



## *How Many Articles Do You Want to Find?* Searching MEDLINE using the Ovid Web Gateway - Search Tips

### *Finding Too Many Articles?*

#### TIP - How to REDUCE the Number of Articles You Find:



- (1) Use the operator AND to combine 1 or more search terms together.  
Example: Mouth Neoplasms AND Tobacco, Smokeless
- (2) Use the command "FOCUS" (\*) to limit your articles to where the subject is the main point of the article.  
Example: \*Lip Neoplasms
- (3) Apply 1 or more subheading(s) to narrow the aspect of your subject.  
Example: \*Lip Neoplasms/et,su (Would limit the articles about lip neoplasms to those that discussed the etiology of (et) and surgery (su) for lip neoplasms).
- (4) Apply Limits, such as English Language, Human, Age Groups, etc.

### *Finding Too Few Articles?*

#### TIP - How to INCREASE the Number of Articles You Find:



- (1) Use the operator OR to combine synonyms to expand your subject.  
Example: Eye Neoplasms OR Eyelid Neoplasms
- (2) Don't apply the FOCUS (\*) command to your term.
- (3) EXPLODE (Exp) your term to include other related subjects.  
Example: Exp Neoplasms would find articles about ALL the different types of neoplasms listed under that broad category.
- (4) Apply ALL SUBHEADINGS. This is the default in Ovid MEDLINE.
- (5) Apply LIMITS sparingly.
- (6) Use TEXTWORDS with appropriate TRUNCATION.  
Ovid Truncation Symbols are the colon (:) or dollar sign (\$)  
Example: snowboard\$ (would find snowboard, snowboards, snowboarders, snowboarding)

