



Cochrane Wounds Group Newsletter

December 2011

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Welcome to the thirteenth edition of the Cochrane Wounds Group newsletter. 2011 has proven to be busy and exciting time in the group. For an update of all recent developments, please read on!

2010 Impact Factor

The 2010 Impact Factor for the Cochrane Database of Systematic Reviews (CDSR) has been released and is 6.186. This is an increase on the 2009 Impact Factor which was 5.653 and the 4th consecutive year that the CDSR Impact Factor has increased. The CDSR is now ranked in the top 10 of the 151 journals listed in the Medicine, General and Internal category. The effort that goes into writing a Cochrane systematic review is considerable but authors receive a high level of support from the Wounds Group editorial base and will be rewarded with a publication in a high impact factor journal! Details of the Wounds Group's most highly cited reviews can be found in the table below.

Review Title	Times cited in 2010
Compression for venous leg ulcers	24
Mupirocin ointment for preventing Staphylococcus aureus infections in nasal carriers	17
Honey as a topical treatment for wounds	14
Support surfaces for pressure ulcer prevention	11
Water for wound cleansing	9
Surgical hand antisepsis to reduce surgical site infection	9
Topical negative pressure for treating chronic wounds	7
Antibiotics and antiseptics for venous leg ulcers	7
Peri-operative glycaemic control regimens for preventing surgical site infections in adults	6
Dressings for superficial and partial thickness burns	5

Reviews published by the Wounds Group were accessed in full-text format on average 1209.71 times during 2010 (68 articles accessed 82,260 times). This is an increase of 11% on the 2009 figure of 1074.03 (68 articles accessed 73,034 times). Details of our most accessed reviews can be found below.

Review Title	Full Text Accesses
Support surfaces for pressure ulcer prevention	6252
Compression for venous leg ulcers	3591
Honey as a topical treatment for wounds	3350
Risk assessment tools for the prevention of pressure ulcers	3244
Nutritional interventions for preventing and treating pressure ulcers	2884
Preoperative fasting for adults to prevent perioperative complications	2805
Water for wound cleansing	2595
Repositioning for treating pressure ulcers	2511
Debridement of diabetic foot ulcers	2356
Preoperative bathing or showering with skin antiseptics to prevent surgical site infection	2311

News items

News from the Editorial Base



Our Coordinating Editor, Nicky Cullum, took up the post of Professor of Nursing, University of Manchester on September 1st 2011. Nicky was at York for 17 years and was ready for a change however will be continuing as Coordinating Editor of the Group and is maintaining strong research links with York. It has been a very positive move for her Cochrane work since her one hour train journey each way between Leeds and Manchester means she is able to do lots of editing.

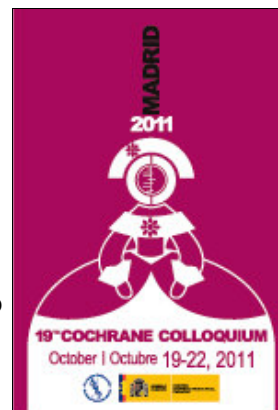
Current news from Cochrane

The next stage of Cochrane's web development program aimed at improving the presentation of Cochrane Reviews went live on the 6th August. Changes relate to the appearance, function and navigation at the individual review level. Also included in this iteration are article level-citations, and the ability to identify "related Cochrane reviews". For further information please see:

[http://www.thecochranelibrary.com/SpringboardWebApp/userfiles/ccoch/file/Cochrane%20Library%20changes%20final\(1\).pdf](http://www.thecochranelibrary.com/SpringboardWebApp/userfiles/ccoch/file/Cochrane%20Library%20changes%20final(1).pdf).

19th Cochrane Colloquium

The 19th Cochrane Colloquium entitled *Scientific evidence for healthcare quality and patient safety, in conjunction with VI International Conference on Patient Safety* was held Madrid, 19–22 October 2011 and hosted by the IberoAmerican Cochrane Centre. Members of the Wounds Group attended and were lucky enough to be able to take part in numerous workshops, plenaries, oral and poster sessions, providing us with an excellent opportunity to meet Cochrane members and collaborators from around the world. Not only was the colloquium an opportunity to 'put faces to names' it was also an important learning event, allowing us to update our knowledge and learn about future projects and directions for the Collaboration and its partners and the vital work people all over the world are involved in. We were very pleased to be able to meet several Wounds Group authors there and catch up with some of our Editors. We all found the meeting to be a very positive and extremely useful experience and are looking forward to attending again next year.



