



Embase (OvidSP)

Accessing Embase

- Go to the [GOS-ICH Library website](#);
- Under the **Electronic Resources** heading, click on **Databases**;
- Click on **Embase** in the alphabetical list;
- Click on either the UCL or NHS logo, as appropriate, to access the database.

UCL off-site access requires a UCL computer username and password. GOSH access requires an NHS Athens account.

Subject Searching: Advanced Ovid Search

You will automatically be taken to the **Advanced Ovid Search** screen.

Imagine we are interested in finding articles on the adverse effects of phenytoin in the treatment of pregnant women with **epilepsy**. Our main concepts in this search are **epilepsy**, phenytoin (particularly **adverse effects**) and **pregnancy**.

Enter your first search term in the search box. In most databases, by default, the **Map Term to Subject Heading** box is ticked. If you search using subject headings, you should retrieve the majority of records on that subject regardless of the exact terminology used by the author.

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

Selected Resources
 Ovid Resources: [EMBASE 1980 to 2010 Week 34](#)

Keyword
 Author
 Title
 Journal

Limits (Click to expand)
 Map Term to Subject Heading

Click on Search. A list of relevant subject headings will now be displayed.

Select	Subject Heading	Explode	Focus	Scope
<input type="checkbox"/>	benign childhood epilepsy	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	i
<input type="checkbox"/>	catamenial epilepsy	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	i
<input type="checkbox"/>	childhood absence epilepsy	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	i
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	epilepsy	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	i

Click on the word epilepsy to see how it relates to other subject headings, with broader and narrower terms displayed.

- **Explode:** checking this box will search for your selected subject heading plus any narrower terms. E.g. Exploding Epilepsy when searching Embase will also retrieve records which have the subject headings reflex epilepsy, startle epilepsy, nocturnal seizure, etc.
- **Focus:** checking this box limits your results to records for which your subject heading is a main topic of the article. This is useful for retrieving a few key papers on a subject, but is not recommended if you want to do a comprehensive search.
- **Scope:** click on the icon [i](#) to see a definition and additional information about the term.

Note: The last item in the list always gives you the option of performing a text word search, instead of, or in combination with, the subject heading search. As this is not a subject heading it has no **Explode** or **Focus** options, and no [i](#) button.

You may select as many subject headings as you wish from this list and combine them using AND or OR from the drop-down menu. Then click on **Continue**.

Combine with:

Select Heading

If you have selected only one heading, a page of subheadings is now displayed. These can be used to search for a particular aspect of your subject. For example, in our search for phenytoin we might choose to select the subheading **Adverse Drug Reaction**.

- Select the subheading(s) which interest you. If you wish to include all subheadings then you do not need to select any, or can check the **Include All Subheadings** box.
- Click on **Continue**.
- Now carry out searches for any other concepts.

AND and OR explained

AND retrieves articles which contain **all** of your concepts. Eg., a search for **phenytoin and epilepsy** will retrieve articles that mention both of these terms. **And** narrows your search.

OR retrieves records which contain **any** of your concepts. Eg., you might search for **epilepsy OR** seizures to retrieve all articles on the topic. **Or** broadens your search.

Search History and combining searches

Your results are displayed in the **Search History** screen (click on the link in the top left corner of the screen).

To combine searches together, select the searches and click on **AND** or **OR**. You may remove searches from the **Search History** by checking the search you no longer require and clicking on the **Remove** button.

Search History (2)		View Saved			
#	Searches	Results	Type	Actions	Annotations
1	exp epilepsy/	214900	Advanced	Display Results More ▾	
2	exp phenytoin/ae [Adverse Drug Reaction]	7801	Advanced	Display Results More ▾	

Save Remove Combine with: AND OR

Applying Limits

Limits refine your search according to criteria such as the type of article, publication date, age group, language of publication, etc.

- Click on the **Limits** link below the search box to view selected Limit options. To apply these limits, select the ones that interest you, enter the search line number in the search box and click on **Search**. Your limited search will appear as an additional line in your search history.
- To view all Limit options, click on the **Additional Limits** button. From the following screen select the limits of your choice, click the radio button for the search you wish to limit and click on **Limit a Search**.

Search Tips

If you wish to carry out a comprehensive search you should search for words that occur in the title or abstract of articles as well as for subject headings. This is keyword searching. You can simply enter your search terms into the search box and uncheck the **Map term to subject** heading option. The following tips can help with keyword searching:


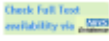
- **Truncation.** Use an asterisk * or at the end of the stem of a word to retrieve all words that start with that stem. Eg. epilep* will retrieve epilepsy, epilepsies, epileptic, etc.
- **Phrase searching.** OvidSP searches for multiple words as a phrase. Eg., a search for cot death will retrieve records only where the two words appear next to each other. If you wish to enter more than one search term, but not as a phrase, you can do so by separating them with and or or. E.g., epilep* or seizure*.

Viewing results

Results are displayed below your search history. To view results from any previous search, click on **Display Results** for that search line.

- To view all your results with abstracts displayed, click on **Abstract View** (a button containing 4 horizontal lines) above the list of results.
- Clicking on the **Find Similar** option to the right of a result will carry out a new search for articles on a similar topic.
- Clicking on the **Find Citing Articles** option will retrieve records of articles that cite this article, where they are included in the journals available via OvidSP. This can be used as another way to broaden a search for relevant articles.

Accessing the full text of articles

- Click on the button  (UCL) or the  button (GOSH) for a particular article to link to the full text, where available.
- If you have selected the findit@UCL button, a UCL Explore catalogue screen will appear. If the full text is available, the details of the publisher are displayed in the 'View It' section

Printing, emailing, saving and exporting your results

Check the boxes next to the articles you wish to keep from all pages.

Select from the options above the list of search results.




- To **print** your results, click on **Print** and select the information you need (the default is Citation – you may wish to include the abstract). Then click on **Print Preview** and print this screen.
- To **email** results to yourself click on **Email** and complete the on-screen form.

- To **export** references to bibliographic software or to Word, click on **Export**. Select file format you wish to export (e.g. RIS for EndNote or Mendeley) and the amount of information you need, then click on **Export**.
- To save your results within Ovid SP, click on **My Projects** and create a free account.
- To access any results you have saved to My Projects, make sure you are logged in, and then click on **My Workspace**, towards the top of the screen.

Saving searches and creating alerts


You can save your search strategy to re-run it at a later date. You can also set up alerts, so that you are emailed when new articles that match your search criteria are added to the database.

- Click on  at the bottom of the search history table.
- Log in with your personal account details. If you have not yet created a personal account for OvidSP, click on **Create Account**.
- Enter a name for your search or alert. Optionally, you can add comments.
- Use the pull-down menu to choose whether to create a permanent search or an alert. If you choose an alert, a box will appear allowing you to enter an email address and choose other options.
- Click on **Save**.

To run a saved search:

- Click on **My Workspace**, at the top right of the search screen, then click on **My Searches & Alerts**. Tick the check box next to the search that you want and click on **Run**.

To edit a saved search:

- Click on  at the top right of the search history table.
- Click on the Edit (pencil) icon for the search you wish to edit.

- Again, click the Edit (pencil icon) to the right of an individual search line to edit that line.
- You can also insert or delete new search lines using the appropriate icons to the right of the screen. OvidSP will re-number search lines as necessary where they appear in your search history.
- Click on **Save** and then re-run your search.

Further Information

For further information or support in using Embase, please contact the Library by e-mail: ich.library@ucl.ac.uk.

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ich.library@ucl.ac.uk

www.ucl.ac.uk/child-health/support-services/library