



Dialog: the Search language for AMED

Introduction

- The search syntax discussed here applies to all the search modes available on Dialog, Basic, Advanced and Command line.
- In order to take advantage of some customization options, we suggest you register to My Research.
- This will give you access to the My Research area and the preferences.

Search Basics - Dialog Platform defaults

Variants automatic retrieval

- **Plurals** Child ↔ Children
- **Comparative adjectives**
Tall ↔ taller ↔ tallest
- **US/UK spellings**
Estrogen ↔ oestrogen
- **Duplicate removal**
- These settings can be de/activated in the **Preferences** in **My Research**

PERMANENT DEFAULTS

Searching more than one term

SKIN CANCER = SKIN **AND** CANCER

“SKIN CANCER” = phrase

The *Exact* Quote marks “ ”

deactivate the **variants retrieval**

also x single words “CHILD”

Defaults – Automatic retrieval of word variants

Dialog

563601 Results * Search within

Dialog

563601 Results * Search within

Dialog

471870 Results * Search within

Dialog

471870 Results * Search within

Defaults – Automatic retrieval of word variants

Dialog.

4210131 Results * Search within

Dialog.

4210131 Results * Search within

Dialog.

4210131 Results * Search within

System Search Defaults

Queries with more than one word separated by space such as **adverse events** are searched with an **implicit AND**.

Use quotation marks (""") to search for **Exact phrases** **“adverse events”**

Defaults - Multiple Terms

Dialog

563601 Results * Search within

=

Dialog

563601 Results * Search within

Dialog

94210 Results * Search within

Use "double quotes"
for phrase searching.

Phrase Searching



Dialog. "ADVERSE EVENT"

94210 Results * Search within



Dialog. ADVERSE-EVENT

392516 Results * Search within

“double quotes” deactivate the automatic retrieval of word variants.

The hyphen is another way of phrase searching and doesn't deactivate the automatic retrieval of word variants. Here includes EVENTS

Truncation and Wildcards

- **Right, middle and left truncation** are all available!
 - Any combination can be used
- Use ***** to retrieve 0-10 characters
 - Use **[*x]** to limit to a *maximum* number of characters -
where **x** is an integer from 1-125
 - Only **[*x]** is allowed within “Exact” quote marks **“MONO[*2]”**
- Use **?** to replace a specific number of characters
 - Use to retrieve the *exact* number of characters

Internal Truncation Examples

- **TO?IC** retrieves just one character in the middle of a word

TOXIC, TOPIC, TONIC

- **TO*IC** retrieves 0-10 characters in the middle of a word

TOXIC, TOURISTIC, TOXIGENIC

TIP! Use with caution to avoid false hits.

- **SUL[*2]UR** retrieves up to two characters in the middle of a word

SULFUR, SULPHUR

Left and Right Truncation Examples

- ***TOXIC*** – retrieves 0-10 characters at the beginning and/or end of a word
TOXIC, TOXICOLOGY, CYTOTOXICITY, INTOXICATED
- **MONO[*15]** or **MONO\$15** – retrieves up to fifteen trailing characters
MONORAIL, MONOTONOUS, MONOMETHYLARSONOUS
- **\$2TOXIC** or **[*2]TOXIC** – retrieves up to 2 trailing characters on left hand
TOXIC, DETOXIC, CYTOXIC, ATOXIC, UNTOXIC
- **?????DERM** – retrieves exactly leading characters, no more no less
TRANSDERM but not **EPIDERM, ECHINODERM**
? Allowed also on the right end of the word
- Limited Truncation with Exact search: **“[*2]TOXIC”**

Truncation: using *(Up to 10 Characters)

Dialog

SLEEP DEPRIVED

Include medical synonyms 

2986 Results * Search within

Can be used also on the Left or Middle of the word.

Ex: *hexane

Cyclohexane

Methylhexane

Can include
deprived, depriving,
deprivation, etc

Dialog

SLEEP DEPRIV*

Include medical synonyms 

32404 Results * Search within

Truncation: Using *

Dialog

"ADVERSE EVENT*"

Can be used within the double quotes to retrieve variants.

392595 Results * Search

Compare with
no truncation

Dialog

"ADVERSE EVENT"

94210 Results * Search within

Boolean Operators

AND - All the words must be present. Use to focus the results

- Example: RADIATION **AND** CANCER **AND** PREVENTION

OR - Any of the words can be present. Use to enhance the results

- Example: THERAPY **OR** TREATMENT **OR** HEALING **OR** CARE

NOT - The first word is present, but not the word following NOT.

