EUROPEAN MEDICINES AGENCY
SCIENCE MEDICINES HEALTH

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Information and Communications Technology

How to search EU Clinical Trials Register

For all users

Note: The EU Clinical Trials Register User Interface (UI) currently only supports English.

Contents

1. Searching the EU Clinical Trials Register

The EU Clinical Trials Register search engine has been developed to allow free searches of the information entered into the **E**uropean **U**nion **D**rug **R**egulating **A**uthorities **C**linical **T**rials (or EudraCT) database.

- Ensure your browser is open on the EU Clinical Trials Register homepage: https://www.clinicaltrialsregister.eu/

To access the EU-CTR Search:

- Click the Click to search for Clinical Trials button in the middle of the homepage.

Or

- Click on the menu item '**Search**' in the global navigation at the top of the page:

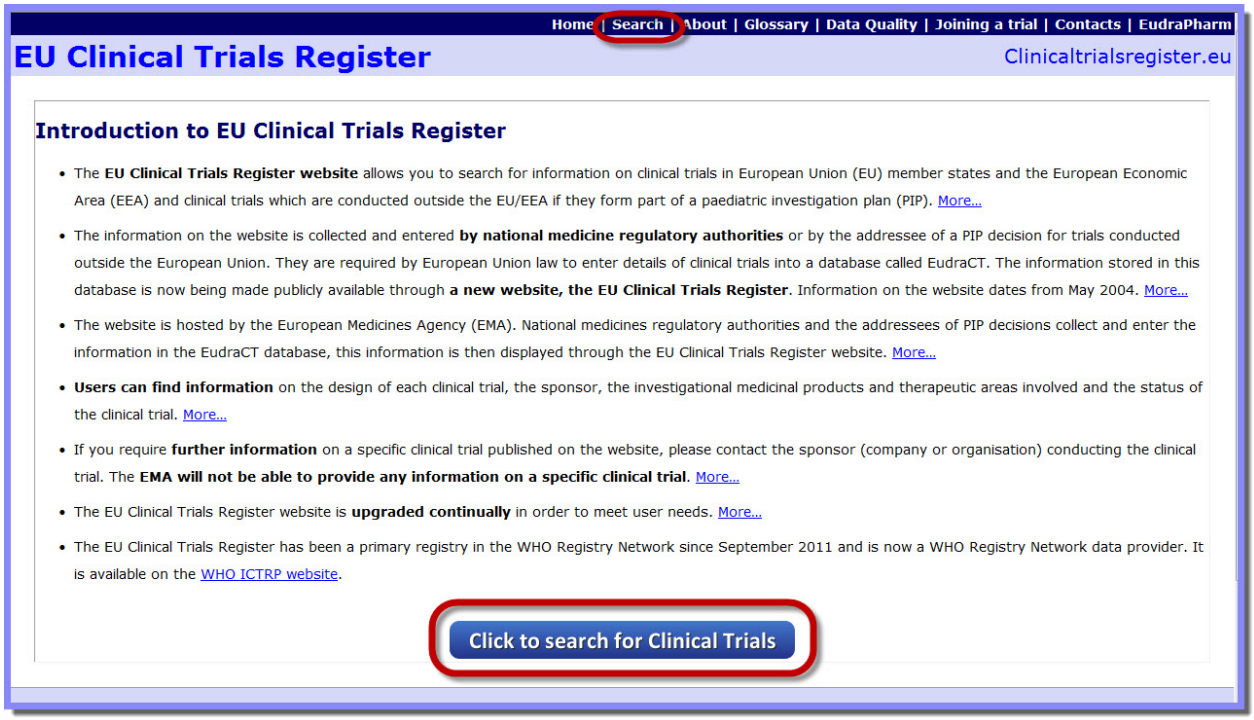


Figure 1

Click either to open the Clinical Trials search page: https://www.clinicaltrialsregister.eu/ctr-search/

