

# How to Search PubMed

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This guide shows how you—yes, you—can search PubMed with the best of 'em.

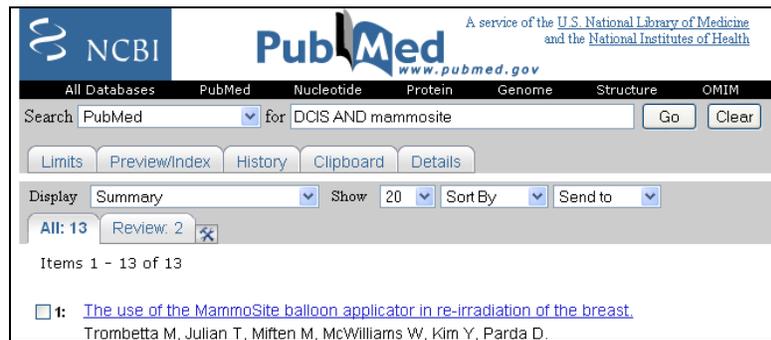
These are the main parts to searching a database like PubMed:

- I. Enter your search terms.
- II. (Optional) Refine your search to Limit results.
- III. Review your results.
- IV. Save your results.

## I. Enter your terms

Go to [www.pubmed.gov](http://www.pubmed.gov) and enter your search terms.

For example, typing DCIS AND mammosite into the search field gives 13 responses (as of this writing):



**Tip: The following are equivalent:**

DCIS AND mammosite  
DCIS and mammosite  
DCIS mammosite  
DCIS, mammosite

If you get what you want, skip to Part III. Many searches return excessive results and need to be further refined (see Part II).

## II. (Optional) Refine your search

Use the **Limits** tab to refine your search.

This example limits the results to English articles published within the last 2 years.

(The order of 2 & 3 doesn't matter. Just don't forget to click **Go** when you're done.)

The screenshot shows the PubMed search page with the search term "DCIS AND mammosite". The "Limits" tab is selected and circled in red (1). A red arrow points to the "Go" button (4). A dropdown menu for "Published in the Last" is open, showing options like "Any date", "30 days", "60 days", "90 days", "180 days", "1 year", "2 years" (circled in red), "3 years", "5 years", and "10 years" (3). The "Languages" dropdown is also open, showing "English" (circled in red) (2). The "Full Text, Free Full Text, and Abstracts" section has "Links to full text" checked. The "Dates" section has "Published in the Last" selected. The "Humans or Animals" section has "Humans" checked. The "Languages" section has "English" selected.

These limits return fewer results (5 instead of 13).

The screenshot shows the PubMed search results page for the search term "DCIS AND mammosite". The "Limits" tab is selected and highlighted in yellow. The search results are displayed as follows:

**Limits: published in the last 2 years, English**

Display: Summary Show: 20 Sort By: Send to:

All: 5 Review: 1

Items 1 - 5 of 5 One page.

- 1: [The use of the MammoSite balloon applicator in re-irradiation of the breast.](#)  
Trombetta M, Julian T, Miften M, McWilliams W, Kim Y, Parda D.  
Brachytherapy. 2008 Oct-Dec;7(4):316-9. Epub 2008 Sep 10.  
PMID: 18786865 [PubMed - indexed for MEDLINE]  
[Related Articles](#)
- 2: [Incidence and prognostic factors for seroma development after MammoSite breast brachytherapy.](#)

The Limits tab offers many ways to refine your search, which are beyond the scope of this brief guide. Feel free to experiment, as you can always clear everything and start over.

### III. Review your results

To identify which items are relevant, it may be helpful to see the Abstracts. To do so, select **Abstract** from the **Display** drop-down menu (which is "Summary" by default).

NCBI PubMed A service of the U.S. National Library of Medicine and the National Institutes of Health  
www.pubmed.gov

All Databases PubMed Nucleotide Protein Genome Structure OMIM

Search PubMed for DCIS AND mammosite Go Clear

Limits Preview/Index History Clipboard\* Details

Limits: published in the last 2 years, English

Display Summary Show 20 Sort By Send to

All: 5

Items

MEDLINE

on applicator in re-irradiation of the breast.  
McWilliams W, Kim Y, Parda D.

Browse the abstracts and decide which ones you want. (Use the **Show** and **Sort By** drop-down menus, if necessary.)

NCBI PubMed A service of the U.S. National Library of Medicine and the National Institutes of Health  
www.pubmed.gov

All Databases PubMed Nucleotide Protein Genome Structure OMIM PMC Journals Books

Search PubMed for DCIS AND mammosite Go Clear Advanced Search Save Search

Limits Preview/Index History Clipboard\* Details

Limits: published in the last 2 years, English

Display Abstract Show 20 Sort By Send to

All: 5 Review: 1

Items 1 - 5 of 5

1: [Brachytherapy](#), 2008 Oct-Dec;7(4):316-9. Epub 2008 Sep 10. Related Articles, Links

**ELSEVIER**  
FULL-TEXT ARTICLE

**The use of the MammoSite balloon applicator in re-irradiation of the breast.**

[Trombetta M, Julian T, Miften M, McWilliams W, Kim Y, Parda D.](#)

