

CHBG NEWSLETTER

Cochrane Hepato-Biliary Group (CHBG)

Volume 4, Issue 2

September 2000

TO STAY UP TO DATE

The CHBG newsletter is one of the ways for our members to stay up to date with the achievements of the Group and the events that take place. The number of people who receive it increases with each new issue. The February issue was sent by post to 400 people and approximately 100 extra copies were distributed at the CHBG meeting and exhibition during the 2000 EASL meeting in Rotterdam.

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We believe that most of you enjoy reading the newsletters and find the information useful. If not- PLEASE INFORM US!

THE COCHRANE LIBRARY

The new reviews and protocols that will be published in the Cochrane Library (The CLib) Issue 4, 2000 are:

NEW REVIEWS

Antibiotics for preventing leptospirosis - Guidugli F, Castro AA, Atallah AN.

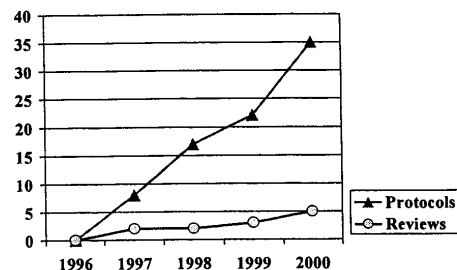
NEW PROTOCOLS

Alpha-foetoprotein and/or liver ultrasonography for screening of hepatitis B surface antigen positive people for hepatocellular carcinoma - Wun YT, Dickson JA.

Benzodiazepine receptor antagonists for acute and chronic hepatic encephalopathy - Als-Nielsen B, Kjaergaard LL, Gluud C.

Propylthiouracil for alcoholic liver disease - Rambaldi A, Gluud C.

Cochrane Hepato-Biliary Protocols and Systematic Reviews Published on The Cochrane Library



From the diagram above it is to be seen that in total the CHBG has five systematic reviews and 35 protocols for systematic reviews published in

the CLib including Issue 4,2000.

At present there are three systematic reviews and 18 protocols undergoing the editorial process. Before the end of the year we hope to have approved for publication in CLib Issue 1, 2001 further 10 reviews and 20 protocols.

HANDSEARCHING

We would like to extend our gratitude to all handsearchers who have submitted their results for CLib Issue 4, 2000. There are still many journals on our list that need to be handsearched, and recruiting more people will only benefit the preparation of the systematic reviews as well as enhance the number of randomized and controlled clinical trials in the CHBG Specialized Trials Register.

CITATION DATABASE

Since February, the CHBG specialized citation database (see separate page) has increased its number with about 1,500 new references. The randomised clinical trials increased with 349 and the controlled clinical trials with 138.

NEW REGISTERED TITLES

1. Radiofrequency interstitial thermal ablation versus other interventions for hepatocellular carcinoma - Daniel Galandi, Germany
2. Ursodeoxycholic acid and/or antibiotics for prevention of biliary stent occlusion - Daniel Galandi, Germany
3. Surgical versus medical treatment of ascites - Sammy Saab, USA
4. Preoperative biliary drainage for obstructive jaundice - Jane McCall, USA.
5. Acute treatment for paracetamol (acetaminophen) overdose - Jesper Brok, Denmark.
6. Benzodiazepine receptor antagonist for hepatic encephalopathy - Bodil Als-Nielsen, Denmark.
7. Surgical versus endoscopic treatment of bile duct stones - James Toouli, Australia.

8. Dopaminergic agents for hepatic encephalopathy - Bodil Als-Nielsen, Denmark.

9. Peg interferon and ribavirin for chronic hepatitis C - Lise Lotte Kjaergard, Denmark.

10. Emergency endoscopy for upper digestive bleeding in cirrhosis - Gennaro D'Amico, Italy.

11. Ligation versus sclerotherapy for prevention of bleeding esophageal varices - Gennaro D'Amico, Italy.

12. Vaccines for preventing hepatitis A - Vittorio Demichelli, Italy.

13. Chinese medicinal herbs for chronic hepatitis C - Jianping Liu, China.

14. Chinese medicinal herbs versus Chinese medicinal herbs for hepatitis B virus infection - Jianping Liu, China.

Please pay attention that reviewers are given six months from registering a title to developing it into a protocol. In practice, however, some of the reviewers forget about this time limit. Keeping a title for a longer time prevents others with the same interest in registering it and finalizing the systematic review in a shorter time.

VISITING RESEARCHERS

At present Jianpin Liu, China and Andrea Rambaldi, Italy are on a visit at the CHBG Editorial Team Office in Copenhagen, working on systematic reviews. We would like to acknowledge and thank them for the work they are doing.

EVENTS CALENDER

Past events

◆ **EASL 2000, Rotterdam, Holland**

Our attempt to promote the work of the CHBG and the Cochrane Collaboration in general during the CHBG meeting at the EASL 2000 meeting in Rotterdam was definitely a success. We were pleasantly surprised by the impressive attendance - almost 100 joined our meeting. Further, the CHBG was presented for the first time at the EASL

exhibition. A short slide presentation about the CHBG's aims and achievements ran time and again on a screen in the exhibition hall. This helped us in attracting the attention of clinicians and provided us with the possibility to talk to them and explain in greater details about the Group's work as part of the Cochrane Collaboration. We also showed the interested people how to make searches on the Clib and introduced them to the RevMan software used by the reviewers of systematic reviews. Attempt to recruit members was made.

The CHBG wishes to extend its thanks to the EASL and Solko Schalm, president of the meeting, for their support.

