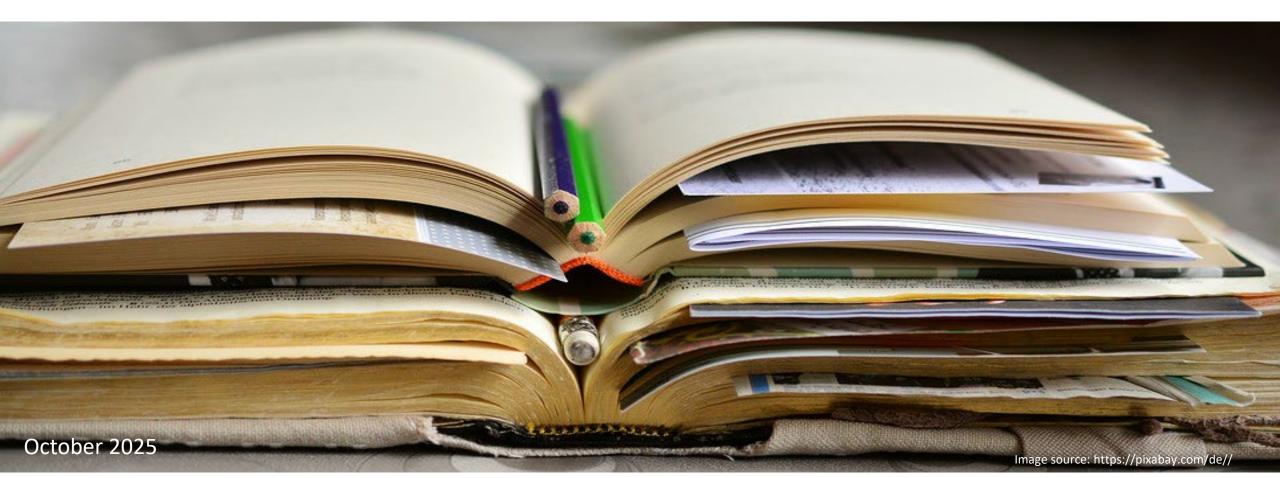
Identifying relevant literature



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for Systematic Reviews and Meta-Analyses

Doris Kopp & Beatrice Minder, Public Health & Primary Care Library, University of Bern biblio.ispm@unibe.ch









- Why do I need to search systematically for systematic reviews?
- How do I develop a systematic search strategy?
- Where do I find reliable, up-to-date medical research findings?
- When is a search strategy «good enough»?
- How do I document/report a search strategy?





Systematic Reviews (SRs) are based on the entire evidence on a topic

How do you find all the evidence?

1. Planned approach:

- Accurate formulation of the research question
- Determining the search terms
- Selection of subject-specific databases
- 2. Allow enough time
- 3. Acquire database knowledge

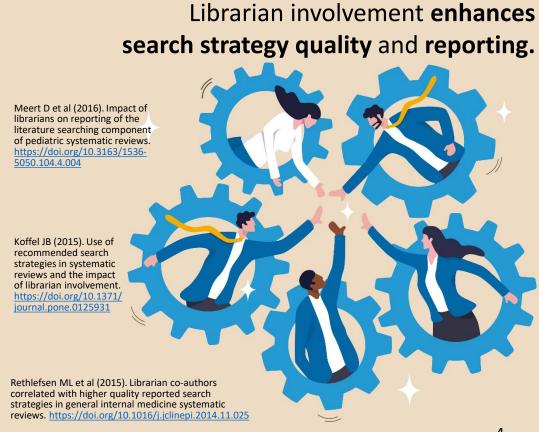




Systematic Review Workflow

Where do Information Specialists provide support?

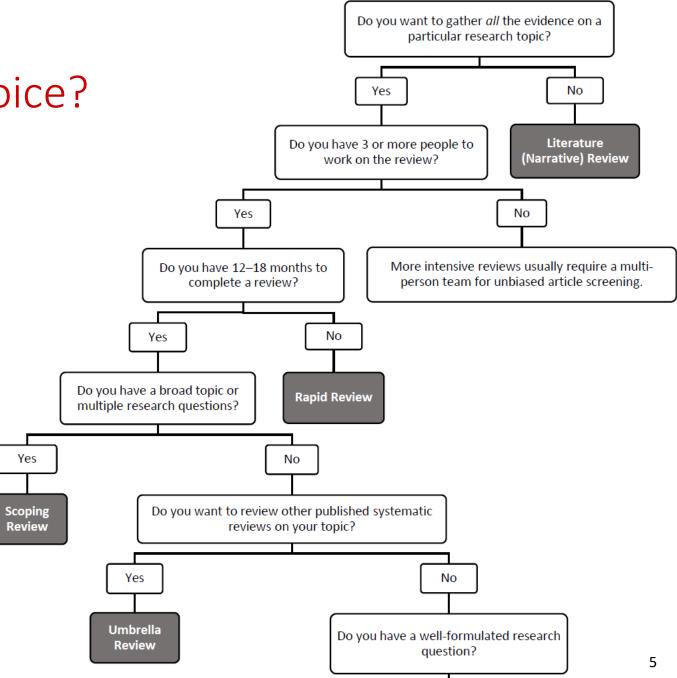
Systematic review workflow Obtain full text Screen abstracts Formulate of relevant **Publish** review question against protocol studies Check for Screen full text Export and existing review Write up results against protocol deduplicate on topic Supplementary Citation Meta-analysis or and grey literature Write protocol searching of meta-synthesis searching included studies Search strategy Critical Search key including Extract and appraisal/quality databases and databases analyse data keywords assessment



Is a SR always the best choice?

Decision tree



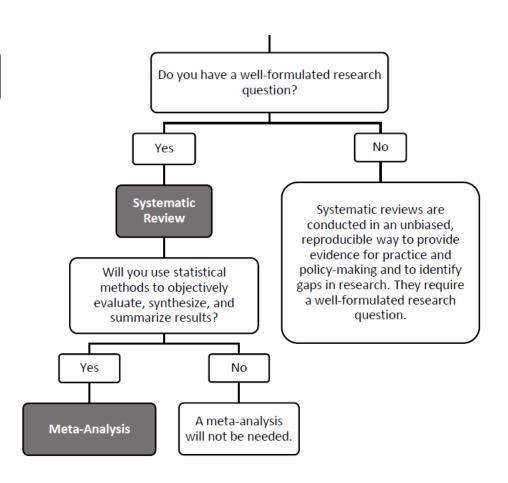




Is a SR always the best choice?

Alternatives:

- Narrative / Literature Review
 Evidence, selectively gathered by the authors
- Rapid Review
 Focus on speed and timeliness of evidence review
- Scoping Review
 Review of a potentially diverse literature on a broad topic
- Umbrella Review
 "Review of Reviews" = comparison/evaluation of reviews

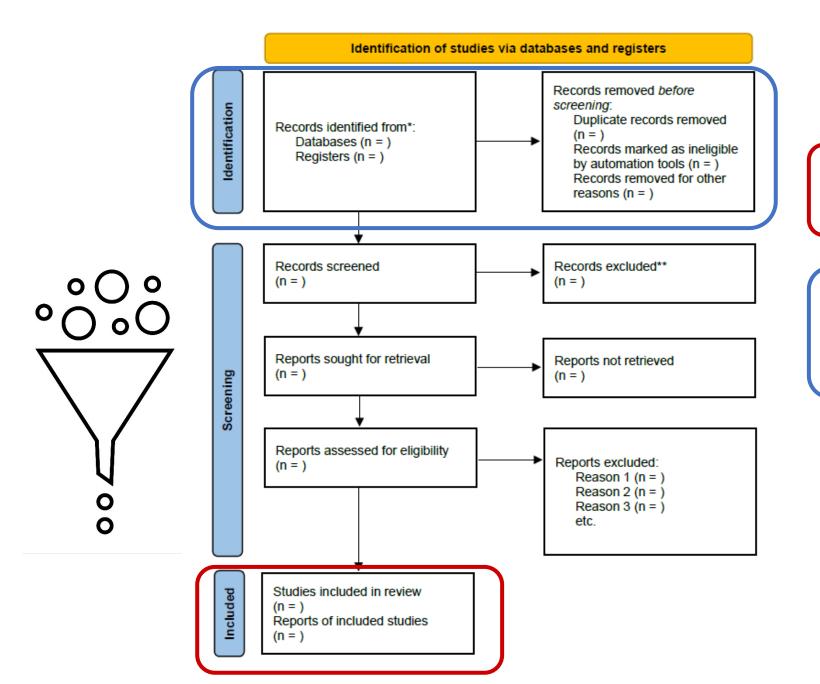


Umbrella

Review







New research findings are based on

the papers found with the search strategies.

If important papers were not identified, the results will be different or biased!

From: Page MJ, McKenzie JE, Bossuyt PM, Boutron I, Hoffmann TC, Mulrow CD, et al. The PRISMA 2020 statement: an updated guideline for reporting systematic reviews. BMJ 2021;372:n71. doi: 10.1136/bmj.n71







Identifying relevant studies in (huge) databases Example of a complex search strategy

PubMed

(("Diabetes Mellitus, Type 1"[Mesh]) OR (type 1 diabet*[Title/Abstract] OR type I diabet*[Title/Abstract] OR diabetes mellitus type 1[Title/Abstract] OR diabetes mellitus type I[Title/Abstract] OR T1D[Title/Abstract] OR T1DM[Title/Abstract] OR insulin-dependent diabet*[Title/Abstract] OR juvenile-onset diabet*[Title/Abstract] OR sudden-onset diabet*[Title/Abstract] OR IDDM[Title/Abstract] OR autoimmune diabet*[Title/Abstract] OR brittle diabet*[Title/Abstract] OR ketosis-prone diabet*[Title/Abstract])) AND (("Adolescent"[Mesh] OR "Child"[Mesh] OR "Infant"[Mesh]) OR (child*[Title/Abstract] OR infan*[Title/Abstract] OR adolescen*[Title/Abstract] OR newborn*[Title/Abstract] OR preschool*[Title/Abstract] OR preschool*[Title/Abstract] OR teen*[Title/Abstract] OR pediatric*[Title/Abstract] OR paediatric*[Title/Abstract])) AND (("Insulin Infusion Systems"[Mesh]) OR (insulin pump*[Title/Abstract] OR insulin infus*[Title/Abstract] OR insulin deliver*[Title/Abstract] OR CSII[Title/Abstract]))) AND ((randomized controlled trial[pt] OR controlled clinical trial[pt] OR randomized[tiab] OR placebo[tiab] OR clinical trials as topic[mesh:noexp] OR randomly[tiab] OR trial[ti] NOT (animals[mh] NOT humans [mh]))))



Identifying relevant studies in databases Translation to other database languages

Embase.com

('insulin dependent diabetes mellitus'/exp OR (((diabet*) NEAR/3 ('typ* 1' OR 'typ* I' OR 'insulin*-depend*' OR juvenil* OR sudden-onset OR early-onset OR autoimmun* OR auto-immun* OR brittle* OR ketoacid* OR ketoacid*)) OR T1D OR T1DM OR IDDM OR 'dm 1'):ab,ti) AND ('adolescent'/de OR 'adolescence'/exp OR 'child'/exp

OR 'kindergarten'/de teen* OR pediatric* (deliver*)) OR CSII):ab 'Double-blind proced NEXT/1 over*) OR pla trial OR groups OR R(

ClinicalTrials.gov

Condition or disease:

Type 1 Diabetes OR Insulin-Dependent Diabetes Mellitus OR Juvenile-Onset Diabetes OR Sudden-Onset Diabetes OR Autoimmune Diabetes OR Brittle Diabetes OR Ketosis-Prone Diabetes OR IDDM OR T1D OR T1DM

Intervention:

insulin infusion OR insul

Age Filter:

Child (birth - 17)

Cochrane CENTRAL

((((diabet*) NEAR/3 ("type 1" OR "typ 1" OR "type I" OR "typ I" OR insulin-dependent OR juvenil* OR suddenonset OR early-onset OR autoimmun* OR auto-immune OR brittle* OR ketoacid* OR keto-acidotic OR keto-acidosis)) OR T1D OR T1DM OR IDDM OR "dm 1"):ab,ti) AND ((child* OR infan* OR adolescen* OR newborn* OR preschool* OR pre NEXT school* OR teen* OR pediatric* OR paediatric*):ab,ti) AND (((insulin NEAR/3 (infus* OR pump* OR deliver*)) OR CSII):ab,ti)





Timeline of a SR, with focus on literature search

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Time span	(months)
-----------	----------

Background

Study other reviews

Specify question

Preliminary search

Protocol

Search

Appraisal

Data extraction

Synthesis

Report

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	
S =	E=		-							• •		
Start	End						Search st	rategy se	tun incl	translat	ion into	all databases
S	E						and subs	equent a	daptatio			an databases
S	Е						(calculate	e up to o	on!)			12
S	Е								10			4
	S	Е										
		S	_	_	Е							
				S	-	Ε						
						S	E					
								S	Е			
									S	_	E	



Practical example of a research question

01 Research question

Insulin pump therapy will make your child's and your life much easier.



Compared to giving the injections, everything else will be better, I'm sure.

TRUE? What is the evidence?



Situation / Clinical Question Acquire background knowledge

Type 1 diabetes, an autoimmune condition in which the pancreas no longer produces the hormone insulin, which is necessary to convert glucose into energy. The therapy is to administer appropriate doses of insulin to keep the sugar levels within a normal range. This can be done by injecting the insulin several times a day, or by carrying a pump that delivers the insulin.

"In children with type 1 diabetes, does insulin pump therapy produce normoglycemia and improve the quality of life (in comparison with daily insulin injections)?"





