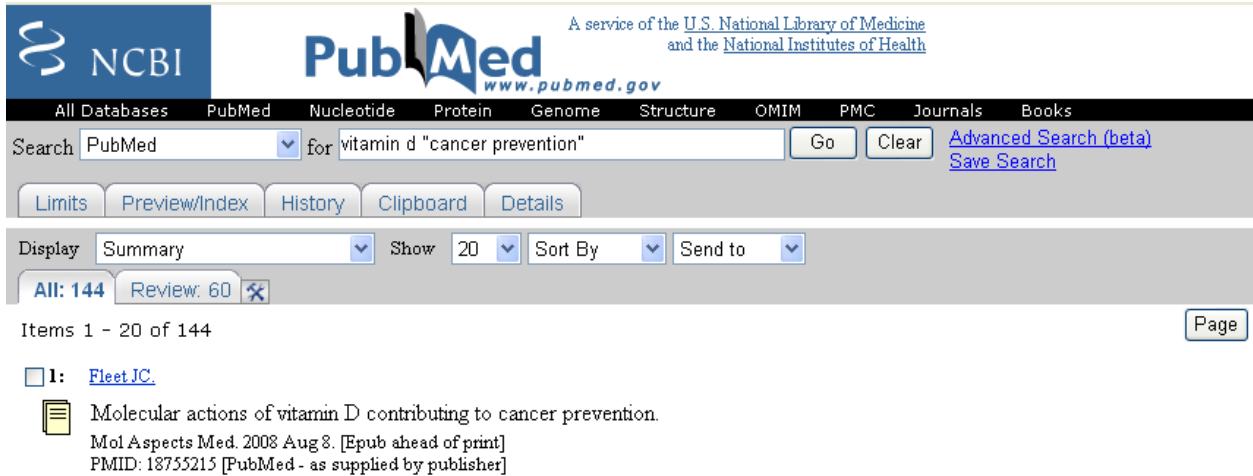


PubMed Quick Guide

PubMed provides free access to the U.S. National Library of Medicine’s MEDLINE database, covering many fields within life sciences including medicine, nursing, dentistry, and pharmacy. MEDLINE articles are indexed using the National Library of Medicine’s Medical Subject Headings (MeSH), and date from 1950 to present. PubMed also provides access to in-process records (article citations which have not yet been indexed with MeSH), and other journals outside the scope of MEDLINE.

In order to read full text articles, enter PubMed from the Douglas College Library homepage. Click on *Article Indexes and Databases*.

Basic Keyword Searching



The screenshot shows the PubMed search interface. At the top left is the NCBI logo. The main header features the PubMed logo and the text "A service of the U.S. National Library of Medicine and the National Institutes of Health" with the URL www.pubmed.gov. Below the header is a navigation bar with tabs for "All Databases", "PubMed", "Nucleotide", "Protein", "Genome", "Structure", "OMIM", "PMC", "Journals", and "Books". The search bar contains the text "PubMed" in a dropdown menu, followed by "for vitamin d 'cancer prevention'" in the main input field. There are "Go" and "Clear" buttons, and links for "Advanced Search (beta)" and "Save Search". Below the search bar are buttons for "Limits", "Preview/Index", "History", "Clipboard", and "Details". The "Display" section shows "Summary" selected in a dropdown, "Show 20" items, and "Sort By" and "Send to" dropdowns. A status bar indicates "All: 144" results and "Review: 60" items. Below this, it says "Items 1 - 20 of 144" and a "Page" button. The first result is listed as "1: Fleet JC. Molecular actions of vitamin D contributing to cancer prevention. Mol Aspects Med. 2008 Aug 8. [Epub ahead of print] PMID: 18755215 [PubMed - as supplied by publisher]".

- Enter your search term or phrase in the query box, then hit **Go**. PubMed automatically combines multiple search terms with AND. Use quotation marks for exact phrase searching. PubMed matches your search terms or phrases to MeSH terms used by the database. You can view how your terms were matched by clicking on **Details**.
- Use Boolean operators AND, OR, and NOT in uppercase to combine terms or phrases. Use parentheses around a complex topic to search as a unit, e.g. celiac disease AND (calcium OR vitamin d).
- Set **Limits** on your search results. Limit by date, age, gender, type of article, and more. Limits remain in effect until you de-select them.
- To search by author, use the search field tag [au], e.g., grigg [au], or use **Limits**.
- To find keywords in a title use the search field tag [ti], e.g. vitamin d "cancer prevention" [ti].
- To find articles in a specific journal, enter the full journal title in the query box, or the MEDLINE title abbreviation with the search field tag [ta]. Use the **Journals Database** on the left sidebar to search for journal titles.
- **History** holds all of your searches and results. Combine previous strategies or view results.

Advanced Searching Using MeSH


The screenshot shows the PubMed MeSH browser interface. On the left is a sidebar with navigation links. The main content area is titled 'Select a term to send to the Search Box'. It features a search box with 'All: 1' and a search icon. Below the search box is a dropdown menu for 'Send to' with options: Text, File, Printer, Clipboard, Search Box with AND (highlighted), Search Box with OR, and Search Box with NOT. To the right of the dropdown, there is a partial view of text: 'PubMed records with those specif'. Below the dropdown, there is a list of subheadings for 'Vitamin D' with checkboxes. The first subheading is checked: '1: Vitamin D'. Below this is a paragraph of text describing Vitamin D. Further down, there is a list of subheadings with checkboxes, including 'administration and dosage', 'adverse effects', 'agonists', 'analogs and derivatives', 'analysis', 'antagonists and inhibitor', 'biosynthesis', 'blood', 'chemical synthesis', 'chemistry', 'classification', 'contraindications', 'diagnostic use', 'econom', 'genetics', 'history', 'immunology', 'isolation and purification', 'metabolism', 'pharmacokinetics', 'pharmacology', 'phy', 'poisoning', 'radiation effects', 'secretion', 'standards', 'supply and distribution', 'surgery', 'therapeutic use', 'therapy', and 'urine'. At the bottom, there is a checkbox for 'Restrict Search to Major Topic headings only'.

- For more efficient subject searching, use the **MeSH Database** on the left sidebar. Enter your first term and hit **Go**. Your term will be matched to the corresponding subject heading.
- Click on the appropriate term from a list of possible terms. Apply any relevant subheadings. In the **Send to** drop-down box, select **search box with AND** to send your term to the query box.
- Below the subheadings, PubMed also displays your term in a hierarchical “tree” structure for viewing broader and narrower terms. From this screen you may also restrict your search term to a MeSH major topic, which will retrieve citations for articles in which the MeSH term is a major topic.
- Repeat process for other search terms in your query.

Viewing and Managing Your Results

Display Formats

- PubMed displays the results of your search in **Summary** format. To change the display of your results use the **Display** drop down menu. Useful formats are:
 - **AbstractPlus**- Includes Authors and their Affiliations, Title, Journal Citation, Abstract, Related Articles, and most importantly, links to FULL TEXT where available
 - **Citation Format**- Includes all of the above plus assigned MeSH terms and publication type

Printing/Emailing/Saving: Use the Douglas College  link below the abstract (in **AbstractPlus** display) where full text is available, and print from your browser. Or, select articles from the current set of results and use the **Send to** drop-down menu to print, email, or save citations.