RevMan 5.1.6

RevMan version 5.1.6 is now live and we recommend that all authors upgrade to this as soon as possible. Authors will be prompted to do this when they open RevMan or can visit the RevMan update page at <http://ims.cochrane.org/revman/download>. Some of the most noticeable changes are:

- revisions to risk of bias assessment names and options;
- the ability to edit Summary of Findings tables imported from GRADEPro within RevMan;
- support for multiple author affiliations and
- the inclusion of a calculator tool alongside data tables.

Authors should also note that when a review is opened in the new version, Risk of Bias tables are automatically updated, so make sure to check each cell in the tables carefully before checking back in.

New Evidence Aid Knowledge Manager - Claire Allen

Claire Allen from the Collaboration's Secretariat will be taking on the part-time role of Evidence Aid Knowledge Manager, funded by the Evidence Aid project. Evidence Aid was established by The Cochrane Collaboration after the Indian Ocean tsunami in 2004 and, working with the Cochrane Editorial Unit, has recently prepared special collections of knowledge from Cochrane Reviews of relevance to the natural disasters in Haiti, Pakistan and Japan. Evidence Aid aims to provide reliable, up-to-date evidence on interventions that might be considered in the context of natural disasters and other humanitarian emergencies, and is now expanding to include information from other systematic reviews, including those of relevance from outside health care.

Claire can be contacted for Evidence Aid enquiries at callen@evidenceaid.org, and for Secretariat enquiries at callen@cochrane.org. Secretariat administrative enquiries should be directed to krichtmond@cochrane.org or rsayers@cochrane.org.

Wounds Group connections

Editor profile

This issue see the second of our Cochrane Wounds Group Editor Profiles. This time we are turning the spotlight on Joan Webster. We asked Joan to tell us a little about herself.

Joan Webster

Sometimes I think the Cochrane collaboration and the Cochrane Wounds Group in particular have become part of my DNA! If I haven't heard from Sally for a couple of weeks I start to experience withdrawals ...do I have a life?

My connection with the CWG began in 2003, when I submitted my first title for approval. Since that time I have been involved with six wound-related reviews; have two protocols published and we have one further title registered. I was also fortunate enough to spend a couple of months in the Cochrane Wounds Group office, updating my reviews and seeing the amazing behind the scene work that goes on to bring protocols and reviews to publication. I always say that working with the team was one of the highlights of my professional life. Sally, Nicky, Ruth and the support staff were quite remarkable and very welcoming.

In my other life, I am the Nursing Director for Research at the Royal Brisbane and Women's Hospital in Queensland, Australia where my research revolves around testing nursing interventions. Some of this work has led to Cochrane Reviews, for example around intravenous access and pressure ulcer prevention. I am also fortunate to be a Chief Investigator of the first Australian NHMRC funded Centre for Excellence in Nursing Research, where one of our measurable outcomes is the production of systematic reviews. Consequently, it seems that my connection with the CWG will be growing exponentially over the next few years!

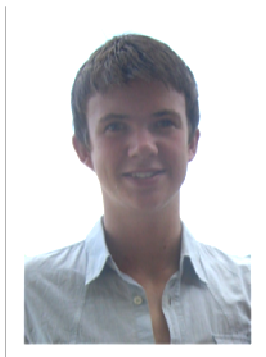
My great pleasures are eating, drinking and camping with friends, cooking, reading and riding my bike.

Visitors to the Editorial Base

The last six months have seen many visitors to the Editorial Base, including two Foundation year 2 doctors. Danny Jones is currently working with us to help update several reviews. Danny has been kind enough to give us an insight into the world of a junior doctor.

Danny Jones

I am a junior doctor working with the Cochrane Wounds Group for four months as part of an academic rotation. The idea behind placements such as these was to encourage junior doctors to be more involved in medical research earlier in their training.



