

CHBG NEWSLETTER

Cochrane Hepato-Biliary Group (CHBG)

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UPDATE ON THE COCHRANE HEPATO-BILIARY GROUP ACHIEVEMENTS

And the first year of the new millennium is in. For three and a half years since its inception, the CHBG has been persecuting its specific aims and goals. The Editorial Team has been working persistently to create stability - a pivotal point for the good management and prosperity. Applications for Funding were sent out and the money they brought

secured the work of the Group for three more years. Herewith we would like to acknowledge the enormous help obtained from The 1991 Pharmacy Foundation, The Danish Medical Research Council, and The Research Foundation of The Copenhagen Hospital Corporation.

Protocols and reviews

Twenty-four protocols and three reviews are published in the CHBG Module of The CLib Issue 1, 2000. For The CLib Issue 2, 2000 we are ready to submit additionally three protocols and one systematic review.

Additionally we have 67 old and new registered titles and we expect that the corresponding protocols will be submitted during year 2000.

Handsearching

There are two journal titles registered to be handsearched: Transplantation (from 1966 and prospective) - Sammy Saab, USA and Seminars in Liver Disease (1984 and prospective) - Sarah Frederiksen, Denmark.

We are also thankful to Sven Adamsen, Torben Jørgensen, Monika Kjaer, Kim Krosgard, and Jianping Liu for the recently submitted handsearch results. Their results were processed and submitted for publication on The CLib. Furthermore, non-relevant citations in paper and electronic format have been sent to the Colorectal Cancer Group. According to an existing agreement between the CHBG, Colorectal Cancer Group, Cochrane Upper Gastrointestinal, Pancreatic Diseases Group, and Cochrane Inflammatory Bowel Disease Group non-relevant citations, found by handsearching, will be rotated within the groups for quicker retrieval and use.

Citations database

The CHBG specialised citation database now contains 10,340 references tagged as RCTs, CCTs, meta-analyses (M-A), second opinion ought to be sought (SOS), consensus reports (CONS), observational studies (OBS), reviews (REV) and miscellaneous (MISC). In January 2000, the number of RCTs as full text articles or in the form of abstracts was 5,044, and of CCTs was 197.

