Access & Appraise: Using Advanced Search Features to Evaluate Results for Quality, Authority and Relevance

- What is the "best evidence?"
- What do I spend my time reading and appraising?



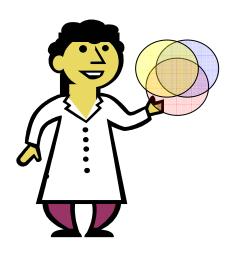


> Evaluating quality, authority and relevance

Barbara M. Sullivan, Ph.D. NUHS Department of Research, Evidence Based Practice



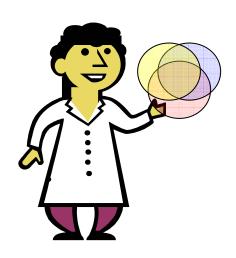
5 As of Evidence Based Practice



- Asking
- Accessing
- Appraising
- Applying
- Assessing



Evidence Based Practice in Action at NUHS

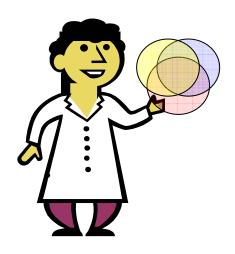


Asking

- Form a patient oriented clinical question using a searchable format
- Information?
- Evidence?



Evidence Based Practice in Action at NUHS

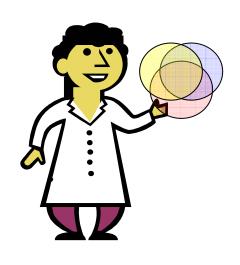


Accessing

- Search
- Identify
- Obtain



Evidence Based Practice in Action at NUHS



Appraise

- Evaluate do I want to read this
- High Quality
- Authoritative
- Relevant
- Valid, Robust
- Applicable



Accessing the Best Evidence: the Treasure Hunt



- Browsing "Compiled Evidence Websites" for information
- Structured searching of biomedical literature databases



What are we looking for?



What are we looking for?

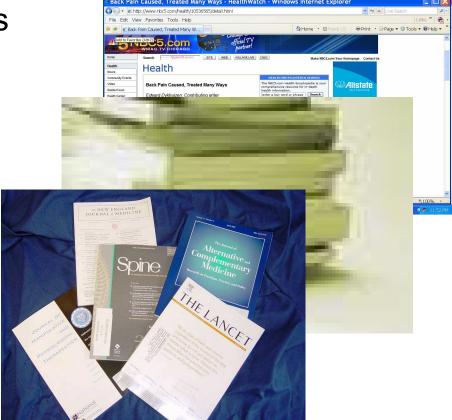
- > High quality
- > Peer-reviewed
- > Authoritative
- > Relevant
- > Applicable
- > Valid
- > Accessible
- > Evidence





What is the "best evidence?"

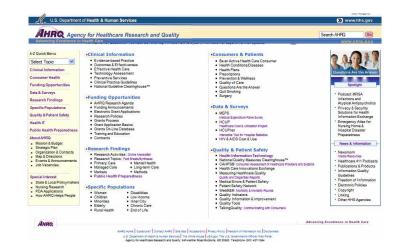
- > Journal articles (papers) describing research studies
 - Secondary biomedical literature
 - Primary research studies





Secondary source literature

- descriptions of studies
- "best evidence:" filtered, reviewed, appraised, summarized
- prepared by someone other than the original researcher
- may be objectively or subjectively described







Primary research studies

- contain subjects or patients who are analyzed (not other studies)
 - not reviews, analyses, guidelines, economic analyses based on primary studies etc.
- written by the researchers who conducted the study



Evidence Based Practice begins with a patient and a patient oriented, clinical question

Patient scenario

James, 32 year old male, technical sales manager who drives long distances (or at least for long periods of time) and is a frequent flier for his job, has been visiting you for neck and back issues for over two years on a fairly regular basis. In addition to working from the car and plane, he has a home office and uses a laptop. You and he have discussed work place ergonomics as well as exercise and stretching to alleviate chronic neck and back pain.

Evidence Based Practice begins with a patient and a patient oriented, clinical question

On a recent visit, he tells you he heard on the TV news that chronic back and neck pain causes depression -- or was it vice versa? -- and that chiropractic and alternative care that relieves the pain can relieve depression. He asks, "Do you think that this neck thing could be causing me to feel blue lately? Or do you think mid-winter blues are causing this pain in my lower back and neck? My colleague just had lumbar disk surgery and feels great. I'm not so excited about surgery. Should we be doing something different?"

