

Allied Health Resources: Searching OTseeker

The **OTseeker** database contains abstracts of systematic reviews and randomized controlled trials relevant to occupational therapy. The trials have been critically appraised and contain ratings to help you evaluate their quality and validity and to judge their usefulness for informing clinical interventions. Within a single database, OTseeker provides fast and easy access to trials from a wide range of sources.

Access OTseeker at: <http://otseeker.com/>
OR
From the JEFFLINE List of All Databases:
<http://jeffline.jefferson.edu/SML/databases/index.cgi>

OTseeker

Occupational Therapy
Systematic
Evaluation of Evidence

Search

To perform a search, fill in the "Keywords" and/or other search criteria below, then select "Search". [Help with searching](#)
Not all search boxes need to be filled out.

Keywords: Search

Articles to display per page: 20

Author / Association:

Title:

Journal Title:

Intervention: any [More information](#)

Diagnosis / Subdiscipline: any

Method: any

Year published: from: to:

Internal Validity Score: at least: 0 (out of 8)

Statistical Reporting Score: at least: 0 (out of 2)

Match results using ANY of the fields specified above

Use one or more of the search boxes to conduct a search.

A Boolean **AND** is applied if you enter/select data in more than one box. (i.e., search results must contain all of the search terms).

For a broader search, select **"Match results using ANY of the fields specified above,"** to apply a Boolean **OR**.

Keyword Searching

Generally the most efficient method of searching is to type one or more words into the **Keywords** text box. OTseeker will retrieve articles that contain, in their abstract or title, the keyword/s you entered.

- When you type more than one word in a text box, by default OTseeker combines them using **AND**. For example, if you type **occupational therapy**, OTseeker will return articles that contain the words **occupational** and **therapy** (but not necessarily next to each other). *You do not need to type the **AND** into the text box.*
- To search for an exact phrase (i.e., words next to each other as entered) enclose the words in single quotation marks: **'occupational therapy'**
- To find articles that contain either the word **occupational** or the word **therapy**, you would type **occupational OR therapy** in the keywords text box.

These rules also apply when using the **Author**, **Title** and **Journal Title** textboxes for your search.

Search Tips: Truncation

OTseeker will search for the exact word/s you type and, by default, will not retrieve variations of those words (e.g., **splint** will not retrieve articles with the word **splinting**). The following truncation techniques can be used to expand your search results.

Use an asterisk (*) to truncate:

- **at the end of a word or root:** use **splint*** to find articles containing all words beginning with splint, such as: **splint, splinting, splints, splinter**
- **at the beginning of a word or root:** ***edema** would find articles containing the word **edema**, such as: **oedema** or **lymphoedema** or **lymphedema**
- **at both the beginning and end of a word or root:** ***abilit*** will find all words containing **abilit**, such as **disability, disabilities, ability, abilities**

Use the (?) to represent a single character:

- For example, If you're searching for an author, but aren't sure if the surname is spelled **Johnson** or **Johnsen**, type **Johns?n** in the **Author** text box.

Advanced Searching: Using Dropdown Menus

Coding applied to OTseeker documents allows you to limit your searches according to the following:

- **Intervention** (see the explanation of intervention categories at: <http://otseeker.com/inthelp.asp>)
Tip: To search for articles about pain management, it is probably more efficient to type in the phrase '**pain management**' (using single quotation marks) than to select the individual interventions that comprise a pain management program (e.g. relaxation, education, etc.).
- **Diagnosis/Subdiscipline** (see dropdown list for options)
- **Method**
To limit your search to **Clinical Trials** or **Systematic Reviews**
- **Internal Validity Scale**
To assess internal validity (or "believability" of a trial) OTseeker looks for unambiguous confirmation of a number of criteria, including random allocation, concealment of allocation, comparability of groups at baseline, blinding of patients, therapists and assessors, analysis by intention to treat and adequacy of follow-up. This gives a total of 8 items for this aspect of the scale. OTseeker does not rate the "meaningfulness" or "external validity" of the trial, or the size of the treatment effect.
- **Statistical Reporting Score**
To assess statistical reporting OTseeker looks for between-group statistical comparisons and reports of both point estimates and measures of variability. This gives a total of 2 for this aspect of the scale.

OTseeker Search Results are displayed in a list by title:

- Reviews are displayed first, followed by clinical trials.
- Systematic reviews are ordered by relevance - that is, how closely they match the search criteria specified.
- Clinical trials are ordered by their internal validity score (ascending to descending).

Abstracts are available if the publisher has granted permission.

Occupational Therapy Systematic Evaluation of Evidence

New Search | Refine Search | Print Page

Title	Method	Internal Validity Score (0 - 8)	Statistical Reporting Score (0 - 2)
<input type="checkbox"/> Do stroke units save lives?	Systematic Review	N/A	N/A
<input type="checkbox"/> Does acupuncture improve motor recovery after stroke? A meta-analysis of ...	Systematic Review	N/A	N/A
<input type="checkbox"/> Electrical stimulation for preventing and treating post-stroke shoulder pain ...	Systematic Review	N/A	N/A
<input type="checkbox"/> Functional electrostimulation in poststroke rehabilitation: A meta- analysis of ...	Systematic Review	N/A	N/A
<input type="checkbox"/> Physiotherapy after stroke: more is better?	Systematic Review	N/A	N/A
<input type="checkbox"/> Electrical stimulation for preventing and treating post-stroke shoulder pain: a ...	Systematic Review	N/A	N/A
<input type="checkbox"/> Efficacy of electromyographic biofeedback compared with conventional physical ...	Systematic Review	N/A	N/A
<input type="checkbox"/> A randomised controlled trial of domiciliary and hospital-based rehabilitation ...	Clinical Trial	6	2
<input type="checkbox"/> Randomized controlled trial of integrated (managed) care pathway for stroke ...	Clinical Trial	6	2
<input type="checkbox"/> Domiciliary occupational therapy for patients with stroke discharged from ...	Clinical Trial	6	2
<input type="checkbox"/> Is dosage of physiotherapy a critical factor in deciding patterns of recovery ...	Clinical Trial	5	2

Search results may be printed or emailed.

For more information about OTseeker:

Email: Askalibrarian@jefferson.edu
OR

Call the **Scott Library Reference Desk** at:
215-503-8150

Scott Memorial Library
Thomas Jefferson University
1020 Walnut Street
Philadelphia, PA 19107



See the **OTseeker Tutorial** at: <http://otseeker.com/tutorial.htm>