



CHBG Newsletter

Cochrane Hepato-Biliary Group

Volume 2, Issue 1

March 1998

How did the group meet the challenges during the last six months?

Achievements since the September issue of the CHBG Newsletter, 1997

Protocols

Three protocols have been included in Issue 1, 1998 of The Cochrane Library.

The protocol titles are:

- *Surgical portosystemic shunts vs transjugular intrahepatic portosystemic shunt (TIPS) in the treatment of variceal haemorrhage*

(Khan SA, Williamson P, Sutton R)

- *Tamoxifen for hepatocellular carcinoma*

(Findlay M, Vijuk G, Simes J, Stockler M)

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Past events

2nd International Conference Scientific Basis of Health Services & 5th Annual Cochrane Colloquium

This international conference took place on 5-8 October 1997 in Amsterdam, The Netherlands and during the second half of the week, the Cochrane Collaboration hold its 5th Annual Colloquium. Members of the CHBG participated in the workshops and the plenary sessions. New methods for combining survival curves and ROC curves in meta-analyses were presented. A pre-exploratory meeting for establishing a Methods Working Group (MWG) on observational studies and/or adverse drug reactions took place. Presently there are 15 MWGs.

American Association for the Study of Liver Diseases

The 48th annual meeting was held on 7-11 November 1997 in Chicago and the 4th Cochrane Hepato-Biliary Group meeting, on November 8th. Christian Gluud and Ronald L. Koretz welcomed the participants. Elaine Chiquette made a very elegant presentation on "How does the Cochrane Library work?" and "How does RevMan work?" R.L. Koretz talked on "Duplicate publications" and C. Gluud reported on the achievements of the CHBG and quality assessment of randomised clinical trials in Journal of Hepatology.

Asian Pacific Association for the Study of the Liver

The 11th biennial scientific meeting was held on 16-20 February 1998 in Perth, Australia. The CHBG presented two posters entitled: The Cochrane Hepato-Biliary Group: Evidence Based Medicine for All, and Handsearching of Journal of Hepatology.

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- > *Total vs partial shunts for varices*
(Khan SA, Williamson P, Sutton R)

Two protocols have been approved:

- > *Effectiveness of vaccines against hepatitis B in newborns (I) Population studies* (Boxall EH, Jefferson TO, Miller E, Demichelli V, Laurichesse H, Pratt M, Deeks J)
- > *Effectiveness of vaccines against hepatitis B in newborns (II) Vaccination of babies at high risk of infection* (Boxall E H, Jefferson TO, Miller E, Demichelli V, Laurichesse H, Pratt M, Deeks J)

Sadly enough we cannot boast with any reviews included in the latest issue of the Cochrane Library, but we do hope that some will appear on Issue 3, 1998.

In an open letter from 06-11-97, Chris Silagy (Chair of the Cochrane Collaboration Steering Group) turned to all entities informing them on the main item the Steering Group discussed at the October meeting in Amsterdam, namely the importance of ensuring high quality of the reviews contained in the Cochrane Database. In the letter, he emphasizes that the quality of the reviews must not be compromised with and that the credibility of the CC must not be harmed. At present there are reviews where errors or problems have been identified. The CCSG is currently exploring options to avoid mistakes and enhance the overall quality standard of the Database.

In this connection, we appeal to reviewers to turn to the Editorial Team for any kind of support.

Handsearching

New journals:

Lise Lotte Kjærgaard, DK, started with the handsearch of *Digestion* (1968 and prospective years) and *Scand J Gastroenterol* (1956-1984).

Jeppe Tang Friborg, DK, is handsearching *J*

Gastroenterol Hepatol (1986 and prospective years).

Dimitrinka Nikolova and Christian Gluud, DK, are handsearching *Clinics Gastroenterol* (1972-1986), *Gastroenterol Clin North Am* (1987 plus prospective) and *Baillieres Clin Gastroenterol* (1987 plus prospective).

The handsearch of *J Hepatol*, *J Viral Hepat* and *Liver* has been finalized.

Current state of the CHBG ProCite Database

As of	Total	RCT*	CCT*	M-A*
September 97	2.897	1.657	321	72
March 98	5.385	3.080	78	107

*The number under RCT, CCT, M-A shows the number of the coded and archived hard copies. The difference represents other articles relevant to the work of the CHBG like consensus reports, observational studies and articles with unclear reporting of the conducted trials.

Cochrane Training Workshops

Australasian Cochrane Centre:

Date	Location	Type of workshop
20-22 April	Auckland	Preparing a protocol Using RevMan

Child Health - Australia

Date	Location	Type of workshop
6-8 May	Melbourne	Systematic review training course

Baltimore Cochrane Center

Date	Location	Type of workshop
Ad-hoc	Baltimore	As and when requested

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To handsearchers in short:

How to transfer MEDLINE citations to Baltimore

1. Download citations from MEDLINE.
2. Ensure that the following fields are included in the downloaded file for each citation:
 - a. Unique Identifier (UI) – also known as Call Number or Accession Number (AN)
 - b. Publication Type (PT)
 - c. Publication Year
 - d. Journal Name
 - e. Citation Information: volume number, issue number, and initial and concluding page numbers
 - f. Name(s) of Author(s)
 - g. Title of Article
 - h. Abstract
 - i. MeSh Index Terms
3. Send separate files for RCTs and CCTs, or tag each article as appropriate in the Coden field (#39).
4. Send electronic files to Baltimore as IBM-compatible floppy disks (31/2).
5. Complete the Inventory Sheet and include the package sent to Baltimore.

