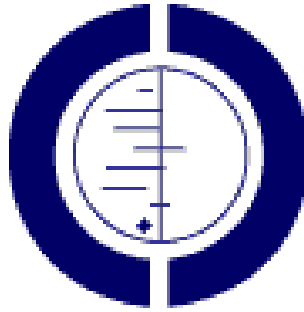

THE COCHRANE COLLABORATION



Acute Respiratory Infections Group

Newsletter 42 January 2011

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A word from the Co-ordinating Editor

It seems too late to be wishing you all a happy new year. But nonetheless I hope that 2011 is a very productive and information-rich year for you.

I am very sorry I didn't get to meet many of you at the Cochrane Colloquium in Colorado, USA last year. I had planned to go, with my ticket and accomodation all paid for when I was struck down by ... an acute respiratory infection. Mmmn. This seems to be an exquisite case of 'doctor heal thyself'.



My own resolution is for us, representatives of the Cochrane Collaboration, to become more user-friendly to you, our authors. As a Collaboration I think we are becoming too bureaucratic and hard to engage with, with the number of forms, and the number of items therein, escalating. The rest of the editorial world is working hard to make things better for authors in the scramble for good authors and highly-citable reviews. If we are not careful, authors will choose publications that act in a more professional and timely manner, with less time-wasting. Whenever we respond to authors, our job is to think about what we can do to make the authors' job easier, and any requirements from them clearer.

If you have any suggestions on things we can do to make it better, please let me know. My eMail address is cdelmar@bond.edu.au

One area in which the Collaboration might change direction quite dramatically is in the use of original data for reviews rather than published studies (usually trials). An area in which this is occurring in our own ARI Group is in the treatment of influenza, in which the authors (of which I am one) are asking drug manufacturers for complete original data to minimise any potential publication bias. Some of this discussion has already been published in the BMJ this year. More will follow. Watch this space.

Cheers

Chris Del Mar
Acute Respiratory Infections Cochrane Group Co-ordinating Editor
Bond University, Gold Coast, Queensland, Australia

Welcome

Incoming staff - Editorial team members

We are delighted to announce that **Elaine Beller**, Associate Professor of Statistics at Bond University, has re-joined the ARI Group as one of our Statistical Editors. Elaine has recently been involved with writing the advanced statistics material for the UK Cochrane Centre in Oxford. We hope she enjoys her affiliation with the ARI Group.

We are very pleased to welcome to the Editorial team **Karen Kearley**, an experienced General Practitioner and Clinical Lecturer at the Department of Primary Health Care, University of Oxford. Karen is currently on sabbatical and working with Paul Glasziou, Chris Del Mar, Jenny Doust and Mieke van Driel at Bond University, Queensland, Australia.

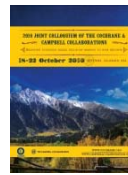
Farewell

Outgoing staff - Editorial team members

We wish to warmly thank **Richard Shoemaker** who stepped down as a Statistical Editor with the ARI Group in December 2009. Richard has been a valuable member of the Editorial team since September 2005. We also thank **Nicholas Matheson** who resigned from his post as ARI Group Editor, which he has held since December 2006. Nick has been very generous with his time as Contact Editor and will be missed. He is taking a break from clinical medicine and has started a sciences PhD. We wish him luck in his studies.

The ARI Group wishes to sincerely thank **Geoff Spurling**, Lecturer at the University of Queensland, who has generously contributed as a Contact Editor for the ARI Group since November 2005. Geoff has resigned from his editorial work to embark on a PhD but will continue his work as a Cochrane author.

Colorado Colloquium



The 18th annual Cochrane Colloquium held in Keystone, Colorado, USA (18th-22nd October 2010) was a great success. Some of the topics discussed at the ARI Group meeting were how to encourage authors to update their reviews, how to link inexperienced authors with mentors and issues to keep in mind when conducting Overviews of Intervention Reviews.

