

10-Step User Guide: Medline

1

Medline

What is Medline and when should I use it?

MEDLINE is an excellent source of literature in the disciplines of medicine, surgery, dentistry, nursing, allied health and more. MEDLINE COMPLETE includes full-text journal articles from approximately 2,400 journals indexed in MEDLINE.

Use MEDLINE when you want to search literature for: medicine and surgery (primary subjects); nursing and midwifery (other subjects).

2

Access

How do I get connected?

Go to hselibrary.ie and click on **RESOURCES | EBSCO ... | EBSCOHOST WEB | MEDLINE COMPLETE**.

3

“Before You Begin ...”

Analyse your topic and define key concepts.

Before you begin searching, analyze your topic for key concepts. Example: you wish to search for journal articles on the use of epidural injections for back pain. Your key concepts are:

- EPIDURAL INJECTIONS
- BACK PAIN

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Enter First Keyword

Search for your first key concept.

It's best to search for one concept at a time. Enter a keyword for your first concept in the search box at the top of the screen. Click **SEARCH**.

Search
Click **SEARCH**.

“Suggest Subject Terms”

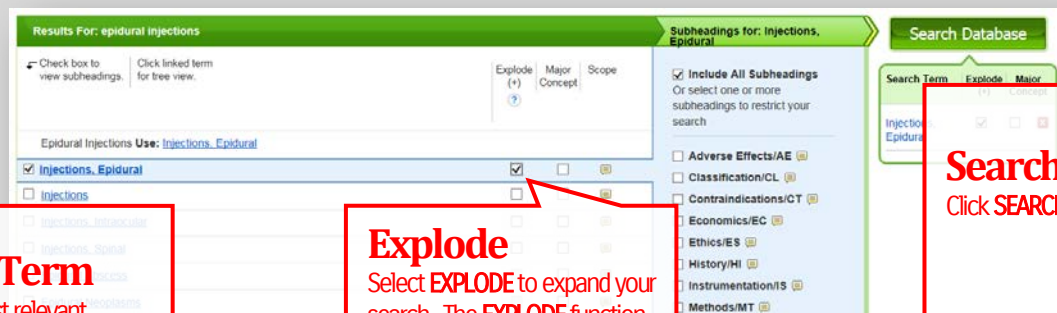
Ensure that **SUGGEST SUBJECT TERMS** is selected.

Search Box

Enter your first search term in the search box.

The screenshot shows the EBSCOhost search interface. At the top, it says 'Searching: MEDLINE Complete | Choose Databases'. Below that, there is a checkbox for 'Suggest Subject Terms' which is checked. The search box contains the text 'epidural injections'. To the right of the search box are buttons for 'Search' and 'Clear'. Below the search box, there are several 'AND' dropdown menus and 'Select a Field (opt...)' dropdown menus. At the bottom, there are links for 'Basic Search' and 'Advanced Search', and a 'History' link.

On the next screen, MEDLINE prompts you to choose a subject term to correspond with your keyword. Here, the standard subject term is **INJECTIONS, EPIDURAL**. Tick the box next to **INJECTIONS, EPIDURAL**. It's also usually a good idea to choose **EXPLODE** to retrieve more specific related subject terms

