



Searching MEDLINE on Ovid SP Handout #4

Advanced Ovid Search: The 7 Steps that Matter!

Search Example: Locate articles that illustrate the relationship between chewing tobacco and oral cancer.

Step 1 – Enter Search Query

Basic Search **Advanced Ovid Search** Find Citation Search Tools Search Fields

Enter Keyword or phrase (use "or" or "S" for truncation): Keyword Author Title Journal

oral cancer **1** Search **3**

Map Term to Subject Heading **2**

▼ Limits (Click to close)

Abstracts Core Clinical Journals (AIM) English Language

Full Text Humans Latest Update

Review Articles

Publication Year - -

Additional Limits

- 1** Enter only one search concept at a time, for example, “oral cancer”
- 2** Be sure the box for **Map Term to Subject Heading** is checked
- 3** Click **Search**

Step 2 – Mapping to Medical Subject Heading (MeSH)

Mapping Display 1

Your term mapped to the following Subject Headings:
Click on a subject heading to view more general and more specific terms within the tree.

I Any term you select will automatically be exploded to include all narrower terms. To select a term without exploding, clear the Explode checkbox for that term.

Term is a thesaurus term

Include All Subheadings

Combine selections with:

Select	Subject Heading 2	Auto Explode	Focus 3	Scope 4
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Mouth Neoplasms	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	I
<input type="checkbox"/>	mouth neoplasms.mp, search as Keyword			

1 Mapping Display: OvidSP automatically matches search term(s) with controlled vocabulary, or Medical Subject Headings (MeSH). Using MeSH increases the likelihood of finding relevant articles on a subject, including variations of a term that authors might use, for example “mouth cancer,” “mouth neoplasms,” etc.

2 MeSH Heading:

In this example, “Oral Cancer” is not a Medical Subject Heading, but OvidSP mapped you to the correct MeSH term, “Mouth Neoplasms.” Ovid MEDLINE is pre-set to automatically explode your selected MeSH term. Exploding will retrieve results that contain the MeSH term in combination with all its narrower, more specific terms such as “Tongue Neoplasms” or “Lip Neoplasms.” To see the narrower and broader MeSH terms around “Mouth Neoplasms” click on the blue MeSH term to link, which will take you to a page which shows this MeSH heading in context to other related terms.

3 Focus:

Check the **Focus** box if you wish to restrict your “Mouth Neoplasms” search retrieval to a subset of articles where this subject is considered to be the major focus of the article. Note: choosing to focus your search term at this point may greatly reduce your search results.

4 Scope Note:

Click the information Icon (**I**) to view the Scope Note. The Scope Note will provide additional information about the Subject Heading.

Step 3 – Subheadings

Subheading Display

Subheadings for: **exp Mouth Neoplasms**

Combine selections with:

2 Include All Subheadings

-- or choose one or more of these subheadings --

<input type="checkbox"/> /bl - Blood	<input type="checkbox"/> /mo - Mortality
<input type="checkbox"/> /bs - Blood Supply	<input type="checkbox"/> /nu - Nursing
<input type="checkbox"/> /ci - Chemically Induced	<input type="checkbox"/> /ps - Parasitology
<input type="checkbox"/> /ch - Chemistry	<input type="checkbox"/> /pa - Pathology
<input type="checkbox"/> /cl - Classification	<input type="checkbox"/> /pp - Physiopathology
<input type="checkbox"/> /co - Complications	<input type="checkbox"/> /pc - Prevention & Control
<input type="checkbox"/> /cn - Congenital	<input type="checkbox"/> /px - Psychology
<input type="checkbox"/> /di - Diagnosis	<input type="checkbox"/> /ra - Radiography
<input type="checkbox"/> /dh - Diet Therapy	<input type="checkbox"/> /ri - Radionuclide Imaging
<input type="checkbox"/> /dt - Drug Therapy	<input type="checkbox"/> /rt - Radiotherapy
<input type="checkbox"/> /ec - Economics	<input type="checkbox"/> /rh - Rehabilitation
<input type="checkbox"/> /em - Embryology	<input type="checkbox"/> /sc - Secondary
<input type="checkbox"/> /en - Enzymology	<input type="checkbox"/> /se - Secretion
<input type="checkbox"/> /ep - Epidemiology	<input type="checkbox"/> /su - Surgery

1 Select Subheadings:

Apply as many subheadings as you want. Subheadings are attached directly to the term you are searching and are a good way to get articles about a particular aspect of your term – like **Diagnosis of** or **Mortality from** Mouth Neoplasms. Applying a subheading to a MeSH term will limit your search retrieval.

2

If you want **ALL Subheadings** attached to your term, just click on Include all **Subheadings**, or, simply click **Continue**.

Step 4 – Enter Your Second Search Concept

Basic Search **Advanced Ovid Search** Find Citation Search Tools Search Fields

Enter Keyword or phrase (use "" or "S" for truncation): Keyword Author Title Journal

chewing tobacco

Map Term to Subject Heading

▼ Limits (Click to close)

Abstracts Core Clinical Journals (AIM) English Language

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Review Articles

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1

Enter your second search concept “**chewing tobacco**” and repeat the steps for searching, mapping to Medical Subject Heading and applying All Subheadings as used in the first search term.

