



Quick Reference Guide - Basic search

Ovid NutriHealth is a powerful tool for finding research literature on diet, nutrition and health. The Basic Search function is designed for ease of use, allowing you to search using everyday language without needing advanced database skills.

FOLLOW THESE SIMPLE STEPS FOR HIGH-QUALITY RESULTS

1. **Log in** - Log in to your institution's Ovid portal (e.g. via your library or NHS OpenAthens account). Select Ovid Nutrition and Health.

2. **Navigate to Basic Search** - Depending on your Settings, Ovid may open in Basic Search mode. If not, look for the 'Basic Search' tab or option on the main search page.

3. **Enter your search** - Type your question or topic, using clear, focused language. Think about how specific to make your question(s): If it is too broad, you can be overwhelmed by results. If it is too narrow, you risk missing important information.

NOTE: Ovid's Basic Search uses natural language processing, so you don't need to use special symbols or Boolean operators (AND, OR, NOT).

a. Tick 'Include Related Terms' to **automatically search for synonyms and variations** (e.g. *child* will also search for *children, childhood* etc.).

b. To **limit your search results**, for example, by publication year, click Limits to open this section and select the limit you want. For more options, click 'Additional Limits'.

c. **TIP:** Use limits wisely. Too many may exclude useful articles; start broad, then narrow down.

4. **Run your search** - Click the 'Search' button to run your search.

The screenshot shows the Ovid NutriHealth Basic Search interface. The top navigation bar includes 'Search', 'Journals', 'Books', 'Multimedia', 'My Workspace', and 'What's New'. Below this, the 'Basic Search' tab is selected. A search bar contains the text 'Does vitamin D supplementation improve bone health in older adults?'. To the right of the search bar is a 'Search' button. Below the search bar, there are checkboxes for 'Include Multimedia' (unchecked) and 'Include Related Terms' (checked). Below these are 'Limits' and 'Limits' sections. The 'Limits' section has checkboxes for 'Abstracts', 'Full Text', and 'Latest Update'. The 'Limits' section has checkboxes for 'Abstracts', 'Journal Article', 'Full Text', and 'Latest Update'. Below the 'Limits' section is a 'Publication Year' dropdown menu. At the bottom are buttons for 'Additional Limits' and 'Edit Limits'. Numbered callouts are placed over the interface: 1. points to the 'Search' button; 2. points to the 'Basic Search' tab; 3. points to the search bar; 4. points to the 'Search' button; a. points to the 'Include Related Terms' checkbox; b. points to the 'Limits' section; c. points to the 'Additional Limits' button.

The **Search Information** box on the left hand side provides an overview of your search, including related terms if you selected this option.

5. Review results.

- Use options to further **filter results** (e.g., by publication type, subject, or availability of full text).
- Click on article titles to **view more information** or a link to the **full-text** if your organisation subscribes to it.

The screenshot shows the Ovid Nutrition Health search interface. A green arrow points from the 'Search Information' box on the left to the main search results area. The interface includes a top navigation bar with 'Search History (1)', 'Searches', and 'View Saved'. Below this is a search bar with a dropdown menu showing 'Does vitamin D supplementation improve bone health in older adults? (Including Limited Related Terms)'. The search results are displayed in a table with columns for 'Results', 'Runtime', 'Type', 'Actions', and 'Annotations'. The first result is titled 'Whey protein and vitamin D supplementation in institutionalized older adults: a randomized trial.' and includes a brief abstract. The second result is titled 'Randomized controlled trial of vitamin D supplementation in older people to optimize bone health.' and also includes a brief abstract. The left sidebar contains a 'Filter By' section with options to 'Add to Search History', 'Selected Only (0)', 'Relevancy', 'Years', 'Subject', 'Author', 'Journal', 'Publication Type', and 'Subject/Category'. The 'Subject' filter is expanded, showing a hierarchy: 'All Subjects' > 'Health' > 'Adults' > 'Bone Health' > 'Diseases' > 'Age Groups' > 'More ...'. The 'Search Information' box on the left provides details about the search, including the search terms used, search terms found, and search results.

a. Search Information box on the left hand side provides an overview of your search, including related terms if you selected this option.

b. Click on article titles to **view more information** or a link to the **full-text** if your organisation subscribes to it.

c. Use the toolbar to **print, email, or export** selected articles.

d. **Save your search history** for future reference or to share with colleagues.

e. Set up a search alert to **keep up-to-date with new research** on the topic.

ADDITIONAL GUIDES: If you'd like to expand your search skills, a range of quick reference guides are available, covering topics such as keyword searching, setting up alerts, and filtering for human studies: <https://ifis.libguides.com/ovidnutrihealth-user-guidance/guides>