The Cochrane Hepato-Biliary Group
(The CHBG)

Dimitrinka Nikolova,
Managing Editor, Editorial Team Office,
The Cochrane Hepato-Biliary Group
Copenhagen Trial Unit, Rigshospitalet,
Copenhagen, Denmark

dimitrinka.nikolova@ctu.dk
Editorial Team Office – The Copenhagen Trial Unit, Rigshospitalet, Copenhagen, DK

Editors – 22 people in total; DTAR Editors - 4 people

Authors – 999 people

CHBG members – 1969 people

DTARs – 19 registered titles; 17 protocols; 10 reviews
What do we do?

1. Intervention reviews:
   assess the benefits and harms of interventions

2. Diagnostic test accuracy reviews:
   assess how well a diagnostic test performs in screening or diagnosing and detecting a particular disease
3. Methodology reviews

4. Overview of reviews

5. Intervention reviews with network meta-analyses

CHBG publications: 274 protocols and 178 reviews

- 8 DTAR protocols published

- 1 DTAR review published
The Cochrane Collaboration

www.cochrane.org

Diagnostic Test Accuracy Working Group

srdda.cochrane.org

The CHBG

hbg.cochrane.org
- A Cochrane DTA review is preceded by a peer reviewed and published protocol

- A Cochrane DTA review may or may not contain meta-analyses
Cochrane systematic reviews are prepared in RevMan 5 software ims.cochrane.org/revman

Published in Cochrane database of systematic reviews – part of The Cochrane Library thecochranelibrary.com
Cochrane Systematic Review of Diagnostic Test Accuracy

A scientific summary of all available evidence

i.e., a comparison between the target condition estimated by the index test and the reference standard
The research question

- Is there a need to answer this question?
- Can it be assessed by a test accuracy?
- Available tests?
- Which is/are the reference standard(s)?
- What tests will I compare?
  (single tests; combination of tests..)
The research question

Cont.

- In what way?
- What do I expect the index test to do?
- Why?
- In what patient population? (clinical characteristics/presentation; setting; prior tests)
- What is the current diagnostic and clinical pathway?
Ready to formulate a title for a Cochrane systematic DTA review?

Components of the research question

- Patients
- Index tests
- Target disorder
Review proposal form

Where to find it?

To whom to submit it?

Registration. The process.

Cochrane reviews have standard formats.
Clear question

Good protocol

The review preparation easier
THINGS TO REMEMBER
Index test - the test under evaluation

Target condition - the condition we are trying to detect

Reference standard - the best way available of identifying the target condition.

Reference standard is used to verify the results of the index test
The accuracy of an index test cannot be evaluated without a reference standard.

There should be consensus that the reference standard is more accurate than the index test.

There may be more than one acceptable reference standard that would be appropriate for use in a diagnostic test accuracy study.
A degree of pragmatism may be required when choosing an acceptable reference standard.

The most accurate reference standard may not be feasible or ethical, and less accurate methods may have to be used.

The reference standard may comprise several pieces of information (several tests).
Title formulation

[Index test(s)] for [target condition(s)]

[Index test 1] versus [index test 2] for [target condition(s)]
Title formulation

[Index test 1] versus [index test 2] for [target condition(s)] in [participant description]

[Index test(s)] for [target condition(s)] in [participant description]
DTAR - continuous data should be dichotomised ...

There will always be a reference standard
Acknowledgements

The Cochrane Screening and Diagnostic Test Methods Group, The Cochrane Collaboration.

Cochrane Handbook for Systematic Reviews of Diagnostic Test Accuracy

http://srdta.cochrane.org/presentations