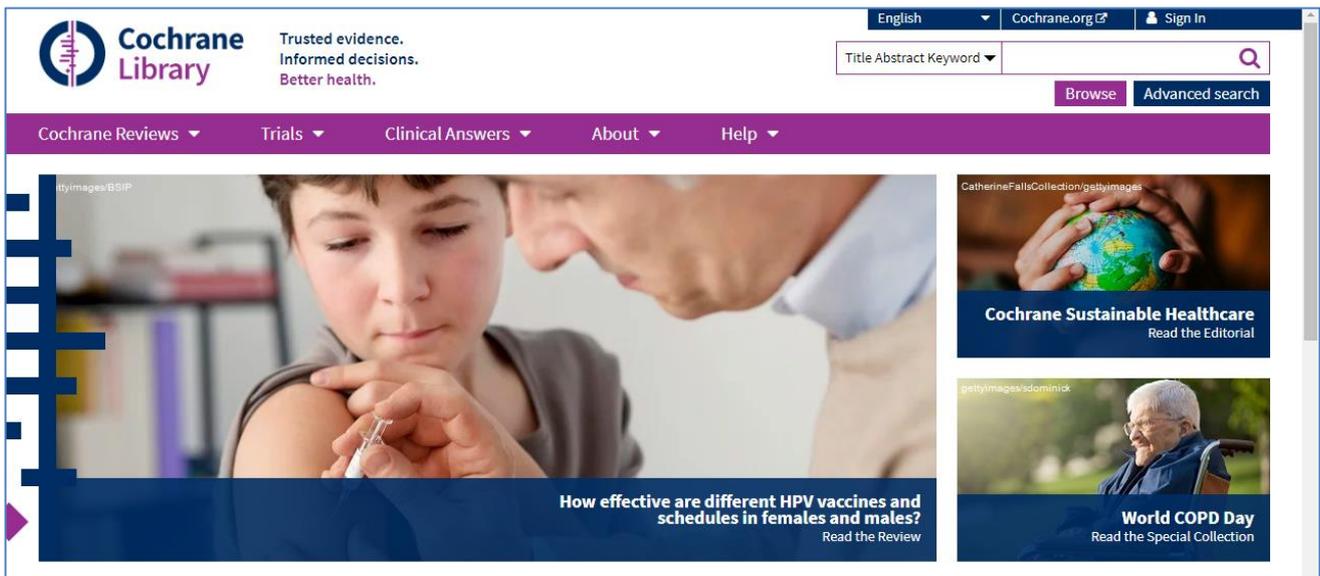


The Cochrane Library

- One of the best sources of reliable evidence on the effects of healthcare interventions.
- Provided by NICE
- Available from www.cochranelibrary.com no log-in required.

[Browse topics](#) [Simple search](#) [Search tips](#) [Advanced search](#) [MeSH](#) [Results](#) [Print/Save](#)



Cochrane Library and Database of Systematic Reviews (CDSR) includes–

- **Reviews:** Systematic reviews locate published and unpublished research on a topic/research question, assess it for quality using set criteria and synthesises the evidence from the studies to produce conclusions to answer the research question. The aim is to minimise the chance of bias to ensure reliability of findings. Reviews are updated to include new evidence where available.
- **Protocols:** Protocols are reviews “in progress” and contain details of how the reviewers aim to answer the research question.
- **Editorials:** aim to stimulate ideas and discussions around evidence discovery.
- **Trials (Cochrane Central Register of Controlled Trials - CENTRAL):** holds details (not full text) of randomised and quasi-randomised trials from published and unpublished sources including trials rejected for Cochrane systematic reviews. Updated monthly.
- **Cochrane Clinical Answers:** short answers to a clinical question with data from the outcomes of the most relevant Cochrane Review. Designed for point-of-care decision making.
- **Special Collections:** collections of content on a particular healthcare topic.
- **Other reviews:** shows other systematic reviews published in journals; obtained via the Epistemonikos health evidence database. Not searchable via Search Manager or MeSH searching.

