

CHBG NEWSLETTER

The Cochrane Hepato-Biliary Group (CHBG)

March 2009

Volume 13, Issue 1

IN THIS ISSUE

NEW PUBLICATIONS IN THE CLIB ISSUE 1 AND 2, 2009

NEW AND UPDATED REVIEWS, NEW AND UPDATED PROTOCOLS, AND NEW REGISTERED TITLES PAST EVENTS

- 16TH COCHRANE COLLOQUIUM
- THE 23RD BI-ANNUAL CHBG MEETING AND EXHIBITION STAND DURING THE 59TH ANNUAL AASLD MEETING
- THE 2009 ABU-DHABI INTERNATIONAL MEDICAL CONGRESS: MEDICAL CHALLENGES BEYOND THE MILLENIUM
- UNIVERSITY OF NIS, SERBIA
- 5TH CONGRESS OF INTERNAL MEDICINE FOR THE SOUTH-EASTERN EUROPE, BELGRADE, SERBIA

FUTURE EVENTS

- THE CHBG'S MONOTHEMATIC CONFERENCE ON SYSTEMATIC REVIEWS AND META-ANALYSES: FROM CLINICAL RESEARCH TO CLINICAL PRACTICE, COPENHAGEN, DENMARK
- THE 44th ANNUAL EASL MEETING, COPENHAGEN, DENMARK
- THE 24TH BI-ANNUAL CHBG MEETING AND EXHIBITION STAND, COPENHAGEN, DENMARK
- DIGESTIVE DISEASE WEEK MEETING, CHICAGO, USA
- THE CHBG SYMPOSIUM 2009 AND EXHIBITION STAND, CHICAGO, USA
- COCHRANE COLLOQUIUM, SINGAPORE

VISITS

STAFF CHANGES AND ACKNOWLEDGEMETS
MORE ON WORKING WITH REVIEW MANAGER 5 (REVMAN)
AND ARCHIE

LICENCE TO PUBLISH FORM OTHER FORMS WE REQUEST YOU TO USE MEETNG PROGRAMMES

- THE 24TH CHBG MEETING PROGRAMME
- THE CHBG'S MONOTHEMATIC CONFERENCE ON SYSTEMATIC REVIEWS AND META-ANALYSES
- EVIDENCE-BASED MANAGEMENT OF END-STAGE LIVER DISEASE. A COCHRANE SYMPOSIUM

The numbering is a continuation from Vol. 12, Issue 2, 2008

NEW PUBLICATIONS IN THE CLIB ISSUE 1 AND 2, 2009 NEW REVIEWS

- 91. Antiviral therapy for recurrent liver graft infection with hepatitis C virus. Gurusamy KS, Osmani B, Xirouchakis E, Burroughs AK, Davidson BR.
- 92. Cholecystectomy for gallbladder polyp. Gurusamy KS, Abu-Amara M, Farouk M, Davidson BR.
- 93. Cholecystectomy for suspected gallbladder dyskinesia. Gurusamy KS, Junnarkar S, Farouk M. Davidson BR.
- 94. Image-guided percutaneous procedure plus metronidazole versus metronidazole alone for uncomplicated amoebic liver abscess. Chavez-Tapia NC, Hernandez-Calleros J, Tellez-Avila FI, Torre A, Uribe M.
- 95. Ischaemic pre-conditioning for elective liver resections performed under vascular occlusion. Gurusamy KS, Kumar Y, Pamecha V, Sharma D, Davidson BR.
- 96. Methods of vascular occlusion for elective liver resections. Gurusamy KS, Sheth H, Kumar Y, Sharma D, Davidson BR.
- 97. Palliative cytoreductive surgery versus other palliative treatments in patients with unresectable liver metastases from gastro-entero-pancreatic neuroendocrine tumours. Gurusamy KS, Pamecha V, Sharma D, Davidson BR.
- 98. Robot assistant for laparoscopic cholecystectomy. Gurusamy KS, Samraj K, Fusai G, Davidson BR.
- 99. Techniques for liver parenchymal transection in liver resection. Gurusamy KS, Pamecha V, Sharma D, Davidson BR.



