Embase

What is Embase?

- An online database of biomedical literature - the computerized version of the 42 print *Excerpta Medica* Abstract Journals.
- An alternative to Medline/PubMed; 40% of the journals indexed in Embase are not indexed in Medline.
- A place to find non-North American material; 75% of articles are from journals published in Europe and the Asia-Pacific region.
- A place to find recently published articles; articles appear within 10 days of being sent to the database.

Searching Ovid Embase

The example below illustrates a step-by-step search of the topic *gastrointestinal ulcers caused by taking non steroidal anti-inflammatories*.

The two main concepts in the search are: **non-steroidal anti-inflammatories; gastrointestinal ulcers**

1. Type one of the major concepts from the topic into the search box. If you are looking for a specific drug, try searching by its generic name.

2. Leave this box checked! Embase will match the concept to an appropriate Subject Heading.

3. Click Search to continue.
4. Embase has mapped *gastrointestinal ulcers* to the subject heading *Digestive System Ulcer*. This is the standard term for this concept in Embase. The advantage to searching this term is that all articles on this topic will be labelled with this term, no matter what term (e.g., peptic ulcer, gastrointestinal ulcer, etc.) was used by the author. If the term in blue does not seem appropriate to you, you can select “search as keyword” to search exactly what you typed into the search box.

5. Click on the blue term *Digestive System Ulcer* so that you can see how it fits in with the other terms relating to digestive system diseases.

6. In Embase, the subject headings are displayed in alphabetical order. Our term of interest, *Digestive System Ulcer*, is highlighted in blue.

7. Checking the “Explode” box allows you to search for the highlighted term, as well as all of its narrower terms (see step 8). This can be especially useful when you are searching for a drug class (e.g., non-steroidal anti-inflammatories, because in one step, you can search the whole class in general, as well as all of the individual drugs in the class. Once you have decided whether or not to explode your term, click “Continue.”

8. Several “narrower terms” or more specific terms, are listed below *Digestive System Ulcer*: Colon Ulcer, Intestine Ulcer, Jejunum Ulcer, Peptic Ulcer and Rectum Ulcer.

9. “Broader Terms” are *Digestive System Disease* and *Ulcer*. This means that *Digestive System Ulcer* is a type of *Ulcer* and a type of *Digestive System Disease*. 
10. Here you can choose a particular aspect of Digestive System Ulcer or include all subheadings to keep your search broad. Because we are interested in whether ulcers are caused by non-steroidal anti-inflammatories, it makes sense to choose "etiology" (causation). Make your selection(s) and click Continue.

11. Repeat the previous steps to search your second concept, non-steroidal anti-inflammatories.
12. Check the boxes next to the two searches you've done.

13. Combine the two searches... Because you want to find articles that contain both concepts, use AND to combine them. If you wanted to find articles that contained either of the concepts, you would use OR.

14. The results of the combined search are at the bottom of the screen. Click Abstract or Complete Reference to get more information. Use the yellow Findit! Button to see if an article is available in electronic or print format.