- Example: MERCURY **NOT** PLANET

Proximity Operators

PRE (same order)	by default retrieve the search terms if separated by maximum 4 intervening words
NEAR (any order)	
PRE/# (p/#)	adding a number after the slash / changes the default of 4 words to less or more
NEAR/# (n/#)	

Ex **P/1** **N/3**

- If either must be used as a search term, use Exact quotes: **“pre”** or **“near”**
- can be used with 0 - **P/0** will search for the phrase with **linguistics on:**

CANCER PRE/0 RESEARCH retrieves more than **“CANCER RESEARCH”**

SEARCHING PREPOSITIONS, CONJUNCTIONS AND OPERATORS

- All words are searchable as free text terms on ProQuest and Dialog including **AN, BY, FOR, FROM, OF, THE, TO, WITH etc**
- **TIP!** Boolean/Logical operators (AND, OR, NOT) and proximity connectors (PRE, NEAR) are searchable as words when enclosed in quotation marks (**Exact search**)

“AND”

“PRE”

“OR”

“NEAR”

“NOT”

“NEAR INFRARED SPECTROSCOPY”

Proximity Connectors examples

CANCER PRE/2 RESEARCH => **Cancer** defeated by **Research**

CANCER NEAR/1 RESEARCH => **Researches** on **Cancer**

SKIN PRE/0 CANCER => SKIN CANCERS

SKIN NEAR/2 CANCERS => CANCER OF THE SKIN

Dialog

((ADVERSE OR SIDE OR UNTOWARD) **N/2** (EVENT OR EFFECT OR REACTION)) AND
(PARACETAMOL OR ACETAMINOPHEN) AND PD(1940-2019)

frequent phrase is also
ADVERSE DRUG REACTION(S)

40174 Results *

Search within

Proximity Connectors - Punctuation

- Most **punctuation** characters are ignored during a search.
- **Special punctuation characters** such as truncation wildcards (*, \$, ?) are ignored when not used with proper syntax.
- **TIP!** The **hyphen (-)** is considered when searching.

1 - A hyphen linking terms is equivalent to PRE/O between terms

POST-PRIMARY = POST P/O PRIMARY retrieves

POST PRIMARY, POST-PRIMARY, POSTS PRIMARIES, etc.

2 - A hyphen between dates is equivalent to a range

2010-2014 = 2010 or 2011 or 2012 or 2013 or 2014

Nesting & Order of Processing

Nesting (parentheses) can be used to group terms

- Group terms to change the default **order or processing**

CAT OR DOG AND FOOD OR NUTRITION

VS

(CAT OR DOG) AND (FOOD OR NUTRITION)

Default Order of Processing:

PRE

PRE

NEAR

NEAR

AND

()

OR

AND

NOT

OR

NOT

Search limited to Fields

- Field codes are available
- Some standard fields are indexed in all databases

TI	Title
AB	Abstract
AU	Author
PUB	Publication Title
DTYPE	Document Type

- Each database has unique field codes based on data available and indexing

EMB	EMBASE Emtree subject headings
MESH	Medline Subject Headings

Search limited to Fields

How to limit by field codes

- List the field code(s) first
- Enclose search terms in parentheses

TI(CANCER RESEARCH)

- It is possible to “Stack” multiple field codes with commas

TI,AB,SU(AGRICULTUR* NEAR/3 FERTILIZ*)

- **Please Note:** If a specific stacked field does not apply to a database, the field will retrieve 0 results in that database

Search limited to Fields

What fields am I searching when I enter a free text term?

- Default search is “All fields + text”
 - Title, Abstract, Text (full text if available)
 - Terms (all subject and index terms)
 - All name fields (Author, Publication Title, Location etc)
- **TIP!** To avoid hits in extraneous fields, we suggest
TI,AB,SU,SUBST(SEARCH TERMS) for Bibliographic databases
Check variable fields per database in the ProSheets.

Using Controlled Terms Field Labels

Standard Search Field for Descriptors: **SU**

e.g.:

- **SU**("anorexia nervosa")

Specific Search Fields

- for Medline MESH terms: **MESH**
- for Embase EMTREE terms: **EMB**

e.g.:

- **MESH**("venous thrombosis")
- **EMB**("deep vein thrombosis")

Using Controlled Terms - EXACT

EXACT will search for the specified term or phrase only

- e.g. in Biosis : **SU.EXACT**("CATTLE")

will exclude

dairy cattle
beef cattle
japanese black cattle

- in Agricola : **SU.EXACT**("MILK")

will exclude

skim milk
milk production
whole milk
breast milk
dried milk
milk quality
milk fat
pasteurized milk
Etc

Using Controlled Terms - EXPLODE

EXPLODE - automatically includes all the narrower terms under the specified descriptor in the Thesaurus Hierarchy

How to Explode:

either

select the **Explode** option in the Thesaurus window

or

search directly by adding the specific tag, e.g.:

- **SU.EXACT.EXPLODE(heart)**
- **MESH.EXACT.EXPLODE(heart)**
- **EMB.EXACT.EXPLODE(heart)**

Using Controlled Terms - MAJOR

How to use the **Major Descriptors** in the Thesauri:

either

- select the option in the Thesaurus window
- or
- search directly by adding the specific search field, e.g.:
 - **MJMeSH** (Medline)
 - **MJEMB** (Embase)
 - **MJSUB** (other databases with Major indexing)

 - **MJEMB.EXACT**("abdominal cancer")
 - **MJMeSH.EXACT**("abdominal neoplasms")

Field Indexing - help

How can I identify the field codes available for each database?

