ETHICS IN LITERATURE SEARCHING

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ETHICS

Focus:

It is ethically important to know

- How to search correctly
- That it IS important - to know how to search correctly!

LITERATURE SEARCHING

Important for

- Academicians
- Researchers
- Librarians & Information specialists
- Authorities in Medical colleges / hospitals / Govt of India
- Students

ACADEMICIANS

It is ethically important to

- Teach the latest – especially in disease management
- Guide projects / theses correctly
- Manage patient care based on best evidence

RESEARCHERS

Involved in Clinical Trials / RCTs? Ethics requires you to Search correctly

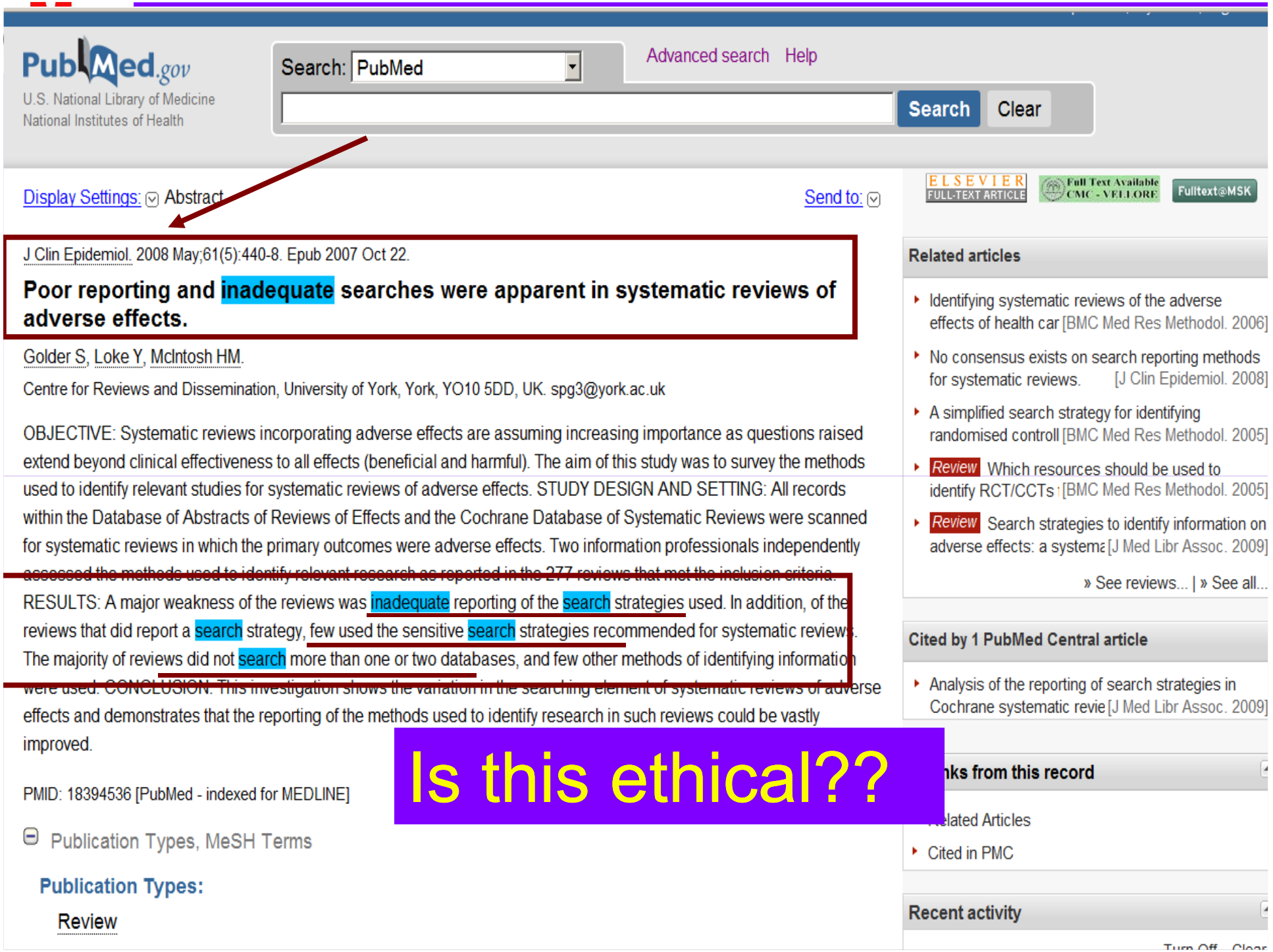
- To establish the need for the Trial
- To find out *any* adverse event reported in the past. ("First do no harm")
  - *Famous Johns Hopkins – Hexamethonium case*
- During the trial for updates
- While reporting the trial for accurate referencing

