

Research in the area of Health: 1 – DeCS Database (Health Sciences Descriptors)

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Introduction

In the December, 2003 Issue, the definition for referential databases in the Health field was presented, and a methodology was suggested for the development of a good quality bibliographic research (1). As a result of the paper mentioned above, the methodology is extended here, by introducing the steps, through supportive classes on how to search / retrieve information from the databases that will be mentioned. Supporting the autonomy of the users belonging to the health areas for information retrieval, allowing remote access to those free databases, is one of this series' purposes by step-by-step guides.

First Step – Finding the authorized and worldwide acknowledged terminology (structured vocabulary). This vocabulary is necessary for describing, organizing and helping the user towards information he / she looks for. The use of a structured vocabulary allows that the researcher retrieves information with the correct term, used for describing the content of that scientific document" (2).

Before carrying out the search, DeCS (Descriptors in Health Sciences) must be accessed in order to find the subject through keywords, descriptors or unique terms. Research in DeCS is fundamental for descriptor selection, in order to facilitate the processing of the bibliographical search and the access to the scientific papers.

DeCS is a structured and trilingual (Portuguese, Spanish and English) vocabulary, based on term collections, sorted out for helping information access.

Vocabularies are applied as a kind of filter between the language used by the author and the area terminology. It may also be considered as research assistants, by helping the user to refine, expand or improve his searches, allowing objective results (3).

BIREME (<http://www.bireme.br>) developed the DeCS vocabulary in 1986 by translating and adapting the Medical Subject Headings – MeSH (<http://www.nlm.nih.gov/mesh/meshhome.html>) from the U.S. National Library of Medicine. MeSH exists since 1963 for indexing documents such as: scientific journal articles, books, congress proceedings, technical reports, and other kinds of materials. The first step is fundamental for retrieving scientific literature subjects on databases like:

- **LILACS** <http://bases.bireme.br/cgi-bin/wxislind.exe/iah/online/?IsisScript=iah/iah.xis&base=LILACS&lang=p>

- **MEDLINE** <http://bases.bireme.br/cgi-bin/wxislind.exe/iah/online/?IsisScript=iah/iah.xis&base=MEDLINE&lang=i>

- **LIS** <http://lis.bvs.br/xml2html/xmlListT.php?xml%5B%5D=http://lis.bvs.br/lis-Regional//define.xml&xsl=http://lis.bvs.br/lis-Regional/home.xsl>
- **SciELO** <http://www.scielo.org/index.php?lang=en> and others

The DeCS Structure

Built on 17 categories, its hierarchical structure is based on the categorization of knowledge into decimal classes and subclasses, acknowledging conceptual and semantic relations and its terms are presented in a hybrid structure of pre and post coordination, and annually updated.

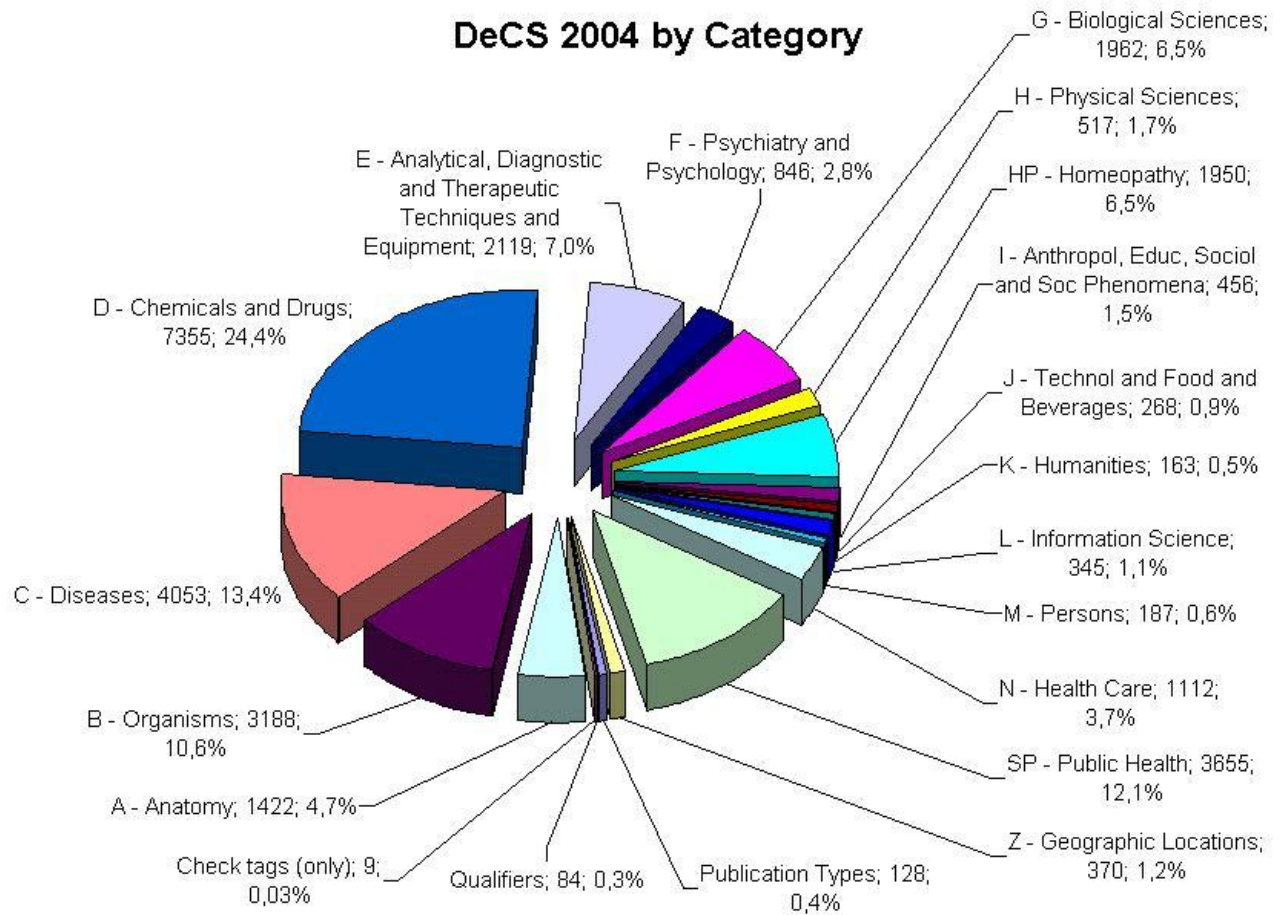
The 2004 DeCS version has 159,958 descriptors with synonyms and definitions in three languages. Expanding MeSH, two more specific knowledge fields were included as follows:

- **Public Health** – with 9,876 descriptors, plus synonyms and definitions in the three languages. (http://decs.bvs.br/cgi-bin/wxis1660.exe/decserver/?IsisScript=../cgi-bin/decserver/decserver.xis&interface_language=i&previous_page=homepage&previous_task=NULL&task=hierarchic&mf_tree=1&categoria=SP)
- **Homeopathy** - with 8,041 descriptors, plus synonyms and definitions in the three languages. (http://decs.bvs.br/cgi-bin/wxis1660.exe/decserver/?IsisScript=../cgi-bin/decserver/decserver.xis&interface_language=i&previous_page=homepage&previous_task=NULL&task=hierarchic&mf_tree=1&categoria=HP)

