

## Find reported adverse effects of a particular drug

**TOPIC:** In this example, using two biomedical databases [MEDLINE®](#) and [Embase®](#) you want to find adverse effects reported for the anti-anxiety drug Paxil (paroxetine), especially as it relates to hair loss. MEDLINE® is a major source of biomedical literature. Embase® also contains biomedical information with a focus on drug literature, and Embase® Alert provides the most current information before it goes into Embase. Other databases you might also consider include Adis Reactions, *Derwent Drug File* and International Pharmaceutical Abstracts.

It is important to pick up new documents quickly. Embase Alert and “In Process” records in MEDLINE are not indexed, so in order to do a comprehensive search, a free text version of the indexed strategy must also be part of a comprehensive search strategy.

For this search you will view the online thesaurus in MEDLINE and Embase. Choose the thesaurus for each database and enter the search term(s) to check for availability. You can link the drug name to qualifiers for adverse effects you want (e.g., adverse effects, drug toxicity, contraindications). Then combine free text terms (e.g., adverse effects, drug toxicity, contraindications, side effects, poisoning) as an additional set.

### COMMAND SUMMARY

**Databases:** Embase, Embase Alert, MEDLINE

#### Search strategy

exact.explode(paroxetine -- adverse drug reaction paroxetine -- drug toxicity  
[limit to Subject EMB for Embase from the dropdown box]

**OR**

exact.explode(paroxetine -- poisoning or paroxetine -- contraindications or paroxetine --  
toxicity or paroxetine -- adverse effects)

[limit to mesh subject for MEDLINE from the dropdown box]

**OR**

(adverse or side) near/5 (reaction or effect[\*1] or contraindication[\*1] or poison[\*3] or  
toxic[\*5]) near/15 paroxetine

**AND**

hair near/3 loss or alopecia

Preview, select records

#### Tips

near/5 can be entered as n/5

effect[\*1] can be entered as effect\$1

## SOLUTION – ADVANCED SEARCH

1. Click **Change** at the top of the screen.

Clear the check boxes by clicking **Select all**

<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Select all	Full Text Included	Pricing	ID
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>			1008200
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>			1008203
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>			10000126
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>			1007833
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>			1008204
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>			1008205
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>			1008206
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>			10000127
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>			10000128
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>			1008212
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>			1008213
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>			10000129

2. Check the boxes for Embase, Embase Alert and MEDLINE. Press **Use selected databases** to begin these biomedical databases.

**Use selected databases**

<input type="checkbox"/>	Derwent Drug File (1964 - current)		10000133
<input type="checkbox"/>	Derwent Drug Registry		1008235
<input type="checkbox"/>	DH-DATA: Health Administration, Medical Toxicology & Environmental Health (1983 - current)		1008236
<input type="checkbox"/>	DIOGENES® FDA Regulatory Updates (1938 - current)		1008238
<input type="checkbox"/>	Drug Information Fulltext		1008237
<input type="checkbox"/>	Ei Compendex® (1990 - current)		10000131
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Embase®		10000134
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Embase® Alert		1007817
<input type="checkbox"/>	EMCare® (1995 - current)		1008242
<input type="checkbox"/>	ERIC (1966 - current)		10000150
<input type="checkbox"/>	ESPICOM Pharmaceutical & Medical Device News (2000 - current)		1008270

3. The navigator line now shows you are in 3 databases. Click **Advanced** to get to the **Advanced Search** form.

You are searching: 3 databases ([See list](#) | [Change >](#)) 0 Recent searches | 0 Selected items | [My Research](#) | [Exit](#)

Basic Search | **Advanced** | Command Line Cost Estimate | Preferences | English | Help

ProQuest Dialog® DataStar®

Advanced search Search tips

Search industries [Image view](#)

Aerospace & Defense [Search >](#)

**Databases**

- British Library Inside Conferences
- Current Contents® Search
- Ei Compendex®
- Gale Group PROMT®
- Inspec®

4. Click **Thesaurus** and note that you can choose either the Embase or MEDLINE (MeSH) thesaurus.

We'll start this search in Embase and then conduct it in MEDLINE.

