



PubMed® Tips for Expert Searchers

1. Exercise #1 Field/Data Policies

What was the author policy in place at the time of your citation?

Last name A-M: PMID 10595696

Last name N-Z: PMID 25673413

2. Exercise #2 NOT Animals

Step 1: Coronavirus Infections using PubMed's search box.

Step 2: Next, add: NOT (animals[MeSH] NOT humans[MeSH])

Step 3: Run the search.

Step 4: Lastly, AND 32715325 with above search to confirm we excluded our benchmark animal citation.

3. Exercise #3 Subheading Groupings

a) Go to PMID 33031439

b) Review the MeSH terms applied to the citation.

c) If we had searched using this string: *Liver/Anatomy and Histology*, would this citation be part of your result set? Yes or no? Why?

4. Exercise #4 Coordination

We're looking for citations about treating Alcohol Withdrawal Delirium with a drug called Chlormethiazole.

Which term gets /drug therapy? _____

Which term gets /therapeutic use? _____

5. Pharmacological Action Information

Definition: _____

1st search example using MeSH version of pharmacological action:

Neuroprotective Agents



2nd search example using MeSH version of pharmacological action:

To find citations about treating Alzheimer disease with Neuroprotective Agents:

_____ AND _____
PMID 31905923 (Relevant result from above search).

3rd search example using MeSH version of pharmacological action:

To find citations about how Chlormethiazole behaves as a Neuroprotective Agent:

_____ AND _____
PMID 15592579 (Relevant result from above search).

Review: Three ways to use the MeSH version of a pharmacological action:

1. MeSH term alone (broad search)
2. MeSH term AND disease
3. MeSH term AND specific drug

1st search example using the [PA] version of a pharmacological action:

Alzheimer disease AND Neuroprotective Agents[pa]
PMID 24086396 (Relevant result).

2nd search example using the [PA] version of a pharmacological action:

Antirheumatic Agents [Pharmacological Action] AND headache
PMID 32093617 (Relevant result).

Additional items of interest that we're not covering in class:

PubMed filters that restrict your results to MEDLINE-indexed citations:

- a. Humans
- b. Animals
- c. Age
- d. Article Type
- e. MEDLINE



- TW vs TIAB. NLM suggests using TW to cast a wider net, but your specific needs will ultimately determine which tag to use. <https://pubmed.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/help/#tw>
- Search indexed and non-indexed records separately using this string to exclude MEDLINE citations: NOT medline[sb]
- Search [NLM Catalog](#) for currently indexed MEDLINE journals: currentlyindexed

Cancer Coordination Strategy

To find citations that discuss the **primary** or **original** site of a cancer, apply the subheading **pathology** to the cancer term. Example: breast neoplasms/pathology

To find citations that discuss a **metastasized cancer**, apply the subheading **secondary** to the cancer term. Example: lung neoplasms/secondary

- [Preprints Slides](#)
- [Preprints Recording](#)
- [NLM Technical Bulletin article on Preprints](#)
- [Additional Coordination examples from the MEDLINE Indexing Online Training Course](#)