

## Handy Ovid Medline tips

1. To combine a large number of sets using OR or AND in an Ovid database:  
*or/1-10 (equivalent to 1 or 2 or 3 or 4 or 5 or 6 or 7 or 8 or 9 or 10)*

You can also select specific sets (i.e. the sets don't have to be consecutive)  
*and/1-3,4,7,10 (equivalent to 1 and 2 and 3 or and 4 and 7 and 10)*

2. To efficiently delete sets in an Ovid database:  
*..pg 1- 10*  
*..pg 1-3,4,7,10*
3. To check the total number of records in an Ovid database:  
*docz.dz*
4. To look up the 2-letter codes for the fields that can be searched in an Ovid database:

Basic Search | Find Citation | Search Tools | **Search Fields** | Advanced Search | Multi-Field Search

Selected Resources  
Ovid Resources: [Ovid MEDLINE\(R\) 1950 to Present with Daily Update](#)

My Fields | All Fields | Clear Selected

<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> <b>af</b> : All Fields	<input type="checkbox"/> <b>ab</b> : Abstract	<input type="checkbox"/> <b>ax</b> : Author Last Name
<input type="checkbox"/> <b>au</b> : Authors	<input type="checkbox"/> <b>fa</b> : Authors Full Name	<input type="checkbox"/> <b>rn</b> : CAS Registry/EC Number/Name
<input type="checkbox"/> <b>cm</b> : Comments	<input type="checkbox"/> <b>cp</b> : Country of Publication	<input type="checkbox"/> <b>dp</b> : Date of Publication
<input type="checkbox"/> <b>do</b> : Digital Object Identifier	<input type="checkbox"/> <b>ep</b> : Electronic Date of Publication	<input type="checkbox"/> <b>ed</b> : Entry Date
<input type="checkbox"/> <b>xs</b> : Exploded Sub-Heading	<input type="checkbox"/> <b>fs</b> : Floating Sub-Heading	<input type="checkbox"/> <b>gs</b> : Gene Symbol
<input type="checkbox"/> <b>gw</b> : Gene Symbol Word	<input type="checkbox"/> <b>no</b> : Grant Number	<input type="checkbox"/> <b>il</b> : ISSN Linking
<input type="checkbox"/> <b>is</b> : ISSN Print	<input type="checkbox"/> <b>in</b> : Institution	<input type="checkbox"/> <b>ir</b> : Investigator
<input type="checkbox"/> <b>ip</b> : Issue/Part	<input type="checkbox"/> <b>jn</b> : Journal Name	<input type="checkbox"/> <b>sb</b> : Journal Subset
<input type="checkbox"/> <b>jw</b> : Journal Word	<input type="checkbox"/> <b>kw</b> : Keyword Heading	<input type="checkbox"/> <b>kf</b> : Keyword Heading Word

5. To limit to studies done on human populations

Search History (4 searches) (Click to close)

<input type="checkbox"/>	# ▲	Searches	Results
<input type="checkbox"/>	1	(animals not (humans and animals)).sh.	3518895
<input type="checkbox"/>	2	(humans and animals).sh.	1232447
<input type="checkbox"/>	3	animals.sh.	4751342
<input type="checkbox"/>	4	(animals not (humans and animals)).sh.	3518895

Set 4 gives you studies that are exclusively on animal populations. Apply **NOT 4** to remove these studies from your final set.

6. To select the right date field from an array of options

In Ovid there is an array of fields that pertain to dates. They are as follows:

a) **Entry date (.ed)**

The Entry Date (ED) field contains the issue (year, month and day) in which the document was indexed as a MEDLINE (R) record. This index appears in the format YYYYMMDD.

NB: The ED (Entry Date) field in Ovid's MEDLINE corresponds to the Completed Date field in PubMed records.

You can limit a MEDLINE search to find records with a range of Entry Dates. For example, to find articles with autism in their titles which were added to MEDLINE by NLM in Sept. 2005, you would enter this search:

1. autism.ti
2. limit 1 to ed=20050901-20050930

\*\*If you're updating a systematic review, the use of the ED field is recommended. Using DP (see below) for a review update means you might miss an older publication that was only added to Medline at a later date.

b) **Date of publication (.dp)**

Date of Publication (DP) field consists of the date of publication for a citation, in the format YYYY MMM DD (1950 dec 3). The Month and day are not always present. This field is also displayed as part of the Source (SO) field.

c) **Update Date (.up)**

The Update Date (UP) field contains the date the record was added to MEDLINE since the yearly reload completion. The Update Date for existing records changes with each global reload to reflect the date Ovid starts processing the reload data. The UP field appears in the format YYYYMMDD.

d) YR: The Year of Publication (YR) field contains the year in which an article or monograph was published. Only the four digit year is contained in the index.

7. To explode a term in a way that lets you see all the narrower terms in your search history:

If you're exploding a term, we recommend a "belt and suspenders" approach. Check off both the explode box (the left column on the right hand side of the page), and also click on the boxes to select each of the narrower terms. This ensures that you're exploding the broadest term (in this case Weight Loss/) even though it may be found in multiple branches of the MeSH Thesaurus, but that you have a record of the narrower terms when you look back at your search history.