How to transfer non-MEDLINE citations to Baltimore

Photocopy the first page of identified articles

1. Annotate the photocopies to include full citation and classification. An exemplary citation label may be obtained from the Baltimore Cochrane Center (BCC).
2. Provide full citation information in electronic format on IBM-compatible floppy disk (31/2).
3. Complete an Inventory Sheet and include in the package to the BCC.

The Editorial Team Office of the CHBG would be much obliged to you, the handsearchers, if you could spend some more time and send us photocopies of the articles you find and submit further to BCC. These copies are archived to serve the needs of the reviewers when producing the reviews and the peer referees when judging the plausibility and quality.

The Cochrane Collaboration will have an important role in future developments in the field of systematic reviews and meta-analyses. The Collaboration's working groups are addressing many of the currently unresolved issues, including, for example, the approach to observational data and data from evaluations of screening and diagnostic tests. Ways of improving the applicability of reviews, and of strengthening the involvement of consumer representatives, are also being studied."

Matthias Egger and George David Smith in the concluding article in BMJ series on systematic reviews/meta-analyses

Canadian Cochrane Center

Date	Location	Type of workshop
3 April	McMaster	Intro to the CC
March April	Montreal	Systematic Reviews and evaluation of new technologies in medicine
Spring	Ottawa	RevMan Protocol writing
30 April	Dalhousie	Intro to the CC
May/June	McGill	Systematic overviews and introduction to RevMan

Italian Cochrane Centre

Date	Location	Type of workshop
Two-day workshop in April		To be notified

Nordic Cochrane Centre

Date	Location	Type of workshop
16 March	Oslo	Preparing a protocol
17 March	Oslo	RevMan

South African Cochrane Center

Date	Location	Type of workshop
2 March	Johannesburg	Preparing a protocol
2 March	Johannesburg	Preparing a protocol
24 March	Cape Town	Using RevMan
25 March	Cape Town	Using RevMan

Spanish Cochrane Centre

Date	Location	Type of workshop
12 March	Ourense	Preparing a protocol
13 March	Ourense	Using RevMan
26 March	San Sebastian	Preparing a protocol
27 March	San Sebastian	Using RevMan
18-9 June	Sabadell	Systematic reviews

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Calendar of Events

EUROPEAN ASSOCIATION FOR THE STUDY OF THE LIVER 33rd ANNUAL MEETING

PLACE LISBON, PORTUGAL

TIME APRIL 15-18 1998

The 5th CHBG meeting will be held on Saturday, April 18, 1998 from 2:00 P.M. to 4:30 P.M.

Agenda of the meeting is included.

6TH INTERNATIONAL COCHRANE COLLOQUIUM

PLACE BALTIMORE, MARYLAND USA

TIME OCTOBER 22-26 1998

Year's theme: "Systematic Reviews: Evidence for Action"

The deadline for submission of abstracts: 30 April 1998

For more information, contact:

6th International Cochrane Colloquium, c/-Courtesy Associates, 2000 L St, NW, Suite 710, Washington DC 20036, USA. Tel: +1 202 973 8685,

Fax: +1 202 331 0111, email:

kgillesp@CourtesyAssoc.com

Or visit the Baltimore Cochrane Center website:

<http://www.cochrane.org>

WORLD CONGRESS OF GASTROENTEROLOGY

Place: Vienna, Austria

Time: September 6-11 1998

Title: Joint Meeting of Cochrane Gastrointestinal Review Groups

The precise date of this associated meeting is to be announced later. For more information, contact: Secretariat,

Local Host Committee, Mariannengasse 14/11 A 1090

Vienna,

Tel: +43-1-407 15 81 Fax: +43-1-402 13 40 Email:

Sferepel@vm.akh.wien.ac.at

New improved version of RevMan

The release of RevMan 3.1 is planned to be on 31 of March. Details about what is new will be included with the updated version. However the reviewers are not required to upgrade from RevMan 3.0 to 3.1 in order to prepare and submit their Cochrane reviews for inclusion in the Cochrane Database for Systematic Reviews (CDSR).

UK Cochrane Centre

Date	Location	Type of workshop
16 March	London	Developing a protocol
3-4 April	Oxford	UK contributors annual meeting
11 May	Oxford	Developing a protocol
12 May	Oxford	Getting a review into RevMan
8 June	Aberdeen	Developing a protocol
9 June	Aberdeen	Getting a review into RevMan
22 June	Oxford	Developing a protocol
23 June	Oxford	Getting a review into RevMan

New England Cochrane Center

Date	Location	Type of workshop
13 and 14 June	Boston	How to conduct a systematic review and use of RevMan software

The Systematic Review Training Unit *

Date	Location	Type of workshop
12-15 May	London	A 4 day course in Systematic Reviews*

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or find an application form on the web site:
<http://www.ich.ucl.ac.uk/srtu>

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/~ctucph/chbg>.