DeCS Categories are:

- Anatomy [A]
- Organisms [B]
- Diseases [C]
- Chemicals and Drugs [D]
- Analytical, Diagnostic and Therapeutic Techniques and Equipment [E]
- Psychiatry and Psychology [F]
- Physical Sciences [G]
- Homeopathy [HP]
- Anthropology, Education, Sociology & Social Phenomena [I]
- Technology and Food and Beverages [J]
- Humanities [K]
- Information Science [L]
- Persons [M]
- Health Care [N]
- Public Health [SP]
- Geographic Locations [Z]

Table 1 – Statistical Data – DeCS 2004

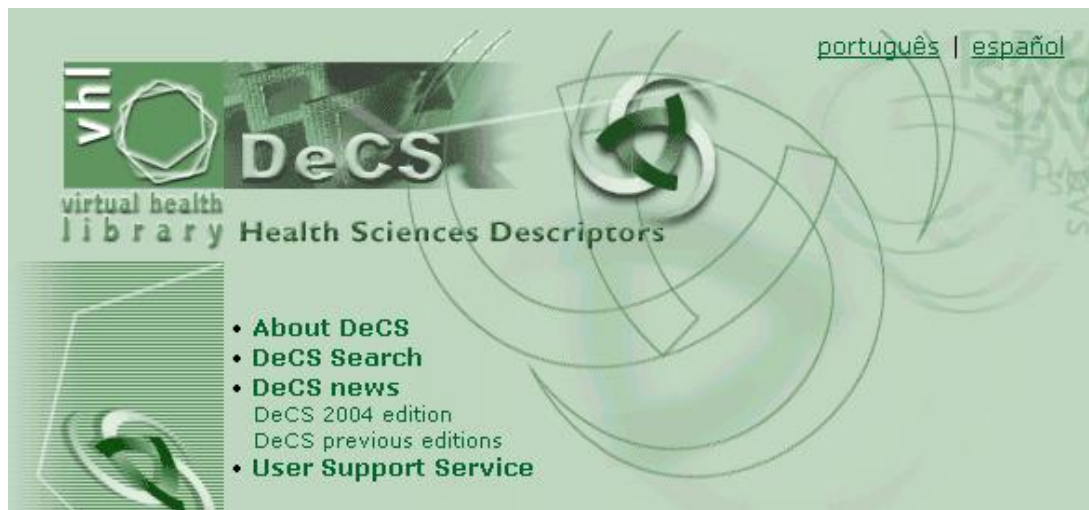


Source: Statistical data for DeCS ⁽⁴⁾

DeCS Database Access

Second Step:

To begin searching the DeCS vocabulary, type its web address: <http://decs.bvs.br>



Select the option **DeCS Search**

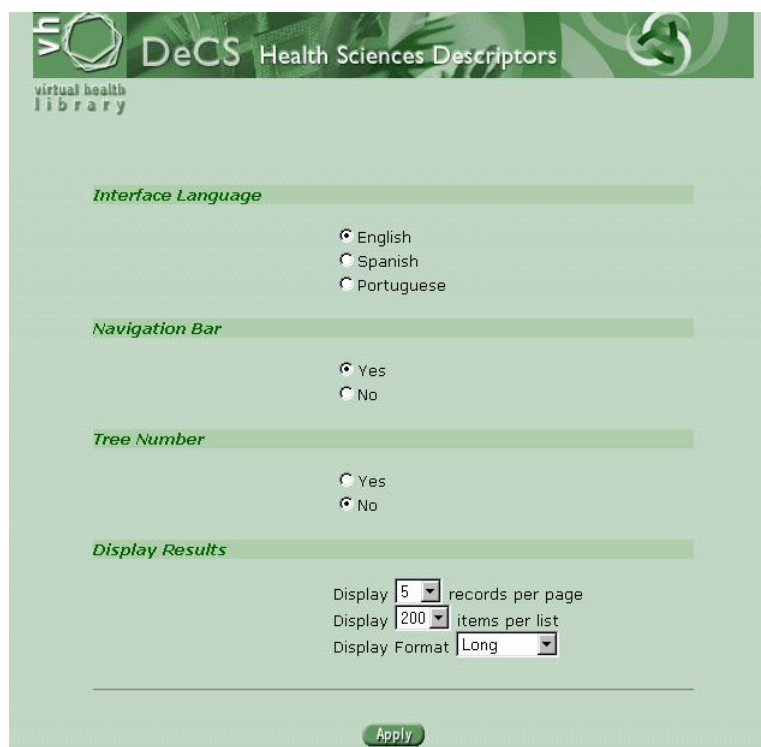
Choose the **language for the descriptors**:

- English
- Spanish
- Portuguese



Before choosing in which of the forms to search, the *Config* button allows configuring (or setting up) the interface language as well as the results presentation.

Note: The *Config* button does not need to be changed as there already is a default configuration.



The screenshot shows the 'DeCS Health Sciences Descriptors' configuration page. At the top, there is a header with the DeCS logo and the text 'virtual health library'. Below the header, there are four sections for configuration:

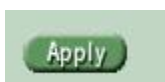
- Interface Language:** Three radio buttons are present: English (selected), Spanish, and Portuguese.
- Navigation Bar:** Two radio buttons are present: Yes (selected) and No.
- Tree Number:** Two radio buttons are present: Yes and No (selected).
- Display Results:** Three dropdown menus are present: 'Display' with '5' selected (records per page), 'Display' with '200' selected (items per list), and 'Display Format' with 'Long' selected.

At the bottom of the form, there is a green 'Apply' button.

The items that can be changed are:

- Interface language - for English, Spanish or Portuguese;
- Navigation bar - makes available command buttons, which allows page-by-page navigation up to the end of the result;
- Hierarchical (or tree) number - in case you want the category number(s) to be shown;
- Display results - displays from 5 up to 40 results per page;
- Display 200 – 300 items per list in the Index.
- Presentation Format:
 - **Long** – Descriptor is displayed in English, Spanish and Portuguese; category; descriptor definition; indexing note; allowed qualifiers, DeCS record number and unique MeSH identifier.
 - **Short** - Descriptor is displayed in English, Spanish and Portuguese; category numbers and allowed qualifiers.
 - **Dictionary** - Descriptor is displayed in English, Spanish and Portuguese; category numbers and descriptor definition.

In case you want to change any of the commands above, just click on the Apply button.



Two independent forms are displayed:

- 1) Search by Word
- 2) Search by Index

1) *Searching by Word*

Type the descriptor in the search box

Choose:

- Word or Term
- Exact Descriptor

Option

Word or Term



The screenshot shows the DeCS Health Sciences Descriptors search interface. At the top, there is a header with the VHL logo and the text "DeCS Health Sciences Descriptors". Below the header, the main title "DeCS Search" is displayed. A language selection section titled "Language of Descriptors" offers three options: English (selected), Spanish, and Portuguese. The interface is divided into two main search sections: "Search by Word" and "Search by Index". The "Search by Word" section contains a text input field with the word "ANASTOMOSIS" entered, and two radio buttons for "Word or Term" (selected) and "Exact Descriptor". A "Search" button is located at the bottom of this section. The "Search by Index" section offers three radio button options: "Alphabetic" (selected), "Keywords in Context", and "Tree". An "Index" button is located at the bottom of this section. At the bottom of the interface, there are two links: "Let's play hangman!" and "Setup interface language and output layout" with a "Config" button next to it.