<input type="checkbox"/>	Weight Gain	18201	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Weight Loss	17941	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Emaciation	572	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Cachexia	3295	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<input type="checkbox"/>	Fetal Weight	917	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

8. Differences between NLM’s Pubmed and Ovid Medline when it comes to drug terms:

If you explode the MeSH term Anti-Bacterial Agents in OvidSP Medline, you get **463,487** results. If you do the same thing in PubMed using the MeSH browser, you get **220,856** results. Why does this happen?

Explanation: OvidSP Medline and PubMed differ in their treatment of drug terms.

“In 1996, the MeSH Tree Structure was changed so that specific drugs/chemicals were no longer treed under a function (pharmacological action) heading. This means that in MeSH there is no branch containing all drugs with a particular effect (e.g. all the antioxidants)” (from *PubMed Expert Searching* training manual, March 2006).

However, OvidSP Medline has continued to list specific drugs/chemicals under MeSH headings.

**Implication:**

In PubMed, it’s important to remember the **Pharmacological Action** terms when you want to comprehensively retrieve all drugs with a particular action. For example, if you’re looking for articles about antioxidants in the treatment of cancers:

*Neoplasms [mesh] AND Antioxidants [pa]*

On the other hand, if you’re interested in a specific action of a particular drug, it’s better to combine the drug name as a MeSH term or Substance Word with the pharmacological category as a MeSH heading. For example, if you’re looking for articles that discuss aspirin as an anti-coagulant:

*Aspirin [mesh] AND Fibrinolytic Agents [mesh]*

**OvidSP Medline Tree view**

<input type="checkbox"/>	[-] Chemical Actions and Uses	0	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<a href="#">i</a>
<input type="checkbox"/>	[-] Pharmacologic Actions	0	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<a href="#">i</a>
<input type="checkbox"/>	[+] Molecular Mechanisms of Pharmacological Action	0	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<a href="#">i</a>
<input type="checkbox"/>	[+] Physiological Effects of Drugs	0	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<a href="#">i</a>
<input type="checkbox"/>	[-] Therapeutic Uses	4	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<a href="#">i</a>
<input type="checkbox"/>	[+] Anti-Allergic Agents	2594	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<a href="#">i</a>
<input type="checkbox"/>	[-] Anti-Infective Agents	29900	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<a href="#">i</a>
<input type="checkbox"/>	[+] [Drug Terms (Non MeSH)]				<a href="#">i</a>
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> [-] Anti-Bacterial Agents	186690	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<a href="#">i</a>
<input type="checkbox"/>	[-] [Drug Terms (Non MeSH)]				<a href="#">i</a>
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/> Alamethicin	482	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<a href="#">i</a>
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/> Amdinocillin	363	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<a href="#">i</a>
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/> Amdinocillin Pivoxil	188	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<a href="#">i</a>
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/> Amikacin	3114	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<a href="#">i</a>
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/> Amoxicillin	6791	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<a href="#">i</a>
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/> Amoxicillin-Potassium Clavulanate Combination	1645	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<a href="#">i</a>
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/> Amphotericin B	11504	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<a href="#">i</a>
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/> Ampicillin	11996	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<a href="#">i</a>
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/> Anisomycin	972	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<a href="#">i</a>

**PubMed MeSH database:**

The screenshot shows the MeSH database search interface. At the top, there are logos for NCBI and MeSH, and a navigation bar with links to various databases. The search bar contains 'MeSH' and 'antibacterial agent'. Below the search bar, there are buttons for 'Limits', 'Preview/Index', 'History', 'Clipboard', and 'Details'. The results are displayed in a table with columns for 'Display', 'Show', and 'Send to'. The first two results are circled in red:

- 1: [Anti-Bacterial Agents](#)  
Substances that reduce the growth or reproduction of BACTERIA.  
Year introduced: 2004(1963)
- 2: [Anti-Bacterial Agents \[Pharmacological Action\]](#)

On the right side, there is a 'Recent Activity' section showing search history for 'antibacterial agent'.

The screenshot shows the MeSH database search results page for 'Anti-Bacterial Agents [Pharmacological Action]'. The search bar contains 'MeSH' and 'Anti-Bacterial Agents [Pharmacological Action]'. Below the search bar, there are buttons for 'Limits', 'Preview/Index', 'History', 'Clipboard', and 'Details'. The results are displayed in a table with columns for 'Display', 'Show', and 'Send to'. The first result is circled in red:

- 1: [Anti-Bacterial Agents \[Pharmacological Action\]](#)
  - 2,4-diacetylphloroglucinol (*Substance Name*)
  - 2-deoxystreptomine (*Substance Name*)
  - Acedapsone (*MeSH Term*)
  - actinonin (*Substance Name*)
  - actinorhodin (*Substance Name*)
  - Alamethicin (*MeSH Term*)
  - albomycin (*Substance Name*)

On the left side, there is a sidebar with links to 'About Entrez', 'Text Version', 'Entrez PubMed', 'Journals Database', 'MeSH Database', 'Single Citation Matcher', 'Batch Citation Matcher', 'Clinical Queries', 'Special Queries', 'LinkOut', and 'My NCBI'. On the right side, there is a 'Recent Activity' section showing search history for 'antibacterial agent'.