

# Emtree® makes biomedical literature discoverable

## How does Emtree help you?

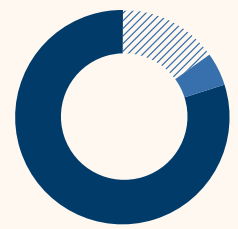
Thanks to Emtree, you can use natural language terminology to search thousands of journals and millions of conference abstracts in Embase. What's more, Emtree's comprehensive terminology gives you confidence in the precision and recall of every search.



## What does Emtree contain?

Emtree contains terms for:

- Drugs and medical devices
  - Diseases and biological functions
  - Medical procedures
  - Health care concepts
  - Study types
- and many more!



## The life science thesaurus for Embase

When you find answers in Embase, it's thanks to Emtree.

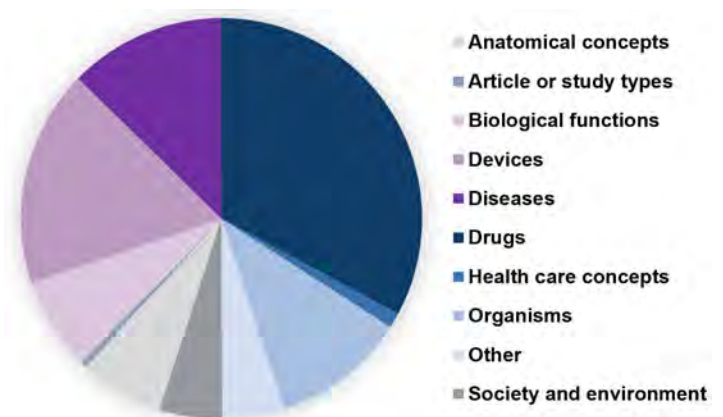
This hierarchically structured, controlled vocabulary for life sciences provides a consistent description of biomedical information. It ensures indexers have a comprehensive vocabulary to describe the content of biomedical documents.

Emtree has been used to index Embase content since 1947. Thanks to regular releases, it remains relevant and comprehensive, with terms to index:

- All the drug generic names described by the FDA and EMA.
- All the drug international non-proprietary names (INNs) described by WHO since 2000.
- Drug trade names for most major pharmaceutical companies.
- Medical device trade and general names as well as medical procedures.
- Thousands of global medical device nomenclature (GMDN) names that are used by the FDA.
- Drug and device safety concepts.
- Diseases, organisms, biological functions, and medical and biological parameters.
- All the terms contained in the MEDLINE® thesaurus MeSH®, with regular updates.

- Social and economic concepts relevant to biomedicine.
- Concepts in related fields, including veterinary medicine, forensics and nursing.
- Every major study and review type.

Figure 1. Classes of indexing terms in Embase



## How often is Emtree updated?

Emtree is updated three times a year. New terms are included primarily on the basis of frequency of use as candidate terms, with a special focus on drugs, medical devices, procedures and diseases.

## What is the structure of Emtree?

Emtree has a polyhierarchical structure. A term can appear in multiple branches of this hierarchy (see below). Changes to this structure are infrequent, but can happen if drug, device or disease classes change.

## How does Emtree benefit you?

- **Ease of searching**  
Emtree is designed to allow you to search Embase with natural language terminology. The thesaurus uses synonyms (more than four per term on average). Therefore, you don't need to know the exact preferred term to find answers. For example, you can search for information about a drug using its trade name, generic name, CAS registry number or INN.

Furthermore, to add precision, Emtree offers subheadings and check tags, which help to define the topic of a document beyond the terms that are indexed within it. By adding these to your search, you can narrow it down to documents that only deal with those topics. That means you can limit your search to adverse events or clinical trials for a particular drug or device.

- **Comprehensive and up-to-date coverage**  
Emtree covers every aspect in biomedicine, with new terms being added three times a year. It also keeps up with changes to MeSH and follows the terminology used by major regulatory bodies like the EMA and FDA. With Emtree, your search will never fall behind what's current in biomedicine.

Emtree is one of the most comprehensive thesauri available for life sciences information. The special focus on drugs, medical devices and biomedical concepts makes it invaluable for helping you answer biomedical questions.

To learn more about Emtree and how to use it, visit the [Embase Support Center](#).

The screenshot shows the Emtree web interface. On the left, a hierarchical tree structure is displayed under the heading 'Browse Emtree'. The tree starts with 'Emtree' and branches into 'procedures, parameters and devices', 'devices', 'medical device', 'catheters and tubes', 'catheter', 'balloon catheter', 'dilatation catheter', 'airway balloon dilatation catheter', 'digestive balloon dilatation catheter', 'ureteral balloon dilator', 'surgical equipment', 'balloon', 'balloon catheter', and 'dilatation catheter'. The 'dilatation catheter' branch is highlighted. On the right, the 'Term information' section for 'dilatation catheter' is shown. It includes a search bar with 'dilatation catheter' entered, a 'Show 830 results' button, and a 'Take to Device search' dropdown. Below this, there is a 'Synonyms (19)' section listing various brand names and generic names such as 'Acclarent Aira', 'Acclarent Pivot', 'balloon dilatation catheter', 'Cook Advance (dilatation catheter)', 'Cook Word (dilatation catheter)', 'Cotton (dilatation catheter)', 'CRE (dilatation catheter)', 'CRE PRO', 'CrosSail', 'dilatation balloon catheter', 'Geemen (dilatation catheter)', 'Heliostar', 'Mullins X', 'MULLINS-X', 'salivary gland balloon catheter', and 'Soehendra (dilatation catheter)'. There is also a 'Gmdn agency' section with a definition for 'salivary gland balloon catheter (G0446)' and a note that 'GMDN' is a registered trademark of The GMDN Agency.

Figure 2. Embase users can browse Emtree for an interactive, hierarchical view on indexed terms, their synonyms and definitions.

## Embase

Embase provides the means to search the world's most comprehensive and up-to-date collection of biomedical literature. The user interface is easy to learn thanks to dedicated query forms for systematic reviews and drug-, disease- or medical device-focused searches. Embase is recommended for key tasks in biomedical research, including gathering evidence for medical recommendations and clinical evaluations.



For more information, visit [elsevier.com/products/embase](https://elsevier.com/products/embase).

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