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About MEDLINE® and PubMed®: The Resources Guide

MEDLINE® contains journal citations and abstracts for biomedical literature from around the world. PubMed® provides free access to MEDLINE and links to full text articles when possible.

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The following resources provide detailed information about MEDLINE data and searching PubMed. If you cannot find the information you seek, please contact [NLM Customer Support](#).

[News](#) | [Overviews](#) | [Journals](#) | [Data Structure & Content](#) | [Data Policies](#) | [Searching PubMed](#) | [Tools & Utilities](#) | [MEDLINE Statistics](#) | [Help & Training Resources](#)

NEWS

- **[PubMed New and Noteworthy](#)**:
  List of changes to PubMed by date, with links to the *Technical Bulletin*.
- *[NLM Technical Bulletin](#)*:
  The *NLM Technical Bulletin* is your main source for detailed information about changes and updates to NLM resources, including MEDLINE and PubMed.
- **[NLM-Announces](#)**:
  NLM e-mail list for announcing important information and changes to NLM systems including PubMed.

OVERVIEWS

- **[MEDLINE®](#)**:
  A brief description of MEDLINE, your database of biomedical and life sciences journal citations.
- **[PubMed](#)**:
  A brief description of PubMed, part of the Entrez retrieval system and your free access to MEDLINE.
- **[MEDLINE, PubMed, and PMC (PubMed Central): How are they different?](#):**
  A brief description of MEDLINE, PubMed, and PMC.
- **[MeSH®](#)**:
  To help you understand NLM's controlled vocabulary thesaurus. Helpful for searching NLM's databases. See also [Medical Subject Headings (MeSH®)in MEDLINE®/PubMed®: A Tutorial](#) and [Branching Out: The MeSH Vocabulary](#) (instructional video).
- **[Indexing FAQ](#)**:
  How indexing is done at NLM, and information on becoming an indexer.
- **[Special Collaborative Arrangements](#)**:
  An explanation of NLM's special collaborative arrangements for selecting publications.

[Back to Top](#)

JOURNALS

- **[MEDLINE Journal Selection](#)**:
  How journals are selected for the MEDLINE database. See also the [FAQ: Journal Selection for MEDLINE Indexing at NLM](#).
  - **[Journals Recently Accepted by NLM for Inclusion in MEDLINE](#)**:
    Those titles recently accepted by the [Literature Selection Technical Review Committee](#) (LSTRC).
  - **[MEDLINE Selection Statistics](#)**
    Statistics on journal titles reviewed and selected by the Literature Selection Technical Review Committee (LSTRC) by date, country, and format.
- **List of MEDLINE Journals**:
  How can I find the list of journals indexed in MEDLINE?
  - *[List of Journals Indexed for MEDLINE](#)*:
    A list of currently indexed titles, dynamically generated from the NLM Catalog.
  - *[List of Serials Indexed for Online Users](#)*:
    A list of titles formerly and currently indexed in MEDLINE.
- **[List of Journals in PubMed:](#)** How can I find the list of journals included in PubMed?
  - **[Journals regularly added to PubMed](#)**
    A list of currently indexed MEDLINE journals and journals currently being added to PubMed Central (PMC), dynamically generated from the NLM Catalog. See the [PMC Journal List](#) for more information.
  - **[Journals cited, even once, in PubMed](#)**
    This list includes MEDLINE and non-MEDLINE titles, including journals whose content is deposited in [PMC (PubMed Central)](#) to satisfy

public access requirements.

- **Journal and Citation Subsets**:
  The table of subset codes assigned to MEDLINE citations. See also Abridged Index Medicus (AIM or "Core Clinical") Journal Titles.
- **Journal Subject Terms**:
  Subject Terms are assigned by NLM at the journal level to describe each MEDLINE journal's overall scope.
- **Construction of National Library of Medicine Title Abbreviations**
  The rules currently used by NLM to construct title abbreviations for journals indexed in PubMed.
- **MEDLINE Policy on Indexing Electronic Journals**:
  NLM policy for indexing, access, and preservation of articles from electronic journals.
  - **MEDLINE Journals Indexed from the Online Version**:
    A list of journals indexed from the online version, with additional information on searching for online journals with LocatorPlus.
- **Ceased Abstracting and Indexing Publications Containing MEDLINE Citations**:
  Details about the MEDLINE and non-MEDLINE content of the Hospital Literature Index, the Hospital and Health Administration Index, the Index to Dental Literature, and the International Nursing Index.