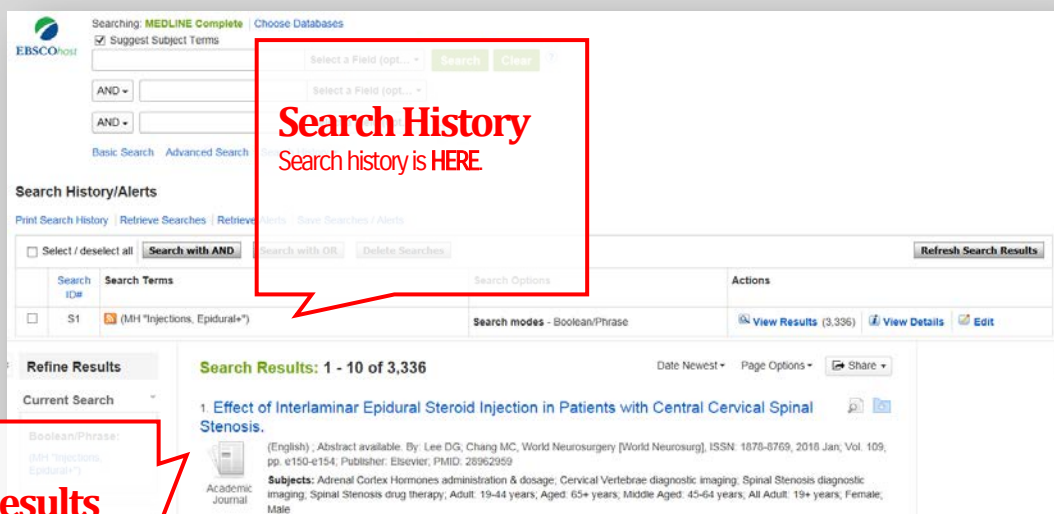


Subject Term
Select the most relevant subject term(s).

Explode
Select **EXPLODE** to expand your search. The **EXPLODE** function will include more specific related subject terms.

Search
Click **SEARCH DATABASE**

Your **SEARCH RESULTS** display near the bottom of the next screen. A record of your search also displays in **SEARCH HISTORY** in the middle of the screen.



Search History
Search history is **HERE**

Search Results
Search results are **HERE**

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Enter Second Keyword

Search for your second key concept.

Enter your second keyword, **BACK PAIN**. Click **SEARCH**.

Search
Click **SEARCH**.

Searching: **MEDLINE Complete** | Choose Databases
 Suggest Subject Terms
back pain Select a Field (opt... Search Clear ?
AND Select a Field (opt...
AND Select a Field (opt... + -
Basic Search Search History

Search Box

Enter your second search term in the search box.

Tick the box next to the standard subject term, **BACK PAIN**. Choose **EXPLODE** and click **SEARCH DATABASE**.

Results For: back pain Subheadings for: Back Pain Search Database
Check box to view subheadings. Click linked term for tree view. Explode (+) Major Concept Scope
 Back Pain
 Low Back Pain
Recurrent Low Back Pain Use: Low Back Pain
Postural Low Back Pain Use: Low Back Pain
Chronic Low Back Pain Use: Low Back Pain
Pain, Back Use: Back Pain
Mechanical Low Back Pain Use: Low Back Pain
 Blood/BL
 Cerebrospinal Fluid/CF
 Chemically Induced/CI
 Classification/CL
 Complications/CO
 Congenital/CN
 Diagnosis/DI
 Diagnostic Imaging/DG
 Diet Therapy/DH
Search Term: Back Pain Major Concept

Subject Term

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Search

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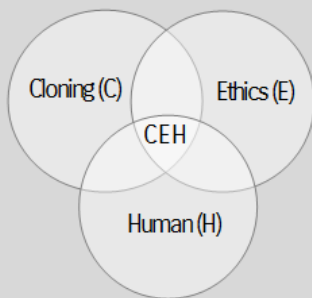
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Search Results
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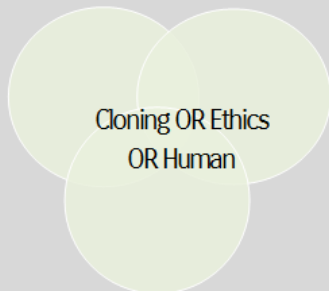
6 Combine
Combine your searches to retrieve more targeted results.

Boolean Operators are used to connect and define the relationship between your search terms. You can use **Boolean Operators** to either narrow or broaden your search results.



Use **AND** in a search to:

- Narrow your results
- Instruct the database that all search terms must be present in the resulting records
- Example: cloning **AND** humans **AND** ethics (CEH).