I went to medical school at the University of Leeds and took a year out to do a BSc in Primary Care. It was during this year I became interested in doing research alongside my medical training.

On arriving at the Health Sciences department Sally Bell-Syer kindly offered me the chance to work with the Cochrane Wounds Group. I eagerly accepted her offer because I wanted to learn more about the Cochrane Collaboration and the process of conducting a systematic review. I thought learning the skills needed to update or write a systematic would be invaluable in my future career.

My initial experiences of working with Sally and the rest of the team have been extremely positive and I have felt very well supported. This is a completely new area for me having spent the last year working on a hospital ward, but there has always been someone available to answer my questions and everyone has been very keen to help me learn. I am excited about the next four months working with the Wounds Group and I hope at the end to have a much better understanding of the Cochrane Collaboration and hopefully to have contributed as much as I can to the valuable work that Sally and the team are doing



Wounds group connections

Farewell to Wounds Group Staff

We've said farewell to a valued member of the Cochrane Wounds Group since our last newsletter. Sohan Deshpande was with the group for several months but has now moved on to pursue a full time career in systematic reviewing.

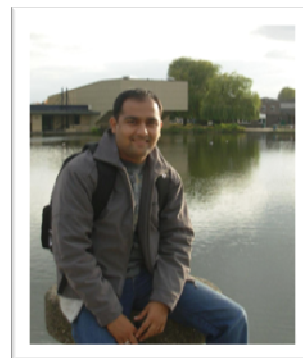
Sohan Deshpande

I completed my Master's degree in Health Sciences at the University of York last year. After finishing my thesis I was desperately hunting for a job. I wanted to work as a systematic reviewer but the positions I saw advertised required work experience which, being a fresh graduate, I did not have. Fortunately, I was lucky enough to be given a part-time job opportunity to join the Cochrane Wounds Group editorial team, by my dissertation supervisor, Professor Nicky Cullum. I was delighted to have this opportunity as it was a dream come true and the best part-time job I could have ever thought of doing.

I worked for the Cochrane Wounds Group for almost six months. I was very impressed with all the hard work by Sally Bell-Syer and Ruth Foxlee at the Editorial Base to get all the reviews finished to perfection. My main responsibilities were updating reviews, data extraction and risk of bias assessment. Sally was an excellent boss who guided me and provided all the help possible for me to perform my tasks efficiently. By the time I left, she claimed I had become a "risk of bias expert"!

Not only was I lucky enough to work with the group, but I was also fortunate enough to be given the chance to build upon my dissertation on diabetic foot ulcers by being offered the chance to work with some of the most experienced reviewers in the Wounds Group: Susan O'Meara and Jo Dumville. Working with both of them improved my knowledge and gave me professional experience of preparing a systematic review. This was huge opportunity for me, and ultimately lead to me co-authoring four systematic reviews in a year, a fantastic achievement which would not have been possible without the support of the Wounds Group.

I would like to express my gratitude to Nicky Cullum, Sally Bell-Syer and the entire Wounds Group team for supporting me and allowing me to make a contribution. I am currently working as a systematic reviewer at Kleijnen Systematic Reviews Ltd. but each time I open the Cochrane Handbook, I am reminded of all good memories I have of the Wounds Group.



Are you interested in becoming a translator?

Do you have skills in a foreign language that you are keen to use? We're currently looking to recruit people able to translate and data extract from papers in a variety of different languages. If you would be willing to help, please contact Ruth on ruth.foxlee@york.ac.uk and state what languages you would be willing to translate from.

Tips for Authors

Use the Cochrane Style Guide, to ensure your review is written according the Cochrane 'house style'. You can find the guide at <http://www.cochrane.org/training/authors-mes/cochrane-style-guide/cochrane-style-guide>

It is helpful to run a validation report of your review before submitting it for publication. This can be done in RevMan under the menu heading "reports". Please fix any errors and consider any warnings.

Pay close attention to the quality of the plain language summary section and refer to the Cochrane Handbook for Systematic Reviews of Interventions, section 11.9 for writing guidelines.

Remember the audience for Cochrane reviews is broad and will include people who are not familiar with medical terminology.

