



Cochrane Library



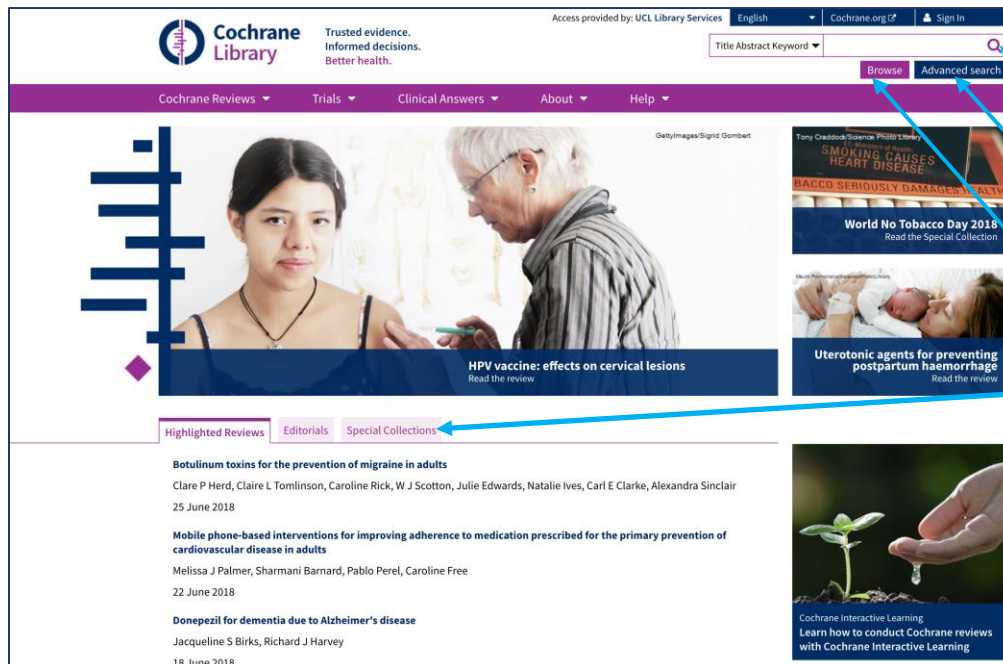
www.cochranelibrary.com

The Cochrane Library is a collection of high-quality, independent evidence to inform healthcare decision-making. It is owned by Cochrane (www.cochrane.org) and is freely available in England.

The Cochrane Library consists of three different databases, which are searched simultaneously:

1. Cochrane Database of Systematic Reviews (CDSR)	Full text of Cochrane Collaboration reviews, protocols of reviews currently in progress, editorials and supplements. New and updated reviews and protocols are continuously published when ready.
2. Cochrane Central Register of Controlled Trials (CENTRAL)	The most comprehensive database of controlled trial records. Published monthly.
3. Cochrane Clinical Answers	Evidence-based answers to clinical questions, including data for the outcomes of the Cochrane Review deemed most relevant to practising healthcare professionals.

Cochrane systematic reviews can be browsed by topic area or by special collection. Special Collections are curated collections on a specific healthcare topic.




Search Options:

- (i) Type keywords into the search box
- (ii) Select advanced search options (MeSH searching, search manager, limits, etc.)
- (iii) Browse by topic
- (iv) Browse Special Collections

Search Box

As the Cochrane Library is a specialised research database and therefore much smaller than databases such as Medline, you should **keep your searches simple**. For example, if you were looking for information on **the use of antibiotics to treat sore throat in infants**, the concepts would be **antibiotics, sore throat**.

- Enter your search terms in the search box and click on  to search across all the databases listed at the start of this guide.

Tips: If you type two words next to each other, they will be searched using the **and** connector.

Eg **sore throat** will retrieve records which contain the word sore and the word throat.

If you wish to search for words as a phrase you need to enclose them in speech marks.

Eg. **"sore throat"**

You can truncate terms using an asterisk *

Eg **antibiotic*** will search for **antibiotic, antibiotics, etc.**

Advanced Search

Your search will usually be more comprehensive if you use MeSH terms (Medical Subject Headings) to conduct your search. If you use a MeSH term, for example **Pharyngitis**, the Cochrane Library will also search for different terms that might be used to describe pharyngitis, for example **sore throat** or **pharyngitides**. It will search for singular and plural forms of words, words with variant endings, alternative spellings, synonyms, etc.

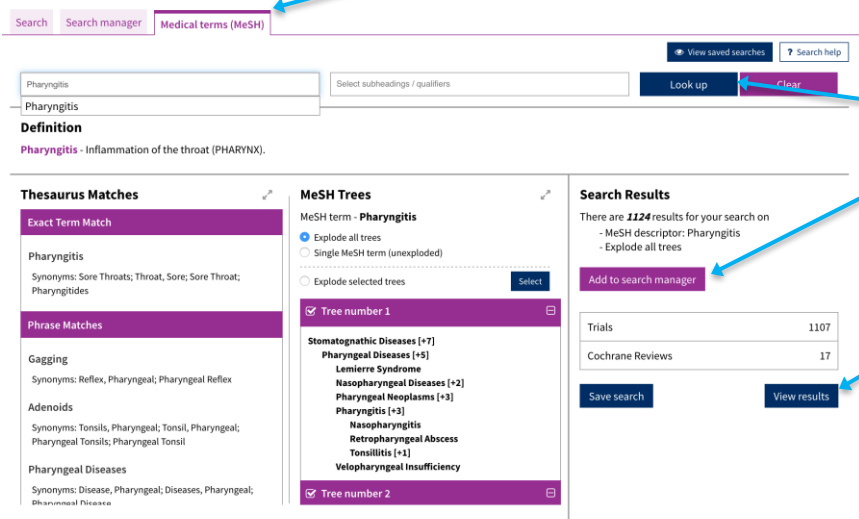
To use MeSH terms:

- Click on **Advanced Search** from the Cochrane Library home page.
- Click on the **Medical Terms (MeSH)** tab.
- Enter your search term.
- Click on **Lookup**.

