

# Quick guide to VHL research

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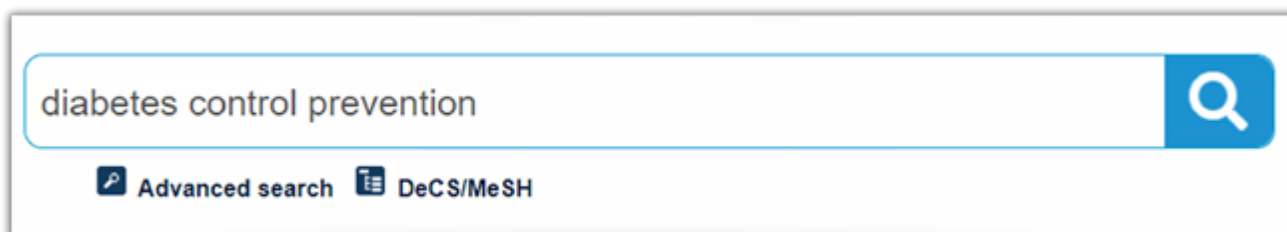
**07**

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## Welcome to the VHL Search Quick Guide!

The search box on the home page is the gateway to research. After typing one or more words, click on the magnifying glass to view the search results.

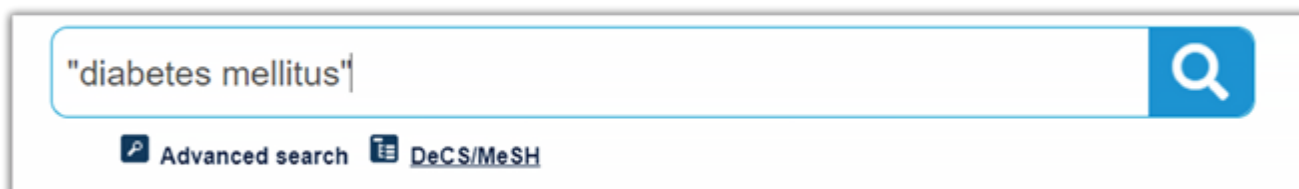
Check the example:



A search box containing the text "diabetes control prevention". To the right of the text is a blue magnifying glass icon. Below the search box are two buttons: "Advanced search" with a magnifying glass icon and "DeCS/MeSH" with a document icon.

When placing a word or compound terms "in quotes", the system searches for the exact occurrence of everything that is between the quotes.

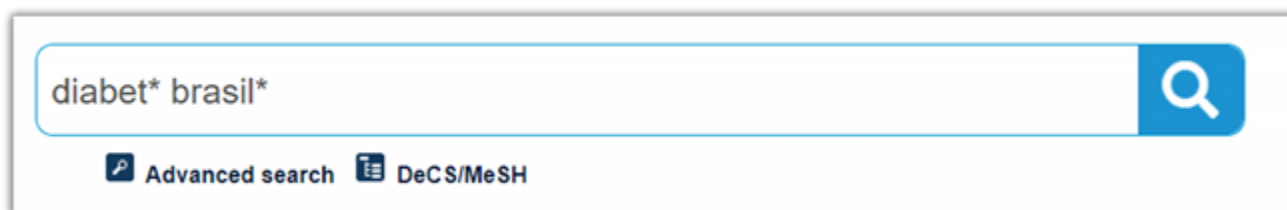
Check the example:



A search box containing the text "diabetes mellitus" in quotes. To the right of the text is a blue magnifying glass icon. Below the search box are two buttons: "Advanced search" with a magnifying glass icon and "DeCS/MeSH" with a document icon.

To search for derivations of a word, use the asterisk \* after the word stem. By adding the asterisk in Diabet\*, for example, the system retrieves diabetes, diabetic, diabetics. Likewise, when using the asterisk in Brazil\*, the system retrieves Brazilian, Brazilian, etc.

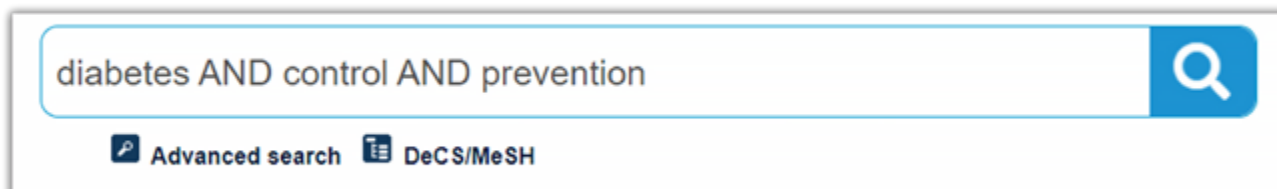
Check the example:



A search box containing the text "diabet\* brasil\*". To the right of the text is a blue magnifying glass icon. Below the search box are two buttons: "Advanced search" with a magnifying glass icon and "DeCS/MeSH" with a document icon.