◆ **IASL-APASL Joint Meeting i2000 in Fukuoka, Japan 2-7 June**

Lise Lotte Kjaergaard and Christian Gluud, Editorial Team Office, attended the meeting and presented one poster and one oral presentation, i.e., 'Journal impact factor as a predictor of quality - a review of 11 journals' and 'Quality of randomised clinical trials within various hepato-biliary diseases'.

FUTURE EVENTS

51ST Annual AASLD Meeting October 27-31, 2000 at Wyndham Anatole Hotel Dallas, Texas.

October 2, 2000 is the registration deadline. You may register online/find more information at <www.aasld.org>. The CHBG's meeting will take place on October 30 from 6.00 pm to 9.00 pm. (See separate sheet for the agenda). The CHBG's meeting will also be announced in the Hepatology Supplement. You are kindly invited to attend the meeting alone or with others!

The VIII Annual Cochrane Cochrane in Cape Town October 25-29 October, 2000

It is time again for Cochrane members to meet. This year the colloquium theme is on the challenges that face the Collaboration in the 21st century. Sarah Frederiksen will present a

poster with results on the methodological quality and sample size of randomised trials published in 'Gastroenterology'. Poster presentations have also Jianping Liu and Karla Soares, both active members of the Group.

CHBG-One-Day Symposium in Prague, April 17, 2001

The CHBG is given the possibility for the first time to hold a one-day symposium on evidence-based medicine during the EASL meeting April 17, 2001. Please see agenda on p.4.

COMPUTING NEWS

Dear Reviewer,

You can download the latest RevMan (v. 4.1) from the following internet address

<ftp://ftp.cochrane.co.uk/pub/revman/revman41.exe>

How to:

- Use the above link (please note that, the link is on a ftp server, which means you need Netscape or another ftp aware browser) and save the file 'revman41.exe' on your computer.
- Start RevMan installation by double clicking the downloaded file 'revman41.exe' and follow the on screen instructions.

If you want to upgrade an earlier RevMan minor version (4.xx) to 4.1, all you need to do is to install the RevMan 4.1 over the RevMan 4.xx in the same directory e.g. (c:\program files\revman4\)

If you don't have access to Internet or need any assistance, please send us an email (Nader Salasshahri <nader.s@ipm.hosp.dk>, Hojat Ebrahimi <hojat@ipm.hosp.dk>).

Sincerely yours

Nader Salasshahri, IT advisor, CHBG

Hojat Ebrahimi, IT-coworker, CHBG

A FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTION

Co-publication

The CHBG Editorial Team encourages the widest possible dissemination of systematic reviews, and concurrent electronic and paper publication of systematic reviews in paper journals or in books meets with our approval. Until now there are endorsed co-publication agreements with the BMJ, The Lancet, the Annals of Internal Medicine, and Liver. In case a systematic review, in which the CHBG has participated in the process of formulating the protocol and/or the systematic

review, is submitted to a paper journal, the Editorial Team requests to receive a notification of this, and the CHBG expects the protocol/systematic review to be acknowledged in the paper publication. The Editorial Team would therefore be grateful if authors include in the

acknowledgements of a paper journal a sentence like: 'This systematic review was carried out using the recommendations of the Cochrane Collaboration and the Cochrane Hepato-Biliary Group', as well as giving the reference to pertinent protocols/systematic reviews published in the CHBG Module of The Clib.

Draft Programme for the One-Day CHBG Symposium		
TUESDAY, April 17th, during the 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	Gennaro D'Amico
10.50 a.m. to 11.10 a.m.	Meta-analysis within hepatology	Thierry Poynard
11.10 a.m. to 11.40 a.m.	The Cochrane Collaboration and The Cochrane Hepato-Biliary Group	Christian Gluud
11.40 a.m. to 12.00 p.m.	A critical look at evidence-based medicine	Luigi Pagliaro
12.00 a.m. to 1.30 p.m.	Lunch	
1.30 p.m. to 1.50 p.m.	Demonstration of the software of the Cochrane Collaboration – Review Manager and The Cochrane Library	Torben Jørgensen
1.50 p.m. to 2.10 p.m.	Benzodiazepine receptor antagonists for acute and chronic hepatic encephalopathy	Bodil Als-Nielsen
2.10 p.m. to 2.30 p.m.	Ursodeoxycholic acid for primary biliary cirrhosis - a 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.	Laparoscopic versus minilaparotomy-cholecystectomy for gallbladder stones.	Torben Jørgensen
3.30 p.m. to 3.50 p.m.	Interferon for hepatitis C	Thierry Poynard
3.50 p.m. to 4.10 p.m.	Ribavirin with alpha interferon versus alpha interferon for chronic hepatitis C	Lise Lotte Kjaergard
4.10 p.m. to 4.30 p.m.	Terlipressin for acute esophageal variceal hemorrhage	George Iannou
4.30 p.m. to 4.45 p.m.	Final discussions and closing of the meeting	Christian Gluud

This CHBG Newsletter in paper and electronic version is prepared with the mutual efforts of the staff of The Editorial Team Office in Copenhagen, Denmark, consisting of: Christian Gluud - Co-ordinating Editor, Dimitrinka Nikolova - Review Group Co-ordinator, Sarah Frederiksen - Trial Search Co-ordinator, Nader Salasshahri - IT advisor, and Hojat Ebrahimi - IT co-worker.

Feel free to express your opinion, send comments, or material that you would like to get published in forthcoming issues any time. For contact - write, phone, fax or email to: The CHBG, The Copenhagen Trial Unit, Blegdamsvej 9, Dept. 7701, H:S Rigshospitalet, DK-2100 Copenhagen Ø, Denmark. Tel. +45 3545 7175, +45 3545 7169, +45 3545 7168 Fax: +45 3545 7101 Email: chbg@ctu.rh.dk - NB! This is our NEW address from 14.11.2000.