

LASA Search Tool: Instructions for use

The LASA Search Tool provides a range of search functions, and, with thousands of medicines available, enhances the process of similar medicine name pair identification.

The LASA Search tool should be considered as part of a local risk assessment process when LASA medicine names are not included on the Commission's [National Mixed-Case Lettering List](#).

The context in which the medicine name pairs or groups may be encountered must also be considered when attempting to reduce confusion that may result in a prescribing, dispensing or administration error.

The risk assessment should consider:

- The **likelihood** that the medicine names will be confused
- The **potential severity** (consequence) of this confusion.

When using the LASA Search tool reference should be made to:

- [National Mixed-Case Lettering List](#)
- [Fact sheet: Principles for the application of 'mixed-case' lettering](#).

Step 1: Using the LASA Search Tool

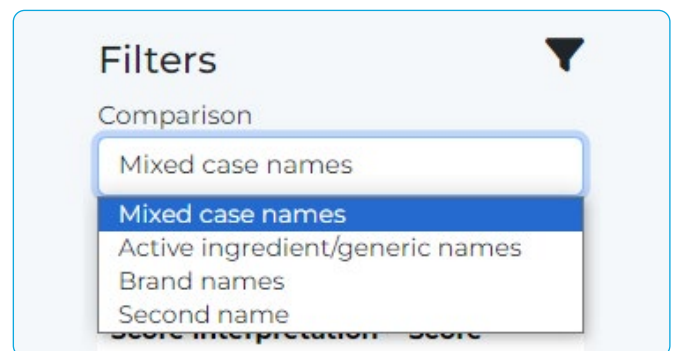
1. Open the LASA Search Tool

lasa.azureedge.net

2. Choose the method appropriate for your search

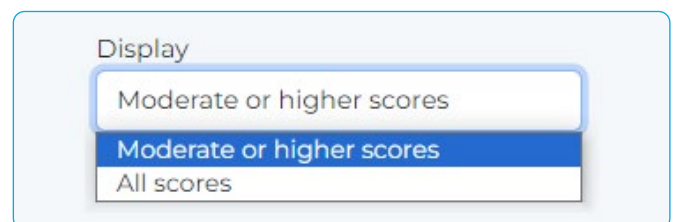
Comparison options are:

- 'Mixed case names'
- 'Active ingredient/generic names'
- 'Brand names'
- 'Second name'.



You may filter the **display** of your results by:

- 'Moderate or higher score'
- 'All scores'.



3. Enter your search term

Enter your search term in the box provided and search by clicking the magnifying glass (search) button or the enter key.

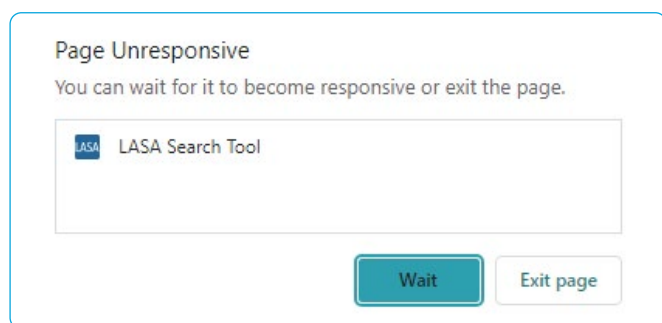


4. Please be patient

Comparisons may be slow, particularly when comparing many brand or product names and on slower devices (e.g. mobile phones).



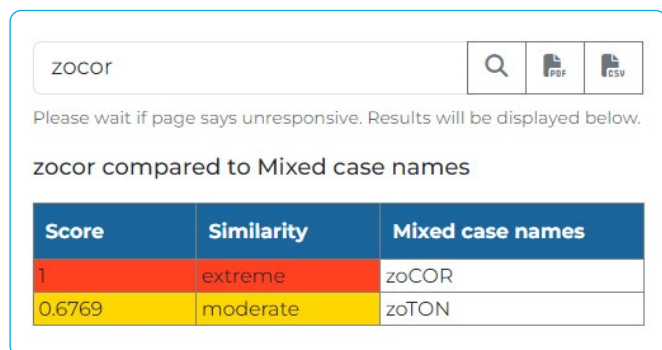
The page may display a message noting it is unresponsive, please continue to wait.



5. Results

When the name comparison is processed a table of results is displayed.

This table shows the overall score and the wording for 'extreme' / 'high' / 'moderate', the processed name (transformed via rules) and original name.



Score	Similarity	Mixed case names
1	extreme	zoCOR
0.6769	moderate	zoTON

Please refer to the next step for understanding your results.

Step 2: Understanding the similarity score thresholds (and outputs)

Score thresholds

The LASA software produces a score ranging between 0 and 1:

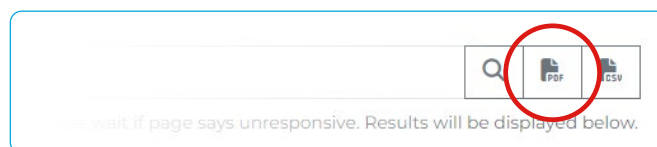
- Extreme similarity: 0.90 and higher
- High similarity: 0.69–0.8999
- Moderate similarity: 0.65–0.6899.