He says after hearing that news report, he's been looking on the internet to see what might help with the chronic pain and lift his mood.

... starting to search for evidence

In addition to following up on the comment about "the blues" in order to determine if your patient is suffering from depression to a greater degree than he notes,

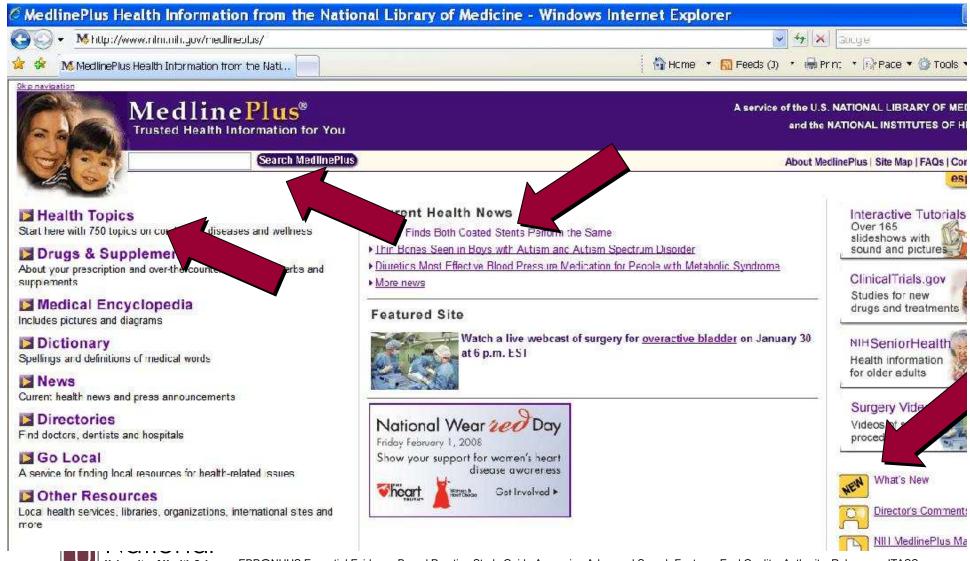
- ✓ you decide to find some of the information on depression and "the blues" your patient is reading...
- ✓ you also decide to find the report your patient described
- ✓ since you took the EBP courses at NUHS, you are confident you can search the current research literature for solid evidence for alternative therapies

... starting to search for evidence with PICO

Center for Evidence Based Practice http://www.cebm.net/focus quest.asp

	Patient, population, problem	Intervention	Comparison	Outcome
Consider	32 yo WM / chronic neck pain / chronic back pain / lumbar disk / spine	CAM therapy chiropractic acupuncture "physical therapy" nonsurgical nonoperative botanical herbal, light	Prescription drugs surgery Massage alternative therapy treatment	to treat / relieve (chronic, neck, back) pain and (mild) depression
Question components	 For [P= adult patients with chronic (neck / back / spine / lumbar) pain], is [I= chiropractic / acupuncture / botanical / conservative / nonoperative treatment] as effective as [C= surgery] to [O= alleviate pain / treat mild depression symptoms]? 			

MedlinePlus – "In the News" Health Care Topics



Starting an effective search

Go to the source your patient recalls ...

- www.google.com
 - NBC 5 health
 - Chiropractic, pain, depression
 - >http://www.nbc5.com/health/10536565/detail.html



Read, follow ...

iVillage Live

About NBC 5

About Us

NBC5 News Today

Marketplace

Classified Ads

Marketplace

2006 Healthy Lifestyle

Expo

Junior Year Abroad

Education

Family

Food

Automotive

Employment

House And Home

Financial.

Real Estate

Travel

Lottery Results

According to an overview of back pain from the National Institute of Health, the back is uniquely complicated. It is made up of dozens of bones, muscles and nerves, all of which must fin harmony. A slight strain in one muscle or a slight misalignment between two bones can constrict a nerve using back pain.

Chiropractors such as Lederer take X-rays to ensure that patients' spines are in need of realignment.

"What I see most often in the X-rays I take are spinal degeneration, osteoarthritis, degenerative disc disease or other conditions," he said.

Treating The Pain

Surgery may be necessary for more serious cases of back pain, but Lederer emphasized that it is only an option after more conservative options have been exhausted. He cited a recent article in the Journal of the American Medical Association that showed back surgery and certain exercise programming yield about the same results.