- 100. Vascular occlusion for elective liver resections. Gurusamy KS, Kumar Y, Ramamoorthy R, Sharma D, Davidson BR.
- 101. Virtual reality training for surgical trainees in laparoscopic surgery. Gurusamy KS, Aggarwal R, Palanivelu L, Davidson BR.
- 102. Antibiotic prophylaxis for spontaneous bacterial peritonitis in cirrhotic patients with ascites, without gastro-intestinal bleeding. Cohen MJ, Sahar T, Benenson S, Elinav E, Brezis M, Soares-Weiser K.
- 103. Immunoglobulins for preventing hepatitis A. Liu JP, Nikolova D, Fei Y.
- 104. Liver resection versus other treatments for neuroendocrine tumours in patients with resectable liver metastases. Gurusamy KS, Ramamoorthy R, Sharma D, Davidson BR.
- 105. Low pressure versus standard pressure pneumoperitoneum in laparoscopic cholecystectomy. Gurusamy KS, Samraj K, Davidson BR.

UPDATED REVIEWS

- 27. Antibiotics for spontaneous bacterial peritonitis in cirrhotic patients. Chavez-Tapia NC, Soares-Weiser K, Brezis M, Leibovici L.
- 28. Cholecystectomy for patients with silent gallstones. Gurusamy KS, Samraj K.
- 29. Ischaemic preconditioning for liver transplantation. Gurusamy KS, Kumar Y, Sharma D, Davidson BR.
- 30. Neoadjuvant and adjuvant therapy for surgical resection of hepatocellular carcinoma. Samuel M, Chow PK-H, Chan Shih-Yen E, Machin D, Soo K-C.
- 31. Antifibrinolytic amino acids for acquired coagulation disorders in patients with liver disease. Martí-Carvajal AJ, Solà I, Nicita G.

NEW PROTOCOLS

- 212. Cryotherapy for hepatocellular carcinoma. Awad T, Thorlund K, Gluud C.
- 213. Glucocorticosteroids for liver transplanted patients. Langer G, Saal S, Großmann K, Grothues D, Wienke A.
- 214. Nutritional interventions for liver-transplanted patients. Langer G, Großmann K, Saal S, Grothues D, Wienke A.
- 215. Pegylated interferon alpha 2a versus pegylated interferon alpha 2b for chronic hepatitis C. Awad T, Thorlund K, Hauser G, Mabrouk M, Stimac D, Gluud C.

- 216. Pegylated interferon alpha 2a for chronic hepatitis. C Awad T, Thorlund K, Hauser G, Mabrouk M, Stimac D, Gluud C.
- 217. Pegylated interferon alpha 2b for chronic hepatitis C Awad T, Thorlund K, Hauser G, Mabrouk M, Stimac D, Gluud C.
- 218. Techniques of reperfusion for liver transplantation. Gurusamy KS, Fuller B, Abu-Amara M, Davidson BR.
- 219. Pegylated interferon alpha 2a versus pegylated interferon alpha 2b for chronic hepatitis C. Awad T, Thorlund K, Hauser G, Mabrouk M, Stimac D, Gluud C.
- 220. Antioxidant supplements for liver diseases. Bjelakovic G, Nikolova D, Gluud LL, Bjelakovic M, Nagorni A, Gluud C.
- Veno-venous bypass versus none for liver transplantation. Gurusamy KS, Sharma D, Davidson BR.
- 222. Medical treatments for autoimmune hepatitis. Gluud LL, Dahl EE, Al-Rifai A, Prince M.

UPDATED PROTOCOLS

1. Lamivudine for preventing reactivation of hepatitis B infection in patients planned to undergo immunosuppressive therapy. Katz LH, Fraser A, Leibovici L, Tur-Kaspa R.

