Includes Enhanced Search Tools!

THE COCHRANE LIBRARY
Independent high-quality evidence for health care decision making

Reference Guide

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What is in **THE COCHRANE LIBRARY?**

*The Cochrane Library* consists of seven databases and is used by a broad range of people interested in Evidence-Based health care, including consumers, clinicians, policy-makers, researchers, educators, students and others:

**Cochrane Database of Systematic Reviews (Cochrane Reviews)**
This is the primary output of *The Cochrane Collaboration*. Each Cochrane Review identifies an intervention for a specific disease (or other problem in health care) and determines whether or not this intervention works by summarising the results of research gathered from randomised controlled trials.

**Database of Abstracts of Reviews of Effects (Other Reviews)**
Database of Abstracts of Reviews of Effects (DARE) is a unique database, containing abstracts of systematic reviews that have been quality assessed. Each abstract includes a summary of the review together with a critical commentary about the overall quality. DARE contains more than 19,000 such abstracts. Produced by the Centre for Reviews and Dissemination (CRD) in York, UK.

**Cochrane Central Register of Controlled Trials (Clinical Trials)**
Known as CENTRAL, this database includes details of published trials taken from bibliographic databases and other published resources. CENTRAL includes the title of the article, information on where it was published and, in many cases, the abstract.

**The Cochrane Methodology Register (Method Studies)**
A bibliography of publications that report on methods used when conducting controlled trials, studies of methods used in reviews, and more general methodological studies which could be relevant to anyone preparing systematic reviews. Records include journal articles, books and conference proceedings.

**Health Technology Assessment Database (Technology Assessments)**
Details of completed and ongoing health technology assessments (studies of the medical, social, ethical and economic implications of healthcare interventions) from around the world. Produced by the CRD in York, UK.

**The NHS Economic Evaluation Database (Economic Evaluations)**
Economic evaluations from around the world, evaluated for quality and highlighting relative strengths and weaknesses of each study. Produced by the CRD in York, UK.

Go to [www.thecochranelibrary.com](http://www.thecochranelibrary.com) to discover this essential resource today
Getting Started

It is useful to register with Wiley Online Library, as it offers a number of benefits, and allows you to save searches. To register go to http://wileyonlinelibrary.com/user-registration

Following registration, an authentication e-mail will be sent to your e-mail address. **You must click the link in the message (within 24 hours) to validate your new login.** This will take you to the My Profile area, which includes your personal navigation bar. You are now logged onto Wiley Online Library and your name appears at the top of the screen.

Accessing THE COCHRANE LIBRARY

1. Go to the Search box, select Publication Titles, type Cochrane and press

   ![SEARCH](image)

2. Click on “The Cochrane Library” from the returned results

   ![Publication Title Search Results](image)

3. You are now on The Cochrane Library home page.

   ![THE COCHRANE LIBRARY](image)

   This is The Cochrane Library homepage. From here you can easily navigate around the whole site;

   - Browse or search across all databases
   - Read the latest editorial
   - View the Special Collections
   - Listen to new podcasts
   - Access the Cochrane Journal Club

...or go directly to [www.thecochranelibrary.com](http://www.thecochranelibrary.com)
Basic Navigation

There are several options to browse and search The Cochrane Library Databases.
You can browse all databases from the homepage, conduct a simple search or use the Advanced Search link to search by MeSH terms or to edit and combine searches.
Every page throughout The Cochrane Library has one of the below headers – from which you can navigate around the rest of the site, get to advanced searching, the homepage or save a search.

