



How to limit a search in PUBMED MEDLINE

USE THE LIMITS TAB TO APPLY LIMIT CRITERIA

TYPE OF ARTICLE (AKA-PUBLICATION TYPES)

AGES

DATES

LANGUAGES

HUMANS OR ANIMALS

SUBSETS

GENDER

TAG TERMS

USE THE CHECKBOXES TO SELECT CRITERIA

Clinical Trial, Editorial, Letter, Meta-Analysis, Practice Guideline, Randomized Controlled Trial, Review Other publication types can be typed in using the field identifier [pt]

All Infant: birth-23 months
 All Child: 0-18 years
 All Adult: 19+ years
 Newborn: birth-1 month
 Infant: 1-23 months
 Preschool Child: 2-5 years
 Child: 6-12 years
 Adolescent: 13-18 years
 Adult: 19-44 years
 Middle Aged: 45-64 years
 Aged: 65+ years
 80 and over: 80+ years

Published in the Last:
 Added to PubMed in the Last:

Select: English; French; German; Italian;
 Japanese; Russian; Spanish

Select: humans or animals or both

By **Journal Group**: Core clinical journals, dental journal, nursing journals
 By **Topics**: AIDS, Bioethics, Cancer, Complementary Medicine, History of Medicine, Space Life Sciences, Systematic Reviews, Toxicology
 By **More Subsets**: MEDLINE, OLDMEDLINE, PubMed Central

Select: Female and/or Male

From the pull-down menu to select Author Name, EC/RN Number, Entrez Date, Filter, Issue, Journal Name, Language, MeSH Date, MeSH Major Topic, MeSH Terms, Page Number, Publication Date, Publication Type, Secondary Source ID, Subheading, substance Name, Text Word, Title Word

EXPLANATION

influenza AND multicenter study [pt]
 will retrieve citations to journal articles that discuss a controlled study executed by several cooperating institutions in relation to influenza

From the Ages menu, select the appropriate age limit for your search question. Selections will be ORed together. Sometimes limiting to a specific age will eliminate retrieval that could be relevant. Try the search with and then without age limits and compare results. Age limits can also be selected using the MeSH Database. It might be helpful to view the hierarchical structure of the age groups (the broader and narrower concepts).

Uses the pull down menu to select 30 days, 60 days, etc. or to specify date range

Use the field identifier [la] to limit to other languages: e.g. **portuguese [la]**

Restricts search retrieval to studies that include human, animal or both.

The AIDS and Toxicology subsets are based on search strategies that were developed for creating NLM's AIDSLINE and TOXLINE databases. Additional search filters will be added as they become available.

Use to select a specific gender for a human study. Use of gender excludes In Process and Publisher supplied citations.

Use to limit your search retrieval to a specific search field. All Fields is the default for searching. Any of these search fields can be entered using the field qualifier (e.g. **therapy[sh]**).

TO SEARCH FOR

AUTHOR

EXAMPLE

Jacobs [au]
"Jacobs L"[au] (limits to first initial only)
Jacobs-L [au] (any possible middle initial)
Jacobs LM[au]
"Jacobs L" [au] OR jacobs lm[au]

(Full first and middle names are searchable in the database for journal articles from 2002 forward, if available; for example you can search in the natural language order **Dana Carroll** or last than first name, **Carroll Dana** with or without a comma.)

EXPLANATION

To limit retrieval to a particular authors name: last name first initial middle initial. If you do not include first and middle initials, the system will search for all possible Jacobs. If you are sure the author only publishes with their first name, you can force the system to limit to last name first initial by putting the name in quotes. If you do not put the name in quotes, the system will truncate to include any possible middle initial (e.g. Jacobs LA, Jacobs LB, Jacobs LC, etc.).

JOURNAL TITLE

American Heart Journal [ta]
BMJ [ta]
Chest [jour]
new england journal of medicine
Pediatr Rev [ta]
0191-9601 [jour]
"0190-5066" [jour]

You may search by the full journal title; the MEDLINE abbreviation; or the ISSN number (a standard number for journals). Single word journal titles need to be qualified (e.g. chest [ta]) Use the [Journals Database](#) available under PubMed Services to verify and search for journal titles.

AFFILIATION OR ADDRESS

(salt lake [ad] OR utah [ad OR ut [ad])
(harvard [ad] OR yale [ad])
harvard [ad] AND dental[ad]
ca70669/ca/nci [ad]

Institutional affiliation and address of the first author, and grant numbers. The MEDLINE ID (Identification Number) field that contains grant or contract numbers is also searchable using the search field tag [ad], (e.g., **LM05545/LM/NLM [ad]**).

WORDS IN TITLE OR WORDS IN ABSTRACT

tickborne [ti]
lyme [ti] AND tickborne [ti]
lyme [ab] AND tickborne [tiab]

Use of the [ti] or [ab] field tag limits to word(s) and number(s) included in the title or abstract of a citation.

MESH AS THE MAJOR FOCUS OF THE ARTICLE

myocardial infarction[majr]
angina [majr]
resuscitation orders [majr]

To retrieve citations where the MeSH term indicates the major focus of the article. Can also be selected from the Detailed display for the MeSH term in the MeSH Database.

SUBHEADINGS

(ENTERED: MeSH TERM SLASH SUBHEADING)

myocardial infarction/drug therapy
angina, unstable/diagnosis
antibiotics/therapeutic use

The subheading is entered after the MeSH term and preceded by a slash. Use of a subheading further defines your search. Subheadings can also be selected from the Detailed display for the MeSH term in the MeSH Database. If the statement of your search topic includes OF, FOR or IN, consider using subheadings. (e.g. drug therapy for myocardial infarction is entered as myocardial infarction/drug therapy).

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