

4.3 Retrieval



Retrieval

- Two general approaches most systems make use of both, e.g., PubMed and Google
 - Boolean, set-based, exact-match
 - Natural language, automated, partial-match
- Early systems tended to be Boolean
 - Preferred by power users?
- More recent systems based on natural language

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– Simpler for less experienced searchers?

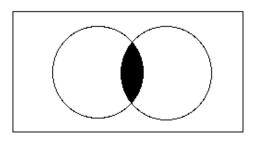
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Boolean retrieval

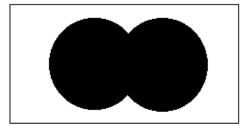
- Basic approach
 - Build sets of content items (i.e., documents) based on search terms from controlled vocabulary or text words
 - Combine with AND, OR, NOT
- Most bibliographic systems use Boolean operators
 - Allow searching on both assigned indexing terms and text words
- Systems retrieving other types of content use them too, though they are sometimes hidden, e.g., Google performs AND of all words in query

Boolean operators

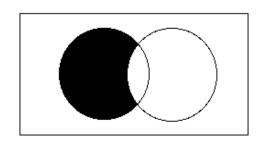
 AND – only content items that have all terms



OR – content items that have any term



 NOT – content items with one term but not other



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Some advanced features of Boolean systems

- Proximity operators require words to be within a certain range
 - e.g., colon (4) cancer, "colon cancer"
- Explosions perform OR down a hierarchy
 - PubMed "autoexplodes" many MeSH terms, e.g.,
 - All diseases in a category, e.g., anemias
 - All drugs in a certain class, e.g., ACE inhibitors
- Subheadings refine a heading
 - e.g., diagnosis of hypertension



PubMed - https://pubmed.gov

- NLM system for searching MEDLINE
 - Includes some OLDMEDLINE (before 1966) as well as other records not indexed in MEDLINE
- Based on Boolean heritage but has added automated features over the years
 - Search algorithm tries to map input to MeSH terms, author name, and other phrases
 - Has traditional Boolean set capability in Advanced interface but most users do not use it

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• Historical output order was reverse chronological but now defaults to "Sort by Relevance" (Fiorini, 2018)

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Other valuable features of PubMed

- Spelling correction
- Proximity searching using quotes ("...")
- Graphical interface for applying filters
- Link Out to full text (and other resources)
 - Link to publisher site, may not be free
- Clinical Queries
 - Help find best evidence for EBM question types
- MyNCBI
 - Allows saved searches, custom filters, emailing of results, etc.



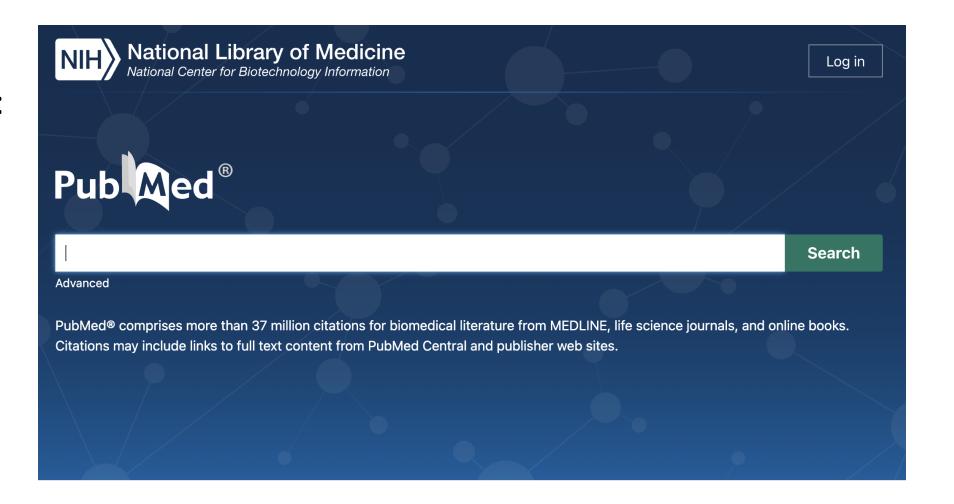
Tour of PubMed

- User wants to know about treatment of congestive heart failure with angiotensin-converting enzyme (ACE) inhibitors
 - PubMed maps query into appropriate Boolean statement
- Simple AND yields way too many results, so want to narrow down, especially to best evidence
 - Done by applying filters or using Clinical Queries