5. In the Embase thesaurus, enter the search term PAROXETINE and click the radio button **Begins with**.

Press **Find**.

6. Click the **+** sign before PAROXETINE to see related terms.

7. Click the + sign next to Qualifiers to link the drug name with qualifier terms. Check all that relate to adverse effects, including adverse drug reaction and drug toxicity (2 terms)

Press **Add to search**. Two terms are selected and have been combined with OR.

*Note:* If there were narrower terms, you could click the box before Explode to retrieve all narrower terms.

## EMBASE 2011 thesaurus

Search terms:

Contains word(s)  Begins with

Browse terms: [All](#) [0-9](#) [A](#) [B](#) [C](#) [D](#) [E](#) [F](#) [G](#) [H](#) [I](#) [J](#) [K](#) [L](#) [M](#) [N](#) [O](#) [P](#) [Q](#) [R](#) [S](#) [T](#) [U](#) [V](#) [W](#) [X](#) [Y](#) [Z](#)

Subject terms found:

- Qualifiers
- adverse drug reaction (AE)
- buccal drug administration (BD)
- clinical trial (CT)
- drug administration (AD)
- drug analysis (AN)
- drug combination (CB)
- drug comparison (CM)
- drug concentration (CR)
- drug development (DV)
- drug dose (DO)
- drug interaction (IT)
- drug therapy (DT)
- drug toxicity (TO)
- endogenous compound (EC)
- epidural drug administration (EI)
- inhalational drug administration (IH)
- intraarterial drug administration (IA)

Combine using:  OR  AND  NOT

Explode to include narrower terms

Search as major subjects

8. To search the MEDLINE (MeSH) thesaurus from the search screen click **Select another thesaurus**. Then click **Select another thesaurus**. Enter the search term, click the radio button **Begins with** and press **Find**.

[Select another thesaurus](#)

## MeSH 2011 Thesaurus

Search terms:

Contains word(s)  Begins with (enter at least 2 characters)

Browse terms: [All](#) [0-9](#) [A](#) [B](#) [C](#) [D](#) [E](#) [F](#) [G](#) [H](#) [I](#) [J](#) [K](#) [L](#) [M](#) [N](#) [O](#) [P](#) [Q](#) [R](#) [S](#) [T](#) [U](#) [V](#) [W](#) [X](#) [Y](#) [Z](#)

9. Click the + sign next to PAROXETINE; then click the + sign before Qualifiers and check those related to **adverse effects, contraindications, poisoning and toxicity.**

Press **Add to Search**. Note 4 terms have been selected and are combined with OR.

## MeSH 2011 Thesaurus

Search terms:

Contains word(s)  Begins with

Browse terms: [All](#) [0-9](#) [A](#) [B](#) [C](#) [D](#) [E](#) [F](#) [G](#) [H](#) [I](#) [J](#) [K](#) [L](#) [M](#) [N](#) [O](#) [P](#) [Q](#) [R](#) [S](#) [T](#) [U](#) [V](#) [W](#) [X](#) [Y](#) [Z](#)

Subject terms found:

Paroxetine

A serotonin uptake inhibitor that is effective in the treatment of depression.

Date added:: 1993

Historical note: 1 : 93; was PAROXETINE (NM) 1978-92

**Use term for:**

- Aropax
- BRL-29060
- FG-7051
- Paroxetine Acetate
- Paroxetine Hydrochloride
- Paroxetine Hydrochloride, Hemihydrate
- Paroxetine Maleate
- Paroxetine, cis-(+)-Isomer
- Paroxetine, cis-(-)-Isomer
- Paroxetine, trans-(+)-Isomer
- Paxil
- Seroxat
- Qualifiers**
- administration & dosage (AD)
- adverse effects (AE)**

Combine using:  OR  AND  NOT

Explode to include narrower terms

Search as major subjects

←

10. The two searches created in the Embase (box 1) and MEDLINE (box 2) thesauri automatically display in the top two search boxes.

