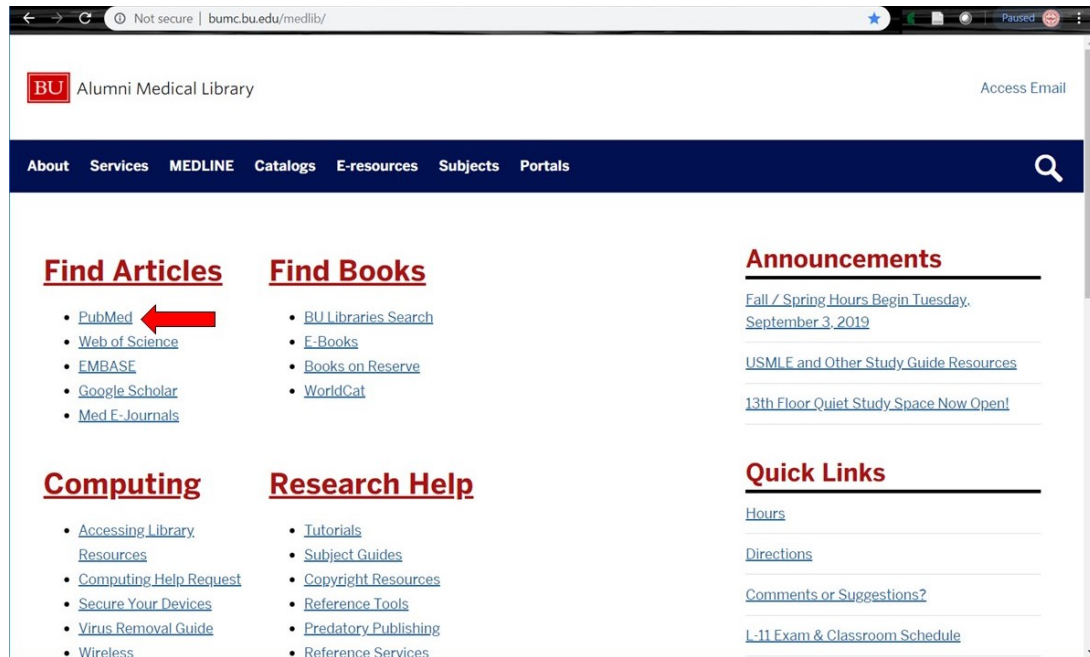


## Using PubMed to Find Clinical Trials that Evaluate the Efficacy of a New Drug

### Step 1: Get to PubMed

Beginning on the library's homepage (<http://bumc.bu.edu/medlib>), click out to PubMed. [See arrow].



You will be prompted to log in with your BU username and password. Although PubMed is a free database, going to it through the library's website will provide you with a link to the full text of the items we own.

## Step 2: Run Your Search

Since new drugs often do not yet have a MeSH term assigned to them and the newest articles have not yet been tagged with MeSH terms, you will want to run your search using “natural language” terms, in this case *galantamine and pharmacology and therapeutic use*. [See top arrow.]

The screenshot shows the PubMed search results page. At the top, the search bar contains the query "galantamine and pharmacology and therapeutic use" with a red arrow pointing to it. Below the search bar, the results are displayed in a list format. The first result is "A review on Alzheimer's disease pathophysiology and its management: an update." by Kumar A, Singh A, Ekavali. The second result is "Skin lesions after oral acetylcholinesterase inhibitor therapy: a case report." by Goljke NM, van Strien AM, Dautzenberg PJ, Jessurun N, Keijsers CJ. The third result is "Targeting brain α7 nicotinic acetylcholine receptors in Alzheimer's disease: rationale and current status." by Vallés AS, Borroni MV, Barrantes FJ. The fourth result is "Holy Moly: Hermes' anticholinesterase antidote." by [No authors listed]. The fifth result is "[Progress of dementia medicine: Special reference to Alzheimer's disease]." by I Hsueh K. The results are sorted by "Most Recent" and show "Results: 1 to 20 of 624" with a red arrow pointing to the total count. On the right side, there are sections for "New feature", "48 free full-text articles in PubMed Central", "Find related data", and "Search details".

Running our search for these “natural language” terms means our results will be articles that mention all of those terms somewhere in the record, such as in the title or abstract. Using the terms *pharmacology* and *therapeutic use* helps to target studies that review the efficacy of the drug we are researching.

This search gives us 624 results. [See bottom arrow in photo above.]

### Step 3: Find the Filter You Need

The average person can handle going through about 100 results. We thus want the first 100 results we go through to be as targeted to our topic as possible. Since we are specifically looking for a clinical trial, it would be helpful to further narrow our results down to include only articles discussing a clinical trial.

The filters found on the left-hand side of our search results can help us further narrow our results down. [See area indicated by the three arrows.]