Main screen at:

pubmed.gov





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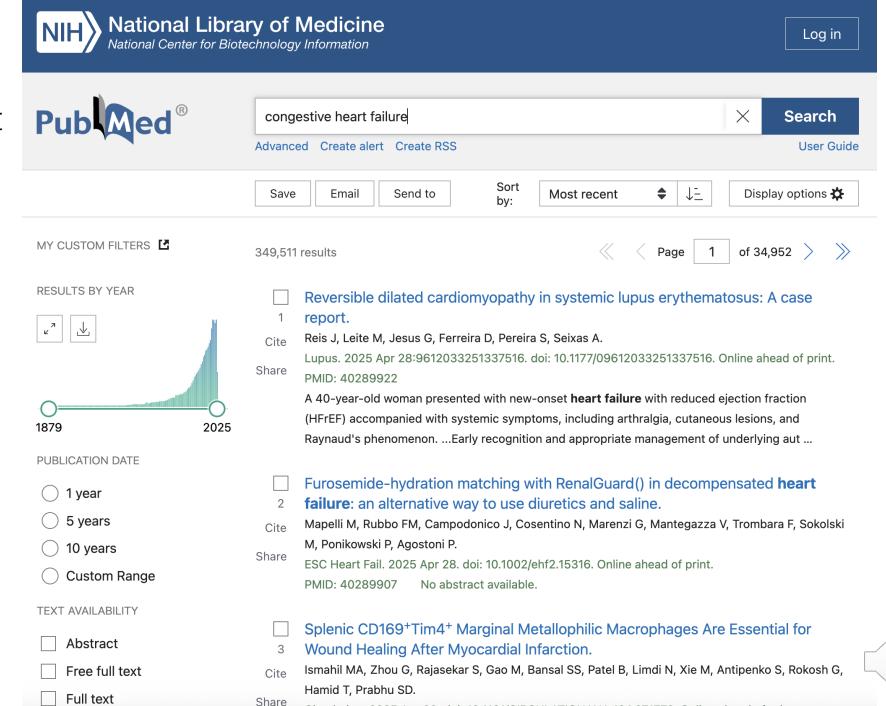
Explore

MeSH Database
Journals



A search on: congestive heart Failure

Note many features, to be discussed in following slides

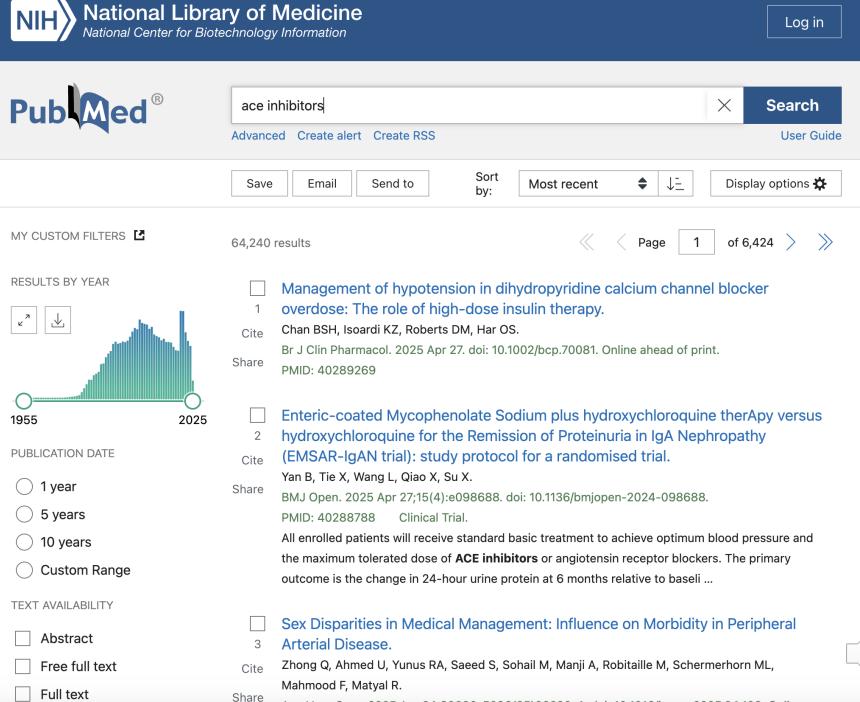


Circulation. 2025 Apr 28. doi: 10.1161/CIRCULATIONAHA.124.071772. Online ahead of print.