Sign-up: If you want to set up e-mail alerts for Wiley products, RSS feeds or save and edit your searches – follow this link
Help: For access to the search manual
Learn: Find links to user guides and other useful information
Browse: Browse the complete Library by various criteria
Click here to conduct a search, access saved searches, or to search by MeSH terms.
Use the links provided in the header to browse Cochrane Systematic Reviews by various criteria:

- By topic
- New Reviews (if you only want to view new Cochrane Reviews)
- Updated Reviews (if you want to check the updates on existing reviews)
- A-Z (by reviews/protocol or by review group)
- By Review Group (to see all the reviews written by a specific Cochrane Review Group)

**Key to Review Status Buttons**

All Reviews have a key to help readers quickly identify their status:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Status</th>
<th>Description</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Review</td>
<td>A full review, complete with results and discussion, possibly including meta-analyses to combine results across studies.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Protocol</td>
<td>The outline of a review in preparation, including the background, rationale and methods.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Methodology</td>
<td>A full-text systematic review of methodological studies.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Diagnostic</td>
<td>A full-text systematic review of studies assessing accuracy of diagnostic tests.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Overview</td>
<td>An overview of multiple Cochrane intervention reviews addressing the effects of two or more potential interventions for a single condition or health problem.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>New</td>
<td>A new protocol or review that has been published in the most recent issue.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Conclusions changed</td>
<td>There has been an important change to the conclusions of the review published in the most recent issue.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>New search</td>
<td>A new search for studies has been conducted for an existing review as published in the most recent issue.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Major change</td>
<td>The protocol has been amended to reflect a change in scope published in the most recent issue.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Withdrawn</td>
<td>The review or protocol has been withdrawn, which may be because it was considered to be out of date. Reasons for withdrawal are specified in the document.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Comment</td>
<td>The review includes comments. Readers can submit comments, which are incorporated into the review together with answers and feedback from the review authors.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Use Database tools to add The Cochrane Library to your Saved Publications list in “My Profile” page

Links to Search, MeSH, and Search Manager tabs are available from every article in The Cochrane Library

Search for articles by A-Z, By Topic, New Reviews, Updates Reviews, By Review Group

Select to view author address information, how to cite, publication history and funding information

OTHER RESOURCES links to other Cochrane databases

Abstract tab includes Plain Language Summary

Tabs provide easy access to further content

Save or print a PDF of the full text article

“Jump to…”navigation allows quick access to specific sections of the article

At the bottom of each article you will find links to related content

More content like this

Topics: Gestational diabetes
Advanced Searching

To access a variety of search options, click on Search, Medical Terms (MeSH), or Search Manager to be directed to the appropriate search tab.

In the search tabs, you can use the asterisk, double quotation marks and Boolean operators (AND, OR, NOT) to refine or broaden your search.

You can also limit your search to specific fields such as Full text, Title, Author, Abstract or Keywords.

Search Manager

Use the search manager to create complex search strategies.

You can refine your search by selecting the databases you would like to search. Select one or more titles by clicking the boxes.

Use "Add to Search Manager" to build complex searches.

Common search terms are presented as you type.

Use the dropdown menu to limit your search by field.

You can refine your search by selecting the databases you would like to search. Select one or more titles by clicking the boxes.

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Use the dropdown menu to limit your search by field.
**Search Results**

The number in brackets indicates the number of records that match your search in each database. From the search results click on the article title to view.

**Strategy Library**

The Strategy Library allows you to manage and view searches you have previously saved.
MeSH Searching

To reach the MeSH search page simply click on the appropriate tab.

MeSH is the U.S. National Library of Medicine’s controlled vocabulary used for indexing articles for MEDLINE and PubMed. MeSH terminology provides a consistent way to retrieve information that may use different terminology for the same concepts (see http://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pubmed/).

Keywords drawn from the MeSH Thesaurus, published by National Library of Medicine, have been attached to many, but not all of the records in The Cochrane Library.
### How to search for

**Automatic stemming and Term Variations**
- clear
- tumor
- mouse
- run

The search system performs automatic stemming of the term(s) by searching all common variants of a term based on its part of speech, eliminating the need for users to manually type these common variants.