Manipulation from a chiropractor is a much less drastic method for helping resolve the imbalance that causes the pain. Chiropractors go through years of training to learn how to adjust joints enough to restore a normal range of motion.

Spinal manipulation — often accompanied by the "pop" of air being moved from a joint — is not a full solution by itself. According to Lederer, "chiropractic care now and exercise later" is the best approach. He gives patients exercises to perform that will strengthen back muscles, and he also emphasizes the need for periodic adjustments.

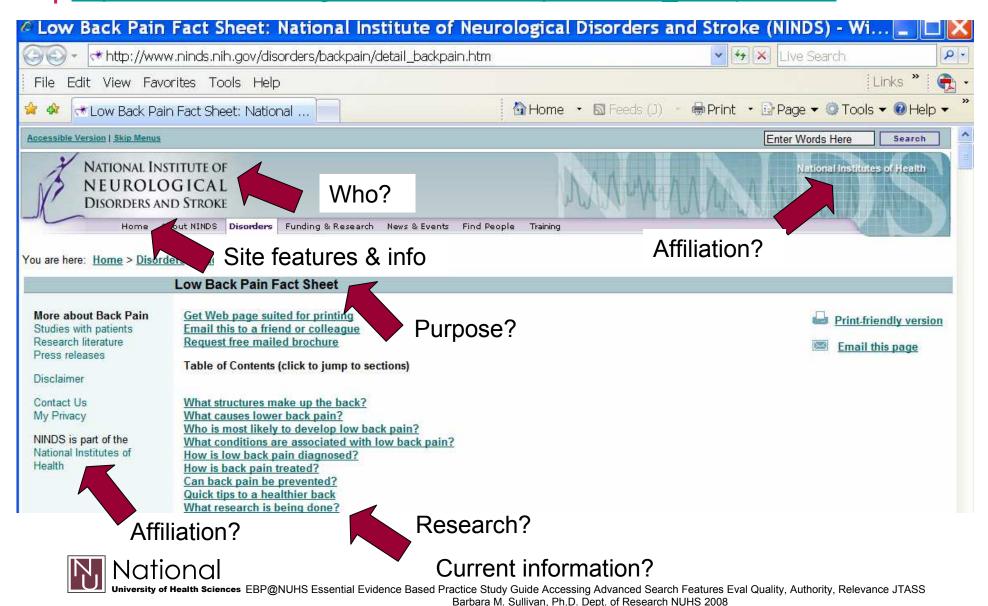
Long-Term Solutions

Of course, if your job is contributing to your back problems, it may be necessary to change the conditions in which



Follow a link to overview of back pain website:

http://www.ninds.nih.gov/disorders/backpain/detail_backpain.htm



Evaluating a website – see Resources

- What is the purpose of the site?
- Who runs this site?
 - Are there links to a home page or about us page that provide clear information about the publisher, authors, editors, professional organizations, institutions and sponsors?
- Who pays for the site?
 - The source of a Web site's funding should be clearly stated or readily apparent.
 - Advertising, educational institution, government, grant, organizational dues?
- What is the basis of the information?
 - Does the site make health claims that seem too good to be true?
 - Does the information use deliberately obscure, "scientific" sounding language? (recent research studies show...)
 - Does it promise quick, dramatic, miraculous results? Is this the only site making these claims?
- Where does the information come from?
 - Are references and original sources provided?
 - Does the site rely on rely on testimonials?
 - Are the authors identified? What are the author(s) credentials?
- How is the information selected?
 - Does the site have an editorial board? Is the information reviewed before it is posted or published?
- How current is the information? Is it linked to current research publications, articles, databases?
- How does the site choose links to other sites?
- What information about users does the site collect. Why?
 - Is there a privacy policy

National

- Is there a membership requirement? Is it a paid subscription?
- Can you contact the site management with questions, feedback and information?
- Are discussion boards monitored and reviewed?

- > What is the purpose of the site?
- Who runs this site?
 - Are there links to a home page or about us page that provide clear information about the publisher, authors, editors, professional organizations, institutions and sponsors?
- Who pays for the site?
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- Are the links and references to "research studies," "clinical studies" or "proven scientific results" provided?

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Read, follow ...

iVillage Live

About NBC 5

About Us

NBC5 News Today

Marketplace

Classified Ads

Marketplace

2006 Healthy Lifestyle

Expo

Junior Year Abroad

Education

Family

Food

Automotive

Employment

House And Home

Financial.