02

Protocol

Check for other (planned / registered) SRs

PROSPERO (York)

International Prospective Register of Systematic Reviews

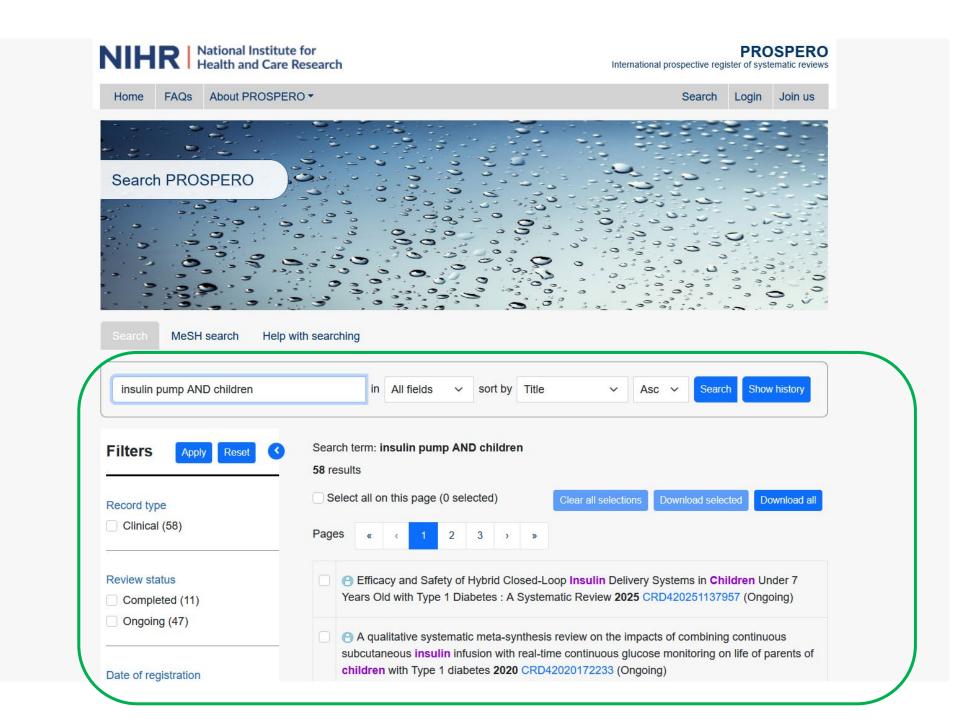
Cochrane Library

(Health Care and Clinical Interventions)

Campbell Collaboration

(Social Interventions)











Protocol development

Relevant points for the literature search

- Aim and type of review
- Exact research question
- Details of the search strategy (provisional version)
- Selection of databases (incl. trial registries)
- Inclusion/exclusion criteria





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02 **Databases**

Databases

Where can I find reliable studies?

Published research (in professional journals): Subject databases (medical, psychological, etc.) (Medline, Embase, CINAHL, PsycInfo, LILACS, etc.)

Ongoing research

Clinical Trials Registries (ClincalTrials.gov, WHO ICTRP)

Grey literature

E.g. conference papers, doctoral theses (Google, Google Scholar, Web of Science, institutional / company websites)

Non-published research

Direct contact with experts or research leaders, sponsors of the studies (pharmaceutical companies)





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02 **Databases**

Databases: MEDLINE PubMed vs. Ovid Medline

	Pub Med®	MEDLINE® on Ovid®
Access	Freely available to the public worldwide	Requires subscription (library or institution)
Content	MEDLINE, PubMed Central, Bookshelf	MEDLINE ALL (all PubMed content)
Interface	By NLM (only for PubMed content)	Ovid (interface for multiple databases)
Search features	Designed for ease of use (in-built features like automatic term mapping, best match etc.). Performing complex searches involves consulting the separate MeSH database. → PubMed step-by-step tutorial (PDF)	More sophisticated searching options , which can be valuable for comprehensive searching for evidence synthesis projects . The MeSH database is integrated. → Ovid Medline step-by-step tutorial (PDF)





The two largest medical databases



- Produced in the USA
- 1966 to present (OldMedline 1946-65)
- More than 39 million records (incl 4 million PubMed-NOT-Medline records);
 > 5200 journals
- Thesaurus: MeSH (over 30'000 terms)
- Contains also Preprints (NIH-funded research)
- Overlap approx. 34% (topics 10% to 75%)



- Produced in Europe
- 1974 to present (Embase Classic 1947-73)
- 49 million records (incl. Medline); 8300 journals (> 3000 not covered in Medline)
- Thesaurus: EMTREE (> 100'000 terms)
- Comprehensive inclusion of drug related and medical device information
- Includes also conference abstracts, clinical trials from ClinicalTrials.gov, preprints (from medRxiv and bioRxiv)

https://www.elsevier.com/products/embase/content

Sources: https://www.nlm.nih.gov/bsd/medline.html; https://pubmed.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/about/



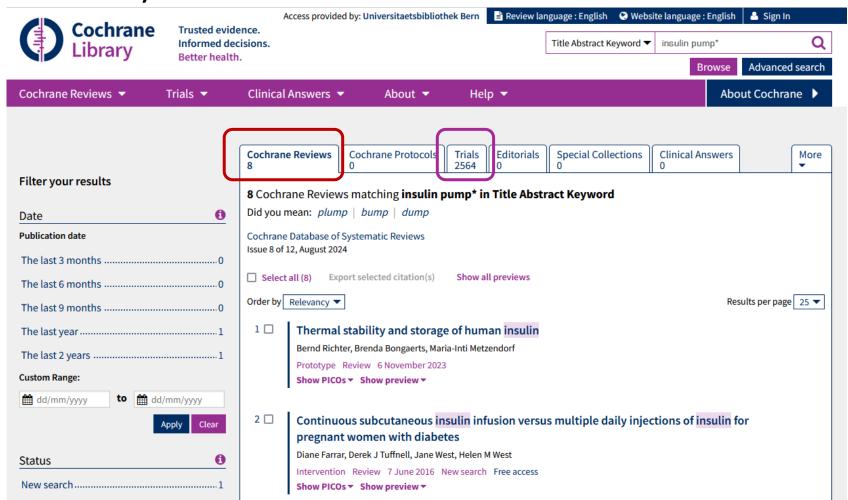
Other databases

The Cochrane Library

Trials = Cochrane Central Register of Controlled Trials (CENTRAL).

Most comprehensive database for finding randomized controlled trials (RCTs). **Sources: Medline, Embase, ClinicalTrials.gov,** and via "handsearching" in printed journals.

Cochrane Reviews =
Cochrane
Database of Systematic
Reviews
These are also included in
Medline.





Avoid publication bias

Cochrane Handbook Chapter 4.2.2 Minimizing bias



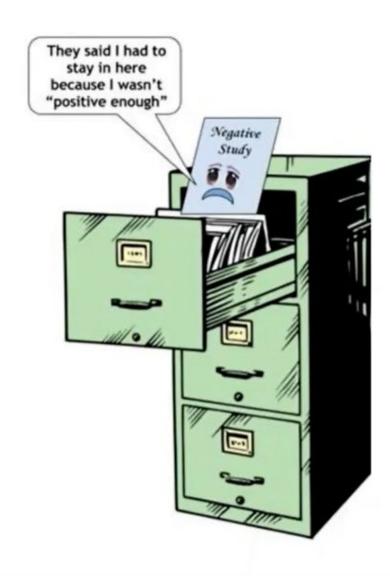
C27: Searching trials registers (Mandatory)

Search trials registers and repositories of results, where relevant to the topic, through ClinicalTrials.gov, the WHO International Clinical Trials Registry Platform (ICTRP) portal and other sources as appropriate.

Searches for studies should be as extensive as possible in order to reduce the risk of publication bias and to identify as much relevant evidence as possible. Although ClinicalTrials.gov is included as one of the registers within the WHO ICTRP portal, it is recommended that both ClinicalTrials.gov and the ICTRP portal are searched separately due to additional features in ClinicalTrials.gov.

Lefebvre C, Glanville J, Briscoe S, Featherstone R, Littlewood A, Metzendorf M-I, Noel-Storr A, Paynter R, Rader T, Thomas J, Wieland LS. **Chapter 4**: **Searching for and selecting studies** [last updated March 2025]. In: Higgins JPT, Thomas J, Chandler J, Cumpston M, Li T, Page MJ, Welch VA (editors). **Cochrane Handbook for Systematic Reviews of Interventions** version 6.5.1 Cochrane, 2025.

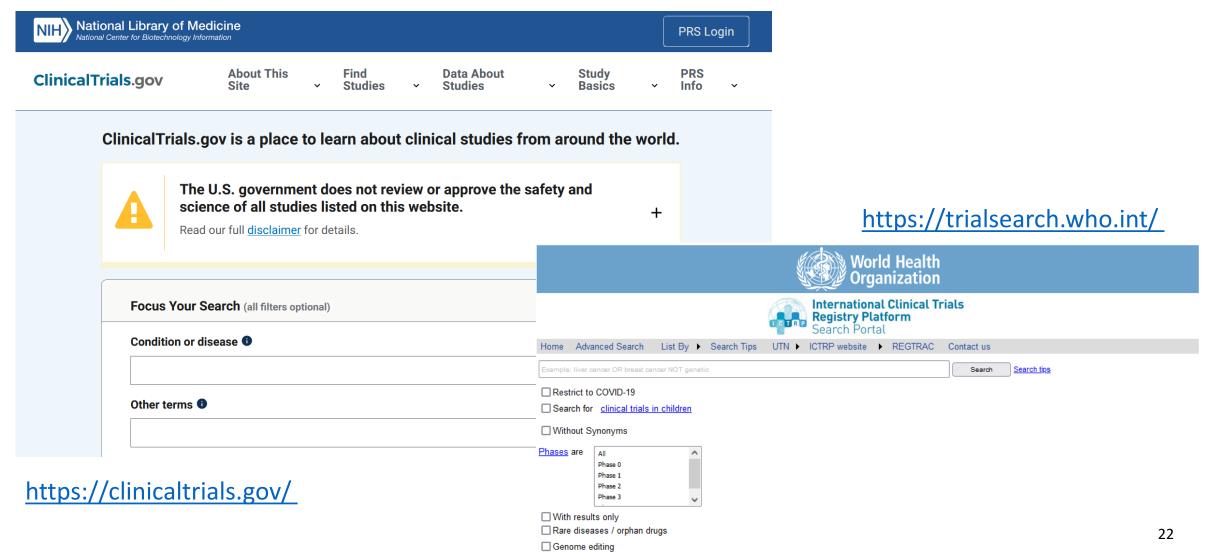
Available from https://www.cochrane.org/authors/handbooks-and-manuals/handbook/current







Other sources: Study Registries







Other sources: Grey literature

Grey Matters

Canadian Agency for Drugs and Technologies in Health (CADTH):

Grey Matters

Definitionen / Ressourcen & praktische Anleitungen zum Thema Grey Literature (LibGuide Kings College UK)



Search for **Swiss** Grey Literature via Google and Google Scholar.



More sources

Preprint Server (increased popularity since COVID-19)

A preprint is the version of a scientific paper that often appears before the official publication. Attention: Mostly this version is not (yet) peer-reviewed and possibly not yet submitted to a journal or accepted for publication.

- Preprint Archives: medRxiv, bioRxiv, OSF Preprints, etc.
- Open access publishing platforms e.g. <u>F1000</u> Research



Other sources to search Google Scholar

Google Scholar combines the ease of Google with access to scholarly materials. Google Scholar searches the Web for scholarly articles, abstracts and books, but not popular magazine, newspaper or Internet articles.

Google Scholar	PubMed (Medline)
+ Algorithm ranks relevance for you	+ More relevant results, sorted by relevance or date
- Textword search	+ Textword and subject heading search
+/- All kind of sources	+ Quality management
- Search results NOT reproducible	+ Search reproducible
+ Searches through fulltext	+/- Searches the record fields (ti, ab, sh)
- Very limited filters	+ Filters for a variety of criteria (age, dates,)
+ Easy to use	- Needs basic training



Google Scholar is a great place to begin your search but should not be the only place you search. Think of it as a resource you can use in addition to the medical databases.



Mandatory database combinations to be

searched for SR

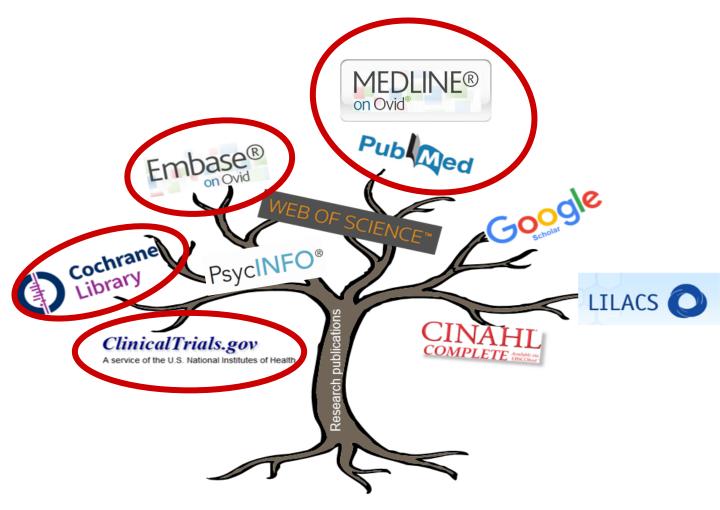
Medline (via PubMed, Ovid, etc.) & Embase (via Elsevier or Ovid)

If Embase is not accessible:

Medline & Cochrane Library: CENTRAL (Cochrane Central Register of Controlled Trials)

Additionally: **trials registries**, regional (e.g. **LILACS**) & subject-specific databases (e.g. **CINAHL**, **PsycInfo**), interdisciplinary DB (**WoS**), **Google Scholar**.

At the end: check **references of included studies**





Developing a focused research question Divide your question into concepts / blocks

03 Block Building / PICO

P		С	0
Population Patient Problem	Intervention Or Exposure	Comparison	Outcome
Who are the patients? What is the problem?	What do we do to them? What are they exposed to?	What do we compare the inter∨ention with?	What happens? What is the outcome?

The formulation of a clear research question is indispensable for a successful systematic review. If it is formulated too narrowly, there may not be enough studies for an evaluation; if it is too broad, there may be a lack of meaningful results.

Auxiliary schemes, e.g. PICO

Splitting of the question into key components / blocks / concepts





Auxiliary Frameworks

How does a question become searchable?

Other auxiliary schemes / frameworks:

- <u>SPIDER</u> for qualitative evidence syntheses
- <u>SPICE</u> for evidence-based practice
 Environment (S) = Setting
 Population (P) = Perspective or Population
 Intervention (I)
 Comparison (C)
 Evaluation (E)
- <u>ECLIPSE</u> for Health Policy

SPICE Acronym

(Booth 2006)

S	Setting – Where? In what context?
Р	Perspective – For who?
- 1	Intervention – What?
С	Comparison – What else?
E	Evaluation – How well? What result?