Step 5 – Combine Search Statements

Basic Search **Advanced Ovid Search** Find Citation Search Tools Search Fields

Enter Keyword or phrase (use [™] or [®] for truncation):
 Keyword Author Title Journal
1 and 2 **1** Search >>
 Map Term to Subject Heading

▼ Limits (Click to close)

Abstracts Core Clinical Journals (AIM) English Language
 Full Text Humans Latest Update
 Review Articles

Publication Year - -
Additional Limits

▼ Search History (2 searches) (Click to close) View Saved

<input type="checkbox"/>	#	Searches	Results	Display
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	1	exp Mouth Neoplasms/	14890	DISPLAY
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	2	exp Tobacco, Smokeless/	943	DISPLAY

Remove Selected | Combine selections with:

- 1** Enter the search set numbers combined with “and” on the search line as in the example above.
- 2** An additional option is to click on the search statements you wish to combine in the Search History box.

Step 6 – Limit Your Retrieval

The screenshot shows the Ovid search interface. At the top, there are tabs for 'Basic Search', 'Advanced Ovid Search', 'Find Citation', 'Search Tools', and 'Search Fields'. The 'Advanced Ovid Search' tab is active. Below the tabs, there is a search input field with a 'Search >>' button. A yellow circle with the number '2' is next to the 'Limits' section. The 'Limits' section contains several checkboxes: 'Abstracts', 'Full Text', 'Review Articles', 'Core Clinical Journals (AIM)', 'Humans', 'English Language', and 'Latest Update'. There is also a 'Publication Year' dropdown menu and an 'Additional Limits' button. Below the 'Limits' section is a 'Search History' section with a 'View Saved' button. The 'Search History' section contains a table with 5 columns: a checkbox, '#', 'Searches', 'Results', and 'Display'. The table has 3 rows. The first row has a checkbox, '1', 'exp Mouth Neoplasms/', '14890', and a 'DISPLAY' button. The second row has a checkbox, '2', 'exp Tobacco, Smokeless/', '943', and a 'DISPLAY' button. The third row has a checkbox, '3', '1 and 2', '224', and a 'DISPLAY' button. A yellow circle with the number '1' is next to the '224' result count. Below the table are buttons for 'Remove Selected', 'Combine selections with: And Or', an 'RSS' icon, and a 'Save Search History' button.

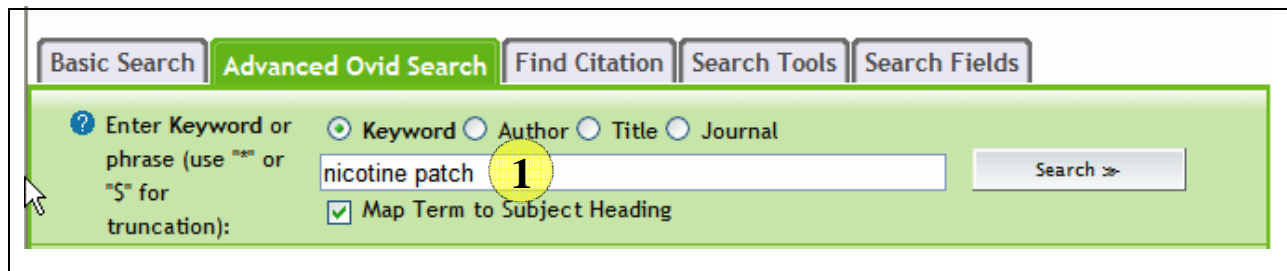
<input type="checkbox"/>	#	Searches	Results	Display
<input type="checkbox"/>	1	exp Mouth Neoplasms/	14890	<input type="button" value="DISPLAY"/>
<input type="checkbox"/>	2	exp Tobacco, Smokeless/	943	<input type="button" value="DISPLAY"/>
<input type="checkbox"/>	3	1 and 2	224	<input type="button" value="DISPLAY"/>

1 Once all your search statements are combined and you are ready to take a look at your retrieval – you may want to **Limit** your search results.

2 To see a selective list of Limits Click on **Limits**.

The complete **Limit** options can be found by clicking on the **Additional Limits**. These **Limits** can really help you focus in on your population or publication type of articles you are looking for – like Randomized Controlled Trials (under the publication type limit).