Real Estate

Travel

Lottery Results

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Long-Term Solutions

Of course, if your job is contributing to your back problems, it may be necessary to change the conditions in which

Follow a link to a research article:

http://jama.ama-assn.org/cgi/content/abstract/296/20/2451



How do I know which journal articles are worthwhile?

J ournal

T itle

A uthor

S ite

Summary (Abstract)

JTASS

- 5 second evaluation
- Go or No-go
- Essential to start the full Critical Appraisal
- Demonstrate efficiency: you'll need the skill for the clinic and professional practice

JTASS

Journal

Understand and appraise the quality of the journal. Answer and understand:

- Is it peer-reviewed?
- Is it indexed? If indexed, where is it indexed?
- Why is it important that journal articles be peer-reviewed and indexed?
- Are you familiar with this journal?



Peer review of journal articles

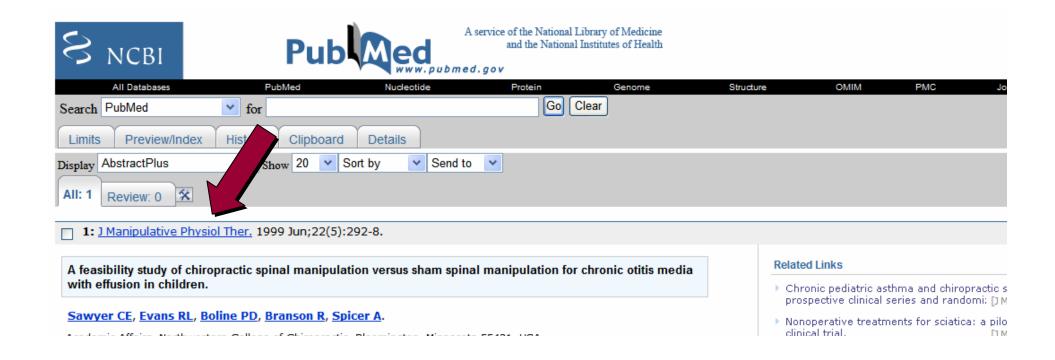
- Prior to publication in a journal, articles go through rigorous review
- > "Peers" review and provide constructive criticism
- Before accepted for publication, peers have to be satisfied with the article
- Only 5% of articles are accepted for publication on the

first submission



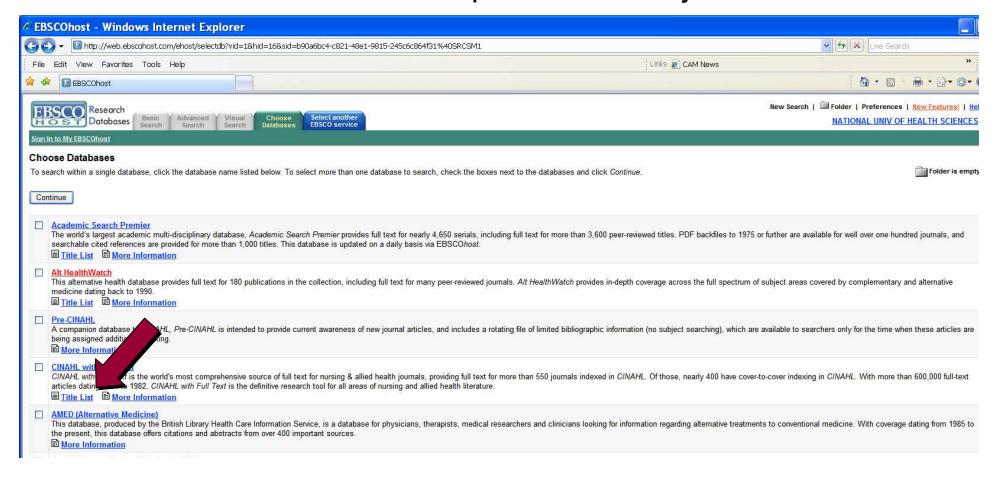
Peer review of journal articles in PubMed

- Click on journal link to see if journal is indexed in MEDLINE
- MEDLINE journals are peer-reviewed
- Not all peer-reviewed journals are indexed in MEDLINE
- Click on journal link to go to journal website; check "about us" or similar website link



Peer review of journal articles in EBSCOhost

- Most databases list journal titles link on "Select Database" page
- CINAHL contains a list of peer-reviewed journals



Peer review of journal articles in EBSCOhost

Click search result titles >> click specific journal link >> look for info



JTASS

Title

- How much information is available in the title alone?
- Is it potentially interesting or possibly useful in your practice?
- Are key PICO words present? Logically used?
- Why or why not?