**Semantic variants:** clear finds clear, clears, cleared, clearing, clearer, clearest
**Common British vs. American spelling variants:** tumor also finds tumour
**Non-standard plural variants:** mouse also finds mice

**Common irregular verbs:** run also finds ran, runs, running

Automatic stemming can be shut off by putting the term in quotes and selecting “without word variations searched” in search limits.

---

### Single term
- Cloning

Searches for specific term in article or selected fields.

### Multiple words
- diabetes mellitus

If no quotes are used, search will “AND” terms and find articles or selected fields with both terms.

### Phrase Searching
- “diabetes mellitus” hearing NEXT aid*

Use quotes to find exact phrases. This search finds “diabetes mellitus” in the article or selected fields. If using wildcards, use NEXT: Phrase search doesn’t support wildcards.

### Wildcard (or truncation)
- transplant*

Use an asterisk (*) to match all terms beginning with a word root. transplant* finds transplant, transplants, transplanting, and transplantable.

- *glycemia

Use an asterisk (*) at the beginning of a word to match terms with the same suffix.

- leuk*mia

Use an asterisk to match multiple characters within a word. leuk*mia finds leukemia and leukaemia

- wom?n

Use a question mark (?) to match a single character within a word. wom?n finds women or woman

- system?

Use a question mark to match all terms beginning with the word root + 1 additional character. System? finds system and systems but not systematic or systemic.

### Searching with Field Labels
- “lung cancer”:ti (hearing next aid*):kw
- smith:au
- (cancer near lung):ti,ab,kw

On Search Manager Tab, limit to specific fields using the following field labels:
- :ti (Title) | :ab (Abstract) | :kw (Keywords) | :au (Author) | :so (Source) | :pt (Publication Type) | :tb (Tables) | :doi (Digital Object Identifier - DOI)

If NO field label is used, “All text” will be searched.

To search multiple fields, separate field labels using commas (:ti,ab,kw).

### Logical operators in phrases
- “Food and Drug Administration”

To find phrases which contain a logical operators (and, or, not)

### Support for Logical (Boolean) Operators

The following operators can be used via the pull-down boxes in the search tab, or typed directly into the search boxes in either the search or search manager tabs.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Operator</th>
<th>Example</th>
<th>Use</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>AND</td>
<td>leg AND ulcer</td>
<td>Both terms MUST appear in the article or selected field(s).</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>OR</td>
<td>heart OR cardiac</td>
<td>At least one of the terms must appear in the article or selected field(s).</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>NOT</td>
<td>aids NOT hearing</td>
<td>The first word must appear but the second word cannot appear in the article or selected field(s).</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ORDER OF PRECEDENCE</td>
<td>kidney OR renal and dialysis</td>
<td>If your search contains more than one logical operators, the system will execute the search in the following order: All NOT operations first, all AND operations second, All OR operations last. For better precision, use nesting.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Grouping (or nesting)</td>
<td>(kidney OR renal) AND dialysis</td>
<td>Default precedence order can be changed by using parentheses () to explicitly group searches using logical operators.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Combining Searches</td>
<td>#1 or #2 or #3 (and #1 or #2) and #3 (AND #1-#4 OR #1-4, #7, #9)</td>
<td>Combine results from multiple search lines into a combined result set. Supports Boolean (AND, OR, NOT) and nesting. Precedence rules are applied if not explicitly given through nesting. Searches can also be combined using a range of lines, (AND #1-#4). Range searching can be used with “AND” or “OR” operators and must be enclosed in {}.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Proximity</td>
<td>NEAR cancer near lung</td>
<td>Terms can appear in either order. Finds “lung cancer” and “cancer of the lung” NEAR automatically defaults to near/6 (within 6 words).</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>NEAR/x</td>
<td>Terms can appear in either order. User can decide number of terms using the near/x command where x = the maximum number of words between search terms.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>NEXT lung next cancer hearing next aid*</td>
<td>Terms must appear in order keyed and assumes terms are next to each other. lung next cancer finds lung cancer but not cancer of the lung. Does not support the /x parameter. Supports the use of wildcards.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
**Entering a MeSH search directly in search manager**

