



CHBG NEWSLETTER

The Cochrane Hepato-Biliary Group (CHBG)

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NEW REVIEWS (continuation)

27. Anabolic-androgenic steroids for alcoholic liver disease. Rambaldi A, et al. (Italy)
28. Alpha-fetoprotein and/or liver ultrasonography for liver cancer screening in patients with chronic hepatitis B. Wun YT, et al. (China)
29. Bile acids for primary sclerosing cholangitis. Chen W, et al. (Denmark)
30. Bile acids for viral hepatitis. Chen W, et al. (Denmark)
31. Branched-chain amino acids for hepatic encephalopathy. Als-Nielsen B, et al. (Denmark)

COMMENTED REVIEWS

Radiofrequency thermal ablation versus other interventions for hepatocellular carcinoma. Galandi D, et al. (Germany)*

*The reviewers have not answered the criticism yet.

NEW PROTOCOLS (continuation)

73. Albumin and other plasma expanders for paracentesis treatment of ascites in cirrhotic patients. Simonetti R, et al. (Italy)
74. Behavioural interventions for preventing hepatitis B and/or C. Oberdorfer P, et al. (Australia)
75. Glucocorticosteroids for primary sclerosing cholangitis. Chen W, et al. (Denmark)
76. Pegylated interferon alfa for chronic hepatitis C. Myers R, et al. (Canada)
77. Antioxidants for preventing gastrointestinal cancers. Bjelakovic G, et al. (Serbia and Montenegro)
78. D-penicillamine for primary sclerosing cholangitis. Frederiksen SL, et al. (Denmark)
79. Immunoglobulins for preventing hepatitis A. Liu JP, et al. (UK)



NEW REGISTERED TITLES (continuation)

131. Selective internal radiation therapy for metastatic liver cancer. Leung T, et al. (China)
132. Selective internal radiation therapy for primary liver cancer. Leung T, et al. (China)
133. Sphincteroplasty versus sphincterotomy for common bile duct stones. Weinberg B, et al. (USA)
134. D-penicillamine for primary biliary cirrhosis. Frederiksen SL, et al. (Denmark)
135. Immunosuppressant therapy for autoimmune hepatitis. Efsen E, et al. (Denmark)
136. Antiviral therapy for chronic hepatitis C in patients with human immunodeficiency virus. Kjaer MS, et al. (Denmark)
137. Interventions for viral hepatitis B in liver transplanted patients. Cai M, et al. (China)
138. L-ornithine-L-aspartate for hepatic encephalopathy. Guo Z, et al. (China)
139. Antacid for preventing esophageal variceal bleeding and rebleeding in cirrhotic patients. Yang J, et al. (China)
140. S-adenosyl-L- methionine for viral hepatitis. Hu G, et al. (China)
141. Methotrexate for primary biliary cirrhosis. Gong Y, et al. (Denmark)
142. Colchicine for primary biliary cirrhosis. Gong Y, et al. (Denmark)
143. Iron chelators for hepatocellular carcinoma. Rambaldi A, et al. (Italy)
144. Ribavirin in addition to interferon for liver transplantation in patients with hepatitis C virus. Houly S, et al. (Brazil)
145. Interventions for preventing parenteral nutrition-associated cholestasis. Chaloner C, et al. (UK)
146. D-penicillamine for primary sclerosing cholangitis. Frederiksen SL, et al. (Denmark)
147. Antioxidants for preventing gastrointestinal cancers. Bjelakovic G, et al. (Serbia and Montenegro)
148. Prostaglandin E for viral hepatitis. Luo R, et al. (China)
149. Chemotherapy for gallbladder cancer. Pandey M, et al. (India)
150. Antioxidants for alcoholic liver disease. Bjelakovic G, et al. (Serbia and Montenegro).

REVIEWS IN EDITORIAL PROCESS

- Medicinal herbs versus medicinal herbs for chronic hepatitis B virus infection. Liu J, et al. (UK)
- Glucocorticosteroids for viral hepatitis C. Brok J, et al. (Denmark)
- Vaccines for preventing hepatitis A. DeMichelli V, et

al. (Italy)

- Surgical versus medical treatment of refractory ascites. Saab S, et al. (USA)
- Milk thistle for alcoholic and/or hepatitis B or C liver diseases. Rambaldi A, et al. (Italy)
- Nonabsorbable disaccharides for hepatic encephalopathy. Als-Nielsen B, et al. (Denmark)
- Artificial and bioartificial support systems for liver failure. Liu J, et al. (UK)
- Hepatitis B vaccination for patients with chronic renal failure. Zacharias J, et al. (USA)