Department of Radiation Oncology, Allegheny General Hospital, Pittsburgh, PA 15212, USA. mtrombet@wpahs.org

**PURPOSE:** To examine the feasibility of using the MammoSite brachytherapy applicator in the retreatment of the previously irradiated breast. **METHODS AND MATERIALS:** Between March 2004 and March 2007, three patients previously treated with external beam radiotherapy were retreated using the MammoSite brachytherapy device. Two patients were treated for an ipsilateral breast tumor recurrence after breast conservation surgery and postoperative irradiation, whereas the third patient developed an in-field breast cancer likely associated with Hodgkin's disease mantle irradiation 27 years before. The recurrent histology of two was ductal carcinoma in situ (DCIS) one originally presenting as infiltrating ductal carcinoma (IDC) and the other as DCIS, whereas the Hodgkin's disease patient presented with IDC. All patients received a twice-daily tumor dose of 3400 cGy at 340 cGy/fraction. The mean maximum skin dose was 53.4% (range, 49.5-60.3%) of the prescribed dose. **RESULTS:** With a mean followup of 32 months, no patient developed a local recurrence. Cosmesis in all three cases as graded by the National Surgical Adjuvant Breast and Bowel Project, cosmesis criteria was excellent (Grade I) in all cases. Dosimetric calculations demonstrated that the device allows for appropriate local irradiation while sparing the previously irradiated skin of the involved breast as defined by the protocol standard. **CONCLUSIONS:** Use of the MammoSite device in the treatment of the previously irradiated breast is feasible and may provide adequate local control as well as acceptable cosmesis in carefully selected patients.

Publication Types:  
• [Case Reports](#)

PMID: 18786865 [PubMed - indexed for MEDLINE]

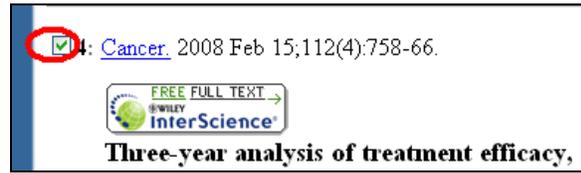
2: [Brachytherapy](#), 2008 Oct-Dec;7(4):305-9. Epub 2008 Sep 7. Related Articles, Links

**ELSEVIER**  
FULL-TEXT ARTICLE

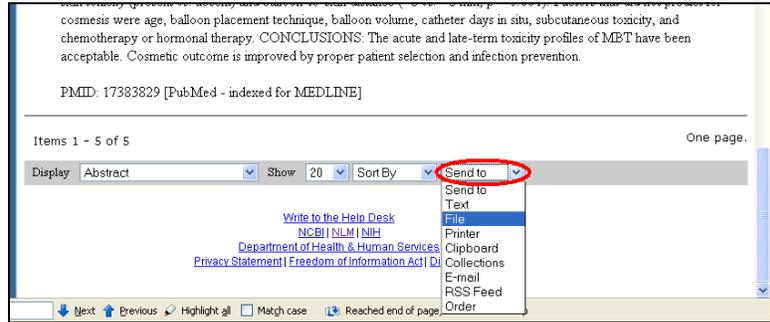
**Incidence and prognostic factors for seroma development after MammoSite breast**

## IV. Save your results

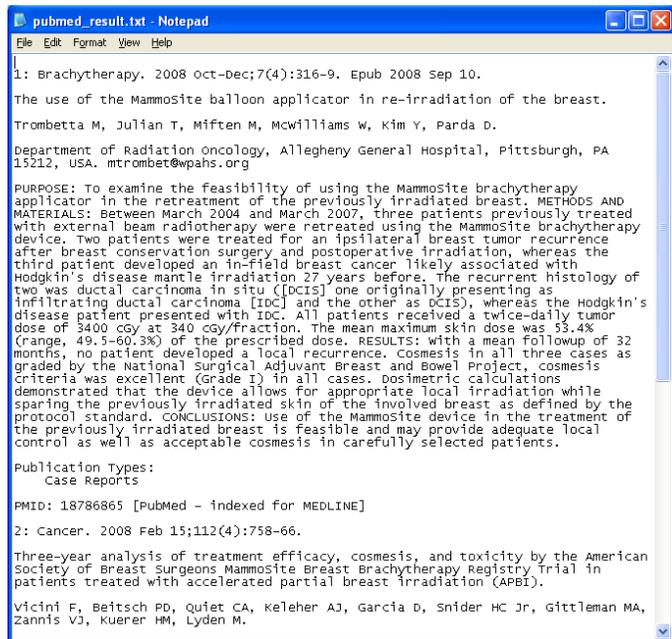
Let's say you want to save the citation info (and abstracts) of Items 1 & 4. Click the checkboxes to the left of their citation info.



At the bottom (or top) of the page select **File** from the **Send to** drop-down menu.



Open (or Save) the file when prompted. Your file should look like this.



Those are the basics. It only seems long because of all the figures. After your first few searches, it'll become second nature.

As you may have seen, search queries like the ones used on Journal Tracking Reports, can get detailed. But now you're able to run searches and tweak as needed, without the usual delays waiting for others.

Contact me with questions.