Source for more schemes and their applications: RefHunter (German)





The Block Building Approach



for public health questions

Example:

«Urban Governance, Multisectoral Action, and Civic Engagement for Population Health, Wellbeing, and Equity in Urban Settings: A Systematic Review»

Approach: We use the block building approach and divide the question into its main concepts (together with the researcher).

Search strategy (concepts / block building approach)

Concept 1:	Subject Heading (MeSH) OR Textwords [Title/Abstract] Urban setting, metropolitan areas					
	AND					
Concept 2:	or Textwords [Title/Abstract] Urban governance, Health governance, Civic engagement					
	AND					
Concept 3:	Subject Heading (MeSH) OR Health, Wellbeing, Equity					
	Textwords [Title/Abstract] 29					



Block building (concepts) always works!

Medline (Ovid)

Concepts 1-4 were combined using 'AND', limits 5) were combined using 'NOT'

1) Cities, urban settings, metropolitan areas

(exp Cities/ or Urban Population/ or (urban setting* OR urban context* OR city OR cities OR metropolitan area* OR superblock* OR town OR towns OR municipal*).ab,ti,kf)

2) Urban governance, Health governance or civic engagement or multisector action

(Health Policy/ or (((urban or health) adj3 govern*) or ((state* or health* or public or built environment*) adj3 polic*) or "health in all polic*" or "healthy public polic*").ab,ti,kf)

(Social Participation/ or Community Participation/ or Community Networks/ or (((community or public or citizen or civic or resident* or private or social or political) adj3 (particip* OR empower* OR involv* OR collaborat* OR engagement* OR implement* or partnership*)) or (participatory adj2 (approach* or framework*)) or participatory spaces or ((multisector* or multi-sector* or intersector* or intersector*) adj3 (action* or collaborat*)) or social citizenship or stakeholder*).ab,ti,kf)

3) Health, Wellbeing, Equity

(Urban Health/ or Health Equity/ or Healthcare Disparities/ or Health Status Disparities/ or "Social Determinants of Health" or Health Status Indicators/ or (wellbeing OR well-being OR health equit* OR urban health* OR quality of life OR community health* OR healthy cit* OR "urban HEART" OR health impact assessment* OR SDG11 OR "SDG3 OR "SDG3" OR sustainable development goal* OR population health* OR residents health* OR healthy life OR healthy lives OR liveabil* OR ((city or cities or settlement*) AND (inclusive or safe or resilient or sustainab*))).ab,ti,kf)

4) (validated) theories, models, tools, instruments

(indicator* OR determinant* OR tool OR tools OR instrument* OR factor OR factors OR intervention* OR definition* OR domain* OR model* OR theor* OR framework* OR concept* OR dimension* OR scor* OR index* OR indices OR scal* OR valid* OR value* OR evaluat* OR evidence OR assess* OR measure* OR metric* OR monitor* OR "Urban HEART").ab,ti,kf

5) Limits: exclusion of animal studies

not (exp animals/ not humans/)

«Urban
Governance,
Multisectoral
Action, and Civic
Engagement for
Population
Health,
Wellbeing, and
Equity in Urban
Settings: A
Systematic
Review»



Break down the research question into blocks

Exercise example with PICO

"In children with type 1 diabetes, does insulin pump therapy produce normoglycemia and improve the quality of life (in comparison with daily insulin injections)?"

Problem

Diabetes type I

Population

Children / adolescents

Intervention

Insulin pump

Comparison, if any

(compared to daily insulin injection)

Outcome(s)

produces normoglycemia, improves quality of life





Block Building

How many and which concepts to include in the search

- Not all concepts need to be included in the search strategy
- Always start with the most important and specific concepts (in our example: problem = diabetes, population = children, intervention = insulin pump)



Population

Intervention

Comparison, if any

Outcome(s)



Adding too many concepts to the search will make it too narrow:

- There may not be enough studies to work with in the end.
- Bias may be introduced into the search (e.g. regarding outcomes).
- 'Negative' comparisons are difficult to describe (e.g. no treatment).

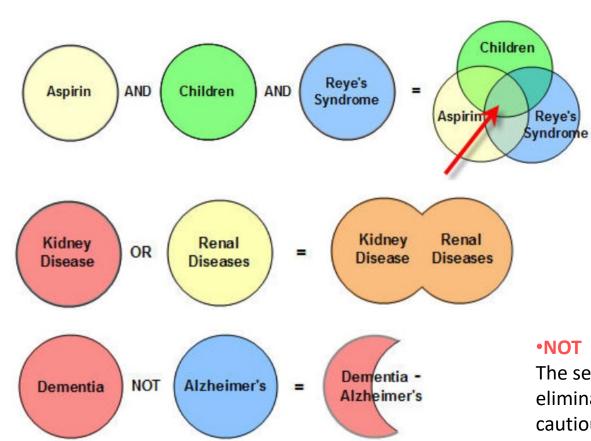


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Combining search terms / concepts

The Boolean Operators

04 Boolean operators



•AND

All terms have to be included in a citation.

NARROWING DOWN

•OR

One of the terms has to appear in the citation.

EXPANDING («OR is more!»)

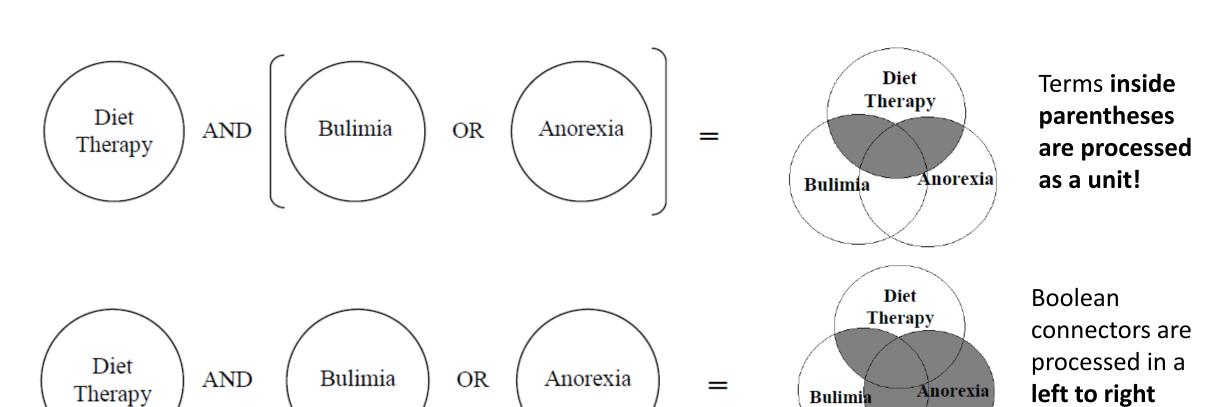
NOT

The second term is excluded from the search results. The operator NOT eliminates also results in which both of the terms appear! Therefore: be cautious about using NOT!



The Boolean Operators

Nesting



sequence!



The Scoping Search Uncomplicated, intuitive search

- Is there already a recent Systematic Review on my research question?
- Is there a SR in the planning stage (is there a protocol)?
- Approximately how much literature exists on my research question?
- Goal: overview of existing research on a topic and create a "gold set" of "key papers"

Source: Gusenbauer M, Haddaway NR. What every researcher should know about searching - clarified concepts, search advice, and an agenda to improve finding in academia. Res Synth Methods. 2021 Mar;12(2):136-147. doi: 10.1002/jrsm.1457.



Techniques of a Scoping Search to identify the most relevant studies

• The focus is initially on **accuracy**, but is expanded as the iterative search process (learning process) progresses.

Techniques:



Googling: Brief search; using a few specific terms with the intention of retrieving a few relevant papers (key papers) to work with in the following techniques.



Berry picking: Scanning results of the scoping search to identify key authors, relevant journals, reference lists, cited by (forward citation tracking), and similar articles.



Pearl growing: Using key papers and their database records to harvest search terms for a comprehensive search strategy.



Snowballing: Tracking down related works by using the bibliography or reference list at the end of an article (backward citation tracking).



How to do a scoping search

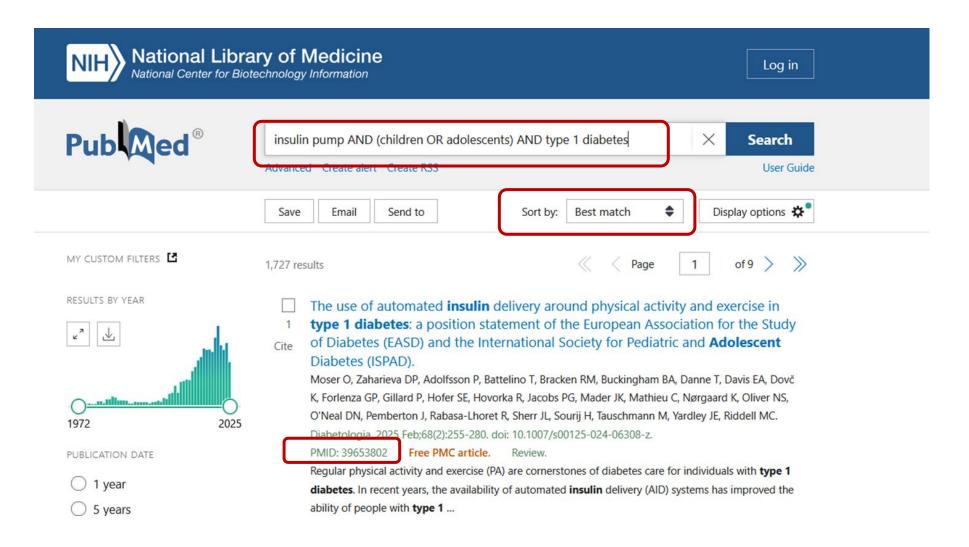
to find top relevant papers (in a nutshell)

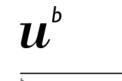
- 1. Enter the most important terms in Google Scholar and / or PubMed.
- 2. The best results are displayed at the top (Relevance Ranking).
- 3. Read through the titles/abstracts and export the appropriate ones. They serve as your key papers.





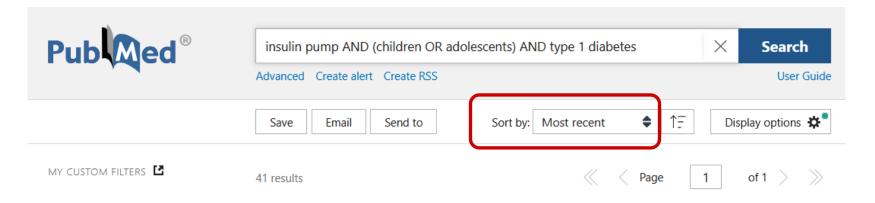
Scoping Search in PubMed





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Article type filters: SR / Meta-Analysis



Sort by (Option):
Wechseln Sie auf
Most recent

ARTICLE TYPE

☐ Books and Documents
☐ Clinical Trial
☑ Meta-Analysis
☐ Randomized Controlled
☐ Trial
☐ Review
☑ Systematic Review

See all article type filters

order to guide pediatricians regarding indications and complications. ...The keywords were: **insulin pump, type 1 diabet** ...

- Systematic literature review: quality of life associated with **insulin pump** use in
- 4 Type 1 diabetes.

e Barnard KD, Lloyd CE, Skinner TC.

Diabet Med. 2007 Jun;24(6):607-17. doi: 10.1111/j.1464-5491.2007.02120.x. Epub 2007 Mar 15. PMID: 17367304

AIM: To review systematically the published literature addressing whether continuous subcutaneous **insulin** infusion (CSII) provides any quality of life benefits to people with **Type 1 diabetes**.

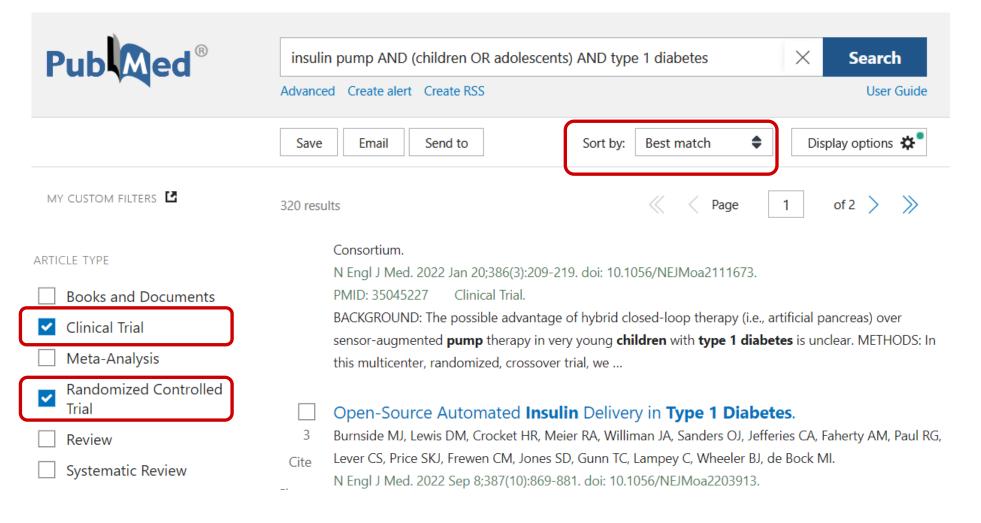
...CONCLUSIONS: There is conflicting evidence reported in th ...

Article Type:

Filtern Sie nach Systematic Review und Meta-Analysen



Article type filters: RCT / Clinical Trial



Sort by (Option): Wechseln Sie auf Best match

Article Type:
Filtern Sie nach
Clinical Trial sowie
RCT

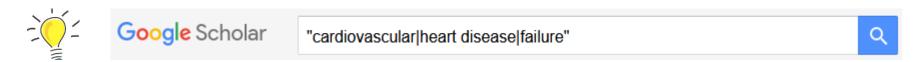


Scoping Search: Google Scholar Search Tips

- Use quotation marks to keep phrases together: "type 1 diabetes"
- Search terms are automatically combined with AND
- Replace OR with | (pipe sign: Alt Gr + 7 in Windows, alt + 7 in Mac), no spaces!

