Building a Search Strategy using a MeSH Major Term
What is a Major MeSH Term?

• In the MeSH Database, use Restrict to MeSH Major Topic to limit a search to citations where the heading is the major focus of the article.

• The term added to the search builder will be followed by [MAJR] (e.g. “Neoplasms”[Majr]

• Typically Restrict to MeSH Major Topic will only be used where the volume of literature on the topic is very large, and where the use of a subheading is no appropriate.
Search for MeSH Term
Click on MeSH term hyperlink to find MeSH Major Term restriction box.
• Click box next to Restrict to MeSh Major Topic. A tick will appear in the box.
• Note that this box appears on the same screen as the MeSH subheadings, which may or may not be applied at the same time, if required.
• Click Add to search builder.
• Note that the term appears in the search builder box as [Majr] instead of [Mesh].
• Other search terms and/or subheadings can also be applied, if required at this stage.
What’s the Difference?

Neoplasms [Majr]

2344266 articles

Neoplasms [Mesh]

2706347 articles