PROTOCOLS IN EDITORIAL PROCESS -

- Bile acids for liver transplanted patients. Chen W, et al. (Denmark)
- Colchicine for primary biliary cirrhosis. Gong Y, et al. (Denmark)
- Beta-blockers for prevention of esophageal variceal rebleeding in cirrhotic patients. Chen W, et al. (Denmark)
- Bicyclol for hepatitis B. Yan W, et al. (China)
- Methotrexate for primary biliary cirrhosis. Gong Y, et al. (Denmark)
- Hepatitis B immune globulin for prevention of posttransplantation hepatitis B. Hong Z, et al. (Canada)
- Prophylactic endoscopic sclerotherapy for oesophageal varices. Fardy J, et al. (Canada)
- Beta-blockers for cirrhotic patients with esophageal varices that have never bled. Chen W, et al. (Denmark)
- Prostaglandin E for viral hepatitis. Luo R, et al. (China)

PAST EVENTS

AASLD MEETING, BOSTON - USA

A CHBG meeting was held on November 4, 2002 during the AASLD meeting. Bodil Als-Nielsen, Gennaro D'Amico, Robert Myers, Sammy Saab, and Ronald Koretz were among the speakers. Ronald Koretz and Bodil Als-Nielsen chaired the meeting. We like to thank all the people who attended and contributed to the meeting.

EVENTS WITH CHANGED LOCATION AND DATES

EASL MEETING

Because of the war in Iraq and the uncertainty of the present political situation, the EASL Annual Meeting that was scheduled for 29 March - 1 April 2003 in Istanbul, Turkey, has been cancelled.



The EASL meeting will now take place in Geneva, Switzerland 3 to 6 July 2003, and The CHBG meeting is scheduled as a pre-meeting activity for 2 July. Please check regularly the EASL website <http://www.easl.ch/easl2003> for further details.

TRAIN THE TRAINERS

The workshop on Crete was cancelled because of the war in Iraq. It is planned that it takes place on 4 to 9 September 2003 in New Zealand instead.

FUTURE EVENTS

WORKSHOP ON COCHRANE EDITING, COPENHAGEN - DENMARK

A two-day workshop on Cochrane editing will take place in Copenhagen, Denmark on 18 and 19 September 2003. This will be the third workshop organised by The Nordic Cochrane Centre on editing of Cochrane reviews and protocols.

All CHBG editors are invited. Further, an Editorial Team Meeting is planned on the following day, 20 September 2003, at the Editorial Team Office in Copenhagen.

11th COCHRANE COLLOQUIUM, BARCELONA - SPAIN

The 11th Cochrane Colloquium will be held from 26 to 31 October 2003 in Barcelona, Spain. There will be workshops and meetings aimed at meeting the needs of reviewers, editors, review group coordinators, trials search coordinators, consumers, and methodologists. For more information visit www.colloquium.info/

AASLD 2003 MEETING, BOSTON, MA - USA

The AASLD meeting will be run on 24-28 October 2003 in Boston. The date for the CHBG meeting will be scheduled after the summer.

VISITS

Rosanna Simonetti, Italy stayed for a week in February at the Editorial Team office and worked on the systematic review 'Albumin and other plasma expanders for paracentesis treatment of ascites in cirrhotic patients'.

Goran Bjelakovic, Serbia and Montenegro, came February 16 and will stay for three months to work on the review 'Antioxidants for preventing gastrointestinal cancers'. The review is sponsored

by The Knowledge and Research Centre for Alternative Medicine (ViFAB), Denmark.

NEW PUBLISHER OF THE COCHRANE LIBRARY (THE CLIB)

Update Software does not publish the CLib any longer. Now the new publisher is Wiley. Should you be interested in more information, please visit: www.wileyurope.com/

CHBG REVIEWS PUBLISHED ELSEWHERE

Liu JP, Manheimer E, Tsutani K, Gluud C. Medicinal herbs for hepatitis C virus infection: a Cochrane Hepato-Biliary Systematic Review of randomized trials. *The American Journal of Gastroenterology* 2003;98(3):538-44.

Kjaergard LL, Liu J, Als-Nielsen B, Gluud C. Artificial and bioartificial support systems for acute and acute-on-chronic liver failure: a systematic review. *JAMA* 2003;289(2):217-22.

Ioannou GN, Doust J, Rockey DC. Terlipressin for acute esophageal variceal hemorrhage: a systematic review and meta-analysis. *Alimentary Pharmacology and Therapeutic* 2003;17(1):53-64.

Soares-Weiser K, Brezis M, Tur-Kaspa R, Paul M, Yahav J, Leibovici L. Antibiotic prophylaxis of bacterial infections in cirrhotic inpatients: a meta-analysis of randomized controlled trials. *Scandinavian Journal of Gastroenterology* 2003;38(2):193-200.

REVMAN VERSION 4.2 AND PATCH 4.2.1

RevMan 4.2 is available from the RevMan web site: www.cochrane-net.org/revman The full version of RevMan on the web site has also been upgraded to 4.2.1.

Please, when you decide to download the programme download RevMan version 4.2.1, which contains the patch for RevMan 4.2. Please read the following:

We would like to highlight two things:

1) File compatibility
Files can be moved between RevMan 4.1 and RevMan 4.2 without any conversion. However, additional figures and outcomes using the generic inverse variance data type will not be visible in RevMan 4.1. The



relevant data are not lost and will reappear when the review is imported back into RevMan 4.2. Bold, italics, underline, subscript, superscript, symbols and text marker will be visible on screen in RevMan 4.1 but not when the text is printed (where the relevant text will appear as plain text).