Advanced technique:

To search phrase variations → use quotation marks before and after an | combination:

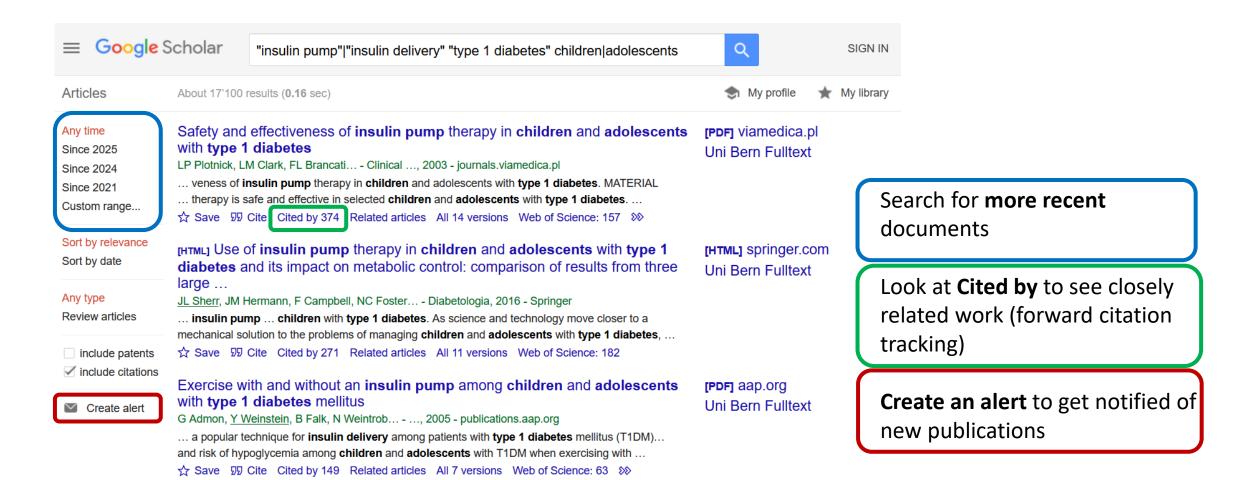


[&]quot;cardiovascular | heart disease | failure" *finds:* cardiovascular disease, heart disease, heart failure





Scoping search in Google Scholar







Google Scholar Practical exercise

Perform a scoping search in Google Scholar (https://scholar.google.com/):

Choose your own topic or answer the following question:

Insulin pump therapy in type 2 diabetes: are there Systematic Reviews and/or randomized controlled trials (RCTs)?





Google Scholar A possible solution

Research question:

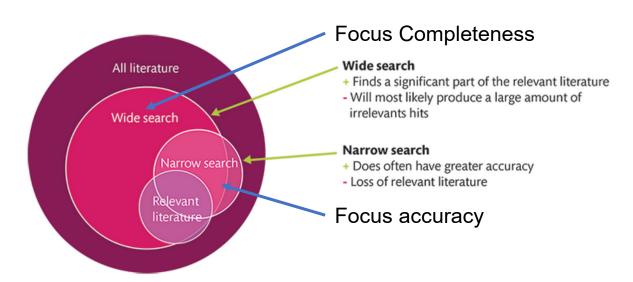
Insulin pump therapy in type 2 diabetes: are there Systematic Reviews and/or randomized controlled trials (RCTs)?

Suggested solution:

"insulin pump | infusion" "type 2 diabetes" | NIDDM "systematic review" | RCT | randomised | randomized



Defining the aim of the literature search Getting an overview or going into depth?



Modified figure from the SBU handbook, p. 34

Source: Karolinska Institutet, University Library, Systematic search techniques

Accuracy vs. completeness

- Get an overview of a complex of topics by entering precise search terms in a search engine (e.g. Google Scholar) = scoping search. Goal: find some top relevant papers
- In-depth examination of a topic by means of systematic research in specialist databases.
 Aim: to find ALL relevant papers





Scoping Search & Systematic Search

Scoping Search / Initial Search (Google Scholar):

- Focus on accuracy (Precision*) = no claim to completeness
- For the overview / identifying key papers
- Complex search structure only possible to a limited extent



Systematic research (specialized databases):

- Focus on completeness (recall*/sensitivity) =.
 Find as much evidence as possible (systematic reviews / guidelines)
- Complex search / Reproducible



^{*}Further explanation:



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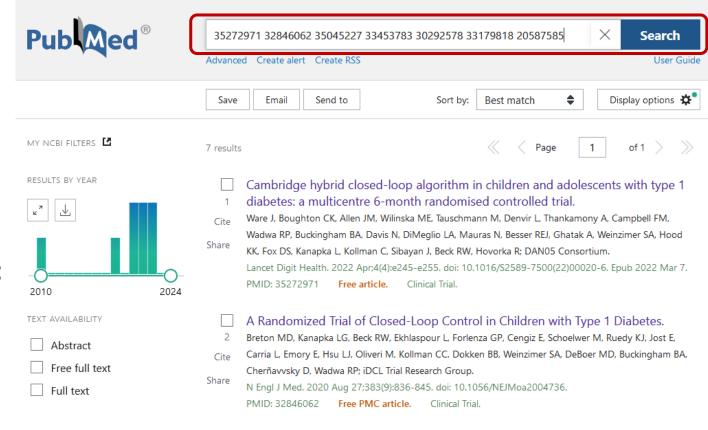
How to use key papers for building a systematic search strategy

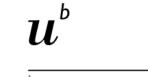
Harvest search terms from key papers (title, abstracts, author keywords, MeSH)

Example:

PubMed IDs (PMIDs) of key papers:

35272971 32846062 35045227 33453783 30292578 33179818 20587585



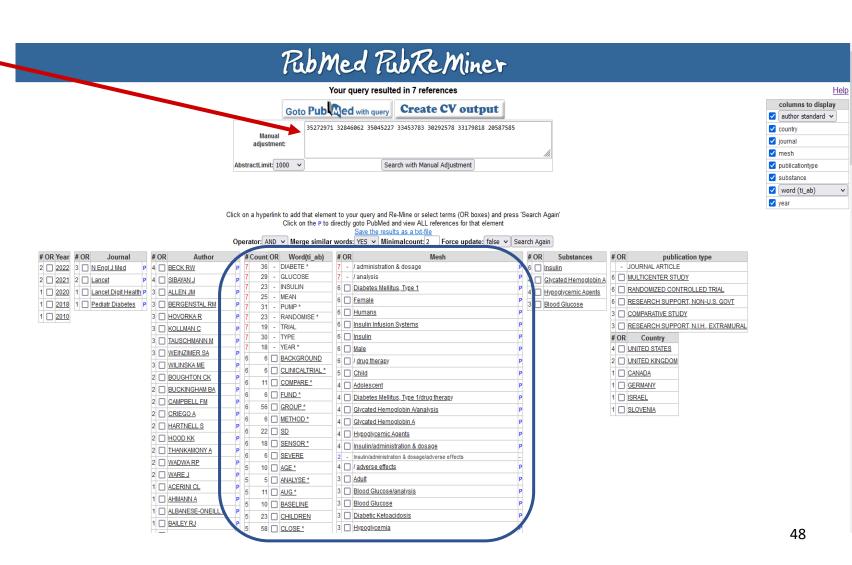


Identify search terms through text mining

Analyze your key papers (entering the PubMed IDs)

in **PubMed PubReMiner**

- Get ideas of search terms to include from the Word and MeSH columns (listed from most often used to lesser use)
- Note popular journals, most publishing authors and the development of your research topic throughout the years
- Other textmining tools: <u>Termine</u> Upload a pdf or URL MeSH on Demand



Search terms What are textwords?

Textword searching means using terms you choose yourself to search the "record" of a database. The record does not include the fulltext article. It mainly includes the title, abstract and author provided keywords.

Textwords are often referred to as keywords or freetext terms or natural language terms.

Use textbooks and dictionaries to find additional textwords.

Review > Expert Opin Drug Deliv. 2017 Dec;14(12):1367-1377.

doi: 10.1080/17425247.2017.1360866. Epub 2017 Aug 18.

Words from the title

Insulin delivery and nocturnal glucose control in children and adolescents with type 1 diabetes

Martin Tauschmann 1 2, Roman Hovorka 1 2

Affiliations + expand

PMID: 28819992 PMCID: PMC5942151 DOI: 10.1080/17425247.2017.136086

Free PMC article

06 Text words

Abstract

Nocturnal glucose control remains challenging in children and adolescents with type 1 diabetes due to highly variable overnight insulin requirements. The issue may be addressed by glucose responsive insulin delivery based on real-time continuous glucose measurements. Areas covered: This review outlines recent developments of glucose responsive insulin delivery systems from a paediatric perspective. We cover threshold-based suspend application, predictive low glu anced single Words from hormone and dual-hormone closed-loop systems. App on to nocturnal the abstract glucose control particularly during outpatient randomis inion: Significant

progress translating research from controlled clinical centre settings to free-living unsupervised home studies have been achieved over the past decade. Nocturnal glycaemic control can be improved whilst reducing the risk of hypoglycaemia with closed-loop systems. Following the US regulatory approval of the first hybrid closed-loop system in non-paediatric population, large multinational closed-loop clinical trials and pivotal studies including paediatric populations are underway or in preparation to facilitate the use of closed-loop systems in clinical practice.

Keywords: Threshold-based insulin interruption; artificial pancreas: closed-loop system: continuous glucose monitor; control algorithm; insulin pump; low glucose

suspension; type 1 diabetes.

Additional keywords assigned keywords 49



Text word search Stumbling blocks

British vs. American English:

pediatric / paediatric, analyze / analyse

Synonyms / Antonyms:

- doctor / physician / clinician
- success / failure, fertility / infertility

Acronyms:

total knee arthroplasty = TKA



Truncation

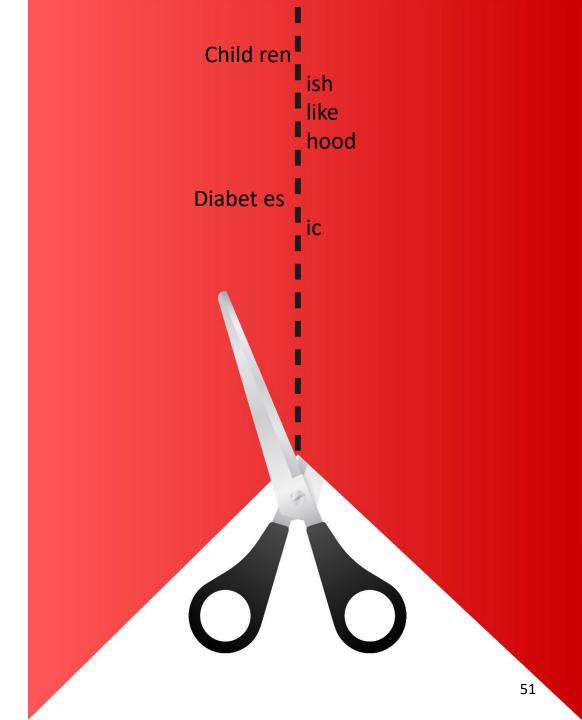
Shorten to the root

The word ending is truncated and replaced by a symbol (*,?,\$).

Advantage: Many word variants can be searched for at one go, and the number of hits increases.

child* finds child, children, childish, childlike, childhood, etc.

diabet* finds diabetes, diabetic





From textwords to subject terms

The benefits of database thesauri

07 Thesaurus terms

Synonyms for diabetes type 1:

- type I diabetes (mellitus)
- insulin-dependent diabetes mellitus
- juvenile-onset diabetes mellitus
- sudden-onset diabetes mellitus
- autoimmune diabetes
- brittle diabetes mellitus
- ketosis-prone diabetes mellitus



Problem

 With a text word search you can never cover 100% of all synonyms and possible spellings. What now?





Thesauri of the subject databases:

MeSH terms in Medline Emtree terms in Embase





Subject Headings

What are subject headings?

Subject heading searching means using preassigned terms to search for articles labelled with that term. Each database uses its own subject headings - MEDLINE's are called **MeSH**.

Other expressions for subject headings are thesaurus terms, index terms or controlled vocabulary.

Big Plus: subject headings cover a lot of different expressions authors use in their articles to describe the same concept.

MeSH terms

- > Adolescent
- > Algorithms
- > Blood Glucose
- > Child
- Diabetes Mellitus, Type 1 / drug therapy*
- > Humans
- > Hypoglycemia / chemically induced
- > Hypoglycemic Agents / administration & dosage*
- > Hypoglycemic Agents / therapeutic use
- Insulin / administration & dosage*
- > Insulin / therapeutic use
- > Insulin Infusion Systems*
- > Translational Medical Research

MeSH terms of the following
PubMed record: Insulin
delivery and nocturnal
glucose control in children
and adolescents with type 1
diabetes.



Searching with subject headings Advantages and disadvantages

Advantages of searching with MeSH Terms:

- MeSH describe the content (fulltext not searchable)
- MeSH cover many different synonyms and spellings
- higher precision (fewer irrelevant hits than with text word search)

Disadvantages:

- MeSH Thesaurus = complicated query
- Not every intervention/disease has an appropriate MeSH





Where can I find MeSH Terms?

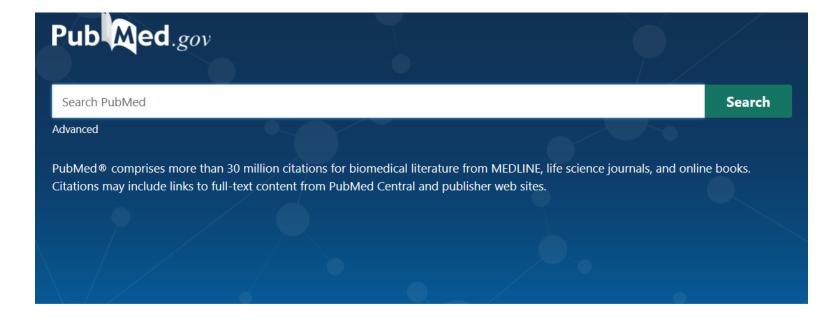
MeSH Thesaurus in PubMed

Access to the MeSH database via the PubMed homepage.