Note: Using the asterisk does not work for terms in quotes. No need to worry about accents.

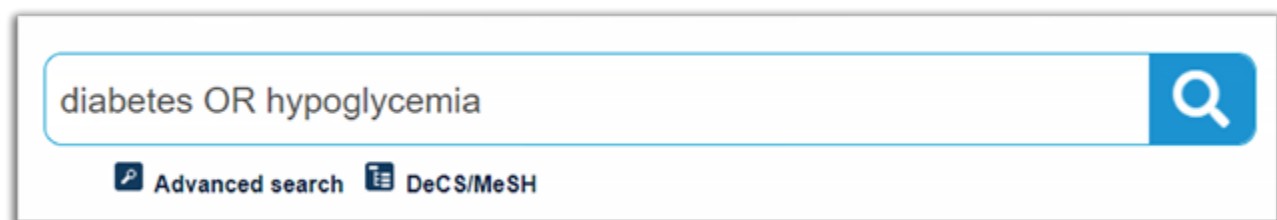
The **AND** search operator combines terms so that they are all retrieved in the same document. Check the example:



A search bar containing the text "diabetes AND control AND prevention". Below the search bar are two icons: a magnifying glass icon labeled "Advanced search" and a document icon labeled "DeCS/MeSH". A blue search button with a white magnifying glass icon is on the right side of the search bar.

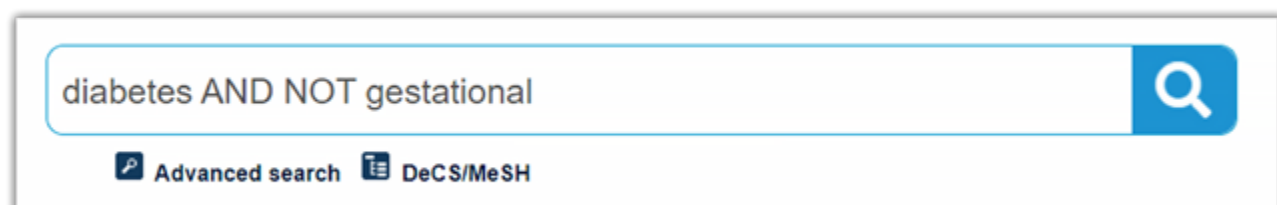
Note: the **AND** operator is the system standard, which makes it optional to type between terms

The **OR** search operator matches the terms by retrieving at least one of the terms in the document. In the search, the **OR** operator must be written between the terms. Check the example:



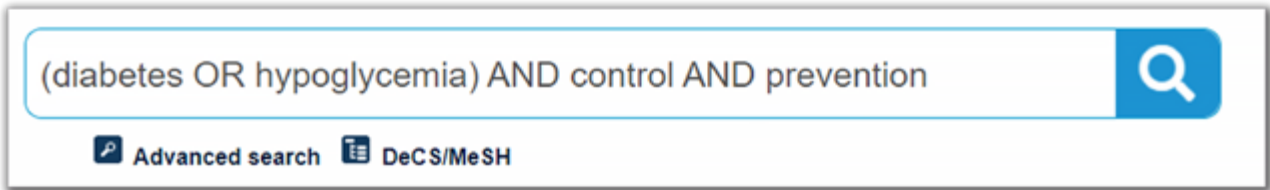
A search bar containing the text "diabetes OR hypoglycemia". Below the search bar are two icons: a magnifying glass icon labeled "Advanced search" and a document icon labeled "DeCS/MeSH". A blue search button with a white magnifying glass icon is on the right side of the search bar.

Terms typed after the **AND NOT** search operator are excluded from the search result, as in the following example:



A search bar containing the text "diabetes AND NOT gestational". Below the search bar are two icons: a magnifying glass icon labeled "Advanced search" and a document icon labeled "DeCS/MeSH". A blue search button with a white magnifying glass icon is on the right side of the search bar.