From the dropdown box, change the connector from AND to OR to connect the two thesauri searches.

Enter the free text search from the Command Summary (box 3). Use limited truncation. Use NEAR/number so terms will appear close to one another. Change the connector from AND to OR.

Check **Show number of results...** to see results on this page and continue searching. Press **Search**.

You are searching: 3 databases (See list | Change >)

0 Recent searches | 0 Selected items | My Research | Exit

Basic Search | Advanced | Command Line

Cost Estimate | Preferences | English | Help

ProQuest Dialog DataStar

Advanced Search

Look Up Citation

Thesaurus | Field codes | Tips

EXACT.EXPLODE("paroxetine -- adverse drug reaction" OR "paroxetine -- drug toxicity") in

OR EXACT.EXPLODE("Paroxetine -- poisoning" OR "Paroxetine -- toxicity" OR "Paroxetine -- adverse effects") in

OR (adverse or side) near/5 (reaction or effect[\*1] or contraindication[\*1] or poison[\*3] or toxic[\*5]) near/15 paroxetine in

Show number of results and stay on this page

Search options 0 Recent searches ° Not all selected databases will return results for this field. View details

Limit to:  Animals  Females  Clinical Trials  Meta-analyses  Abstract included  Humans  Males  MEDLINE

11. Click the + sign next to Add a row to create a new search box.

Narrow the search by adding the "hair loss" term(s). Use the connector NEAR/3 so HAIR LOSS is within 3 words in either order. Use the AND connector.

Uncheck **Show number of results** and press **Search**.

12. Click **Preview** to preview the records.

Sort your results by Relevance (default) or date order from the dropdown box and click Sort.

Duplicate records have been automatically removed by default.

Click **Change** under Duplicate document settings.

13. Change duplicate document settings to indicate your order of databases preferences. Click **Apply preferred databases**.

Records from the preferred databases are retained.

14. Note the Preferred databases you set above are applied.

After checking boxes for records you wish to work with, click **Selected items**. Choose the format you wish to view and click Display.

**Note:** If you are a transactional customer, a Price Preview screen displays.

The screenshot shows the ProQuest search results interface. At the top, the search query is "(emb.EXACT.EXPLODE("paroxetine -- adverse drug reaction" OR "paroxetine -- drug toxicity"))". Below the search bar, it indicates "92 Results\*". A list of search results is displayed, with three items selected. A modal dialog titled "Display format for selected items" is open, showing options for how to display the selected items: Results listing only, Brief citation (partial indexing), Brief citation / Abstract (partial indexing, abstract), and Citation / Abstract (full indexing, abstract). A red arrow points to the "Citation / Abstract" option. To the right of the dialog, a red box highlights the "Apply document settings" button. At the bottom left, a "Price Preview" dialog is visible, showing the estimated cost of \$9.51 (USD) for three documents.

15. If you've checked a number of records, you may want to **Jump to item** instead of scrolling through.

The screenshot shows the "Selected items" page in ProQuest. At the top, it indicates "3 Selected items:" and provides options to "Save to My Research", "Delete", "Email", "Print", "Cite", "Export", and "Save as file". Below this, a list of selected items is shown, with the first item selected: "Alopecia associated with treatment with selective serotonin reuptake inhibitors (SSRIs) (Oct 2006)". A "Jump to item" button is circled in red. The details for the selected item are displayed below, including the abstract (summary) and indexing (details). The abstract states: "Purpose: To study the association between alopecia, and selective serotonin reuptake inhibitors (SSRIs) by estimating reporting rates and by making association comparisons within databases of adverse drug reactions (ADRs). Methods: All reports of alopecia with marketed SSRIs...". The indexing details include the subject: "pharmacy, controlled study, citalopram -- adverse drug reaction, body weight disorder -- side effect, unindexed drug, zolpidem -- drug combination, clinical article, priority journal, fluvoxamine -- adverse drug reaction, aged, urine retention -- side effect, potassium -- drug combination, paroxetine -- adverse drug reaction, diazepam -- drug combination, drug surveillance program, drug marketing, olivocervil trinitrate --".