Score interpretation	Score
Extreme	0.9 +
High	0.69 - 0.8999
Moderate	0.65 - 0.6899

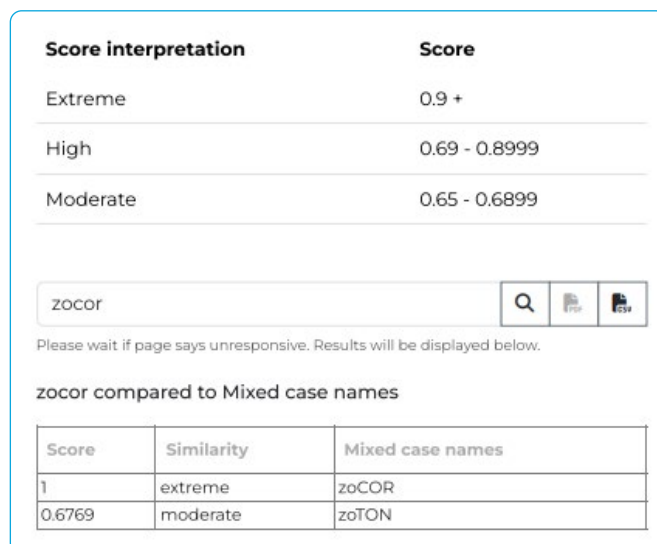
Step 3: Exporting and saving results

Once you have searched for your medicine and produced the results you need, you can export the results as a .pdf or a .csv file.

To export as a .pdf file, select the 'PDF' icon to the right of the search button (circled below).



A print window, similar to the image below, will appear with your results listed.



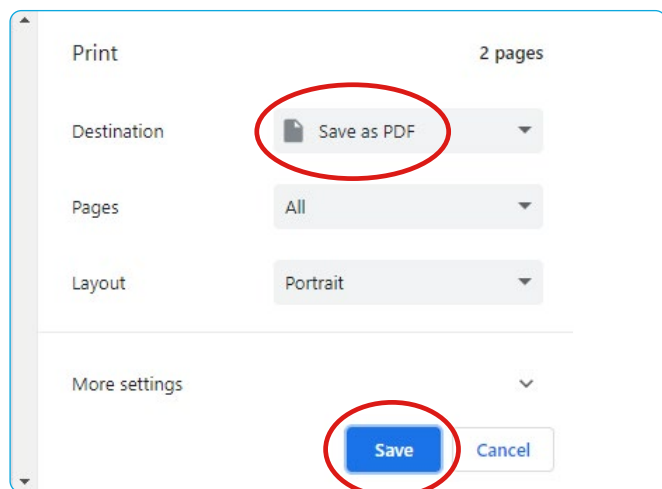
Score interpretation	Score
Extreme	0.9 +
High	0.69 - 0.8999
Moderate	0.65 - 0.6899

Score	Similarity	Mixed case names
1	extreme	zoCOR
0.6769	moderate	zoTON

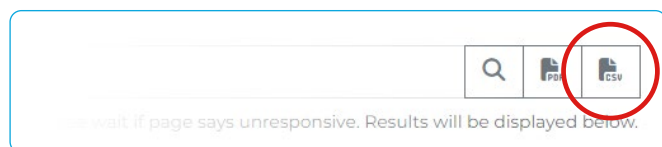
AUSTRALIAN COMMISSION ON SAFETY AND QUALITY IN HEALTH CARE

You can either print or save the PDF by choosing either option in the 'Destination' drop-down menu.

Then hit the 'Save' (or 'Print') button below.



To export as a .csv file, select the 'CSV' icon to the right of the search button.



A .csv file will appear for download.

	A	B	C
1	Score	Similarity	Mixed case names
2	1	extreme	zoCOR
3	0.6769	moderate	zoTON
4		COMPARISON NAME:	zocor
5			

You can save the download or select the file to open it in the desktop Excel program to view.

Feedback

If you have any feedback on the LASA Search Tool, or on the instructions above, please contact: medsafety@safetyandquality.gov.au.

Further reading

- Kondrak G, Dorr B. [Automatic identification of confusable drug names](#). *Artif Intel Med*. 2006;36:29-42
- Emmerton L. [Review of medicine name similarity for monoclonal antibodies and tyrosine kinase inhibitors](#). Sydney: ACSQHC; 2019
- Emmerton L, Curtain C, Swaminathan G, Dowling H. [Development and exploratory analysis of software to detect look-alike, sound-alike medicine names](#). *Int J Med Inform*. 2020 May;137:104119

Questions?



For more information, please visit: www.safetyandquality.gov.au/our-work/medication-safety/safer-naming-and-labelling-medicines/national-mixed-case-lettering-list

You can also contact the eHealth and Medication Safety team at: medsafety@safetyandquality.gov.au.

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safetyandquality.gov.au



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