Explore

MeSH Database













MeSH terms: Hierarchical structure

Example diabetes type 1



MeSH terms are organized in a tree structure (hierarchically from the most general to the most specific area)

Diabetes Mellitus, Type 1

A subtype of DIABETES MELLITUS that is characterized by INSULIN deficier the sudden onset of severe HYPERGLYCEMIA, rapid progression to DIABET and DEATH unless treated with insulin. The disease may occur at any age, but childhood or adolescence.

Year introduced: 2005 (1984)

All MeSH Categories

Diseases Category

Nutritional and Metabolic Diseases

Metabolic Diseases

Glucose Metabolism Disorders

Diabetes Mellitus

Diabetes Mellitus, Type 1

Wolfram Syndrome

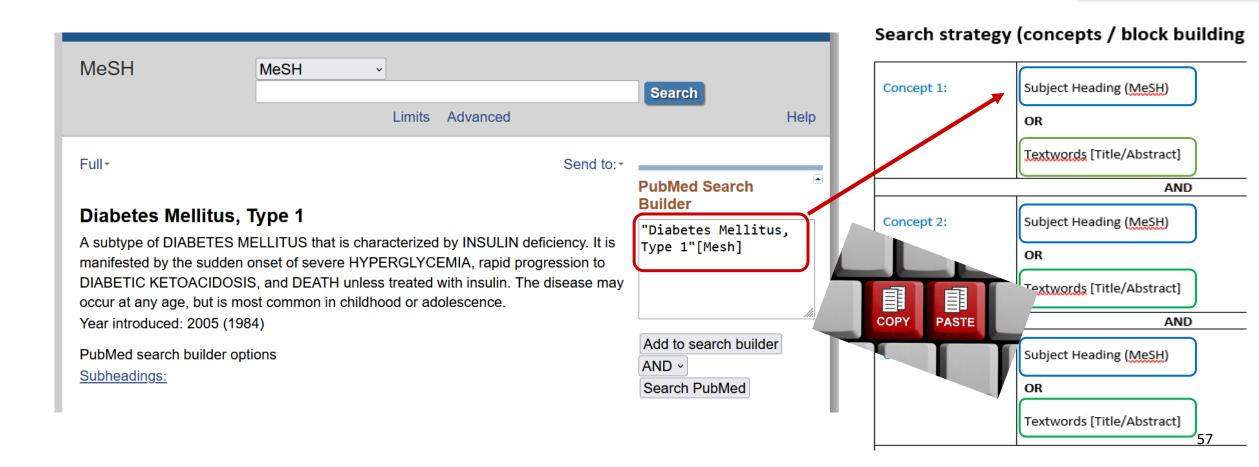
56



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Structure of the search in the Concepts Sheet Word document as a helpful tool

08 Concepts Sheet



The Concepts Sheet Build up your search

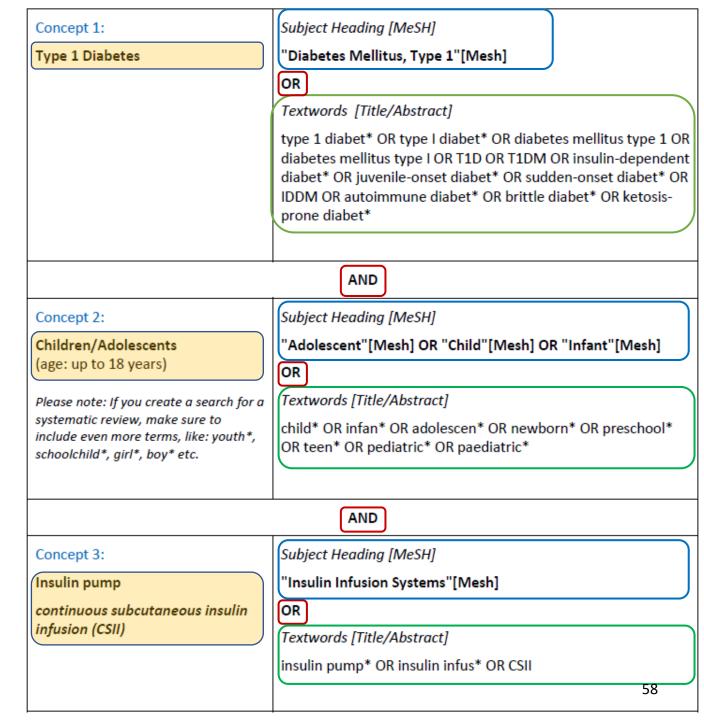
For each thematic block:

Search for matching **MeSH** terms in the MeSH database;

Identify as many **textwords** as possible (from title/abstract of relevant studies, reference books, entry terms in the MeSH Thesaurus, etc.), then combine both search approaches with **OR**.

Combine thematic blocks with AND

(concept 1 AND concept 2 AND concept 3) in order to only have records containing all topics in the results list.







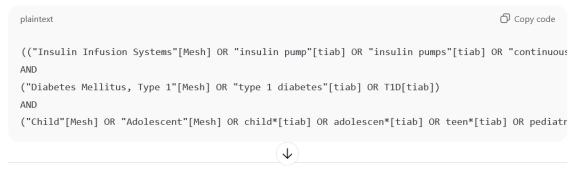
Does Al help? Strategy of ChatGPT-4.0

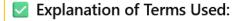
Give precise instructions!

I need a PubMed search string for the following topic: insulin pump for children or adolescents with type 1 diabetes. I need a combined search with MeSH terms and textwords.

Here's a comprehensive PubMed search string that combines MeSH terms and text words for your topic:

PubMed Search String:





- Insulin Pump Terms:
 - MeSH: "Insulin Infusion Systems"[Mesh]
 - Text words: "insulin pump", "insulin pumps", "continuous subcutaneous insulin infusion", CSII
- Type 1 Diabetes Terms:
 - MeSH: "Diabetes Mellitus, Type 1"[Mesh]
 - Text words: "type 1 diabetes", T1D
- Population (Children/Adolescents):
 - MeSH: "Child"[Mesh], "Adolescent"[Mesh]
 - Text words: child*, adolescen*, teen*, pediatric*, paediatric*
 (Using wildcards to capture variations like "children", "adolescents", etc.)



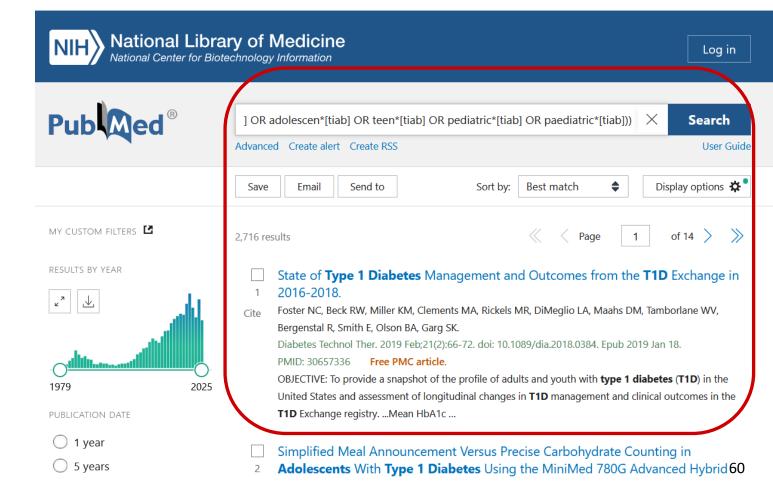


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Code supplied by ChatGPT

To insert in PubMed (date searched: 9 Oct 2025; 2716 results)

(("Insulin Infusion Systems"[Mesh] OR "insulin pump"[tiab] OR "insulin pumps"[tiab] OR "continuous subcutaneous insulin infusion"[tiab] OR CSII[tiab]) AND "Diabetes Mellitus, Type 1"[Mesh] OR "type 1 diabetes"[tiab] OR T1D[tiab]) ("Child"[Mesh] OR "Adolescent"[Mesh] OR child*[tiab] OR adolescen*[tiab] OR teen*[tiab] OR pediatric*[tiab] OR paediatric*[tiab]))





Human-made PubMed search string

PubMed (search date: 9 Oct 2025; 3289 results)

(("Diabetes Mellitus, Type 1"[Mesh]) OR (type 1 diabet*[Title/Abstract] OR type I diabet*[Title/Abstract] OR diabetes mellitus type 1[Title/Abstract] OR diabetes mellitus type I[Title/Abstract] OR T1D[Title/Abstract] OR T1DM[Title/Abstract] OR insulindependent diabet*[Title/Abstract] OR juvenile-onset diabet*[Title/Abstract] OR suddenonset diabet*[Title/Abstract] OR IDDM[Title/Abstract] OR autoimmune diabet*[Title/Abstract] OR brittle diabet*[Title/Abstract] OR ketosis-prone 'Infant"[Mesh]) OR (child*[Title/Abstract] OR infan*[Title/Abstract] OR adolescen*[Title/Abstract] OR newborn*[Title/Abstract] OR preschool*[Title/Abstract] OR pre-school*[Title/Abstract] OR teen*[Title/Abstract] OR pediatric*[Title/Abstract] OR paediatric*[Title/Abstract])) AND (("Insulin Infusion Systems"[Mesh]) OR (insulin pump*[Title/Abstract] OR insulin infus*[Title/Abstract] OR insulin deliver*[Title/Abstract] OR CSII[Title/Abstract]))

What are the obvious differences?

- Longer (more MeSH terms, more textwords)
- Inconsistent truncation
- More results

And what's in common?

- Block-building
- Combination of MeSH terms and textwords



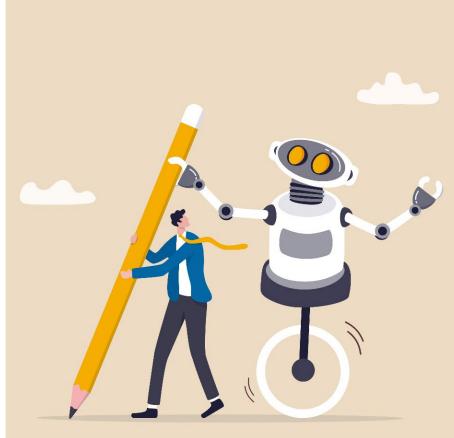


Use code by ChatGPT as a starting point

(("Insulin Infusion Systems"[Mesh] OR "insulin pump"[tiab] OR "insulin pumps"[tiab] OR "continuous subcutaneous insulin infusion"[tiab] OR CSII[tiab]) AND ("Diabetes Mellitus, Type 1"[Mesh] OR "type 1 diabetes"[tiab] OR T1D[tiab]) AND ("Child"[Mesh] OR "Adolescent"[Mesh] OR child*[tiab] OR adolescen*[tiab] OR teen*[tiab] OR pediatric*[tiab] OR paediatric*[tiab]))

Important:

- Check if the MeSH terms provided are appropriate and actually exist.
- Check textwords and truncate them if appropriate.
- Add more textwords and more MeSH terms.
- Check for American/British spelling.
- Check the correct application of Boolean Operators.





And if there are too many hits?

Limits / Filters

Filter search results by:

- Dates
- Languages
- Study type (RCTs, etc.)
- Population (age)

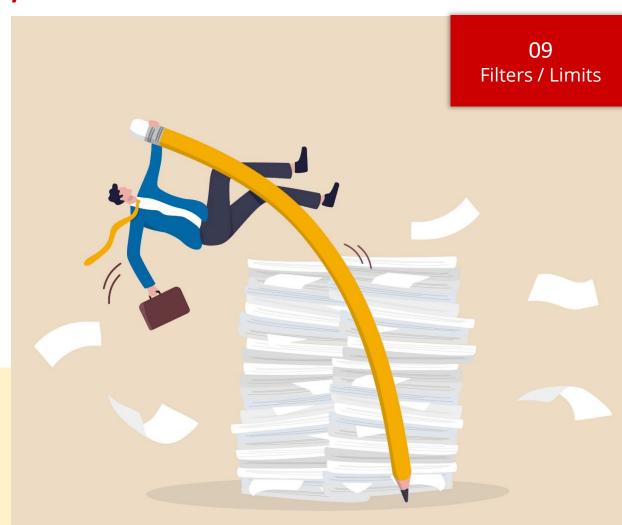
Watch out for database filters!

Many filters are based solely on MeSH terms.

Consequence: Studies are missed

Exceptions:

systematic reviews, languages & publication dates



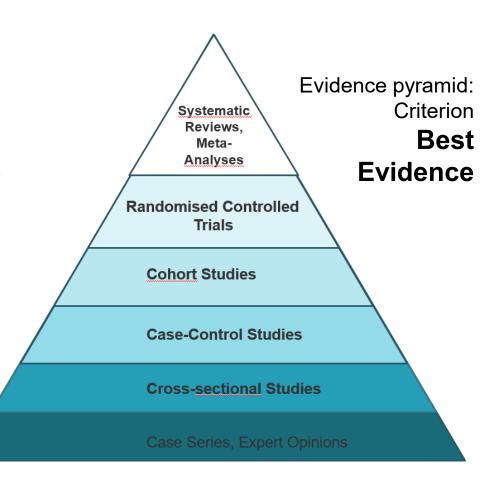


And if there are too many hits? Filter by Best Evidence

Studies with appropriate methodological quality (RCTs, cohort studies) have higher evidence.

SR & MA are ranked highest, having systematically searched for, assessed, and statistically evaluated primary studies.

The best "filter" is the human being!







Validated methodological filters

State-of-the-art for SR searches



Cochrane Search Filter for RCTs:

https://work.cochrane.org/pubmed (PubMed)

UTHealth (School of Public Health, University of Texas)

https://libguides.sph.uth.tmc.edu/search_filters/pubmed_filters_(PubMed)

SIGN (Healthcare Improvement Scotland)

https://www.sign.ac.uk/what-we-do/methodology/search-filters/
(Medline, Embase, CINAHL on the Ovid Platform)

ISSG Search Filters Resource (York)

https://sites.google.com/a/york.ac.uk/issg-search-filters-resource/home



Validated filters: Cochrane filters for RCTs

https://work.cochrane.org/pubmed

The Cochrane highly sensitive search strategies for identifying randomized trials in PubMed

Not all randomised conrolled trials have been indexed as RCTs in MEDLINE.