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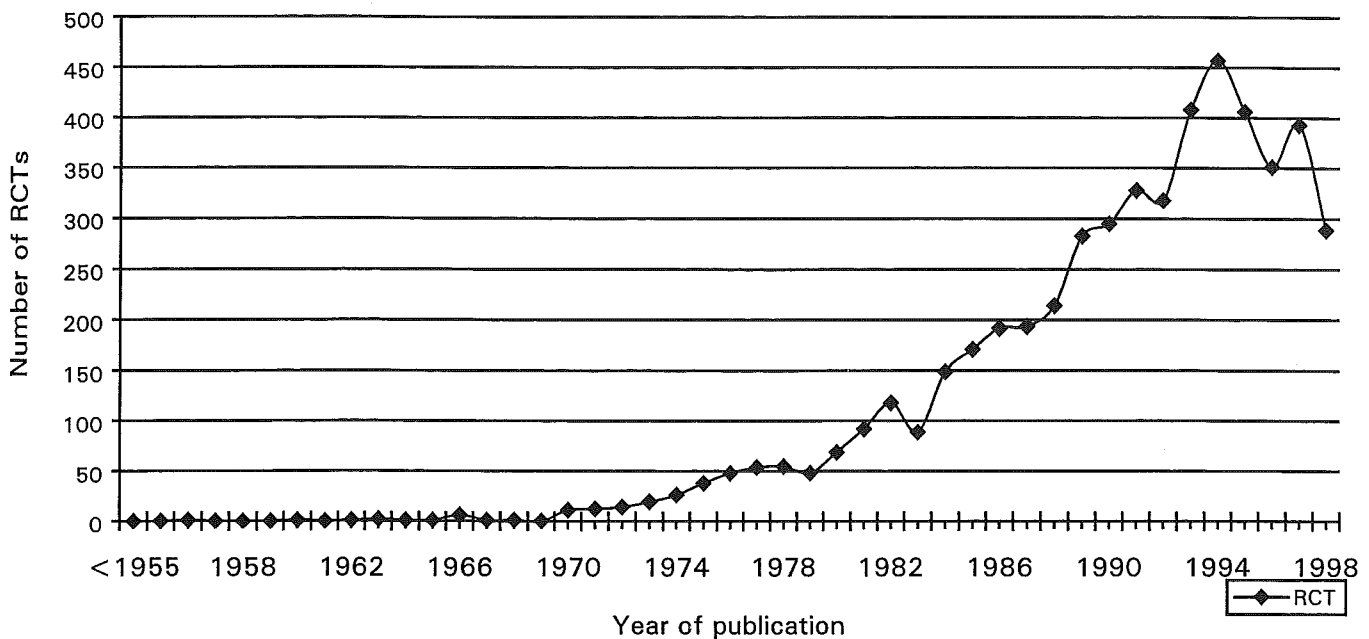
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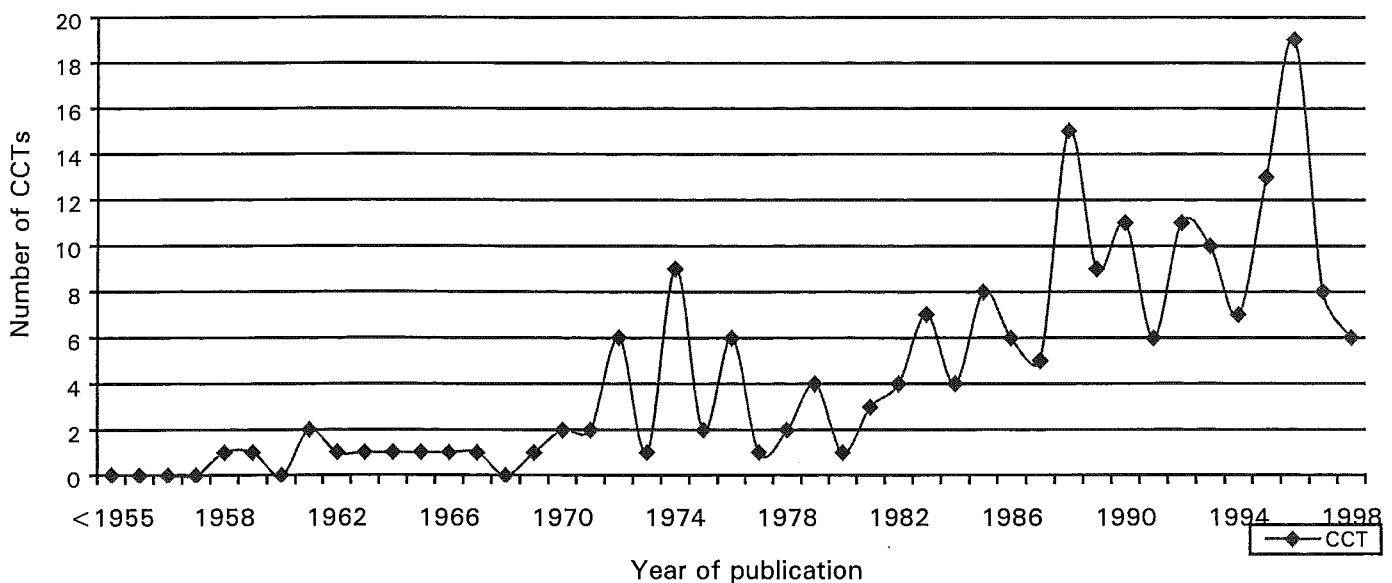
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The following graphs show the distribution of published RCTs and CCTs from 1955 to 1998, which are registered in The CHBG specialised citation database, including The CHBG.

Randomised clinical trials throughout the years



Controlled clinical trials throughout the years



Getting Research into Practice (GRIP)

You all remember from the CHBG Newsletter 1999; Vol.3: Issue 2 that in 1999 efforts to find money for preparation of systematic reviews from The Danish Medical Research Council (DMRC) resulted in success. The DMRC has generously granted about 1,000,000 DKK to be distributed among successful applicants - authors of systematic reviews from all over the world. The systematic reviews must be finalised within year 2000. Thus our expectations are that year 2000

will top the productivity of systematic reviews compared with the previous three and a half years. A preliminary estimation shows that the success of the group at the end of December will thrive with about 21 new protocols for systematic reviews and about 20 new completed systematic reviews. The conclusions of the CHBG systematic reviews later on will be tested against what clinicians at Nordic Hospitals are actually doing. In this way we can test how research gets into practice.

