



Guide to The Cochrane Library

The critically appraised Cochrane systematic reviews are considered to be the highest quality source of evidence available to support decision making in medical practice. Along with other medical literature these reviews can be found at www.thecochranelibrary.com.

There are three ways that the Cochrane Library can be searched.

1. Simple search box

2. Browse through topic headings

3. Click on Advanced Search

In the Advanced Search function use **Search all text** to search all fields, otherwise use the drop-down box to select the specific field you wish to search.

You can search multiple search terms and link them together using AND, OR or NOT in the left-hand drop-down box.

SEARCH TIPS

Tip No. 1:
Boolean operators AND, OR, and NOT can be selected from the pulldown selection boxes or entered directly within the search text boxes. Use parentheses to separate components when entering complex search directly in text box with mixed Boolean operators.

Example: *(colchicine AND liver) AND (fibrosis OR cirrhosis)*

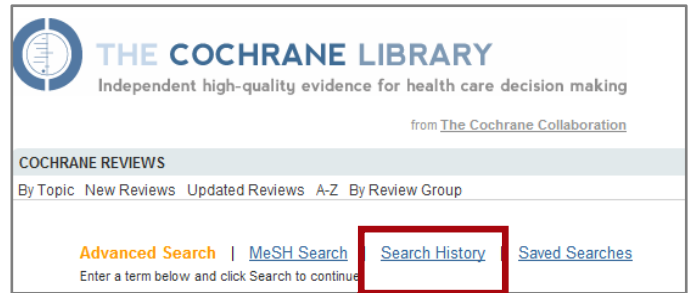
Tip No. 2:
The AND operator is used by default between search terms. The string *brain stem* will match records where both words are included in any order or proximity. Search for exact phrases by enclosing a string in quotation marks.

The Advanced Search page also has useful search tips

Advanced Features

As an alternative to searching for everything in one go you can gradually build up a **search history** by searching for each component of your search individually.

Your search history then appears as a list of your searches which you can then edit, rerun or combine without losing your original search.



Current Search History

ID	Search	Hits	Edit	Delete
#1	(injur*)	20854	edit	delete
#2	(sprain)	625	edit	delete
#3	(#1 OR #2)	21051	edit	delete
#4	ankle	3676	edit	delete
#5	(#3 AND #4)	1100	edit	delete

[Save Search Strategy](#) [Clear History](#)

Search hints

- Truncate your search term using an asterisk (*) after the stem of your word. This will search for all the terms that begin with that stem; so in the example above injury, injuries, injured etc.
- When combining using AND or OR use the numbers of the searches you wish to combine preceded by the hash symbol, e.g. #3 AND #4.
- To search for a phrase it must be enclosed within double quotes. For example use "vitamin a", otherwise it will search for 'vitamin' AND 'a' because 'a' is a searchable term.

In addition to Cochrane Reviews links to **abstracts** from other resources are also available at the bottom of the home page:

- Other reviews (DARE)
- Methods Studies
- Technology Assessments
- Economic Evaluations

BROWSE OTHER RESOURCES

The Cochrane Library has a wide range of resources:

[All Cochrane Library databases](#)

[Other Reviews \(DARE\)](#) Issue 3 of 4, Jul 2012

[Methods Studies](#) Issue 3 of 4, Jul 2012

[Technology Assessments](#) Issue 3 of 4 Jul 2012

[Economic Evaluations](#)

Further assistance

If you'd like more help with accessing or using this resource library staff will be happy to help or you could attend one of our drop-in sessions - Wednesdays 2 pm to 4 pm (Whitechapel Library) or monthly Thursdays (West Smithfield Library). Please see the library website for details.