NCBI Resources How To amcnell My NCBI Sign Out

PubMed.gov  
US National Library of Medicine  
National Institutes of Health

PubMed galantamine and pharmacology and therapeutic use Search

RSS Save search Advanced Help

Article types  
Clinical Trial  
Review  
Customize ...

Text availability  
Abstract  
Free full text  
Full text

Publication dates  
5 years  
10 years  
Custom range...

Species  
Humans  
Other Animals

Clear all  
Show additional filters

Summary 20 per page Sort by Most Recent

Results: 1 to 20 of 624

<< First < Prev Page 1 of 32 Next > Last >>

1. [A review on Alzheimer's disease pathophysiology and its management: an update.](#)  
Kumar A, Singh A, Ekavali.  
Pharmacol Rep. 2015 Apr;67(2):195-203. doi: 10.1016/j.pharep.2014.09.004. Epub 2014 Sep 22. Review.  
PMID: 25712639  
[Related citations](#)

2. [Skin lesions after oral acetylcholinesterase inhibitor therapy: a case report.](#)  
Golüke NM, van Strien AM, Dautzenberg PJ, Jessurun N, Keijsers CJ.  
J Am Geriatr Soc. 2014 Oct;62(10):2012-3. doi: 10.1111/jgs.13045. No abstract available.  
PMID: 25333552  
[Related citations](#)

3. [Targeting brain  \$\alpha 7\$  nicotinic acetylcholine receptors in Alzheimer's disease: rationale and current status.](#)  
Vallés AS, Borroni MV, Barrantes FJ.  
CNS Drugs. 2014 Nov;28(11):975-87. doi: 10.1007/s40263-014-0201-3.  
PMID: 25248971  
[Related citations](#)

4. [Holy Moly: Hermes' anticholinesterase antidote.](#)  
[No authors listed]  
Anesthesiology. 2014 Aug;121(2):371. doi: 10.1097/01.anes.0000451816.76346.cd. No abstract available.  
PMID: 25050493  
[Related citations](#)

5. [\[Progress of dementia medicine: Special reference to Alzheimer's disease\].](#)  
I Itsumi K

Filters: [Manage Filters](#)

New feature  
Try the new Display Settings option - [Sort by Relevance](#)

48 free full-text articles in PubMed Central  
The effect of APOE  $\epsilon 4$  allele on cholinesterase inhibitors in p [Alzheimer Dis Assoc Disord. 2014]  
Antidementia drug use among community-dwelling individ [Int Clin Psychopharmacol. 2014]  
Galantamine slows down plaque formation and behavioral decline in the 5XFA [PLoS One. 2014]  
See all (48)...

Find related data  
Database: [Select](#)  
[Find items](#)

Search details  
( "galantamine"[MeSH Terms] OR "galantamine"[All Fields]) AND ("pharmacology"[Subheading] OR "pharmacology"[All Fields] OR "pharmacology"[MeSH Terms]) AND

PubMed only displays a few of the many filter options. To see more of them, click on “Show Additional Filters.” [See arrow.]

NCBI Resources How To amcneil My NCBI Sign Out

PubMed.gov US National Library of Medicine National Institutes of Health

PubMed galantamine and pharmacology and therapeutic use Search

RSS Save search Advanced Help

Article types Clinical Trial Review Customize ...

Text availability Abstract Free full text Full text

Publication dates 5 years 10 years Custom range...

Species Humans Other Animals

Clear all

Show additional filters

Summary 20 per page Sort by Most Recent

Results: 1 to 20 of 624

<< First < Prev Page 1 of 32 Next > Last >>

Send to: Filters: Manage Filters

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Find related data Database: Select Find items

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1. Kumar A, Singh A, Ekavali. Pharmacol Rep. 2015 Apr;67(2):195-203. doi: 10.1016/j.pharep.2014.09.004. Epub 2014 Sep 22. Review. PMID: 25712639 Related citations

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3. Targeting brain α7 nicotinic acetylcholine receptors in Alzheimer's disease: rationale and current status. Vallés AS, Borroni MV, Barrantes FJ. CNS Drugs. 2014 Nov;28(11):975-87. doi: 10.1007/s40263-014-0201-3. PMID: 25248971 Related citations

4. Holy Moly: Hermes' anticholinesterase antidote. [No authors listed] Anesthesiology. 2014 Aug;121(2):371. doi: 10.1097/01.anes.0000451816.76346.cd. No abstract available. PMID: 25050493 Related citations

5. [Progress of dementia medicine: Special reference to Alzheimer's disease]. Iitsumi K

Check off the other options you would like to see with the checkboxes [see top arrow], and then click “show” [see bottom arrow.]

