

# Quickly Find Medical Journal Articles with This Handy App

REVIEWED BY ROBIN BRADLEY HANSEL, PT

**HAVE YOU EVER BEEN WORKING WITH A** patient and needed quick access to medically relevant data to support a particular treatment idea? Or as a clinical instructor, has a student asked a complex question you couldn't answer? Maybe you're a busy parent working on your DPT and trying to frantically finish a paper at your kid's soccer practice so you need to look up a medical study on your smartphone. The free app called PubMed4Hh (PubMed for Handhelds) by National Library of Medicine LHC may be a lifesaver. It's currently available for iPhone, iPad and iPod Touch customers and optimized for iPhone 5.

PubMed4Hh empowers users to immediately access relevant health information available from the National Library of Medicine. Journal abstracts, TBL ("the bottom line") summaries and even full-text articles for publication full-subscribers are now readily available. Easy access to Medline via the browser's search tool is also quick and reliable.

I especially appreciated the feature of being able to search via categories that included topics such as therapy, diagnosis and clinical predictions. I was able to archive my search results and even email them to myself for later research. As a technical writer, this was a real plus for me.

A topical search in the "Clinical Queries" feature for the general term "physical therapy" accessed 21,106 results. I narrowed this search down to "total hip replacements" and pinpointed 623 medical journal articles related solely to this procedure. Next, I added the more specific term "acute care" to THR and was directed to 17 medically relevant articles.

I then tried another search using the PICO tool (Patient, Intervention, Comparison, Outcome). I selected frozen shoulder with physical therapy as an intervention compared to surgical approaches. I specified the outcome as "successful" and was pointed to six results. Awesome!



I wasn't as thrilled by the free-text, natural language query for Medline option. After a few less-than-favorable searches, I tried searching "carpal tunnel syndrome," which finally yielded 6266 results. I narrowed my publication type down to meta-analysis studies and located 52 results.

The Journal Browser was a nice feature, although no physical therapy publications are yet available. Instead, I selected the *Arthritis & Rheumatology Journal* abbreviated "Arthritis Rheum" from more than 29 alphabetized options and was able to browse nearly 11,000 results. I preferred the ease of the "Consensus/Abstracts" feature and used the Medline option to locate more than 15,000 short abstracts of articles covering cerebral palsy. I had the option of checking the box to the left of each and saving to my archived library or immediately emailing a copy. Again, I was very impressed with the versatility of yet another feature of the app.

I highly recommend the PubMed4Hh app as an effective research tool for any PT, PTA or student. It's also a great resource to have on hand for patient education purposes and when preparing to speak with physicians. Therapy professionals can archive a library of favorite, timely article abstracts to pull up at a moment's notice. ■

*Robin Bradley Hansel is owner of Green Treehouse Media LLC and Labyrinth Wellness LLC, both located in South Florida.*

## PubMed4Hh by National Library of Medicine LHC

| RATING OF FUNCTION FOR PHYSICAL THERAPISTS | NUMBER OF STARS OUT OF 5 |
|--|--------------------------|
| Ease of Use                                | ****                     |
| Relevance to PT                            | ****                     |
| Frequency of Projected Use                 | ****                     |
| Potential for Upgrade with Improvements    | ***                      |
| Usefulness for Therapeutic Intervention    | ****                     |
| Accuracy                                   | *****                    |

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