There is a validated filter in the Cochrane Handbook for both PubMed and Ovid interfaces¹.

Sensitivity-maximizing version (2008 revision); PubMed format

```
#1 randomized controlled tria [pt]
```

#2 controlled clinical trial [pt]

#3 randomized [tiab]

#4 placebo [tiab]

#5 drug therapy [sh]

#6 randomly [tiab]

#7 trial [tiab]

#8 groups [tiab]

#9 #1 OR #2 OR #3 OR #4 OR #5 OR #6 OR #7 OR #8

#10 animals [mh] NOT humans [mh] #11 #9 NOT #10



Direct link to PubMed!

Direct link to PubMed with sensitivity-maximizing version (2008 revision)

Related Resources

The Cochrane highly sensitive search strategies for identifying randomized trials in PubMed

Link to PubMed with sensitivitymaximizing version (2008 revision)

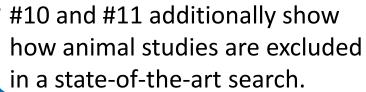
Link to PubMed with sensitivityand precision-maximizing version (2008 revision) Cochrane's validated filter searches not only in MeSH (=[mh]), but also within other fields:

[pt] = publication types

[tiab] = titles/abstracts

[sh] = subheadings

Note:



Source: Lefebvre C, Glanville J. et al. Chapter 4: Searching for and selecting studies [last updated September 2024]. In: Higgins JPT et al. (editors). Cochrane Handbook for Systematic Reviews of Interventions. Version 6.5. Cochrane, 2024. Available from https://training.cochrane.org/handbook/



Why validated methodological filters?

Example

Helmets for preventing head and facial injuries in bicyclists			
Sets 1-3 are the MeSH terms & text words [words found in the TITLE or ABSTRACT of a record] for the population (i.e bicyclists). They are combined using OR	 bicycl* or cycling or cyclist*.ab,ti exp Bicycling/ 1 or 2 	Population (P)	
Sets 4-6 are the MeSH terms & text words [words found in the TITLE or ABSTRACT of a record] for the intervention (i.e helmets). They are combined using OR	4. helmet*.ab,ti5. exp Head ProtectiveDevices/6. 4 or 5	Intervention (I)	

Source: Cochrane Training Guide Appendix 6. Example of the structure of a search strategy for a Cochrane Review



Comparison

Sea	rch	Journals	Books	Multimedia	My Workspace N	Ло
▼ Se	earcl	h History (8)				
	# 🛦	Searches			Results	;
	1	(bicycl* or cycling	g or cyclist*).	ab,ti,kw.	75951	
	2	exp Bicycling/			10450	
	3	1 or 2			78717	
	4	helmet*.ab,ti,kw.			4936	
	5	exp Head Protec	tive Devices	1	3290	
	6	4 or 5	_	atabase fil	ter 5862	
	7	3 and 6	TC	or RCTs	13/16	
	8	limit 7 to random	ized controlle	ed trial	31	3

# 🔺	Searches		Results
1	(bicycl* or cycling or cyclist*).ab,ti,kw.		75951
2	exp Bicycling/		10450
3	1 or 2		78717
4	helmet*.ab,ti,kw.		4936
5	exp Head Protective Devices/	ochrane RCT	3290
6	4 or 5	tudy design Filter	5862
7	3 and 6		1316
8	randomized controlled trial.pt.		498497
9	controlled clinical trial.pt.		99301
10	randomized.ab.		435394
11	placebo.ab.		203373
12	drug therapy.fs.		2120171
13	randomly.ab.		299943
14	trial.ab.		459230
15	groups.ab.		1852118
16	8 or 9 or 10 or 11 or 12 or 13 or 14 or 15		4383015
17	exp animals/ not humans.sh.		4685302
18	16 not 17		3791/64
19	7 and 18	SELECT=S sh%7c&R=2&Process+Action=display	213



10 Quality control

When is a search "good enough"? Quality assurance with the PRESS Checklist

A "state-of-the-art" literature search for a SR must meet the PRESS criteria:

Original PRESS Element
Translation of the research question
Boolean and proximity operators
Subject headings
Text word searching (free text)
Spelling, syntax, and line numbers
Limits and filters
Search strategy adaptations



PRESS Checklist:

Peer Review of Electronic Search Strategies

TABLE 9: PRESS 2015 EVIDENCE-BASED CHECKLIST

TABLE 9: PRESS 2013 EVIDENCE-BASED CHECKLIST				
Translation of the research question	 Does the search strategy match the research question/PICO? Are the search concepts clear? Are there too many or too few PICO elements included? Are the search concepts too narrow or too broad? Does the search retrieve too many or too few records? (Please show number of hits per line.) Are unconventional or complex strategies explained? 			
Boolean and proximity operators (these vary based on search service)	 Are Boolean or proximity operators used correctly? Is the use of nesting with brackets appropriate and effective for the search? If NOT is used, is this likely to result in any unintended exclusions? Could precision be improved by using proximity operators (e.g., adjacent, near, within) or phrase-searching instead of AND? Is the width of proximity operators suitable (e.g., might adj5 pick up more variants than adj2)? 			
Subject headings (database-specific)	 Are the subject headings relevant? Are any relevant subject headings missing; e.g., previous index terms? Are any subject headings too broad or too narrow? Are subject headings exploded where necessary and vice versa? Are major headings ("starring" or restrict to focus) used? If so, is there adequate justification? Are subheadings missing? Are subheadings attached to subject headings? (Floating subheadings may be preferred.) Are floating subheadings relevant and used appropriately? 			

[Excerpt from McGowan J, Sampson M, Salzwedel DM, Cogo E, Foerster V, Lefebvre C. PRESS Peer Review of Electronic Search Strategies: 2015 Guideline Statement. J Clin Epidemiol. 2016 Jul;75:40-6.]

concept?

Are both subject headings and terms in free text (see below) used for each



Checking the search strategy

PubMed

[("Diabetes Mellitus, Type 1" Mesh]) OR (type 1 diabet* Title/Abstract] DR type I diabet*[Title/Abstract] OR diabetes mellitus type 1[Title/Abstract] OR diabetes mellitus type I[Title/Abstract] OR T1D[Title/Abstract] OR T1DM[Title/Abstract] OR insulin-dependent diabet*[Title/Abstract] OR juvenile-onset diabet*[Title/Abstract] OR sudden-onset diabet*[Title/Abstract] OR IDDM[Title/Abstract] OR autoimmune diabet*[Title/Abstract] OR brittle diabet*[Title/Abstract] OR ketosis-prone diabet*[Title/Abstract])) AND (("Adolescent"[Mesh] OR "Child"[Mesh] OR "Infant"[Mesh]) OR (child*[Title/Abstract] OR infan*[Title/Abstract] OR adolescen*[Title/Abstract] OR newborn*[Title/Abstract] OR preschool*[Title/Abstract] OR pre-school*[Title/Abstract] OR teen*[Title/Abstract] OR pediatric*[Title/Abstract] OR paediatric*[Title/Abstract])) AND (("Insulin Infusion Systems"[Mesh]) OR (insulin pump*[Title/Abstract] OR insulin infus*[Title/Abstract] OR insulin deliver*[Title/Abstract] OR CSII[Title/Abstract]))) AND ((randomized controlled trial[pt] OR controlled clinical trial[pt] OR randomized[tiab] OR placebo[tiab] OR clinical trials as topic[mesh:noexp] OR randomly[tiab] OR trial[ti] NOT (animals[mh] NOT humans [mh]))))

Disease

AND

Population

AND

Therapy

AND

Study type

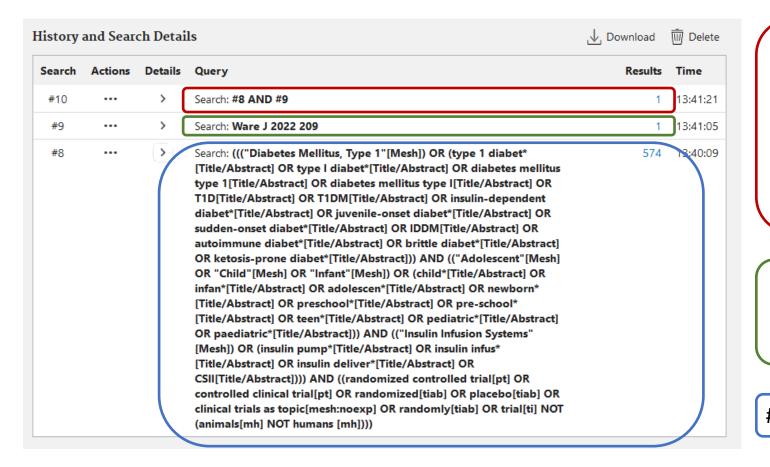
NOT

Animal studies



Quality control: Key papers as test set





#10: If the intersection of the hits from the search strategy and the key paper results in 1, the key paper was found with the search strategy.

If 0, then find out why and optimize search strategy.

#9: Key Paper to Review

Ware, Julia et al. "Randomized Trial of Closed-Loop Control in Very Young Children with Type 1 Diabetes." *The New England journal of medicine* vol. 386.3 (2022): 209-219. doi:10.1056/NEJMoa2111673.

#8: Final search strategy



BERN

11 Translation database syntax

Evidence from other databases
Translate" search strategy syntax

Databases use different field codes, truncation characters etc.

Example field codes:
PubMed [tiab]
Ovid Medline .ab,ti.
Cochrane :ab,ti

Attention: Thesaurus Terms must also be translated!

Fields	PubMed	EBSCO	OvidSP Medline/PsycInfo	Cochrane
Title/ abstract	[tiab]	TI () OR AB ()	().ab,ti.	():ab,ti
Meaningful text	[tw]	TX ()	().mp. (.tw,kf,ot.)	():ab,ti,kw
Including subheadings	п		н	п
Keyword	"Mesh term"[mesh]	DE cinahl heading	exp term/	[mh "mesh term"] ¹
No explode	"Mesh term"[mesh:noexp]	DE cinahl heading+	term/	[mh ^"mesh term"]
with subheading	"Mesh term"/sh[mesh]		exp term/sh	[mh "mesh term"/SH,SH]
just subheading	[sh]	MW	.xs. (exp) of .fs. (noexp)	[mh /SH]
synonyms	-		-	-
Proximity (n terms)	-	Nn - Wn ²	ADJn	NEAR/n - NEXT/n
Phrases	MeSH with "double quotes", free text without quotes	No quotes needed	No quotes needed	"double quotes"
Phrase truncation	No quote*	No quote*	No quote*	"use quote*"
Truncation	End	End/ mid ³	End/ mid	End/ mid
endless	*	*	*	*
0 or 1 character		#	?	
1 character		?	#	?
Filters				
Limit humans	NOT (animals[mesh] NOT humans[mesh])	NOT (MH animals+ NOT MH humans)	NOT (animals NOT humans).sh.	(Not necessary)
Added since	yyyy/mm/dd:3000 [mhda]	EM yyyy(mm)(dd)-	limit 1 to rd=yyyymmdd- yyyymmdd	AND ("yyyy, Issue m" OR "yyyy Issue m+1" etc) ⁴
Publication date		S1	limit 1 to yr=yyyy-yyyy	
Recordset-numbers	#1	Cinahl headings	1 ⁵	#1
Thesaurus	MeSH		MeSH / own thesaurus	MeSH 72





Translation PubMed to Cochrane Library More than one possible solution

Cochrane Library (advanced search)

(("type 1 diabetes" OR "type I diabetes " OR "diabetes mellitus type 1" OR "diabetes mellitus type I" OR T1D OR T1DM OR "insulindependent diabetes" OR "juvenile-onset diabetes" OR "suddenonset diabetes" OR IDDM OR "autoimmune diabetes" OR "brittle diabetes" OR "ketosis-prone diabetes"):ti,ab)

((child* OR infan* OR adolescen* OR newborn* OR preschool* OR pre-school* OR teen* OR pediatric* OR paediatric*):ti,ab)

AND

(("insulin pump" OR "insulin pumps" OR "insulin infusion" OR "insulin delivery" OR CSII):ti,ab)

Cochrane Library (expert search)

((((diabet*) NEAR/3 ("type 1" OR "type 1" OR "type I" OR insulindependent OR juvenile* OR sudden-onset OR early-onset OR autoimmune* OR auto-immune OR brittle* OR ketosis-prone OR ketoacid* OR keto-acidotic OR keto-acidosis)) OR T1D OR T1DM OR IDDM OR "dm 1"):ab,ti) AND ((child* OR infan* OR adolescen* OR newborn* OR preschool* OR pre NEXT school* OR teen* OR pediatric* OR paediatric*):ab,ti) AND (((insulin NEAR/3 (infus* OR pump* OR deliver*)) OR CSII):ab,ti,kw)

- → Use proximity operators
- → Expand search fields



Translation PubMed in ClinicalTrials.gov Simplify search string for trial registries

PubMed

(("Diabetes Mellitus, Type 1"[Mesh]) OR (type 1 diabet*[Title/Abstract] OR type I diabet*[Title/Abstract] OR diabetes mellitus type 1[Title/Abstract] OR diabetes mellitus type I[Title/Abstract] OR T1D[Title/Abstract] OR T1DM[Title/Abstract] OR insulindependent diabet*[Title/Abstract] OR juvenile-onset diabet*[Title/Abstract] OR sudden-onset diabet*[Title/Abstract] OR IDDM[Title/Abstract] OR autoimmune diabet*[Title/Abstract] OR brittle diabet*[Title/Abstract] OR ketosis-prone diabet*[Title/Abstract])) AND (("Adolescent"[Mesh] OR "Child"[Mesh] OR "Infant" [Mesh]) OR (child*[Title/Abstract] OR infan*[Title/Abstract] OR adolescen*[Title/Abstract] OR newborn*[Title/Abstract] OR preschool*[Title/Abstract] OR pre-school*[Title/Abstract] OR teen*[Title/Abstract] OR pediatric*[Title/Abstract] OR paediatric*[Title/Abstract])) AND (("Insulin Infusion Systems"[Mesh]) OR (insulin pump*[Title/Abstract] OR insulin infus*[Title/Abstract] OR insulin deliver*[Title/Abstract] OR CSII[Title/Abstract]))) AND ((randomized controlled trial[pt] OR controlled clinical trial[pt] OR randomized[tiab] OR placebo[tiab] OR clinical trials as topic[mesh:noexp] OR randomly[tiab] OR trial[ti] NOT (animals[mh] NOT humans [mh]))))

ClinicalTrials.gov

Condition or disease:

Type 1 Diabetes OR Insulin-Dependent Diabetes Mellitus OR Juvenile-Onset Diabetes OR Sudden-Onset Diabetes OR Autoimmune Diabetes OR Brittle Diabetes OR Ketosis-Prone Diabetes OR IDDM OR T1D OR T1DM



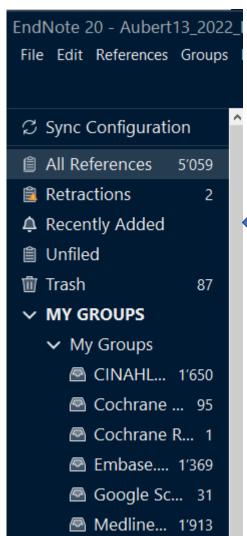
- Intervention: insulin infusion OR insulin pump OR insulin delivery
 - Age Filter:
 Child (birth 17)



12

Export / Deduplication

Export & deduplicate the search results



Export hits from all databases to literature management program and

Before After deduplication deduplication Embase.com 2968 1369 Medline (Ovid) 1919 1913 Cochrane Database of 3 1 Systematic Reviews Cochrane CENTRAL = trials 251 95 CINAHL (EBSCOhost) 3108 1650 Google Scholar First 200 31 Total 8449 5059

remove duplicates



3390 duplicated records have been removed





Duplicate check

Delete records found by multiple databases

Most literature management programs offer a duplicate check. This is usually insufficient and requires a final manual check.