1. Browsing by Topic

This is the simplest way to look for relevant items. Either scroll down the home page to find **'Browse by Topic'** or click on Cochrane reviews from the purple menu bar at the top of the page and select **'Browse by topic'** or **'Browse by Review Group'**.

The screenshot shows the Cochrane Library website. At the top, there is a navigation bar with 'Cochrane Reviews', 'Trials', 'Clinical Answers', 'About', and 'Help'. Below this, the 'Browse by Topic' section is visible, with a grid of topic categories under letters 'a' through 'p'. Red arrows point to the 'Cochrane Reviews' menu item and the 'Allergy & intolerance' topic.

Click on a topic of interest to see the results for that topic. Use the **'Filter your results'** menu on the left of the screen to narrow down your search.

The screenshot shows the search results page for 'Blood disorders'. On the left, there is a 'Filter your results' menu with options for Date, Status, Language, and Type. The main content area shows a list of search results with various filters and options. Green boxes and arrows provide instructions: 'Narrow your results by a date range, status, type or topic. Some sections have a 'Show...more' link for more topics', 'Use tabs to view Protocols, Trials, Clinical Answers etc. The numbers show number of', 'Other systematic reviews in the Epistemonikos health evidence database.', 'Can also List by relevance or alphabetically.', 'Click on the title to view.', and 'Check here to see if a new search has been done to find new research and if the review conclusions have changed. The review history can be viewed (see page 6).'. The search results list includes titles like 'Wheat flour fortification with iron and other minerals for improving iron status in populations' and 'Atovaquone-proguanil for treating uncomplicated Plasmodium falciparum malaria'.

Scroll down to see more Filter options such as Type of review e.g. Intervention, Diagnostic, Overview or Qualitative. You can also view other Topics.

2. Simple Search (search box top right of screen)



Use the search box at the top right of the screen to search all databases. Enter free-text terms (i.e. words that you think of) and click on the magnifying glass symbol  to search. E.g. **asthma child**

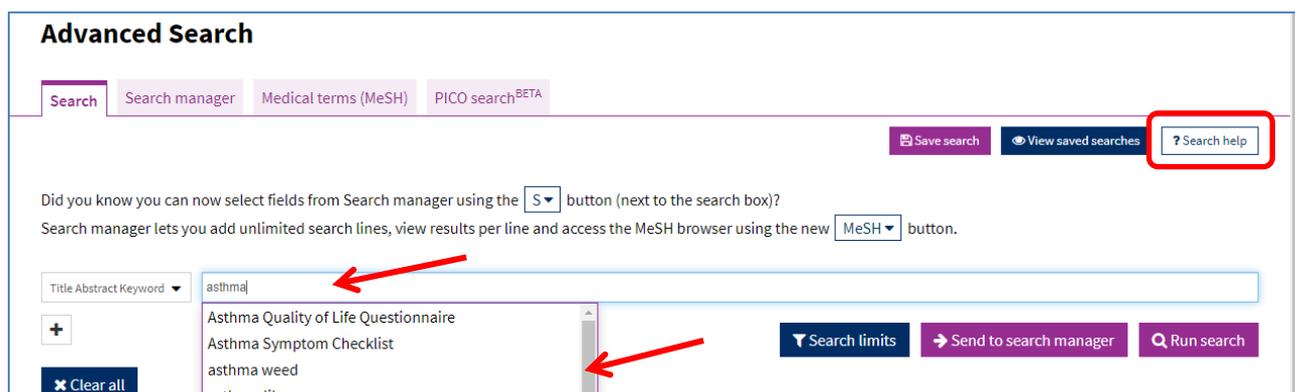
For more complex searches use [Advanced Search](#) or [Search Manager](#) (accessed via Advanced Search link).

