



How to search OvidSP evidence-based medicine reviews databases

(ACP Journal Club, CDSR, CCTR, CMR, DARE, HTA & NHSEED)

What is evidence-based medicine?

It is an international movement in health care that encourages physicians, nurses, pharmacists, and allied health professionals to seek out, appraise, and apply the best evidence from the medical literature when confronted with patient treatment decisions.


What are OvidSP evidence-based medicine reviews (EBMR) databases?

The OvidSP EBMR databases consist of a collection of 7 separate sources, as follows:

- 1 ACP Journal Club (ACP)** contains the full text of 2 journals: *ACP Journal Club* (by the American College of Physicians) and *Evidence-Based Medicine* (joint publication of the ACP and the BMJ Publishing Group; ceased publication in 1999).
- 2 Cochrane Database of Systematic Reviews (CDSR)** is prepared by the Cochrane Collaboration. The full text reviews are presented in two types:
 - (i) complete reviews** -regularly updated reviews, prepared and maintained by Collaborative Review Groups; and
 - (ii) protocols for reviews** - background, objectives and methods of upcoming reviews.
- 3 Cochrane Central Register of Controlled Trials (CENTRAL)** is a list of controlled trials identified by contributors to the Cochrane Collaboration and others, as part of an international effort to create an unbiased source of data for systematic reviews.
- 4 Database of Abstracts of Reviews of Effectiveness (DARE)** is a full-text database containing critical assessments of systematic reviews. DARE is produced by the National Health Services' Centre for Reviews and Dissemination (NHS CRD) at the University of York, England.
- 5 Cochrane Methodology Register (CMR)** is a database of studies relevant to the methods of systematic reviews of healthcare and social interventions. It includes citations to journal articles, book chapters, conference proceedings, conference abstracts and reports.
- 6 Health Technology Assessment (HTA)** features information on ongoing health technology assessments (studies of the medical, social, ethical, and economic implications of healthcare interventions). HTA is produced by the Centre for Reviews and Dissemination in collaboration with the secretariat of INAHTA (International Network of Agencies for Health Technology Assessment).
- 7 National Health Service Economic Evaluation Database (NHSEED)** contains 6000+ structured abstracts of quality assessed economic evaluations. Produced by the Centre for Reviews and Dissemination, the database aims to assist decision-makers by systematically identifying and describing economic evaluations, appraising their quality and highlighting their relative strengths and weaknesses.

How to access OvidSP EBMR databases

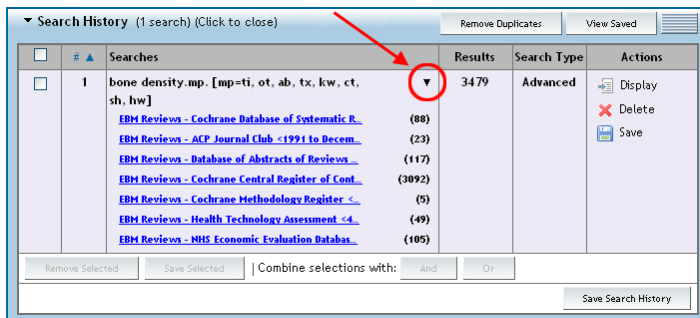
1. Go the UBC Library Home Page (<http://www.library.ubc.ca/>).
2. Click on **E-Resources**, followed by **Indexes & Databases**.
3. Click on **E**, then click on **EBM Reviews** to search all 7 databases simultaneously
4. Alternatively, find and select by individual title, e.g. **ACP Journal Club (ACP)** or **Cochrane Database of Systematic Reviews (CDSR)**, etc.
5. Connect to a database by clicking the appropriate link for your location. If you're at UBC, or using myVPN or proxy, click on **UBC students, faculty, staff and users in the library**. If you are a non-UBC user at a teaching hospital, click on the *e-HLbc* link under **UBC Teaching Hospitals** heading.

Tip! For more information about each database, click on the change database link and then click on the information icon  to the left of the database name.

Keyword or phrase searching

Most of the OvidSP EBMR databases use keyword or phrase searching – i.e. there are no authorized subject headings, unlike MEDLINE, which uses MeSH. **Health Technology Database, NHS Economic Evaluation Database, and the Cochrane Central Register of Controlled Trials (CENTRAL)** do allow searches using MeSH. However, searching by MeSH may inadvertently limit you to citations that originate from Medline. (For search strategies using MeSH, see the library's *OvidSP health databases* handout).