Type a search word in the search box – Anastomosis, then click Search.

Search result:

The search was made in any term or word that comprises the descriptor, resulting at 5 descriptors found.

The screenshot shows the DeCS Health Sciences Descriptors interface. At the top, there is a header with the 'virtual health library' logo and the text 'DeCS Health Sciences Descriptors'. Below the header, there are buttons for 'New Search', 'Config', and 'V'. The search results section shows 'Search on: ANASTOMOSIS', 'Descriptors Found: 5', and 'Displaying: 1 .. 5'. The first result is displayed in a box with the following details:

1 / 5 **DeCS**

Descriptor *English*: **Arteriovenous Anastomosis**
Descriptor *Spanish*: **Anastomosis Arteriovenosa**
Descriptor *Portuguese*: **Anastomose Arteriovenosa**
Tree Number: [A07.231.432.209](#)
Definition *English*: A vessel that directly interconnects an artery and a vein, and that acts as a shunt to bypass the capillary bed. Not to be confused with surgical anastomosis, nor with arteriovenous fistula.
Indexing Annotation *English*: note category: do not confuse with ARTERIOVENOUS FISTULA; Manual 23.19.6.2
History Note *English*: 66(64)
Allowable Qualifiers *English*:

abnormalities	anatomy & histology
chemistry	cytology
drug effects	embryology
enzymology	growth & development
immunology	injuries
innervation	metabolism
microbiology	pathology
physiology	physiopathology

By choosing
Exact Descriptor:



The image shows the DeCS Health Sciences Descriptors search interface. At the top, there is a header with the 'vhl' logo, 'DeCS Health Sciences Descriptors', and a 'virtual health library' logo. Below the header, the 'DeCS Search' title is followed by a help icon. The 'Language of Descriptors' section has radio buttons for English (selected), Spanish, and Portuguese. The 'Search by Word' section contains a text input field with 'ANASTOMOSIS', radio buttons for 'Word or Term' and 'Exact Descriptor' (selected), and a 'Search' button. The 'Search by Index' section has radio buttons for 'Alphabetic' (selected), 'Keywords in Context', and 'Tree', along with an 'Index' button. At the bottom, there are links for 'Let's play hangman!' and 'Setup interface language and output layout' with a 'Config' button.

DeCS Health Sciences Descriptors

DeCS Search

Language of Descriptors ☒ English ☐ Spanish ☐ Portuguese

Search by Word

ANASTOMOSIS

☐ Word or Term ☒ Exact Descriptor

Search

Search by Index

☒ Alphabetic ☐ Keywords in Context ☐ Tree

Index

Let's play hangman!

Setup interface language and output layout Config

The user must know the complete descriptor prior to searching. In case the user does not know if the term exists as a descriptor, it is recommended to check the Keyword in Context Index.



The image shows the search result page for 'ANASTOMOSIS'. It displays the search term and the result 'Descriptors Found: none'. A message states: 'Sorry, the descriptor ANASTOMOSIS was not found. Please, try another word or change the LANGUAGE OF DESCRIPTORS'. At the bottom, there are 'Back' and 'New Search' buttons.

Search on: ANASTOMOSIS

Descriptors Found: none

Sorry, the descriptor **ANASTOMOSIS** was not found

Please, try another word or change the LANGUAGE OF DESCRIPTORS

Back New Search

The search result is nulled because there is no exact term for "Anastomosis".

2) **Searching by Index** allows searching the following indexes:

- a) Alphabetical
- b) KWIC or **K**ewords in **C**ontext
- c) Hierarchical

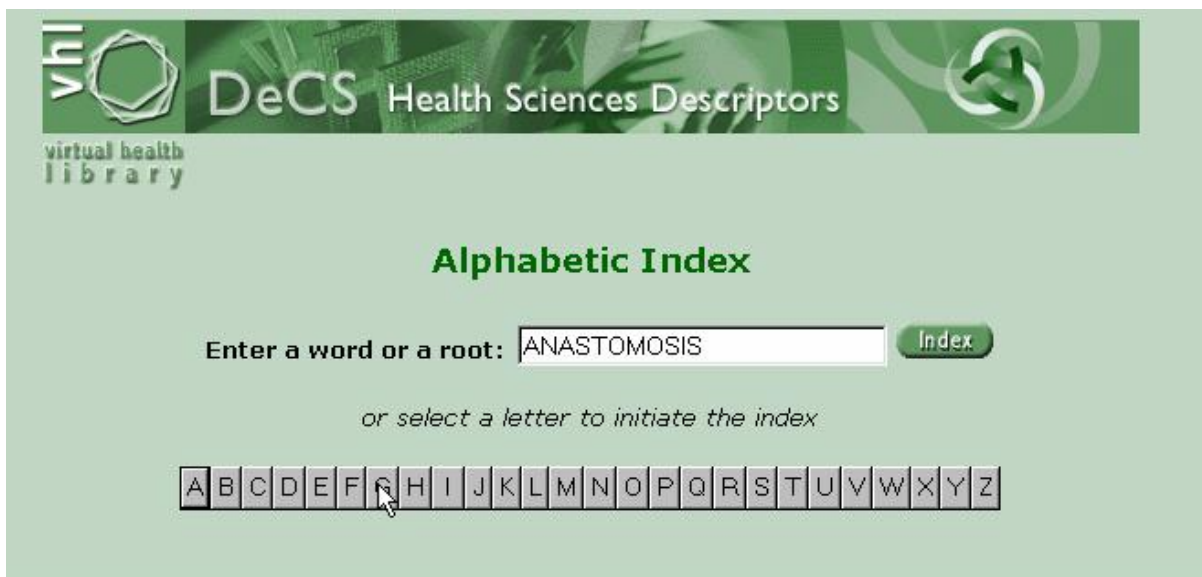


The screenshot shows the DeCS Health Sciences Descriptors search interface. At the top, there is a header with the DeCS logo and the text "DeCS Health Sciences Descriptors" and "virtual health library". Below the header, the main title "DeCS Search" is displayed. A language selection section shows "Language of Descriptors" with radio buttons for English (selected), Spanish, and Portuguese. There are two main search sections: "Search by Word" and "Search by Index". The "Search by Word" section has a text input field and radio buttons for "Word or Term" and "Exact Descriptor". The "Search by Index" section has radio buttons for "Alphabetic" (selected), "Keywords in Context", and "Tree". Both sections have "Search" and "Index" buttons. At the bottom, there are links for "Let's play hangman!" and "Setup interface language and output layout" with a "Config" button.

