

Getting started with Cochrane

Cochrane contains more databases.

The databases contains articles on the effects of interventions applying to patients, relatives, and medical staff.

Access and contents

Access to Cochrane <https://sdu-dk-en.libguides.com/databases> or <https://www.cochrane-library.com/>

Cochrane contains:

- The Cochrane Database of Systematic Reviews (CDSR) (Cochrane-database on systematic reviews, Cochrane reviews and protocols).
- The Cochrane Central Register of Controlled Trials (CENTRAL) (The central Cochrane register on controlled randomized trials).
- The Cochrane Clinical Answers (CCAs) (easy to read and clinical focused, and a starting point on rigorous research from Cochrane Reviews. Every CCA contains a clinical question, a brief answer, and data on Outcome from Cochrane Reviews, which assumable is relevant for general practicing health personal).

Cochrane references can be retrieved from PubMed, but protocols and references from CENTRAL are not all included in PubMed.

Simple or free text searches

Title Abstract Keyword ▼	vitamin d	
	Browse	Advanced search

Search the database by writing a search term in the field "Title abstract keyword".

Click the magnifying glass symbol. The search covers all databases automatically.

A simple search usually results in too many hits. An easy way to narrow your search, is to limit the title as Cochrane reviews are always built up as a "therapy" for a certain "disease" or "illness".

Advanced searches

There are several search tips in Advanced search ('Search help').

Advanced Search

The screenshot shows the 'Advanced Search' interface. At the top, there are tabs for 'Search manager', 'Medical terms (MeSH)', and 'PICO search^{BETA}'. Below the tabs, there are buttons for 'Save search', 'View saved searches', and 'Search help'. A search box contains the text 'Type a search term'. To the left of the search box is a dropdown menu with the following options: Record Title, Abstract, Author, Keyword, All Text, Publication Type, Source, DOI, Accession Number, Trial Registry Number, Cochrane Group, and Cochrane Topic. Below the search box, there are buttons for '+', 'Search limits', 'Send to search manager', and 'Run search'. A green arrow points from the text 'There are several search tips in Advanced search ('Search help')' to the 'Search help' button.

The search can be limited by choosing a field in the drop-down menu.

Search by search term in the entire document 'All text' or limit the search to terms mentioned in specific parts of the document.

Multiple search terms in the same search field are combined with the operator AND by default, e.g., Vitamin D Pregnancy.

The screenshot shows the 'Advanced Search' interface with the search box containing the text 'Vitamin D Pregnancy'. Below the search box, there are buttons for '+', 'Search limits', 'Send to search manager', and 'Run search'. A green arrow points from the text 'This feature can be deactivated in 'Search limits'' to the 'Search limits' button.

The search engine will automatically explode your search with regards to variations in spelling, singular/plural etc. This feature can be deactivated in 'Search limits'.

If you wish to search for variations of the same phrase, use **truncation** by writing * after the phrase. For instance, 'Hypertensi*' will search for 'Hypertensive' and 'Hypertension'.

MESH terms

Some, but not all articles are indexed with a MeSH-term (Medical Subject Headings). Protocols, as an example, are not.

Advanced Search

The screenshot shows the 'MeSH terms' search interface. At the top, there are tabs for 'Search', 'Search manager', 'Medical terms (MeSH)', and 'PICO search^{BETA}'. Below the tabs, there are buttons for 'View saved searches' and 'Search help'. Below the search box, there is a text box for 'Enter MeSH term' and a text box for 'Select subheadings / qualifiers'. Below these text boxes, there are buttons for 'Look up' and 'Clear'. Below the 'Look up' and 'Clear' buttons, there is a text box for 'Did you know the MeSH browser features are also available on the Search manager tab by selecting the MeSH button?' and a text box for 'Search manager lets you add unlimited search lines, view results per line, and select fields using the S button (next to the search box)'.

