

# MEDLINE Searching via OvidSP

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Christine\_Frank@rush.edu

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600 South Paulina Street  
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## What is MEDLINE?

MEDLINE is the largest biomedical information database in the world. It is maintained by the National Library of Medicine, and contains citations dating back to 1946. OvidSP users must specify the date range they wish to search by selecting a segment from the list shown below.

## How do I access OvidSP?

Users on campus can access from the Library's homepage. If you will be using OvidSP from a non-Rush computer, you will also need to use a proxy account login and password. The can be either your Rush Network ID, Epic ID, or a specific proxy login and password. The link to OvidSP is on the Library's home page at:

<http://www.rushu.rush.edu/library>

Select Resource(s) to search:

All Resources

All

- [Ovid MEDLINE\(R\) without Revisions](#) 1996 to February Week 2 2011
- [Ovid MEDLINE\(R\) without Revisions](#) 1948 to 1995
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[Select Resource\(s\)](#)

Click here for more information about the database

Click here to access the database

## The Ovid Search Screen

The search box below is the starting point for all OvidSP database searches. OvidSP works most effectively when one subject is searched at a time. To begin a search for journal articles about pain in prostatectomy patients, the search can be separated into two specific components: *pain* and *prostatectomy*. Type *pain* into the search box.



Click the *Search* button located to the right of the box. OvidSP uses a system called mapping to suggest the most relevant subject headings to the words typed into the box. The suggested subject headings for the word *pain* are shown at left. For this search, we are interested in the checkmarked subject heading. To view other terms included in the subject heading *pain*, click the underlined link. The terms below fall beneath *pain* in the MeSH tree.

Select	Subject Heading
<input type="checkbox"/>	<a href="#">Abdominal Pain</a>
<input type="checkbox"/>	<a href="#">Back Pain</a>
<input type="checkbox"/>	<a href="#">Chest Pain</a>
<input type="checkbox"/>	<a href="#">Complex Regional Pain Syndromes</a>
<input type="checkbox"/>	<a href="#">Facial Pain</a>
<input type="checkbox"/>	<a href="#">Flank Pain</a>
<input type="checkbox"/>	<a href="#">Labor Pain</a>
<input type="checkbox"/>	<a href="#">Low Back Pain</a>
<input type="checkbox"/>	<a href="#">Myofascial Pain Syndromes</a>
<input type="checkbox"/>	<a href="#">Neck Pain</a>
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<a href="#">Pain</a>
<input type="checkbox"/>	<a href="#">Pain Clinics</a>
<input type="checkbox"/>	<a href="#">Pain Insensitivity, Congenital</a>
<input type="checkbox"/>	<a href="#">Pain, Intractable</a>
<input type="checkbox"/>	<a href="#">Pain Measurement</a>
<input type="checkbox"/>	<a href="#">Pain, Postoperative</a>
<input type="checkbox"/>	<a href="#">Pain, Referred</a>
<input type="checkbox"/>	<a href="#">Pain Threshold</a>
<input type="checkbox"/>	<a href="#">Patellofemoral Pain Syndrome</a>
<input type="checkbox"/>	<a href="#">Pelvic Pain</a>
<input type="checkbox"/>	<a href="#">Pleasure-Pain Principle</a>
<input type="checkbox"/>	<a href="#">Shoulder Pain</a>
<input type="checkbox"/>	<a href="#">pain.mp. search as Keyword</a>

Select Term(s)	Subject Heading	Hits
<input type="checkbox"/>	Neurologic Manifestations	3
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<a href="#">Pain</a>	39545
<input type="checkbox"/>	Back Pain	3417
<input type="checkbox"/>	Facial Pain	2088
<input type="checkbox"/>	Headache	6968
<input type="checkbox"/>	Labor Pain	173
<input type="checkbox"/>	Metatarsalgia	46
<input type="checkbox"/>	Neck Pain	2034
<input type="checkbox"/>	Neuralgia	2019
<input type="checkbox"/>	Pain, Intractable	1685
<input type="checkbox"/>	Pain, Referred	26

# MeSH and the MeSH Tree

Select Term(s)	Subject Heading	Hits
<input type="checkbox"/>	Neurologic Manifestations	3
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<b>Pain</b>	<b>39545</b>
<input type="checkbox"/>	Back Pain	3417
<input type="checkbox"/>	Facial Pain	2088
<input type="checkbox"/>	Headache	6968
<input type="checkbox"/>	Labor Pain	173
<input type="checkbox"/>	Metatarsalgia	46
<input type="checkbox"/>	Neck Pain	2034
<input type="checkbox"/>	Neuralgia	2019
<input type="checkbox"/>	Pain, Intractable	1685
<input type="checkbox"/>	Pain, Referred	26