Back to Top

DATA STRUCTURE & CONTENT

- **MEDLINE/PubMed Detailed Field/Data Element Descriptions**
  Descriptions of the fields in MEDLINE/PubMed records, with detailed historical information, when available.
- **MeSH Subheadings Table** (from PubMed Help):
  The MeSH subheadings and their abbreviations. See also the MeSH Qualifier (subheadings) Hierarchies.
- **PubMed Publication Types** (from PubMed Help):
  The publication types used in MEDLINE/PubMed. See also the Publication Characteristics (Publication Types) Scope Notes for definitions of publication types used in all NLM databases.
- **Languages in MEDLINE/PubMed**:
  A list of language codes and translations used in MEDLINE/PubMed.
- **PubMed Citation Status Subsets** (from PubMed Help):
  A list of status designations for PubMed records.
- **Journal and Citation Subsets**:
  The table of subset codes assigned to MEDLINE citations. See also Abridged Index Medicus (AIM or "Core Clinical") Journal Titles.
- **Grant Number Information Found in the GR Field**:
  The abbreviation, acronym and name for Institutes and Grants found in the ID field in MEDLINE.
- **Structured Abstracts**:
  A description of structured abstracts and how they are formatted for MEDLINE.
- **PubMed Character Conversions**:
  How special characters are translated in PubMed.
- **Code Designations for Greek Characters in the Gene Symbol Field**:
  How Greek characters are represented in MEDLINE in the Gene Symbol field (used only 1991-1995).
- **Special Collaborative Arrangements:**
  An explanation of NLM's special collaborative arrangements for selecting publications.
- **NLM DTDs:**
  A DTD (Document Type Definition) defines the building blocks of an XML document. It defines the document structure with a list of allowable elements. These are the DTDs that define NLM's XML data. See also NLM Data Distribution.
- **MEDLINE Databank Sources**:
  Names that appear in the DataBankName element in the XML version of the citation and the Secondary Source ID [SI] element in the PubMed MEDLINE display.

Back to Top

DATA POLICIES

- **MEDLINE/PubMed Detailed Field/Data Element Descriptions:**
  Descriptions of the fields in PubMed/MEDLINE records, with detailed historical information, when available. (Note: This document contains policy information for selected data elements.)
- **Annual MEDLINE/PubMed Year-End Processing Activities**:
  A description of the annual maintenance, known as year-end processing, done primarily to update MEDLINE citations to the forthcoming year's version of MeSH.
- **Article Versions and MEDLINE/PubMed Citations**
  What is and is not a versioned citation from the National Library of Medicine point of view.
- **Authorship in MEDLINE:**
  Information on how authorship is reflected in MEDLINE.
- **Clinical Trial Registry Numbers in MEDLINE/PubMed Records**:
  Clinical trials information in MEDLINE/PubMed records.
- **Conflict of Interest Disclosure and Journal Supplements in MEDLINE**:
  The conditions under which supplements are cited and indexed for MEDLINE.
- **Construction of National Library of Medicine Title Abbreviations:**
  How journal title abbreviations are constructed.

- **Copyright Information & Downloading National Library of Medicine Data**:
  Guidance for redistribution of MEDLINE/PubMed and other NLM data.

- **Errata, Retraction, Partial Retraction, Corrected and Republished Articles, Duplicate Publication, Comment, Update, Patient Summary and Republished (Reprinted) Article Policy for MEDLINE**:
  NLM policies on these publication events.

- **MEDLINE/PubMed Journal Article Citation Format:**
  Background on the citation style used in MEDLINE/PubMed. See also Sample References (International Committee of Medical Journal Editors Recommendations for the Conduct, Reporting, Editing and Publication of Scholarly Work in Medical Journals)

- **Multiple Language Translations of Online Journals and Indexing English Editions of Journals**:
  MEDLINE/PubMed includes a language field for identifying the languages in which an article is published.

- **Research Reporting Guidelines and Initiatives: By Organization**:
  A chart of the major biomedical research reporting guidelines that provide advice for reporting research methods and findings.

- **Structured Abstracts**:
  A description of structured abstracts and how they are formatted for MEDLINE.

Back to Top

SEARCHING PUBMED

(See also Help and Training Resources)

- **PubMed Search Field Descriptions and Tags** (**from PubMed Help**):
  A table of all searchable fields in PubMed.

- **MeSH Qualifier (Subheading) Hierarchies**:
  Subheadings arranged in their logical hierarchical groupings, or families. Searching a broader subheading in PubMed will automatically search more specific subheadings.