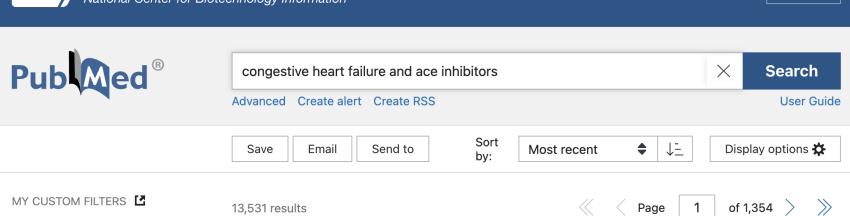
A search on: ACE inhibitors

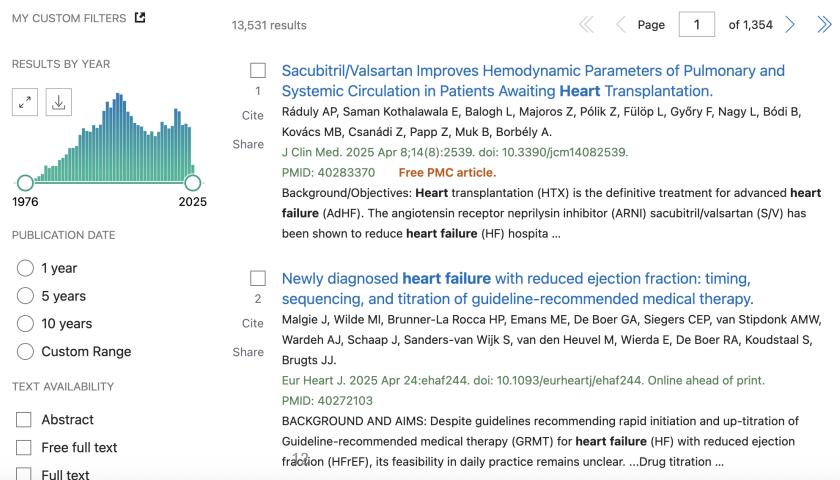
(Angiotensinconverting enzyme inhibitors)



Ann Vasc Surg. 2025 Apr 24:S0890-5096(25)00292-4. doi: 10.1016/j.avsg.2025.04.109. Online

Combined with Boolean AND

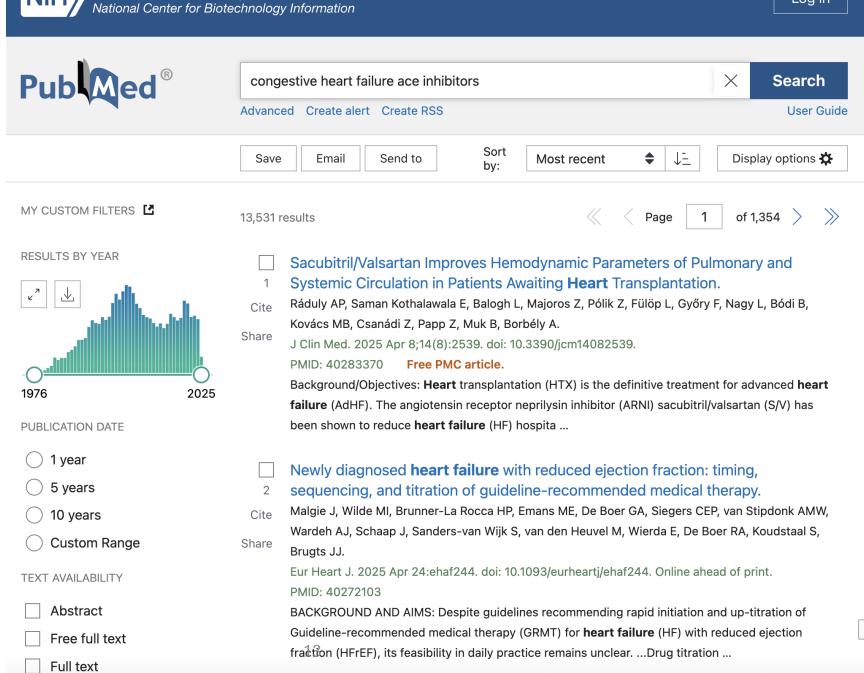








You actually don't need to type the AND



Search	Actions	Details	Query	Results	Time
#2	•••	~	Search: congestive heart failure ace inhibitors Sort by: Most Recent	13,531	06:38:48

How does it do all of this?