RCTs = Level I Evidence!

RESEARCHERS

Involved in Systematic Reviews?

- ***Every*** RCT needs to be identified – each is a "building block of Evidence"
- Search – "thorough" for sensitivity and should include hand searching
- Search strategy – proper reporting for continuous update of the review



PubMed.gov
U.S. National Library of Medicine
National Institutes of Health

Search: PubMed | Advanced search | Help

Search | Clear

Display Settings: Abstract

Send to:

ELSEVIER FULL-TEXT ARTICLE | Full Text Available CMC - VELLORE | Fulltext@MSK

J Clin Epidemiol. 2008 May;61(5):440-8. Epub 2007 Oct 22.

Poor reporting and inadequate searches were apparent in systematic reviews of adverse effects.

Golder S, Loke Y, McIntosh HM.

Centre for Reviews and Dissemination, University of York, York, YO10 5DD, UK. spg3@york.ac.uk

OBJECTIVE: Systematic reviews incorporating adverse effects are assuming increasing importance as questions raised extend beyond clinical effectiveness to all effects (beneficial and harmful). The aim of this study was to survey the methods used to identify relevant studies for systematic reviews of adverse effects. STUDY DESIGN AND SETTING: All records within the Database of Abstracts of Reviews of Effects and the Cochrane Database of Systematic Reviews were scanned for systematic reviews in which the primary outcomes were adverse effects. Two information professionals independently assessed the methods used to identify relevant research as reported in the 277 reviews that met the inclusion criteria. RESULTS: A major weakness of the reviews was inadequate reporting of the search strategies used. In addition, of the reviews that did report a search strategy, few used the sensitive search strategies recommended for systematic reviews. The majority of reviews did not search more than one or two databases, and few other methods of identifying information were used. CONCLUSION: This investigation shows the variation in the searching element of systematic reviews of adverse effects and demonstrates that the reporting of the methods used to identify research in such reviews could be vastly improved.

PMID: 18394536 [PubMed - indexed for MEDLINE]

Is this ethical??

Publication Types, MeSH Terms

Publication Types:

Review

Related articles

- Identifying systematic reviews of the adverse effects of health car [BMC Med Res Methodol. 2006]
- No consensus exists on search reporting methods for systematic reviews. [J Clin Epidemiol. 2008]
- A simplified search strategy for identifying randomised controll [BMC Med Res Methodol. 2005]
- Review Which resources should be used to identify RCT/CCTs [BMC Med Res Methodol. 2005]
- Review Search strategies to identify information on adverse effects: a systema [J Med Libr Assoc. 2009]

» See reviews... | » See all...