The National Library of Medicine has created a system called MeSH, which stands for Medical Subject Headings. Each article is categorized and has MeSH terms assigned to it. Articles about similar subjects receive similar

← Hits are the number of articles retrieved by each search.

subject terms. MeSH terms are set in an arrangement called a MeSH tree. Above is the MeSH tree for the search term *pain*. For example, *back pain* is a more specific type of pain. Subject headings can be used to decrease the number of results. To retrieve results about back pain, check the box to the left of the term *back pain* and retrieve 3417 articles. However, in this particular search, we are interested in articles about all different types of pain experienced by men undergoing prostatectomy. To select all the different articles about pain, check the *Explode* box located the right of the term *pain*. The results generated will include every article that

Select Term(s)	Subject Heading	Hits	Explode	Focus	Scope Note
<input type="checkbox"/>	Neurologic Manifestations	3	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<a href="#">i</a>
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<b>Pain</b>	<b>39545</b>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<a href="#">i</a>

includes *pain* as an assigned subject heading. The *Focus* box works differently. Selecting *Focus* generates a search in which the subject heading is one of the main points of the article. Once we have determined whether or not to *Explode* and/or *Focus* your search, click the  button.

## SubHeadings

Subheadings help focus your search. The Subheadings list changes according to the Subject Heading selected. Select one or more subheadings by clicking the box in front of the desired SubHeading. If the user does not wish to choose individual subheadings, place a check in the *Include All Subheadings* box, near the top of the screen.

**Subheading Display**

Subheadings for: **exp Pain**

Combine selections with:

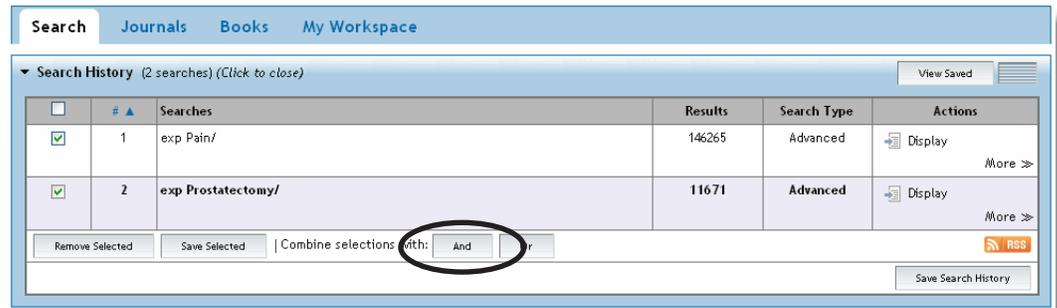
**Include All Subheadings**

more of these subheadings --

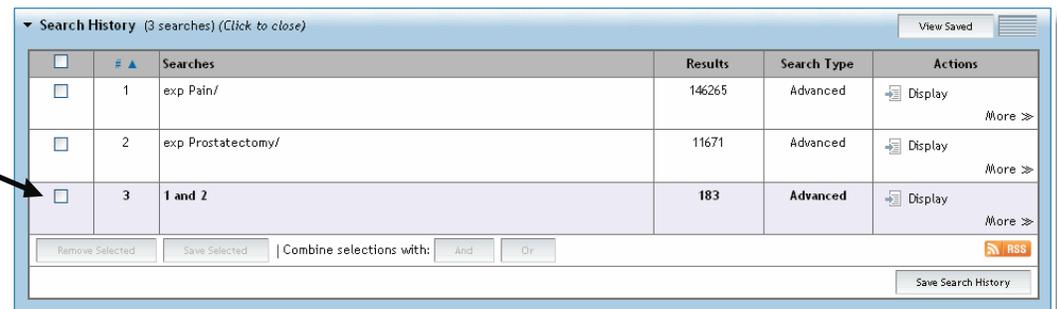
- /bl - Blood
- /cf - Cerebrospinal Fluid
- /ci - Chemically Induced
- /cl - Classification
- /co - Complications
- /mi - Microbiology
- /mo - Mortality
- /nu - Nursing
- /ps - Parasitology
- /pa - Pathology

## Combining Search Terms

Use the previous steps for *pain*, create a search set for *prostatectomy*. Next, let's combine the searches about *pain* and *prostatectomy* together into one set. First, select both sets of results by checking the boxes to the left of each set. Then click the *And*



Set 3 contains articles about both subjects.