MeSH Tab

Advanced Search

Please note that the Advanced Search is optimised for English search terms. Certain features, such as search operators and MeSH terms, are only available in English.



The screenshot shows the Cochrane Library Advanced Search interface. At the top, there are tabs for 'Search', 'Search manager', and 'Medical terms (MeSH)'. The 'Medical terms (MeSH)' tab is selected. Below the tabs, there is a search box containing 'Pharyngitis' and a 'Lookup' button. To the right of the search box, there is a 'View saved searches' button and a 'Search help' button. Below the search box, there is a 'Definition' section for 'Pharyngitis' which states: 'Pharyngitis - Inflammation of the throat (PHARYNX)'. Below the definition, there are three main sections: 'Thesaurus Matches', 'MeSH Trees', and 'Search Results'. The 'Thesaurus Matches' section shows 'Exact Term Match' for 'Pharyngitis' and 'Phrase Matches' for 'Gagging', 'Adenoids', and 'Pharyngeal Diseases'. The 'MeSH Trees' section shows a tree structure for 'Pharyngitis' with two trees selected. The 'Search Results' section shows 'There are 1107 results for your search on' and lists 'Trials' (1107) and 'Cochrane Reviews' (17). There are 'Save search' and 'View results' buttons. A blue arrow points from the 'MeSH Tab' header to the 'Medical terms (MeSH)' tab. Another blue arrow points from the 'MeSH Tab' header to the 'Lookup' button. A third blue arrow points from the 'MeSH Tab' header to the 'Add to search manager' button. A fourth blue arrow points from the 'MeSH Tab' header to the 'View results' button.

Lookup

Click on **Add to Search Manager** to build up a search history

Or, click to **View Results**

To build up a search using the Search Manager:

You can build up a search step-by-step by clicking on the **Search Manager** tab. To conduct a thorough search, you may wish to combine MeSH searches and keyword searches for each of your concepts. You can combine searches by typing the search names (e.g #1 and #2) into a search box.

Tip: You can combine keywords using AND, OR and NOT

AND will retrieve results that contain all the keywords

OR broadens your search and will retrieve results that contain any of the keywords

Advanced Search

Please note that the Advanced Search is optimised for English search terms. Certain features, such as search operators and MeSH terms, are only available in English.

Search | **Search manager** | Medical terms (MeSH)

Save this search | View saved searches | Search help

Search ID	Search Query	MeSH	Results
#1	MeSH descriptor: [Pharyngitis] explode all trees	MeSH	0
#2	pharyngitis or "sort throat" or pharyngitides		2071
#3	#1 or #2		2071
#4	MeSH descriptor: [Anti-Bacterial Agents] explode all trees	MeSH	10718
#5	"anti-bacterial agents" or antibiotic*		28811
#6	#4 or #5		29654
#7	#3 and #6		382

Clear all | Highlight orphan lines

Click on + to add a new search box

Click on **MeSH** to search for a MeSH (Medical Subject Heading) term

Click on a number to view the results

Results:

Results are grouped by database. The Cochrane Reviews are displayed first by default. Select any of the other tabs to view a different category of results.

The screenshot shows the Cochrane Library search results interface. At the top, there are tabs for different result categories: Cochrane Reviews (55), Cochrane Protocols (2), Trials (321), Editorials (0), Special collections (0), Clinical Answers (4), and More. The 'Cochrane Reviews' tab is circled in blue. Below the tabs, the search results are displayed for the query '"#7 - #3 and #6"'. The results are grouped by database, showing '55 Cochrane Reviews matching on "#7 - #3 and #6"'. The first result is 'Antibiotics for sore throat' by Anneliese Spinks, Paul P Glasziou, and Chris B Del Mar, published on 5 November 2013. The second result is 'Delayed antibiotic prescriptions for respiratory infections' by Geoffrey KP Spurling, Chris B Del Mar, Liz Dooley, Ruth Foxlee, and Rebecca Farley, published on 7 September 2017. On the left, there is a 'Filter your results' section with options for Date, Publication date, and Custom Range.

You can use the filters to the left of the results screen to refine your results. For example, results can be filtered by Date, Language, Topics (e.g. Child Health), Type of Study (e.g. intervention / diagnostic).

Save a search strategy

The screenshot shows the Cochrane Library Advanced Search page. The page has a purple header with the Cochrane Library logo and the tagline 'Trusted evidence. Informed decisions. Better health.' Below the header, there is a navigation menu with options for Cochrane Reviews, Trials, Clinical Answers, About, and Help. The main content area is titled 'Advanced Search' and includes a note that the search is optimized for English. There are three tabs: Search, Search manager, and Medical terms (MeSH). The 'Search manager' tab is active. Below the tabs, there is a search bar and a 'Save this search' button, which is circled in blue. To the right of the 'Save this search' button is a 'View saved searches' button, also circled in blue. There is also a 'Search help' button. The page includes the Cochrane Library logo and the tagline 'Trusted evidence. Informed decisions. Better health.' The page also includes the text 'Access provided by: UCL Library Services' and 'English' in a dropdown menu. The 'Sign In' button is also visible.

1. Click on **Sign In** to register and create an account
2. Click on **Save this search** to and type a name for your search
3. Click on **View saved searches** and **Load** your saved search

For further information, or help using the Cochrane Library, please contact the GOS ICH Library.

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Telephone: 020 7905 2847 (Internal ext. 42847)