Are chronic low back pain outcomes improved with co-management of concurrent depression?

- Evaluate the title of the article relative to patient & PICO
- Don't just copy the title down.

JTASS: Author(s)

Make a determination regarding the quality of the authors.

- Publication history
- Track record: careful, thoughtful work
- What areas of expertise do the authors bring to this study?
- Indications of methodological and/or statistical expertise?
- How can you find out more about the authors?
 - Display the abstract or citation
 - In abstract view Click on "author" link
 in PubMed or EBSCOhost to display other publications
 - www.scirus or Google

JTASS Site

Site

Compare the **site where the study was conducted** to your practice.

- not the website or database where you found the article
- Not the authors' institution



JTASS Site

Compare the site where the study was done to your practice.

- Where is the site?
- Is the site considered primary, secondary, or tertiary care?
- Is the site sufficiently similar to your own that results, if valid, would apply to patients in your practice? (Patient values, customs)
 - 1. Is **your access** to the required facilities, expertise and technology sufficient to allow you to implement the interventions described in the article?
 - 2. Are the **patients** seen in the facility where the article was written likely to be **similar** to your patients in disease severity, treatment, age, sex, race or other key features that have an important bearing on clinical outcomes?
- In areas where the site is not similar, what are the potential consequences as to how you will interpret the results?

JTASS: Summary (Abstract)

- Brief description of the study placed at the beginning of the article
 - $\sim 100-300 \text{ words}$
 - organized
- Includes research question, objective(s), methods (briefly), results (briefly), study implications

JTASS: Summary (Abstract)

Determine which aspects noted in the abstract

- ... are clinically important to you. Why?
- ... are relevant to your PICO
- Look for clinical applicability
- Assess patient / population description
- Assess intervention. Relevant?
- Note outcomes and measurement (if any).

JTASS: Summary (Abstract)

Summary (Abstract)

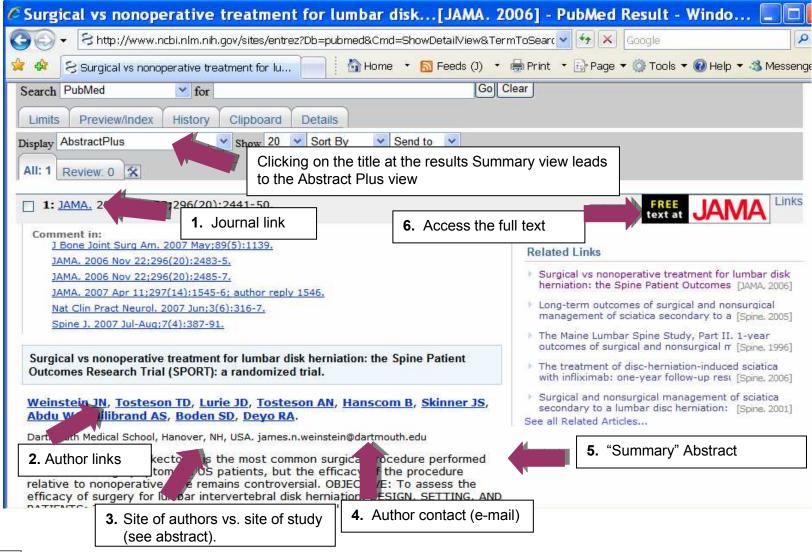
Determine which, if any, of the results in the abstract are clinically important to you and why.

- Summarize the relevant aspects (patient, methods, measurements, outcomes, results, etc.)
- in your own words

In all reality, what do you look at first?

- 1. Title of the article to see if you are interested / relevance
- Conclusion of the abstract to determine the bottom line of this study
- 3. Remainder of the abstract to determine
 - Relevance to PICO
 - Study design
 - Potential flaws
- 4. Journal and authors for reputation and recognition
- 5. ... and only then do most people start to read the full text

Where to find information for JTASS Evaluation





JTASS

Journal Understand and appraise the quality of the journal.

- Is it peer-reviewed? Is it indexed? If indexed, where is it indexed?
- Why is it important that journal articles be peer-reviewed and indexed?
- Are you familiar with this journal?

Title Be able to evaluate the title.

- How much information is available in the title alone?
- Is it potentially interesting or possibly useful in your practice?
- Why or why not?

Author(s) Make a determination regarding the quality of the authors.

- Is the track record of the authors (if you know it) one of careful, thoughtful work that has stood the test of time?
- What areas of expertise do the authors bring to this study? Is there any indication that methodological and/or statistical expertise was utilized for this study?