The efforts to find additional resources for covering more of the hepato-biliary topics in the form of systematic reviews have not ceased with this application. We strongly request and urge the researchers to try to find funding for their own work from local institutions and foundations.

The GRIP announcement seems to have ignited the interest of many researchers from around the world. We received many applications and the list of titles was exceptionally strong. From the suggested 27 titles, we have chosen the sixteen with highest rating. The titles with the names of the reviewers awarded are given below:

- S-adenosyl-L-methionine for alcoholic liver diseases, Andrea Rambaldi, Italy
- TIPS for treatment of ascitis and hepatic hydrothorax, Andreas Ochs, Germany
- Antibiotic treatment for spontaneous bacterial peritonitis in cirrhotics, Carla Soares, Israel
- Antibiotic prophylaxis for bacterial infections in cirrhotics with gastrointestinal bleeding, Carla Soares, Israel
- Radiofrequency interstitial thermal ablation versus other interventions for hepatocellular carcinoma, Daniel Galandi, Germany
- Ursodeoxycholic acid and/or antibiotics for prevention of biliary stent occlusion, Daniel Galandi, Germany
- Surgical versus endoscopic treatment of bile duct stones, James Toouli, Australia
- Chinese medicinal herbs for acute hepatitis B, Jianping Liu, China
- Chinese medicinal herbs for chronic hepatitis B, Jianping Liu, China
- UDCA with or without extracorporeal shock wave treatment for gallbladder stones, Lise Lotte Kjaergard, Denmark
- Beta-blockers for primary prevention of bleeding from oesophageal varices, Mamun-Al-Mahtab, Bangladesh
- Abdominal paracentesis for ascites, Mamun-Al-Mahtab, Bangladesh
- Chemoembolization versus other interventions for hepatocellular carcinoma, Sammy Saab, USA
- Surgical versus medical treatment of ascites, Sammy Saab, USA
- Hepatitis B immune globulin for prevention of posttransplantation hepatitis B, Steven Han, USA.

To this we have to add other systematic reviews expected to be finalized until the end of the year.

- Antibiotic prophylaxis for bacterial infections in cirrhotic patients with ascites, Brigitte Bernard, France
- Vaccines for preventing hepatitis B in newborn infants, Elizabeth Boxall, UK
- Vaccines for preventing hepatitis B in high risk

newborn infants, Elizabeth Boxall, UK

- Systemic chemotherapy for inoperable hepatocellular carcinoma, Edwin Chan, Singapore
- Ursodeoxycholic acid for primary biliary cirrhosis, Christian Gluud, Denmark
- Branched-chain amino acids for hepatic encephalopathy, Christian Gluud, Denmark
- Antibiotics for preventing leptospirosis, Fabio Guidugli, Brazil
- Terlipressin for acute variceal hemorrhage, George Iannou, USA
- Laparoscopic versus small incision or open operation for cholecystectomy, Torben Jørgensen, Denmark
- Endoscopic therapy versus shunts for longterm management of variceal haemorrhage, Saboor A.Khan, UK
- Surgical portosystemic shunts versus transjugular intrahepatic portosystemic shunt for variceal haemorrhage, Saboor A.Khan, UK
- Total portosystemic shunt versus shunts preserving portal venous hepatic perfusion for variceal haemorrhage, Saboor A.Khan, UK
- Sequential combination of glucocorticosteroids and alfa interferon versus alfa interferon alone for chronic hepatitis B, Martin Thyge Møllerup, Denmark
- Interferon for treating acute hepatitis C, Thierry Poynard, France
- Interferon for treating chronic hepatitis C, Thierry Poynard, France
- Glucocorticosteroids for alcoholic hepatitis, Humberto Sacconato, Brazil
- Tamoxifen for hepatocellular carcinoma, Martin Stockler, Australia
- Cholecystectomy for gallbladder dyskinesia, James Toouli, Australia
- Sphincterotomy for biliary sphincter of Oddi dysfunction, James Toouli, Australia
- Organic nitrates for prevention of esophageal varices bleeding and rebleeding, Tianshu Liu, China
- Nucleoside analogues with or without alpha-interferon for HBeAg positive chronic hepatitis B, Solko Schalm, Holland
- Ribavirin with or without alpha interferon versus no intervention, placebo or alpha interferon for chronic hepatitis C, Lise Lotte Kjaergard, Denmark
- Nonabsorbable disaccharides for hepatic encephalopathy, Lise Lotte Kjaergard, Denmark

We also believe that in year 2000 we will manage to balance the enhanced productivity of the CHBG with responsibility. We want to ensure all our members that they will get the help they need, but they have to let us know about it.

