Searching Ovid Embase

1. Analyse your question

Identify the **MAIN CONCEPTS** in your topic.

2. Select database search terms

Select your database search terms using either **Subject Headings** and/or **Keywords**.

**SUBJECT HEADING** will search for a topic discussed in an article, using the Embase Thesaurus.

Embase MAPPING will assist you in selecting the appropriate subject headings.

Example: disprin

Check **Explode** to expand the search, **Focus** to narrow, and click on **Scope** for information on the subject heading

Once selected you will retrieve any article where this subject heading has been used to index/describe an article.

**KEYWORD** will search the databases title and abstract fields for your exact phrase.

Example: disprin

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Select</th>
<th>Subject Heading</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>acetylsalicylic acid calcium</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>disprin.mp. search as Keyword</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Truncation * and adjacency can be used with keyword searches.

ie. Blood adj2 donor*

Will locate blood donor, blood donors, and donors of blood.

3. Put all the pieces together logically

Once you have selected your search terms which may be a combination of subject headings and keywords, design a search strategy by combining your search concepts with **AND**, **OR**, and **NOT**.

**AND**

Both concepts/terms will be present in items retrieved by the search.

Narrows search

**OR**

Means either one concept/term or the other will be present within the search results.

Expands Search
4. From query to search

Query: End Stage Renal Failure and Vitamin D deficiency.

Main concepts?

Patients: Chronic Kidney Failure + Vitamin D Deficiency
Intervention: Vitamin D3
Comparator: Placebo
Outcomes: Increased bone mineralization/density, improved immune and cardiac function, & survival.
Methodology: Randomized controlled trials OR Meta analysis of RCTs

Database search

- First Register for a Personal Account via My Account
- Enter your search terms and Save Search History
- Choose to save the search Permanently or as an Auto Alert (emailed results update). Name and date the search for future reference.
- To Rerun a saved search, open the database, enter your Personal Account Name and Password and Login. Mark the appropriate saved search and RUN.
- Use the Search tab to view the search and reload the page if the search is not displayed.

5. Saving your Search

- First Register for a Personal Account via My Account
- Enter your search terms and Save Search History
- Choose to save the search Permanently or as an Auto Alert (emailed results update). Name and date the search for future reference.
- To Rerun a saved search, open the database, enter your Personal Account Name and Password and Login. Mark the appropriate saved search and RUN.
- Use the Search tab to view the search and reload the page if the search is not displayed.

NOTE: If you are not finding what you want you may need to reconsider your logic and try searching again.

There is always more than one way of searching a topic.

ie. In this search we found 51 Reviews that included chronic kidney failure + vitamin D deficiency + treatment vitamin D (set 6) but when we removed vitamin D deficiency which is implied by the treatment we found 295 review articles.