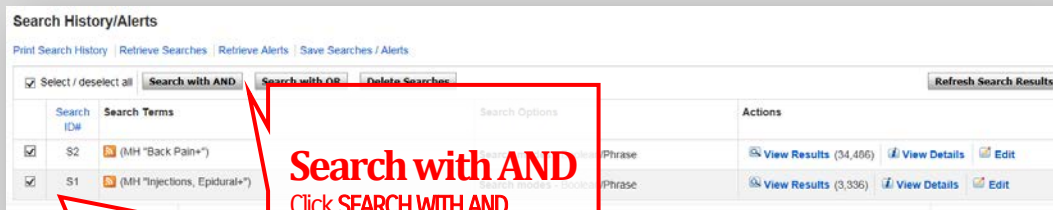


Use **OR** in a search to:

- Combine two or more similar concepts or synonyms
- Broaden your results, instructing the database that any of your search terms may be present in the resulting records
- Example: cloning **OR** ethics **OR** human.

See MIT Libraries' "[Database Search Tips: Boolean Operators](#)."

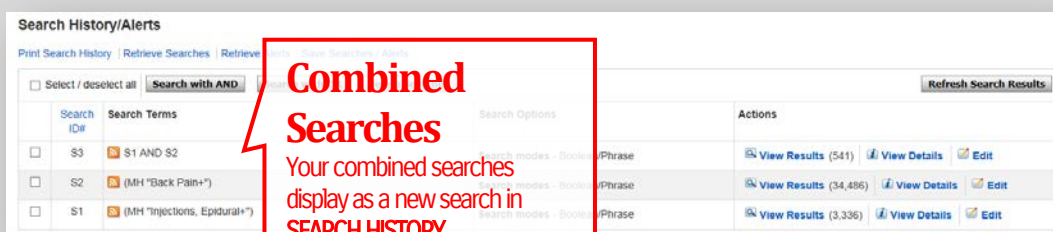
Here, you wish to retrieve journal articles that discuss both **EPIDURAL INJECTIONS** and **BACK PAIN**. In **SEARCH HISTORY**, tick the boxes next to **SEARCH 1 (S1)** and **SEARCH 2 (S2)**. Click **SEARCH WITH AND**.



Select
Select the tick-boxes next to the searches you wish to combine.

Search with AND
Click **SEARCH WITH AND**.

The results of your combined searches display in the **SEARCH HISTORY** panel and near the bottom of the next screen.

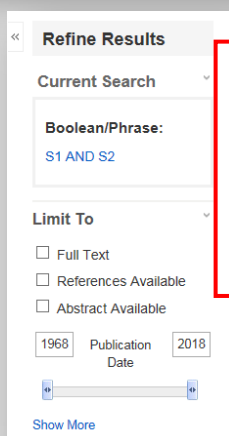


Combined Searches
Your combined searches display as a new search in **SEARCH HISTORY**.

7 Search Results

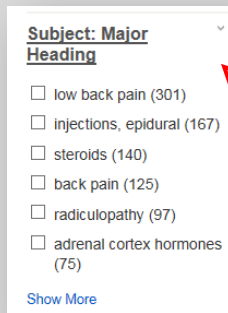
Limit and manage your search results.

On the left-hand side of the screen, you have options to narrow your results, for example to full-text journal articles or to a specific date range.



