

# Advanced Search Techniques OVID

Guideline in advanced search techniques in Medline, Embase and PsycInfo

Get access to the Ovid databases by <https://sdu-dk-en.libguides.com/databases>

The OVID platform offers technical advanced features. If you want to do a thorough literature search, it may be appropriate to use these features.

The free text search should be combined with a search using subject terms (e.g. MeSH terms in Medline and Embase EmTree terms).

Medline, Embase and PsycInfo are accessed through Ovid, and the features demonstrated below is therefore the same for all three databases.

## Truncation and masking using the wild cards \* and ?

\* is used as a wild card when you truncate a word and thereby substitute one, or more or zero letters in a word.

Searching `educat*` will retrieve documents containing the words `educat`, for instance `education`, `educations`, `educating`, `educated` etc.

? is used as wild card to substitute one or zero letters in a word, either within a word or in the end of a word.

Searching `an?esthesia` will retrieve documents containing the words `anesthesia` and `anaesthesia`.

Notice that you cannot use both truncation (\*) and wild card (?) in one word, thus searching for `p?ediatric*` is equal to searching `p*`.

## Proximity Operators (adjacency)

You can use proximity operators between search terms, if you want to specify that words should be within a distance of *N* words (regardless of the order of the words).

Examples:

*Patient education* will return documents where the two words are next to each other (the order of the words is retained).

*Patient adj1 education* will return documents where the two words are next to each other, but regardless of the order of the words.

*Patient adj3 education* will return documents containing the phrase *patient education* (regardless of the order of the words), but also allow 2 words between *patient* and *education* e.g. *patient safety education*.

<input type="checkbox"/>	# ▲ Searches	Results
<input type="checkbox"/>	1 Patient education.mp. [mp=title, abstract, heading word, drug trade name, original title, device manufacturer, drug manufacturer, device trade name, keyword heading word, floating subheading word, candidate term word]	134504
<input type="checkbox"/>	2 (Patient adj1 education).mp. [mp=title, abstract, heading word, drug trade name, original title, device manufacturer, drug manufacturer, device trade name, keyword heading word, floating subheading word, candidate term word]	134923
<input type="checkbox"/>	3 (Patient adj3 education).mp. [mp=title, abstract, heading word, drug trade name, original title, device manufacturer, drug manufacturer, device trade name, keyword heading word, floating subheading word, candidate term word]	143118

If you want to investigate which phrases you retrieve using different proximity operators, e.g. what proximity operator X retrieves compared to X-1, you may use the Boolean operator not, as shown below.

(anxiety adj2 disorder) not (anxiety adj1 disorder)

# ▲ Searches

Results

1 ((anxiety adj2 disorder) not (anxiety adj1 disorder)).mp. [mp=title, abstract, heading word, drug trade name, original title, device manufacturer, drug manufacturer, device trade name, keyword heading word, floating subheading word, candidate term word] 1467

You will find the title: *Temporomandibular **disorder** and **anxiety**, quality of sleep, and quality of life in nursing professionals.*

(anxiety adj3 disorder) not (anxiety adj2 disorder)

2 ((anxiety adj3 disorder) not (anxiety adj2 disorder)).mp. [mp=title, abstract, heading word, drug trade name, original title, device manufacturer, drug manufacturer, device trade name, keyword heading word, floating subheading word, candidate term word] 1913

You will find the title: *Common mental disorder - major depression, generalised **anxiety** and panic **disorder**.*

(anxiety adj4 disorder) not (anxiety adj3 disorder)

3 ((anxiety adj4 disorder) not (anxiety adj3 disorder)).mp. [mp=title, abstract, heading word, drug trade name, original title, device manufacturer, drug manufacturer, device trade name, keyword heading word, floating subheading word, candidate term word] 1851

You will find the title: *White matter neural correlates associated with **anxiety** sensitivity in panic **disorder**.*

### Exporting references to Endnote

Endnote20-Guide (in Danish): <https://libguides.sdu.dk/endnote20>

### Know more on Embase

Online training: <https://www.ovid.com/support-training/product-training/tutorials-demos.html>

Guide to literature search health sciences: <https://libguides.sdu.dk/HealthSciences/>

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