



ASK a LIBRARIAN

Searching IBD information for you!

There are many reasons why it is useful to have a librarian around – not too far away. You may want some help putting together a presentation about Gastric Cancer risk in Ulcerative Colitis in different parts of the world for a regional congress in your area – maybe you need case studies and grand rounds for training junior doctors to deal with advanced Crohn disease in children, or maybe you are writing a paper on the interaction of Clopidogrel and PPIs or perhaps you are just looking for the full text of a paper in this or that journal.

Maybe you just want to find recently published material that may help you decide your approach for a particularly difficult case or you may want to know the latest research evidence on IBD. All this and more can the [AAL service](#) do for you. How?

Well, if you would ask me about recent evidence in IBD I would probably start with finding out what guidelines and position statements are published by the leading societies such as the AGA, the ACG and a few others of course. I would find out if there is a Crohn and Colitis organization and see what they have published – and then I will find the [CCFA](#).

I can also find out who are the top authors in IBD and I would find out for you which are the top journals publishing in IBD. I would find out there is a specialist journal called '[Inflammatory Bowel Diseases ?](#)' Of course, I would also check all relevant guideline sites such as [SIGN](#) and [NICE](#).

If your information needs are more structured – perhaps you need that very special attribute... 'evidence'?

This is of course more time consuming but – in selected cases – it can be done.

First I need to find out how IBD is indexed in Medline and Embase.

EMTREE, the thesaurus of Embase starts with the broad term 'enteritis', then there is the narrower term colitis and then narrower still there is the thesaurus term Crohn disease.

And so, inflammatory bowel disease is not a controlled term in Embase. In Medline on the other hand the controlled term is: "inflammatory bowel diseases".

Above it in the thesaurus hierarchy is 'Gastroenteritis', below it in their rightful places are "Colitis, Ulcerative" and "Crohn disease."

Once I have the indexing environments for the concepts I need to check for you in the databases we need to search. We can start the searches in Medline and Embase – these two are "musts". Then, for trials and systematic reviews, we will search the Cochrane Library database of controlled clinical trials and their database of Systematic Reviews. I can also just simply send you the latest evidence summaries from key evidence platforms.

Finally, I would probably tell you about this wonderful [Virtual AULA](#), this initiative from Argentina and Uruguay – here you can do it yourself – a Gastroenterology Portal for you covering 20 different aspects of IBD and all the other major topics of the WGO Guidelines Committee. Sometimes – in my enthusiasm to go away and search for you I forget we have wonderful IBD information for you ‘at home’ at our WGO Guidelines site – we have just published our new global IBD guideline with cascades by professor Charles Bernstein and team – in 5 different languages no less - where better than to [start here](#).

And because each guideline is supported by graded evidence I would probably also want you [to look there](#).

Oh ...a small but significant matter still – it is only for Non-Western countries – band 1 and band 2 [HINARI countries](#). That’s fair isn’t it!

For further information, contact Justus.Krabshuis@Highland-data.com