# Thesaurus Searching using Cochrane

healthcarelibrarians@brookes.ac.uk

## Is this the guide you need?

If you aren’t sure what a thesaurus term is and why you might want to use one, have a look at the Thesaurus Searching guide

If you haven’t ever used Cochrane before, you may find it helpful to start with the Searching using Cochrane guide first.

If you’re ready to start using thesaurus terms on Cochrane….

## Find MeSH

On Cochrane, thesaurus terms are known as Medical Terms (MeSH)

Click the Medical Terms (MeSH) tab

## MeSH search screen

Put the term you are looking for into the box

Click Lookup

## Finding the exact term

If the database doesn’t have that term in its index list, it might suggest an alternative.

I asked for all articles indexed under Cancer. Cochrane offered Neoplasms

## Narrowing Further

Cochrane is a little less user friendly than some of the other databases in showing you the list of broader and narrower terms so you can judge whether the one you’ve found is the closest to what you’re looking for.

You can look at what are called the MeSH trees

If, for example, we were looking for breast cancer, we could click Neoplasms by Site

Then choose Breast Neoplasms from the list

## Choosing your best fit

When you’ve clicked on the term you want and it’s in the box at the top

If you want to look only at the results for Breast Neoplasms then click on View Results

If you want to combine this with other keywords, click Add to Search Manager

## Combining Results

To find articles about body image and breast cancer, go into Search Manager

You could combine with keywords

Or with another thesaurus term

## Further help

For more help with what AND and OR mean and when to use them look at our When to use AND and OR guide

If want help with what search words to use, watch Constructing a Search Strategy

If you’re ready to try your thesaurus search on another database, have a look at the Thesaurus searching using… guide

If you have questions you’d like to ask a librarian…

## Any Questions?

healthcarelibrarians@brookes.ac.uk

Ask for help if you need it.