



PCM-1 Research Assignment Instructions & Case Study

The attached case study of a patient with Huntington's chorea raises a number of ethical issues.

For the project due August 17, 2009:

- o With the daughter's questions in mind, complete a search grid to identify relevant searchable terms for your search strategy.
- o Run an Ovid Medline search.
- o Print the search strategy and 3-5 relevant citations (author/title/source) that best answer your search query.
- o Write a 1-2 page summary using articles selected from your relevant citations and discuss what you would recommend to the daughter to help answer her two questions. In addition, for the last paragraph, *discuss how the library search session helped you to answer these questions*. You will use your 1-2 page summary in PCM-1 small group during a discussion around this case.

Due: Monday, August 17, 2009 by 4pm

Assignment (search grid, Ovid Medline search strategy, relevant citations, and summary) is to be turned in at the [Reference Desk in the Health Sciences Library](#) (north end of Loyola campus).

You will need to submit the following:

1. Completed search grid with relevant searchable terms
2. Search strategy and 3-5 relevant citations (author/title/source) that best answer your search query.
3. Summary report (1 – 2 pages)

Case Study

A 48-year-old woman presents to her neurologist with a complaint of abnormal jerky involuntary movements. The physician suspects a diagnosis of Huntington's chorea and confirms this suspicion with genetic testing. He explains to the patient that Huntington's disease is an incurable neurological condition, which involves the gradual development of uncontrolled abnormal movements and eventually progresses to irreversible dementia and death within 10 years of diagnosis. He also explains that the condition is inherited in an autosomal dominant fashion with the result that there is a 50% chance her children may carry the gene for the condition although at this point it would be asymptomatic. She has two children who are both in their early thirties, and one of them, her daughter, is planning to get married and start a family within the next six months.

The daughter is very concerned that she may have the gene for Huntington's disease, and is not sure about what impact that would have on her children. She is not sure about even having children if she tests positive for the gene. She has two questions for you:

- 1) "Doctor, should I get tested for Huntington's Disease?"
- 2) "If I test positive, should I still have children?"

Assignment for Small Groups during the week of September 8th:

You will play the role of either Doctor or Daughter; the doctor and daughter are going to sit down together for the first time to discuss these issues.

In this session, students should call upon the information they found during their Library Research session on the ethical issues surrounding genetic testing for children of patients with Huntington's disease.

One student should play the physician
One student should play the daughter

The rest of the class and the facilitators should observe, provide help where needed to the student physician, and provide feedback to the student on the communication skills discussed in this session.

Criteria for evaluating Medical Students' Research Project

The following criteria will be applied when evaluating the assigned search strategy.

Also be sure to include the author/title/source for 3 –5 relevant citations along with the strategy.

1. Select appropriate database and timeframe
2. Analyze the question and on a separate sheet, complete a search grid listing the key concepts & similar terms that will be used in your search (see example below)
3. Choose appropriate MeSH subject heading for each concept
4. Use Explode option if appropriate
5. Effectively narrow results as needed
 - a. Select subheading(s)
 - b. Use correct Boolean logic to combine concepts
 - c. Apply appropriate limits (i.e.: age groups, language)
 - d. Use Focus
 - e. Add additional MeSH headings
 - f. Search efficiency (i.e. did not limit every search statement, did not use unnecessary search terms)
6. Identify relevant citations in your search which will help in answering the daughter's questions.

Search Grid example:

Example: Find articles that address management of stress in graduate students

Management	Stress	Graduate students
Therapy Relaxation techniques Exercise Treatment Prevention Homeopathy	Anxiety Pressure Stressors Stimuli	Medical students Doctorate students Ph.D. students

Questions? Email researchservices@lumc.edu or call (708) 216-9192 and ask to speak to a reference librarian.