

PUBMED PRACTICE

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Use the *PubMed Search Tips* handout to answer the following questions.

Go to <https://pubmed.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/>

BEGINNER'S SEARCH PRACTICE

1. Search for *breast cancer screening*.

- a. How many articles do you retrieve? _____
- b. How many articles do you retrieve when you search it in the title field? _____
- c. How many articles do you retrieve when you search it in the title and abstract fields? _____

2. Search for *triple negative breast cancer* in the titles and abstract fields.

How many articles do you retrieve when you narrow your search to:

- a. 2015-current _____
- b. 2015-current and free full-text _____

3. Search for *ovarian cancer* in the title and abstract fields.

- a. How many articles do you retrieve? _____
- b. How many articles do you retrieve when you narrow your search to Africa? _____
(Hint: use the MeSH subject heading in the handout)

4. Search for *colorectal cancer* in the title and abstract fields.

How many articles do you retrieve when you narrow your search to

- a. English
- b. English and middle aged patients _____
(Hint: use the MeSH subject heading in the handout)

5. Search for *hepatocellular carcinoma* in the title and abstract fields.

- a. How many articles do you retrieve? _____
- c. How many articles do you retrieve when you narrow your search to retrospective studies? _____
(Hint: use the MeSH subject heading in the handout)

ADVANCED SEARCH PRACTICE

6. Searching for the phrase *breast cancer* will only retrieve articles with that exact phrase. It won't retrieve articles that use other phrases like "cancer of the breast," and "breast carcinoma." To try to find ALL of the articles about cervical cancer no matter what phrase they use, use the MeSH subject heading.

To find the right subject heading, go to the MeSH database at: <https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/mesh/>

- a. What is the subject heading for breast cancer? _____
 - b. How many narrower subject headings are listed under that heading? _____
 - c. Choose one of the narrower headings. How many articles do you retrieve? _____
7. Select a topic you're interested in. What's the subject heading for it?

8. Select a topic you're interested in. Find current articles in English that have the free full text available.
 - a. How did you type in the search? _____
 - b. How many articles did you retrieve? _____
9. Select another topic. Find literature review articles set in Africa involving a specific age range.
 - a. How did you type in the search? _____
 - b. How many articles did you retrieve? _____
10. Try searching another database. Go to TRIP (Turning Research Into Practice) database at <https://www.tripdatabase.com/>
 - a. Search for a type of cancer you're interested in. How many results do you get?
 - b. There's no good way to restrict your search to free full-text articles but you can try adding the term "open access" to your search. Eg: *lung cancer and "open access"*

c. Different types of articles are listed on the left. Which would be useful to you?

11. What are the most useful search tips you've learned?