Mini review of AdisInsight - a “one-stop solution” for pharmaceutical researchers

Introduction

Adis, a Springer Nature business, has been providing trusted drug information to a wide range of professionals and academics for more than 40 years. Adis is a well-known publisher of drug-focused medical journals and newsletters. AdisInsight is a solution created by Springer Nature to bring essential scientific information on drugs in commercial development, key clinical trials, deals, and safety profiles together on a single platform. The innovative and informative AdisInsight platform was reviewed in full by Jinfo in 2015. This mini review highlights new technology and changes to the platform.

AdisInsight provides a “one-stop solution” for pharmaceutical researchers, information analysts and business prospectors to search content across the entire database with one search query. The information available covers the whole drug lifecycle from profiles of drugs in development, insights into clinical trials and how these advance drugs through to regulatory pathways, safety reports associated with a drug, and current deals with the organisations involved.

The content includes:

- Drugs: Comprehensive coverage of global drug programmes across all therapeutic areas from discovery through launch
- Trials: Coverage of key clinical trials conducted to advance these drugs through international regulatory pathways
- Safety: Summaries of published adverse drug reaction case reports, drug safety studies, and regulatory news
- Deals: Summaries of purchases and acquisitions, joint ventures, and agreements for licensing.

Adis claims to have more than 210,000 records, all of which have undergone rigorous editorial and factual analysis processing.

Changes and development

Adis has listened to its customers and introduced a number of changes to the platform since it was last reviewed in 2015. The search functionality continues to evolve with the introduction of new search parameters, structure search and the ability to see your last five searches.

The export options have improved and now let you cherry-pick data and print in grid view.
The interface has improved with increased options in the left-hand column and the inclusion of various filters to narrow down searches.

Adis has partnered with Amplion, market leaders in biomarker information, to enrich drug and clinical trial content in the AdisInsight platform with curated biomarker data. The new data is fully integrated into the AdisInsight platform, meaning that users can perform quick or advanced searches across the data, view biomarker information within drug and trial profiles, and include it with exports and alerts.

Key advantages of the product and changes

The improvements were made in response to feedback from Adis customers, who include research scientists, clinicians, procurement and venture capitalists with different requirements for their information research and analysis. They wanted to be able to export information in different ways and the ability to view the results in list form or via a grid view has improved usability. The improved search functionality and ability to search by structure has helped the research community get the results they need more quickly.

Improvements to the export options, to support various file formats, has made it easier to share data on the platform. This is very important when looking for opportunities for deals, drug regulatory panels and when looking for a gap in the market.

Content and sources

The content of the three databases was covered in-depth in the full Jinfo review carried out in 2015. Please refer to this for an overview of the types of peer-reviewed information available.

Technology

The interface looks very similar to the product launched in January 2015. However, on closer inspection, the search options have changed from the “Query Builder” to “Advanced Search” and “Structure Search” options which are now seen as tabs under the search window.

To define their searches, users can choose from a drop-down menu of the most often used fields to search by:

- Drug name
- Indication
- Mechanism
- Drug class
- Adverse event
Mini review of AdisInsight

For more complex searches, there is the “Advanced search” tab (see Figure 2). The complete spectrum of search criteria can be used to construct a search with greater accuracy. To browse specific criteria, there is a hierarchical system that can be used to find, for example, drugs with a specific mechanism of action.

To search a specific mechanism of action the user opens up the hierarchy branches to identify a mechanism of interest. By ticking the boxes the user can build a query based on these mechanisms or other criteria picked from the Advanced Search.

Figure 4 shows the query built by ticking the boxes in the hierarchy view. This indicates the availability of profiles relating to basic amino acid inhibitors from the four content sets as shown, two drug-related, two trial-related, zero safety reports and two deals-related. By clicking on “Show Results” the user can access these profiles from the search results page.
Figure 3: Hierarchy underpinning the Mechanism of Action criteria

Figure 4: Mechanism of Action Search

The next new feature from the search bar is the ability to search by structure using InfoChem. Users can upload a specific structure that they are interested in or create one within the search function.