New registered titles

- Interferon for prevention of hepatocellular carcinoma - Luigi Pagliaro; Rosanna Simonetti, Italy
- Polyethylene-glycol-interferon for chronic hepatitis C

- Thierry Poynard, France; Gilmar Amorim, Brazil
- Sphincteroplasty versus endoscopic sphincterotomy for bile duct stones - Jacques Bergman, Holland
- Ursodeoxycholic acid for prevention of rejection in liver transplants - Joanne Ging, Australia

Recruitment

Solutions to health care problems do not come easy. For sustainable development of the Group we need more researchers involved. Enclosed in this newsletter is an 'Invitation to participate form'.

We will appreciate your efforts in making more photocopies and distribute the form among your colleagues, or why not at gastrointestinal conferences or other meetings at which you will participate. We can even prepare and send you information materials about the CHBG.

New members of the CHBG

New members join the CHBG all the time. Among the recent are: Daniel Galandi, Germany; Joanne Ging, Australia; Steven Han, USA; George Iannou, USA; Jacques Bergman, the Netherlands; Jenny Doust, Australia; Martin Thyge Møllerup, Denmark; Mamun Al-Mahtab, Bangladesh, Yuk Tsan. Wun, Hong Kong. Most heartily welcome!

New members of The CHBG Editorial Team

Sarah Frederiksen joined the CHBG in November 1999 as Trial Search Coordinator.

To decrease the stress around the timely acceptance of a CHBG protocol or a review for publication on The CLib, each of the co-editors was kindly asked to propose one associate editor. Thus Alexander Craig, Australia; Saboor A. Khan, UK; Lise Lotte Kjaergard, Denmark and Rosanna Simonetti, Italy were chosen as associate editors.

We heartily welcome them all on board.

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Past events

The VII Annual Cochrane Colloquium in Rome is now far behind us, but the memories will not fade. It took place at the magnificent S. Tommaso D'Aquino University from October 5 to 9, 1999. There were many useful meetings and workshops and for the first time the number of participants surpassed 1,000! Among the topics discussed at the plenary sessions were: Making the reviews as reader-friendly as possible, Making the reviews relevant to the consumers, Making sure that the reviews consider situations in different parts of the world, When to use information from other than randomised clinical trials, etc. The workshops also attracted many people. Among the topics were: How to attract consumers? How to search on The Cochrane

Library? What should the style of the reviews be? There was also great interest in methodological issues, like economic evaluation, quality assessment of trials, measurement of effect size etc.

All this combined with the beautiful autumn weather, the many charming restaurants, serving delicious food and playing serene music, the exciting social programme and the long late walks in the streets of Rome is a nice reminiscence of our stay.

Future Events

EASL MEETING in Rotterdam, the Netherlands 2000 April 29 - May 3 in De Doelen Congress Centre.

You may register online from the following page:
<http://easl2000.com/>

The CHBG has scheduled a meeting during the EASL meeting on Saturday, April 29 from 15.00 to 18.00 hours. The preliminary programme is published in this newsletter. The CHBG will also be presented at the EASL exhibition 2000 with a booth. The exhibition days and hours will be April 29 from 18.00 to 21.00 hours, and from 09.30 to 16.00 hours on April 30; May 1; May 2. You are very much welcome to pay us a visit there.

IASL-APASL JOINT MEETING in Fukuoka, Japan, 2000 June 2 - 7,

Including: 12th Asian Pacific Association for the Study of the Liver, International Association for the Study of the Liver and 36th Annual Meeting of the Japan Society of Hepatology. Information: c/o Network International, 2-2-16 Yushima bunkyo-ku, Tokyo 113, Japan
Email: ni-corp@tokyo.email.ne.jp

THE VIII ANNUAL COCHRANE COLLOQUIUM in Cape Town, South Africa, 2000 October 25-29

Hotel registration deadline	01 August 2000
Late registration	02 August 2000
Abstract submission deadline	31 May 2000
Early registration deadline	01 June 2000
Notification of abstract acceptance	01 July 2000
Full registration deadline	01 August 2000

More information at
<http://www.mrc.ac.za/conference/cochrane.htm>

51ST ANNUAL AASLD MEETING in Dallas, USA 2000 October 27-31 at Wyndham Anatole Hotel, Dallas, Texas.

