

searching the evidence:



TRIP: **Turning Research Into Practice**

Training Guide 8

Edition 3: June 2013

Searching the Evidence

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To help you use this guide,



indicates a step in the process of searching and retrieving articles.



indicates a tip, or an extra piece of information.

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1. Introduction

The TRIP database is a search engine that will help you find references to evidence-based information such as systematic reviews, guidelines and other high quality resources including articles from peer-reviewed journals.

The TRIP database can be found at www.tripdatabase.com

2. Planning your Search

Before you begin your search it is a good idea to think about your search question and the keywords you plan to use.

Let's search for evidence on the effectiveness of hypnotherapy to help people give up smoking.

It is best to search a database using keywords, rather than typing in whole questions. From this question there are 2 keywords:

hypnotherapy
smoking

But how about synonyms for our terms? Try and think of other relevant keywords.

E.g.: hypnotherapy / hypnosis
smoking / nicotine / smoking cessation

We can combine these subjects using Boolean Logic to retrieve pertinent results.



Boolean Logic

OR will search for articles containing any of the terms we choose. Use OR to combine synonyms, alternative spellings or related items.

AND will search for articles that contain all of the terms we have chosen.

E.g. hypnotherapy OR hypnosis

AND

smoking OR nicotine OR tobacco



Truncation

Use the truncation tool (* at the end of a word) to broaden the number of variations around a word that your search will find.

For example:

hypno* will search for hypnotherapy, hypnosis, hypnotise, hypnotised etc.



Other search tips:

- To search a phrase, enter it in quotes, e.g. "endometrial cancer".
- Plurals are searched automatically.
- TRIP also automatically searches synonyms for your subject - after searching click on the 'Synonyms' tab at the top of the search results page.

3. Searching

For basic searches, a term can be entered into the search box.



Q smoking

Search

Advanced search

PICO search

smoking
smoking cessation
cigarette smoking
smoking pregnancy
passive smoking
cancer smoking
smoking lung
maternal smoking
tobacco smoking

ce fast
high-quality clinical research
e.

As you type you are presented with possible search terms. Click on a suggested search term to add it to your search box, or carry on typing if none of the suggested terms are suitable.

Type your first keyword into the search box. For example:



Q smoking cessation **Search**

To focus your search you can search for subjects together, joining them with “and”



Q smoking cessation and hypnosis **Search**

4. Advanced Searching

Selecting the option allows you to search by phrase, exclude certain terms and to specify where in the actual document you would like to search. It also gives you the option to impose a time limit on the documents your search retrieves.

<p>ALL of these words:</p> <input type="text"/> <input type="radio"/> Title only <input checked="" type="radio"/> Anywhere in the document <input type="text" value="Proximity"/> This exact phrase: <input type="text"/> <input type="radio"/> Title only <input checked="" type="radio"/> Anywhere in the document Start year: <input type="text" value="(Inclusive)"/>	<p>Any of these words:</p> <input type="text"/> <input type="radio"/> Title only <input checked="" type="radio"/> Anywhere in the document Excluding these words: <input type="text"/> <input type="radio"/> Title only <input checked="" type="radio"/> Anywhere in the document End year: <input type="text" value="(Inclusive)"/>
<input type="button" value="Search"/>	



You can perform quite a complex search using the simple search box. For example, to bring all the keywords together from section 2 you type:

(smoking or “smoking cessation” or nicotine) and (hypnosis or hypnotherapy)

This would then search for any of the smoking keywords, then any of the hypnosis keywords, and then join the two together.

5. PICO Search

Selecting the 'PICO' option from the home page offers you an alternative way of focussing your search. This function allows you to break down a clinical question into four specific parts – **P**atient, **I**ntervention, **C**omparison and **O**utcome. You don't have to complete all four elements, but the more you use the more focussed the results.

PICO Search

PICO is a novel approach of allowing users to conduct a focussed search based on a structured clinical question [Learn more at cebm.net](#)

There are 4 elements and not all are compulsory, but the more you use the more focussed the results.