Cited by 1 PubMed Central article

- Analysis of the reporting of search strategies in Cochrane systematic revie [J Med Libr Assoc. 2009]

nks from this record

- Related Articles
- Cited in PMC

Recent activity

Turn Off | Clear

INFORMATION SPECIALISTS

Need to know

- All important resources
- How to document and save strategies
- How to interact and work responsibly “with the user” to provide a skilled literature search
- About plagiarized / pirated resources
- Confidentiality issues – eg not to share searches done for one user with another
- Ethics question – Pharma co says “Give me only positive results about my drug”

EDITORS

Or anyone involved in medical writing - needs to know / look out for

- Inappropriate referencing
  - Non existent article in existent or NON-existent source
  - Author claiming authorship when not listed as author
  - Altering authorship order
  - And so much more!

Goe LC et al. Misrepresentation of research citations among medical school faculty applicants. Acad Med. 1998;73:1183-6

STUDENTS - THESIS

- One important objective in PG education - learning research methodology through Thesis
- Ethics involves - Searching
  - To choose a topic
  - During the research
  - While writing the thesis

Reality:

- Redo a 5-year old thesis….
- Look for references “after” finishing theses…
- Is this “not teaching / learning of the right research methodology” ethical?

FOR A GOOD LITSEARCH

Every user of information needs to know

- Various databases, their scope of coverage
- How to
  - Get a “reading list” very quickly
  - Get very specific information
  - Find a needle in a haystack
  - Create “search strategies” & recall them when needed

LACUNAE - SYSTEM

- Specific examples - applicable across the categories of
  - Information users
  - Those responsible for providing the right infrastructure

SELECTING PAPERS & REFERENCING

Requested to check

Scales JT. Materials for hernia repair. New Technology J Biomed Mater Res 1953; 23: 145-152.

cosa: use in repair of rodent abdominal wall defects. Ann Plast Surg 1995; 35: 374-380.

29. Pourdeyhimi B. Porosity of surgical mesh fabrics: New Technology. J Biomed Mater Res 1989; 23: 145-152.

30. Scales JT. Materials for hernia repair. Proc Royal Soc Med. 1953; 46: 647-652.

31. F Zheng, Y Lin, Verbeken E, Claerhout F, Fastrez M, De Ridder D, Deprest J. Inflammatory

ANOTHER INTERESTING CASE

Paper on Etiology of epithelioma among the Kashmiris by Elmslie WJ.

- *Indian Med Gazette.* 1866;**1:**324–6.
- For years – the reference was "repeatedly" given by authors as
  - 1866;1:81-3
  - (81-3 was a reference in the year 1900 in BMJ)

Ref: Pai, SA. The kangri cancer papers and their impact in India and elsewhere. Natl Med J India. 2010; 23:54-55

SITUATION TODAY

- The average PubMed user in India knows only 20% of features and utilities*
- Many know nothing to minimum about
  - Cochrane Library / its free availability in India*
  - ERMED and how to exploit it
- Result – HUGE waste of time (which is unethical!)

**Source: Feedback forms collected from around 50 half day PubMed training programs conducted during 2008-2010*

LITERATURE SEARCHING PROCESS

Most information users

- Use only text words to search
- Navigate maximum four result pages
- No clue about relevance / recall searching
  - "No time / incentive to practice even if taught"
- Look for full text free online
  - "No time" to visit the library / inconvenient timings
- Many have not learnt how to reference

RESULT

- They actually waste time of those who read their articles
- Which are based on bad searching.

Is this ethical?