Watch videos of the Colloquium plenaries at <http://www.cochrane.org/multimedia/multimedia-cochrane-colloquia-and-meetings/colloquium-colorado-2010>

Upcoming Colloquium in Madrid



The 19th annual Cochrane Colloquium will be held in Madrid, Spain 19th-22nd October, 2011. For more information <http://www.cochrane.org/events/cochrane-collaboration-calendar/19th-annual-cochrane-colloquium-2011-madrid-spain>

Publication dates

The 2011 monthly publication schedule for *The Cochrane Library* is available at <http://www.thecochranelibrary.com/view/0/PublicationDates.html>

Upcoming Cochrane workshops and events

The Cochrane Collaboration runs regular face-to-face training workshops for new and experienced authors of Cochrane Reviews. The Australasian Cochrane Centre will be conducting the following workshops in 2011:

4-5 April (Melbourne) *Introduction to writing a Cochrane review*

2-6 May (Melbourne) *Review completion workshop*

6-7 June (Gold Coast) *Introduction to writing a Cochrane review*

7-8 July (Sydney) *Introduction to writing a Cochrane review*

11-12 August (Adelaide) *Introduction to writing a Cochrane review*

14-18 November (Melbourne) *Review Completion workshop*

1-2 December (Sydney) *Introduction to writing a Cochrane review*

For more information on these workshops, visit <http://acc.cochrane.org/workshops>

For details of the Cochrane training schedule for your region, visit <http://www.cochrane.org/events/workshops/all>

16th Annual Meeting of UK and Ireland-based contributors to The Cochrane Collaboration - Belfast, NI, UK, Tuesday 15 and Wednesday 16 March 2011. More information is available at <http://www.cochrane.ac.uk>

Mid-year meetings of the CCSG and Centre Directors - Split, Croatia, 28th March – 2nd April 2011 (<http://www.cochrane.org/events/cochrane-collaboration-calendar/mid-year-meetings-ccsg-and-centre-directors-split-croatia-0>)

External evidence-based health care events

International Forum on Quality & Safety in Healthcare 2011 - Amsterdam, The Netherlands, 5th – 8th April 2011
<http://internationalforum.bmj.com/>

Health Technology Assessment for Health Systems Sustainability - Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, 25th – 29th June 2011
<http://www.htai2011.org/>

Consumers Reforming Health conference - Melbourne, Australia, 18th – 20th July 2011
<http://consumersreformhealth.asnevents.com.au/>

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. Further modules will be added during 2011.

Funding

The ARI Group is grateful to the Department of Health and Ageing for providing funding for the position of Managing Editor.

ARI Group Website

Anyone with an interest in authoring a Cochrane review or assisting as a referee or translator should go to the 'Get involved' link <http://ari.cochrane.org/get-involved> on

the ARI Group website <http://ari.cochrane.org> and submit the relevant form.

Anyone interested in taking on an orphaned Cochrane protocol or review can find a list on the ARI Group website under the link 'Reviews needed' <http://ari.cochrane.org/reviews-needed>

New protocols since our last newsletter

- Corticosteroids for sore throat (Thompson MJ, Hayward G, Heneghan CJ, Perera R, Glasziou PP, Del Mar C)
- Intranasal ipratropium bromide for the common cold (AlBalawi ZH, Othman SS, AlFaleh K)
- Oral topical decontamination for preventing ventilator-associated pneumonia in adult patients (Yue J, Dong BR, Yang M, Wu T, Liu GJ)
- Acupuncture for mumps in children (He J, Zheng M, Zhang M, Jiang H)
- Nebulised deoxyribonuclease for viral bronchiolitis in infants (Chu I-W, Mellis C, Lin W-Y, Enriquez A)
- Antibiotics for ventilator-associated pneumonia (Selim AG, Balalis G, Bhaskar B, van Driel ML)
- Interventions for preventing influenza: an overview of Cochrane systematic reviews (Yang M, Wu HM, Li T, Dong BR, Liu GJ)
 - Acyclovir for infectious mononucleosis (glandular fever) (Guo Q, Fan J, Liu GJ, Zhu Y, Zhong D, Wan C)
 - Chinese medicinal herbs for mumps (Shu M, Zhang YQ, Li Z, Liu GJ, Evertsen JM, Wan C)
 - Beta-2 agonists for pneumonia in adults (Alkhalil M, Dakak A, Eid M)