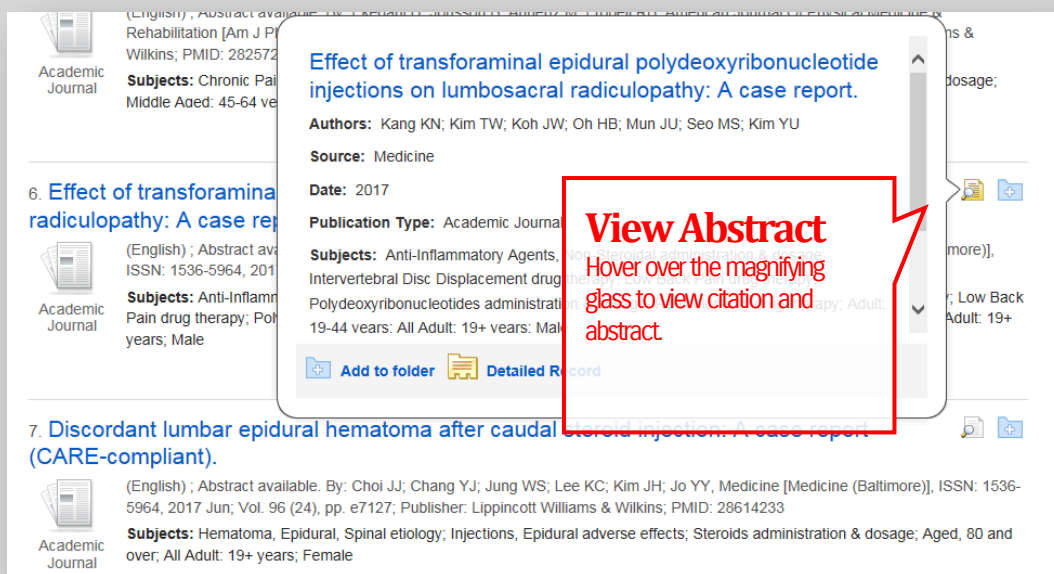
Limits
Limit your search results: eg to full-text available articles only or to a specific date range.

Use the subject categories on the left-hand side of the screen to further refine your search. For example, click on **RADICULOPATHY** to retrieve articles on: **EPIDURAL INJECTIONS + BACK PAIN + RADICULOPATHY**.



Subject Limit
Limit your search results to a more specific subject.

There are also options on the left-hand side of the screen to narrow your results to specific journals or specific age groups. Hover over the magnifying glass to view the citation and abstract of any given journal article.



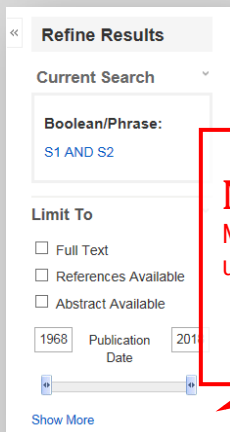
Some results will also display a link to PDF or other full text. Click on the link or PDF symbol to view the full-text journal article.

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Advanced Search

Options

Apply more advanced limits to your search.



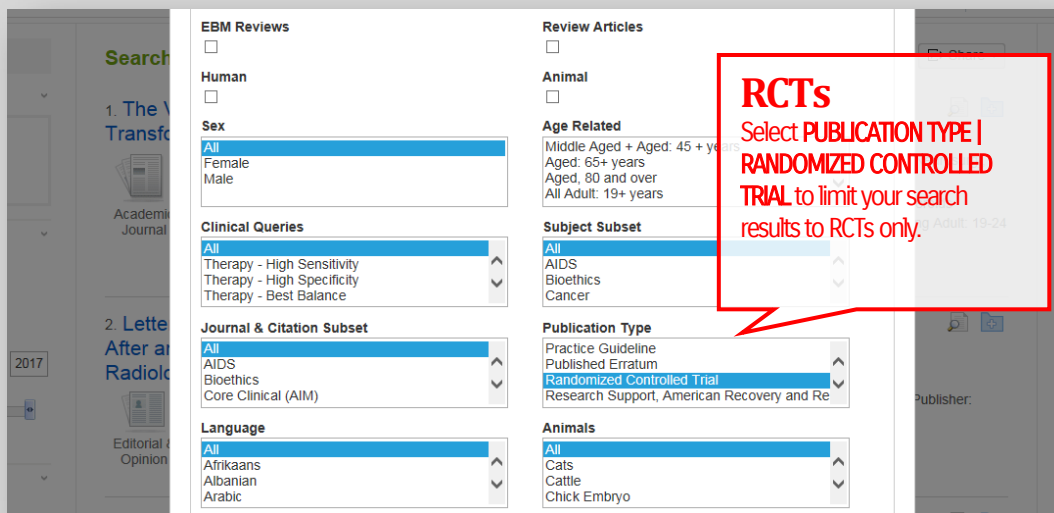
For more advanced ways of narrowing your results, click **SHOW MORE** under **REFINE RESULTS**.

