Tips on How to Search in Patsnap
A Short Guide for Topics Search

1. **Identify key concepts and keywords in your topic** e.g. transparent dental braces.
   

2. **List keywords and synonyms that describes each concept.**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Concept 1</th>
<th>Concept 2</th>
<th>Concept 3</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>transparent</td>
<td>dental</td>
<td>braces</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>clear</td>
<td>teeth</td>
<td>aligners</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>invisible</td>
<td>tooth</td>
<td>retainers</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>oral</td>
<td>orthodontic</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

3. **Use Boolean Operators “AND”, “OR”, “NOT”**

   - **AND** – To combine search terms, retrieve results that contain both keywords, e.g. pen AND pencil
   - **OR** – To broaden search terms, retrieve results that contain either keywords. e.g. pen OR pencil
   - **NOT** – To exclude search terms, retrieve results on that contain the 1st term but not 2nd term, e.g. pen NOT pencil.

4. **Consider adding wildcards or truncation to keywords to broaden your search.**

   - ? - can be used to replace one individual character, e.g.
     - mobili?? (retrieve mobility, mobilize)
   - * - can be used to replace a string of characters at the end of a word e.g. synthes*
     (retrieve synthesize, syntheses, synthesis)

   For additional operators, please see Patsnap Search Helper (Search Syntax Tab) ([http://analytics.patsnap.com.libproxy1.nus.edu.sg/page/searchHelper](http://analytics.patsnap.com.libproxy1.nus.edu.sg/page/searchHelper))

5. **Enclose the similar search terms within brackets before combining with other concepts, e.g.**

   ((transparent OR colourless OR clear OR invisible) AND (dental OR teeth OR tooth OR orthodontic) AND (braces OR align* OR retain*)))
Note: Use quotation marks if searching phrases e.g. “information technology”

6. **Evaluate results and identify other keywords, relevant classification numbers.**

   Your initial search may retrieve too few/too many/irrelevant results.

7. **You may need to change your search statements or refine your searches/results.**

   This is only one technique to search for patents. You can also use other techniques to find relevant patents for your topic such as semantic search, expand search or patent classification search.

8. **View some full text documents to see if they are relevant.** Look out for the other keywords or terms that you may have missed and the patent classifications assigned in these patent records. Use them to conduct further or new searches.

**Possible Keywords**

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**Possible Search Statements**

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**Possible Classification Numbers**

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