

Finding the Best Evidence



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Session objectives

- Formulate a focused question
- Turn a focused question into a search strategy
- Search TRIP & PubMed



Formulate a focussed question

Patient / **P**roblem / **P**opulation

Intervention

Comparison

Outcome

Scenario



Gerry, has had a bad throat for a few days and it's making him feel miserable. He goes to his friendly GP wanting some antibiotics. However, his doctor isn't sure whether there's any benefit in prescribing them. What's the evidence?



Focused question

P: sore throat

I: antibiotics

C: no antibiotics

O: symptom relief

Are antibiotics effective in relieving symptoms of sore throat?

Quick search Demonstration

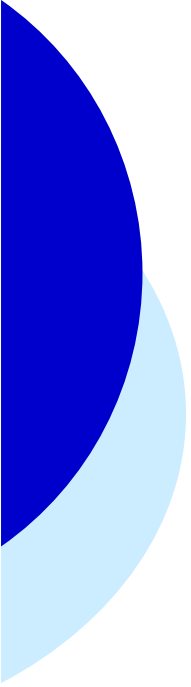


www.tripdatabase.com



Hands-on

- Formulate a focused question
 - Use your own question or one of the examples in your workbook
 - Record the search terms you're using
- Run a quick search on TRIP
www.tripdatabase.com



Run a full search strategy

Why bother?

- Too few results
- Too many results
- Irrelevant results
- Submitting a funding proposal
- Writing a guideline
- Conducting a systematic review



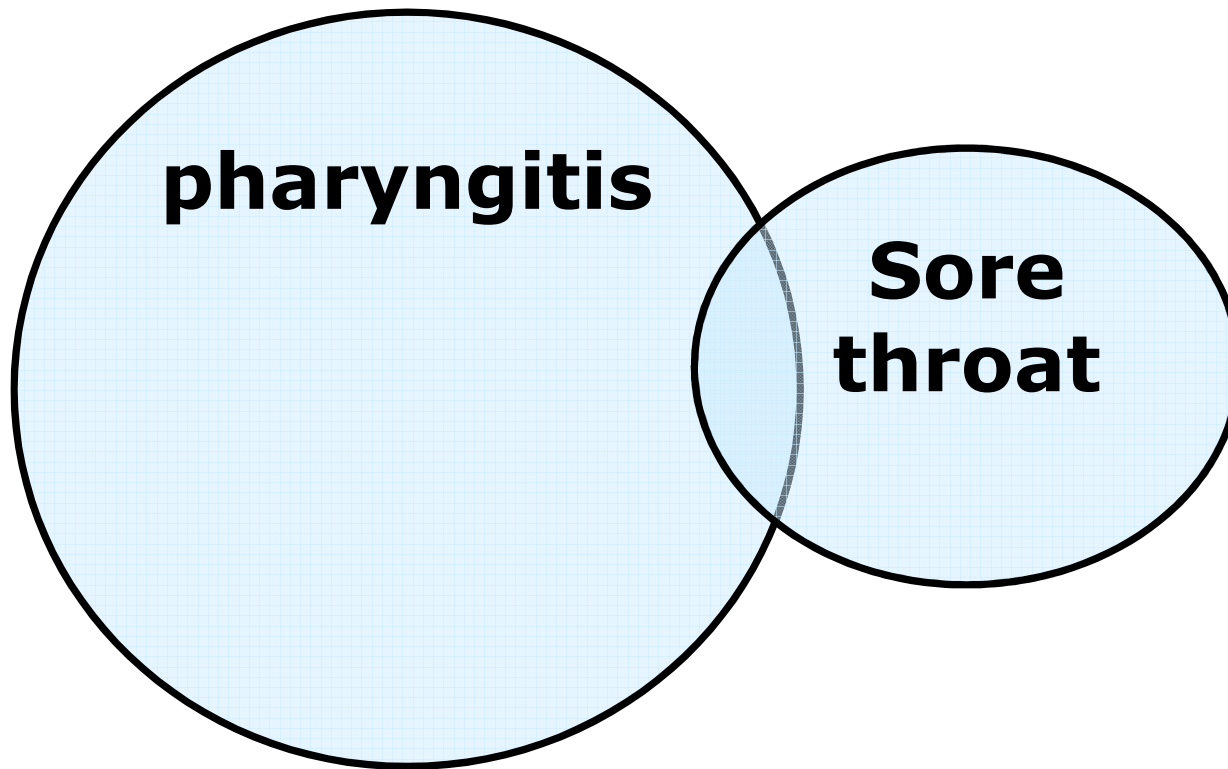
Develop a search strategy

Using **OR** then **AND**
to **broaden** then **focus** the search

P		I		O
and		and		
Sore throat*		Antibiotic*		Symptom relief
or		or		or
tonsillitis		antibacterial*		Symptom alleviation
or		or		
pharyngitis		penicillin		

