



ELSEVIER

Embase[®]

A guide to using the world's most comprehensive biomedical literature resource for drug, disease and medical device R&D and pharmacovigilance with comprehensive content including articles, conference abstracts, in press articles and all of Medline.

[List of journals and conferences in Embase](#)



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Where do I begin?

Quick search:

- Perform quick and easy searches using key words and phrases
- Good for getting an overview of the literature
- Helps you to define terms for a more complex search

PICO

- Build searches using the Patient, Intervention, Comparison/Control, Outcome Framework
- Browse Emtree thesaurus, apply best term, along with synonyms to one or more search lines to search comprehensively

PV Wizard

- Build a comprehensive search query for literature surveillance in pharmacovigilance

Medical Device

- Design searches specific to medical devices, including searches for adverse effects and manufacturers' products

Advanced, **Drug**, **Disease**, **Device**, Citation Information

- Use to develop precise search queries (e.g., tradename, manufacturer, Device comparison or economics, specific article, author, etc.)

Using Quick Search

The screenshot shows the Embase Quick Search page. At the top, there are navigation links: Search, Emtree, Journals, Results, My tools. Below that, there are search filters: Quick, PICO, PV Wizard, Medical device, Advanced, Drug, Disease, Device, Citation information. The main heading reads: "Find articles by simple keyword search or build more complex queries". Below this is a search input field with a "Broad search e.g. 'heart attack' AND stress" placeholder. To the right of the input field is a "Search tips" link. Below the input field are two buttons: "+ Add field" and "Limit to". Below these buttons is a "Show results" button. At the bottom of the search area is a "Display full query" link. Annotations A through E are placed on the interface: A is on the search input field, B is on the search input field, C is on the "+ Add field" button, D is on the "Limit to" button, and E is on the "Search tips" link.

- For **Broad searches**, type terms on the search line. For phrases, use a single or double quote around the phrase. Use Boolean operators AND, NOT and OR to add concepts to search.
- As you type, you'll see suggested matching terms from Emtree.
- Add** additional search **fields**, like journal and author names, with this option.
- Limit your search to publication years or record types associated with evidence-based medicine with this option.
- Click here for more search tips.

The screenshot shows a dropdown menu for the search term "diabetes mel". The menu lists three suggestions with their respective counts:

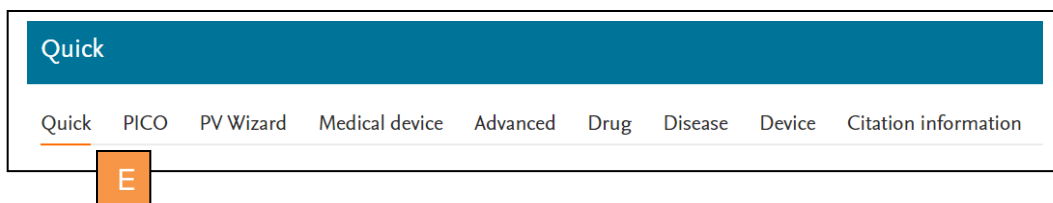
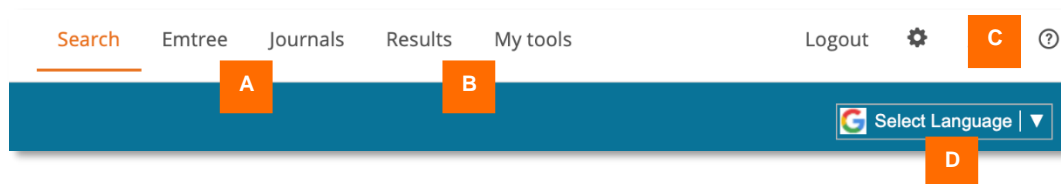
diabetes mellitus	1,174,952
diabetes mellitus type 2 use: non insulin dependent diabetes mellitus	304,777
diabetes mellitus type ii use: non insulin dependent diabetes mellitus	304,777

Working with your results

The screenshot shows the Embase search results page for the query 'pancreas cancer' NEXT/4 cell* NEAR/6 'therapy'. The interface includes a search bar (A), a navigation bar with filters like Mapping, Date, Sources, Fields, Quick limits, EBM, Pub. types, Languages, Gender, Age, and Animal. On the left, there are 'Results Filters' (C) for Drugs, Diseases, Devices, etc. A 'History' table (B) lists previous searches: #3 'pancreas cancer' NEXT/4 cell* NEAR/6 'therapy' (765 results), #2 'pancreas cancer' (65,932 results), and #1 'fluoxetine' (45,797 results). The main results area shows 765 results for the current search (G). A 'Results' table (E) lists individual items, with the first item selected. A 'Drugs' filter dropdown (D) is open, showing options like gemcitabine (316), unclassified drug (298), and various anticancer agents. At the bottom of the results table, there are options to 'View', 'Print', 'Export', 'Email', and 'Add to Clipboard' (F), along with a 'Set email alert' button (G).

