



Cochrane Hepato-Biliary Group

CHBG Newsletter

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September 1998

Editorial

After two and a half years of existence, there is a marked increase in the work done by the collaborators of the Hepato-Biliary Group. On behalf of the Editorial Team, I express our gratitude to all active collaborators of the Group for their contribution, thus enhancing the knowledge on the evidence-based medicine.

The CHBG is presently handsearching about 20 journals and the Group is making a successful progress. There are another 200 journals still waiting for handsearchers, but we will be also getting help from the other three registered gastrointestinal collaborative review groups, i.e., the groups on inflammatory bowel diseases, colorectal cancer and upper gastrointestinal and pancreatic disease group. If you are interested in handsearching, you are welcome to contact the Editorial Team Office for the formalities.

The developed Trial Register (TR) in a ProCite database contains at present more than 9,700 references. Out of them, 4,119 are randomised clinical trials with paper copies kept in the Editorial Team Office in store for people interested in producing systematic reviews. The TR contains also 140 references on M-As. The literature is followed regularly and the contained information in the CHBG's TR is updated on a regular basis.

The CHBG has started building up a Register of Planned and Ongoing Trials. If someone of the readers is aware of such trials, please provide us with this information.

There are presently 41 registered titles for systematic reviews and another 21 titles have materialized into protocols (15 of them accepted) and systematic reviews (two of them accepted) published in the Cochrane Library.

However, there is still much to be done. Although progress has been made, we are 30-40 years behind the development of hepato-biliary randomised clinical trials.

It will require hard work from us all to get on top of this development as trials are constantly being performed.

We really think you can contribute, don't you?

And we like to assure you in our assistance.

Christian Gluud

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Researchers wishing to assist the Cochrane Hepato-Biliary Group by doing handsearches and systematic reviews are invited to contact The Editorial Team Office, The Copenhagen Trial Unit, Institute of Preventive Medicine, Copenhagen University Hospital, DK-1399 Copenhagen, Denmark. Tel: +45 3338 3742, or +45 33383743; Fax + 45 3332 4410; Email CHBG@ipm.hosp.dk, or to obtain more information on the Cochrane Collaboration and the CHBG by visiting the following Internet home pages: www.cochrane.co.uk; <http://hiru.mcmaster.ca/cochrane> and <http://inet.uni2.dk/~ctu-cpb/chbg>.

Joint meeting of the Cochrane Gastrointestinal Review Groups

The World Congresses of Gastroenterology is going to be held in Vienna on 5 - 11 September 1998. In this connection, members of the four Cochrane Gastrointestinal Review Groups will have the possibility to go into session on September 11, 14.00-16.00 hours, in hall N/O of the Austria Center and exchange experience in their handsearching activities, preparation of protocols and ideas on writing systematic reviews. Torben Jørgensen will represent the CHBG, making a fifteen minutes report on the Group's progress as well as giving general information to those unfamiliar with its existence and scope of work. The meeting will give the editors of the four groups the chance to meet for the first time.

50 Years of Clinical trials: Past, Present and Future

Thursday 29-Friday 30 October 1998
Methodist Central Hall,
Westminster London SW1H 9NH.

The British Medical Journal (BMJ) published one of the world's first randomized controlled trials in October 1948. To commemorate the 50th anniversary of the publication of the Streptomycin trial, the BMJ organizes a major international multidisciplinary conference on 29 - 30 October 1998. Those attending will get to know about Johannes Fibiger and his Danish trial on serum intervention in diphtheria patients. This trial turns 100 years this year.

Cochrane Colloquium 1998

This year's colloquium is going to take place for the first time in the USA in Baltimore, Maryland from October 22nd to October 26th. The theme is "Systematic reviews: Evidence for Action" The first half-day will be an introduction to the Collaboration for newcomers. Subsequent days will offer scientific sessions, group meetings, and workshops. Further details about the Colloquium are available from:

6th International Cochrane Colloquium,
c/o Courtesy Associates,
2000 L St. N.W., Suite 710

Washington, DC 20036, USA

Tel: +1 202 973 8685 Fax: +1 202 331 0111;

Email: kgillesp@CourtesyAssoc.co or

From the Baltimore Cochrane Centre web page (<http://www.cochrane.org>). Here you will be able to find a revised meeting schedule as well.