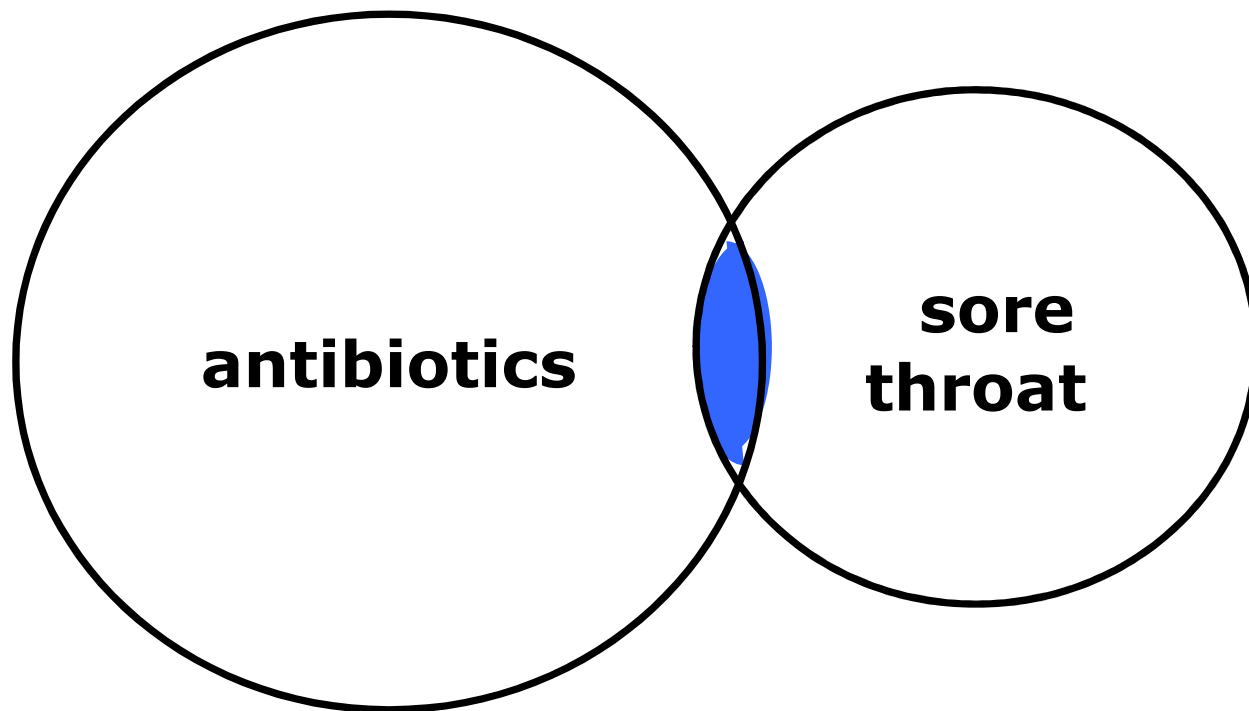
Combine terms with OR

Pharyngitis OR sore throat – either term
can be present



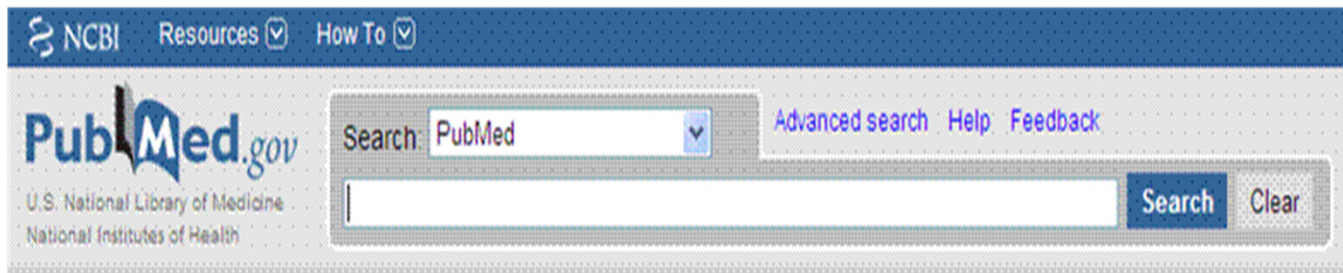
Combine terms with AND

Antibiotics AND sore throat – both terms must be present



PubMed demonstration

www.pubmed.gov

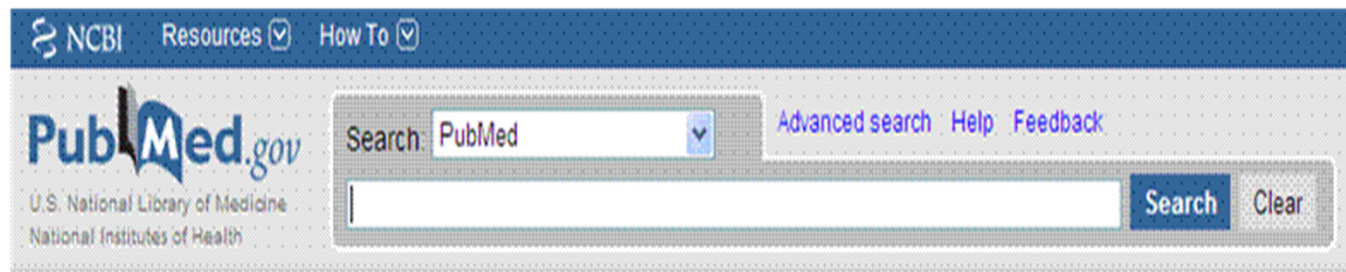


The image shows a screenshot of the PubMed.gov website's search interface. At the top left, there is a navigation bar with the NCBI logo and links for "Resources" and "How To". Below this, the PubMed.gov logo is displayed, along with the text "U.S. National Library of Medicine" and "National Institutes of Health". The main search area features a search box containing the text "PubMed", a dropdown arrow, and a "Search" button. To the right of the search box are links for "Advanced search", "Help", and "Feedback". Below the search box is a larger, empty search input field with a "Search" button and a "Clear" button.

Searching tips: PubMed

Subject searching - use MeSH

- Subject headings added to articles on Medline
- Search the MeSH Database
- Finding similar articles – use the 'Related articles' link



The screenshot shows the PubMed.gov search interface. At the top, there is a navigation bar with the NCBI logo and links for 'Resources' and 'How To'. Below this is the PubMed.gov logo and the text 'U.S. National Library of Medicine' and 'National Institutes of Health'. The main search area features a search box with the text 'PubMed' and a dropdown arrow. To the right of the search box are links for 'Advanced search', 'Help', and 'Feedback'. Below the search box is a large empty input field, and to its right are 'Search' and 'Clear' buttons.