Search Tips (see '? Search Help' button for more information)

- Phrase searching requires quote marks e.g. "**colon cancer**", otherwise the words will be searched as colon AND cancer, which will give many irrelevant results.
- Plurals and term variants are automatically searched, so searching **child** will also find **children**. British and American spellings will also be included. NB: only if phrase or truncation not used.
- Truncate terms by using * e.g. **depress*** will find depression, depressive, depressed, etc. Truncate at either end of a word or in the middle, e.g. ***depress*** also finds antidepressants.
- Some alternative spellings are automatically searched (e.g. tumor/tumour), or use internal truncation to find all e.g. **isch*mic** to find ischaemic or ischemic.
- Brackets control the order in which the search executes, if you are using a combination of AND and OR, e.g. **magnesium AND (eclampsia OR perinatal asphyxia)**
- NEAR can be used instead of AND to narrow your search. e.g. **smoking NEAR pregnancy** will find the two words within 6 words of each other in either order, so is more specific than using AND. NEAR/n will find the words within n words of each other in either order, e.g. NEAR/4.
- Medical Subject Headings (MeSH terms) are assigned to many records. These are controlled index terms. You can use MeSH terms in place of or as well as free-text terms to search – use [Search Manager](#) for this or the [MeSH Search](#).
- Too few results? Try extending your search to words in the full text by clicking the down arrow next to 'Title, Abstract or Keywords' and selecting 'Search All Text'.

3. Advanced Search

Click '**Advanced Search**' underneath the search box at the top right of the screen. Default search area is 'Title Abstract Keyword'



Start typing in your first search term and it will make suggestions of terms you may want to use. Continue typing or select one of the options. **NB:** Clicking on an option will add the term as a “phase” so it will not automatically search for plurals just the exact term.

Advanced Search

Search Search manager Medical terms (MeSH) PICO search^{BETA}

Save search View saved searches Search help

Did you know you can now select fields from Search manager using the **S** button (next to the search box)? Search manager lets you add unlimited search lines, view results per line and access the MeSH browser using the new **MeSH** button.

Title Abstract Keyword asthma

AND Title Abstract Keyword "Child"

(Word variations) Title Abstract Keyword Record Title Abstract Author Keyword All Text Publication Type Source DOI Accession Number

+ Clear all

Search limits Send to search manager Run search

Term chosen from list of suggestions, note “phrase” marks

Add lines by clicking + Change fields to search using down triangle

Limit search to content type or date range. Searching word variants e.g. plurals and variations on the word is automatically selected but it can be de-selected if required. Click ‘Apply Limits’

Results will display below in the same format as for basic search with search terms highlighted. Filters are available on left menu as before.

Filter your results

Date

Publication date

The last 3 months 1

The last 6 months 3

The last 9 months 6

The last year 8

The last 2 years 14

Cochrane Reviews 193

Cochrane Protocols 7

Trials 8713

Editorials 4

Special Collections 0

Clinical Answers 22

More

193 Cochrane Reviews matching "#1 - (asthma):ti,ab,kw AND ("child"):ti,ab,kw"

Cochrane Database of Systematic Reviews

Issue 2 of 12, February 2021

Select all (193) Export selected citation(s) Show all previews

Order by Relevancy

Results per page 25

1 Breathing exercises for children with asthma

Thalita MF Macêdo, Diana A Freitas, Gabriela SS Chaves, Elizabeth A Holloway, Karla MPP Mendonça