Site Compare the site in this study to your practice.

- Where is the site? Is the site considered primary, secondary, or tertiary care?
- Is the site sufficiently similar to your own that its results, if valid, would apply to patients in your practice?
 - 1. Is your access to the required facilities, expertise and technology sufficient to allow you to implement the maneuver(s) described in the article?
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Summary (Abstract) Determine which, if any, of the results in the abstract are clinically important to you and why.

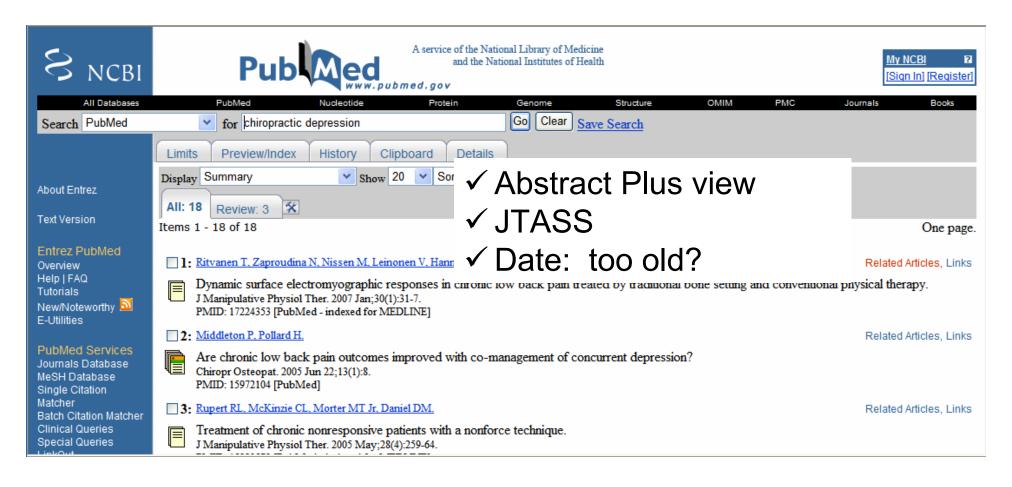
- Assess patient / population descrition, intervention,
- Note outcomes.



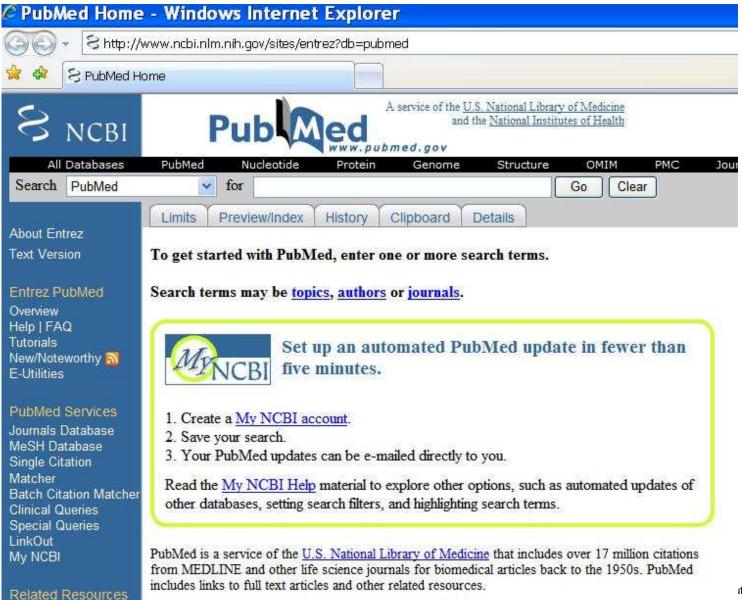
Starting an effective search armed with your PICO

Entrez PubMed http://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/entrez/query.fcgi?DB=pubmed