When searching by keyword it is important to think of all the possible terms (synonyms, variant spellings) associated with your topic. Since every word of the document text is searchable, including references, captions, and footnotes, you may get some results of questionable relevance.



Searches	Results	Search Type	Actions
1 bone density.mp. [mp=ti, ot, ab, tx, kw, ct, sh, hw]	3479	Advanced	Display Delete Save
EBM Reviews - Cochrane Database of Systematic R.	(88)		
EBM Reviews - ACP Journal Club <1991 to Becom.	(23)		
EBM Reviews - Database of Abstracts of Reviews	(117)		
EBM Reviews - Cochrane Central Register of Cont.	(3892)		
EBM Reviews - Cochrane Methodology Register <	(5)		
EBM Reviews - Health Technology Assessment <4.	(49)		
EBM Reviews - NHS Economic Evaluation Databas.	(105)		

Click in the search box and enter your keyword or phrase:

examples: *bone density*
drug abuse
acute asthma

synonyms: *cancer* or *neoplasm*

variant spellings: *tumor* or *tumour*

pediatrics or *paediatrics*

Tip! Click on the black arrow to see how many records there are in each the 7 EBMR databases for a particular search.

Tip! When searching all 7 databases at once, OvidSP defaults to searching by keyword only.

Other search tips

Truncation and wildcards can be useful in keyword searching.

Truncation Type the desired root word or phrase followed by the truncation character \$ (dollar sign) or *(asterisk). For example, either disease\$ or disease* retrieves records with the word disease, as well as the words diseases, diseased, etc.

Wild card The wild card character ? (question mark) can be used within or at the end of a keyword to substitute for one or no characters. It is useful for some plural forms (e.g. wom?n would retrieve

records with the words woman or women). However, there must be *at least two characters* in front of the ? symbol.

Combining terms – “AND” or “OR”

<input type="checkbox"/>	#	Searches	Results	Search Type	Actions
<input type="checkbox"/>	1	asthma.mp. [mp=ti, ot, ab, tx, kw, ct, sh, hw]	18172	Advanced	Display More >>
<input type="checkbox"/>	2	child\$.mp. [mp=ti, ot, ab, tx, kw, ct, sh, hw]	58684	Advanced	Display More >>
<input type="checkbox"/>	3	1 and 2	5035	Advanced	Display More >>
<input type="checkbox"/>	4	(asthma and child\$).mp. [mp=ti, ot, ab, tx, kw, ct, sh, hw]	5035	Advanced	Display More >>

Remove Selected Save Selected Combine selections with: And Or Save Search History

1. Select the sets that you want to combine.
2. Combine your selections by pressing either **OR** or **AND**:
 - Choose **OR** to retrieve any of the terms (e.g. labor or labour).
 - Choose **AND** to retrieve all of the terms (e.g. asthma and child\$)

Tip! When using keyword or phrase searching, you will find that your results are the same, whether you combine your search terms after you search each one individually (e.g. set 3), or you combine your search terms in one line (e.g. set 4). The advantage of searching concepts separately is that you have more flexibility to combine them later.

Limiting – To refine your results

1. Click **Limits** on the main search page to expand the Limits menu.
2. Click **Additional Limits** to see all available Limits.
3. Select a search to limit (or OvidSP will default to the last search) and then check individual boxes or choose from the drop-down menus.
4. Click **Limit A Search** to apply the limits selected. OvidSP will bring you back to the main search page.

Tip! Limit options in EBMR vary by database.

Tip! Select limits cautiously. Often only one limit category is used for each article in *ACP Journal Club* and *Cochrane* – selecting more than one limit may severely restrict your search.

Displaying & marking search results to print/email/save

Customize Display | Reset Display View All Abstracts: Sort By: Results Per Page: 25

Results of your search: (asthma and child\$).mp. [mp=ti, ot, ab, tx, kw, ct, sh, hw]

Viewing 1-25 of 5035 Results Your Recent Searches [+]

Go to #: GO >> Remove Duplicates

Search Aid

Your search
Search terms used:
asthma
child\$

Narrow search
Narrow your results by:
▶ Subjects
▶ Authors
▶ Journals

1. **Written individualised management plans for asthma in children and adults.**
Toelle, Brett. Ram, Felix SF.
EBM Reviews - Cochrane Database of Systematic Reviews
Cochrane Airways Group. Cochrane Database of Systematic Reviews. 4, 2009.
[Systematic Review]
AH: 00075320-100000000-01431
▶ View Abstract
Find Citing Articles