Future Colloquia

The 7th Annual Cochrane Colloquium will be held in Rome, Italy October 5-10, 1999.

The 8th Annual Cochrane Colloquium will be held in South Africa in 2000.

AASLD/IASL Joint Meeting

IASL November 4 - November 6
AASLD November 6 - November 10

The Cochrane Hepato-Biliary Group meeting will be held during the AASLD/ISLD joint meeting in Chicago, USA. The exact date and time will be announced later. The meeting will be held at Sheraton Chicago Hotel and Towers Chicago, Illinois

Other future meeting dates of the AASLD are:

1999 October 29 - November 2
AASLD 50th Anniversary Meeting 2000 November 10 - November 14

Second Symposium on Systematic Reviews: Beyond The Basics

St Catherine's College, Oxford, UK
5-7 January 1999

Following its earlier success, a second one is now being planned for January next year. Once again this will be hosted by the Centre for Statistics in Medicine and will take place in Oxford. It will aim to cover issues related to the methodology of systematic reviews. There will be a particular focus on recent advances, new challenges and effective dissemination. With this in mind, a number of main topic areas for presentation and discussion have been identified. These include estimating treatment effects for the individual patient; dissemination of the findings of systematic reviews of non-randomised studies of effectiveness and also of economic, diagnostic and

prognostic studies; publication bias; and the impact of methodology on the quality and findings of systematic reviews.

Further details about the meeting are available from:

Rochelle Seifas
Centre for Statistics in Medicine
Institute of Health Sciences
Old Road, Headington, Oxford
OX3 7LF, UK
Tel: +44 1865 226615 Fax: +44 1865 226962;
r.seifas@icrf.icnet.uk

New members to the group

Prof. Rui Marques dos Santos's is a newly registered handsearcher within the CHBG. His request to handsearch the GE, *Jornal Portugues de Gastroenterologia* for the years 1994 to present plus prospective is confirmed at the Baltimore Cochrane Center. We wish him success.

Steering Group Elections

On August 1st the results of this year's elections to the Collaboration's Steering Group were announced. We would like to congratulate all these successful candidates and wish them fruitful work. We also like to thank those who were given the chance to vote.

- *Representing Collaborative Review Groups: Chris Williams, Gynaecological Cancer Group*
- *Representing Collaborative Review Groups: Peter Langhorne, Stroke Group*
- *Representing Centres: Jimmy Volmink, South African Cochrane Centre*
- *Representing Centres: Gerd Antes, German Cochrane Centre*
- *Representing Methods Working Groups: Mike Clarke, Methods Working Group on Reviews using Individual Patient Data*

On September 1st the result for a *Consumer Network (CN) representative on Steering Group* was also made known.

Hilda Bastian has been re-elected as one of the two Consumer Network representatives on the Collaboration's Steering Group. Gill Gyte is the other CN representative.

The above mentioned successful candidates take office

for three years as members of the Steering Group, at the Annual General Meeting being held during the Baltimore Colloquium (1.30 p.m. on Saturday 24th October 1998).

In short on the 5th CHBG meeting –Lisbon, April 18, 1998

The 5th Cochrane Hepato-Biliary Group meeting was held in Lisbon in connection with the 33rd Annual EASL-meeting. There were lots of good discussions. C. Gluud presented the achievements of the CHBG, and C. Sampaio made a very fine presentation on 'The Cochrane Collaboration - past, present, and future', 'How does The Cochrane Library work?', and 'How does RevMan work?' After the presentation, she demonstrated the Library for some of the participants. T. Jørgensen presented his two titles: 'Open surgery vs endoscopic treatment for bile duct stones' and 'Laparoscopic vs small incision or open cholecystectomy: effectiveness and safety'. R. L. Koretz made a presentation on duplicate publications.