a) **Alphabetical index**

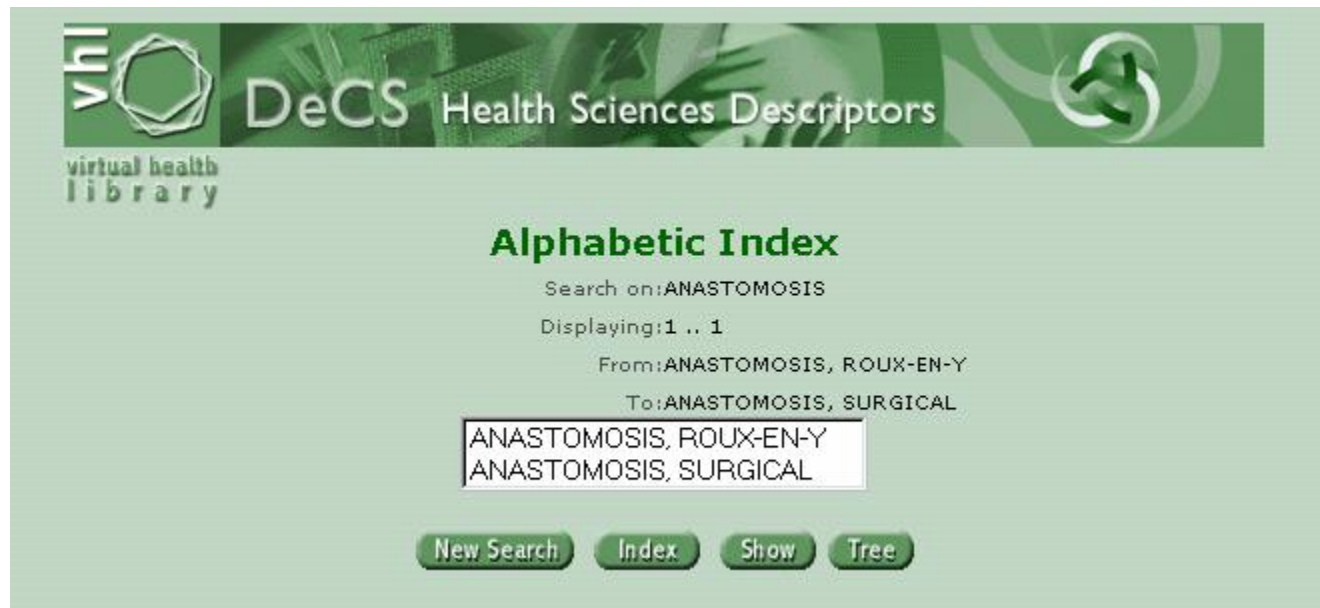
The Alphabetical index allows searching through the vocabulary by typing the entire term, its first part, its latin or greek root, or its initial letter through the “alphabetical ruler” that will alphabetically find all terms that begin with the chosen word. The system retrieves every term that begins with the search expression, arranging them alphabetically.

Example: Anastomosis. Type the term in the search box and click on the *Index* button.



The screenshot shows the DeCS Health Sciences Descriptors Alphabetical Index search interface. At the top, there is a header with the DeCS logo and the text "DeCS Health Sciences Descriptors" and "virtual health library". Below the header, the main title "Alphabetic Index" is displayed. There is a text input field labeled "Enter a word or a root:" with the text "ANASTOMOSIS" entered. To the right of the input field is an "Index" button. Below the input field, there is a text prompt "or select a letter to initiate the index". Below this prompt is a row of buttons representing the alphabet (A through Z). A mouse cursor is pointing at the letter 'A'.

The result will be a list of descriptors beginning with Anastomosis.



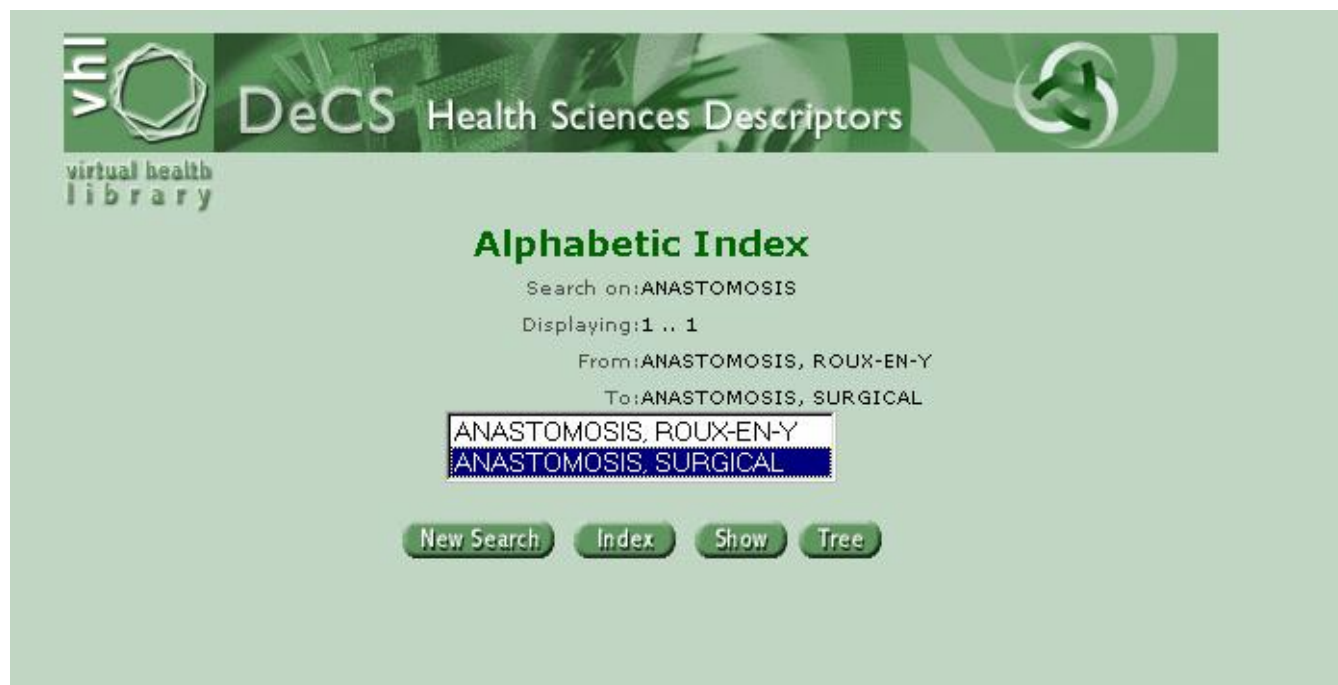
The screenshot shows the DeCS Health Sciences Descriptors website. The header includes the 'vhl virtual health library' logo and the title 'DeCS Health Sciences Descriptors'. The main content area is titled 'Alphabetic Index' and shows search results for 'ANASTOMOSIS'. The results are displayed as a list with two items: 'ANASTOMOSIS, ROUX-EN-Y' and 'ANASTOMOSIS, SURGICAL'. The second item is highlighted with a blue background. Below the list are four buttons: 'New Search', 'Index', 'Show', and 'Tree'.

Alphabetic Index
Search on: ANASTOMOSIS
Displaying: 1 .. 1
From: ANASTOMOSIS, ROUX-EN-Y
To: ANASTOMOSIS, SURGICAL

ANASTOMOSIS, ROUX-EN-Y
ANASTOMOSIS, SURGICAL

[New Search](#) [Index](#) [Show](#) [Tree](#)

Select the descriptor Anastomosis, Surgical



This screenshot is identical to the one above, but the second result, 'ANASTOMOSIS, SURGICAL', is highlighted with a blue background, indicating it has been selected.