2) New permission for publication form

A new permission for publication form is included in RevMan 4.2. This reflects the new publishing agreement between The Cochrane Collaboration and John Wiley & Sons, and longstanding wish-list changes to the structure and content of the form. This form needs to be used for all new and substantively updated reviews from the upcoming module submission (deadline: 28 May 2003) onwards. If a contact reviewer continues to use RevMan 4.1, the collaborative review group should print the form when the review has been imported into RevMan 4.2, and return it to the reviewer and any co-reviewers for signing.

REVMAN PATCH 4.2.1

Dear RevMan users,

An upgrade to RevMan 4.2 called 4.2.1 that solves four problems listed below is released on 9 April. The upgrade is installed using a small 'patch' program (~140 KB) available from:
<http://www.cochrane-net.org/download/revman/revman42patch.exe>

To install the patch, click on the link and open the file or save the file on your hard drive and run it from there. Follow the instructions and make sure to install the patch in the same directory as RevMan 4.2 - it doesn't work on other versions. If the installation program suggests a directory with another version, you need to browse to the right one.

The following problems are addressed:

- 1) Study references are not included in HTML export files - only the study IDs are there.
- 2) Unmatched left curly brackets '{' in the main text cause RevMan to hang when saving the text.
- 3) Curly brackets in RTF files that you try to import may cause RevMan to hang or produce other unpredictable results.

4) RevMan reports by mistake that numbers, equal signs etc. in formulas next to symbols may not be displayed correctly when published.

Best wishes,
Rasmus Moustgaard
The RevMan Development Team

Who needs to upgrade?

The CHBG urges all reviewers to upgrade and submit their protocols or reviews in RevMan 4.2.1!

THINGS YOU SHOULD NOT FORGET

- **Search terms or search strategies**

Search terms or search strategies in protocols and reviews should be sufficiently listed to allow others to run them. We suggest to reviewers to include the search strategies within an Additional Table (OBS! you have to create it by yourself) in RevMan and refer to them within the text under 'Search strategies for identification of studies'. When writing about the search strategy in the reviews, reviewers should remember that there is almost a standard way of reporting. Data ranges should be given for all databases searched. This applies also for the abstract of the review. Please check the Reviewers' Handbook Appendix 2a. Guide to the format of a Cochrane Review.

- **How to store different types of references**

Quite often the references are not entered correctly in the protocol/review and this creates a lot of problems. Please when you are entering the references, use Help Topics in RevMan help and then look for 'How to store different types of references'.

- **Cochrane Style Guide (CSG)**

The Cochrane Style Guide is not finalised yet, but reviewers are strongly encouraged to write their reviews following what is being recommended there. You will find the draft at:
www.liv.ac.uk/lstm/ehcap/CSR/CSG.html

- **Publication agreement**

The following passage is suggested for inclusion in letters of submission to paper journal editors:
'This systematic Review has been prepared under the aegis of The Cochrane Collaboration, an international organisation that aims to help people make well-informed decisions about healthcare by preparing, maintaining and promoting the accessibility of systematic reviews of the effects of healthcare



interventions. The Collaboration's publication policy permits journals to publish Reviews, with priority if required, but permits The Cochrane Collaboration also to publish and disseminate such Reviews. Cochrane Reviews cannot be subject to the exclusive copyright requested by some journals.'

Please do not forget to enter information if any under 'Other published versions of this review' under references in RevMan, in case your review is also published in a paper journal.

IN WANT OF MORE CONSUMERS

The CHBG has yet not been successful in finding enough consumers. Should you be interested in what consumers do and need more information about their involvement, please visit the Cochrane Consumer Network's web page at <http://www.cochraneconsumer.com/>, or contact us.

At this address you may also find summaries of new and updated reviews, released by the Cochrane Collaboration.

COCHRANE TRAINING WORKSHOPS

At the web address www.cochrane.org/cochrane/workshop.htm you may find information on Cochrane workshops throughout the world.

NOTE

The report on The CHBG activities for 2002 is prepared. Anybody wishing to get an electronic copy is welcome to require it by sending his/her email to <chbg@ctu.rh.dk> with a subject 'CHBG report required'. Those wishing paper copies are also requested to give us a note by e-mail or fax.

PROGRAMME FOR 15th CHBG MEETING

For the programme of 15th CHBG meeting during 38th Annual Meeting of the EASL, please turn overleaf.

The Cochrane Hepato-Biliary (CHBG) Newsletter is prepared, edited, and published in electronic and paper format by staff at The CHBG Editorial Base in Copenhagen, Denmark. It is issued twice a year and distributed free of charge by The CHBG worldwide to all people on The CHBG list who either have contributed, are contributing, or show interest in the work of the Group. The purpose is to inform CHBG members and other interested parties about activities within The CHBG.

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