Acute Kidney Injury Search Filters for PubMed, Ovid Medline, and Embase

With recent changes in concept, classification, and nomenclature, retrieval of evidence that pertains to acute kidney injury (AKI) from online bibliographic databases such as PubMed is becoming more difficult. Routinely used search terms such as ‘acute renal failure’, ‘acute tubular necrosis’, and ‘acute kidney injury’ lack sensitivity for the retrieval of AKI content. Without sufficient time and skill, physicians frequently fail to retrieve relevant articles while sifting through several thousand non-relevant citations.

The Health Information Research Unit at McMaster University, Hamilton, Ontario, Canada, in collaboration with the Kidney Clinical Research Unit at Western University in London, Ontario, have provided a solution to this problem. Using computer automation to create complex search strategies, they have developed high-performance PubMed search filters that allow physicians to search for articles within specific sub-disciplines of nephrology (including AKI), rather than searching the entire PubMed database. They are working with PubMed and Ovid to integrate these filters into their search interfaces, but in the meantime anyone worldwide may access them at the following link.

http://hiru.mcmaster.ca/hiru/hiru_hedges_nephrology_filters.aspx

For busy clinicians at the point-of-care, they recommend the high-specificity filters. High-sensitivity filters may appeal to researchers conducting a more comprehensive literature review.