- A. You can edit and/or re-run the currently selected search in this field.
- B. Your search **History** for your current session is shown here. Click on any search in your history to recall the results. Use the top bar to save, delete, prepare for printing, export or share via email. Hover over any search to set an email alert or RSS feed or edit.
- C. Use the **Results Filters** to refine the search by selecting sources, drug or device trade names, diseases, subheadings, etc.
- D. Review the number of results that will be returned by applying a given filter. **Export** filtered data by clicking at the bottom.
- E. Select **Results** using the checkboxes in the result line or selecting number of items.
- F. Use these options to print or export your selection or send it as an email. You can also add it to your **Clipboard**.
- G. Set an **Email Alert** to stay informed on your topic of interest.

Navigating to other screens



A. In the top navigation, Click **Emtree** to open the Emtree thesaurus and see index terms in context. Click **Journals** to access the list of journals indexed in Embase.

B. Click **Results** to open the results page if you have performed any searches during this session. For saved searches, alerts and other features, click **My tools**.

C. To access Embase training materials in the **Support Center**, click the ? symbol.

D. Select the language for your results here.

E. Navigate between dedicated search forms using these options:

- **PICO** for systematic reviews
- **PV Wizard** for adverse event-focused searches
- **Medical device** for clinical evaluation and post-market surveillance searches
- **Advanced** for more limitation and subheading options than Quick Search
- **Drug, Disease** and **Device** for drug-, disease- and device-focused advanced searches, respectively
- **Citation information** for article- and author-focused searches

Using the Drug form

Drug Search

Quick
PICO
PV Wizard
Medical device
New
Advanced
Drug
Disease
Device
Article
Authors

e.g. 'low molecular weight heparin'

Search > Mapping ▾ Date ▾ Sources ▾ Drug fields ▲ Drug subheadings ▾ Routes ▾ Quick limits ▾

Drug fields: manufacturers and trade names

Drug manufacturers:

- Phrase search :mn
- Exact search /mn

Drug trade names:

- Phrase search :tn
- Exact search /tn
- Mapped to Emtree /de

Subheadings

<input type="checkbox"/> Adverse drug reaction	<input type="checkbox"/> Drug development	<input type="checkbox"/> Pharmacoeconomics
<input type="checkbox"/> Clinical trial	<input type="checkbox"/> Drug dose	<input type="checkbox"/> Pharmacokinetics
<input type="checkbox"/> Drug administration	<input type="checkbox"/> Drug interaction	<input type="checkbox"/> Pharmacology
<input type="checkbox"/> Drug analysis	<input type="checkbox"/> Drug therapy	<input type="checkbox"/> Special situation for pha
<input type="checkbox"/> Drug combination	<input type="checkbox"/> Drug toxicity	<input type="checkbox"/> Unexpected outcome of
<input type="checkbox"/> Drug comparison	<input type="checkbox"/> Endogenous compound	
<input type="checkbox"/> Drug concentration	<input type="checkbox"/> Pharmaceuticals	

OR AND

This form is used for designing **advanced searches specific to drugs.**

- A. Limit your search to subheadings for adverse drug reaction, clinical trial, pharmacoeconomics, etc.as well as “routes of drug administration”
- B. Easily add field codes for drug trade names and manufacturers.

Alternatively, use the **Disease** and **Device** forms to design advanced searches specific to diseases and devices using subheadings and fields to increase precision.

Using the PICO form

The screenshot shows the Embase PICO form interface. The main form is titled "Build your search using the PICO framework" and includes the following fields:

- Default strategy:** /exp
- Population (A):** Insulin
- Comparison (B):** Fluoxetine
- Outcome (C):** (Empty)
- Study design:** randomized controlled trial
- Limit to:** (Dropdown menu)

On the right side, there is a "Search terms in Emtree" section for "Fluoxetine". It displays a hierarchical tree of terms:

- Fluoxetine
 - agents interacting with transmitter, hormone or neurotransmitter
 - serotonin receptor affecting agent
 - serotonin uptake inhibitor
 - fluoxetine
 - central nervous system agents
 - psychotropic agent
 - tranquillizer
 - anxiolytic agent
 - fluoxetine
 - psychostimulant agent
 - antidepressant agent
 - serotonin uptake inhibitor
 - fluoxetine
 - organic compound
 - functional group

Default strategy of /exp searches your term (or maps to the preferred term) and related narrower or children terms. This can be changed to the following: Major focus /mj; Index term /de; Explosion and Major focus /exp/mj; As broad as possible /br

This form is used to create a PICO framework-based search string suitable for systematic reviews or to easily identify all synonyms for a subject for comprehensive retrieval of all related content.

