



THE COCHRANE
COLLABORATION®

COCHRANE HEART GROUP

NEWSLETTER: SEPTEMBER 2011



Welcome to our fifth newsletter!

Our newsletters will keep you updated with the Group's latest activities and news.

Our Team

Shah Ebrahim	Coordinating Editor
Juan P Casas	Deputy Coordinating Editor
Fiona Taylor	Managing Editor
Nicole Martin	Trials Search Coordinator
Claire Williams	Assistant Managing Editor



Changes to our Editorial Team

We would like to thank Joey Kwong for her significant contribution as Managing Editor for the past three years. She left for Hong Kong, China early August. She is being replaced with Fiona Taylor who was previously the Review Specialist of the team.

In October, Nicole will be on maternity leave for 12 months and Jo Abbott who previously worked for the Developmental Psychosocial and Learning Problems Group will be stepping in. We would like to welcome Dr Mark Huffman Assistant Professor, Northwestern University Feinberg School of Medicine, Chicago, as an Editor.

News

Cochrane Heart press releases

Our reviews have had high levels of attention in the mass media as a result of press releases and editorials:

- **Reduced dietary salt for the prevention of cardiovascular disease:** This updated review focused on the effects of salt reduction on clinical events. Despite collating more event data than previous systematic reviews of randomised controlled trials there is insufficient power to exclude clinically important effects of reduced dietary salt on mortality or cardiovascular morbidity in normotensive or even hypertensive populations. The review aroused strong criticisms. You can listen to the debate on the BBC iplayer by visiting:
www.bbc.co.uk/programmes/b006qshd

- **Statins for the primary prevention of cardiovascular disease:** This review focused on use of statins in people with no evidence of previous cardiovascular disease. All cause mortality, coronary heart disease and stroke events were reduced with the use of statins. Taking statins did not increase the risk of cancer. This systematic review endorsed the current UK NICE guidelines of statins prescription for people at high-risk of cardiovascular disease. Worryingly, the studies did not report fully on adverse events and some were stopped early. If statins are considered for primary prevention among people at low-risk of cardiovascular disease caution should be taken. You can listen to the debate on the bbcplayer by visiting: http://news.bbc.co.uk/today/hi/today/newsid_9366000/9366442.stm

The Heart Group contribution to the Cochrane Database of Systematic Reviews

Recent data indicates that a Cochrane Heart Review published in 2008 or 2009 was cited, on average, 8,000 times in 2010. This means that the 2010 CRG impact factor for Heart Group is **8,000**.

The top five reviews cited most often are as follows:

- Interventions for treating obesity in children
- Non-invasive positive pressure ventilation (CPAP or bilevel NPPV) for cardiogenic pulmonary edema
- Stem cell treatment for acute myocardial infarction

- Homocysteine lowering interventions for preventing cardiovascular events
- Hawthorn extract for treating chronic heart failure

Reviews published by the Heart Group were accessed in full-text format on average 945.78 times during 2010 (91 articles accessed 86,066 times). This represents a 14% rise from 2009. The 10 most accessed reviews include:

- Interventions for preventing obesity in children
- Interventions for treating obesity in children
- Exercise based rehabilitation for heart failure
- Exercise-based rehabilitation for coronary heart disease
- Oxygen therapy for acute myocardial infarction
- Structured telephone support or telemonitoring programmes for patients with chronic heart failure
- Home-based versus centre-based cardiac rehabilitation
- Interventions for promoting physical activity
- Diuretics for heart failure
- Multiple risk factor interventions for primary prevention of coronary heart disease



The Cochrane Heart Groups' contribution to national and international guidelines:

Thirty of our reviews have contributed to national and international guidelines. For example, at a national level, the following reviews were cited in the SIGN guideline No. 97: Risk estimation and the prevention of cardiovascular disease. February 2007:

- Multiple risk factor interventions for primary prevention of coronary heart
- Omega 3 fatty acids for prevention and treatment of cardiovascular disease
- Psychological interventions for coronary heart disease.
- Reduced or modified dietary fat for preventing

At European level two reviews were cited for the ESC/EAS Guidelines, for the management of dyslipidaemias 2011:

- Statins for the primary prevention of cardiovascular disease
- Low glycaemic index diets for coronary heart disease

In the United States of America the following reviews were cited for the ACCF/AHA Guidelines for the Diagnosis and Management of Heart Failure in Adults 2009:

- Diuretics for heart failure.
- Continuous infusion versus bolus injection of loop diuretics in congestive heart failure

For information about training workshops, please visit:

www.cochrane.org/training

Those cited most frequently include:

- Omega 3 fatty acids for prevention and treatment of cardiovascular disease.
- Interventions for preventing post-operative atrial fibrillation in patients undergoing heart surgery.
- Psychological interventions for coronary heart disease.

New collaboration

Following the success of our NIHR Collaborative Programme Grant with the Peninsular Medical School in supporting a programme of Cochrane Heart Public Health & Prevention Reviews, we are presently collaborating with the Warwick Heart Review Group, University of Warwick to support a series Cochrane Reviews in lifestyle and pharmacological interventions for the primary prevention of cardiovascular disease under the leadership of Dr Karen Rees.

Training in Systematic Reviews

We have been participating in a number of training events in systematic reviews. These include:

- Short course in Systematic Reviews at the London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine September 2010.
- Day course in systematic review methodology, South Asia Network for Chronic Diseases, Public Health Foundation of India, New Delhi. April 2011
- Summer Course: How to Conduct and Publish Systematic Reviews and Meta-Analyses. Hong Kong Cochrane

Branch Chinese University of Hong Kong, August 2011 (see photo below, Joey Kwong middle front row)



Cochrane Colloquium, Madrid, 19-22 October

This year's Colloquium will be held in Madrid, Spain from 19-22 October 2011 and will coincide with the VI International Conference on Patient Safety. The theme of the 19th Cochrane Colloquium is '**Scientific evidence for healthcare quality and patient safety**'.

The Cochrane Collaboration is keen to reflect on and analyse its possible contributions to the improvement of the quality of care and safety of patients. These are now very real priorities for the World Health Organization, governments, healthcare institutions and professionals all over the world.

For more information about the Colloquium, visit www.cochrane.org and follow the links. We very look forward to meeting some of you there. **Ole!**

Our publications

We would like to take this opportunity in thanking all our editors and peer reviewers supporting us in our efforts to review our manuscripts. We have been very busy and since our last newsletter in August 2010 we have published the following systematic reviews.

Primary Prevention:

- Psychological and pharmacological interventions for depression in patients with coronary artery disease
- Reduced dietary salt for the prevention of cardiovascular disease
- Statins for the primary prevention of cardiovascular disease
- Exercise for people with high cardiovascular risk
- Internet based interventions for the secondary prevention of CHD

Treatment:

- Intra-aortic balloon pump counterpulsation for myocardial infarction complicated by cardiogenic shock
- Shengmai (a traditional Chinese herbal medicine) for heart failure
- Mechanical versus manual chest compressions for cardiac arrest
- Factor Xa inhibitors for acute coronary syndromes
- Prophylactic corticosteroids for cardiopulmonary bypass in adults

Acute Coronary syndromes:

- