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# Getting started COCHRANE

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Consists of several databases.

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



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## 1 ACCESS AND CONTENTS

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

- 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 included in PubMed.

## 2 SIMPLE OR FREE TEXT SEARCHES

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Search the database by writing a search term in the field “Title, abstract, keyword” and click the magnifying glass symbol. The search covers all databases automatically. In the menu to the left you can limit the search to date, language, type and topics and from the tabs above the result, you can select the result from the specific databases.

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”.

## 3 ADVANCED SEARCHES

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There are a number of search tips to an advanced search (‘Search help’).

### Advanced Search

Please note that the Advanced Search is optimised for English search terms. Certain features, such as search operators and MeSH terms, are only available in English.

The screenshot shows the Cochrane search interface. At the top, there are three tabs: 'Search' (selected), 'Search manager', and 'Medical terms (MeSH)'. Below the tabs are three buttons: 'Save search', 'View searches', and 'Search help'. The main search area features a dropdown menu with 'Title Abstract Keyword' selected, followed by a text input field containing 'Enter Search String...'. Below the input field are three buttons: '+', 'Search limits', and 'Send to search manager'. At the bottom left, there is a 'Clear all' button. At the bottom right, there is a 'Run search' button.

The search can be limited by choosing a field in the drop-down menu. Search by search term in the entire document (‘Search 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 Cochrane search interface with the search bar containing the text 'vitamin d pregnancy'. Below the search bar are two buttons: 'Browse' and 'Advanced search'.

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'.

## 4 MESH TERMS

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

### Advanced Search

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Search Search manager Medical terms (MeSH)

View saved searches Search help

Enter MeSH term Select subheadings / qualifiers Look up Clear

## 5 LIMITS

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"Search Limits" allows you to limit on date intervals or type.

## 6 SEARCH MANAGER AND SAVED SEARCH RESULTS

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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.

By creating an account in Cochrane, you can save your searches permanently.

## 7 EXPORTING REFERENCES

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Export your references to e.g. EndNote. Choose "Export selected citation(s)". save the file by choosing "Cochrane Library (Wiley)" or "Reference Manager (RIS)" as an "Import Option".

### Export selected citation(s)

9 citation(s) selected for download

Save citation to:  CiteULike  Mendeley  RefWorks

Select the format you require from the list below

Plain text | RIS (EndNote) | RIS (Reference Manager) | RIS (ProCite) | BibTeX

## KNOW MORE ON COCHRANE?

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<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](mailto:infosal@bib.sdu.dk)

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

#### Access to E-resources:

[e-tss@bib.sdu.dk](mailto:e-tss@bib.sdu.dk)

Phone +45 6550 2632

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