperlipidemia – 50,000+ citations
- Hyperlipidemia & drug therapy – 14,000+
- Hyperlipidemia, drug therapy, & prognosis – 1600+
- Hyperlipidemia/drug therapy as the major topic and prognosis as a Mesh term – 900




for [Save Search](#)

[Limits](#) [Preview/Index](#) [History](#) [Clipboard](#) [Details](#)

Display Show Sort By Send to

All: 1680	Appropriateness/Broad: 26	Core Clinical Journals: 393	English & Humans: 1428	Review: 362	University of Maryland, Baltimore: 1176	<input type="button" value="✕"/>
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Items 1 - 20 of 1680 Page of 84 Next

- 1: [Nagamine T.](#) Related Articles,
 **Olanzapine-induced elevation of serum triglyceride levels in a normal weight patient with schizophrenia.**
 Intern Med. 2008;47(3):181-2. Epub 2008 Feb 1.
 PMID: 18239330 [PubMed - indexed for MEDLINE]
- 2: [Schrijvers BF, De Vriese AS.](#) Related Articles,
 **Novel insights in the treatment of diabetic nephropathy.**
 Acta Clin Belg. 2007 Sep-Oct;62(5):278-90. Review.
 PMID: 18229460 [PubMed - indexed for MEDLINE]
- 3: [\[No authors listed\]](#) Related Articles,
 **In brief: Zetia and Vytorin: the ENHANCE study.**
 Med Lett Drugs Ther. 2008 Jan 28;50(1278):5. No abstract available.
 PMID: 18219263 [PubMed - indexed for MEDLINE]



PubMed Nucleotide Protein Genome Structure OMIM PMC Journals

▼ for hyperlipidemia/drug therapy[majr] AND prognosis [Save Search](#)

Display ▼ Show ▼ Sort By ▼ Send to ▼

All: 972	Appropriateness/Broad: 13	Core Clinical Journals: 268	English & Humans: 660	Review: 166	University of Maryland, Baltimore: 720 <input type="button" value="✕"/>
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Items 1 - 20 of 972 of 49

- 1:** [\[No authors listed\]](#) Related Articles, ▼
 **In brief: Zetia and Vytorin: the ENHANCE study.**
 Med Lett Drugs Ther. 2008 Jan 28;50(1278):5. No abstract available.
 PMID: 18219263 [PubMed - indexed for MEDLINE]
- 2:** [Fox KM, Gandhi SK, Ohsfeldt RL, Davidson MH.](#) Related Articles, ▼
 **Comparison of low-density lipoprotein cholesterol reduction after switching patients on other statins to rosuvastatin or simvastatin in a real-world clinical practice setting.**
 Am J Manag Care. 2007 Dec;13 Suppl 10:S270-5. Review.
 PMID: 18095777 [PubMed - indexed for MEDLINE]
- 3:** [Flack JM, Victor R, Watson K, Ferdinand KC, Saunders E, Tarasenko L, Jamieson MJ, Shi H, Bruschi P.](#) Related Articles, ▼



Finding the Invisible

If you search for Left ventricle pacing, this is how your search will be translated:

1. "heart ventricles" [TIAB] NOT Medline [SB]
2. OR "heart ventricles" [MeSH Terms]
3. OR left ventricle [Text Word]
4. AND pacing [All Fields]



Lost in Translation

- The key information is forgotten in the first two terms.
- “Pacing” wasn’t matched up with a MeSH term even though “cardiac, pacing artificial” is a recognized term



How can we use MeSH to makeover this search?





MeSH

Database vs. Browser



What's the difference?

Database

Description: Entrez database of NLM controlled vocabulary used for indexing articles for MEDLINE/PubMed. MeSH terminology provides a consistent way to retrieve information that may use different wording for the same concepts.

Browser

Description: Medical Subject Heading look-up tool



Where to find it?

Database

- List of databases
 - Alphabetic listing
 - Entrez link listed under “Select Resource” on right side of web page
- From PubMed

Browser

- List of databases
 - Alphabetic listing
- Library Catalogs and Services
- *Especially for Librarians*



Special Features

Database

- Seamless interaction between PubMed/Medline and MeSH database
- Easy of use for building a search strategy

Browser

- Easy browsing of tree structure
- Descriptor Data includes annotation
- Multiple formats for viewing data



NN/LM





Takeaways

- The MeSH Browser is a valuable tool .
- Subheadings can and should be used.
- Take a little time each week to spend with MeSH.



Additional Resources

- PowerPoint presentation overview of MeSH® - http://www.nlm.nih.gov/mesh/presentations/EAHIL_krakow_2007_sep/mesh_overview/index.htm
- Web site for additions, changes and deletions in MeSH- <http://www.nlm.nih.gov/mesh/introduction2008.html>
- Web site for information about Indexing Initiative
 - <http://ii.nlm.nih.gov/>
- MLA-accredited courses on MeSH®
 - MeSH for Searchers by E. Diane Johnson, University of Missouri, Columbia
 - NLM Training: PubMed by NLM or NTCC staff



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