**Searching PubMed for HIV Information**

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This is a simple guide for health professionals in searching PubMed for HIV infected pregnant and postpartum women and infants. This guide is meant for those already acquainted with PubMed and/or general database searching techniques.

1. **First, identify the important concepts.**  
   Example Question: Which method of **antiretroviral** prophylaxis—**zidovudine** alone, **nevirapine** alone, or zidovudine in combination with nevirapine—administered during labor or to the **HIV**-infected **infant** is best for reducing the chance of vertical transmission when HIV has been diagnosed in the **mother** late in her **pregnancy**?
   1. Go to www.pubmed.com and choose “MeSH” in the drop box.
2. **Next, locate the Medical Subject Headings related to those topics.**Examples:
   1. **HIV –** HIV, HIV Infections
   2. **Zidovudine –** Zidovudine
   3. **Pregnancy –** Pregnancy, Pregnant Women
3. **After locating appropriate MeSH terms, combine them by adding them to the search with Boolean operators that will either retrieve more results (OR) or limit results (AND).**
4. **Add subheadings and limiters when needed; however, be careful when adding them because they may exclude relevant results.**Example Strings:
   1. (("HIV Infections"[Mesh] AND "Prevention and Control"[Subheading]) OR “HIV infections/prevention and control"[Mesh Terms]) AND “Zidovudine"[MeSH] AND "Nevirapine"[Mesh]
   2. ("Treatment Outcome"[Mesh] OR "Therapeutic Equivalency"[Mesh]) AND "Zidovudine"[Mesh] AND "Nevirapine"[Mesh]
   3. "HIV Infections"[Mesh] AND prophylaxis[tw] AND "prevention and control"[Subheading]
5. **Search using several methods to obtain all relevant results.**  
   Remember to evaluate for currency, details (type of research, number of participants, randomization, etc.), authors, and journal in order to determine which results to trust.

**For more information, visit PubMed’s help page:**

<http://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/books/NBK3827/>