



Objective: This guide will explain what MeSH headings are and how to incorporate them into a PubMed search. For further information please view the list of additional guides on our website ([link](#)).

About:

MeSH is the National Library of Medicine’s vocabulary for indexing articles for Medline/PubMed.

MeSH allows searchers to retrieve relevant articles even when different words/spellings are used to describe the same topic.

Finding MeSH Terms:

MeSH Database

1. Go to pubmed.gov to access the MeSH database.
2. Click the downward carrot to change the database from PubMed to MeSH.
3. Enter a term to see what MeSH term is used for your term.
4. Select the MeSH term and add it to your search.

MeSH Terms Article Section

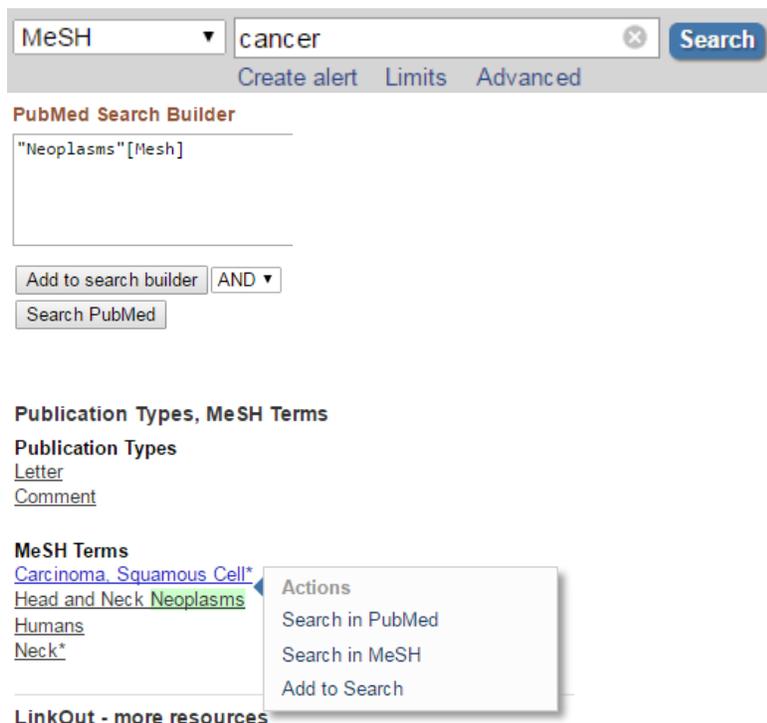
Some articles have a MeSH Terms Section that show the MeSH Terms assigned to that article.

As shown in the picture to the right you can use these MeSH Terms for your search in a variety of ways.

An asterisk * indicates that MeSH Term is a major topic. Example: Carcinoma, Squamous Cell*

Searching with MeSH

1. Select the MeSH terms from the MeSH Database or the MeSH Terms Article Section.
2. Newly published articles do not have MeSH Terms assigned to them. It is important to combine keywords and MeSH Terms when conducting your search.
3. When selecting MeSH Terms you can
 - a. choose to select subheadings that can enhance your search.
 - b. make a MeSH Term a major topic with an *



PubMed Medical Subject Headings (MeSH)

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Additional Resources:

Additional information can be found on this topic at the following outside resources (ctrl+click to open):

- [Moffitt Biomedical Library Website](#)
- [NLM MeSH Guide](#)
- [NLM Video Tutorial Searching with MeSH](#)



Moffitt Biomedical Library

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