Embase: Getting Started

Embase is a bibliographic database covering biomedical literature from over 8,400 journals from around the world. It offers particularly strong coverage of drugs. Embase includes six million records and 2,700 journals that are not covered by MEDLINE (e.g., conference abstracts, European journal titles). If you are conducting a thorough review of the literature, searching Embase can help ensure that you locate relevant studies that may not be indexed in MEDLINE.

Search Tips

1. Identify the main concepts in your research question.
2. Using Quick Search, the default screen, search one concept at a time. This helps Embase map each concept to the best Emtree term (Embase’s controlled vocabulary, which is often different from the equivalent MeSH terms in MEDLINE).
3. You’ll see the suggested Emtree term appear as you type. Be sure to type slowly enough to let the mapping take place. Scroll down to select the mapped term that best matches your concept.
4. In this case, we were mapped to heart infarction after typing heart attack. Note that what appears in the box is what was typed, not the Emtree term.

✓ If you are not mapped to a relevant Emtree term, click on the Emtree tool link under "Browse" at the top of the page.
✓ Search for the best Emtree term, select it, click Add to Query Builder and click Search.
5. Click Embase to return to a blank search box to repeat these steps for each additional concept in your research question.

6. After you have searched for your final concept, combine the concepts by placing checkmarks next to the corresponding sets and choosing the appropriate AND or OR button. Click **Combine**.

7. To apply limits to your search (e.g., date, publication type, humans, language), explore the many options listed in the gray area under the search box.

   ✓ Many advanced limits are available, such as Evidence-Based Medicine, which includes certain publication types not found in the publication type limit.

**Advanced Search Options and Tips**

- To include subheadings with your terms, you must use the Drug Search or Disease Search options. Searches can then be combined as above.
- The Advanced Search screen allows you to use wildcards (truncation) or proximity searching.
- Advanced Search also offers you flexibility with regards to mapping, explosion searching, majoring, and the use of synonyms.
- Article Search allows you to search for a single article, much like PubMed’s Single Citation Matcher.

**Connecting to Full Text**

The **get it @ Duke** button appears on every citation. Click on it to determine what is available electronically at Duke.

**Exporting to EndNote**

1. From your results list, select the items that you would like to send to EndNote, then click Export.

   ![Export format options](image)

2. To get the entire citation, select the last option on the resulting drop down window: Plain Text. This will save a file of your citations that you can then import into an EndNote library.

3. Check to see that your EndNote program has the latest **Embase filter**.

4. For more information about downloading filters and working with citations in EndNote, please see the Library’s EndNote Tipsheet at [http://mclibrary.duke.edu/tutorials-tipsheets/endnote](http://mclibrary.duke.edu/tutorials-tipsheets/endnote).

**For More Help**

Please see our Embase **Tutorials and Tipsheets** page at [http://mclibrary.duke.edu/tutorials-tipsheets/embase](http://mclibrary.duke.edu/tutorials-tipsheets/embase).

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