More Limits

More advanced limits available under **SHOW MORE**

Please note: the screen will become shaded and you may need to scroll down.

Example: to retrieve randomized controlled trials, select **RANDOMIZED CONTROLLED TRIAL** under **PUBLICATION TYPE** and click **SEARCH**.



RCTs

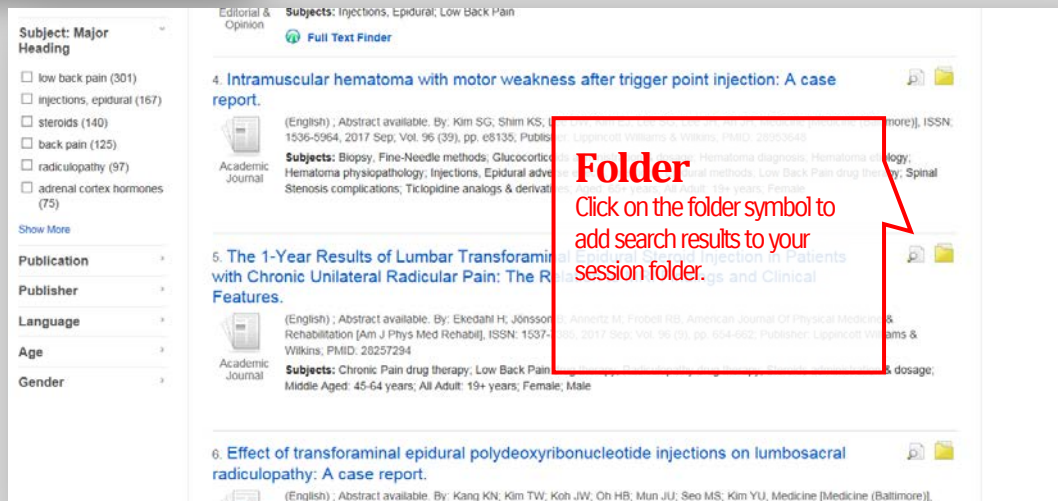
Select **PUBLICATION TYPE** | **RANDOMIZED CONTROLLED TRIAL** to limit your search results to RCTs only.

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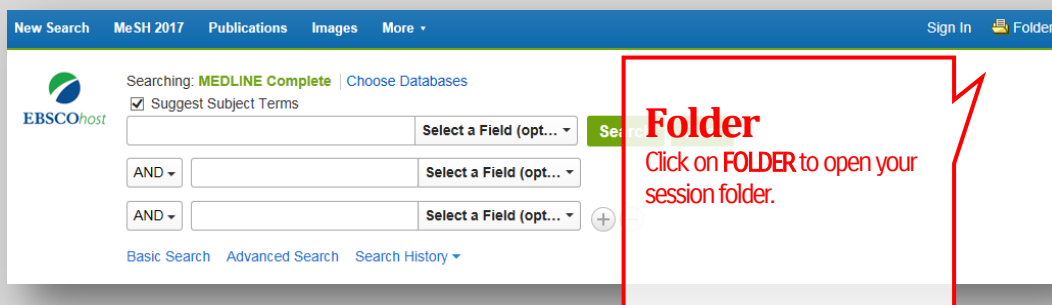
Folder

Use the folder to store or export search results.

Click the folder symbol to add journal articles you're interested in to the folder for use later in your search session. When you click **ADD TO FOLDER** the symbol will change to a yellow colour.



When you've finished adding journal articles to the folder, click on **FOLDER** at the top of the screen.



Once in **FOLDER CONTENTS** select the tick-boxes next to any of the journal articles you wish to keep. Selected journal articles may be emailed, printed or saved.

You may also set up a personal EbscoHost account to save articles, searches and alerts for future sessions.

10

Help

Need more information or further assistance?

Contact your local HSE South Library for assistance: see www.hselibrary.ie | Your Local Library.

See also the advanced searching tutorial video below:

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=mq_410PM8yU.

