PubMed Cheat Sheet

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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>[ti] Title</td>
<td>[tiab] Title and Abstract</td>
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<tr>
<td>[tw] Text Word</td>
<td>[au] Author</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>[ad] Affiliation</td>
<td>[sh] Subheading</td>
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<tr>
<td>[sb] Subset</td>
<td>[1au] First Author</td>
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</tbody>
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Subset Groups:

1. Subjects ➔ Found in the Topic Specific Queries Subject section
   - aids [sb]
   - bioethics [sb]
   - cancer [sb]
   - cam [sb] complementary and alternative medicine
   - dietsuppl [sb]
   - history [sb] history of medicine
   - space [sb] space life sciences
   - tox [sb]
   - veterinary [sb]
   - effectiveness [sb]

2. Citation Status Tags
   a. publisher[sb]
   b. in process[sb]
   c. medline[sb]
   d. oldmedline[sb]
   e. pubmednotmedline[sb]

3. Article Types
   a. Clinical Trial[sb]
   b. Meta-Analysis[sb]
   c. Practice Guideline[sb]
   d. Randomized Controlled Trial[sb]
   e. Review[sb]
   f. Systematic Reviews ➔ systematic[sb]
      - Systematic review articles are produced using a search strategy. This strategy is intended to retrieve citations identified as systematic reviews, meta-analyses, reviews of clinical trials, evidence-based medicine, consensus development conferences, guidelines, and citations to articles from journals specializing in review studies of value to clinicians. You will not see the term Systematic Review in the Supplemental Data/Publication Type area of the citation because it is not a Publication Type in MeSH.

4. Comparative Effectiveness Research
   a. effectiveness [sb]

Example: influenza vaccines AND effectiveness [sb]

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Explosion and Subheadings

- As with MeSH terms, subheadings are also exploded so that a search includes the more specific subheadings beneath the broader subheading.

- MeSH/subheading [majr] – use this to search the MeSH/subheading combination as the major focus of the article -- thromboembolism/pc[majr].

- MeSH/subheading [mh:noexp] -- to turn off automatic explosion for BOTH the MeSH heading and the subheading -- thromboembolism/pc[mh:noexp].

- MeSH/subheading [majr:noexp] -- to turn off the automatic explosion for both the MeSH heading and the subheading combination as the major focus of the article -- thromboembolism/pc[majr:noexp].

- Subheading [sh] -- to search the subheading attached to any MeSH heading (also known as "free-floating") -- breast neoplasms[mh] AND trends[sh].


Coordination of Multiple Subheadings – re: Cancer

- Use /pathology on the primary/original organ neoplasm term
- Use /secondary on the site to which a cancer has metastasized
- Use /secondary on the histologic/tissue type term

**Example:**

colonic neoplasms/pathology → the primary/original site  
adencarcinoma/secondary → the tissue type  
liver neoplasms/secondary → the metastasized site

Subheading Coordination with a disease and drug term

/drug therapy on disease term  
/therapeutic use on drug term

**Example:**

HIV infections/drug therapy  
HIV protease inhibitors/therapeutic use
Pharmacological Action (mechanism of action)

The way a chemical or drug behaves in the body.

[mh] vs. [pa]

Is your question about the pharmacologic action of a specific drug?

Example: How does aspirin behave as a platelet aggregation inhibitor?

Here's the "formula" for your search:
drug name [mh] AND Pharmacological Action [mh]

Example: aspirin [mh] AND platelet aggregation inhibitor [mh]

This search will find citations about how aspirin behaves as a platelet aggregation inhibitor.

Is your question about finding all the drugs that 1) have a particular pharmacologic action and 2) are known to treat a particular disease?

Example: Which drugs behave as platelet aggregation inhibitors that I can use to treat a venous thromboembolism?

Here's the "formula" for your search:
disease name [mh] AND Pharmacological Action [pa]

Example: venous thromboembolism [mh] AND platelet aggregation inhibitor [pa]

This search will find citations about all drugs that behave as platelet aggregation inhibitors that may be able to treat a venous thromboembolism.

MeSH terms on the list are searched with the no explode specification, [mh:noexp], so as not to include narrower terms that might not share the pharmacological action.