



Guide to PubMed for Dentistry

PubMed is one of several providers of access to MEDLINE, the largest electronic database of references in the field of biomedicine. Access PubMed through the Library Discovery tool or subject pages. PubMed is available freely on campus but you will have to login to access the service off campus.

1. Select your search terms from your research question and carry out your search

In order to make your search as comprehensive as possible:

- Search for **synonyms** and alternative spellings of your keywords
- If you know the **MeSH term** for your topic use it as one of your search terms
- **Truncate** your search term using the asterisk. PubMed will then search for all words that begin with that stem e.g. in this case periodontal, periodontics, periodontitis etc.

NCBI Resources How To
 PubMed.gov
 US National Library of Medicine
 National Institutes of Health
 PubMed
 periodont*
 Advanced

- If you wish to search for a phrase you have to enclose it within **quotation marks**, e.g. "oral hygiene". Otherwise PubMed will automatically do an AND search for each individual word.

NCBI Resources How To
 PubMed.gov
 US National Library of Medicine
 National Institutes of Health
 PubMed
 "oral hygiene"
 Create RSS Create alert Advanced

THE ASTERISK OR QUOTATION MARKS DISABLE MeSH MAPPING

We recommend that you carry out individual searches like these for each component / keyword of your search rather than doing one all-encompassing AND search. If your search does not provide relevant results this will make it easier to go back and identify which elements should be refined.

2. Combine and Limit your searches

Once you have results for each component search you can combine these using **Advanced Search** where your search history will be displayed.

You can combine your search using **AND**, **OR** and **NOT**.

Builder

All Fields "oral hygiene" Show index list

AND All Fields periodont* Show index list

AND All Fields Show index list

Search or Add to history

History Download history Clear history

Search	Add to builder	Query	Items found	Time
#2	Add	Search "oral hygiene"	17460	09:02:19
#1	Add	Search periodont*	92856	09:00:31