2. How to perform a basic search

EU Clinical Trials Register Basic Search

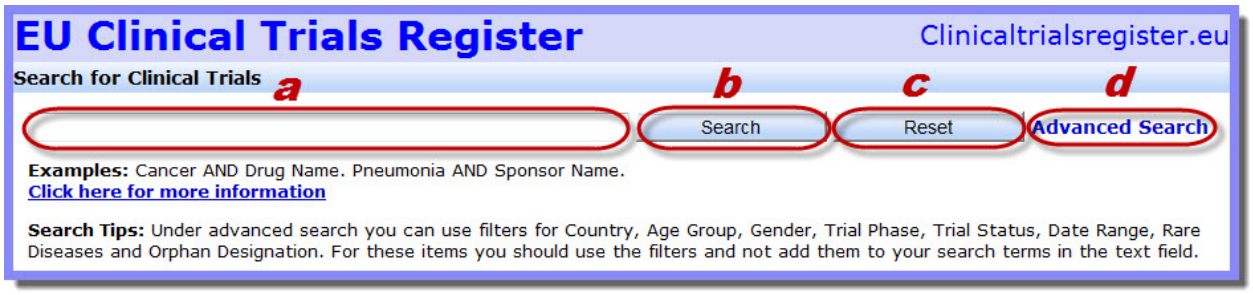


Figure 2

Highlighted Item	Description
a	Click in search field and type a word or phrase (this is your 'search query').
b	Click Search once you have entered a search query in the search field (*a*). Any matched results appear below the search window
c	Click Reset to clear the search field.
d	Click **Advanced Search** to open the Advanced Search fields. See *Section 4. - **Advanced** Search* for information on using the advanced search functions.

- Should you require guidance on the results pages, see *Section 5. - Search Results Explained*, below.

2.1. Basic search explained

The Basic search functions as follows:

- Your search query is matched against any instance of the word(s) in any part of a single clinical trial record. This creates the list of results, summaries of which may be viewed beneath the Search window.
- In addition, the EU Clinical Trials Register makes use of thesaurus-enabled searching. Simply put, search queries look for both specified search terms and synonyms of certain known terms to provide improved search results.

  Note: A synonym is a different word with almost identical or similar meaning. For example, a search query for 'high blood pressure' returns entries containing more technical/medical terms, such as 'hypertension', in addition to results containing 'high blood pressure'.
- The results will be ordered by relevance.

2.2. Multiple term search explained (Boolean operators)

For more specific searches, the use of multiple terms in your search queries is possible using search syntax known as Boolean search 'operators'. Some of these are detailed below.

- In each example, the entire search query as it appears in the search field is contained within the grey highlight.

2.2.1. Search for either term (OR operator)

Enter **OR** (all upper case) between words to return studies that contain **either** word or **both** words.

- **e.g.,** Cancer OR Neoplasm returns all studies containing either term.

  Note: If you enter two terms in your search query, such as Cancer Neoplasm, the AND operator is automatically included (though it does not appear in the search field). To avoid this, surround the two terms with quotation marks to define the two words as a phrase or multi-word term: "Cancer Neoplasm".

2.2.2. Search for multiple terms (AND operator)

Enter **AND** (in upper case) between each term to perform a search for multiple terms:

- A search query containing cancer AND chemotherapy returns all studies containing **both** words (or their known synonyms).
- A search for cancer AND chemotherapy AND Medicine Name returns all studies containing these words, where 'Medicine Name' is the name of a particular medicine.

  Important Note: Even if the AND operator is not added when two discrete words are entered in your search query (for example Cancer Neoplasm), the AND operator is automatically included (though it does not appear in the search field).

  If you wish to avoid this, surround the two discrete terms with quotation marks to define the two words as a phrase or multi-word term: "Cancer Neoplasm".

2.2.3. Search for required terms (+ operator)

Enter **+ immediately before a term** to specify that the term must be present in a study.

- A search for +cancer chemotherapy returns all studies containing 'cancer' that *may* contain 'chemotherapy'.

2.2.4. Search for exact phrase (Quotation marks operator)

Surround the search phrase with quotation marks (""), to return studies containing a specific phrase or multi-word term.

- **e.g.** "Fallopian tube cancer" returns all studies containing this exact phrase.
- The exact phrase function may be combined with the other operators described. For example: "HIV Infections" AND "Pneumonia".

2.2.5. Search for one term whilst excluding another term (NOT operator)

Enter **NOT** (all upper case) between words to search for studies that do not contain the word after the NOT, but contain the first word.

- **e.g.** "HIV Infections" NOT "Hepatitis" will list all the studies containing HIV Infections, where no reference to Hepatitis is made.