Alphabetic Index
Search on: ANASTOMOSIS
Displaying: 1 .. 1
From: ANASTOMOSIS, ROUX-EN-Y
To: ANASTOMOSIS, SURGICAL

ANASTOMOSIS, ROUX-EN-Y
ANASTOMOSIS, SURGICAL

[New Search](#) [Index](#) [Show](#) [Tree](#)

Resulting screen:



[New Search](#) [Config](#) [V](#)

Search on:ANASTOMOSIS, SURGICAL

Descriptors Found:1

Displaying:1 .. 1

1 / 1

DeCS

Descriptor *English*: **Anastomosis, Surgical**

Descriptor *Spanish*: **Anastomosis Quirúrgica**

Descriptor *Portuguese*: **Anastomose Cirúrgica**

Synonyms *English*: Surgical Anastomosis

Tree Number: [E04.035](#)

Definition *English*: Surgical union or shunt between ducts, tubes or vessels. It may be end-to-end, end-to-side, side-to-end, or side-to-side.

Indexing Annotation *English*: NIM with specific organ /surg (IM); do not use /util except by MeSH definition; DF:ANASTOMOSIS SURG

History Note *English*: 88

Allowable Qualifiers *English*:

adverse effects	classification
contraindications	economics
education	ethics
history	instrumentation
legislation & jurisprudence	mortality
methods	nursing
psychology	rehabilitation

You may use the alphabetical ruler, by clicking the initial letter of the descriptor you want to look for.



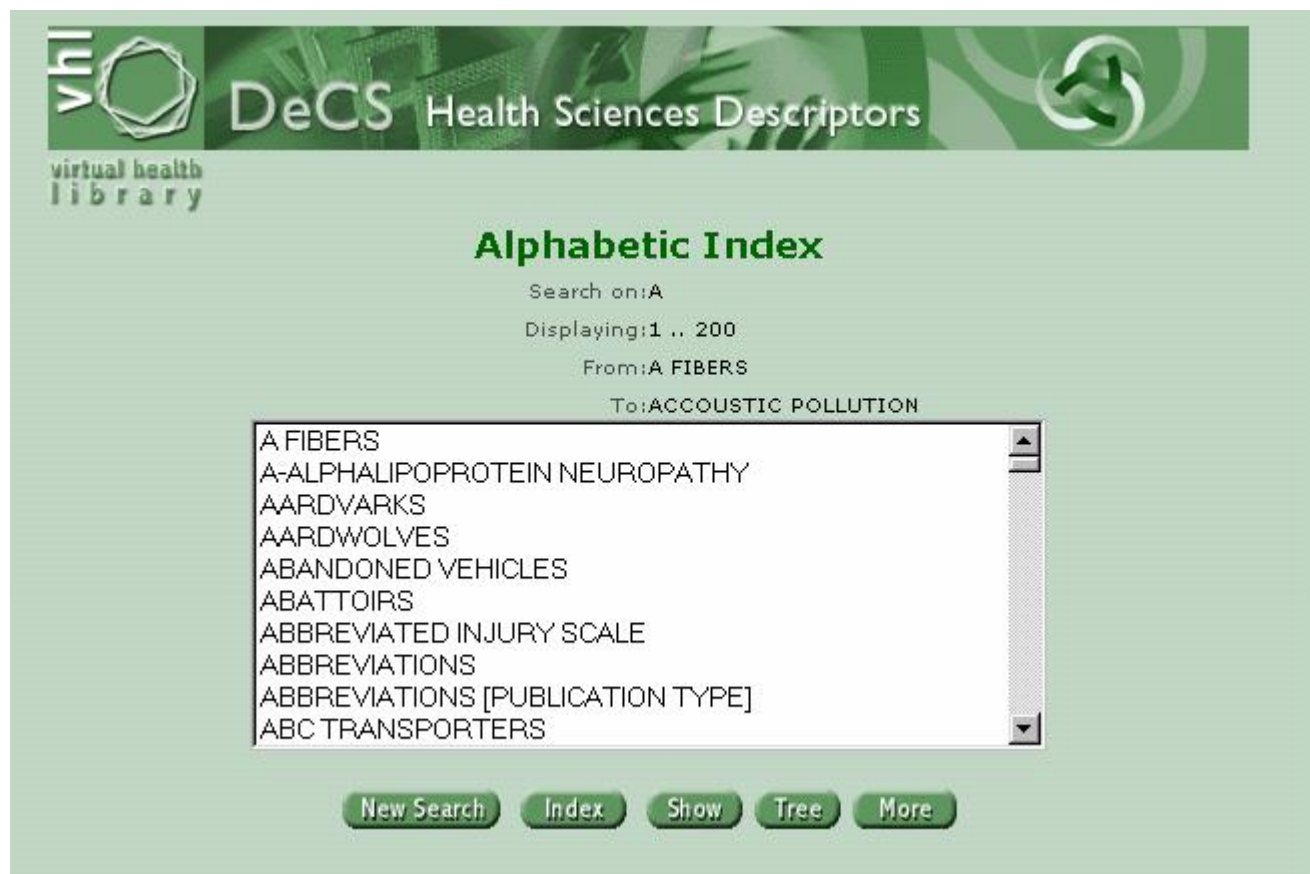
Alphabetetic Index

Enter a word or a root: [Index](#)

or select a letter to initiate the index

[A](#) [B](#) [C](#) [D](#) [E](#) [F](#) [G](#) [H](#) [I](#) [J](#) [K](#) [L](#) [M](#) [N](#) [O](#) [P](#) [Q](#) [R](#) [S](#) [T](#) [U](#) [V](#) [W](#) [X](#) [Y](#) [Z](#)

Click on letter A in order to display all descriptors beginning with an A.



Alphabetetic Index

Search on: A

Displaying: 1 .. 200

From: A FIBERS

To: ACCOUSTIC POLLUTION

A FIBERS
A-ALPHALIPOPROTEIN NEUROPATHY
AARDVARKS
AARDWOLVES
ABANDONED VEHICLES
ABATTOIRS
ABBREVIATED INJURY SCALE
ABBREVIATIONS
ABBREVIATIONS [PUBLICATION TYPE]
ABC TRANSPORTERS

[New Search](#) [Index](#) [Show](#) [Tree](#) [More](#)

In order to see the entire *Alphabetical list* for the letter A, click on the *More* button until you get to the descriptor Anastomosis.

Available Buttons:



New Search – The *New Search* button returns to the initial *DeCS Search* page,



Index – The *Index* button returns to the *Alphabetical Index* page.



Show –The *Show* button shows the complete data of the selected descriptors. (Hint: the SHIFT key allows you to select more than one descriptor in a sequential order; and the CTRL key in a non-sequential order).



Tree – The *Tree* button shows the locations of the descriptor in the hierarchical tree.



More – The *More* button goes to the next screens.

Example: After advancing a few screens, the descriptor *Anastomosis, Surgical* was selected.