In addition, The CHBG has published another twelve protocols that have been withdrawn within the years since they were either abandoned or the review title has been changed.

NEW REGISTERED TITLES

- 300. Levamisole for chronic hepatitis B. Støy Saem L, Skoog M, Lindschou Hansen J, Whitfield K, Mumtaz K, Gluud C.
- 301. Alpha-interferon for chronic hepatitis B.
 Mumtaz K, Khan SH, Bhatti OI, Hamid S, Jafri
 W.
- 302. Nitazoxanide for hepatitis C. Awad T, Afifi Sahmed.
- 303. Lamivudine during pregnancy for preventing hepatitis B virus infection in newborns. Mumtaz K. Zuberi NF, Salamat S, Jafri W.
- 304. Biomarkers for the non-invasive diagnosis of oesophageal varices. Gana JC, Ling SC.
- 305. Magnetic resonance imaging, computer tomography scan, and oesophagography for the diagnosis of oesophageal varices. Gana JC, Ling SC.
- 306. Capsule endoscopy for the diagnosis of oesophageal varices. Gana JC, Ling SC.



- 307. Ultrasound and magnetic resonance elastography for the diagnosis of oesophageal varices. Gana JC, Ling SC.
- 308. Platelet count, spleen length, and platelet count/spleen length ratio for the diagnosis of oesophageal varices. Gana JC, Ling SC.
- 309. Foscarnet for chronic hepatitis B. Lindschou Hansen J, Whitfield K, Støy Saem L, Skoog M, Mumtaz K.
- 310. Thymosin alpha1 for chronic hepatitis B. Skoog M, Lindschou Hansen J, Whitfield K, Støy Saem L, Mumtaz K, Gluud C.
- 311. Glucocorticosteroids for infants with biliary atresia following Kasai portoenterostomy. Parsons C, Davenport M.
- 312. Fibrin sealants for hepatic resection. Thaha MA, Sanjay P, Steele RJC.
- 313. Beta-interferon for chronic hepatitis B. Ibrahim N.
- 314. Gamma interferon for chronic hepatitis B.
 Ibrahim N, Firwana B, Al-Moujahed A, Rezk E,
 Al Chamat AAbo. Ibrahim R.
- 315. Nitazoxanide for hepatitis C. Awad T, Afifi Sahmed.
- 316. Ultrasound for diagnosing acute calculous cholecystitis. Fraquelli M, Colli A, Conte D.
- 317. Ultrasound for diagnosing biliary obstruction. Fraquelli M, Conte D, Colli A.
- 318. Real-time RT-PCR-based assays versus standard RT-PCR-, TMA- and signal amplification-based assays for HCV RNA detection in patients with hepatitis C virus infection. Vermehren J, Timmer A.
- 319. Molecularly targeted agents for hepatocellular carcinoma. Oliveri RS, Gluud C.
- 320. Quick strip test for diagnosis in spontaneous bacterial peritonitis. Fraquelli M, Colli A, Conte D.
- 321. Ultrasound versus computerised tomogram versus magnetic resonance imaging for the diagnosis and monitoring of fibrosis in patients at risk of chronic liver disease. Gurusamy KS, Burroughs A, Davidson B.
- 322. Elastography for the diagnosis and monitoring of fibrosis in patients at risk of chronic liver disease. Gurusamy KS, Burroughs A, Davidson B.
- 323. Serum markers for the diagnosis and monitoring of fibrosis in patients at risk of chronic liver disease. Gurusamy KS, Burroughs A, Davidson B.

- 324. Hepatitis B immunoglobulin during pregnancy for the prevention of mother to child transmission of hepatitis B virus. Eke AC, Nwanyanwu UA, Eleie U.
- 325. Telbivudine for chronic hepatitis B. Zhao S, Tang L, Fan X, Yang T, Chen L, Sun Z.