Hands-on

- Take your focused question:
 - Run further searches on PubMed
<http://www.pubmed.gov>



The Cochrane Library

- Specialist database including articles on clinical and cost effectiveness of interventions:
 - Systematic reviews – Cochrane Database of Systematic Reviews & DARE
 - RCTs – Central
 - Economic evaluations - NHSEED
- Free access in the UK at <http://www.thecochranelibrary.com>
- Other countries check “access options” at <http://www.cochrane.org>



The Cochrane Library:
www.thecochranelibrary.com



THE COCHRANE LIBRARY

Independent high-quality evidence for health care decision making



Hands-on

- Take your focused question:
 - Run a search on the Cochrane Library
<http://www.thecochranelibrary.com>



Help

- PubMed

- Short online tutorials
- Quick guides to PubMed – basics, MeSH search and MyNCBI

<http://www.nlm.nih.gov/bsd/disted/pubmed.html>

- The Cochrane Library

- Online tutorial – several languages

<http://www3.interscience.wiley.com/aboutus/demo/>

- User guides – several languages

http://www3.interscience.wiley.com/cgi-bin/mrwhome/106568753/HELP_Cochrane.html



Resources

- Cochrane Library
www.thecochranelibrary.com
- PubMed
www.pubmed.gov
- TRIP
www.tripdatabase.com
- Other sources – CEBM web-site – EBM tools
www.cebm.net