("heart failure" [MeSH Terms] OR ("heart" [All Fields] AND "failure" [All Fields]) OR "heart failure" [All Fields] OR ("congestive" [All Fields] AND "heart" [All Fields] AND "failure" [All Fields]) OR "congestive heart failure" [All Fields]) AND ("angiotensin converting enzyme inhibitors" [Pharmacological Action] OR "angiotensin converting enzyme inhibitors" [Supplementary Concept] OR "angiotensin converting enzyme inhibitors" [All Fields] OR "ace inhibitors" [All Fields] OR "angiotensin converting enzyme inhibitors" [MeSH Terms] OR ("angiotensin converting" [All Fields] AND "enzyme" [All Fields] AND "inhibitors" [All Fields]))

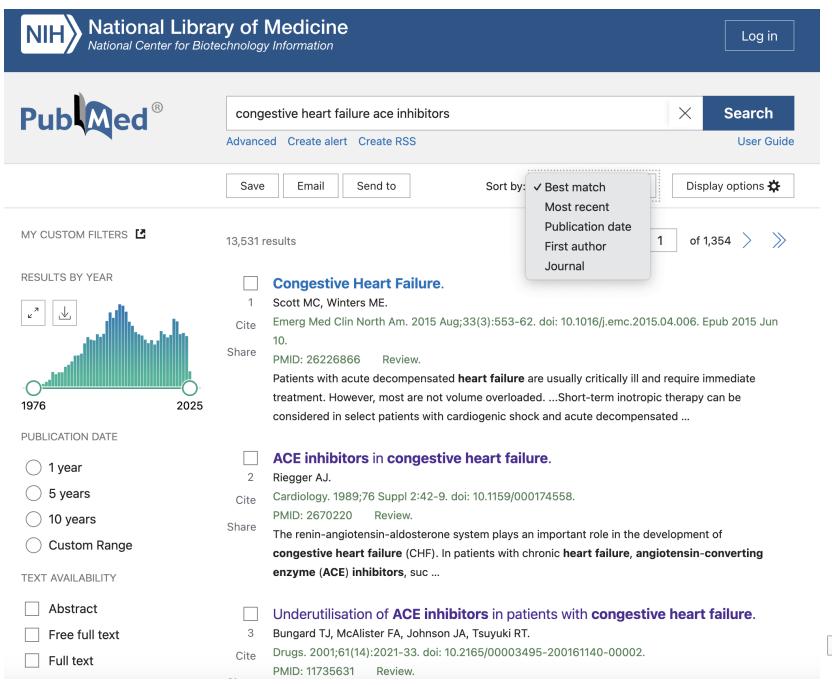
Translations

congestive heart failure: "heart failure" [MeSH Terms] OR ("heart" [All Fields] AND "failure" [All Fields]) OR "heart failure" [All Fields] OR ("congestive" [All Fields] AND "heart" [All Fields] AND "failure" [All Fields]) OR "congestive heart failure" [All Fields]

ace inhibitors: "angiotensin-converting enzyme inhibitors" [Pharmacological Action] OR "angiotensin-converting enzyme inhibitors" [Supplementary Concept] OR "angiotensin-converting enzyme inhibitors" [All Fields] OR "ace inhibitors" [All Fields] OR "angiotensin-converting enzyme inhibitors" [MeSH Terms] OR ("angiotensin-converting" [All Fields] AND "enzyme" [All Fields] AND "inhibitors" [All Fields]) OR ("ace" [All Fields] AND "inhibitors" [All Fields])

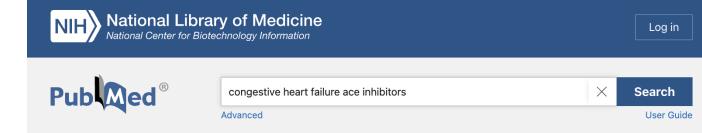
OHSII

Can sort output by (traditional) reverse chronological or "relevance"





What we want: the MEDLINE record



Review > Biochem Pharmacol. 2024 Apr 20:116232. doi: 10.1016/j.bcp.2024.116232. Online ahead of print.