PAST EVENTS

THE 16TH COCHRANE COLLOQUIUM

The German Cochrane Centre hosted the 2008 Colloquium. It was held October 3 to 7, 2008 in Freiburg, Germany. The colloquium theme was 'Evidence in the era of globalisation'. http://www.colloquium.info Multimedia material for the plenary sessions is available at http://www.cochrane.org/multimedia/colloquium_2008/.

Abstracts from the colloquium as well as from previous colloquia are to be found at http://cochrane.org/colloquia/abstracts/.

THE $23^{\rm RD}$ BI-ANNUAL CHBG MEETING AND EXHIBITION STAND DURING THE $59^{\rm TH}$ ANNUAL AASLD MEETING

The CHBG held a meeting on November 2. We thank all presenters and attendants.

The CHBG exhibition was well attended and new members were registered.

THE 2009 ABU-DHABI INTERNATIONAL MEDICAL CONGRESS: MEDICAL CHALLENGES BEYOND THE MILLENIUM

Alla ElDin Ibrahim, formerly from Cairo, had arranged this congress in Abu-Dhabi on 5th and 6th of February 2009. The Congress started with an eighthour pre-congress workshop on Evidence-based medicine. The faculty of the workshop included Alla Ibrahim from Abu-Dhabi, Abdel Meguid Kassem from Cairo, Nazir Ibrahim from Damascus, and Christian Gluud from Copenhagen. About forty-five physicians from the United Arab Emirates and other countries were presented. Faculty members also had several presentations during the Congress, which had about 450 participants.

UNIVERSITY OF NIS, SERBIA

On the 5th of March, 2009, the Medical School of the University of Nis appointed Christian Gluud Visiting Professor with a view to continuous exchange of experience dedicated to the constant improvement of medical knowledge. Christian Gluud thanked and started with a lecture on evidence-based clinical health care.



5TH CONGRESS OF INTERNAL MEDICINE FOR THE SOUTH-EASTERN EUROPE

On March 6th to 9th, 2009, the 2009 South-Eastern Europe Internal Medicine Congress took place at Hotel Continental, Belgrade, Serbia. Among the speakers were Aleksander Nagorni and Goran Bjelakovic from Nis, and Christian Gluud from Copenhagen. The congress drew about 1450 participants.

FUTURE EVENTS

THE CHBG'S MONOTHEMATIC CONFERENCE ON SYSTEMATIC REVIEWS AND META-ANALYSES: FROM CLINICAL RESEARCH TO CLINICAL PRACTICE

The CHBG monothematic conference will be run April 20 and 21, 2009 in Copenhagen, Denmark. Those of you who have not received information about it are kindly requested to visit The CHBG web site http://ctu.rh.dk/chbg. The programme is to be found under Newsletters and Letters. We have indicated the location of the symposium in the programme, but here it is again:

The Panum Institute, Blegdamsvej 3B (the main entrance), Building 33. 5th Floor. Room 6.

We have extended the registration deadline until 15 of April 2009 because of the received letters saying that visa problems and hindrances about payment for registration do not allow people to register within the requested registration deadline. Payments may arrive after this date, but please do not forget to send us the registration form by fax or e-mail and inform us of anything you think we shall be aware of. This will secure your attendance.

THE 44TH ANNUAL EASL MEETING

April 22 to 26, 2009

Bella Center, Copenhagen, Denmark For information, visit http://www2.kenes.com/livermeeting/Pages/Home.aspx

THE 24TH BI-ANNUAL CHBG MEETING AND EXHIBITION STAND DURING THE 44TH ANNUAL EASL MEETING April 23, 2009

April 23, 2009 The programme for th

The programme for this meeting is on The CHBG web site under Newsletters and Letters at http://ctu.rh.dk/chbg.

The date of the meeting is 23 of April from 8:00 a.m. to 10:00 a.m. in hall F1. No registration is required. The CHBG exhibition stand is No. 40.