A. In the main field, select the parameter you want to fill: Population, Intervention, Comparison or Outcome. You can type directly in these fields and use the suggested matching terms from Emtree.

Note that after you add a term, gray text appears beside it. Click this to add all the term's synonyms to the search.

B. Alternatively, start typing your search term under Search terms in Emtree on the right side of the form. Emtree suggestions are then displayed in their hierarchy positions. Click on term to view narrower terms in hierarchy.

C. Mouse over the desired term and click on the + that appears to the right to add it to the search form

Using the PV Wizard

This is an intuitive query builder that has a pre-coded search strategy developed with leading industry partners to simplify the pharmacovigilance search building process by structuring the framework into 5 key sections

The screenshot displays the Embase PV Wizard interface, which is structured into five key sections:

- Emtree:** A sidebar on the left containing a search bar "Find best term" and a list of categories such as anatomical concepts, biological functions, and diseases.
- Search Five elements:** A horizontal progress bar with five steps: Drug name (active), Alternative drug names, Adverse drug reactions, Special situations, and Human limit.
- Drug name:** A text input field containing "e.g. Paracetamol" and a "Clear field" button.
- Subheadings:** A section with checkboxes for "Adverse drug reaction", "Drug toxicity", "Drug interaction", "Drug combination", "Drug comparison", and "Drug therapy".
- MLM Query:** A button in the top right corner labeled "MLM Query" with a sub-link "EMA's MLM searches >".

Other interface elements include the Embase logo, navigation menus (Search, Browse, Results, My tools), a language selector, and a user profile "Xuanyan Xu".

For additional information please see the [Guide to Using the PV Wizard](#) in the Support Center.

Using the Medical Device Form...

The screenshot shows the 'Medical device' search interface. At the top, there is a navigation bar with 'Medical device' selected, and a 'Select Language' dropdown. Below the navigation bar, there are several tabs: 'Quick', 'PICO', 'PV Wizard', 'Medical device', 'Advanced', 'Drug', 'Disease', 'Device', 'Article', and 'Authors'. The main search area is divided into three sections, each with a blue 'AND' operator on the left:

- Section 1 (Device name):** Contains a search input field with the text 'stent' and a '+ Add 10 synonyms' button. Below this are checkboxes for 'Include subheading' with options: 'Adverse device effect', 'Clinical trial', 'Device comparison', and 'Device economics'.
- Section 2 (Adverse effects):** Contains two input fields. The first is labeled '+ Add/Edit default adverse effects syntax' and the second is labeled '+ Add 214 device specific adverse effect terms'.
- Section 3 (Limit options):** Contains a 'Study limit' dropdown menu set to 'None'. Below it are checkboxes for 'Publication years' (with a slider from >1966 to 2020) and 'Records added to Embase (including end date):' (with a 'Select date' input field).

At the bottom of the form, there is a blue bar with the text 'Show 187,989 results' and a 'display full query' button.

...to search for information on medical devices for clinical evaluation reports and post-market surveillance.

A. Add the search term in this field. You are given the options to add all the term's synonyms to the search. You can also include subheadings to limit the search to documents relevant to that subheading.

B. Add adverse effect terms in these fields. You can add or edit default or device-specific adverse effect terms. These are related to the device name with the Boolean operator AND.

C. Add study, publication year and record edition limits.

D. The full query can be displayed at any stage of construction, e.g., between steps A and B or B and C. This allows a review of the search string.



Glossary of Terms

Emtree is the Embase thesaurus of index terms which facilitates identification of the most suitable terms for a search and is arranged in a hierarchical tree structure which allows for searching for groups of related terms.

Exploding searches your term (or maps to the preferred Emtree term) and related narrower terms, e.g., 'brain disease'/exp also retrieve Alzheimer disease and other narrower terms.

Mapping means that searchers get the same results regardless of which term they use, e.g., Vioxx (synonym) or rofecoxib (the preferred term).

Medline is the National Library of Medicine journal citation database.

MeSH is the Medline thesaurus of index terms.

PubMed is the public interface used to search Medline and has [addl content](#) such as articles outside of the scope of Medline, the NCBI Bookshelf, "ahead of print" citations, etc.