Figure 5: Search by structure
Once the search query has been formed, the user clicks “Search Results” and is taken to the results seen in list view. Users then have the option of switching the results into a tabular grid view for easy comparison. The left-hand sidebar provides filters to further refine the search:

- Indication
- Phase
- Location
- Biomarker Name
- Mechanism of Action
- Drug Class
- Patient Segment
- Route of Administration
- Formulation
- Organisation
- Update Date
- Other.

These filters turn orange once checked to help identify additional criteria.

The export functions for the platform have also been improved. File formats to export include Excel, CSV, or the BizInt charting tool to analyse search results. BizInt analytical tools are available to all AdisInsight users and provide an easy way to digest and identify a particular drug or certain patterns in the data.

Figure 6: Export window with analysis options

The data can also be analysed using “Matrix Analysis” which can be selected from the right of the “Grid View” and “List View” options.
Figure 7: Matrix Analysis with options for single or multiple parameters

Once a document has been identified, the user can drill down into the details. The first paragraph, “At a glance” provides a useful overview without having to drill down into the full narrative. All reference links click through to the original documents, and in some cases there is the option of downloading chemical structures from the citation.

By clicking on the different tabs at the top of the search list the user can easily switch between “Drugs”, “Trials”, “Safety” and “Deals”.

Value

The strength of the AdisInsight platform lies in its user-friendly navigation. It provides a “single-point” of access to over 210,000 records across four content sets (Drugs, Deals, Safety and Trials). The AdisInsight technology uses various simple search query options to provide the user with easy access to a myriad of information.

In terms of commercial benefit, AdisInsight proves to be a cost-effective solution as it combines multiple content sets on one platform. Furthermore, the flexibility to refine retrieved results using multiple filters is a great asset for any researcher as they can combine different filters to hone down their search. The new export tools and added enhancements are a great step forwards for the platform.

Adis has listened to its customers and created new features which enhance the previous platform’s technology. AdisInsight could also adopt better visualisation and analytical tools, which would keep them on a par with similar information analysis tools on the market.

The profiles are summarised by an editorial team with access to all references at the click of a button. The “At a glance” summaries are easy-to-read and cover all relevant points, negating the need to read full media releases or publications to understand key points or visiting multiple sites to understand a specific piece of research, drug trial or particular drug. In a summary, AdisInsight as a platform provides access to an impressive volume of data which is well-structured and scientifically curated. The simplicity and robustness of the platform will be a business asset to most organisations working across the healthcare spectrum (biopharmaceutical companies, research institutions, contract research organisations, and other allied healthcare companies).
Mini review of AdisInsight

In summary, AdisInsight as a platform provides access to an impressive volume of scientific data which is well-structured and curated. The simplicity and robustness of the platform will be an asset to most organisations working across the healthcare spectrum, including biopharmaceutical companies, research institutions, contract research organisations, and other allied healthcare companies.

Help and customer accounts

At the bottom of the platform is a link to the help and support pages. Like the platform itself, these pages are displayed intuitively and provide an easy route through the various viewing tools and analysis options.

Live online training and the ability to contact support are also available.

Competitor landscape

The simplicity and robustness of the AdisInsight platform combined with the comprehensiveness of its database content offers users quick and easy access to scientifically curated records. In this space, there are also other business solutions available such as Pharma intelligence's Citeline Trialtrove, Thomson Reuters Cortellis platform and the more complex landscape solutions such as Intellixir, with a greater focus on patents.

Pricing

AdisInsight is offered on a flexible pricing structure, based on the size of an organisation, number of users, and the type of content sets a customer subscribes to.

Jinfo’s view

- Clear interface
- Intuitive data viewing
- Simple navigation
- Easy data export/reporting
- Useful help and tutorial services
- Lacks visualisation/graphical displays.

Contact details

Tel (Germany): +49 (0) 6221 345 4303 (Europe/Asia/Africa)
Tel (US): +1-800-777-4643 (North & South America)

**Springer Nature**
Macmillan Campus
4 Crinan Street, PGS2 (Marketing)
London
N1 9XW
UK

Email: asktheexpert.adisinsight@springer.com
Website: www.springer.com/gp/adis/products-services/new-adisinsight
Twitter: @NewAdisInsight

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