- Start with the drop-down menu in Advanced Search

Usually shows the most frequently used, not necessarily ALL the searchable fields.

- For the full list consult the Database ProSheets:

Access them from any point within the search platform

- ProSheets and other chapters in the Online Help

The screenshot displays the ProQuest Dialog Help interface. At the top, a navigation bar contains the 'ProSheets' link, a 'Training' dropdown menu, a 'Help' dropdown menu, and a 'Workspace' dropdown menu. The 'ProSheets' link is highlighted with a red box. Below the navigation bar, the browser address bar shows the URL: https://dialog.proquest.com/professional/help/professional/webframe.html?View_Fir.... The main content area is titled 'Common Field Codes' and includes a 'Table of Contents' sidebar on the left. The sidebar lists various topics, with 'ProSheets', 'Common field codes', and 'Database specific field codes' highlighted with red boxes. The main content area contains text explaining that every document in every ProQuest database is indexed to capture individual bits of information about the document, such as its title, author, and ISSN or ISBN numbers. It also mentions that the 'Advanced Search' and 'Command Line Search' sections provide search fields in dropdown lists for use in searches.

Embase provides comprehensive bibliographic coverage of the literature on drugs and pharmacology and of all other aspects of human medicine and related disciplines.

Embase is a key resource for biomedical evidence, from published, peer-reviewed literature, in-press publications and conference abstracts. Widely recognized as an authoritative source for generating systematic reviews, Embase's comprehensive indexing of trial and study types, reviews and meta analyses ensures maximum searchability.

Whether you are monitoring the literature to make informed decisions in evidence-based medicine or are engaged in pharmacovigilance and post-market monitoring of your products, Embase is the ideal solution.

Embase includes conference abstracts 2009.

Full-text indexing of drug, disease and n... thesaurus Emtree. This covers trade, g... manufacturer names, disease names a... to all these terms, and their broader and

Embase covers the following areas:

- Drug research
- Pharmacology
- Pharmacoeconomics
- Pharmaceutics
- Toxicology
- Human medicine
- Basic biological research

Use Embase to answer such questions

- What is the latest evidence for an
- Have any clinical trials been cond
- Are there any systematic reviews
- What are the adverse effects of n

Date coverage 1947-present

Geographic coverage International

Sources About 8,500 journals in ove... (all journals in Embase are cover-to-co... reviewed except a very small number)

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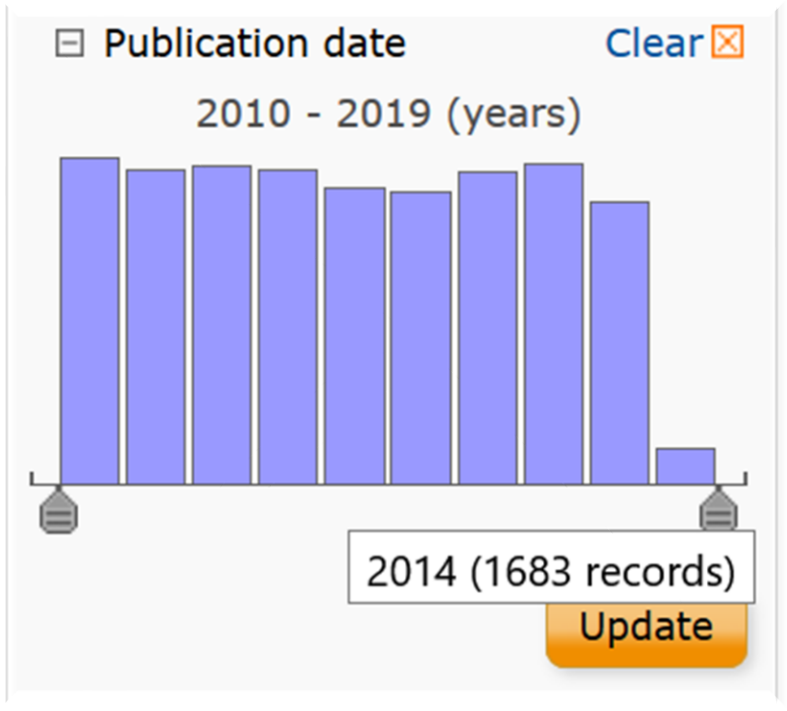
Telephone: +31-20-485-3507

