

8 - RESEARCHING A DRUG OR CHEMICAL

Finding information about a drug or chemical follows the same routines as previously described. However, difficulties may arise due to the difference between the brand name and the chemical name. The following procedures will resolve those problems. (Before anything, try the obvious - ask your doctor or a pharmacist for the proper name of the drug about which you are interested.)



DoctorInternet

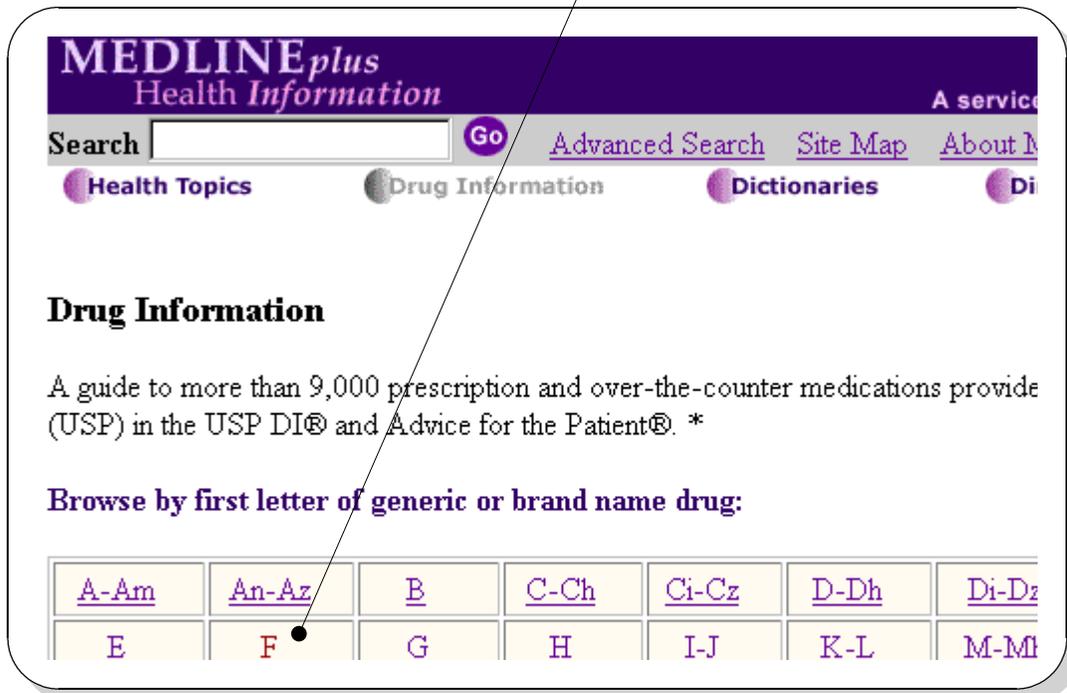
8(A) USING THE MEDLINE - MeSH BROWSER. Frequently, this will be all that you need. Log to the MEDLINE address: [<http://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/PubMed>]. Select the “**MeSH Browser**” link; type the drug name in the “**Search for**” query box and select **Go**. Using the term “**Flolan**”, we see that it is not a MeSH term but an alternative, “**Epoprostenol**”, is suggested. Initiate the MEDLINE search from there if desired or, if you just want a definition, then copy and paste the text as described previously.

The screenshot shows the NCBI MeSH Browser interface. At the top, there is a navigation bar with links for PubMed, Nucleotide, Protein, Genome, and Structure. Below this is a search box labeled 'Search for' with a 'Go' button and a 'Clear' button. The search results show that 'flolan' is not a MeSH term, but it is associated with the MeSH term 'Epoprostenol'. A link for 'Detailed display' is provided for Epoprostenol. The definition of Epoprostenol is: 'A prostaglandin that is biosynthesized enzymatically from pr vascular tissue. It is a potent inhibitor of platelet aggregation treat primary pulmonary hypertension.'

8 - RESEARCHING A DRUG OR CHEMICAL

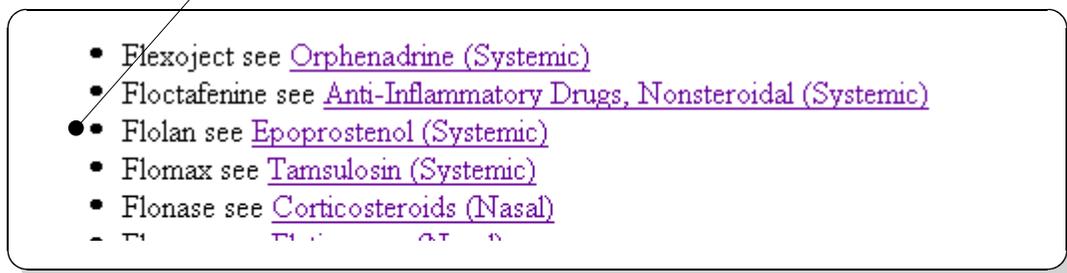
8(B) USING MEDLINE-PLUS - DRUG INFORMATION.

Log to [<http://medlineplus.gov>] and select the link, "Drug Information". That takes you to the screen below. Select the appropriate category.



The screenshot shows the MEDLINEplus Health Information website. At the top, there is a search bar with a "Go" button and links for "Advanced Search", "Site Map", and "About MEDLINEplus". Below the search bar are navigation tabs for "Health Topics", "Drug Information", "Dictionaries", and "Drugs". The "Drug Information" tab is selected. The main heading is "Drug Information", followed by a description: "A guide to more than 9,000 prescription and over-the-counter medications provided by the United States Pharmacopeia (USP) in the USP DI® and Advice for the Patient®. *". Below this is a section titled "Browse by first letter of generic or brand name drug:" with a grid of alphabetical links. The grid has two rows: the first row contains "A-Am", "An-Az", "B", "C-Ch", "Ci-Cz", "D-Dh", and "Di-Dz"; the second row contains "E", "F", "G", "H", "I-J", "K-L", and "M-MH". A black dot is positioned over the "F" link in the second row.

Scroll to the appropriate word and select that link.



The screenshot shows a list of drug links. The first four items are:

- Flexoject see [Orphenadrine \(Systemic\)](#)
- Floctafenine see [Anti-Inflammatory Drugs, Nonsteroidal \(Systemic\)](#)
- Flolan see [Epoprostenol \(Systemic\)](#)
- Flomax see [Tamsulosin \(Systemic\)](#)

The fifth item is partially visible: "• Flonase see [Corticosteroids \(Nasal\)](#)".

8 - RESEARCHING A DRUG OR CHEMICAL

There, you can go to the various categories which pertain.

Epoprostenol (Systemic)

Contents of this page:

- [Brand Names](#)
- [Category](#)
- [Description](#)
- [Before Using This Medicine](#)
- [Proper Use of This Med](#)
- [Precautions While Using](#)
- [Side Effects of This Med](#)

8(c) CHEMICAL SUBSTANCES DATABASE. This database provides technical, chemical information on drugs, pesticides, environmental pollutants and other potential toxins.

[<http://chem.sis.nlm.nih.gov/chemindex.html>]



Welcome to the Chemical Information Page!

Information on Drugs, Pesticides, Environmental Pollutants, and other Potential Toxins

General Information

- [About Chemical Information](#)
- [SuperList, a Compendium of Chemical Lists](#)
- [Other Chemical Information Internet Resources](#)