Truncation, Wildcards and Proximity Operators

	PubMed	**Ovid Medline**	**Ovid Embase**	**Web of Science**	**Cochrane**
Truncation finds different endings of a word with unlimited numbers of characters or numbers limited to n characters					
*	✔ at the end of the last term, quotation marks possible	✔	✔	✔ (left, right & in between of word)	✔
*n	✘	✔	✔	✘	✘
$	✘	✔	✔	✔ 1 character only	✘
$n	✘	✔	✔	✘	✘
Wildcards replace 0 or 1 character					
?	✘	✔ 0 or 1 letter (but no special characters like -)	✔ 0 or 1 letter (but no special characters like -)	✔ 1 character (exactly)	✔ 1 character (exactly)
$	✘	✘	✘	✔ 0 or 1 character	✘
#	✘	✔ 1 character (exactly)	✔ 1 character (exactly)	✘	✘
Hyphens combine words (in most databases they are ignored)					
-	hydro-power returns: - "hydro power" - hydro-power	hydro-power returns: - "hydro power" - hydro-power	hydro-power returns: - "hydro power" - hydro-power	hydro-power returns: - "hydro power" - hydro-power	hydro-power returns: - "hydro power" - hydro-power
Quotation marks search exact phrases					
"xx yy"	✔ finds heart attack and heart-attack. Accepts only **truncation of last term**	✔ finds heart attack and heart-attack. Accepts wildcards & truncation **inside**	✔ finds heart attack and heart-attack. Accepts wildcards & truncation **inside**	✔ finds heart attack and heart-attack. Accepts wildcards & truncation **inside, beginning, ending**	✔ finds heart attack and heart-attack. Wildcards & truncation **not supported**
Proximity operators search words in the proximity of other word(s) (n = number)					
adj	✘	✔ next to each other in specific order (= "heart attack"	✔ next to each other in specific order (= "heart attack"	✘	✘
adjn	✘	✔ with n-1 words in between, either order	✔ with n-1 words in between, either order	✘	✘
NEAR	✘	✘	✘	✔ next to each other in specific order (= "heart attack"	✔ words adjacent to each other, in either order
NEAR/n	✘	✘	✘	✔ with n-1 words in between, either order	✔ with n words in between, either order
NEXT	✘	✘	✘	✘	✔ words adjacent to each other, in specific order