



THE COCHRANE
COLLABORATION®

NEWSLETTER

COCHRANE NEUROMUSCULAR DISEASE GROUP

Issue 20, October 2006

1. Letter from the co-ordinating editor

New member of the editorial board

We welcome Dr Ivo van Schaik as a new member of our editorial board. Ivo has a special interest in peripheral neuropathy, has written two Cochrane reviews and is running a randomised trial of different corticosteroid regimes for chronic inflammatory demyelinating polyradiculoneuropathy.

Data extraction in Cochrane reviews

The Neuromuscular Disease Group's editorial board has recently undertaken an audit looking at a randomly selected sample of reviews which did highlight some errors in data extraction or entry into Review Manager. We are keen to ensure that reviews published by our group are consistently to a high standard and so would like to remind authors that the primary responsibility for checking accuracy of data extraction and entry into Review Manager rests with them. For all authors working on new reviews or updates, data extraction on to data extraction forms should be carried out independently by at least two authors. In addition, you should use the double data entry facility within Review Manager to guard against transcription errors. The second data entry should be performed by a different person from the one who entered the data first. The rationale for this is to minimise errors in extraction from the published papers or in entering data into the software.

There is further information about data extraction in Chapter 8 of the Cochrane Handbook of Systematic Reviews of Interventions 4.2.5 (<http://www.cochrane.org/resources/handbook/index.htm>). In many published randomised controlled trials, the data will be published clearly. However if the required results are not obvious and you do not have access to statistical support, then please contact Kate Jewitt (kate.jewitt@kcl.ac.uk) in the first instance who can put you in touch with one of our statistical editors for guidance.

Richard Hughes

2. Titles seeking authors

Antiviral agents versus corticosteroids for postherpetic neuralgia	Seeking lead author
Treatment for POEMS syndrome	Seeking lead author
Treatment for alcoholic neuropathy	Seeking authors
Treatment for paraneoplastic neuropathy	Seeking authors
Treatment for postural hypotension	Seeking authors

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Review Group Co-ordinator: Kate Jewitt
Assistant Trials Search Co-ordinator: Rachel Barton
Trials Search Co-ordinator: Angela Gunn
Group Secretary: Jane Batchelor

3. Staff changes at the editorial base

Kate Jewitt, our Review Group Co-ordinator, will be taking maternity leave from the beginning of December 2006 and returning at the start of January 2008. We are pleased to announce her replacement during this time will be Janice Fernandes who will join the group on 1st November 2006. Janice is currently the Review Group Co-ordinator at the Cochrane Depression, Anxiety and Neurosis Group so is very familiar with the Cochrane process and will be a very useful addition to the editorial base. Email contact details will be circulated when Janice is in post.

4. Dublin colloquium

XIVth Cochrane Colloquium, 23 - 26 October 2006, Dublin, Ireland

Please be sure to contact Kate Jewitt (kate.jewitt@kcl.ac.uk) if you are attending the Colloquium. We would like to invite you to lunch in the conference restaurant on Thursday 26th October from 12.30-13.30.

5. Cochrane style basics part 3

The Cochrane Style Guide is used by people preparing and editing Cochrane reviews and Cochrane documents to ensure consistency in copy-editing style (<http://www.cochrane.org/style/home.htm>). The following excerpts from the style guide are basic tips to help authors apply this style:

Citing references in the text of Cochrane Reviews

- 5.1 Separate references with a semi-colon
- 5.2 List multiple references first in alphabetical and then in chronological order.
- 5.3 No 'and' before the final reference.
- 5.4 References can be used as part of a sentence or in round brackets.

Entering references into Review Manager

- 5.5 **Study or reference identifier.** Preferred Cochrane format is that the study identifier or reference identifier should be the last name of the first author and the year of publication, eg Smith 2001.
- 5.6 **Authors.** List the first six authors before using 'et al.'; comma before 'et al.' optional but be consistent. 'Et al.' should be followed by a full stop.
- 5.7 **Article titles.** First letter of the first word in upper case; other words in lower case unless proper nouns or require an upper case letter.
- 5.8 **Journal article title.** Include English translation *only* if provided by the journal or database.
- 5.9 **Journal title.** Write in full using title case (each substantive word starts with an upper-case letter).
- 5.10 **Non-English language journals.** Include English translation in square brackets after the original title *only* if translation provided by the journal or database.
- 5.11 **Page numbers.** Examples of correct format: 324-8, 556-60, 1093-8; examples of incorrect format: 324-28, 556-560, 1093-1098, and 1093-98.

