

From the Health Science Library

Getting to Know OvidSP:

How to Use MeSH in MEDLINE to Retrieve Highly Relevant Journal Articles

Medical Subject Headings, or MeSH, are the controlled vocabulary terms (think “tags”) that subject experts apply when indexing articles in the Ovid MEDLINE database. What are the advantages of using MeSH? MeSH helps find articles directly related to your topic while weeding out those that may use the same keywords but are irrelevant (think 20356 Google results!). It can also bring up articles that may be missed by searching solely with keywords. For example, searching for articles on the “flu” may miss those articles that only refer to the infection as “influenza”. Similarly, MeSH helps your search strategy distinguish between articles about the influenza infection in humans with those about the virus itself (i.e., Influenza A, etc.)

How does one construct a search that takes advantage of MeSH in Ovid MEDLINE? Let’s suppose you want to find articles on *the problems with giving flu vaccines to people with egg allergies*. This query has two main concepts that need to be present in relevant articles: 1) flu vaccines and 2) egg allergies.

To get started, select the [Advanced Search] tab in Ovid MEDLINE. Make sure the Map Term to Subject Heading checkbox is selected. Type the first concept of your topic *flu vaccine* into the search box.

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

1 Resource selected | [Hide](#) | [Change](#)

Ovid MEDLINE(R) 1946 to October Week 5 2015

Enter keyword or phrase (* or \$ for truncation)

☒ Keyword ☐ Author ☐ Title ☐ Journal

flu vaccine

Search

▸ Limits (expand) ☐ Include Multimedia ☒ Map Term to Subject Heading

▼ Search History (0 searches) (close) View Saved

	# ▲	Searches	Results	Search Type	Actions

Remove Selected Save Selected Combine selections with: ☐ And ☐ Or

Save Search History

Ovid automatically maps your keyword phrase (e.g. flu vaccine) onto the MeSH (e.g. influenza vaccines) that may be appropriate for your topic (see screenshot below). If more than one MeSH term is presented, click on the **Scope** note icon to determine the best MeSH to select and click [Continue].

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☐ Include All Subheadings
Combine selections with: **OR** [Continue >](#)

Select	Subject Heading	Explode	Focus	Scope
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Influenza Vaccines	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
<input type="checkbox"/>	flu vaccine.mp. search as Keyword			

The next step is to select any relevant **Subheadings** to help further refine the search. In this case, we are looking for problems related to the flu vaccine so we might want to choose **Adverse Effects** as a Subheading so that Ovid will find articles that only include the MeSH **Influenza Vaccines** paired with **/ae [Adverse Effects]**. If you don't want to narrow to specific subheading(s), just click [Continue] without selecting (or select the **Include All Subheadings** checkbox at the top).

Subheadings for: **Influenza Vaccines**
Combine selections with: **OR** [Continue >](#)

☐ Include All Subheadings (18161)
-- or choose one or more of the subheadings --

<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> /ad - Administration & Dosage (7100)	<input type="checkbox"/> /ge - Genetics (714)
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> /ae - Adverse Effects (2939)	<input type="checkbox"/> /hi - History (53)
<input type="checkbox"/> /an - Analysis (100)	<input type="checkbox"/> /im - Immunology (6400)
<input type="checkbox"/> /ai - Antagonists & Inhibitors (2)	<input type="checkbox"/> /ip - Isolation & Purification (205)

Repeat the same steps for the other main concept(s) of your topic. As you see in the screenshot below, Ovid maps the phrase "egg allergies" on to the MeSH **Egg Hypersensitivity**. To combine these two concepts, select the check boxes on the left for those search statements you want to combine and then select the Boolean operator **AND** or **OR**. In this case, both concepts must be present in the article so we choose **AND**.

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

1 Resource selected | [Hide](#) | [Change](#)
Ovid MEDLINE(R) 1946 to October Week 5 2015

Enter keyword or phrase (* or \$ for truncation) [Search](#)

☒ Keyword ☐ Author ☐ Title ☐ Journal

[Limits \(expand\)](#) ☐ Include Multimedia ☒ Map Term to Subject Heading

Search History (2 searches) (close)		Results	Search Type	Actions
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	1 Influenza Vaccines/ae [Adverse Effects]	2939	Advanced	Display More >
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	2 Egg Hypersensitivity/	465	Advanced	Display More >

[Remove Selected](#) [Save Selected](#) | Combine selections with **And** **Or** [Save Search History](#)

Voila! You have found a list of highly relevant articles on the adverse effects of the flu vaccine for people with egg allergies.

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

1 Resource selected | [Hide](#) | [Change](#)

Ovid MEDLINE(R) 1946 to October Week 5 2015

Enter keyword or phrase
(* or \$ for truncation)

☒ Keyword ☐ Author ☐ Title ☐ Journal

☐ Limits (expand) ☐ Include Multimedia ☒ Map Term to Subject Heading

Search History (3 searches) (close)

	#	Searches	Results	Search Type	Actions
<input type="checkbox"/>	1	Influenza Vaccines/ae [Adverse Effects]	2939	Advanced	<input type="button" value="Display"/> More >
<input type="checkbox"/>	2	Egg Hypersensitivity/	465	Advanced	<input type="button" value="Display"/> More >
<input type="checkbox"/>	3	1 and 2	40	Advanced	<input type="button" value="Display"/> More >

Combine selections with:

Now try it out for yourself and let us know how it goes! Stay tuned for next month's MSN article discussing what would have happened if we had done this search without using MeSH.

For information on how to access Ovid/Library Resources from off-site, visit <http://huntingtonhospital.libguides.com/physicianoffsiteaccess> or contact the library (397-5161, library@huntingtonhospital.com) for individual username & password access.

Culture of Patient Safety with the WHO Checklist

While anesthesia took the mantle to initiate the new Huntington version of the WHO Checklist, many people have been instrumental in the initial rollout. The OR, Labor and Delivery and the Cath Lab Suite have already made great progress, and soon the new process will be hospital wide. Audit results show increased compliance compared to our prior process, but there is still work to be done. The "Sign In" and "Sign Out" are new to everyone's workflow, and new OR leadership will be instrumental in ensuring the program's success. It's all about promoting an overall culture of safety and teamwork. Our specialty uniquely understands the concept of "alarm fatigue." We don't want to create extra work for work's sake, but we want to take practical steps that will make a difference in patients' lives. At the 2015 Euroanaesthesia conference in Berlin, research was presented showing Surgical Checklists decrease overall mortality by 21% worldwide and post operative complications decreased by 30%. The impact is certainly greater in poorer countries, but still meaningful in all. Skepticism is not just normal, but how we, as physicians, are trained to think. The data is starting to show, though, that one simple and inexpensive common sense intervention can have a large impact on patient safety.

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