Searching for Evidence-Based Information

First, know what evidence-based references are: " The conscientious, explicit and judicious use of current best evidence in making decisions about the care of the individual patient. It means integrating individual clinical expertise with the best available external clinical evidence from systematic research." (Sackett D, 1996).

Go to JAMAevidence → Help to identify the best available evidence by providing guides, importance, and applicability of assessment and outcomes of health patient care.

Second, know the standards for Levels of Evidence:

Go to Essential Evidence Plus → click on EBM → select Levels of Evidence
Select an evidence rating scale to display detailed information.
- Centre for Evidence-Based Medicine, Oxford (1a-5)
- SORT: Strength-of-Recommendation Taxonomy (A, B, C)
- GRADE: Grading of Recommendations Assessment, Development and Evaluation (A, B, C, D)
- Practice Guidelines rating scales (various)

Go to DynaMed Plus → Under About click on Content and select → Levels of Evidence

Third, decide your purpose:

For evidence-based speed searching:
- Use NLM’s Mobile Applications → PubMed for Handhelds → askMEDLINE
- Use PubMed → Clinical Queries. There are 3 search filters available from this page: Clinical Study Categories, Systematic Reviews, and Medical Genetics.

For comprehensive evidence-based searching:
- Use PubMed → MeSH Database → Use built-in search filters by clinical study categories
- Use Embase → PICO → select the parameters you want to fill: Population, Intervention, Comparison/Control or Outcome.

For Point-of-care evidence-based searching:
- Use DynaMed Plus → Direct-to-section search results, summary display, and quick access to relevant images and calculators.
- Use UpToDate → Provides information for optimal patient care: detail outline within each topic, summary and treatment recommendations, patient education, drug interactions, and more.
- Use **Essential Evidence Plus** → Concisely address over 800 conditions and diseases. Provides background, prevention, diagnosis, treatment, prognosis, special populations, guidelines, evidence, decision support tools, daily POEMs, and other resources to better target answers to clinical questions at the point-of-care.

For Practice Guidelines:
- Use → **EBMG Guidelines** in Essential Evidence Plus
- Use → **PubMed** – Under Article type filter select guideline or practice guideline.
- Use → **DynaMed Plus** → Search your topic → see Guidelines and resources
- Use → **Essential Evidence Plus** → Search your topic → see Guidelines
- Use → **Clinicalkey** → Browse Guidelines
- Use → **Access Medicine**
- Use → **The Medical Letter on Drugs and Therapeutics** → Advanced Search → Treatment Guidelines

For Trials and Studies:
- Use → **Clinical Trials** - [https://www.clinicaltrials.gov/](https://www.clinicaltrials.gov/)
- Use → **National Cancer Institute** - [https://www.cancer.gov/](https://www.cancer.gov/)

For Dosages and Dosing Information:
- Use → **Micromedex**
- Use → **Lexicomp Online**
- Use → **The Medical Letter on Drugs and Therapeutics**
- Use → **PEPID**
- Use → **Access Medicine**

For Diagnostic Tests:
- Use → **Lexicomp Online**
- Use → **Access Medicine**

For Toxicology:
- Use → **Lexicomp Online**