



## Drug Information Pearls

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### Searching the medical literature via Ovid vs. PubMed

- (1) Ovid
  - + Transparency: look at the MeSH tree
  - + Control which database to search (by year, MeSH vs. keywords, etc)
  - + Build concepts to search: use synonyms for diseases, symptoms, etc
  - + Understand the power of the Boolean operators: AND, OR, NOT
  - + The MeSH terms for each article are available: use them to build a more robust search
  - + Tip: vancomycin adj5 trough = key word search of vancomycin within 5 words of trough
  - Times out quickly
  - Do not use additional limits and subheading limits until your results are too numerous (e.g. > 200)
  
- (2) PubMed
  - + Ease of use
  - + Saves the search on that computer for 8 hours
  - + Combines both MeSH database and a keyword search
  - Still may yield nothing, then not sure if search was appropriate

### Tertiary Resources

#### *Disease state information*

- (1) UpToDate®
  - + Ease of use
  - + Organized, referenced
  - + Charts/Tables/Figures
  - Not peer-reviewed
  - Not transparent about updates: "UpToDate is not that updated"
  - Drug Information within "articles" is often not consistent with other respected tertiary resources (Micromedex, Lexi-Comp, AHFS)
  
- (2) DynaMed
  - + Transparent about updates and VERY updated
  - + Always has references to updated guidelines and current review articles
  - + Drug Information is from AHFS Drug Information Essentials
  - + Fully referenced and information is in bullet point format
  - + Many institutions have it as an add on to their Lexi-Comp subscription
  - No Charts/Tables/Figures
  - In a brief format

### **Textbooks you should consider purchasing:**

- ImmunoFacts® by John Grabenstein
- Drug-Induced Diseases by James Tisdale
- Drugs in Pregnancy & Lactation by Gerald Briggs
- Intravenous Medications by Betty Gahart
- Handbook on Injectable Drugs (for Institutions) Lawrence Trissel

### **Drug Information Resources:**

- Facts & Comparisons®
- Lexi-Comp®
- Micromedex®

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