

# Searching for studies in *the Cochrane Library*

This exercise can be completed alone or in pairs, and requires access to a computer with an internet connection. For this exercise, we will be searching the Cochrane Central Register of Controlled Trials (CENTRAL) for studies relevant to the review, 'Caffeine for daytime sleepiness'.

1. Open a web browser and go to <http://www.cochranelibrary.com>.

2. Click on **Advanced Search**. This will open the Advanced Search page.
3. The Population for this review is people with sleepiness. In the first row of the **Search** field, enter **sleepiness**.
4. From the drop down box next to the field , select **Title, Abstract or Keywords**. Click '**Run search**' to see your retrieved results.

## Advanced Search

- Then, click on **'Send to search manager'**

### Advanced Search

The screenshot shows the 'Advanced Search' page with the 'Search manager' tab selected. The search term 'sleepiness' is entered in the search box. Below the search box, there are buttons for 'Search limits', 'Send to search manager' (highlighted with a red circle), and 'Run search'. There is also a 'Clear all' button.

The screenshot shows the search results for 'sleepiness'. The results are filtered to show 93 Cochrane Reviews. The page includes a 'Filter your results' section on the left with options for 'Date' and 'Publication date'. The main results area shows '93 Cochrane Reviews matching sleepiness in Title Abstract Keyword - (Word variations have been searched)'. There are buttons for 'Select all (93)', 'Export selected citation(s)', and 'Show all previews'. The 'Order by' dropdown is set to 'Relevancy' and the 'Results per page' dropdown is set to '25'.

- This will open the **Search Manager** page.

### Advanced Search

The screenshot shows the 'Search Manager' page with two search lines. The first search line is labeled '#1' and contains the search term '(sleepiness):ti,ab,kw'. The second search line is labeled '#2' and contains the placeholder text 'Type a search term or use the S or MeSH buttons to compose'. There are buttons for 'Save this search', 'View saved searches', 'Search help', and 'Print'.

Questions	
How many records did your search find? Note: your answer may be different to the one shown in the picture.	
Can you think of alternate terms for sleepiness? Consider synonyms, related terms, opposites, truncation, etc. List your suggested search terms here.	

- To add additional terms to your search, click on the **Search** tab on the top menu bar. Repeat Steps 3 and 4, but click on **"Send to search manager"** instead of **"Run search"** to build your search strategy.

- To combine searches, use the appropriate Boolean operator (AND, OR, NOT) and type in the row numbers that you want to combine.

### Advanced Search

Search Search manager Medical terms (MeSH) PICO search<sup>BETA</sup>

Save this search View saved searches Search help

+

Print

- + #1 (sleepiness):ti,ab,kw S Limits 4892  
(Word variations have been searched)

- + #2 ("fatigue"):ti,ab,kw S Limits 34594  
(Word variations have been searched)

#3 #1 or #2 Cancel Continue

\* Clear all Highlight orphan lines

Save this search View saved searches Search help

Print

- When all your terms related to sleepiness have been added to the **Search History**, click the **MeSH Search** link at the top of the page.

### Advanced Search

Search Search manager **Medical terms (MeSH)** PICO search<sup>BETA</sup>

View saved searches Search help

- This will open the **MeSH Search** page. In the Search for a MeSH descriptor field, enter sleepiness. Automatically, the form will suggest terms; click on "Daytime Sleepiness".

### Advanced Search

Search Search manager **Medical terms (MeSH)** PICO search<sup>BETA</sup>

View saved searches Search help

Did you know the MeSH browser features are also available on the Search manager tab by selecting the MeSH button?  
Search manager lets you add unlimited search lines, view results per line, and select fields using the S button (next to the search box).

sleepiness Select subheadings / qualifiers Look up Clear

Sleepiness

Sleepiness, Daytime

Sleepiness, Excessive Daytime

- Click the **Lookup** button.

12. This will automatically map to **Disorders of Excessive Somnolence**. Definition of the term is provided on top. In the central column you can see the **MeSH Trees** (lists of narrower terms) for Disorders of Excessive Somnolence. All trees are 'exploded' by default, which means that you can search any narrower terms listed below your term on the trees, as well as your selected term. For this exercise, do not change the default selection. Click **Add to search manager** button.