  Note: The NOT operator cannot be used with just one term. For example, the following search will return no results: NOT "HIV Infections"

  Note: The symbol **!** may be used in place of **NOT** for equivalent functionality.
- Clear the search box by clicking the **Reset** button.

3. Advanced Search

The Advanced search fields allow you to make a much narrower search query than the basic search, alone.

3.1. How to perform an advanced search

1. To view the advanced search options, click **Advanced Search**, which appears beside the Reset button or under the search field, depending on the size of your browser window (see the top of the screenshot below).

The Advanced Search window

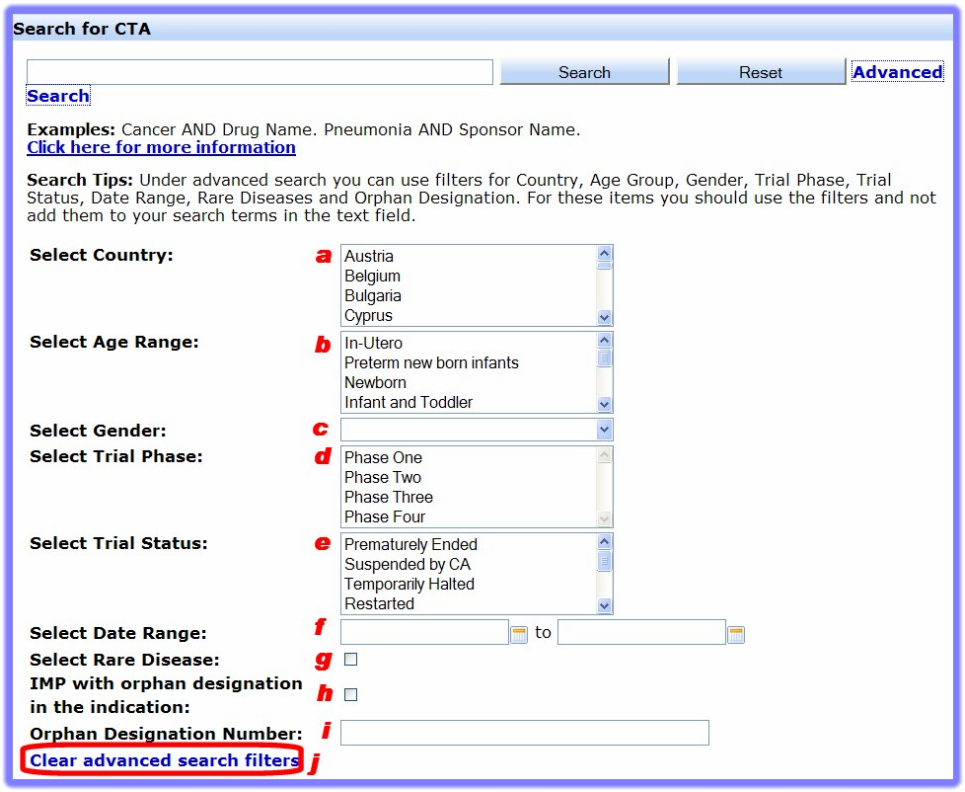


Figure 3

Field	Description
a	**Select Country:** A search filter based on the location of the clinical trial. This includes the 27 European Union Member States as well as the European Economic Area countries (Norway, Iceland and Liechtenstein). Select the country that interests you. Leave this selection blank to run the query against ALL countries. • **CTRL** + **click** to make multiple selections.
b	**Select Age Range:** A search filter based on a specified age range. Select the age range (or ranges) that interest you. Leaving this selection blank will retrieve records from all age ranges. • **CTRL** + **click** to make multiple selections.
c	**Select Gender:** A search filter based on the gender of the participants in a study. Include male or female participants ONLY, or BOTH to retrieve records with trials including both genders. • Click the drop-down arrow to open the drop-down box and select a single option.
d	**Select Trial Phase:** A search filter based on studies that include at least one of the specified