Intervention Review 12 April 2016 Free access

Show PICO^{BETA} Show preview

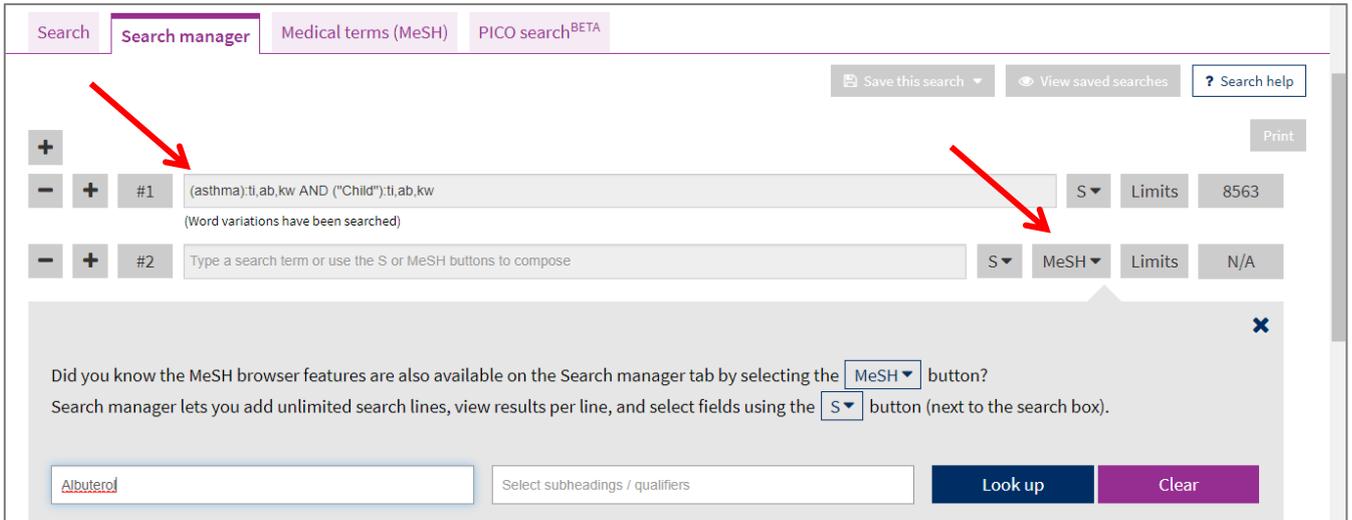
4. Search Manager and MeSH

Use this to build up more complex search strategies and use MeSH terms. Before you click on the ‘Search Manager’ tab you can click on ‘Send to search manager’ in the ‘Advanced search’; this will import your search (if you have one); see line one in screenshot below.

MeSH (or “Medical Subject Headings”) are applied to each record which is added to Cochrane and you can search on these as well as entering your own search terms. The advantage of using them is that it helps to focus your search. When you enter your own free text search terms, it searches for those words anywhere in the title, abstract and keywords.

