



Eviscore Foundation Course

Module 2 – ACQUIRE

Worksheet 2D : PubMed Search Exercise

Estimated Time: 20–25 minutes

Difficulty: ★★ Beginner

Name: _____

Date: _____

Learning Objectives

After completing this worksheet, you should be able to:

- Perform a basic PubMed search.
 - Enter a Boolean search strategy.
 - Review search results.
 - Select the most relevant article.
 - Record essential citation details.
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Before You Begin

Use the search strategy you created in Worksheet 2C. Open PubMed and enter your search.

Step 1 – My Clinical Question

Write your clinical question.

Step 2 – My Search Strategy

Copy your complete search.

Step 3 – Search Summary

Record the details of your search.

Item	Your Answer
Database	_____
Search Date	_____
Number of Results	_____

Step 4 – Review the Search Results

Look at the first page of PubMed results.

How many articles appear?

Which type of article appears most frequently?

- ☐ Randomized Controlled Trial
 - ☐ Systematic Review
 - ☐ Meta-analysis
 - ☐ Cohort Study
 - ☐ Guideline
 - ☐ Other
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Step 5 – Select One Article

Choose one article that best answers your clinical question.

Information	Your Answer
Article Title	_____
First Author	_____
Publication Year	_____
Journal	_____

Step 6 – Why Did You Choose This Article?

Tick all that apply.

- ☐ Directly answers my clinical question
- ☐ Recent publication
- ☐ Appropriate study design
- ☐ Published in a peer-reviewed journal
- ☐ Easy to understand
- ☐ Other

Step 7 – Read the Abstract

After reading the abstract, answer the following.

What was the purpose of the study?

What intervention or exposure was studied?

What was the main finding?

Does this article appear relevant to your clinical question?

- ☐ Yes
- ☐ Partly
- ☐ No

Why?

Step 8 – Reflection

Did your search retrieve the article you expected?

- ☐ Yes
- ☐ No

If not, how might you improve your search?

- ☐ Add more keywords
 - ☐ Use MeSH terms
 - ☐ Remove unnecessary terms
 - ☐ Apply filters
 - ☐ Change Boolean operators
 - ☐ Other
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Search Success Checklist

- ☐ I entered a Boolean search.
 - ☐ I found relevant articles.
 - ☐ I selected one article.
 - ☐ I read the abstract.
 - ☐ I am ready to critically appraise the article.
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Self-Assessment

- ☐ I can perform a basic PubMed search.
 - ☐ I can identify a relevant article.
 - ☐ I understand how search strategy affects search results.
 - ☐ I am prepared for Module 3 – Appraise.
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Evidence Pearl

Finding many articles is not the goal. Finding the most relevant and trustworthy evidence to answer your clinical question is the real objective of literature searching.

Teaching Tips

- Encourage learners to compare the article title and abstract with their original clinical question.
 - Reinforce that article selection should be based on relevance and study design, not simply the publication year.
 - Demonstrate that search strategies can be refined iteratively if the initial results are too broad or too narrow.
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Common Beginner Mistakes

- Searching with a full sentence instead of key concepts.

- Using only one keyword.
- Ignoring synonyms.
- Selecting the first article without checking its relevance.
- Reading only the title without reviewing the abstract.

My Best Article Summary

At the bottom of the worksheet, include a one-page summary box.

Item	Summary
Clinical Question	_____
Selected Article	_____
Study Design	_____
Main Finding	_____
Will I Appraise This Article?	☐ Yes ☐ No

This creates a direct handoff to Module 3 – APPRAISE, where learners will use the same article for their critical appraisal. Following the same article from searching to appraisal helps learners experience the complete evidence-based workflow rather than treating each worksheet as an isolated exercise.