Searching ClinicalTrials.gov

In this doc we will describe how to use Boolean search to retrieve records from ClinicalTrials.gov.

Quick Start

Use AND/OR/NOT, in combination with keywords to narrow in on trials of interest. For example:

```
dizziness AND NOT exhaustion AND stroke
```

will retrieve trials with the word "dizziness" and "stroke" contained *somewhere* in the record: the trial title, description, interventions, conditions, or several other fields; trials with "exhaustion" mentioned anywhere will be excluded from results. Use parentheses if the logical operators become numerous and ambiguous, and use quotes if your keywords contain spaces.

To generate a more precise search, use AREA to search specific fields. If we wanted to limit our search to only trials with these keywords as Conditions being studied:

```
AREA[ConditionSearch]dizziness AND NOT AREA[ConditionSearch]exhaustion AND
AREA[ConditionSearch]stroke
```

The syntax for AREA searches is simply AREA[*area name*]*search*. Common area names include:

- BasicSearch: This is the default, when no AREA is specified. It searches all of the most common fields within trials
- ConditionSearch: Searches indexed conditions, condition MeSH terms, the title, and keywords
- InterventionSearch: Searches indexed interventions, intervention MeSH terms, arm labels, keywords, and more
- OutcomeSearch: Searches all outcome fields registered (Primary, Secondary, and Other)
- TitleSearch: Searches the trial name & acronym

In action, here we search for trials assessing mortality of stroke patients treated with the Trevo device:

```
AREA[ConditionSearch]stroke AND AREA[InterventionSearch]Trevo AND
AREA[OutcomeSearch]mortality
```

Testing your Search Before Import

You may wish to inspect the quality or volume of results retrieved prior to running an API Import on Nested Knowledge. To test your search, copy paste the search string:

- For https://www.clinicaltrials.gov: Into the "Other Terms" text input
- For https://beta.clinicaltrials.gov/: Into the "Keywords" text input

Find a study (all fields optional)

Status ℹ

○ Recruiting and not yet recruiting studies

● All studies

Condition or disease ℹ (For example: breast cancer)

[   ] [X]

Other terms ℹ (For example: NCT number, drug name, investigator name)

[AREA[ConditionSearch]stroke AND AREA[InterventionSearch]Trevo] [X]

Country ℹ

[⌄] [X]

Search   **Advanced Search**

AREAs

ClinicalTrials.gov publishes a full list of AREAs that may be searched & which fields are included in that AREA here. While BasicSearch, ConditionSearch, InterventionSearch, and OutcomeSearch are most common, field-level AREAs like DesignAllocation and OverallStatus may be useful for certain review types or protocols. For example, to retrieve completed randomized trials of the Trevo device:

```
AREA[DesignAllocation]Randomized AND AREA[OverallStatus]Completed AND
AREA[InterventionSearch]Trevo
```

Operators

A full listing of operators may be found here. While AND/OR/NOT/()/""/AREA are expected to be most common, operators such as RANGE can prove useful. For example, to retrieve the most recent trials on COVID-19:

```
AREA[ConditionSearch]COVID-19 and AREA[StartDate]RANGE[01/01/2022, MAX]
```

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