Fax: +31-20-485-3432

SEARCH FIELDS

Field Name	Field Code	Example	Description and Notes
Abstract	AB	ab("glucose monitoring")	Over 70% of articles in Embase have an abstract. Use adjacency and/or Boolean operators to narrow or broaden your search, and double quotes to search for a precise phrase.
Abstract present	ABANY	"t cell lymphoma" AND abany(yes)	Add: AND ABANY(YES) to a query to limit retrieval to records with abstracts. Use double quotes to search for a precise phrase.
Accession number	AN	an(611341033)	A unique document identification number assigned by the information provider.
All fields	ALL	all(cgm OR "continuous glucose monitoring")	Searches all fields. Use proximity and/or Boolean operators to narrow search results.
All fields + text	--	"continuous glucose monitoring"	Same as ALL field code - searches all fields.
Author ¹	AU	au(testa, m*)	All authors are included in the document. Elsevier has no standardization policy for author names. Names are captured as they appear in the source, so you will sometimes find authors with surname and initial(s), sometimes with surname and full first name(s).
First author	FAU	fau(jendle)	First name listed in Author field. It is included in the Author browse, but its position cannot be specified in the Author browse.
Author affiliation	AF	af(biostatistics AND harvard) af(sweden)	Includes as much data as is available in the original document, such as department, organization, address, city, state, country, author email, etc.

Refining results with Narrow Filters



3591 Results Search within

0 Selected items [Clear]

Narrowed by: [Clear all] Hide filters

Publication date: 2010-2019 > 2017-2019

the Publication Date filter is easy to use to narrow your results

Duplicate Removal

Sort results by:

Relevance

Sort

Duplicate document settings

Duplicates are included.

Remove duplicates

Narrow results by [Clear all]

- Publication title
- Document type
- Author

Database

Embase® (2817)

MEDLINE® (774)

In a multifile search
you want to remove
the duplicates

ProQuest
Dialog

((ADVERSE OR SIDE OR UNTOWAR)
(PARACETAMOL OR ACETAMINOPHE

Include medical synonyms

3086 Results *

Search within

Sort results by:

Relevance

Sort

Duplicate document settings

Duplicates are removed.

Apply preferred databases

Change database order

Include duplicates

Narrow results by [Clear all]

Analyse the content of given fields

EnglishENGLISH

Acetaminophen (APAP; paracetamol), a widely used analgesic ... formulation compared with IR APAP. Adverse events were all mild. Based on ...

Found in: Embase@; 1947 to date (1947 - current)

Document type

- Article (1687)
- Journal Article (757)
- Conference Abstract (513)
- Review (513)

Document type

Include	Exclude	Document type	Count
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Article	1687
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Journal Article	757
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Conference Abstract	531
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Review	513
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Letter	102
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Randomized Controlled Trial	102
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Research Support, Non-U.S. Gov't	94
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Note	59

Narrow my results | Run new search **Save List**

Save entire list as: RTF HTML XLS (Excel) PDF

Save List Cancel

	A	B	C	D
1	Searched for:	((ADVERSE OR SIDE OF		
2	Databases:	Embase®, MEDLINE®		
3				
4	Document type	Count		
5	Article	1687		
6	Journal Article	757		
7	Conference Abstract	531		
8	Review	513		
9	Letter	102		
10	Randomized Controlled Trial	102		
11	Research Support, Non-U.S. Gov't	94		
12	Note	59		
13	Comparative Study	53		
14	Systematic Review	39		
15	Case Reports	37		
16	Article in Press	34		
17	Meta-Analysis	32		
18	Multicenter Study	25		
19	Research Support, N.I.H., Extramural	21		
20	Editorial	19		



Support Resources

Online Help is Always Available

The screenshot shows a web browser window displaying the ProQuest Dialog Help page. The browser's address bar shows 'ProQuest Dialog Help'. The page has a blue header with 'Table of Contents' and a search bar. The main content area is titled 'Advanced Search' and contains instructions on how to create a search. A red box highlights the 'Help ?' link in the top right corner of the page, with a blue arrow pointing to it from a text box that says 'Help is just a click away'. The page also features a search form with a 'Search' button and a 'Clear form' link.

Help is just a click away

Support Resources

Dialog Search platform <http://dialog.proquest.com/professional/login>

LibGuide <https://proquest.libguides.com/proquestdialog>

Database ProSheets <https://clarivate.com/life-sciences-healthcare/research-development/pharmacovigilance-drug-safety/dialog/dialog-databases/>

Support Center <https://support.proquest.com/s/product/dialog>

Customer Support customer@dialog.com *or*
1 800 3 DIALOG (1 800 334 2564) *or*
00 800 33 34 2564

Thank You

Daniela.Cason@proquest.com

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