
**MD Consult**

**ACCESS TO THE DATABASE**

On the Provider/Vendor grid that you see below, click on the name “MDConsult.” See the arrow on the right side of the illustration.

You will be taken to a spot on the Electronic Library’s menu where you can get into the database. Click on the text “MDConsult.”

**REGISTRATION**

Next, you will see MDConsult’s sign in or login page. The company requires that you go through a registration process in order for you to use the database. If you have not
already registered, you will need to do so now. On the bottom of the page you see below, you will find the text “Sign up NOW!”

As you can see, the bottom arrow below points to the text on which you need to click in order to reveal the registration form. After you have registered, you can get into the database by using the “Member Sign-In” access point at the top of the page.

What you see below is the top part of the registration form. Notice that you need to choose a medical specialty and a profession. Click on the squares to the right of the boxes to reveal the choices.
There is some more information the company requires you to furnish: the user name that you wish to use and the password. After you have filled out the form, click on the “Finish” button at the bottom. See the arrow.

There is no waiting time required. You will be able to search the database immediately. Afterward, when you want to search MDConsult again, you will enter the database by way of the “Members Sign-In” button at the top of the page. You will then be asked to fill in the user name and password that you chose when you first signed up. You can see the appropriate boxes on the left-hand panel below.

SEARCHING THE DATABASE

The page that you will see is quite confusing: filled as it is with pictures and text. Ignore the pictures. What you are interested in is searching the database. Above the dark boxes
that cross the page horizontally on the top, you will see some options. The one to exercise at this point is “New Search,” the text on the extreme left side of the line. See the arrow. You can explore all of the other options later at your leisure.

When you click on the “New Search” option, you will be shown a query box with place for two terms. Fill in the boxes with your search terms and then click on the “Search” button. See the arrows at the top of the image below. Notice that the “AND” operator is built right into the search engine.
You will find the results of your search on the panel to the right. See the arrow below. You can see that there are 18 hits on the topic in the journals section of the database. There are no reference books on the subject, but there is one “Practice Guideline,” or protocol. In earlier versions of MDConsult, it was necessary to search in several different sections of the database to find information. For example, if you wanted to find reference books on the topic, you had to search that part of the database, the reference books section. If you wanted practice guidelines, you were forced to search in that section. This latest iteration of the product allows you to search in all sections of the database simultaneously. The results of the search are then shown in all categories, as you can see below.

In order to display the articles retrieved in the latest search, you need to click on the little arrow to the left of the number 18. See the arrow pointing to the right.

The page that you see below shows the top of the list of articles retrieved. In the example displayed below, you can see above the titles of the articles a place on which to click in order to see the “Full Text” of the first two articles. Unfortunately, neither of these articles is completely relevant. So, it will be necessary to go down the list to find the pertinent articles. In contrast to Ovid’s search engine, MDConsult’s search engine is not as accurate as it could be. It does work well enough to find some information, though.
The following illustration shows articles 4 through 7 on the list. Only articles 6 and 7 are completely relevant to the topic. These articles, however, are not offered in full text, but rather with just the abstract available. Nevertheless, one will be accessed here to show what it looks like.

Clicking on the “Abstract” of article 6 produces the following page. This section of the record gives you the citation.
Notice that the panel to the left allows you to access specific parts of the article such as the bibliographic data. Going down deeper into the article shows you part of the abstract. Normally, *MDConsult* allows you to find the full text of pertinent articles. In this case, however, some of the relevant articles are provided only with abstracts.

Even though the following article is not completely on the topic, it will nevertheless illustrate how full text articles are displayed. In the example below, you can see in the left panel the access points to the full text.
Below you can see part of the full text. It turns out that the focus of the article is on the relationship between endocarditis and dental implants, not diabetes mellitus.

SEARCHING ON A SINGLE TOPIC

Perhaps another search on a single topic will show MDConsult to better advantage. Here is a search on “Gingivitis.” As usual, you enter the topic in the query box, as shown below. Then, you click on the search button.

This time, as you can see, there are far greater results: fourteen reference books, over a thousand articles, five guidelines, drug facts, and much more. This example shows you the full extent of the information provided by MDConsult.
REFERENCE BOOKS

By clicking on the little arrow to the left of the results of the search in the “Reference Books” section, see the arrow in the image above, you will see the following list of books in order of the number of occurrences of the topic in each book. Mandell’s book is number one on the list because it has 12 sections devoted to the topic.

To see the pertinent sections of Mandell’s book, simply click on the underlined title. On the right, you will see a picture of Mandell’s two-volume work. You will see an index of all occurrences of the topic in the book listed on the left panel. See below. Click on any section you find interesting.
Here is one section of the “clinical presentation” of gingivitis. Aside from the text, you can see Mandell’s references by clicking on the bracketed numbers.

**PATIENT HANDOUTS**

By clicking on the button with the text “Patient Handouts,” you can get a number of different documents to distribute to your patients. There are even some handouts written for a Spanish population. The list of handouts is, as usual, on the left hand side, in the panel. The arrow on the left side of the image is pointing to the section on “Medications.”
DRUG INFORMATION

Certainly one of the best features of MDConsult is its extensive coverage of drugs. On the results page, you saw that there were drugs recommended for gingivitis. By clicking on the little arrow to the left of the results page, you will gain access to the drug information. See the arrow below.

The drugs recommended for gingivitis are listed on the page to which you are brought. To reveal the information about each drug, you click on the underlined name of the drug.
Here is the top part of the report on “Clorhexidine Gluconate.” You can see some of the brand names and other information.

And here is the section on indications, contraindications, and precautions. The articles on drugs usually run well over ten pages. In some cases, the reports extend to twenty pages. The drug portion of the database is indeed superb. Just this section alone makes MDConsult worth owning.

ACCESS TO THE DIFFERENT SECTIONS OF THE DATABASE

One way to get to the different portions of MDConsult, is to go to any results page. Click on “Last Results” on the opening page menu and you will be brought back to the results page. See the arrow in the image below.
On the top left of the results page, you will see a query box with the words “All Sections.” Click on the downward pointing arrow in the box to see the various sections of MDConsult listed. Below, in the open menu in the left panel, you can see the choices.

Another way in which to access different parts of the database is to click on the down arrow in the button with the text “Clinical Knowledge.” See the arrow below.

A new menu appears below, and from these options you can move from section to section: reference books, journal search for medicine, practice guidelines, and drug information.

PRINTING THE ARTICLES

MDConsult does not have a printing function in the database itself. Instead, you will need to use the printing function supplied by your browser. In the image shown below, you will see the printer in Netscape Communicator. In order to active the function, just click on the image of the printer.
FINDING HELP

Because there are so many features in MDConsult, you might need help to find and use them. The company has designed a very well organized and useful help section. You can find the access point on the menu of the first page. See the arrow below.

Below, you can see just the top part of the help section. To get to specific sections of the database, just review the choices in the panel on the left side.

Best of luck in your searches.