

Boolean Search Guide

A practical reference for building more focused Google Web and Google News searches about NF research, care, treatments, trials, advocacy, and community updates.

Scope These instructions are designed for Google Search and Google News. PubMed, ClinicalTrials.gov, and other research databases use different search rules and filters.

Core Boolean logic

Method or operator	What it does	NF example
AND	In traditional Boolean searching, AND requests results containing both concepts. In Google Search and Google News, typing AND is usually unnecessary and may not change results. Entering multiple terms generally tells Google to consider them together, but Google may match related wording or omit a term.	neurofibromatosis AND pain neurofibromatosis pain
OR	Requests results containing either alternative. Capitalize OR and group alternatives with parentheses.	(NF1 OR neurofibromatosis) treatment
Exact phrase: " "	Keeps words together in the same order. Use it when the wording must be specific.	"plexiform neurofibroma"
Exclude: -	Removes results containing the term immediately after the minus sign. Do not add a space.	NF1 trial -fundraiser -merchandise
Grouping: ()	Keeps alternatives together so they combine correctly with the rest of the search.	(NF1 OR schwannomatosis) (trial OR study)

Important: Use the minus sign to exclude a term. Typing NOT is less dependable in Google Search and Google News.

Search operators used by the website

Type an operator directly before its value with no space: `site:nih.gov`, not `site: nih.gov`.

Officially documented Google operators

Method or operator	What it does	NF example
site:	Limits results to a domain, website, or URL prefix. It may not show every indexed page.	<code>site:ctf.org</code> NF1 treatment
filetype:	Limits results to a file extension, such as PDF, DOCX, PPTX, XLSX, CSV, RTF, TXT, or EPUB.	<code>schwannomatosis filetype:pdf</code>
before:	Requests pages dated before a year or YYYY-MM-DD date.	NF1 <code>before:2026-01-01</code>
after:	Requests pages dated after a year or YYYY-MM-DD date. Combine with before: for a range.	NF1 <code>after:2025-01-01</code>

Date-filter limitation

Google may use a page update date or an inferred date rather than the original publication date. Always verify the publication date on the original source. Do not treat a Google date filter as proof that a study falls within a research date range.

Other advanced operators

The operators below may work, but Google documents them less consistently and their behavior can change. Test the results and avoid relying on them for a complete or systematic search.

Method or operator	What it does	NF example
intitle:	Looks for the next word or quoted phrase in the page title. Repeat it for separate title terms.	<code>intitle:NF1 intitle:trial</code>
allintitle:	Looks for all following words in the title. Usually place it once near the start.	<code>allintitle: NF1 clinical trial</code>
inurl:	Looks for the next word in the web address.	NF1 <code>inurl:news</code>
allinurl:	Looks for all following words in the web address and can be very restrictive.	<code>allinurl: research NF1</code>
intext:	Looks for the next word or phrase in page text, although Google may still interpret the whole query.	<code>intext:"NF2-related schwannomatosis"</code>
allintext:	Looks for all following terms in page text and can narrow too aggressively.	<code>allintext: NF1 treatment adults</code>

Additional useful search methods

Method or operator	What it does	NF example
Number range: ..	Searches within a numeric range. It can help with quantities, ages, or measurements; date operators are better for dates.	NF1 adults age 18..35
Wildcard: *	Inside a quoted phrase, an asterisk may stand in for unknown words. Behavior is not always exact.	"NF1 * clinical trial"
Several sites	Join complete site: filters with OR and parentheses.	NF1 (site:.nih.gov OR site:fda.gov)
Several file types	Join complete filetype: filters with OR and parentheses.	NF1 (filetype:pdf OR filetype:pptx)
Hashtag	Search a hashtag as written. Results may mix websites and social platforms.	#neurofibromatosis
Google filters	After searching, use available filters such as Web, News, Images, Videos, or Books. Available filters can vary by query.	Select News after opening the query

Operators commonly listed elsewhere

Google does not publish one permanent master list of every operator, and behavior can change. Do not treat these commands as dependable parts of the website's search builder:

cache: Retired for ordinary Google Search; use the live page or a reputable web archive when appropriate.

related: May return few or no results and is not a reliable way to identify every similar source.

link: Retired as a dependable backlink-search command.

info: Retired as a dedicated information operator.

+ No longer a dependable exact-match command. Use quotation marks instead.

~ No longer a dependable synonym command. Write alternatives with OR.

NF search recipes

Copy a recipe, replace the topic or date, and adjust it based on the results you receive.

Recent treatment news

(NF1 OR neurofibromatosis) treatment (approval OR trial OR results) after:2025-01-01 -fundraiser

Official trial information

"plexiform neurofibroma" "clinical trial" site:clinicaltrials.gov

This is a Google search. For study status, age, location, eligibility, and results filters, also search directly within ClinicalTrials.gov.

Government PDF documents

(NF1 OR schwannomatosis) treatment (site:nih.gov OR site:fda.gov) filetype:pdf

NF2-related research

("NF2-related schwannomatosis" OR NF2) (study OR trial OR treatment) after:2024-01-01

MPNST research without incidental results

(MPNST OR "malignant peripheral nerve sheath tumor") NF1 (trial OR study) -veterinary

Organization announcements

schwannomatosis (advocacy OR support OR research) intitle:news

Before trusting a result

- 1. Open the original page, not only a headline, repost, AI summary, or search snippet.
- 2. Check the author or organization, original publication date, update date, and links to original evidence.
- 3. Separate peer-reviewed studies, trial records, announcements, opinions, advertisements, and personal stories.
- 4. For medical claims, check the population, study design, evidence level, limitations, and conflicts of interest.
- 5. Confirm important information with another credible source. Discuss treatment decisions with a qualified clinician.

Sources and scope	Operator guidance was checked against Google Search Help and Google Search Central in August 2026. Google directly documents exact-match quotes, exclusion with a minus sign, site:, filetype:, before:, and after:. Other advanced operators may work but are less consistently documented and may change. This guide is educational and is not medical advice.
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Search-system reminder

This guide supports focused discovery, not a systematic literature review. Google Web and Google News results can change by time, location, language, personalization, indexing, and ranking. For research questions, also use appropriate databases and verified original sources.