Challenging and target-based shifting strategies for heart failure treatment: An update from the last decades

Yuichi Hattori ¹, Kohshi Hattori ², Kuniaki Ishii ³, Masanobu Kobayashi ⁴

Affiliations + expand

Search results

PMID: 38648905 DOI: 10.1016/j.bcp.2024.116232

Abstract

Heart failure (HF) is a major global health problem afflicting millions worldwide. Despite the significant advances in therapies and prevention, HF still carries very high morbidity and mortality, requiring enormous healthcare-related expenditure, and the search for new weapons goes on. Following initial treatment strategies targeting inotropism and congestion, attention has focused on offsetting the neurohormonal overactivation and three main therapies, including angiotensinconverting enzyme inhibitors or angiotensin II type 1 receptor antagonists, β-adrenoceptor antagonists, and mineralocorticoid receptor antagonists, have been the foundation of standard treatment for patients with HF. Recently, a paradigm shift, including angiotensin receptor-neprilysin inhibitor, sodium glucose co-transporter 2 inhibitor, and ivabradine, has been added. Moreover, soluble guanylate cyclase stimulator, elamipretide, and omecamtiv mecarbil have come out as a next-generation therapeutic agent for patients with HF. Although these pharmacologic therapies have been significantly successful in relieving symptoms, there is still no complete cure for HF. We may be currently entering a new era of treatment for HF with animal experiments and human clinical trials assessing the value of antibody-based immunotherapy and gene therapy as a novel therapeutic strategy. Such tempting therapies still have some challenges to be addressed but may become a weighty option for treatment of HF. This review article will compile the paradigm shifts in HF treatment over the past dozen years or so and illustrate current landscape of antibody-based immunotherapy and gene therapy as a new therapeutic algorithm for patients with HF.

FULL TEXT LINKS

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Conflict of interest statement