The Annual Meeting offers a forum to present and discuss the latest liver-related research.

CHBG-ONE-DAY SYMPOSIUM in Prague, 2001 April 17, from 9.00 a.m. to 5.00 p.m.

In our previous newsletter we informed you in short that the Scientific Committee of the EASL had approved and ratified a one-day CHBG symposium on evidence-based medicine in Prague. The preliminary programme is also

also published in this newsletter.

COMPUTING NEWS

You can upgrade your version of RevMan from the internet address
<ftp://ftp.cochrane.co.uk/pub/revman/revman40.exe>
If you are unable to do so, then ask us for floppy discs.

WORKSHOPS

Information on workshops may be found from
<http://www.cochrane.dk/cochrane/ccweb.htm>

Researchers, wishing to assist the Cochrane Hepato-Biliary Group in doing handsearches and systematic reviews, are invited to contact: The Editorial Team Office, The Copenhagen Trial Unit, Institute of Preventive Medicine, H:S Kommunehospitalet DK-1399 Copenhagen, Denmark, Tel: +45 3338 3743, or +45 33383744; Fax + 45 3332 4410; Email CHBG@ipm.hosp.dk, or obtain more information on the Cochrane Collaboration and the CHBG by visiting the following Internet home pages: <http://www.cochrane.co.uk>; <http://hiru.mcmaster.ca/cochrane> and <http://inet.uni2.dk/~ctucph/chbg>.

Draft Programme for the One-Day Symposium

Tuesday, April 17th, 2001

during Prague 2001 EASL-Meeting

9.00 a.m. to 9.05 a.m.	Welcome and presentation of the programme	Christian Gluud
9.05 a.m. to 9.35 a.m.	Evidence-based medicine	William Rosenberg
9.35 a.m. to 10.00 a.m.	Randomised clinical trials and controlled clinical trials: history and development	Ulrich Tröhler
10.00 a.m. to 10.20 a.m.	Randomised clinical trials within hepatology	Lise Lotte Kjaergard
10.20 a.m. to 10.30 a.m.	Coffee break	
10.30 a.m. to 10.50 a.m.	Meta-analysis – history and development (unconfirmed at present)	Gennaro D'Amico
10.50 a.m. to 11.10 a.m.	Meta-analysis within hepatology	Thierry Poynard
11.10 a.m. to 11.35 a.m.	The Cochrane Collaboration	<i>To be announced</i>
11.35 a.m. to 11.50 a.m.	The Cochrane Hepato-Biliary Group	Christian Gluud
11.50 a.m. to 12.10 p.m.	A critical look at evidence-based medicine	Luigi Pagliaro
12.10 a.m. to 1.30 p.m.	Lunch	
1.30 p.m. to 2.00 p.m.	Demonstration of the software of the Cochrane Collaboration – Review Manager and The Cochrane Library	Torben Jørgensen
2.00 p.m. to 2.10 p.m.	Demonstration of two protocols for CHBG systematic reviews	<i>To be announced</i>
2.10 p.m. to 2.30 p.m.	Ursodeoxycholic acid for primary biliary cirrhosis - meta-analysis	Andrew Burroughs
2.30 p.m. to 2.50 p.m.	Ursodeoxycholic acid for primary biliary cirrhosis - a systematic review	Christian Gluud
2.50 p.m. to 3.10 p.m.	Coffee break	
3.10 p.m. to 3.30 p.m.	Demonstration of a CHBG systematic review - Laparoscopic versus minilaparotomy-cholecystectomy for gallbladder stones.	Torben Jørgensen
3.30 p.m. to 3.50 p.m.	Demonstration of a CHBG systematic review	Thierry Poynard
3.50 p.m. to 4.10 p.m.	Demonstration of a CHBG systematic review	<i>To be announced</i>
4.10 p.m. to 4.30 p.m.	Demonstration of a CHBG systematic review	<i>To be announced</i>
4.30 p.m. to 4.45 p.m.	Final discussions and closing of the meeting	Christian Gluud