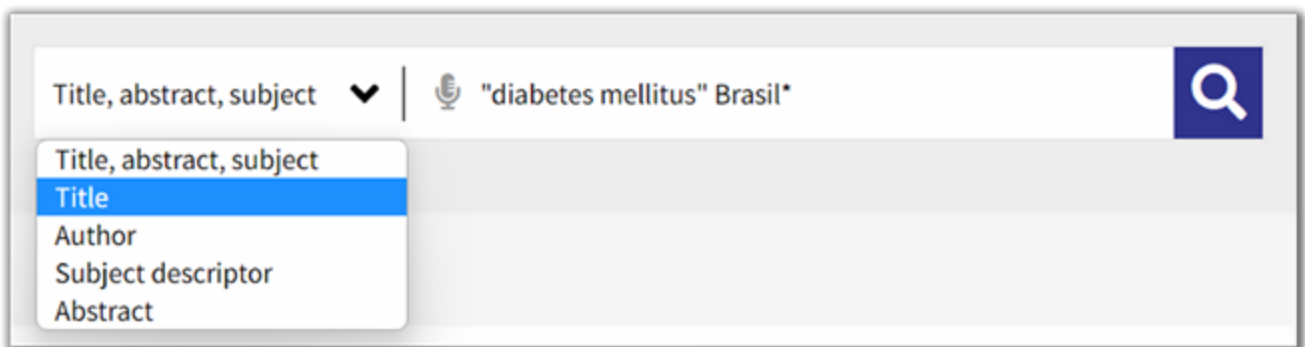
Parentheses ( ) must be applied whenever different search operators are used. As with mathematical logic, they establish the order of operation in the search system, as in the example:



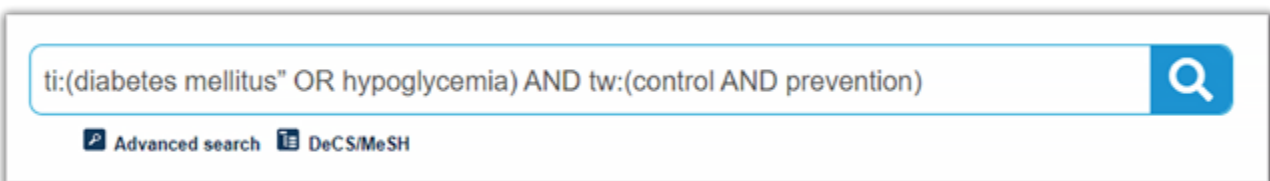
Note: Use parentheses for expressions that apply the **AND** and **OR** operators in the same search.

## Search refinement

You can directly select in the search box the option to search by: **Title, Author, Subject Descriptor, Abstract**. Enter the search terms, select the option and click on the magnifying glass. See the example:



Or type, in front of the term, **ti:** for title; **au:** for author; **ab:** for summary; **mh:** for subject descriptor or **tw:** for title, abstract and subject. See the example:



On the search results page, select the desired Filter and click the FILTER button. You can include/exclude filters in MORE FILTERS button, select and click APPLY. Look at the example:

The screenshot shows a search results interface. On the left, there is a 'Filter' sidebar with a list of filter categories. The 'Add more filters' button at the top of the sidebar is highlighted with a red box. The 'Apply' button at the bottom of the sidebar is also highlighted with a red box. A red arrow points from the 'Filter' button at the bottom left towards the 'Apply' button. The main content area displays three search results, each with a checkbox and a title. The first result is 'Diabetes: how to manage cardiovascular risk in secondary prevention patients.' by Anderson, Sarah L; Marrs, Joel C. The second result is 'Diabetes: how to manage diabetic peripheral neuropathy.' by Gandhi, Megha; Fargo, Emily; Prasad-Reddy, Lalita; Mahoney, Katherine M; Isaacs, Diana. The third result is 'Efficacy of the Diabetes Prevention Program Group Lifestyle Balance Program Modified for Individuals with TBI (GLB-TBI): Results from a 12-month Randomized Controlled Trial.' by Driver, Simon; McShan, Evan; Swanb, Chad; Calhoun, Stephanie; Bennett, Monica; Callender, Librada; Holden, Alexandria; Juengst, Shannon; Bell, Kathleen; Douglas, Megan; Kramer, Kaye; Dubiel, Randi. On the right side, there are options to 'See more details', 'SEND TO:' (Email, Export, Print, RSS, XML), 'SELECTION OF CITATIONS' (List items (0), Clear list), and 'SEARCH DETAIL' (ti:(diabetes mellitus\* OR hypoglycemia) AND tw:(control AND prevention)).

## Search tips

1

Start the search with a few words/phrases and then use filters to refine the result.

Choose the most relevant words/phrases to represent your research topic.

2

3

Uppercase or lowercase letters, as well as accents, make NO difference in the search result.

The search in the DeCS/MeSH subject descriptor field can be done in Portuguese, English, Spanish or French.

4

## About DeCS/MeSH

The DeCS (Descriptors in Health Sciences) is a controlled and structured vocabulary in four languages in the health area. DeCS is an expanded translation of Medical Subject Headings (MeSH).

Descriptors are used to represent the subject of documents indexed in the main health databases included in the VHL, such as MEDLINE and LILACS.



To access the DeCS page, click the button below:

[Access here](#)

Now that you know how to search the VHL, access the portal by clicking on the button below:

[Access here](#)

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