Alphabetic Index

Search on:A

Displaying:2190 .. 2389

From:AMYLOID PROTEIN A4

To:ANEMIA, MEDITERRANEAN

ANAPLASMA OVIS
ANAPLASMA PHAGOCYTOPHILUM
ANAPLASMATACEAE
ANAPLASMATACEAE INFECTIONS
ANAPLASMOSIS
ANASTOMOSIS, ROUX-EN-Y
ANASTOMOSIS, SURGICAL
ANASTREPHA
ANATOMIC MODELS
ANATOMY

New Search

Index

Show

Tree

More

Resulting screen:

The screenshot shows the DeCS Health Sciences Descriptors interface. At the top, there is a header with the 'virtual health library' logo and the title 'DeCS Health Sciences Descriptors'. Below the header, there are buttons for 'New Search', 'Config', and 'V'. The search results section shows 'Search on: ANASTOMOSIS, SURGICAL', 'Descriptors Found: 1', and 'Displaying: 1 .. 1'. The main content area is titled 'DeCS' and shows details for the descriptor 'Anastomosis, Surgical'. It includes translations in Spanish and Portuguese, synonyms, a tree number (E04.035), a definition, an indexing annotation, and a history note. A section for 'Allowable Qualifiers' lists various terms that can be combined with the descriptor, such as adverse effects, classification, contraindications, economics, education, ethics, history, instrumentation, legislation & jurisprudence, mortality, methods, nursing, psychology, and rehabilitation.

1 / 1

DeCS

Descriptor *English*: **Anastomosis, Surgical**

Descriptor *Spanish*: **Anastomosis Quirúrgica**

Descriptor *Portuguese*: **Anastomose Cirúrgica**

Synonyms *English*: Surgical Anastomosis

Tree Number: [E04.035](#)

Definition *English*: Surgical union or shunt between ducts, tubes or vessels. It may be end-to-end, end-to-side, side-to-end, or side-to-side.

Indexing Annotation *English*: NIM with specific organ /surg (IM); do not use /util except by MeSH definition; DF:ANASTOMOSIS SURG

History Note *English*: 88

Allowable Qualifiers *English*:

adverse effects	classification
contraindications	economics
education	ethics
history	instrumentation
legislation & jurisprudence	mortality
methods	nursing
psychology	rehabilitation

A screen will be displayed, with information about the descriptor, in three languages, such as synonym(s), category(ies), that is, its hierarchical codes, its complete definition, and the qualifiers that may be applied with the descriptor.

One of the items above must be regarded important for combining with the descriptor: the qualifiers. Qualifiers are terms that are added to descriptors in order to define different aspects, concepts, and points-of-view which are analysed by the author for a specific subject matter.

These different aspects of a subject matter or descriptor are known as qualifiers. A qualifier is connected to the descriptor, separated by a slash bar (/) during indexing work. (5)”

By clicking on a qualifier, it will be shown in three languages (english, spanish, and portuguese), with its definition and indexing note, so the indexing professionals will feed databases in the chosen descriptor language.

Example:

1 / 1

DeCS

Topical Qualifier *English*:

/adverse effects

Topical Qualifier *Spanish*:

/efectos adversos

Topical Qualifier *Portuguese*:

/efeitos adversos

Definition *English*:

Used with drugs, chemicals, or biological agents in accepted dosage - or with physical agents or manufactured products in normal usage - when intended for diagnostic, therapeutic, prophylactic, or anesthetic purposes. It is used also for adverse effects or complications of diagnostic, therapeutic, prophylactic, anesthetic, surgical, or other procedures, but excludes contraindications for which "contraindications" is used.

Indexing Annotation *English*:

subhead only; includes "injurious effects", "undesirable effects", "side effects" in normal use; for complications following various procedures; see also /poisoning & /toxicity ; see MeSH scope note in Introduction; indexing policy: Manual 19.8.3; DF: /adv eff or /AE

Abbreviation:

AE

History Note *English*:

66; used with Category D, E & H 1966-69; D, E, H & J 1970-74; D, E, F4, H & J 1975-81; D, E, F4, G3, H & J 1982-87; D, E, F4, H, J, & SMOKING 1988; D, E, F4, H, J, & 1982-87; D, E, F4, H, J & SMOKING 1988; D, E, F4, H, J & SMOKING+ 1989; D, E & J 1990 forward

Record Number:

22020

Unique Identifier:

Q000009

Close

Below is a complete list of all the qualifiers existing in DeCS, which may be obtained by typing a slash bar ("/") when searching with the alphabetical or KWIC indexes

/abnormalities	/administration & dosage	/adverse effects
/agonists	/analogs & derivatives	/analysis
/anatomy & histology	/antagonists & inhibitors	/biosynthesis
/blood	/blood supply	/cerebrospinal fluid
/chemical synthesis	/chemically induced	/classification
/complications	/congenital	/contraindications
/cytology	/deficiency	/diagnosis
/diagnostic use	/diet therapy	/drug effects
/economics	/education	/embriology
/enzimology	/growth & development	/history
/immunology	/injuries	/innervation
/instrumentation	/isolation & purification	/legislation & jurisprudence
/metabolism	/methods	/microbiology
/mortality	/nursing	/organization & administration
/parasitology	/patogenicity	/poisoning
/radiation effects	/radionuclide imaging	/secondary
/secretion	/standards	/surgery
/therapeutic use	/therapy	/toxicity
/transmission	/transplantation	/trends
/ultrasonography	/ultrastructure	/urine
/utilization	/veterinary	/virology

Still on the *Anastomosis, Surgical* result page, three important buttons are displayed:

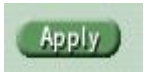


New search – alllows for new searches



Config – information already detailed on page 5.

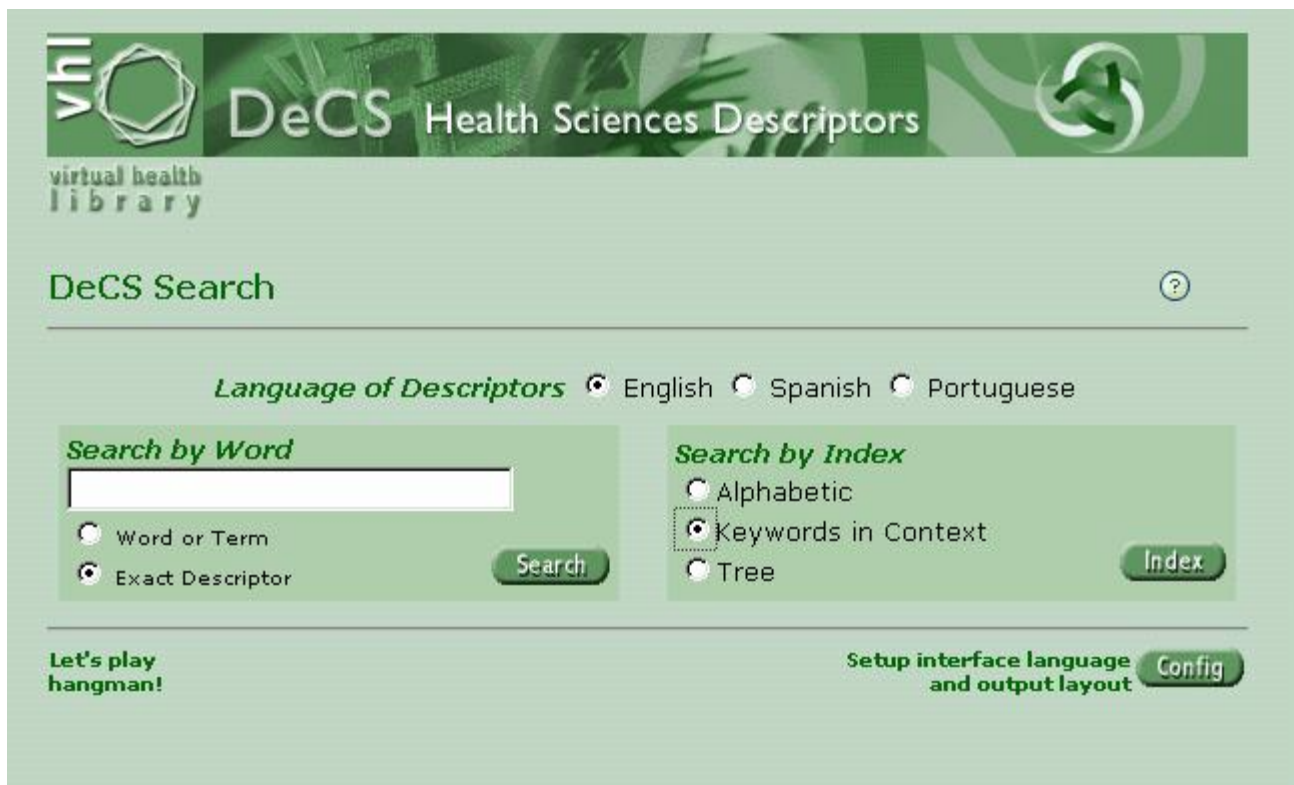
In case you wish to change any of the above commands, click on the *Apply* button



