Ovid Technologies employs various short cut commands throughout their suite of databases. These timesaving commands are quite useful and easy to memorize.

**.mp** after the search term will search in the title, abstract, name of substance, and mesh subject heading fields
- normotensive is not a medical subject heading
- search normotensive.mp to bypass additional screens

**$ or :** are the Wild Cards or Truncation Symbols
- diabet$ will retrieve . . . diabetes, diabetic, etc.
- diabet: will retrieve . . . diabetes, diabetic, etc.

**#** will insert a single character in a word
- wom#n

**?** will insert a single character or no character
- colo?r

**and/** will work with a range and/or individual steps
- and/1-3,7
- or/1-3,7
- not/1-3,7

These combinations will work with all three Boolean operators.

**..pg** will “purge” or delete search steps
- ..pg 1-3 will delete the first three search steps
- ..pg 1,9-12,17 will delete individual steps and ranges

**Warning!**: use this command with caution. If the search step being deleted is combined with other search steps, the related steps will be deleted!

**exp** will “explode” or include the original term and all narrower terms on the “branch” of the tree

- exp asthma will retrieve . . .
  - asthma
  - asthma, exercise-induced
  - status asthmaticus

For a complete and up-to-date description of the search fields, click on [More Fields](#) when in an Ovid database. Click the ![icon](#) for detailed information.