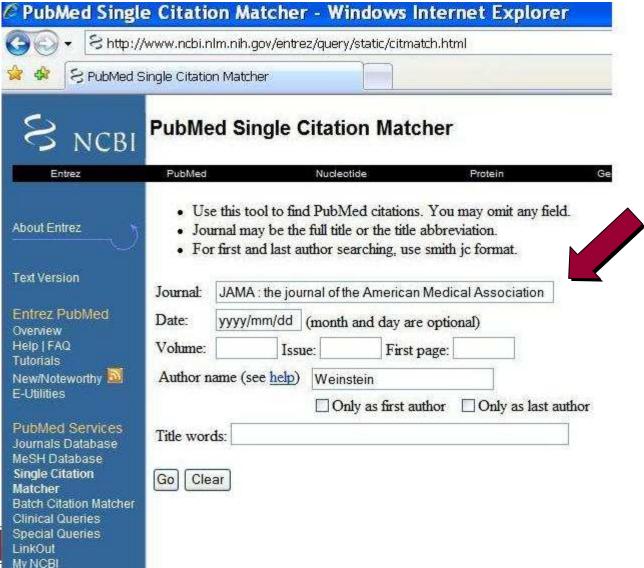
- Key words, simple text search:
 - Chiropractic depression // chiropractic neck pain // neck pain depression
 - chiropractic depression neck pain



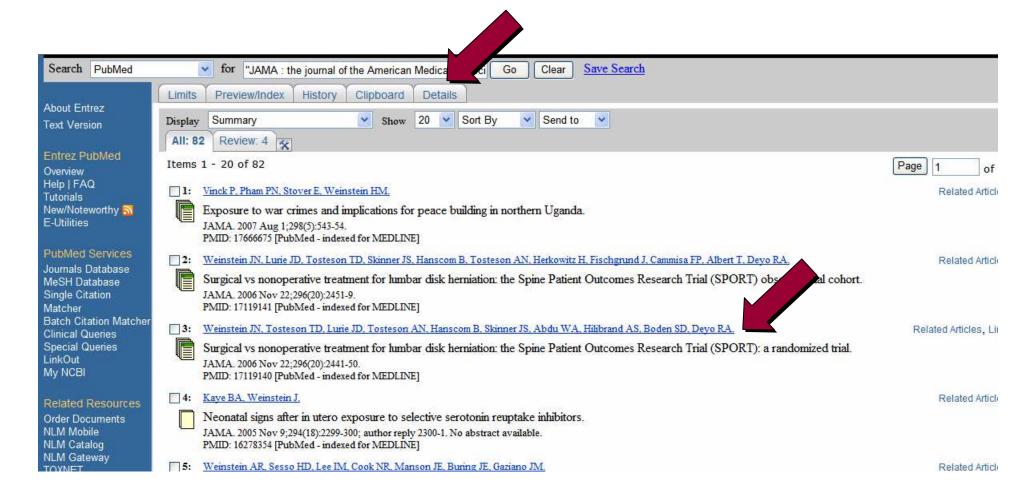
PubMed Single Citation Matcher



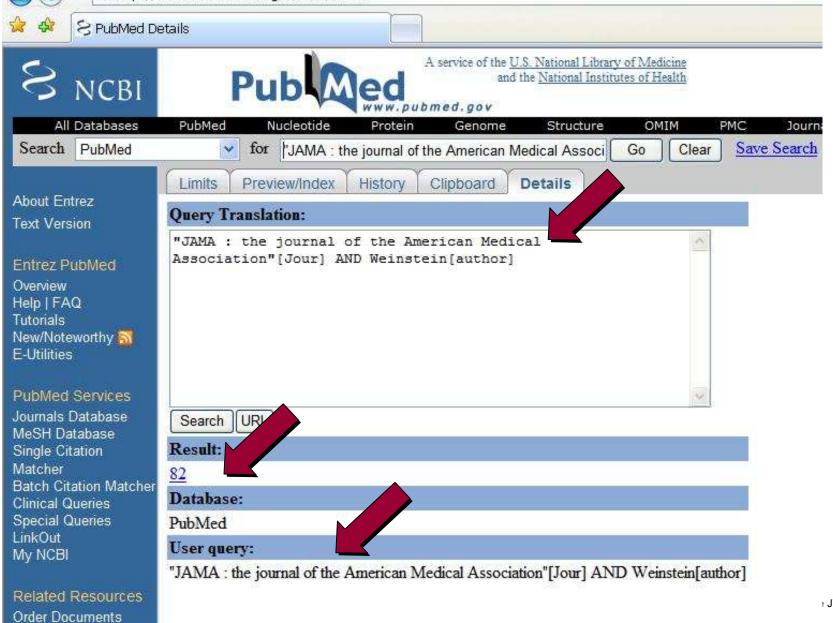
PubMed Single Citation Matcher: Related Articles

