

## Evidence-based Filters for Ovid Medline

These saved Expert Searches act as filters to find "the better" articles for answering clinical questions in Medline. The better articles are those whose results are based on scientific evidence. After developing a MEDLINE subject search, a filter can be added to sift through the list and pull out the "gold". These filter strategies were refined and updated by the Miner Library Reference librarians from searches developed by Ann McKibbin and Cindy Walker-Dilks of McMaster University.

### To use a Medline filter on Ovid Web:

- a. Develop a MEDLINE search on your clinical topic.
- b. Determine if you are looking for articles on diagnosis, etiology/harm, prognosis, or therapy; or a meta-analysis.
- c. Click the "Saved Searches" button under the Search History box on the Main Search page to select any of the Medline Evidence-Based Filters.
- d. Scroll to Expert Searches to choose the appropriate Medline Evidence-Based Filter: diagnosis, etiology, meta-analysis, prognosis, or therapy.
- e. Combine (AND) the last set of the Evidence-Based Filter with your subject.
- f. If you retrieve too citations, try ANDing the Filter's second to the last set which has the "best terms".
- g. The meta-analysis filter can be used in addition to any of the others.

### Medline Evidence-Based Filter Strategies:

#### Medline - Diagnosis

- 1 exp "sensitivity and specificity"/
- 2 (sensitivity or specificity).ti.ab.
- 3 likelihood functions/
- 4 exp diagnostic errors/
- 5 area under curve/
- 6 reproducibility of results/
- 7 (predictive adj value\$1).ti.ab.
- 8 (likelihood adj ratio\$1).ti.ab.
- 9 (false adj (negative\$1 or positive\$1).ti.ab.
- 10 diagnosis, differential/
- 11 random allocations/
- 12 random\$.ti.ab.
- 13 ((single or double or triple) adj blind\$3).ti.ab.
- 14 double blind method/ or single blind method/
- 15 (randomized controlled trial or controlled clinical trial).pt.
- 16 practice guideline.pt.
- 17 consensus development conference\$.pt.
- 18 **1 or 2 or 8 or 3** = best terms
- 19 **or/1-17** = all of the terms

#### Medline - Etiology

- 1 random\$.ti.ab.
- 2 odds ratio/
- 3 cohort\$.ti.ab.
- 4 (case\$1 adj control\$).ti.ab.
- 5 risk\$.ti.ab.
- 6 (odds adj ratio\$1).ti.ab.
- 7 causa\$.ti.ab.
- 8 (relative\$1 adj risk\$).ti.ab.
- 9 predispos\$.ti.ab.
- 10 exp risk/
- 11 exp epidemiologic studies/
- 12 exp case control studies/
- 13 exp cohort studies/
- 14 age factors/ or comorbidity/ or epidemiologic factors/
- 15 (randomized controlled trial or controlled clinical trial).pt.
- 16 practice guideline.pt.
- 17 **10 or 12 or 13** = best terms
- 18 **or/1-16** = all of the terms

### Medline - Meta-analysis

- 1 meta-analysis/
- 2 meta-analysis.pt.
- 3 meta medline.ti.ab.
- 4 (metaanaly\$ or (meta adj analy\$5)).ti.ab.
- 5 overview\$1.ti.ab.
- 6 clinical trial.pt.
- 7 systematic review\$.ti.ab.
- 8 multicenter study.pt.
- 9 review.pt.
- 10 or/1-9** = all of the terms

### Medline - Prognosis

- 1 exp cohort studies/
- 2 exp mortality/
- 3 exp morbidity/
- 4 natural history.ti.ab.
- 5 prognos\$.ti.ab.
- 6 course.ti.ab.
- 7 predict\$.ti.ab.
- 8 exp "outcome assessment (health care)"/
- 9 outcome\$1.ti.ab.
- 10 (inception adj cohort\$1).ti.ab.
- 11 disease progression/
- 12 exp survival analysis/
- 13 exp prognosis/
- 14 1 or 13 or 11** = best terms
- 15 or/1-13** = all of the terms

### Medline - Therapy

- 1 exp research design/
- 2 exp clinical trials/
- 3 comparative study/ or placebos/
- 4 exp treatment outcome/
- 5 double-blind method/ or single-blind method/
- 6 ((single or double or triple) adj blind\$3).ti.ab.
- 7 random\$.ti.ab.
- 8 controlled clinical trial.pt.
- 9 randomized controlled trial.pt.
- 10 practice guideline.pt.
- 11 clinical trial.pt.
- 12 (clinical adj trial\$1).ti.ab.
- 13 placebo\$1.ti.ab.
- 14 clinical protocols/ or feasibility studies/ or pilot projects/
- 15 exp epidemiologic research design/
- 16 (control\$3 adj trial\$1).ti.ab.
- 17 5 or 7 or 10 or 11 or 13** = best terms
- 18 or/1-16** = all of the terms

### Other hints:

- Remember the Meta-analysis filter can be used in addition to any of the other filters.
- Consider using the filters in pairs: diagnosis with etiology and therapy with prognosis. **DO not AND the results of two filters together!** You should combine them with an OR so you will find the unique research terms for each filter.
- More information visit our "Evidence-based Health Care Resources" web page <http://www.urmc.rochester.edu/Miner/Links/ebmlinks.html>

For further information contact Michele Shipley at 585/275-6878 or email [Michele\\_Shipley@urmc.rochester.edu](mailto:Michele_Shipley@urmc.rochester.edu)