The last two buttons move the screen to the top and to the bottom of the page, respectfully.



- b) **KWIC or Keyword in Context** – this is the **best** index. It allows knowing if a word exists in DeCS and thoroughly seeing all terms containing it, regardless if the word is in the beginning, middle or end of the term.



The screenshot shows the DeCS Health Sciences Descriptors search interface. At the top, there is a header with the VHL logo and the text "DeCS Health Sciences Descriptors". Below the header, the "DeCS Search" section is visible. It includes a "Language of Descriptors" section with radio buttons for English (selected), Spanish, and Portuguese. There are two main search sections: "Search by Word" and "Search by Index". The "Search by Word" section has a text input field and radio buttons for "Word or Term" and "Exact Descriptor". The "Search by Index" section has radio buttons for "Alphabetic", "Keywords in Context" (selected), and "Tree". There are "Search" and "Index" buttons. At the bottom, there is a "Let's play hangman!" link and a "Setup interface language and output layout" link with a "Config" button.

DeCS Health Sciences Descriptors

DeCS Search

Language of Descriptors ☒ English ☐ Spanish ☐ Portuguese

Search by Word

Search by Index

Word or Term

Exact Descriptor

Search

Alphabetic

Keywords in Context

Tree

Index

Let's play hangman!

Setup interface language and output layout Config

Example: Finding the descriptors that have the word Curettage



The screenshot shows the DeCS Health Sciences Descriptors "Keywords in Context Index" search interface. It features the same header as the previous screenshot. The main section is titled "Keywords in Context Index". Below the title, there is a text input field labeled "Enter a word or a root:" containing the word "CURETTAGE". To the right of the input field is an "Index" button.

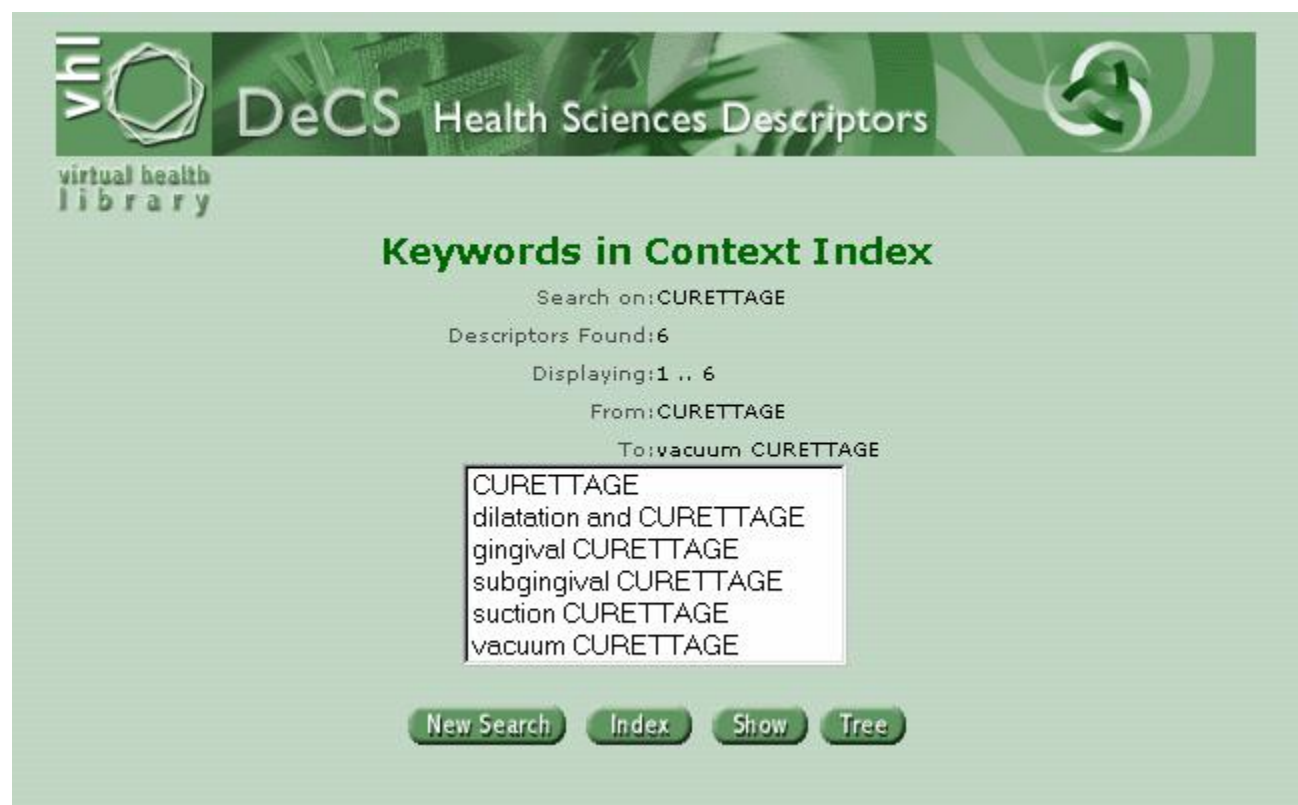
DeCS Health Sciences Descriptors

Keywords in Context Index

Enter a word or a root: CURETTAGE

Index

Result: Six descriptors were retrieved with the word Curettage at the beginning or at the end of the descriptor. This makes it easier to find all descriptors and allows a global view of the descriptor.



The screenshot displays the DeCS Health Sciences Descriptors interface. At the top, there is a header with the 'virtual health library' logo on the left and the 'DeCS Health Sciences Descriptors' title on the right. Below the header, the main section is titled 'Keywords in Context Index'. The search parameters are listed: 'Search on: CURETTAGE', 'Descriptors Found: 6', 'Displaying: 1 .. 6', 'From: CURETTAGE', and 'To: vacuum CURETTAGE'. A list of six descriptors is shown in a box: 'CURETTAGE', 'dilatation and CURETTAGE', 'gingival CURETTAGE', 'subgingival CURETTAGE', 'suction CURETTAGE', and 'vacuum CURETTAGE'. At the bottom, there are four buttons: 'New Search', 'Index', 'Show', and 'Tree'.

virtual health library

DeCS Health Sciences Descriptors

Keywords in Context Index

Search on: CURETTAGE
Descriptors Found: 6
Displaying: 1 .. 6
From: CURETTAGE
To: vacuum CURETTAGE

- CURETTAGE
- dilatation and CURETTAGE
- gingival CURETTAGE
- subgingival CURETTAGE
- suction CURETTAGE
- vacuum CURETTAGE

New Search Index Show Tree

- c) *Hierarchical Index* – the subject matters (represented by descriptors) are arranged by their hierarchical relationships, divided into broader subject matters and under them their subclasses.