Field	Description
	phases. Leave blank to retrieve trials in ANY of the four phases. See Glossary for definitions of each of the four phases. Please see Annex below for Trial Phase definitions. • **CTRL** + **click** to make multiple selections.
e	**Select Trial Status:** A search filter based on clinical trial status. Leave blank to return studies of ANY status. Please see Annex below for Trial Status definitions. • **CTRL** + **click** to make multiple selections.
f	**Select Date Range:** Click the calendar to choose the start and end date. Performs a search based on the date when the study was first entered into the EudraCT database by a National Competent Authority. **Note on Start Date:** Outside the EU/EEA (i.e. Paediatric Investigation Plans), the start date is actually date the study was submitted into the EudraCT database, **which may not be the actual start date of the study**.
g	**Rare Disease:** Check this tick box to restrict your search to studies and trials concerning rare diseases only.
h	**IMP with Orphan Designation in the indication:** Check this tick box to restrict your search query to trials concerning Investigational Medicinal Products with Orphan Designation. That is, potential medicines for rare diseases which have yet to reach the market, but which have already been issued 'Orphan Designation' by a regulatory authority, such as the European Medicines Agency.
i	**Orphan Designation number:** If known, you can restrict your search to a particular orphan designation number.
j	**Clear advanced search filters:** This has the same effect as the Reset button and clears the entire query.

2. Once the search query has been specified, **click** Search.

3. If matches to your search query are found, these matched results appear below the search window. See *Section 5. - Search Results Explained* below.

4. In addition to the results of your query, the following new options become available:

- Download Options If required, choose how many of the results found you wish to download. See *Section 6. - Download Results* below.
- Subscribe to this Search RSS search subscription options allow you to add a search to your RSS reader, so that any new results to your search will be automatically added to your RSS feed. See *Section 7. - Save a Search to your RSS reader*.

4. Search Results Explained

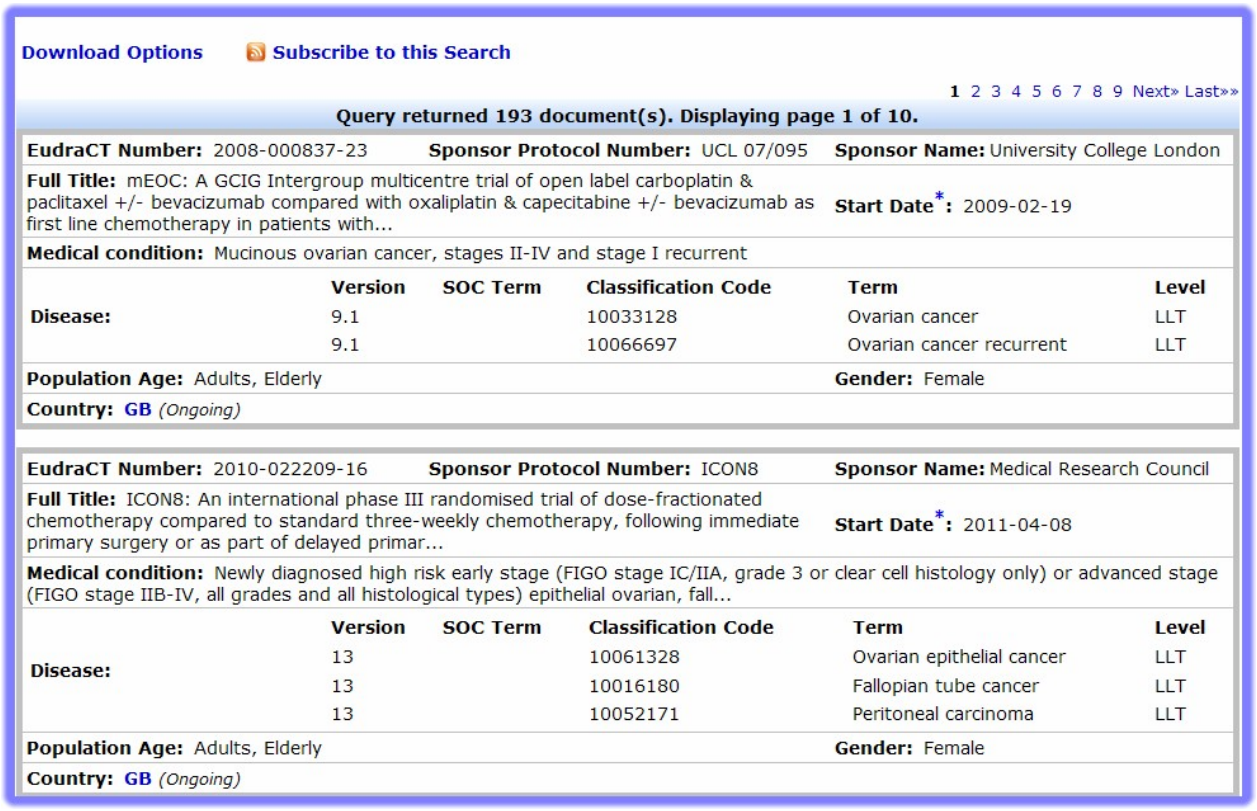
Below, the results of a successful search query are explained.