Population:
Type of patient eg. diabetics

Intervention:
Any intervention eg. treatment, diagnostic test

Comparison:
Comparing your intervention with another treatment or ti

Outcome:
Outcome interest eg. reduced mortality, fewer exacerbati

Search

5. Search Results

The main results column provides a list of all evidence found. By clicking on the thumbnail to the right hand side of each citation, you can link to the full text version of the document (where available).

Evidence Images Videos Education Patient Information News PubMed Clinical Queries DynaMed

78 results for "smoking cessation and hypnosis", by quality

With selected Order Important papers Synonyms Add to automated search Translate

1. **Hypnosis for smoking cessation: a randomized trial.**
Nicotine & tobacco research : official journal of the Society for Research on Nicotine and Tobacco 2008

2. **Smoking Cessation Interventions for Pregnant Women and Mothers of Infants: A Review of the Clinical Effectiveness, Safety, and Guidelines**
Canadian Agency for Drugs and Technologies in Health - Rapid Review 2012

3. **Alternative smoking cessation aids: a meta-analysis of randomized controlled trials**
DARE. 2012

Refine 79 results by evidence type

- All Secondary Evidence
 - Evidence-based Synopses 5
 - Systematic Reviews 13
 - Guidelines
 - Aus & NZ 7
 - Canada 4
 - UK 5
 - USA 10
 - Other 0
 - Clinical Q&A 1
 - Key Primary Research 0
 - Controlled Trials 19
 - Extended Primary Research 3
 - Case Reports 0
 - eTextbooks 12

Your search results can be re-ordered by date or relevance, or filtered by those papers most linked to from the results of the search.

The column on the right of the main results section gives a breakdown of results based on an evidence based medicine hierarchy:

Evidence-based Synopses

Systematic reviews

Guidelines (both national and international in coverage)

Clinical Q&A

Key primary research is taken from the big five internal medicine journals (NEJM, JAMA, Lancet, BMJ and Annals of Internal Medicine) and from Evidence Updates.

Controlled Trials

Extended primary research comes from a core set of 300 journals identified using a combination of impact factor and expert advice. Primary research is linked to a PubMed abstract. For guidance on obtaining full text please see Searching the Evidence Guide 3: E Journals.

Case Reports

ETextbooks

Click on the appropriate section to see the results under each evidence type.

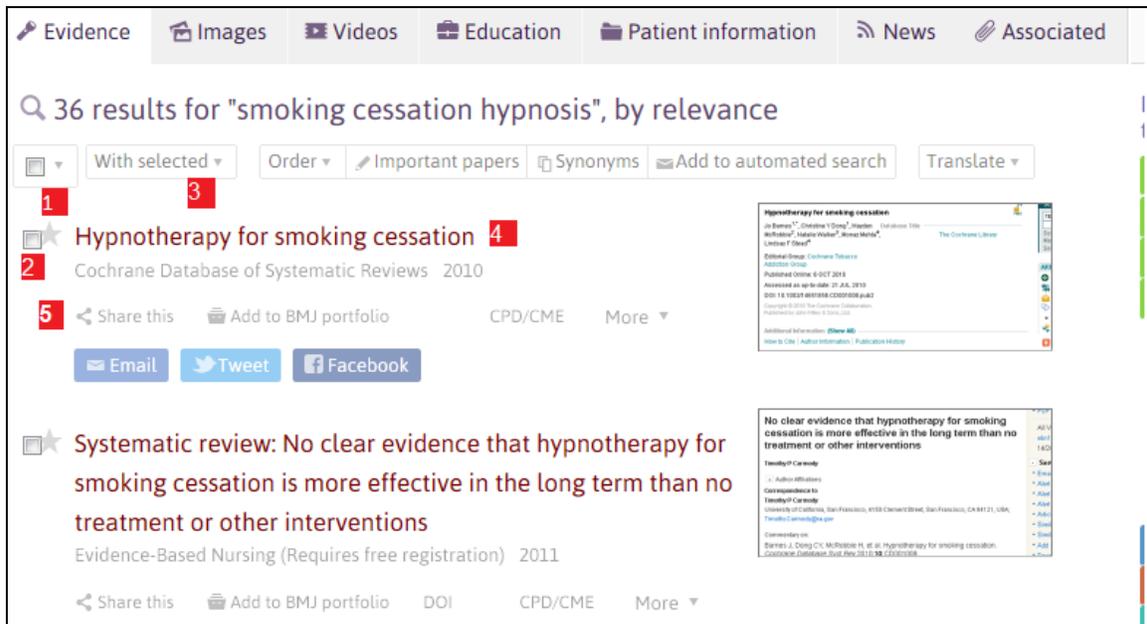
The tabs above the main results column allow you to retrieve content by type, including images, videos, patient information leaflets, educational courses and news.

