# Sample IACUC Literature Searches

## Refinement

Tips for completing a refinement search: Complete a search including all procedures conducted in the study that may be painful or distressful to the animals, including such procedures as water regulation or single housing of non-human primates.

The following table shows an example of an abbreviatedrefinement search in the Ovid MEDLINE Database. Line number 12 shows the final number of citations retrieved by the search, once date limits are used.

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **Line Number** | **Search Statements**  | **Number of Results** |
| 1 | macaca/ or macaca mulatta/ | 46133  |
| 2 | (monkey$ or non-human primate$ or nonhuman primate$).mp. | 84897  |
| 3 | 1 or 2 | 98823  |
| 4 | \*anesthesia/ or \*anesthesia, general/ or \*anesthesia, inhalation/ | 55512  |
| 5 | Pain, Postoperative/pc [Prevention & Control] | 7431  |
| 6 | Kidney Transplantation/is, mt [Instrumentation, Methods] | 3696  |
| 7 | Lymph Node Excision/ | 22953  |
| 8 | Biopsy, Fine-Needle/is, mt [Instrumentation, Methods] | 1867  |
| 9 | (singl$ adj2 hous$).mp. | 1007  |
| 10 | 4 or 5 or 6 or 7 or 8 or 9 | 92040  |
| 11 | 3 and 10 | 218  |
| 12 | limit 11 to (english language and yr="2002 -Current") | 83  |

## Replacement

Tips for completing a replacement search: Complete a search on your general research topic and combine this terminology with possible ways to replace your animal model, such as with a lower animal species or in vitro techniques. Note: your specific animal model should NOT be included in this search.

The following table shows an example of an abbreviated replacement search in the Ovid MEDLINE Database. Line number 11 shows the final number of citations retrieved by the search, once date limits are used.

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **Line Number** | **Search Statements** | **Number of Results** |
| 1 | Kidney Transplantation/ | 75269  |
| 2 | exp transplantation immunology/ or exp host vs graft reaction/ or graft survival/ | 95927  |
| 3 | immune tolerance/ or transplantation tolerance/ | 31169  |
| 4 | 2 or 3 | 122130  |
| 5 | Computer Simulation/ | 123117  |
| 6 | models, animal/ or disease models, animal/ | 227877  |
| 7 | In Vitro.pt. | 373252  |
| 8 | "animal use alternatives"/ or animal testing alternatives/ | 2622  |
| 9 | 5 or 6 or 7 or 8 | 719998  |
| 10 | 1 and 4 and 9 | 458  |
| 11 | limit 10 to (english language and yr="2002 -Current") | 199  |

## Reduction

Tips for completing a replacement search: Complete a search for similar research (you can include your specific animal model) and look at the number of animals used in the studies retrieved. Also perform a search using terminology such as “sample size” or “research design”.

The following table shows an example of an abbreviated replacement search in the Ovid MEDLINE Database. Line number 11 shows the final number of citations retrieved by the search, once date limits are used.

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **Line Number** | **Search Statements** | **Number of Results** |
| 1 | macaca/ or macaca mulatta/ | 46133  |
| 2 | (monkey$ or non-human primate$ or nonhuman primate$).mp. | 84897  |
| 3 | 1 or 2 | 98823  |
| 4 | Kidney Transplantation/ | 75269  |
| 5 | exp transplantation immunology/ or exp host vs graft reaction/ or graft survival/ | 95927  |
| 6 | immune tolerance/ or transplantation tolerance/ | 31169  |
| 7 | 5 or 6 | 122130  |
| 8 | 3 and 4 and 7 | 306  |
| 9 | limit 8 to (english language and yr="2002 -Current") | 113  |
| 10 | research design/ | 68270  |
| 11 | sample size/ | 7793  |
| 12 | 10 or 11 | 74089  |
| 13 | 12 and (4 or 7) | 165  |
| 14 | limit 13 to (english language and animals and yr="2002 -Current") | 7  |