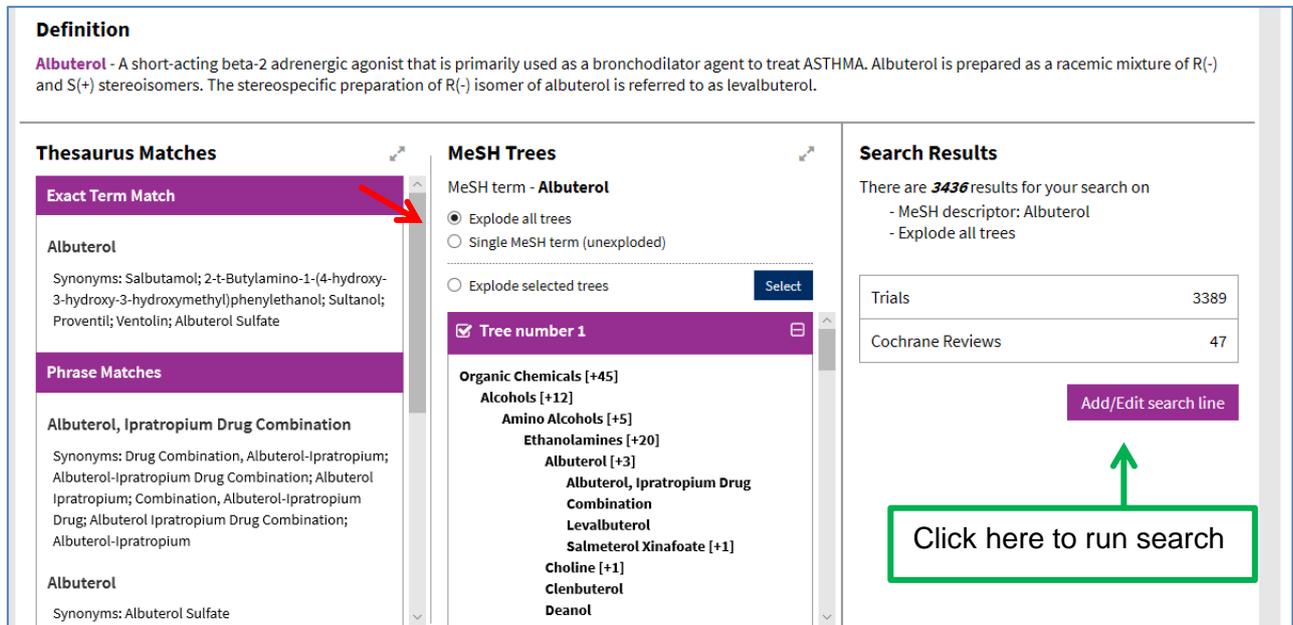
So, for example, if you search for asthma it will retrieve all records which mention asthma even if asthma isn't the main focus of the review. Searching on the subject heading for asthma should ensure that you retrieve articles which are actually about asthma.

Click MeSH button to look up and add MeSH terms. Enter term and click 'Look up'.



The MeSH options show below the search box. From the results screen check for a match in the left-hand column or check for other related terms under "Phrase Matches" – these are clickable.

In the middle column it will default to 'Explode all trees'. Exploding your search term means that any narrower MeSH headings on specific aspects of your search term will also be included in the search – for example, if you select explode for the MeSH heading 'Albuterol' you will not only retrieve articles which include that subject heading but headings relating to specific drugs for example, Levalbuterol etc..



To view results click on the number at the right hand side of the search line you wish to view.

Click 'Limits' to limit the search e.g. date range.

Search Search manager

To combine search lines type the line numbers into the search box e.g. #1 and #2, click 'Continue'.

Save this search View saved searches Search help

Print

+ - + #1 (asthma):ti,ab,kw AND ("Child"):ti,ab,kw (Word variations have been searched) S Limits 8563

- + #2 MeSH descriptor: [Albuterol] explode all trees MeSH 3236

- + #3 #1 and #2 Limits 634

- + #4 Type a search term or use the S or MeSH buttons to compose S MeSH Limits N/A

Clear all Highlight orphan lines

Using MeSH headings can enhance your search, but it is not essential and if you can't find a MeSH term to match your search term, or if the MeSH heading is quite general but you are looking for something more specific, then you are better off sticking with your own free-text search term.

6. Viewing Search Results

Search Results are listed by relevance below the search box. Click on the title to view the Review.

Filter your results

Date Publication date

The last 3 months 0

The last 6 months 0

The last 9 months 0

The last year 0

The last 2 years 0

Custom Range: dd/mm/yyyy to dd/mm/yyyy Apply Clear

Status

Cochrane Reviews 19 Cochrane Protocols 0 Trials 641 Editorials 0 Special Collections 0 Clinical Answers 0 More

19 Cochrane Reviews matching "#3 - #1 AND #2"

Cochrane Database of Systematic Reviews Issue 2 of 12, February 2021

Select all (19) Export selected citation(s) Show all previews

Order by Relevancy Results per page 25

1 Regular treatment with salmeterol for chronic asthma: serious adverse events
Christopher J Cates, Matthew J Cates
Intervention Review 16 July 2008
Show PICO5 BETA Show preview

2 Addition of long-acting beta₂-agonists to inhaled corticosteroids for chronic asthma in children
Bhupendrasinh F Chauhan, Caroline Chartrand, Muireann Ni Chroinin, Stephen J Milan, Francine M Ducharme
Intervention Review 24 November 2015 New search Free access
Show PICO5 BETA Show preview

Download a PDF version here (best format for printing) **NB:** some full reviews may be very long (over 100 pages), option to print summary only.