Online training for Cochrane Review authors

If you are a contributor to The Cochrane Collaboration, or are thinking about becoming one, the following website will provide access to a range of resources to meet all your training and support needs: <http://training.cochrane.org/authors/olm>. The six introductory modules available are: systematic reviews - an introduction; writing a Cochrane protocol; searching for studies for a Cochrane review; collecting data for a review; meta-analysis - an introduction; and heterogeneity - an introduction.

Wounds Group update on progress

Progress Report

The Wounds Group published 73 reviews and 36 protocols in Issue 12, 2011 of The Cochrane Library, plus there are a further 47 registered titles. A full list can be found on our website: <http://wounds.cochrane.org/>.

Recently published protocols and reviews

The following protocols, reviews and updates have been published in The Cochrane Library since our last newsletter (current to Issue 12 2011):

New protocols

- Recombinant human growth hormone for treating burns and donor sites
- Systemic antibiotics for treating diabetic foot infections
- Alginate dressings for healing diabetic foot ulcers
- Hydrocolloid dressings for healing diabetic foot ulcers
- Antibiotics for preventing infection in people receiving chest drains
- Frequency of dressing changes for central venous access devices on catheter-related infections.
- Phototherapy for treating pressure ulcers.
- Negative pressure wound therapy for skin grafts and surgical wounds healing by primary intention
- Dressings and topical agents for preventing pressure ulcers

New reviews

- Dressings for the prevention of surgical site infection.
- Hyperbaric oxygen therapy for treating acute surgical and traumatic wounds
- Hydrogel dressings for healing diabetic foot ulcers
- Foam dressings for healing diabetic foot ulcers
- Pressure-relieving devices for treating heel pressure ulcers
- Primary closure versus delayed closure for non bite traumatic wounds within 24 hours post injury

Updated reviews

- Pentoxifylline for treating venous leg ulcers
- Preoperative bathing or showering with skin antiseptics to prevent surgical site infection
- Use of plastic adhesive drapes during surgery for preventing surgical site infection
- Debridement for surgical wounds
- Intermittent pneumatic compression for treating venous leg ulcers
- Mupirocin ointment for preventing Staphylococcus aureus infections in nasal carriers
- Electromagnetic therapy for treating venous leg ulcers
- Skin preparation with alcohol versus alcohol followed by any antiseptic for preventing bacteraemia or contamination of blood for transfusion
- Systemic antimicrobial prophylaxis for percutaneous endoscopic gastrostomy
- Support surfaces for pressure ulcer prevention
- Granulocyte-colony stimulating factors as adjunctive therapy for diabetic foot infections
- Pin site care for preventing infections associated with external bone fixators and pins
- Vitamin C for preventing and treating tetanus
- Complex interventions for preventing diabetic foot ulceration
- Disposable surgical face masks for preventing surgical wound infection in clean surgery
- Prophylactic antibiotics to prevent surgical site infection after breast cancer surgery
- Staples versus sutures for closing leg wounds after vein graft harvesting for coronary artery bypass surgery

Opportunities

Meetings

17th Annual Meeting of UK and Ireland-based Contributors to The Cochrane Collaboration
20-21 March, 2012 at the University of Loughborough, UK

Cochrane Mid-year meeting 16-21 April, 2012, Paris, France

20th Annual Cochrane Colloquium

Originally due to be held in China, this has now been moved to Auckland, New Zealand from the 30th September to 3rd October. For full details regarding the change of venue, please see <http://www.cochrane.org/news/tags/authors/announcement-regarding-location-2012-cochrane-colloquium>.

Publication dates

Publication date for Issue 1, 2012 of The Cochrane Library: 18 January, 2012

Publication date for Issue 2, 2012 of The Cochrane Library: 15 February, 2012

Publication date for Issue 3, 2012 of The Cochrane Library: 14 March, 2012

Publication date for Issue 4, 2012 of The Cochrane Library: 18 April 2012

Online training

Online training is now available for all authors of intervention reviews. This can be found at www.training.cochrane.org. This website also lists all current and upcoming training workshops.



**THE COCHRANE
COLLABORATION®**

The Cochrane Collaboration

preparing, maintaining and promoting the accessibility of systematic reviews of the effects of health care interventions

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