- Combined DTP-HBV vaccine versus separately administered DTP and HBV vaccines for primary prevention of diphtheria, tetanus, pertussis, and hepatitis B (Kapoor AN, Tharyan P, Kant L, Balraj V, Shemilt I)
- Anti-peptic ulcer treatments that cause the least severe complication of ventilated-associated pneumonia in critically ill patients (Solà I, Baigorri F, Subirana Casacuberta M, Aibar Remón C)
- Acetaminophen (paracetamol) for the common cold in adults (Li S, Yue J, Dong BR, Yang M, Lin X, Wu T)
- Interventions for treating influenza: an overview of Cochrane systematic reviews (Yang M, Dong BR, Wu HM, Li T, Liu GJ)
- Osmotic therapies as adjuncts to antibiotics for acute bacterial meningitis (Wall ECB, Ajdukiewicz KMB, Heyderman RS, Garner P)
- Vaccines for preventing herpes zoster in older adults (Gagliardi AMZ, Gomes Silva BN, Torloni MR, Soares B)

New reviews since our last newsletter

- Honey for acute cough in children (Oduwole O, Meremikwu MM, Oyo-Ita A, Udoh EE)
- Chest physiotherapy for pneumonia in adults (Yang M, Yuping Y, Yin X, Wang BY, Wu T, Liu GJ, Dong BR)
- Heliox for croup in children (Vorwerk C, Coats T) □ Zinc supplements for preventing otitis media (Abba K, Gulani A, Sachdev HS)
- Saline nasal irrigation for acute upper respiratory tract infections (Kassel JC, King D, Spurling GKP)

- Heliox inhalation therapy for bronchiolitis in infants (Liet J-M, Ducruet T, Gupta V, Cambonie G)
- Interventions to increase influenza vaccination rates in people aged 60 years and older in the community (Thomas RE, Russell M, Lorenzetti D)
- Different antibiotic treatments for group A streptococcal pharyngitis (van Driel ML, De Sutter AIM, Keber N, Habraken H, Christiaens T)
- Decongestants, antihistamines and nasal irrigation for acute sinusitis in children (Shaikh N, Wald ER, Pi M)
- Macrolides for diffuse panbronchiolitis (Yang M, Dong BR, Lu J, Lin X, Wu HM)
- Zinc supplementation for the prevention of pneumonia in children aged 2 months to 59 months (Lassi ZS, Haider BA, Bhutta ZA)
- Antibiotics for the common cold and acute purulent rhinitis (Arroll B, Kenealy T)
- Neuraminidase inhibitors for preventing and treating influenza in healthy adults (Jefferson T, Jones M, Doshi P, Del Mar C, Dooley L, Foxlee R)
- Influenza vaccination for healthcare workers who work with the elderly (Thomas RE, Jefferson T, Lasserson TJ)
- Vaccines for preventing influenza in the elderly (Jefferson T, Di Pietrantonj C, Al-Ansary LA, Ferroni E, Thorning S, Thomas RE)
- Antibiotics for community-acquired pneumonia in children (Kabra SK, Lodha R, Pandey RM)
- Vitamin C for preventing and treating the common cold (Hemilä H, Chalker E, Douglas B)
- Chinese herbs combined with Western medicine for severe acute respiratory syndrome (SARS) (Liu X, Zhang M, He L, Li Y)

