

Ovid MEDLINE® Shortcuts

The following commands allow you to search fields directly in the “Enter keyword...” line:

Syntax	Explanation
cardiotoxic.ti.	searches for the word or words in the title
cardiotoxic.ab.	searches for the word or words in the abstract
taylor c.au	searches for the author of articles
taylor .:au.	searches for the author’s name with any combination of initials
taylor a:.au.	searches for the author’s name with any second initial
lancet.jn.	searches for the exact journal title
lancet.so.	searches for the exact journal title
obstetrics.jw.	searches for the word within the journal title ; use for partially remembered journal titles
myocardium.sh.	searches for the exact medical subject heading (MeSH)
ulcer.me. or ulcer.hw.	searches for the single word in medical subject headings (MeSH)
stress.tw.	searches for the word or words in the title or abstract
stress.mp.	searches for the word or words in the title, abstract, or MeSH headings ; this is what happens in multifile searching or when “map term to subject heading” is deselected
exocrine glands.xm. or exp exocrine glands/ toronto.in.	retrieves a term and all of its subsidiary terms in the MeSH tree; includes pre-explodes
1989.yr.	searches for the date of publication; must be 4 digits
fre.la. or jpn.lg.	searches for non-English language articles (in this case, French or Japanese)
237.pg. or 44.vo. or 6.ip.	searches for number in page or volume or issue fields; if the number is the same as the number of a search set within the same search session, then put the number in parenthesis: “6”.vo.
21373447.mi.	searches for the MEDLINE identifier of a record; can be used for interlibrary loan
11480094.ui.	searches for the Unique identifier of a record; can be used for interlibrary loan

For other searchable fields, click on the “Search Fields” icon at the top of the search screen.¹

The following techniques can be executed directly on the “Enter keyword...” line:

Technique	Example	Explanation
Combining terms (can be done in any field)	(pregnancy or birth).ti,ab.	either term can appear in the title or abstract
	(pregnancy and birth).ti,ab.	both terms must appear in the title or abstract
	(pregnancy not teenage).ti.	excludes a word from results; use with care
Adjacency terms (can be used in any field)	(reflex adj test).ti. (reflex adjX test).ti,ab	terms are immediately adjacent in the title terms are within X number of words of each other, in any direction, in either the title or abstract

Technique	Example	Explanation
Truncation (can be used in any field)	toxic\$.ti.	\$ retrieves unlimited suffix variation
	toxic:.ti.	: retrieves unlimited suffix variation
	colo?.r.ti.	? replaces either no character or one character

Restrict to focus	*eye	term (MeSH only) must be major emphasis of article
	*1	applies major emphasis to MeSH subject headings in a designated set after set is generated
Explode subject heading	exp eye	searches for term and all its conceptually narrower terms (in this case, eyelids, oculomotor muscles, anterior eye segment, retina, etc, etc)
Apply subheadings	smallpox/ep,th	limits to MeSH heading with indicated subheadings (in this case, epidemiology or therapy)
Explode subheading	th.xs.	retrieves articles with terms to which this subheading or related subheadings have been applied (See below for the list of explodable subheadings; this command usually retrieves a very large search set.)
Permuted index	ptx diabetes	shows list of all MeSH headings containing "diabetes" anywhere; enter one word only
Tree	tree tendons	shows location of term in MeSH subject heading tree
Combine sets	1 and 2	retrieves articles containing terms specified in set #1 and set #2
	1 or 2	retrieves articles containing terms specified in set #1 or set #2
	1 and (2 or 3)	retrieves articles containing terms specified in set 1 and either of the terms specified in sets 2, 3
	1 not 2	retrieves items in set 1 but not items from set 2
Limit sets	limit 3 to human	restricts search #3 to articles on human studies only; click the "Limit" icon at the top of the screen for all available limits
Purge sets²	..pg 2,4-6	removes the specified searches from the search history
Save search strategy²	..sv betty	saves search strategy(default is to temporary search, i.e. 24 hours; searches can be saved permanently; searches can be saved <i>privately</i> with <i>personal</i> login)
Execute search²	..e betty	executes an already saved search strategy
Print search strategy	..ps	prints search history

¹ To see complete list of fields and special notes, select the *i* icon beside the file name on the *Choose a database* page within MEDLINE. Check this every January-February for changes.