### Definition

**Disorders of Excessive Somnolence** - Disorders characterized by hypersomnolence during normal waking hours that may impair cognitive functioning. Subtypes include primary hypersomnia disorders (e.g., IDIOPATHIC HYPERSOMNOLENCE; NARCOLEPSY; and KLEINE-LEVIN SYNDROME) and secondary hypersomnia disorders where excessive somnolence can be attributed to a known cause (e.g., drug affect, MENTAL DISORDERS, and SLEEP APNEA SYNDROME). (From J Neurol Sci 1998 Jan 8;153(2):192-202; Thorpy, Principles and Practice of Sleep Medicine, 2nd ed, p320)

The screenshot shows the MeSH interface with three main panels:

- Thesaurus Matches:** Displays the exact term match for "Disorders of Excessive Somnolence" along with a list of synonyms such as "Hypersomnia; Excessive Daytime Sleepiness; Sleepiness, Excessive Daytime; Daytime Sleepiness, Excessive; Secondary Hypersomnia Disorders; Secondary Hypersomnolence Disorders; Hypersomnia Disorder; Secondary Hypersomnolence Disorder; Secondary Hypersomnia Disorder; Hypersomnolence Disorder, Secondary; Sleepiness, Daytime; Daytime Sleepiness; Daytime Sleepiness; Somnolence, Daytime; Daytime Somnolence; Daytime Somnolences; Hypersomnolence; Recurrent Hypersomnia; Hypersomnia, Recurrent; Recurrent Hypersomnias; Excessive Somnolence Disorder; Hypersomnolence Disorders; Hypersomnolence Disorder; Excessive Somnolence Disorders; DOESs (Disorders of Excessive Somnolence); Somnolence Disorder, Excessive; DOES (Disorders of Excessive Somnolence)".
- MeSH Trees:** Shows the MeSH term "Disorders of Excessive Somnolence" with options to "Explode all trees" (selected), "Single MeSH term (unexploded)", and "Explode selected trees". Below, a tree structure is shown with "Tree number 1" selected, listing narrower terms like "Nervous System Diseases [+16]", "Sleep Wake Disorders [+2]", "Dyssomnias [+3]", "Sleep Disorders, Intrinsic [+5]", "Disorders of Excessive Somnolence [+5]", "Idiopathic Hypersomnia", "Kleine-Levin Syndrome", "Narcolepsy [+1]", "Nocturnal Myoclonus Syndrome", "Restless Legs Syndrome", "Sleep Apnea Syndromes [+2]", and "Sleep Initiation and Maintenance".
- Search Results:** Indicates 415 results for the search. It lists filters: "MeSH descriptor: Disorders of Excessive Somnolence" and "Explode all trees". A table shows 405 Trials and 10 Cochrane Reviews. A red circle highlights the "Add to search manager" button.

13. This will return you to the **Search Manager** page. Scroll down to see that the MeSH term has been added to your search strategy.

### Advanced Search

The screenshot shows the Search Manager interface with a search strategy consisting of five terms:

- Term #1: (sleepiness):ti,ab,kw (4892 results)
- Term #2: ("fatigue"):ti,ab,kw (34594 results)
- Term #3: #1 or #2 (38653 results)
- Term #4: MeSH descriptor: [Disorders of Excessive Somnolence] explode all trees (415 results) - This term is circled in red.
- Term #5: Type a search term or use the S or MeSH buttons to compose (N/A results)

Buttons for "Save this search", "View saved searches", and "Search help" are visible at the top and bottom of the page.

14. In the **Search** field, combine your search terms together using the Boolean operator OR (e.g. by entering **#3 or #4**, including the row number for each of your search terms so far).

### Advanced Search

The screenshot shows the 'Advanced Search' interface with the following search terms:

Row	Search Term	Results
#1	(sleepiness):ti,ab,kw	4892
#2	("fatigue"):ti,ab,kw	34594
#3	#1 or #2	38653
#4	MeSH descriptor: [Disorders of Excessive Somnolence] explode all trees	415
#5	#3 or #4	

Buttons: Save this search, View saved searches, Search help, Print, Clear all, Highlight orphan lines.

15. Click the **Go** button.

Questions	
How many records did your combined search for sleepiness find?	
The intervention in this review is caffeine. Can you think of search terms for caffeine? Consider synonyms, related terms, opposites, truncation, etc. List your suggested search terms here.	

16. Using the **Search Manager** and **Medical Terms (MeSH)** pages, enter your search terms for caffeine, following steps 3-15.

17. In the **Search Manager** page, combine your search terms for caffeine together using the Boolean operator OR.

18. In the **Search Manager** page, combine your search terms for sleepiness together with your search terms for caffeine using the Boolean operator AND (i.e. using the row numbers in which you combined each set of terms using OR in your search history).