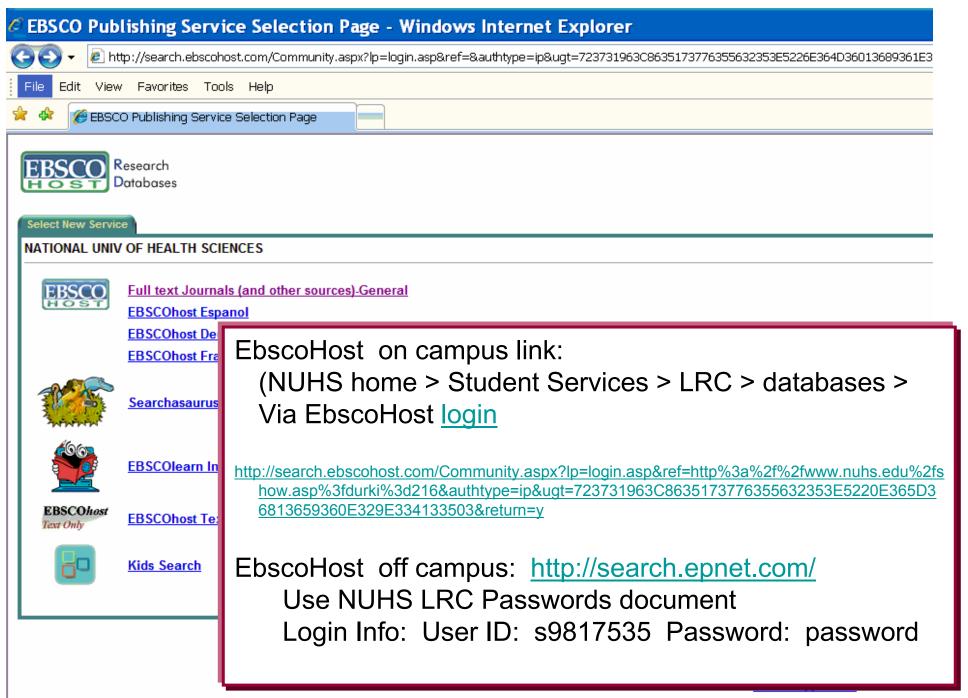


PubMed Single Citation Search Results: Check related articles

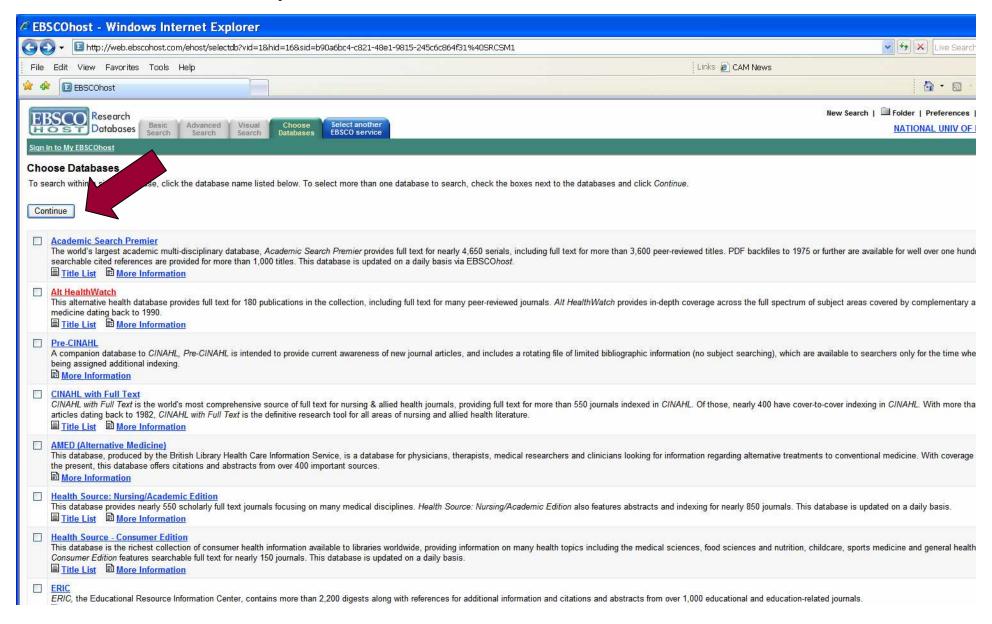


PubMed >> Search Results >> Details Tab





Select Multiple databases or one per search one database per search: use of controlled vocab & benefits



Practice:

EBP@NUHS Study and Practice Guide:

Ch. 4: Access & Appraise - Evaluating Information and Evidence for Quality, Authority and Relevance (JTASS)

Guided Search (Advanced Features) and JTASS Evaluation Lab