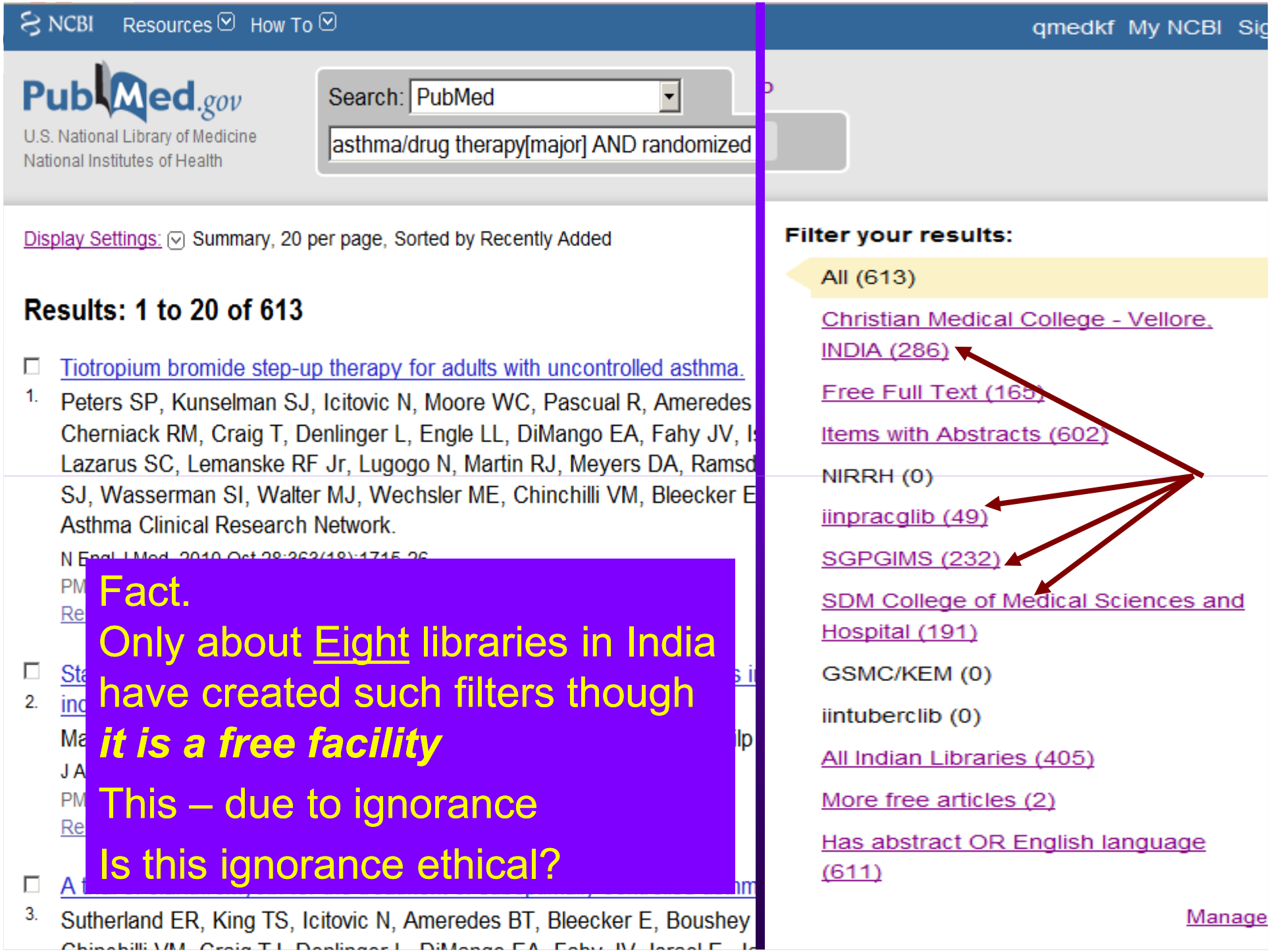
And…Food for thought….

- Some of these individuals are on Editorial boards of journals – are they the right people?

INFORMATION ACCESS PROVIDERS / DECISION INFLUENCERS

Provision of “enhanced access” for users

- Customizing PubMed for Institutional Collections
- Maximum utilization of ERMED – include it in PubMed customization
- Union Catalogs of Journals in all libraries
- Enhance Web based resources – improvement over print resources