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PubMed.gov US National Library of Medicine National Institutes of Health

PubMed galantamine and pharmacology and therapeutic use Search

RSS Save search Advanced Help

Article types Clinical Trial Review Customize ...

Text availability Abstract Free full text Full text

Publication dates 5 years 10 years Custom range...

Species Humans Other Animals

Clear all

Show additional filters

Summary 20 per page Sort by Most Recent

Results: 1 to 20 of 624

<< First < Prev Page 1 of 32 Next > Last >>

Send to: Filters: Manage Filters

New feature Try the new Display Settings option - Sort by Relevance

48 free full-text articles in PubMed Central

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Find related data Database: Select Find items

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5. [Progress of dementia medicine: Special reference to Alzheimer's disease]. Iitsumi K

Additional filters

☒ Article types

☒ Text availability

☐ PubMed Commons

☒ Publication dates

☒ Species

☐ Languages

☐ Sex

☐ Subjects

☐ Journal categories

☐ Ages

☐ Search fields

Show

This does not turn on the filters yet, it just now displays them as an option for you.

Similarly, some of these filter categories contain more options than you see displayed. If you click on “customize,” you can select more options to be displayed to you. [See top and bottom arrows.]

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PubMed.gov  
US National Library of Medicine  
National Institutes of Health

PubMed galantamine and pharmacology and therapeutic use Search

RSS Save search Advanced Help

Article types  
Clinical Trial  
Review  
Customize ...

Text availability  
Abstract  
Free full text  
Full text

Publication dates  
5 years  
10 years  
Custom range...

Species  
Humans  
Other Animals

Languages  
English  
Customize ...

Sex  
Female  
Male

Journal categories  
Core clinical journals  
Dental journals  
MEDLINE  
Nursing journals

Ages  
Child: birth-18 years

Summary 20 per page Sort by Most Recent

Results: 1 to 20 of 624

<< First < Prev Page 1 of 32 Next > Last >>

Send to: Filters: Manage Filters

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See all (48)...

Find related data  
Database: Select  
Find items

Search details  
{"galantamine"[MeSH Terms] OR "galantamine"[All Fields]) AND ("pharmacology"[Subheading] OR "pharmacology"[All Fields]) AND "pharmacology"[MeSH Terms] AND

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Vallés AS, Borroni MV, Barrantes FJ.  
CNS Drugs. 2014 Nov;28(11):975-87. doi: 10.1007/s40263-014-0201-3.  
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4. [Holy Moly: Hermes' anticholinesterase antidote.](#)  
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Anesthesiology. 2014 Aug;121(2):371. doi: 10.1097/O1.anes.0000451816.76346.cd. No abstract available.  
PMID: 25050493  
[Related citations](#)

5. [\[Progress of dementia medicine: Special reference to Alzheimer's disease\].](#)  
Utsumi K

The screenshot shows the PubMed website interface. At the top, there are navigation links for NCBI, Resources, and How To. The main search bar contains the query 'galantamine and pharmacology and therapeutic use'. Below the search bar, there are links for RSS, Save search, and Advanced. The left sidebar contains various filters, and the 'Article types' filter is expanded, showing a list of options with 'Clinical Trial' selected and highlighted by a red arrow. The main content area displays search results with titles like 'Cholinesterase inhibitor therapy: a case report' and 'Galantamine slows down plaque formation and behavioral decline in the 5XFAD mouse model'. The right sidebar includes sections for 'New feature', '48 free full-text articles in PubMed Central', 'Find related data', and 'Search details'.

## Step 4: Turn on Your Filter


To turn on a filter, simply click on it. [See arrow.]

The screenshot shows the PubMed search results page for the query "galantamine and pharmacology and therapeutic use". The search results are displayed in a list format, with the first five results visible. The left sidebar contains various filters, including "Article types", "Text availability", "Publication dates", "Species", "Languages", "Sex", "Journal categories", and "Ages". A red arrow points to the "Article types" filter, which is currently set to "Review". The search results are sorted by "Most Recent" and show 1 to 20 of 624 results. The right sidebar contains sections for "New feature", "48 free full-text articles in PubMed Central", "Find related data", and "Search details".

NCBI Resources How To amcneil My NCBI Sign Out

PubMed.gov US National Library of Medicine National Institutes of Health RSS Save search Advanced Help

PubMed galantamine and pharmacology and therapeutic use Search

Article types  Clinical Trial Review Customize ...

Text availability Abstract Free full text Full text

Publication dates 5 years 10 years Custom range...

Species Humans Other Animals

Languages English Customize ...