DIGESTIVE DIISEASE WEEK MEETING 2009

May 30 to June 4, 2009

McCormick Place, Chicago, IL For information about the Digestive Disease Week (DDW) meeting, visit http://www.ddw.org/wmspage.cfm?parm1=605

THE CHBG SYMPOSIUM 2009 AND EXHIBITION STAND DURING THE DDW 2009

June 1, 2009

The CHBG symposium 'Evidence-based management of end-stage liver disease' will be held on June 1, 2009 from 2:15 p.m. to 3:45 p.m. in S404 at McCormick Place, Chicago, Illinois, USA.

The programme covers topics on glucocorticosteroids and pentoxiphylline for alcoholic hepatitis; transarterial embolisation and transarterial chemoembolisation for hepatocellular carcinoma; nutrition for end-stage liver disease; and emergency sclerotherapy, banding, and medical interventions for bleeding oesophageal varices.

The symposium programme is at The CHBG web site under Newsletters and Letters at http://ctu.rh.dk/chbg.

The CHBG stand is No. 264. The exhibit dates are May 31 to June 3, 2009.

COCHRANE COLLOQUIUM, SINGAPORE

October 11 to 14, 2009

The deadline for submission of abstracts and workshop proposals is April 15, 2009.
The Lion City-state of Singapore will host the 17th Cochrane Colloquium. This is the first time the Colloquium will be held in Asia.
For information, visit http://www.colloquium09.com/index.shtml.

VISITS

Giuseppina Aloj and Angela Vitrano, Italy, stayed at the Editorial Team Office from 1 to 4 December 2008 (GA) and to 12 December 2008 (AV). Both Giuseppina and Angela worked on the review 'Iron chelation therapy in thalassaemia major'.

Jianpin Liu and Yutong Fei stayed at the Editorial Team Office from 8 to 14 October 2008. They worked on the review 'Immunoglobulins for preventing hepatitis A'.

Goran Bjelakovic, Serbia, stayed at the Editorial Team Office from 17 January to 15 February 2009. He worked on the review 'Vitamin D supplementation for prevention of mortality in adults' and 'Antioxidants for liver disease'.



Khalid Mumtaz, Pakistan, stayed at the Editorial Team Office from 21 to 28 January 2009. He worked on the review 'Pegylated interferon on chronic hepatitis B' and 'Lamivudine for chronic hepatitis B in adults'.

STAFF CHANGES AND ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Cees JHM van Laarhoven and Frederik Keus, both from The Netherlands, joined The CHBG Editorial Team in December 2008 as Editors of The CHBG. Both Cees and Frederik have expertise on evidencebased surgery and health technology assessments.

Ulrich Güller, Canada, resigned from his position as an Editor of The CHBG in March 2009. Ulrich will soon start on a new job in Bern, Switzerland, which requires considerable efforts associated with many clinical, administrative, and scientific duties. The CHBG thanks Ulrich for his enthusiasm. professionalism, and comments on protocols and reviews. Ulrich held the position of an editor from October 2007 until March 2009.

MORE ON WORKING WITH REVIEW MANAGER 5 (REVMAN) AND ARCHIE

If you forget your password, then you can request a new password or a reminder of your Archie user name and an Archie user account from the Archie login screen (http://archie.cochrane.org/).

Having logged into Archie, you can view and edit your contact details. As an author, you can view a copy of the latest version or any previous versions of your protocols and reviews. In order to work on the review, you will need to check it out of Archie into

RevMan 5. Users are strongly encouraged to find answers to their questions in 'Help' of Archie and RevMan 5 before they contact The Editorial Team office. We are overburdened with questions. From the Information Management System web site (http://www.cc-ims.net/Projects/newIMS) one can find links to other pages giving answers to questions.