Alternative deduplication methods (more information in the <u>learning materials on ILIAS</u>):

- Bramer et al. 2016, Duplicate removal with the "Bramer Method" in EndNote.

 Bramer WM, Giustini D, de Jonge GB, Holland L, Bekhuis T. <u>De-duplication of database search results for systematic reviews in EndNote</u>.

 J Med Libr Assoc. 2016 Jul;104(3):240-3. doi: 10.3163/1536-5050.104.3.014. erratum in: J Med Libr Assoc. 2017 Jan;105(1):111.
- <u>Deduklick</u>, a tool based on an algorithm developed at the University of Bern using AI (this tool is fee-based):

 Borissov N, Haas Q, Minder B, Kopp-Heim D, von Gernler M, Janka H, Teodoro D, Amini P. <u>Reducing systematic review burden using Deduklick: a novel, automated, reliable, and explainable deduplication algorithm to foster medical research</u>. Syst Rev. 2022 Aug 17;11(1):172. doi: 10.1186/s13643-022-02045-9.
- TERA Deduplicator, part of the Evidence Review Accelerator Bond University, Australia (1 project free of costs)



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13 **Documentation**

Documentation of the search strategy Saving the search in the databases

Reproducibility

Set alerts to continuously receive new results for the search

Update the search before submitting the manuscript. (after approx. 6 months)



Search: (((("Diabetes Mellitus, Type 1"[Mesh]) OR (type 1 diabet* [Title/Abstract] OR type I diabet*[Title/Abstract] OR diabetes mellitus type 1[Title/Abstract] OR diabetes mellitus type I[Title/Abstract] OR T1DM[Title/Abstract] OR insulin-dependent diabet*[Title/Abstract] OR juvenile-onset diabet*[Title/Abstract] OR sudden-onset diabet* [Title/Abstract] OR IDDM[Title/Abstract] OR autoimmune diabet* [Title/Abstract])) AND (((("Adolescent"[Mesh]) OR "Child"[Mesh]) OR "Infant"[Mesh]) OR (child*[Title/Abstract] OR infan*[Title/Abstract] OR adolescen*[Title/Abstract] OR newborn*[Title/Abstract] OR preschool*[Title/Abstract] OR teen*[Title/Abstract] OR pediatric* [Title/Abstract] OR paediatric*[Title/Abstract])) AND (("Insulin Infusion Systems"[Mesh]) OR (insulin pump*[Title/Abstract] OR insulin infus*[Title/Abstract]))) AND (randomized controlled trial[pt] OR controlled clinical trial[pt] OR randomized[tiab] OR placebo[tiab] OR drug therapy[sh] OR randomly[tiab] OR trial[tiab] OR groups[tiab] NOT (animals [mh] NOT humans [mh])))

Documentation Concepts Sheet

For your own documentation:

Explain your search strategy to your supervisor

Understand your search Strategy even after months / years



Concept 1:

Type 1 Diabetes

Subject Heading [MeSH]

"Diabetes Mellitus, Type 1"[Mesh]

OR

Textwords [Title/Abstract]

type 1 diabet* OR type I diabet* OR diabetes mellitus type 1 OR diabetes mellitus type I OR T1D OR T1DM OR insulin-dependent diabet* OR juvenile-onset diabet* OR sudden-onset diabet* OR IDDM OR autoimmune diabet* OR brittle diabet* OR ketosisprone diabet*

AND

Concept 2:

Children/Adolescents

(age: up to 18 years)

Please note: If you create a search for a systematic review, make sure to include even more terms, like: youth*, schoolchild*, girl*, boy* etc. Subject Heading [MeSH]

"Adolescent" [Mesh] OR "Child" [Mesh] OR "Infant" [Mesh]
OR

Textwords [Title/Abstract]

child* OR infan* OR adolescen* OR newborn* OR preschool* OR teen* OR pediatric* OR paediatric*

AND

Concept 3:

Insulin pump

continuous subcutaneous insulin infusion (CSII)

Subject Heading [MeSH]

"Insulin Infusion Systems" [Mesh]

OR

Textwords [Title/Abstract]

insulin pump* OR insulin infus* OR CSII

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UNIVERSITÄT

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Reporting

Reporting of the search strategies The PRISMA Checklist Points #6 & #7

Preferred Reporting Items for Systematic Reviews and Meta-Analyses (PRISMA)

Information

Search strategy

PRISMA 2020 Statement at

http://www.prisma-statement.org/

sources



Section and

Data items

PRISMA 2020 Checklist

Checklist item

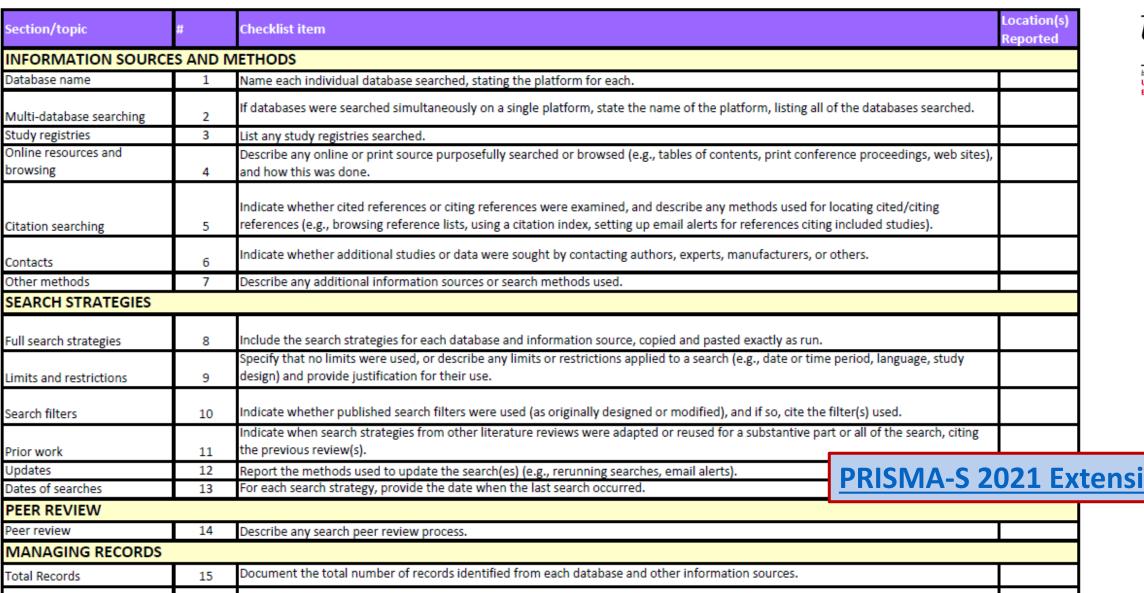
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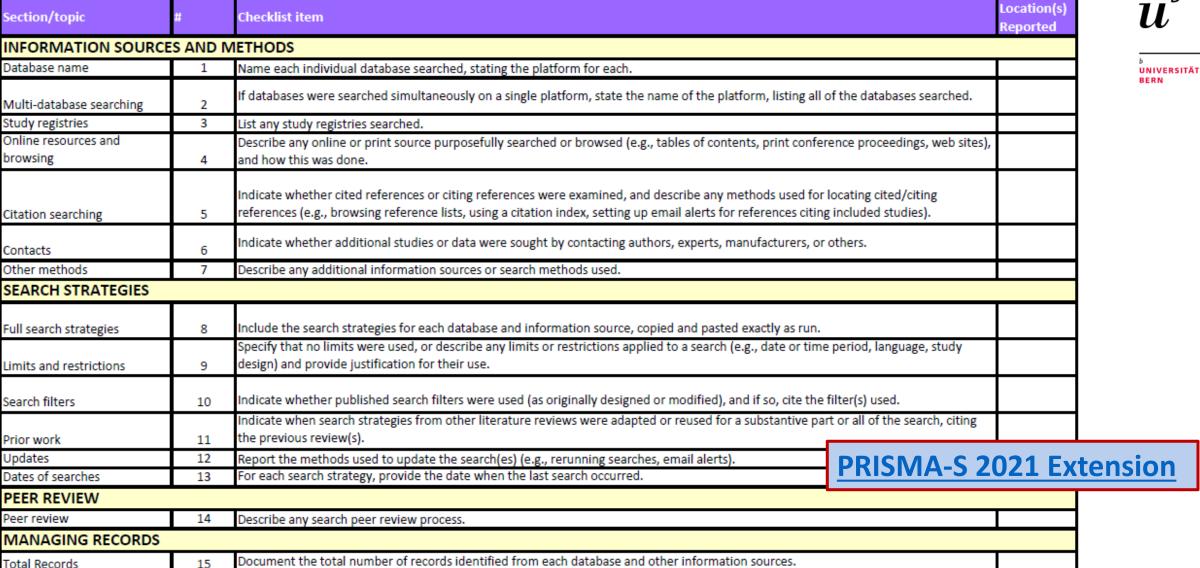
< N /1 /N 1						
SIVIA)	TITLE					
	Title	1	Identify the report as a systematic review.			
	ABSTRACT					
	Abstract	2	e the PRISMA 2020 for Abstracts checklist.			
	INTRODUCTION					
C		nowledge.				
Specify all datab		the review addresses.				
other sources se						
when each source was last searched or consulted.				ow studies were grouped for the syntheses.		
Present the full s	•	nce lists and other sources searched or consulted to identify				
including any filters and limits used.				d websites, including any filters and limits used.		
'	Selection process	8	Specify the methods used to decide whether a study met the and each report retrieved, whether they worked independently	nclusion criteria of the review, including how many reviewers s , and if applicable, details of automation tools used in the prod		
ent at		9		g how many reviewers collected data from each report, wheth from study investigators, and if applicable, details of automati		

assumptions made about any missing or unclear information

List and define all outcomes for which data were sought. Specify whether all results that were compatible with each outcome

study were sought (e.g. for all measures, time points, analyses), and if not, the methods used to decide which results to coll List and define all other variables for which data were sought (e.g. participant and intervention characteristics, funding source





Describe the processes and any software used to deduplicate records from multiple database searches and other information sources.



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Deduplication

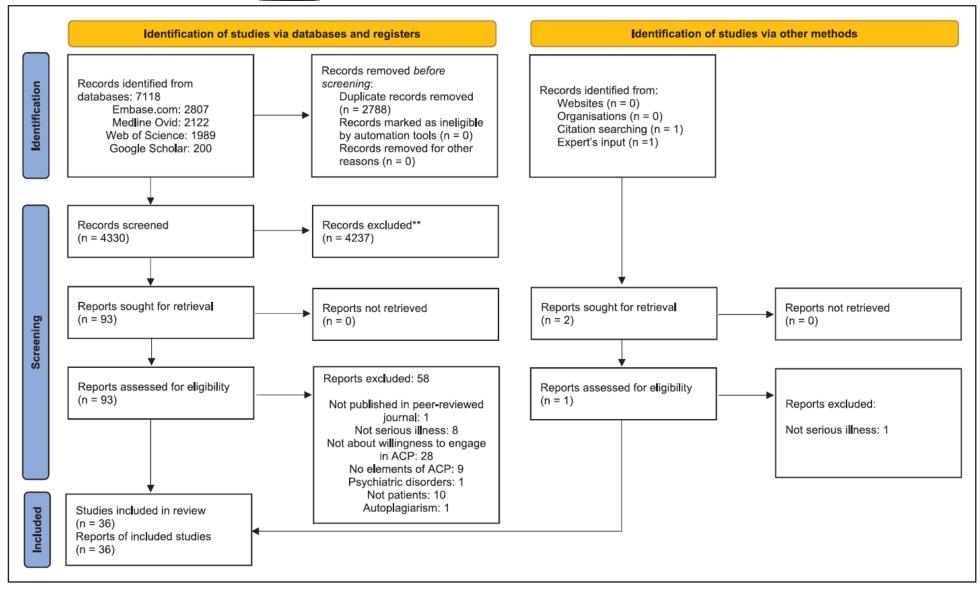
PRISMA 2020 Flow Diagram

PRISMA 2020:

Page MJ, et al. The PRISMA 2020 statement: an updated guideline for reporting systematic reviews. BMJ. 2021 Mar 29;372:n71. doi: 10.1136/bmj.n71

Example of the new version (PRISMA 2020 Flow Diagram) of:

Martina D, Geerse OP, Lin CP, et al. Asian patients' perspectives on advance care planning: a mixed-method systematic review and conceptual framework [published online ahead of print, 2021 Sep 6]. *Palliat Med*. 021;2692163211042530. doi:10.1177/02692163211042530





Reporting: Appendix in the paper

Appendix 1. Search strategies

Search terms and databases

Unless otherwise stated, search terms are free text terms.