The image shows the DeCS Health Sciences Descriptors search interface. At the top, there is a header with the VHL logo (Virtual Health Library) and the text "DeCS Health Sciences Descriptors". Below the header, the main title "DeCS Search" is displayed. A language selection section titled "Language of Descriptors" offers three radio buttons: English (selected), Spanish, and Portuguese. The interface is divided into two main search methods: "Search by Word" and "Search by Index". The "Search by Word" section includes a text input field, two radio buttons for "Word or Term" (selected) and "Exact Descriptor", and a "Search" button. The "Search by Index" section includes three radio buttons: "Alphabetic", "Keywords in Context", and "Tree" (selected), and an "Index" button. A help icon (?) is located in the top right corner.

DeCS Health Sciences Descriptors

virtual health library

DeCS Search ?

Language of Descriptors ☒ English ☐ Spanish ☐ Portuguese

Search by Word

☒ Word or Term ☐ Exact Descriptor **Search**

Search by Index

☐ Alphabetic ☐ Keywords in Context ☒ Tree **Index**



Tree Index

Enter a descriptor:

Index

or navigate from tree top

[ANATOMY +](#)

[ORGANISMS +](#)

[DISEASES +](#)

[CHEMICALS AND DRUGS +](#)

[ANALYTICAL, DIAGNOSTIC AND THERAPEUTIC TECHNIQUES AND EQUIPMENT +](#)

[PSYCHIATRY AND PSYCHOLOGY +](#)

[BIOLOGICAL SCIENCES +](#)

[PHYSICAL SCIENCES +](#)

[HOMEOPATHY +](#)

[ANTHROPOLOGY, EDUCATION, SOCIOLOGY AND SOCIAL PHENOMENA +](#)

[TECHNOLOGY AND FOOD AND BEVERAGES +](#)

[HUMANITIES +](#)

[INFORMATION SCIENCE +](#)

[PERSONS +](#)


[HEALTH CARE +](#)

[PUBLIC HEALTH +](#)

[GEOGRAPHIC LOCATIONS +](#)

Select the item *Analytical, Diagnostic and Therapeutic Techniques and Equipment*

First level



The interface features a green header with the 'DeCS' logo on the left and a circular icon on the right. Below the header, the text 'virtual health library' is displayed. A list of descriptors follows, with 'ANATOMY +', 'ORGANISMS +', 'DISEASES +', and 'CHEMICALS AND DRUGS +' in blue. 'ANALYTICAL, DIAGNOSTIC AND THERAPEUTIC TECHNIQUES AND EQUIPMENT' is highlighted in red and preceded by a red arrow. Below it, several sub-descriptors are listed in blue, including 'Diagnosis +', 'Therapeutics +', 'Anesthesia and Analgesia +', 'Surgical Procedures, Operative +', 'Investigative Techniques +', 'Dentistry +', and 'Equipment and Supplies +'. The remaining descriptors are 'PSYCHIATRY AND PSYCHOLOGY +', 'BIOLOGICAL SCIENCES +', 'PHYSICAL SCIENCES +', 'HOMEOPATHY +', 'ANTHROPOLOGY, EDUCATION, SOCIOLOGY AND SOCIAL PHENOMENA +', 'TECHNOLOGY AND FOOD AND BEVERAGES +', 'HUMANITIES +', 'INFORMATION SCIENCE +', 'PERSONS +', 'HEALTH CARE +', 'PUBLIC HEALTH +', and 'GEOGRAPHIC LOCATIONS +'.

virtual health
library

[ANATOMY +](#)
[ORGANISMS +](#)
[DISEASES +](#)
[CHEMICALS AND DRUGS +](#)
▶ [ANALYTICAL, DIAGNOSTIC AND THERAPEUTIC TECHNIQUES AND EQUIPMENT](#)
 [Diagnosis +](#)
 [Therapeutics +](#)
 [Anesthesia and Analgesia +](#)
 [Surgical Procedures, Operative +](#)
 [Investigative Techniques +](#)
 [Dentistry +](#)
 [Equipment and Supplies +](#)
[PSYCHIATRY AND PSYCHOLOGY +](#)
[BIOLOGICAL SCIENCES +](#)
[PHYSICAL SCIENCES +](#)
[HOMEOPATHY +](#)
[ANTHROPOLOGY, EDUCATION, SOCIOLOGY AND SOCIAL PHENOMENA +](#)
[TECHNOLOGY AND FOOD AND BEVERAGES +](#)
[HUMANITIES +](#)
[INFORMATION SCIENCE +](#)
[PERSONS +](#)
[HEALTH CARE +](#)
[PUBLIC HEALTH +](#)
[GEOGRAPHIC LOCATIONS +](#)

Second level

ANALYTICAL, DIAGNOSTIC AND THERAPEUTIC TECHNIQUES AND EQUIPMENT

Diagnosis +

Therapeutics +

Anesthesia and Analgesia +

Surgical Procedures, Operative ▲

Ambulatory Surgical Procedures

Anastomosis, Surgical +

Assisted Circulation +

Biopsy +

Cardiovascular Surgical Procedures +

Cryosurgery

Curettage +

Debridement

Decompression, Surgical

Device Removal

Digestive System Surgical Procedures +

Dissection +

Drainage +

Electrosurgery

Endocrine Surgical Procedures +

Extracorporeal Circulation +

Hemostasis, Surgical

Intraoperative Care

Intraoperative Period

Laparotomy

Laser Surgery +

Ligation

Lymph Node Excision +

Mastectomy +

Microsurgery +

Monitoring, Intraoperative

Obstetric Surgical Procedures +

Neurosurgical Procedures +

The subject matters break down from the most general to the most specific level. Like a knowledge tree and its branches and subdivisions, this index is called a **tree structure**.

After getting to know step-by-step how to search DeCS, do the practical exercises by searching through the **KWIC Index**. The answers are at the end of this article.

Exercises

1. Ligation – which descriptor fits this subject matter ?
2. Surgical Procedures, Colonoscopic – which descriptor fits this subject matter?
3. Does Intraoperative Period allow the use of the aspect /instrumentation?
4. Does Splenectomy allow the use of the qualifier /complications ?
5. Does Antifungal Agents allow the use of the qualifier /poisoning ?

It is hoped that this article has succeeded its objective which is teaching users, step-by-step, how to better find a descriptor on the health area databases.

In order to continue some parts of December 2003's article we published, the planning will be changed for technical reasons.

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Answers to the exercises:

- 1 – Ligation
- 2 – Colonoscopy
- 3 – Yes
- 4 – No, the correct qualifier is /adverse effects
- 5 – Yes

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*Note: The descriptors are always shown in three languages.

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