LICENCE TO PUBLISH FORM

Licence to publish form is required before submitting your protocol or review for publication in The Cochrane Library. The Licence to Publish form can be downloaded from 'File' and 'Reports', and 'Licence to publish form' in RevMan 5. It is the responsibility of the contact author to ensure that all co-authors have signed it and that it is received at the Editorial Team Office prior to the protocol or review publication.

OTHER FORMS WE REQUEST YOU TO USE

We have placed several new forms on The CHBG web site, and we kindly suggest that people use them when they wish to register a new title, or before submission of their protocol or their review to the CHBG Editorial Team office. These forms are embedded in the text within 'From title to review' and 'Contact' headings, so one should click on the word 'here' that comes within the text in order to open the respective form. Peer reviewers will also be able to submit electronically the forms for comments, which are also embedded in the text within 'From title to review' on The CHBG web site. There is also an embedded form for new members under 'Contact'.

The bi-yearly Cochrane Hepato-Biliary Group (CHBG) Newsletter is written, 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 for free in paper and electronic formats world-wide to all people on The CHBG members' list who either have contributed, are contributing, or have shown interest in the work of The CHBG. The purpose with The CHBG Newsletter is to inform its readers about activities within The CHBG.

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The Cochrane Hepato-Biliary Group (The CHBG) Two-Days' Monothematic Conference on Systematic Reviews and Meta-analyses: from Clinical Research to Clinical Practice.

20 and 21 of April 2009. Copenhagen, Denmark.

SCIENTIFIC PROGRAMME

Monday, April 20, 2009				
Chair person: C GI	Chair person: C Gluud, Denmark.			
Session I: The evidence hierarchy - an overview				
08:30 - 09:00	Registration.	At the Panum Institute - entrance via 'Blegdamsvej' 3B. Building 33. 5th floor. Room 6.		
09:00 - 09:45	Evidence-based clinical practice.	C Gluud, Denmark		
09:45 - 10:00	Why are case-control studies deceitful?	J Wetterslev, Denmark		
10:00 - 10:30	Why are observational studies deceitful?	G D'Amico, Italy		

Session II: Randomised clinical trials		
10:30 - 10:45	Development of randomised clinical trials.	D Nikolova, Denmark
10:45 - 11:00	Development of hepato-biliary randomised clinical trials.	S L Klingenberg, Denmark
11:00 - 11:30	Coffee.	

Session III: Risks of random errors ('play of chance') in randomised clinical trials		
11:30 - 12:00	Sample size estimation in a single randomised clinical trial.	J Wetterslev, Denmark
12:00 - 12:30	Interim analyses and early stopping of a single randomised clinical trial.	K Thorlund, Denmark
12:30 - 13:00	Adaptive clinical trials.	J Wetterslev, Denmark
13:00 - 14:30	Lunch.	

Session IV: Risks of systematic errors ('bias') in randomised clinical trials		
14:30 – 15:30	Components associated with systematic overestimation of beneficial effects.	LL Gluud, Denmark
15:30 – 16:00	How often do hepato-biliary randomised trials have low risk of bias?	C Gluud, Denmark
16:00 - 16:30	Coffee.	
16:30 – 17:00	Components associated with systematic underestimation of harm.	B Hemmingsen, Denmark
17:00 – 17:30	Where are we now?	C Gluud, Denmark
18:00	Conference dinner.	

Tuesday, April 21, 2009 Chair person: C Gluud, Denmark.		
09:00 - 09:30	Does making a test better make a patient better: surrogate outcomes in liver diseases.	R Koretz, USA
09:30 - 09:50	Development of the systematic review of randomised clinical trials.	T Awad, Denmark
09:50 – 10:10	The Cochrane Collaboration and The Cochrane Hepato- Biliary Group.	D Nikolova , Denmark
10:10 – 10:40	Getting to know The Cochrane Library.	G Boonen, UK
10:30 - 11:00	Coffee.	

Session VI: Meta-analyses		
11:00 – 11:30	Meta-analysis.	C Gluud, Denmark
11:30 – 12:00	Examples of hepato-biliary meta-analyses.	K Gurusamy, UK
12:00 - 13:30	Lunch.	