²These can also be done by clicking on "delete searches", "save search history" or "saved searches" buttons under the Search History box.

Citation Manager

This box at the bottom of every Titles Display screen lets you **display**, **e-mail**, or **save** your desired citations by clicking the appropriate button in the Action column. You can display, e-mail, or save the entire results list (choose "all in this set" from the Citations column), or else specify desired items by checking off individual citations in the display list, and then choosing "selected (all pages)" from the Citations column. It is **recommended** that you also select "**Include search history**".

You can also export directly to **bibliographic software** by selecting Direct Export in the Citation Format column.

❖ Subheading families & exploded subheadings

There are groups of subheadings which will retrieve related aspects of a topic and exploding a subheading grouping can be done. Alternately, you can apply to your heading all the subheadings in a family of subheadings.

For example, the **therapy** subheading family includes: *diet therapy, drug therapy, nursing, prevention and control, radiotherapy, rehabilitation, surgery, and transplantation.*

The simplest & recommended way to use a family of subheadings is to select all members of the family when the "select subheadings" page appears. See the list below of subheading families to make your choices.

Free floating subheadings

This technique allows users to "free float" subheadings, e.g., *hypertension.mh. and to.sh.* will find articles on hypertension that discuss toxicity of **any** substance. This only works with the two letter abbreviations from the list below.

❖ Families of MeSH subheading explosions

adverse effects (AE)

poisoning (PO)
toxicity (TO)

analysis (AN)

blood (BL)
cerebrospinal fluid (CF)
isolation and purification (IP)
urine (UR)

anatomy and histology (AH)

blood supply (BS)
cytology (CY)
pathology (PA)
ultrastructure (UL)
embryology (EM)
abnormalities (AB)
innervation (IR)

chemistry (CH)

agonists (AG)
analogs and derivatives (AA)
antagonists and inhibitors (AI)
chemical synthesis (CS)

complications (CO)

secondary (SC)

cytology (CY)

pathology (PA)
ultrastructure (UL)

diagnosis (DI)

pathology (PA)
radiography (RA)
radionuclide imaging (RI)
ultrasonography (US)

embryology (EM)

abnormalities (AB)

epidemiology (EP)

ethnology (EH)
mortality (MO)

etiology (ET)

chemically induced (CI)
complications (CO)
secondary (SC)
congenital (CN)
embryology (EM)

genetics (GE)

immunology (IM)
microbiology (MI)
virology (VI)
parasitology (PS)
transmission (TM)

metabolism (ME)

biosynthesis (BI)
blood (BL)
cerebrospinal fluid (CF)
deficiency (DF)
enzymology (EN)
pharmacokinetics (PK)
urine (UR)

microbiology (MI)

virology (VI)

organization and administration (OG)

economics (EC)
legislation and jurisprudence (LJ)
manpower (MA)
standards (ST)
supply and distribution (SD)
trends (TD)
utilization (UT)

pharmacology (PD)

administration and dosage (AD)
adverse effects (AE)
poisoning (PO)
toxicity (TO)
agonists (AG)
antagonists and inhibitors (AI)
contraindications (CT)
diagnostic use (DU)
pharmacokinetics (PK)

physiology (PH)

genetics (GE)
growth and development (GD)
immunology (IM)
metabolism (ME)
biosynthesis (BI)
blood (BL)
cerebrospinal fluid (CF)
deficiency (DF)
enzymology (EN)
pharmacokinetics (PK)
urine (UR)
physiopathology (PP)
secretion (SE)

statistics and numerical data (SN)

epidemiology (EP)
ethnology (EH)
mortality (MO)
supply and distribution (SD)
utilization (UT)

surgery (SU)

transplantation (TR)

therapeutic use (TU)

administration and dosage (AD)
adverse effects (AE)
contraindications (CT)
poisoning (PO)

therapy (TH)

diet therapy (DH)
drug therapy (DT)
nursing (NU)
prevention and control (PC)
radiotherapy (RT)
rehabilitation (RH)
surgery (SU)
transplantation (TR)