4.1. Summary

The results of the search are displayed in a summary view. Note that multiple pages of results may be accessed through the navigation bar above the summary of results bar.

- To see the detailed view of a clinical trial conducted in the named country, click on the **Country ISO code** (**GB** in the below example).
- The summary view displays the **oldest record as a default**. This is the clinical trial which was first recorded in the EudraCT system.

Results Summary screen crop



Download Options Subscribe to this Search

1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 Next» Last»»

Query returned 193 document(s). Displaying page 1 of 10.

EudraCT Number: 2008-000837-23 **Sponsor Protocol Number:** UCL 07/095 **Sponsor Name:** University College London

Full Title: mEOC: A GCIG Intergroup multicentre trial of open label carboplatin & paclitaxel +/- bevacizumab compared with oxaliplatin & capecitabine +/- bevacizumab as first line chemotherapy in patients with... **Start Date*:** 2009-02-19

Medical condition: Mucinous ovarian cancer, stages II-IV and stage I recurrent

	Version	SOC Term	Classification Code	Term	Level
Disease:	9.1		10033128	Ovarian cancer	LLT
	9.1		10066697	Ovarian cancer recurrent	LLT

Population Age: Adults, Elderly **Gender:** Female

Country: GB *(Ongoing)*

EudraCT Number: 2010-022209-16 **Sponsor Protocol Number:** ICON8 **Sponsor Name:** Medical Research Council

Full Title: ICON8: An international phase III randomised trial of dose-fractionated chemotherapy compared to standard three-weekly chemotherapy, following immediate primary surgery or as part of delayed primar... **Start Date*:** 2011-04-08

Medical condition: Newly diagnosed high risk early stage (FIGO stage IC/IIA, grade 3 or clear cell histology only) or advanced stage (FIGO stage IIB-IV, all grades and all histological types) epithelial ovarian, fall...

	Version	SOC Term	Classification Code	Term	Level
Disease:	13		10061328	Ovarian epithelial cancer	LLT
	13		10016180	Fallopian tube cancer	LLT
	13		10052171	Peritoneal carcinoma	LLT

Population Age: Adults, Elderly **Gender:** Female

Country: GB *(Ongoing)*

Figure 4

Element	Description
EudraCT Number	When registered, each trial is issued with a unique EudraCT number, which identifies the protocol and trial throughout its lifespan.
Sponsor Protocol Number	Unique Identifier number for the Protocol e.g. Sponsor acronym and numbering system (UCL 07/095).
Sponsor Name	The individual, company, institution, or organization that takes responsibility for the initiation, management, and/or financing of a clinical trial.

Element	Description
Full Title	The full title of the clinical trial as specified in the study protocol and other documents submitted as part of the Clinical Trial Application.
Start Date	The date upon which the clinical trial commenced within the European Economic Area (EEA). **Note:** Outside the EU/EEA (i.e. Paediatric Investigation Plans), the start date is actually date the study was submitted into the EudraCT database, **which may not be the actual start date of the study**.
Medical condition	Medical condition or disease under investigation. Description of intended indication for the product under development.
Disease	The MedDRA classification, including the version of MedDRA, its classification code, the term and its level in the MedDRA terminology hierarchy. **Key to MedDRA hierarchical levels (highest to lowest):** SOC (System Organ Class) HLGT (High Level Group Term) HLT (High Level Term) PT (Preferred Term) LLT (Lowest Level Term). See MedDRA website for more information.
Population Age	The age range(s) of those taking part in the study.
Gender	The gender(s) of those taking part in the study.
Country	The country in which the study is based. Click on the ISO country code to view full details of the clinical trial. ISO two letter Country Codes (also known as ISO 3166-1-alpha-2 code) are used in the EudraCT database to record all country references. See the ISO website for the complete list.