Limits

You can limit your search to a specific type and database, by the tabs above the search. In the left menu “Filter Your Results”, you can limit the search to date, language, type, and topics.

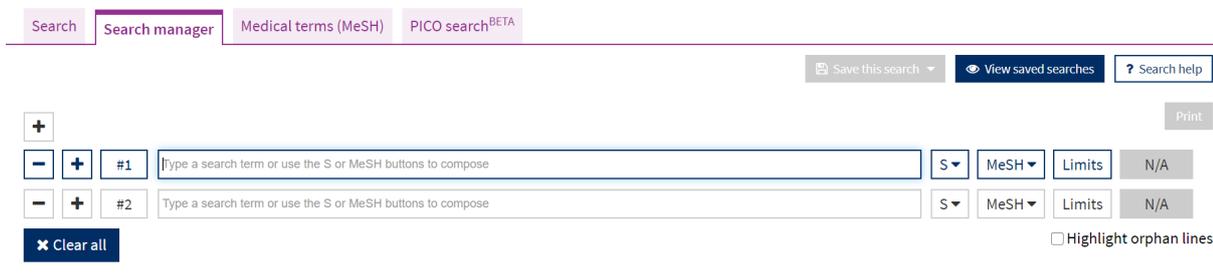


The screenshot shows the Cochrane search results page. At the top, there are tabs for different search results: Cochrane Reviews (81), Cochrane Protocols (13), Trials (13753), Editorials (1), Special collections (0), Clinical Answers (8), and Other Reviews. Below this, a left sidebar titled "Filter your results" includes a "Date" filter with options for "The last 3 months" (4 results), "The last 6 months" (6 results), and "The last 9 months" (9 results). The main content area shows "81 Cochrane Reviews matching vitamin d in Title Abstract Keyword" from the "Cochrane Database of Systematic Reviews", Issue 6 of 12, June 2020. It includes options to "Select all (81)", "Export selected citation(s)", and "Show all previews". The results are ordered by "Relevancy" and show "Results per page" set to 25. The first result is "Vitamin D for the management of asthma".

Search manager and saved search results

You can create more complex searches in the “search manager” as well as exporting your searches to “search manager”. There is no feature to automatically save your searches. “Search manager” only contains the searches that you actively choose to save.

Advanced Search



The screenshot shows the Cochrane Advanced Search interface. At the top, there are tabs for "Search", "Search manager", "Medical terms (MeSH)", and "PICO search^{BETA}". Below the tabs, there are buttons for "Save this search", "View saved searches", and "Search help". The main search area has a "+" button and a "Print" button. There are two search boxes, #1 and #2, each with a "-" and "+" button. Below the search boxes, there are buttons for "S", "MeSH", "Limits", and "N/A". A "Clear all" button is located at the bottom left, and a "Highlight orphan lines" checkbox is at the bottom right.

By creating an account in Cochrane, you can save your searches permanently in “Search manager”.

Exporting references

Export your references to e.g., EndNote. Choose “Export selected citation(s)”. Save the file by choosing “Reference Manager (RIS)” as an “Import Option”. Click “download”. Be aware that you must accept cookies, for this feature to work.



The screenshot shows a dialog box for exporting references. It states "RIS (EndNote) can be imported into Mendeley, RefWorks, Zotero, Sciwheel". Below this, it says "Select the format you require from the list below" and provides a list of options: "Plain text", "RIS (EndNote)", "RIS (Reference Manager)", "RIS (ProCite)", "BibteX", and "CSV (Excel)". There is an "Export help" button on the right side of the dialog.

Know more on Cochrane?

<https://www.cochranelibrary.com/help/how-to-use>

Videos and webinars: <https://www.cochranelibrary.com/help/training>

Need any help to your search, contact us:

The University Library of Southern Denmark

Phone. +45 6550 2622

E-mail: infosal@bib.sdu.dk

<https://www.sdu.dk/en/bibliotek>

Access to E-resources:

e-tss@bib.sdu.dk

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