Of different kinds

For information to all interested people

There is now an updated version of the Collaboration brochure on the Collaboration's web site (<http://som.flinders.edu.au/fusa/cochrane/>). A few very minor inaccuracies have been corrected, but more importantly, the full contact details of the two latest Cochrane Centres to be established, in Spain and Germany, are now on the back page of the brochure. Should you wish to provide yourselves with a supply of the brochure, the full text and graphics can be downloaded from the web site for the purpose.

To the knowledge of the reviewers:

Who gets a complimentary copy of the Cochrane Library?

A complimentary copy of The CL goes to the contact person of every registered entity, and also to every contact reviewer (one only per Contact Reviewer, regardless of the number of reviews for which they are primarily responsible). These complimentary copies are paid for out of the Collaboration's royalties. Reviewers who are not Contact Reviewers do NOT receive a complimentary copy. It is important that when a Contact Reviewer changes address, her/his review cover sheet is updated promptly. Update Software take

the contact details from the review cover sheets to compile their mailing list, and cannot be expected to know when a person's contact details change. It is assumed these days that most people want the CD version of The Library rather than the disk version. If this were not the case, it would be most helpful if you could notify your review group coordinator, so that you will not get sent out the wrong version.

Glaxo Wellcome Trial Data

Glaxo Wellcome has made available all of its trial data on the web. This information can be accessed using the following website:
<http://www.glaxowellcome.co.uk>

All Published Cochrane Reviews and Protocols that are to be found in the Cochrane Hepato-Biliary Group Module of the Cochrane Library

Reviews	First author
1. Vaccines against hepatitis B in health-care workers	Jefferson T,
2. Somatostatin or octreotide vs placebo or no treatment in acute bleeding oesophageal varices	Gotzsche PC
Protocols	
1. Adjuvant therapy for operable hepatocellular carcinoma	Chan ES-Y
2. Endoscopic therapy vs shunts in the longterm treatment of variceal haemorrhage	Khan SA
3. Sequential combination of glucocorticosteroids and alfa interferon vs alfa interferon alone in chronic hepatitis B	Krogsgaard K
4. Interferon treatment in acute hepatitis C	Poynard T
5. Interferon treatment in chronic hepatitis C	Poynard T
6. Laparoscopic vs small incision or open cholecystectomy, effectiveness and safety	Jørgensen T
7. Surgical portosystemic shunts vs transjugular intrahepatic portosystemic shunt (TIPS) in	Khan SA

the treatment of variceal haemorrhage	
8. Tamoxifen for hepatocellular carcinoma	Findlay M
9. Comparison of total portosystemic shunt vs shunts that preserve portal venous hepatic perfusion in the treatment of variceal haemorrhage	Khan SA
10. Ursodeoxycholic acid for primary biliary cirrhosis	Christensen E
11. Effectiveness of vaccines against hepatitis B in newborns. I. Population studies	Boxall EH
12. Effectiveness of vaccines against hepatitis B in newborns. II. Vaccination of babies at high risk of infection	Boxall EH
13. Antibiotic prophylaxis for leptospirosis	Guidugli F
14. Antibiotic therapy for leptospirosis	Guidugli F
15. Nucleoside analogues with or without alpha-interferon for HbeAg positive chronic hepatitis B	Wolters L

Status of the CHBG's ProCite database as of August 10 1998

Total number of references:	9,749
Tagged:	7,282
Randomised clinical trials (RCTs)	4,119
Controlled clinical trials (CCTs)	128
Second opinion ought to be sought (SOS)	540
Meta-analyses (M-As)	140
Reviews (REVs)	840
Letters (LTTs)	263
Observational studies (OBS)	1,075
Consensus reports, etc. (CONS)	52
Miscellaneous (MISC)	355