Abbreviations:

'\$': stands for any character; '?': substitutes one or no character; adj: adjacent (i.e. number of words within range of search term); exp: exploded MeSH; MeSH: medical subject heading (MEDLINE medical index term); pt: publication type; sh: MeSH; tw: text word.

The Cochrane Library

- #1 MeSH descriptor Diabetes mellitus, type 1 explode all trees
- #2 (IDDM in All Text or T1DM in All Text or T1D in All Text)
- #3 (("insulin* depend*" in All Text or "insulindepend*" in All Text) and not ("non insulin* depend*" in All Text or "non insulindepend*" in All Text))
- #4 ("typ? 1 diabet*" in All Text or "typ?1 diabet*" in All Text or "typ? I diabet*" in All Text or "typ? I diabet*" in All Text)
- #5 (child* in All Text near/2 diabet* in All Text)
- #6 (acidos* in All Text near/2 diabet* in All Text)
- #7 (labil* in All Text near/2 diabet* in All Text)
- #8 (britt* in All Text near/2 diabet* in All Text)
- #9 (keto* in All Text near/2 diabet* in All Text)
- #10 (juvenil* in All Text near/2 diabet* in All Text)
- #11 (autoimmun* in All Text near/2 diabet* in All Text)







"Reading" a complex search string

Forschungsfrage:

What are the risk factors for patients to fall during a hospitalization on a medical ward? Limit to adult patients, no letters, editorials, etc.

PubMed (https://pubmed.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/)

(Hospitals[Mesh] OR Hospitalization[Mesh:no exp] OR Inpatients[Mesh:no exp] OR "Patient Care"[Mesh:no exp] OR "Internal Medicine"[Mesh:no exp] OR (hospital*[tiab] OR inpatient*[tiab] OR in-patient[tiab] OR "non-ICU patient*"[tiab] OR "medical patient*"[tiab] OR "internal medicine"[tiab] OR "acute care setting*"[tiab] OR ward*[tiab])) AND ("Accidental Falls"[Majr:no exp] OR ("accidental fall*"[tiab] OR fall[tiab] OR falling*[tiab] OR falls[tiab] OR faller*[tiab] OR fallen[tiab] OR fell[tiab] OR near-fall[tiab] OR fall-related[tiab] OR slip*[tiab] OR trip[tiab] OR tripping[tiab] OR stumbl*[tiab] OR tumbl*[tiab] OR collaps*[tiab])) AND (Risk[Mesh] OR Prevalence[Mesh:no exp] OR Incidence[Mesh:no exp] OR (risk*[tiab] OR threat*[tiab] OR predict*[tiab] OR implicat*[tiab] OR probabilit*[tiab] OR prevalenc*[tiab] OR incidence*[tiab] OR associat*[tiab])) NOT (("infant"[mesh] OR "child"[mesh] OR "adolescent"[mesh]) NOT ("adult"[mesh])) NOT ((paediatric*[ti] OR pediatric*[ti])) NOT (letter[pt] OR news[pt] OR comment[pt] OR editorial[pt] OR congress[pt])



"Reading" a complex search string Making block building visible

Forschungsfrage:

What are the risk factors for patients to fall during a hospitalization on a medical ward? Limit to adult patients, no letters, editorials, etc.

PubMed (https://pubmed.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/)

(Hospitals[Mesh] OR Hospitalization[Mesh:no exp] OR Inpatients[Mesh:no exp] OR "Patient Care" [Mesh:no exp] OR "Internal Medicine" [Mesh:no exp] OR (hospital*[tiab] OR inpatient*[tiab] OR in-patient[tiab] OR "non-ICU patient*" [tiab] OR "medical patient*" [tiab] OR "internal medicine" [tiab] OR "acute care setting*" [tiab] OR ward*[tiab])) AND ("Accidental Falls" [Majr:no exp] OR ("accidental fall*" [tiab] OR fall[tiab] OR falling* [tiab] OR falls[tiab] OR faller* [tiab] OR fallen [tiab] OR fell[tiab] OR near-fall[tiab] OR fall-related [tiab] OR slip* [tiab] OR trip[tiab] OR tripping [tiab] OR stumbl* [tiab] OR tumbl* [tiab] OR collaps* [tiab])) AND (Risk [Mesh] OR prevalence [Mesh:no exp] OR Incidence [Mesh:no exp] OR (risk* [tiab] OR threat* [tiab] OR predict* [tiab] OR implicat* [tiab] OR probabilit* [tiab] OR prevalenc* [tiab] OR incidence* [tiab] OR associat* [tiab])) NOT (("infant" [mesh] OR "child" [mesh] OR "adolescent" [mesh]) NOT ("adult" [mesh])) NOT ((paediatric* [tiab])) OR prediatric* [tiab] OR congress [pt])



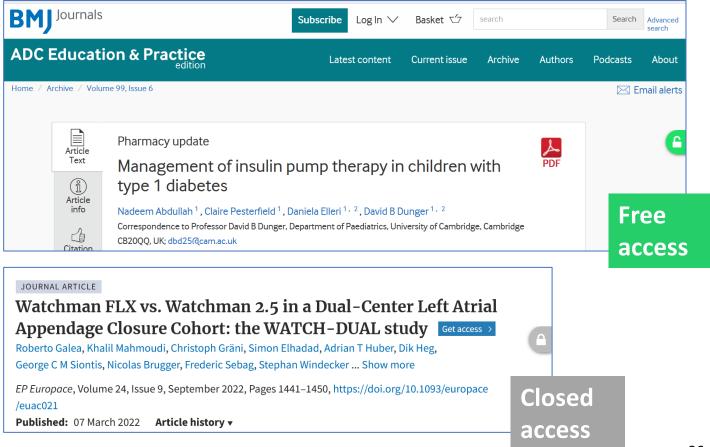
Obtaining fulltexts (screening process)

- Check accessibility (install add-ons in your browser, e.g. Unpaywall for Firefox and Chrome): finds fulltexts which are free, open access or subscribed by your library
- Write to authors directly (if newer research)

Not successful?



Place an order at your library (might be fee-based)





PubMed Search Help

PubMed Tutorial

<u>Video tutorial</u> for the search process in PubMed (by Welch Medical Library, Johns Hopkins University)

PubMed training course

PubMed Quick Tours (video tutorials)

PubMed User Guide (text format)

Home / Training & Outreach / Learning Resources

PubMed® Online Training

Quick Tours for Everyone

Title	Date	Runtime	Format
PubMed: Find articles by author	June 5, 2025	2 min(s)	MP4 Video / Quick Tour
PubMed: Find articles by journal	Nov. 18, 2024	2 min(s)	MP4 Video / Quick Tour
PubMed: Find articles from a citation	July 8, 2024	2 min(s)	MP4 Video / Quick Tour
PubMed: Find articles on a topic	July 9, 2024	1 min(s)	MP4 Video / Quick Tour
PubMed: Find the latest treatments for a disease or disorder	July 15, 2024	2 min(s)	MP4 Video / Quick Tour
PubMed: Get the full text for an article	July 11, 2024	2 min(s)	MP4 Video / Quick Tour
PubMed: Save searches and set email alerts	June 16, 2025	2 min(s)	MP4 Video / Quick Tour
PubMed Subject Search: How It Works	June 26, 2025	4 min(s)	MP4 Video / Quick Tour
PubMed and MedlinePlus: Consumer health	April 26, 2024	3 min(s)	MP4 Video / Quick Tour

Quick Tours for Expert Searchers

Title	Date	Runtime	Format
Proximity Searching in PubMed	Oct. 9, 2024	4 min(s)	MP4 Video / Quick Tour
Using PubMed to Find Human-Related Studies	Dec. 23, 2024	3 min(s)	MP4 Video / Quick Tour
PubMed: Using the Advanced Search Builder	March 15, 2024	3 min(s)	MP4 Video / Quick Tour

Tutorials for Everyone

Title	Date	Runtime	Format
Topic Searching in PubMed: Using the Medical Subject Headings (MeSH)	June 5, 2024	120 min(s)	HTML / Tutorial
Preprints: Accelerating Research	Jan. 14, 2025	60 min(s)	HTML / Tutorial
Phrase Searching in PubMed Tutorial	June 20, 2025	60 min(s)	HTML / Tutorial
Using PubMed in Evidence-Based Practice	Nov. 15, 2024	30 min(s)	HTML / Tutorial

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Google Scholar Search Tips

Google Scholar

"type 1 diabetes" | "juvenile diabetes" children | adolescents insulin pump



"Google Scholar: the ultimate guide" (Paperpile)

Tips to improve your searching (Wageningen University Library)







Google Scholar Exporting single results

Export single references directly out of Google Scholar into a reference management tool by clicking on the **hamburger icon** Google Scholar

Choose **Settings** and go to **Bibliography manager**

Bibliography manager

- Don't show any citation import links.
- Show links to import citations into EndNote \$

→ Below each reference, a new link **Import into EndNote** is showing:

☆ Save ⁵⁰ Cite Cited by 346 Related articles All 19 versions Web of Science: 168 Import into EndNote





Google Scholar Exporting multiple results

Export multiple references via your Google account

- 1. Log into a Google account.
- 2. Search Google Scholar and click the **star symbol** at the bottom of the desired references to send them to **My Library** My library

☆ Save ¹⁰⁰ Cite Cited by 346 Related articles All 19 versions Web of Science: 168

3. Navigate to My Library via the hamburger menu at the top left of the page.



- 4. Click the **Export all** button at the top of the page and then choose EndNote (or your preferred format).
- 5. Open the resulting file to add the exported references to an EndNote library.





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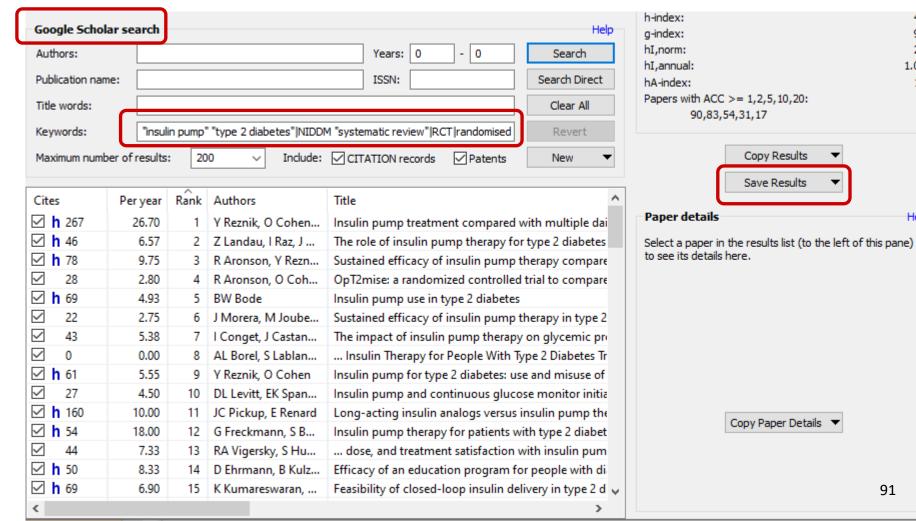
Help

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Google Scholar

Exporting a large quantity of results

Do the search and export up to 1000 references at once via Publish or Perish (Harzing), a free software program that retrieves academic citations from Google Scholar and other data sources.





Training Material & Templates on ILIAS

How to Build a Robust, Comprehensive Search of the Literature for Evidence Synthesis



1 | The Basics of Literature Searching (Theory)

Overview of all you need to know about systematic literature searching before you start out



2 | Guided Search Examples (Practical)

Building a search strategy step-by-step in Ovid Medline and PubMed (with lots of explanations)



3 | Templates, Tools & Checklists

Useful templates, tools, weblinks and checklists to build search strategies in multiple databases, remove duplicate content, an...



4 | Further training needed?

Links to websites with recommended (advanced) training guides on systematic literature searching $\,$

- Step-by-step instructions for a search in PubMed
- Step-by-step instructions for a search in Medline (via Ovid)
- Templates (Concepts Sheet, PRISMA Flow Chart, etc.)

- Tools for translation into various database languages
- Glossary for systematic literature search
- Instructions for working with EndNote
- Web links to other training sites, incl. AI use





How to access Literature Search Services @Uni Bern

ISPM or BIHAM Affiliation:

- Contact: <u>biblio.ispm@unibe.ch</u>
- Submit a Literature Search Request Form via the Intranet: <u>Link</u>

Other medical institutes & university hospital (Inselspital) researchers:

- Contact the Medical Library at <u>support med.ub@unibe.ch</u>
- Submit your search request here: <u>Link</u>

Home | Subject guides | Systematic Review | Home

SR Process Assistance

Interactive <u>LibGuide</u>
Monash University Library



Systematic Review: Home

Home

Getting started

Manuals, documentation & PRISMA

Develop question & key concepts

Look for existing reviews

Scoping searches & gold set

Identify search terms

Select databases & grey literature sources

Develop criteria & protocol

Run your search

Limits & filters

Review & test your search

Save & manage your search results

Database search translation

Screening process steps

Assess quality of your included studies

About systematic reviews

A systematic review is a type of literature review that demonstrates your awareness of existing primary research in your field. It is sometimes referred to as secondary research as it is research conducted on research.

Using this guide

Our guide is designed to help you:

- · Understand the purpose of systematic reviews
- Follow a clear process to create your systematic review
- · Adhere to relevant standards, guidelines or manuals
- Search for existing reviews
- Develop a research question and key concepts
- · Select databases and grey literature sources

Get help

Get help from a librarian when you need support beyond what you can find in this guide. 15-minute bookings are available for students, educators, and researchers.

1 hour consultations are available to HDR students and Researchers only. For medical/biomedical systematic-style reviews, see Request a consultation for details on the review support service.

Next: Getting started >>



Literature search: how do you go about it? Helpful video tutorials

Simple, easy to understand videos (English) about

Starting a search and Tips & tricks

(by the University of Reading Library)





Top 3 Take-Home Messages

1. Allow **enough time** for a state-of-the-art liteature search.



2. ALWAYS take the block building approach (concepts sheet).



3. Document the search process on an ongoing basis.



