

## PubMed Cheat Sheet

[mh] MeSH	[majr] Major
[ti] Title	[tiab] Title and Abstract
[tw] Text Word	[au] Author
[ad] Affiliation	[sh] Subheading
[sb] Subset	[1au] First Author

### 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]

### 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]**.
- Subheading [**sh:noexp**] – Used with free-floating, this tag will turn off explosion for the subheading – **breast neoplasms[mh] AND trends [sh:noexp]**.

### 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  
 adenocarcinoma/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]

