

# EBM CHEAT SHEET



## Publication Types

## Sources

Almost everything is in PubMed

## Search Strategies, by Question Type

### Diagnosis

An evaluation of a test, screening or other assessment such as history or physical exam.

#### MeSH terms

- differential diagnosis
- sensitivity and specificity
  - predictive value of tests
  - ROC curve

Indented terms subsumed by higher terms

#### MeSH subheadings

- diagnosis

#### Words & phrases

- pre-test probability

### Therapy

An evaluation of a therapeutic or preventive intervention.

#### MeSH terms

- range of specific terms browsable under "therapeutics"

#### MeSH subheadings

- diet therapy
- drug therapy
- surgery
- therapeutic use
- therapy
- transplantation

### Etiology/harm

An evaluation of a therapeutic, preventive, screening or diagnostic intervention, or a non-therapeutic exposure or behavior.

#### MeSH terms

- epidemiologic factors
  - causality
    - precipitating factors
    - risk factors
- epidemiologic methods
- risk

#### MeSH subheadings

- pathophysiology
- physiology
- etiology

#### Words & phrases

- relative risk

### Prognosis

An evaluation of clinical outcomes over time.

#### MeSH terms

- disease-free survival
  - treatment outcome
    - treatment failure
- probability
  - likelihood functions
  - odds ratio
  - risk
    - risk factors
    - risk assessment
- prognosis
- survival analysis
- time factors

### Background Resources

- [Books@OVID](#)
- [Clinical Evidence](#)
- [MD Consult](#)
- [MedlinePlus](#)
- [MICROMEDEX](#)
- [PIER](#)
- [STAT!Ref](#)
- [UptoDate](#)

FILTERED INFORMATION

PRIMARY INVESTIGATIONS

**Assessments, Guidelines, Topic Reviews, Analyses & Evaluations**

- [Cochrane Library](#) (health technology economic evaluations)
- [National Guidelines Clearinghouse](#) (guidelines)
- Other – Clinical Evidence, DARE, Essential Evidence Plus, eMedicine, MICROMEDEX, PIER, TRIP, UptoDate

**Systematic reviews**  
a summary of research using explicit methods to perform a thorough literature search & critical appraisal of individual studies

- [PubMed Clinical Queries](#), Systematic Review filter
- [Cochrane Database of Systematic Reviews](#)
- DARE
- [Google Scholar](#)

**Randomized controlled trials**  
studies in which subjects are randomly allocated to receive different interventions or exposures and mitigating factors are controlled for

- [PubMed Clinical Queries](#), therapy filter
- [EMBASE Clinical Queries](#)
- [CINAHL Clinical Queries](#)
- [Web of Knowledge](#)
- [Google Scholar](#)

**Cohort studies**  
studies of group of people who share a common characteristic or experience within a defined period

- [PubMed Clinical Queries](#), prognosis or etiology filter
- [EMBASE Clinical Queries](#)
- [CINAHL Clinical Queries](#)
- [Web of Knowledge](#)
- [Google Scholar](#)

**Case control studies**  
inexpensive studies which identify factors contributing to a medical condition by comparing subjects who have that condition with those who do not

- [PubMed](#)
- [EMBASE](#)
- [CINAHL](#)
- [Web of Knowledge](#)
- [Google Scholar](#)

**Case reports**  
detailed reports of the [symptoms](#), [signs](#), [diagnosis](#), treatment, and follow-up of an individual [patient](#)

- [PubMed](#)
- [EMBASE](#)
- [CINAHL](#)
- [Web of Knowledge](#)
- [Google Scholar](#)

**Expert opinion**  
authoritative reviews, editorials, opinion pieces, and commentaries

- [PubMed](#)
- [Google Scholar](#)