New updated reviews since our last newsletter

- Delayed antibiotics for respiratory infections (Spurling GKP, Del Mar C, Dooley L, Foxlee R)
- Over-the-counter (OTC) medications to reduce cough as an adjunct to antibiotics for acute pneumonia (Chang CC, Cheng AC, Chang AB)
- Physical interventions to interrupt or reduce the spread of respiratory viruses (Jefferson T, Del Mar C, Dooley L, Ferroni E, Al-Ansary LA, Bawazeer GA, van Driel ML, Nair S, Foxlee R, Rivetti A)
- Symptomatic treatment of the cough in whooping cough (Bettioli S, Thompson MJ, Roberts NW, Perera R, Heneghan CJ, Harnden A)
- Antibiotics for community-acquired lower respiratory tract infections secondary to *Mycoplasma pneumoniae* in children (Mulholland S, Gavranich JB, Chang AB)
- Vaccines for preventing influenza in healthy adults (Jefferson T, Di Pietrantonj C, Rivetti A, Bawazeer GA, Al-Ansary LA, Ferroni E)
- Polysaccharide vaccines for preventing serogroup A meningococcal meningitis (Patel M, Lee C-k)
- Corticosteroids for acute bacterial meningitis (Brouwer MC, McIntyre P, de Gans J, Prasad K, van de Beek D)
- Over-the-counter (OTC) medications for acute cough in children and adults in ambulatory

- settings (Smith SM, Schroeder K, Fahey T)
- Short-course antibiotics for acute otitis media (Kozyrskyj A, Klassen TP, Moffatt M, Harvey K)
 - Glucocorticoids for acute viral bronchiolitis in infants and young children (Fernandes RM, Bialy LM, Vandermeer B, Tjosvold L, Plint AC, Patel H, Johnson DW, Klassen TP, Hartling L)
 - Vitamin A for non-measles pneumonia in children (Wu T, Ni J, Wei J)
 - Bronchodilators for bronchiolitis (Gadomski AM, Brower M)

Latest additions to *The Cochrane Library*

Issues 1 and 2, 2011 include a number of new reviews and protocols as well as substantially updated reviews produced by the ARI Group. A big thanks to all those who contributed.

New protocols appearing in Issues 1 and 2, 2011

- Neuraminidase inhibitors for preventing and treating influenza in healthy adults and children - a review of unpublished data (Jefferson T, Jones MA, Doshi P, Del Mar CB, Heneghan CJ, Hama R, Thompson MJ)
- Statins for influenza and pneumonia (Khandaker G, Rashid H, Chow MYK, Booy R)
- Intranasal ipratropium bromide for the common cold (AlBalawi ZH, Othman SS, AlFaleh K)
- Oral topical decontamination for preventing ventilator-associated pneumonia in adult patients (Yue J, Dong BR, Yang M, Wu T, Liu GJ)
- Anti-cytokine and anti-endotoxin therapies for meningococcal disease (Li Y, Zhou L, Qiu J, Liu D, Shi Y)

- Nebulised adrenergic agonists for acute croup (Lanyon EJ, Ivany JN, Cheung AWY, van Driel ML)

New reviews appearing in Issues 1 and 2, 2011

- Steam inhalation or humidified oxygen for acute bronchiolitis in children up to three years of age (Umoren R, Odey F, Meremikwu MM)
- Nebulized epinephrine for croup in children (Bjornson C, Russell KF, Vandermeer B, Durec T, Klassen TP, Johnson DW)

New updated reviews appearing in Issues 1 and 2, 2011

- Antibiotics for the prevention of acute and chronic suppurative otitis media in children (Leach AJ, Morris PS)
- Glucocorticoids for croup (Russell KF, Liang Y, O'Gorman K, Johnson DW, Klassen TP)
- Vitamin A for preventing acute lower respiratory tract infections in children up to seven years of age (Chen H, Zhuo Q, Yuan W, Wang J, Wu T)
- Advising patients to increase fluid intake for treating acute respiratory infections (Guppy MPB, Mickan SM, Del Mar CB, Thorning S, Rack A)
- Fluid therapy for acute bacterial meningitis (Maconochie IK, Baumer JH)
- Pre-admission antibiotics for suspected cases of meningococcal disease (Sudarsanam TD, Rupali P, Tharyan P, Abraham OC, Thomas K)
- Zinc for the common cold (Singh M, Das RR)

To keep our information up-to-date, please email any changes of contact details to cdooley@bond.edu.au

***A big thank you to all the
members of the ARI Group,
who continue to contribute to
our success.***