Find Formal or Technical Terminology
PubMed Database
Search Term Help for the Health Sciences

Medline with Full Text database and PubMed database both use the same search tool for finding formal or technical terminology for searching the literature. That tool is called MeSH (Medical Subject Headings).

You can find Medline with Full Text with MeSH here:
http://www.twu.edu/library/databases.asp#m

STEP 1: Login to Medline and click the MeSH 2014 link.

STEP 2: Type the search word you like into the MeSH textbox and click the BROWSE button.

Sample Topic:  stroke (the brain injury)
STEP 3: Place a checkmark in the checkbox by the MeSH term that works best for your topic.

The list below shows several types of stroke: stroke, heat stroke, sunstroke, lacunar stroke. We need just ‘stroke.’

After clicking the checkbox, the line for ‘stroke’ will turn blue and open new items on the webpage:

STEP 4: Check the search term’s definition by clicking on the ‘Scope’ dialog-box icon.
Definition of the term ‘stroke’:

| Scope Note: | A group of pathological conditions characterized by sudden, non-convulsive loss of neurological function due to BRAIN ISCHEMIA or INTRACRANIAL HEMORRHAGES. Stroke is classified by the type of tissue NECROSIS, such as the anatomic location, vasculature involved, etiology, age of the affected individual, and hemorrhagic vs. non-hemorrhagic nature. (From Adams et al, Principles of Neurology, 6th ed, pp777-810) |

*Stroke* is the correct formal term for this topic.

STEP 5: Scroll down the webpage. Look for the ‘Used for’ section to find multiple synonyms that can be used in other places such as Google and other databases.

| History Notes: | 2008 (2000); use CEREBROVASCULAR DISEASES 1963-1990; for APoplexy use CEREBROVASCULAR DISORDERs 1963-1995 Annotations: note X ref APoplexy but PITUITARY APOplexy is available Previous Indexing: Cerebrovascular Disorders (1964-1999); Intracranial Arteriosclerosis (1965-1999); Intracranial Embolism and Thrombosis (1965-1999) Used For: Cerebral Stroke; Cerebrovascular Accident; Cerebrovascular Apoplexy; Vascular Accident, Brain, CVA (Cerebrovascular Accident); Cerebrovascular Accident, Acute; Cerebrovascular Stroke; Stroke; Acute; Acute Cerebrovascular Accident; Acute Cerebrovascular Accidents; Acute Stroke; Acute Strokes; Apoplexy; Cerebrovascular, Brain Vascular Accident, Brain Vascular Accidents; CVA (Cerebrovascular Accident); Cerebral Strokes; Cerebrovascular Accidents; Cerebrovascular Accidents, Acute; Cerebrovascular Strokes; Stroke; Cerebral Stroke, Cerebrovascular; Strokes; Strokes, Acute; Strokes, Cerebral, Strokes, Cerebrovascular, Vascular Accidents, Brain |

These synonyms can be used in Google and other databases.
STEP 6: Click the **Explode** checkbox and then click the **Search** button.

The Search returned over 79,000 articles on stroke.