NCBI Resources How To
qmedkf My NCBI Sig
PubMed.gov
U.S. National Library of Medicine
National Institutes of Health
Search: PubMed
asthma/drug therapy[major] AND randomized
Display Settings: Summary, 20 per page, Sorted by Recently Added
Results: 1 to 20 of 613
Tiotropium bromide step-up therapy for adults with uncontrolled asthma.
1. Peters SP, Kunselman SJ, Icitovic N, Moore WC, Pascual R, Ameredes
Cherniack RM, Craig T, Denlinger L, Engle LL, DiMango EA, Fahy JV,
Lazarus SC, Lemanske RF Jr, Lugogo N, Martin RJ, Meyers DA, Ramsd
SJ, Wasserman SI, Walter MJ, Wechsler ME, Chinchilli VM, Bleecker E
Asthma Clinical Research Network.
Fact.
Only about Eight libraries in India have created such filters though
it is a free facility
This – due to ignorance
Is this ignorance ethical?
3. Sutherland ER, King TS, Icitovic N, Ameredes BT, Bleecker E, Boushey
Filter your results:
All (613)
Christian Medical College - Vellore, INDIA (286)
Free Full Text (165)
Items with Abstracts (602)
NIRRH (0)
iinpracglib (49)
SGPGIMS (232)
SDM College of Medical Sciences and Hospital (191)
GSMC/KEM (0)
iintuberclib (0)
All Indian Libraries (405)
More free articles (2)
Has abstract OR English language (611)
Manage

INFRASTRUCTURE PROVIDERS

Resources built with Tax payers money - disappear / are not maintained

- Union Catalog of Medical Journals uncat.nic.in
- OpenMed – Repository – openmed.nic.in
- National Health Information Collaboration – nhicindia.org

National Health Information Collaboration

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- Home
- Health Topics
- Specialities
- Information Types
- Advanced Search
- Expert Directory
- Organisation Directory
- E - Discussion Group Directory
- Web Resources
- Submit Content

Find Health Information by **Health Topic**:

- Acute respiratory Infections
- Blindness and Eye diseases
- Cancer
- Diarrhoeal diseases
- Filariasis
- HIV/ AIDS
- Iodine deficiency
- Leprosy
- Malaria
- Mental health
- Poliomyelitis
- Population and Health
- Tobacco use
- Tuberculosis
- All Health Topics

Find Health Information by **Speciality**:

- Anesthes
- Biochem
- Dermat
- Anatomy
- Community Medicine
- Forensic Medicine
- General Medicine
- Paediatrics
- All Specialities

How it began

Find Health Information by **Information Type**:

- Scientific Articles
- Thesis
- E-Journals
- Reference Materials
- Policies and Guidelines
- Protocols
- Telemedicine
- Research Projects
- Funding and Grants
- Continuing Medical Education
- Official Statistics
- All Information Types

Search for Information: **Enter Keywords**:

NHIC Home
NHICindia.org
HOME
病院の種類
病院の科目
医療事務
還暦祝い
SITE MAP
About this site
当サイトでは病院の種類や科目、医療事務についての情報をまとめています。また、長寿のお祝い「還暦祝い」や「古希祝い」の歴史や由来について調べています。
MENU
病院の種類
病院の科目
医療事務
還暦祝い
What it has become…
Is this ethical??
Pick up
還暦祝い

RESPONSIBILITY OF INFORMATION USERS

Need to learn / learn about

- Citation matchers for accurate referencing
- Search techniques for relevance / recall
- Further – need to learn
  - To eliminate retracted / duplicate / redundant publications
  - Documenting search processes
  - Interacting with information professionals

RESPONSIBILITY OF ACCESS PROVIDERS

- Maintain resources created
- Create best possible “access enhancements” by exploiting technology
- Revise budgets / methods for access to maximum
- Ensure maximum utilization – issue directives

ETHICS & LITERATURE SEARCHING

Cannot be ignored in the "Information Age"

- Authorities need to maximize access
  - For available as well as new resources
- Faculty – stay updated – teach students the latest & guide research correctly
- Trained information professionals – stay updated – train users
- Users learn correct search & referencing techniques

THANK YOU

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