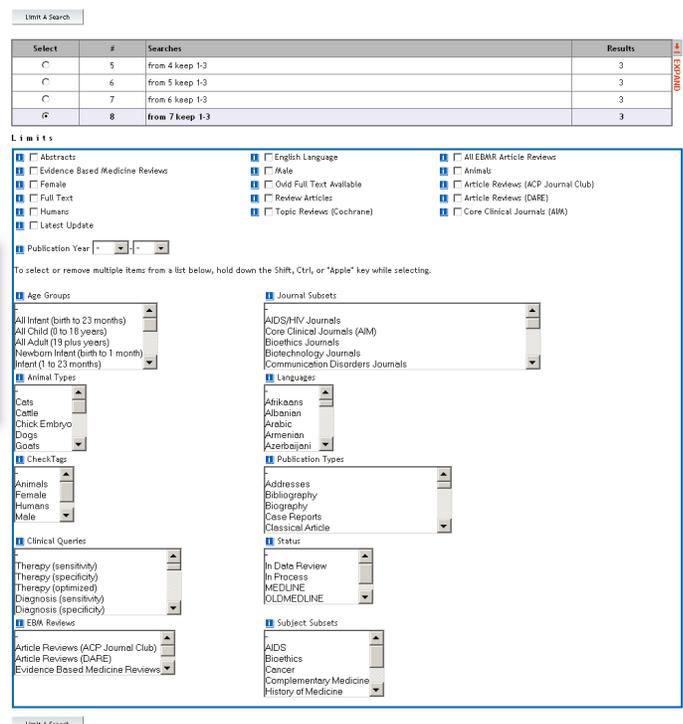
The third line represents the articles about both of the subjects: *pain* and *prostatectomy*. Automatically, OvidSP displays the first 10 search results. To display all the articles contained in the third set, click *Display* at the right.

## Limits

Limits help to narrow your search. A limit assigns a specific parameter to your search such as patient gender or age, publication year, type of article (review, clinical trial, etc.) and many more. To use the Limit feature, at least one set must be in your search history. The green box below shows the most frequently used Limits available in the OvidSP databases.



Clicking Additional Limits at the bottom displays the menu at the right.





## Creating a List

When reviewing a set of results, each has a small box located to the left. To create a list of results from your search, check the box next to each citation. Click *Keep Selected* to add the items to your search history.

5  Maestroni U, Astesana L, Ferretti S, Ciuffreda M, Troglio R, Simonazzi M, Cortellini P. Postoperative analgesia by epidural infusion of ropivacaine and fentanyl versus intravenous administration of morphine in patients undergoing radical retropubic prostatectomy: results of a prospective study. [Journal Article] *Archivio Italiano di Urologia, Andrologia*. 79(1):7-11, 2007 Mar. UI: 17484396

Authors Full Name  
Maestroni, Umberto, Astesana, Luca, Ferretti, Stefania, Ciuffreda, Matteo, Troglio, Raffaella, Simonazzi, Marta, Cortellini, Pietro.

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6  Ukoli FA, Lynch BS, Adams-Campbell LL. Radical prostatectomy and quality of life in African Americans. [Journal Article] *Community & Disease*. UI: 17061757

Authors Full Name  
Ukoli, Flora A, Lynch, Barlow S, Adams-Campbell, Lucile L.

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7  Knoll N, Burkert S, Rosemeier HP, Roigas J, Gralla O. Predictors of spouses' provided support for patients receiving laparoscopic radical prostatectomy peri-surgery. [Journal Article] *Psycho-Oncology*. 16(4):312-9, 2007 Apr. UI: 16917963

Authors Full Name  
Knoll, Nina, Burkert, Silke, Rosemeier, Hans Peter, Roigas, Jan, Gralla, Oliver.

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■ Abstract  
■ Complete Reference  
■ Document Delivery

■ Abstract  
■ Complete Reference  
■ Full Text

Select the articles by checking the boxes.

Once created, the list can be printed, emailed, or exported. This list can also be used with a bibliographic management product, such as RefWorks or EndNote.

The selected articles appear as a separate set in the search history.

<input type="checkbox"/>	#	Searches	Results	Display
<input type="checkbox"/>	1	exp Pain/	103772	<a href="#">DISPLAY</a>
<input type="checkbox"/>	2	exp Prostatectomy/	7897	<a href="#">DISPLAY</a>
<input type="checkbox"/>	3	1 and 2	116	<a href="#">DISPLAY</a>
<input type="checkbox"/>	4	from 3 keep 5-7	3	<a href="#">DISPLAY</a>

Remove Selected | Combine selections with: [And](#) [Or](#) [RSS](#) [Save Search History](#)

## Using your Results

Once you have gathered your citations in OvidSP, you are able to print, email, and export citations. Users also have the option to add their results to My Projects. My Projects is useful to store groups of citations, searches, full text, and some graphics. 50 MB of storage is provided for each account.



The reference librarians are available to answer any additional questions you may have about the OvidSP database. Please contact the Library at 312-942-5950 or [lib\\_ref@rush.edu](mailto:lib_ref@rush.edu).