6. Dealing with your search results

Although using the 'Refine by evidence type' facility will improve your search results, there may still be undesired returns remaining within your results list. Any further filtering will need to be undertaken manually on an individual record by record basis.

All result texts can be reviewed individually, printed or emailed (either as a single record or as a group list) for future filtering or review.

From the main results column field, ticking specific options against each result will allow different operations to be undertaken.



1 Selecting “all” selects the entire results list, ready for emailing or exporting (see **3**).

2 Tick this box to select an individual result for emailing or exporting. Several individual records can be chosen together.

3 Once the required records are selected, you may choose to do one of three options:

- Email the results
- Open Selected files
- Export the results as a file.

4 Clicking the highlighted title opens the article / reference direct from the host site in a new window.

5 Share the result(s) by clicking on the “Share this” option to email, tweet or facebook.

7. Registering and Logging in

You do not need to register with TRIP in order to search, however registration will give you access to additional features:

- ❑ Keeping up to date with new research based on your clinical specialty and/or specific topics of interest. As new content is added to the database, items relevant to your interests will be emailed out to you.
- ❑ CPD - TRIP will record all the material you've looked at. When you search the database Trip also searches documents you have previously viewed.
- ❑ Access to full text articles (where applicable)

To register, click on the  link on the homepage and fill in the registration form. To ensure access to full text articles (where applicable) remember to complete the “**Your institutions**” section. You may select more than one organisation if you are affiliated to more than one.



You can also login using your Facebook or Twitter account details.

Once registered and logged in, you will be shown  which details all your recent searches. By clicking on the blue hyperlink for each search listed, the search will re-run automatically.

The screenshot shows the TRIP database interface. At the top, there is a navigation bar with the user's name 'liza alderman' and several menu items: 'Your timeline', 'Starred items', 'Automated search', and 'CPD/CME'. Below this is the TRIP logo and a search bar with a magnifying glass icon. To the right of the search bar is a 'Search' button and two dropdown menus for 'Advanced search' and 'PICO search'. Below the search bar, there is a section titled 'Your timeline' with a lightning bolt icon. Underneath, a search history entry reads '27/10/2012 you searched for smoking cessation hypnosis'. An arrow points from a callout box to this entry. The callout box is a light purple rectangle with the text 'Click here to re-run your previous search'. Below the search history entry, there is a preview of a document titled 'Hypnosis'. The preview includes a short description of hypnosis, a section for consumers, and general information with two bullet points: 'Fibromyalgia and CAM: At a Glance' and 'Irritable Bowel Syndrome and Complement Health Practices'. At the bottom of the preview, there is a 'Hypnosis' link and a book icon.

Once you are logged in, you can access other features of the database, including:

- **Starred items** As well as capturing, while logged in, all your activity on TRIP there is also the facility to 'star' an item. This is a mechanism to highlight documents that users think are particularly useful/interesting/noteworthy.
- **Automated search** When registering with TRIP you have the option to add terms of interest. This then allows the database to highlight new research which might be of interest. As new content is added, TRIP searches this new content using your recorded keywords.

9. Help and Training

For further help, please contact:

10. Other Guides

Contact your local NHS Library, or go to <http://www.eel.nhs.uk> for copies of other "Searching the Evidence" guides:

1. Athens Passwords
2. NHS Evidence
3. E-Journals
4. E-Books
5. Healthcare Databases
6. Cochrane Library
7. PubMed
8. TRIP
9. Search Engines