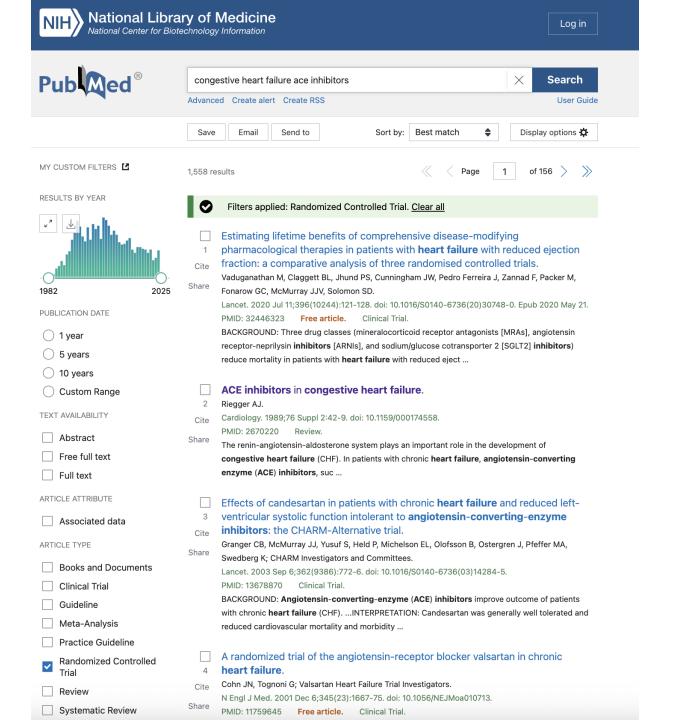
Publication types

LinkOut - more resources

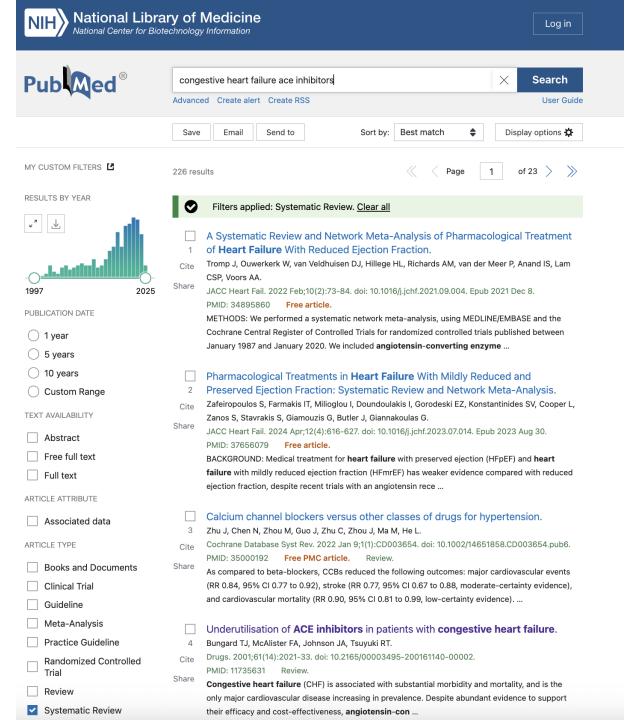


But 13K+ still way too many

Can filter by RCT

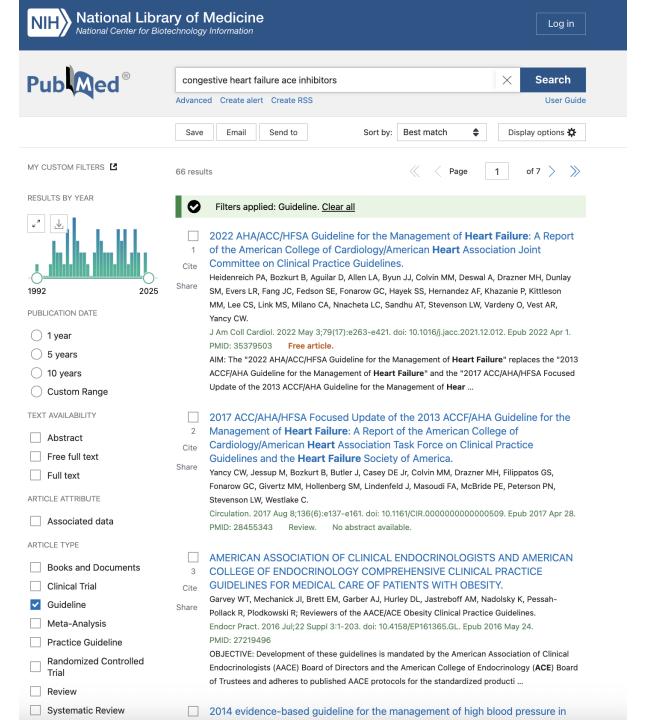


Still too many, so can filter by Systematic Review





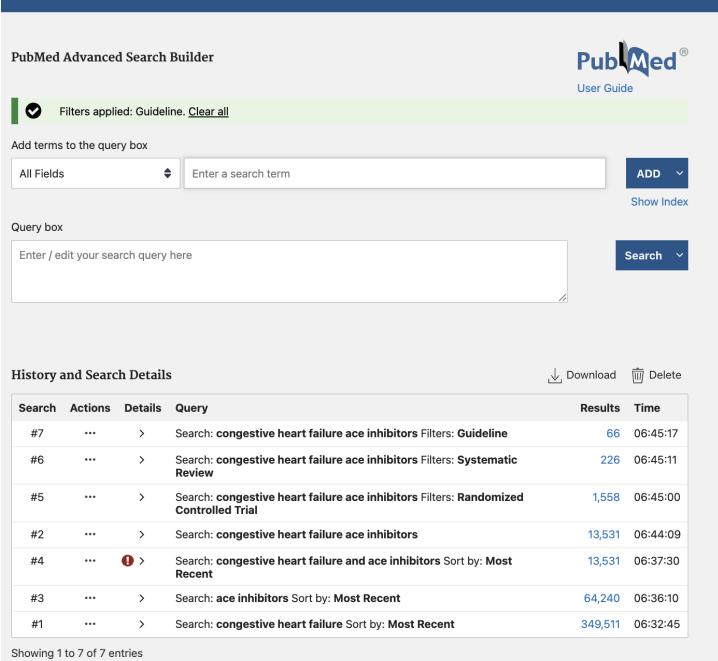
Or even by Practice Guideline







Can also use "advanced" interface

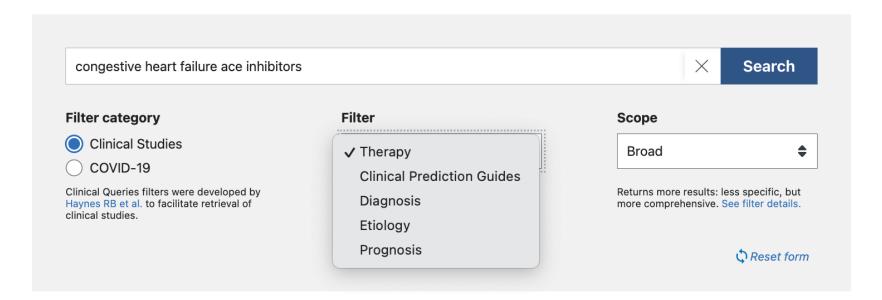


Another option: Clinical Queries



PubMed Clinical Queries

This tool uses predefined filters to help you quickly refine PubMed searches on clinical or disease-specific topics. To use this tool, enter your search terms in the search bar and select filters before searching.





Can also set up myNBCI account

- Saved searches
 - Can be sent via email
- MyBibliography





Which features do expert searchers value most (Russell-Rose, 2017)?