4.1.1. Clinical Trials in Multiple Countries

The results of the search displayed for multiple countries for the same EudraCT Number are **NOT** translations. The countries are those in which the trial was conducted.

- Click on the **ISO country code** (in the **Country** field as a blue hyperlink) to view the clinical trial details specific to that country.
- Some fields may appear to be blank or carry a default value 'Information not Present in EudraCT'. Please refer to the FAQ, which is also accessible under the 'About' section of the EU Clinical Trials Register website for further details.

5. Download Results

Download results of a search query in plain text format.

- Once you've run a successful search, the **Download Options** link appears just above the results.
- Click the link to view the options available:

Figure 5

Element	Description
Number of Trials to download	Click the 'Selected Trials only' radio button and then click the check box beside each result on the page you are currently viewing. **Note:** This option is only available on a page by page basis.
Download Content	Click the radio button to select a précis of the information (Summary Details) or the entire entry of the study (Full Trial Details).
Download Format	Currently, only a plain text output is provided (.txt file extension).
Download	Click the Download button when you have chosen your download options criteria.

Selected Trials Only:

Once the 'Selected Trials only' radio button is selected, you may then select trials (by EudraCT Number) on the page you are currently viewing.

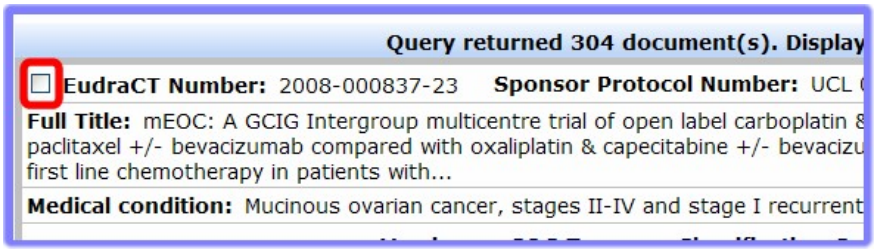


Figure 6

- Click the Download button when you have selected the trials to download.
- You may 'Open' the text file or 'Save' it to your local file structure.

6. Save a Search to your RSS reader

EU Clinical Trials Register now offers the option to save a specific search (or advanced search) query as a Really Simple Syndication (RSS) 'feed'.

- Once a search query is subscribed, you'll be notified in your RSS reader if the search query returns new results.
- The method of subscribing to an RSS feed varies between browsers, but involves no more than a couple of mouse clicks.

  Note: If you are interested in this feature, and are not sure whether your browser supports RSS feeds, please refer to your browser's Help, which is accessible through the browser's options bar. Below, are the instructions for subscribing to a search in Internet Explorer 8.

Subscribe to search feed in IE8

1. Once a search query has been created, click 

.
2. Now, **click** the word 'here' and your default RSS tool will give you options to subscribe to the search query. In this example, the Internet Explorer RSS feed screen is shown:

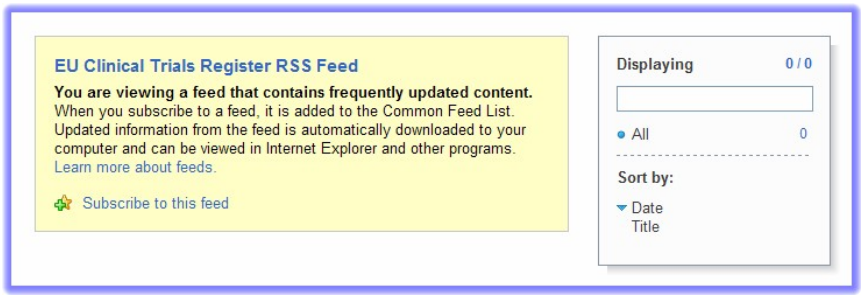


Figure 7

3. Click 'Subscribe to this feed' and the 'Subscribe to this feed' dialogue appears:

Figure 8

4. If you wish, you can amend the 'Name' of the feed to something more specific (e.g. Search Query: "HIV" NOT "PNEUMONIA") and manage the location of the feed.
5. **Click** 

and the search is added to your RSS feeds:

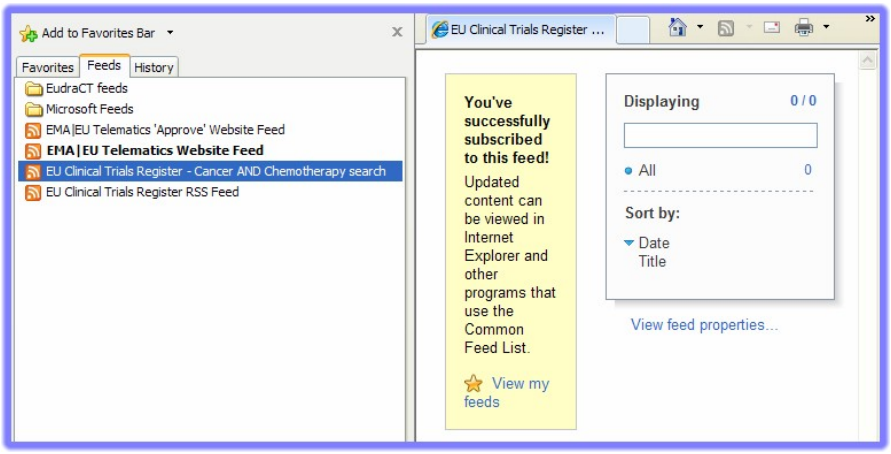


Figure 9

6. If additional results which match your search query are added, the RSS feed will indicate additional results are available to view. Click the link to view the latest results summary in EU Clinical Trials Register.

7. Annex

The Annex contains definitions clinical trial phases and statuses. You may also find the EU Clinical Trials Register Glossary useful to explain other unfamiliar terms and acronyms which may be encountered in viewing clinical trials records.

The EU Clinical Trials Register Glossary is also available through the top bar on each page of the EU Clinical Trials Register website:

Figure 10

7.1. Clinical Trial Phase Definitions

Phase	Definition
Phase I	Phase I is the first stage of a clinical trial. It is to ensure a treatment is safe for people to take, rather than to try to treat a condition. These trials are very small, (typically around 30 people), and usually involve healthy volunteers or sometimes patients.
Phase II	The second phase in clinical trials aims to investigate the safety and effectiveness of a potential therapy. Usually between 100 and 300 people will be enlisted to take part with the aim of determining whether the treatment will be safe and effective to treat a condition.
Phase III	If previous trials have indicated a treatment is safe and that it also shows promise in being able to treat a condition, phase III clinical trials begin. These involve large numbers of participants usually from several hundred to several thousand subjects, and are often spread between different hospitals and countries. If these trials show that a drug is safe and effective, the manufacturers can apply for a drug license.
Phase IV	Post-marketing studies to delineate additional information including the drug's risks, benefits, and optimal use. These studies are designed to monitor effectiveness of the approved intervention in the general population and to collect information about any adverse effects associated with widespread use.

7.2. Clinical Trial Status Definitions

Status	Definition
Ongoing	Is a clinical trial which has received an opinion of Ethics Committee and Authorisation from Competent Authority in Member States concerned and has not ended or being interrupted.
Not-authorised	Within EU-CTR all clinical trials displayed have an authorisation from competent authority however we also display those Paediatric trials for which a negative ethics committee opinion was issued. Since without the ethics committee opinion a trial may not proceed, these are labelled as not authorised.
Temporarily Halted	Trial has been temporarily interrupted. Potential reasons for such an interruption are very varied ranging from an interruption in supply of an IMP, a need to wait for substantial amendment to a protocol or quality issue.
Restarted	Temporarily Halted or Suspended trial that has been re-started.

Status	Definition
Prematurely Ended	Trial has ended without completing all events described in the protocol. This can be for many reasons including these related to safety, or efficacy or lack of feasibility of trial.
Completed	Trial has been completed in accordance with full requirements of the protocol.
Prohibited by National Competent Authority	National Competent Authority has prohibited the trial conduct reasons may be related to safety and efficacy of product or to non-compliance by some of those involved.
Suspended by National Competent Authority	National Competent Authority has suspended the trial conduct reasons may be related to safety and efficacy of product or to non-compliance by some of those involved. A suspended trial could be re-started.

8. Feedback

If you have any feedback, corrections or comments on this document, please contact:

euctr@ema.europa.eu and request that your feedback is passed onto the development team.