Session VII: Risks of random errors ('play of chance') in meta-analyses of randomised clinical trials		
13:30 – 14:15	The risk of random errors in simulation studies.	K Thorlund, Denmark
14:15 – 15:00	Trial sequential analyses.	J Wetterslev, Denmark
15:00 – 15:30	The risk of random errors in meta-analyses.	K Thorlund, Denmark
15:30 – 16:00	Coffee.	

Session VIII: Risks of systematic errors (bias) in meta-analyses of randomised clinical trials		
16:00 – 16:30	Methodological components - how much do they influence?	LL Gluud, Denmark
16:30 – 17:00	Outcome measure reporting bias - how much does it influence?	K Thorlund, Denmark
17:00 – 17:30	Academic and industry bias - how much do they influence?	B Als-Nielsen, Denmark
17:30 – 17:45	So where are we now?	C Gluud, Denmark
17:45	Conference evaluation.	D Nikolova, Denmark





THE 24th COCHRANE HEPATO-BILIARY GROUP (The CHBG)

BI-ANNUAL MEETING

DURING

THE 44th ANNUAL EASL MEETING, Copenhagen – Denmark

PROGRAMME

Date: 23rd April 2009. Time: 8:00 am to 10:00 am Meeting room: Hall F1.

Place: Bella Center, Center Boulevard 5, DK-2300 Copenhagen S.

Chairs: Ronald L. Koretz and Christian Gluud

8:00 am – 8:05 am	Welcome and presentation of the programme.	R L. Koretz (USA).
8:05 am – 8:40 am	Diagnostic hierarchy: the lay of the land.	C Gluud (Denmark).
8:40 am – 9:00 am	Alpha-fetoprotein and ultrasound for diagnosing hepatocellular carcinoma.	A Colli, M Fraquelli, D Conte, V Sciola (Italy).
9:00 am – 9:10 am	Definition of reference standard in diagnostic systematic reviews and its role as a source of heterogeneity. Methodological perspective.	A Colli (Italy).
9:10 am – 9:30 am	Contrast-enhanced ultrasound, computer- tomography, and magnetic resonance for diagnosing hepatocellular carcinoma.	M Fraquelli, A Colli, D Conte, V Sciola, S. Della Valle (Italy).
9:30 am – 9:40 am	Assessing new tests against existing diagnostic pathways; generalisability and transferability of the results of diagnostic systematic reviews. Methodological perspective.	<u>M Fraquelli</u> (Italy).
9: 40 am – 9:50 am	Discussion and closing remarks.	C Gluud (Denmark).





EVIDENCE-BASED MANAGEMENT OF END-STAGE LIVER DISEASE. A COCHRANE CLINICAL SYMPOSIUM DURING THE DIGESTIVE DISEASE WEEK 2009.

Time: June 1, 2009 2:15 pm to 3:45 pm

Location: S404 at McCormick Place, Chicago, Illinois

PROGRAM

Chairs: Ronald L. Koretz and Christian Gluud

2:15 pm to 2:37 pm	Glucocorticosteroids or pentoxiphylline for alcoholic hepatitis - Are we there yet?	Christian Gluud, Denmark.
2:37 pm to 2:59 pm	Transarterial embolisation or transarterial chemoembolization for hepatocellular carcinoma - Are we there yet?	Roberto Oliveri, Denmark.
2:59 pm to 3:21 pm	Nutrition for end-stage liver disease - Are we there yet?	Ronald L. Koretz, USA.
3:21 pm to 3:45 pm	Emergency sclerotherapy versus medical interventions for bleeding oesophageal varices in cirrhotic patients - Are we there yet?	Gennaro D'Amico, Italy.



Improving healthcare decision-making globally, through systematic reviews of the effects of healthcare interventions, published in *The Cochrane Library*.