Users familiar with MeSH headings can now directly enter a MeSH term(s) using the Search Manager Tab. The syntax supports the searching of one or more MeSH terms, turning on and off term explosion, applying a qualifier, and searching using a Major concept(s) only.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>MeSH Search</th>
<th>Syntax</th>
<th>Notes</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>BASIC EXAMPLE</strong></td>
<td>[mh cholesteatoma]</td>
<td>If searching phrase, put term in quotes.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Specify a MeSH heading</td>
<td>[mh “diabetes mellitus”]</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>EXPLODE A TERM</strong></td>
<td>[mh cholesteatoma]</td>
<td>Term explosion occurs by default</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Specifying that all trees for MeSH heading should be exploded</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>SEARCH A TERM WITHOUT EXPLOSION</strong></td>
<td>[mh ^cholesteatoma]</td>
<td>Use ^ in front of the term to turn off term explosion</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Specifying trees for MeSH heading should not be exploded</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>LIMIT BY QUALIFIERS</strong></td>
<td>[mh “cholesteatoma, middle ear”/BL,CO]</td>
<td>Use / and the 2 letter qualifier abbreviation to limit by one or more qualifiers. This example limits term to qualifiers BL (Blood) or CO (Complications)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>(with term explosion)</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Specifying a MeSH heading with one or more qualifiers (with explosion)</td>
<td>[mh ^“cholesteatoma, middle ear”/BL,CO]</td>
<td>Qualifiers must be keyed in upper case. This example limits term to qualifiers BL (Blood) or CO (Complications)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
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<td>[mh ^“cholesteatoma, middle ear”/BL,CO]</td>
<td>Use / and the 2 letter qualifier abbreviation to limit by one or more qualifiers. This example limits term to qualifiers BL (Blood) or CO (Complications)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>(without term explosion)</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Specifying a MeSH heading with one or more qualifiers (without explosion)</td>
<td>[mh /DT]</td>
<td>If qualifiers are specified without a MeSH term, this will find all articles where this qualifier appears. This example finds all articles indexed with a qualifier DT (DrugTherapy)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>SPECIFYING A QUALIFIER ONLY</strong></td>
<td>[mh /DT]</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Search for any articles using a specific qualifier</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>LIMIT BY MAJOR CONCEPT</strong></td>
<td>[mh human[mj][GE,GD]]</td>
<td>[mj] is used to limit your search to “Major concepts” only</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Specifying a MeSH heading as a major topic of an article</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>SEARCH FOR MORE THAN ONE MeSH TERM IN THE SAME LINE</strong></td>
<td>[mh cholesteatoma] and [mh “ear canal”/AB]</td>
<td>Search for two or more MeSH terms in the same line and combine using AND, OR, NOT. Each MeSH term should be enclosed in square brackets [ ]</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Specifying multiple MeSH headings and/or qualifiers in the same line</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**In Summary:**
- [mh is used to indicate search term/string contains a MeSH heading
- Phrases MUST BE placed in quotes e.g. [mh “cholesteatoma, middle ear”]
- ^ can be placed before the MeSH heading to turn explosion OFF
Customer Training

To help you make the most of the site, take advantage of these free training resources:

**Online tutorials – available 24/7**
A self-paced online tutorial is available in several different languages.

http://wileyonlinelibrary.com/training

**Free Instructor-led Web Training**
Participate in live online sessions from our calendar or bespoke training on request.

http://wileyonlinelibrary.com/tutorials

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Additionally, institutional customers can choose a Basic Access Licence (BAL) – one site access for one concurrent user.

**Individual customers:**
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To place your order:
- **By Phone:** Phone your credit card order to +44 (0)1865 476722
- **By E-mail:** cs-cochrane@wiley.com

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