Cochrane Database of Systematic Reviews | Review - Intervention

New search

Addition of long-acting beta₂-agonists to inhaled corticosteroids for chronic asthma in children

Bhupendrasinh F Chauhan, Caroline Chartrand, Muireann Ni Chroinin, Stephen J Milan, Francine M Ducharme
Authors' declarations of interest
Version published: 24 November 2015 Version history
https://doi.org/10.1002/14651858.CD007949.pub2

Collapse all Expand all

Abstract Available in English Español Français

View PDF Cite this Review Request Permissions Comment on Review Read comments on this Review(0)

Print Share Follow

Am score 33 Used in 2 guidelines

Abstract Plain language summary Authors' conclusions Summary of findings Background Objectives Methods Results

Version History – click here to view when/if the search was updated and what/if changes were made to the conclusions of the review.

Quick links to sections of the review, including a 'plain language summary' (available in multiple languages). Scroll down for related content e.g. other reviews or guidelines.

7. Printing and saving search results/individual reviews

Printing and saving Cochrane Reviews:

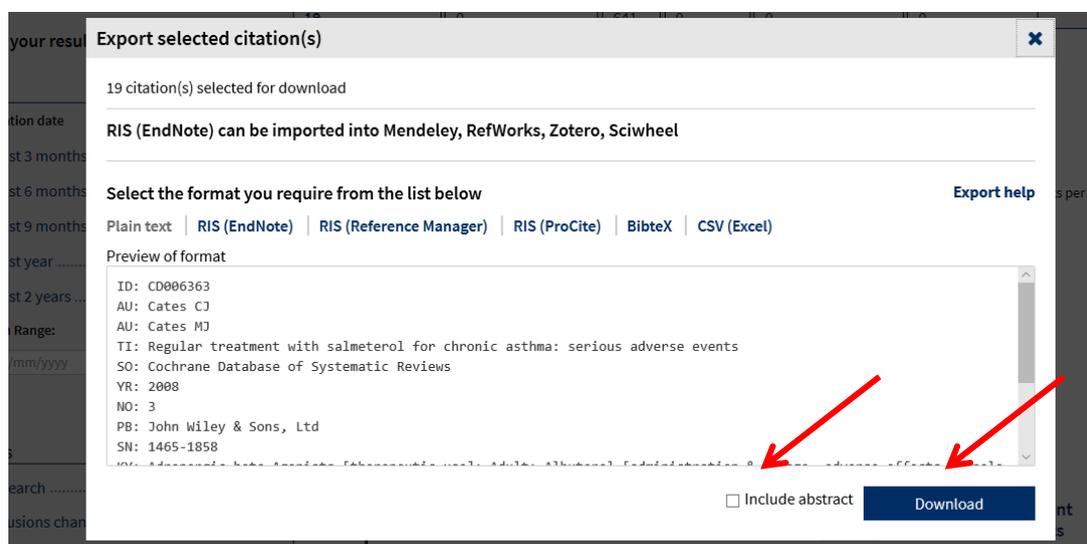
Open the PDF version (summary, standard or full version) then print or save using the icons on the PDF toolbar. NB: some reviews can be over 100 pages.

Printing/exporting search results:

Either 'Select all' or tick in the box next to the results you want to export then click 'Export selected'.



Choose to export to reference management software or download in plain text format (click box to include abstract).



Saving your search strategy:

Click on 'Save this search' from the Advanced Search or Search Manager page and login or Register if you don't have an account. **This is completely separate from your OpenAthens registration, which is not needed for accessing Cochrane Library.**

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