Step 7 – Keyword Searching and Truncation

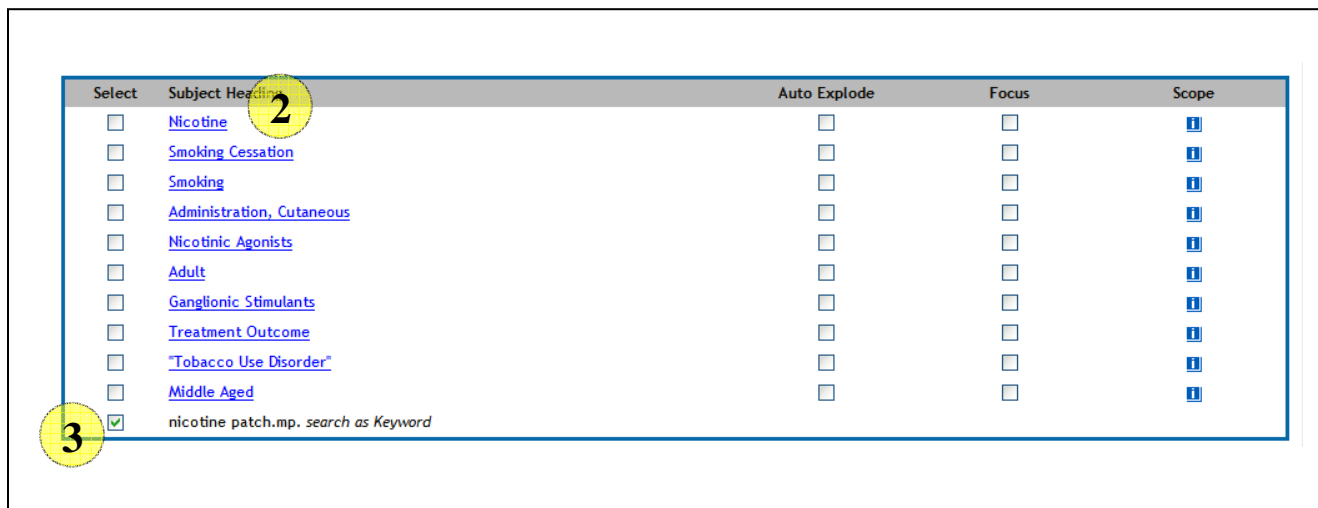


Basic Search **Advanced Ovid Search** Find Citation Search Tools Search Fields

Enter Keyword or phrase (use ^{***} or "S" for truncation): Keyword Author Title Journal

Map Term to Subject Heading

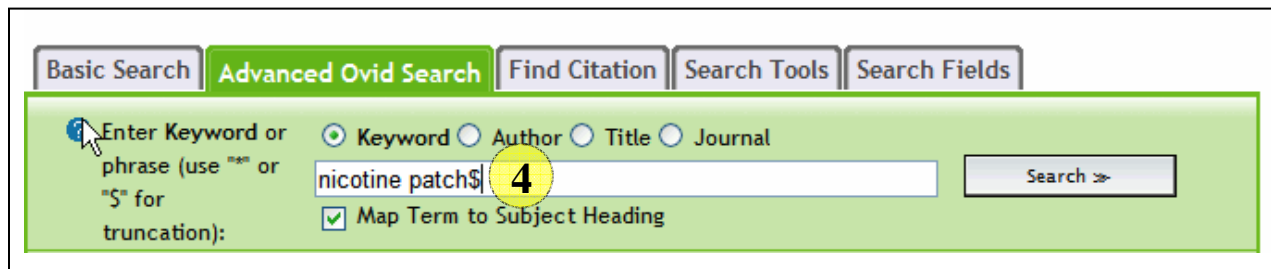
- 1** In some cases the search term you enter does not have a corresponding MeSH term. The term “nicotine patch” is an example of a search term that does not map to a MeSH term.



Select	Subject Heading	Auto Explode	Focus	Scope
<input type="checkbox"/>	Nicotine	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="button" value="I"/>
<input type="checkbox"/>	Smoking Cessation	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="button" value="I"/>
<input type="checkbox"/>	Smoking	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="button" value="I"/>
<input type="checkbox"/>	Administration, Cutaneous	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="button" value="I"/>
<input type="checkbox"/>	Nicotinic Agonists	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="button" value="I"/>
<input type="checkbox"/>	Adult	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="button" value="I"/>
<input type="checkbox"/>	Ganglionic Stimulants	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="button" value="I"/>
<input type="checkbox"/>	Treatment Outcome	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="button" value="I"/>
<input type="checkbox"/>	"Tobacco Use Disorder"	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="button" value="I"/>
<input type="checkbox"/>	Middle Aged	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="button" value="I"/>
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	nicotine patch.mp. search as Keyword			

- 2** The Mapping Screen found MeSH terms relevant to “nicotine patch.” You could continue your search using “nicotine” which is not exactly the term you are looking for.
- 3** Another option is to search for “nicotine patch” as a Keyword. A Keyword search looks for an exact word match in the title and abstract fields of each MEDLINE record.

Step 7 – Keyword Searching and Truncation, *continued*



The screenshot shows the Ovid search interface with the 'Advanced Ovid Search' tab selected. The search box contains the text 'nicotine patch\$'. A yellow circle with the number '4' highlights the truncation symbol '\$' at the end of the word 'patch'. The search criteria are set to 'Keyword', and the 'Map Term to Subject Heading' checkbox is checked. The 'Search' button is visible to the right of the search box.

- 4** If the word you are searching as a keyword could have variant endings (eg. patch, patches), return to the main search box and add a “truncation symbol” at the end of the word where it could begin to vary.

Ovid Truncation symbols are the (\$) dollar sign or the (*) asterisk. Example:
patch\$ - would search for either the words patch or patches.

In our example above a Keyword search for “nicotine patch\$” (with truncation on the word “patch”) finds approximately 100 more articles when using truncation.