- **PubMed Subject Filters**:
  The search strategies for each PubMed subject filter.

- **Clinical Queries Filter Table**:
  Search filters for each clinical and medical genetics category for the PubMed Clinical Queries.

- **Special Queries:**
  A directory of topic-specific PubMed queries.

- **Journal and Citation Subsets**:
  The table of journal and citation subset codes assigned to MEDLINE citations . See also Abridged Index Medicus (AIM or "Core Clinical") Journal Titles.

- **Journal Subject Terms**:
  Subject Terms are assigned by NLM at the journal level to describe each MEDLINE journal's overall scope.

- **Funding Support (Grant) Information in MEDLINE/PubMed**:
  An explanation and statistics of research funding support information on MEDLINE citations.

- **Computation of Similar Articles**:
  A white paper that explains the function of the Similar Articles feature.

- **What are the date ranges for past MeSH Indexing years?**
  Information about the date ranges for indexing with MeSH. Includes tips for searching.

Back to Top

TOOLS & UTILITIES

- **The Insider's Guide to Accessing NLM Data**
  The Insider's Guide is a series of educational resources to help users explore more powerful and flexible ways of accessing NLM data, with a focus on accessing PubMed data via the E-utilities API.

- **E-Utilities Quick Start**:
  The Entrez Programming Utilities (or E-Utilities) provide a method for accessing Entrez (including PubMed) data outside of the regular Web query interface.

- **LinkOut:**
  The service that links PubMed records to full text providers and other external resources related to the citation.

- **NLM Data Distribution**:
  Information on downloading bulk MEDLINE/PubMed and other NLM data.

- **PMCID/PMID/NIHMSID Converter**:
  Convert PubMed IDs to PubMedCentral IDs or NIH Manuscript System IDs. Convert PubMedCentral IDs to PubMed IDs.

Back to Top

MEDLINE® STATISTICS

- **MEDLINE PubMed Production Statistics**:
  Citations indexed, journal titles, number of searches, Web/Interactive, and Script/E-Utilities.

- **Key MEDLINE Indicators** (Archived Version):
  Citations indexed, number of searches, journal titles, citations keyboarded, OCRed and retrieved via XML; retractions, errata and comments.

- **Number of Titles Currently Indexed** (Archived Version):
  The number of journal titles currently indexed for MEDLINE in PubMed.

- **MEDLINE Selection Statistics**:
  Statistics on journal titles reviewed and selected by the Literature Selection Technical Review Committee (LSTRC) by date, country, and format.
- **Citations Added to MEDLINE by Fiscal Year**:
  Total of indexed citations by fiscal year.
- **Funding Support (Grant) Information in MEDLINE/PubMed**:
  An explanation and statistics of research funding support information on MEDLINE citations.
- **Statistical Reports on MEDLINE/PubMed Baseline Data**:
  Total citations containing each data element; total occurrences of each element; minimum/average/maximum occurrences of each element in a record; minimum/average/maximum length of a single element occurrence; average record size; and other statistical data describing the content and size of the elements. Various data from 2002-.
  - **Selected Statistics:**
    - **Citation Counts by Year of Publication**:
      Total number, number published in the U.S., and percent published in the US for each year of publication.
    - **Authors per Citation**:
      Number of personal authors and collective authors per citation, and trends over time.
    - **Number of Citations to English Language Articles; Number of Citations Containing Abstracts**:
      By date ranges, the number and percent of citations to English language and non-English language articles, and number and percent with abstracts.

Back to Top

HELP & TRAINING RESOURCES

- **PubMed Online Training Resources**:
  The PubMed Tutorial, Quick Tours and more. See also NLM's Learning Resources Database.
- **Classroom Training (National Network of Libraries of Medicine Training Office)**:
  Free PubMed courses available for health sciences librarians and information specialists in the United States.
- **Frequently asked questions about MEDLINE, PubMed and PubMed Central (PMC)**:
  NLM Support Center Knowledge Base on literature resources from NLM.
- **PubMed Glossary**:
  A glossary of terms used with MEDLINE and PubMed, from the PubMed Tutorial.
- **PubMed Help**:
  Searchable Help document for PubMed, available on the NCBI Bookshelf.

News | Overviews | Journals | Data Structure & Content | Data Policies | Searching PubMed | Tools & Utilities | MEDLINE Statistics | Help & Training Resources

Last Reviewed: June 4, 2019

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