2. **Written action plans for asthma in children.**
Bhoggal, Sanjit K.. Zemek, Roger L. Ducharme, Francine.
EBM Reviews - Cochrane Database of Systematic Reviews
Cochrane Airways Group. Cochrane Database of Systematic Reviews. 4, 2009.
[Systematic Review]
AH: 00075320-100000000-04312
▶ View Abstract
Find Citing Articles

Options for selected article:
 Abstract Reference
 Complete Reference
 Table of Contents
 Full Text Review
 UBC eLink

Next Page >>

1. From the main search page, click on **Display** for the set of results you wish to view.
2. From the standard brief citation (author, title and journal fields) you can click on **Abstract Reference** or **Complete Reference**. In full text databases, select the **Full Text Review** link (NOT UBC eLink) to view the complete article.
3. To mark citations, click on the box(es) in titles display or in abstract/complete reference.
4. Use the **Results Manager** (see next section) to **PRINT/EMAIL/SAVE** records.

Results Manager – Printing/emailing/saving

The screenshot shows the 'Results Manager' interface with the following sections:

- Results:** Radio buttons for 'Selected Results', 'All on this page', and 'All in this set (1-5035)'. An 'and/or Range:' input field and a 'Clear Selected Results' button are also present.
- Fields:** Radio buttons for 'Citation', 'Citation + Abstract', 'Citation + Abstract + Subject Headings', and 'Complete Reference'. A 'Select Fields' button and a list of 'Selected fields' (ab, ac, ad, am, an, ao, au, ay, cd, cl, cl, cm, co, cp, cr, cy, dl, do, dr, ds, dt, ed, en, er, ey, gn, hv, if, in, is, iw, lb, lm, ot, pt, rf, rp, sd, sh, sl, sn, so, sr, ss, st, ti, uf, up, ur, yr) are included.
- Result Format:** Radio buttons for 'Ovid', 'BRS/Tagged', 'Reprint/Medlars', and 'Brief (Titles)'. Checkboxes for 'Display', 'Direct Export', 'Include Search', and 'History' are present, along with an 'Include link to each record' checkbox.
- Actions:** Buttons for 'Display', 'Print Preview', 'Email', and 'Save'.
- Sort Keys:** Dropdown menus for 'Primary' and 'Secondary' sorting, both currently set to 'Ascending'.

1. To print, email or save citations in your search, use the **Results Manager**.
2. Select the citations to keep using the **Results** section (e.g. all, selected, range, etc.).
3. Select your preferred **Fields** display. Most searchers prefer “Citation & Abstract” fields.
4. **Actions** allow searchers to display citations for printing, to email or to save citations.

Tip! Leave **Results Format** as Ovid (i.e. the default) unless you are using EndNote, Reference Manager or RefWorks. To automatically export your citations to EndNote, Reference Manager or RefWorks, choose the **Complete Reference** and **Direct Export** options and click **Save**.

Deleting search sets from your search history

On the main search page, use the checkboxes provided to select one or more search sets to delete. Click on **Remove Selected** (located on the bottom left of the search history box). Deleted sets *cannot* be recovered.

Saving search history

The 'Save Current Search' form includes:

- Fields for 'Search Name', 'Comment', and 'Type' (set to 'Permanent').
- A 'Save' button.
- A section for 'Existing Saved Searches' which currently displays 'No Saved Searches Exist'.

- Click **Save Search History** to save your search. To do so, you must first set up a free **Personal Account**.
- **Personal Account and Saved Searches/Alerts** buttons are located at the top right-hand corner of OvidSP’s main search page.
- You have two options for saving: **Temporary (72 hours)** and **Permanent**.

Click **Logoff** from the main search page so that others may use the database

Browsing journals in ACP Journal Club

In ACP Journal Club, you can browse through the issues of *Evidence-Based Medicine* and *ACP Journal Club* by clicking on the **Browse Contents: EBM Reviews – ACP Journal Club** (located at the top, above the search box) on the Main Search screen.

Then click on the **Table of Contents**. On the following page you will see journal issues listed on the left.

Browsing topics in Cochrane Database of Systematic Reviews

You can browse articles in the database by topic and access information about individual Collaborative Review Groups by clicking on the **Browse Contents: EBM Reviews – Cochrane Database of Systematic Reviews** (located at the top, above the search box) on the Main Search screen.