Sex Female Male

Journal categories Core clinical journals Dental journals MEDLINE Nursing journals

Ages Child: birth-18 years

Summary 20 per page Sort by Most Recent Send to: Filters: [Manage Filters](#)

Results: 1 to 20 of 624 << First < Prev Page 1 of 32 Next > Last >>

☐ [A review on Alzheimer's disease pathophysiology and its management: an update.](#)

1. Kumar A, Singh A, Ekavali. Pharmacol Rep. 2015 Apr;67(2):195-203. doi: 10.1016/j.pharep.2014.09.004. Epub 2014 Sep 22. Review. PMID: 25712639 [Related citations](#)

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2. Golüke NM, van Strien AM, Dautzenberg PJ, Jessurun N, Keijsers CJ. J Am Geriatr Soc. 2014 Oct;62(10):2012-3. doi: 10.1111/jgs.13045. No abstract available. PMID: 25333552 [Related citations](#)

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3. Vallés AS, Borroni MV, Barrantes FJ. CNS Drugs. 2014 Nov;28(11):975-87. doi: 10.1007/s40263-014-0201-3. PMID: 25248971 [Related citations](#)

☐ [Holy Moly: Hermes' anticholinesterase antidote.](#)

4. [No authors listed] Anesthesiology. 2014 Aug;121(2):371. doi: 10.1097/01.anes.0000451816.76346.cd. No abstract available. PMID: 25050493 [Related citations](#)

☐ [\[Progress of dementia medicine: Special reference to Alzheimer's disease\].](#)

5. Utsumi K

New feature Try the new Display Settings option - Sort by Relevance

48 free full-text articles in PubMed Central The effect of APOE ε4 allele on cholinesterase inhibitors in p [Alzheimer Dis Assoc Disord. 2014] Antidementia drug use among community-dwelling individi [Int Clin Psychopharmacol. 2014] Galantamine slows down plaque formation and behavioral decline in the 5XFAJ [PLoS One. 2014] See all (48)...

Find related data Database: Select Find items

Search details {"galantamine"[MeSH Terms] OR "galantamine"[All Fields]} AND ("pharmacology"[Subheading] OR "pharmacology"[All Fields] OR "pharmacology"[MeSH Terms]) AND



If we click on “Clinical Trial,” it filters our results down to 136, a much more handleable number. Be aware that these filters are “sticky filters.” They stay turned on until you turn them off, so be sure to turn them off by clicking on “clear all” [see arrow on right] or “clear” [see arrow on left] if you no longer need the same filter.

The screenshot shows the PubMed interface with the search query "galantamine and pharmacology and therapeutic use". The left sidebar shows the "Clinical Trial" filter selected. A red arrow points to the "clear" link next to the filter. The main results area shows "Results: 1 to 20 of 136". A red arrow points to the "Clear all" link in the results section. The search results list includes:

1. [Effects of galantamine and galantamine combined with nimodipine on cognitive speed and quality of life in mixed dementia: a 24-week, randomized, placebo-controlled exploratory trial \(the REMIX study\).](#)  
Caramelli P, Laks J, Palmini AL, Nitrini R, Chaves ML, Forlenza OV, Vale Fde A, Barbosa MT, Bottino CM, Machado JC, Charchat-Fichman H, Lawson FL.  
Arq Neuropsiquiatr. 2014 Jun;72(6):411-7.  
PMID: 24964105 **Free Article**  
[Related citations](#)
2. [Retrospective study on the benefits of combined Memantine and cholinEsterase inhibitor treatMent in AGEd Patients affected with Alzheimer's Disease: the MEMAGE study.](#)  
Gareri P, Putignano D, Castagna A, Cotroneo AM, De Palo G, Fabbio A, Forgione L, Giacummo A, Lacava R, Marino S, Simone M, Zurlo A, Putignano S.  
J Alzheimers Dis. 2014;41(2):633-40. doi: 10.3233/JAD-132735.  
PMID: 24643135  
[Related citations](#)
3. [Cognitive subdomain responses to galantamine in Alzheimer's disease.](#)  
Song J, Ahn IS, Kang HS, Myung W, Lee Y, Woo SY, Ku HM, Hwang TY, Carroll BJ, Kim DK.  
J Nerv Ment Dis. 2014 Mar;202(3):253-9. doi: 10.1097/NMD.0000000000000107.  
PMID: 24566512  
[Related citations](#)
4. [Galantamine treatment in outpatients with mild Alzheimer's disease.](#)  
Richarz U, Gaudig M, Rettig K, Schauble B.

The right sidebar shows a "New feature" section, "48 free full-text articles in PubMed Central", and a "Find related data" section.

Some other useful filters include language, which allows you to limit results to only languages you speak. Sex and ages can also be helpful if you are looking at the drug’s effect on a particular sex or age group. You may also try narrowing by journal category, such as core clinical journals or dental journals.

*If you need or would like more assistance, please feel free to contact us as 617-358-4810 or [refquest@bu.edu](mailto:refquest@bu.edu)*