### Advanced Search

Search Search manager Medical terms (MeSH) PICO search<sup>BETA</sup>

Save this search View saved searches Search help

View fewer lines Print

+						
-	+	#1	(sleepiness).ti,ab,kw <small>(Word variations have been searched)</small>	S	Limits	4892
-	+	#2	("fatigue").ti,ab,kw <small>(Word variations have been searched)</small>	S	Limits	34594
-	+	#3	#1 or #2		Limits	38653
-	+	#4	MeSH descriptor: [Disorders of Excessive Somnolence] explode all trees	MeSH		415
-	+	#5	#3 or #4		Limits	38793
-	+	#6	(caffeine).ti,ab,kw <small>(Word variations have been searched)</small>	S	Limits	4529
-	+	#7	(coffee).ti,ab,kw <small>(Word variations have been searched)</small>	S	Limits	1678
-	+	#8	MeSH descriptor: [Caffeine] explode all trees	MeSH		2100
-	+	#9	#6 or #7 or #8		Limits	5515
-	+	#10	#5 and #9		Limits	505
-	+	#11	<input type="text" value="Type a search term or use the S or MeSH buttons to compose"/>	S	MeSH	Limits N/A

### Question

How many records did your combined search for sleepiness and caffeine find in total?

Note: your answer and the search terms used may be different to those shown in the picture.

19. Click on the underlined number in the final row of your search strategy. This will display your final search results.

-	+	#10	#5 and #9	S	Limits	<u>505</u>
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20. By default, the Cochrane Library will display results found in the Cochrane Database of Systematic Reviews.

21. To see results found in CENTRAL, click the **Trials** link.

The screenshot shows the Cochrane CENTRAL search interface. At the top, there are search filters for #10 and #11. The #10 filter is set to "#5 and #9" with a limit of 505. The #11 filter is empty with a limit of N/A. There are buttons for "Clear all", "Save this search", "View saved searches", "Search help", "View fewer lines", and "Print".

Below the filters, there are tabs for different result types: Cochrane Reviews (7), Cochrane Protocols (0), **Trials (498)**, Editorials (0), Special Collections (0), and Clinical Answers (0). The "Trials" tab is circled in red.

The main results area shows "7 Cochrane Reviews matching '#10 - #5 and #9'". Below this, it says "Cochrane Database of Systematic Reviews Issue 2 of 12, February 2021". There are buttons for "Select all (7)", "Export selected citation(s)", and "Show all previews". The results are ordered by "Relevancy".

The first result is "1 Caffeine for asthma" by Emma J Welsh, Anna Bara, Elizabeth Barley, and Christopher J Cates.

## Questions

How many records did your combined search find in the CENTRAL clinical trials database?

Note: your answer may be different to the one shown in the picture.

22. Search results can be exported to your reference management software (note: CENTRAL export is only available to authenticated users<sup>1</sup>). Click the **Select all** button, then **Export selected citation(s)**.

The screenshot shows the Cochrane CENTRAL search interface with search filters and results. The filters on the left include "Year" and "Year first published". The "Year" filter is set to "2021" with a count of 0. The "Year first published" filter is set to "2020" with a count of 43. There are buttons for "Apply" and "Clear".

At the top, there are tabs for different result types: Cochrane Reviews (7), Cochrane Protocols (0), **Trials (498)**, Editorials (0), Special Collections (0), and Clinical Answers (0). The "Trials" tab is circled in red.

The main results area shows "498 Trials matching '#10 - #5 and #9'". Below this, it says "Cochrane Central Register of Controlled Trials Issue 2 of 12, February 2021". There are buttons for "Deselect all (498)" and "Export selected citation(s)", both of which are circled in red.

The results are ordered by "Relevancy". The first result is "1 Caffeine withdrawal symptoms following brief caffeine deprivation" by BG Phillips-Bute, JD Lane. The second result is "2 Caffeine deprivation affects vigilance performance and mood".

<sup>1</sup> To export from CENTRAL, customers must reside in a country with a national provision for Cochrane Library, be affiliated with an institutional subscriber (e.g. an academic institution) or have an individual subscription via Wiley Online Library. For information about access options for subscribing to Cochrane Library, see <https://www.cochranelibrary.com/help/access>

23. This will open an options screen. You can select the format in which the results will be downloaded. You can also choose to include abstracts in your exported results.

**Export selected citation(s)** ✕

498 citation(s) selected for download

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RIS (EndNote) can be imported into Mendeley, RefWorks, Zotero, Sciwheel

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Select the format you require from the list below Export help

[Plain text](#) | [RIS \(EndNote\)](#) | [RIS \(Reference Manager\)](#) | [RIS \(ProCite\)](#) | [BibteX](#) | [CSV \(Excel\)](#)

Preview of format

```
ID: CN-00146098
AU: Phillips-Bute BG
AU: Lane JD
TI: Caffeine withdrawal symptoms following brief caffeine deprivation
SO: Physiology & behavior
YR: 1997
VL: 63
NO: 1
CC: Drugs and Alcohol; Hypertension
```

Include abstract Download