Combined Keyword (Synonym) Search in PubMed

Your combined search will look like this:
(Concept 1A OR Concept 1B) AND (Concept 2A OR Concept 2B)

Option A:
One way to incorporate synonyms into your search is to search all the terms for a single concept at a time using OR, then search all the terms for another concept, and combine them together in an advanced search using AND.

In PubMed...

Step 1: Search dietary patterns OR diet OR dietary habits (431,782 results)

Step 2: Search lung cancer OR lung neoplasms (264,409 results)
Step 3: Click on “Advanced” under the search box.

Step 4: On the Advanced Search page, combine the two searches by clicking on “Add.” The default operator is AND. Then click “Search”.

Step 5: View your results (2,573). The search now looks like this: *(dietary patterns OR diet OR dietary habits) AND (lung cancer OR lung neoplasms)*
Option B

Step 1: Determine your synonyms. (Not shown.)

Step 2: Using parentheses to combine your synonyms for each concept and using AND to combine the concepts together, type your search into the PubMed search box and click “Search” to retrieve 2,573 results.

You’ll notice this is the same search as the combined search we did in Option A. You can do whichever you prefer (search one concept at a time and combine, or combine as you go using parentheses). The results should be the same.