6. Update on diagnostic test reviews

The pilot project for diagnostic test reviews which involves trying out materials, structures and methods is well underway. Ten test review teams from different review groups are producing protocols and undertaking their reviews using a newly developed Handbook for Diagnostic Test Reviews which will be revised later in the year following the pilot project.

A second aspect of the project is the development of a register of primary studies of test accuracy, similar to the Central Register of Controlled Trials in *The Cochrane Library*.

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Infrastructure and processes need to be developed fully and piloted before diagnostic test reviews become a reality for the Collaboration. Support staff need to be available before diagnostic test reviews can be implemented, and RevMan 5 needs to be available and tested for diagnostic test reviews. The Screening and Diagnostic Test Reviews Methods Group hope to be able to start the roll out of training and implementation to collaborative review groups in 2007 and at that time our group will consider how we can contribute to the development of diagnostic test reviews in the neuromuscular disease area.

7. New reviews to be published in Issue 3 and 4, 2006 of the Cochrane Library

New reviews	
Non-antiepileptic drugs for trigeminal neuralgia	He L, Wu B, Zhou M
Enteral feeding for amyotrophic lateral sclerosis/motor neuron disease	Langmore SE, Kasarskis EJ, Manca ML, Olney RK.

8. Updated reviews to be published in Issue 3 and 4, 2006 of the Cochrane Library

Updated reviews	
Psychostimulants for hypersomnia (excessive daytime sleepiness) in myotonic dystrophy	Annane D, Moore DH, Barnes PRJ, Miller RG
Tramadol for neuropathic pain	Hollingshead J, Dühmke RM, Cornblath DR

9. New protocols published in Issue 3 and 4, 2006 of the Cochrane Library

New protocols	
Acupuncture for symptomatic treatment of diabetic peripheral neuropathy	Zhao T, Zhang R, Zhao H
Decompressive surgery of lower limbs for symmetrical diabetic peripheral neuropathy	Chaudhry V, Russell J, Belzberg A
Drug treatment for spinal muscular atrophy type I	Bosboom WMJ, Van den Berg LH, Iannaccone ST, Vrancken AFJE, Wokke JHH
Drug treatment for spinal muscular atrophy type II and III	Bosboom WMJ, Van den Berg LH, Iannaccone ST, Vrancken AFJE, Wokke JHH

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9. New protocols published in Issue 3 and 4, 2006 of the Cochrane Library (continued)

Interventions for the prevention and treatment of pes cavus	Burns J, Landorf KB, Ryan MM, Crosbie J, Ouvrier RA
Respiratory muscle training in children and adults with neuromuscular disease	Eagle M, Chatwin M
Treatment for familial amyotrophic lateral sclerosis/motor neuron disease	Benatar M, Kurent J, Moore D

10. New registered titles

Aminoglycosides for treating Duchenne and Becker muscular dystrophy	Sampson J, Flanigan K, Vardeny O
Acupuncture for postherpetic neuralgia	Wang P, Wu T, Zhao J
Anticholinesterase treatment for myasthenia gravis	Mehndiratta MM, Kuntzer T, Pandey S
Chinese herbal medicine (other than erigeron) for diabetic peripheral neuropathy	Liu J, Li Z, Wan Z, Grant SJ
Hyperbaric oxygen therapy for Bell's palsy	Holland J, Bernstein J
Minocycline for amyotrophic lateral sclerosis/motor neuron disease	Sathasivam S, Miller R, Moore D, Young C, Addison-Jones R
Treatment for neuralgic amyotrophy	Van Alfen N, van Engelen B, Chance P, Hughes RAC
Treatment for diabetic amyotrophy	Chan YC, Lo YL, Chan ESY
Treatment for radial nerve palsy	Massy-Westropp N, Groth G
Treatment for the neurological complications of Lyme disease	Rumbaugh J, Dumler S, Auwaerter P, Aucott J, Cadavid D
Treatment for thoracic outlet syndrome	Povlsen B, Hansson T, Belzberg A, Dorsi M
Treatment for ulnar neuropathy at the elbow	Padua L, Giannini F, Padua R, La Torre G

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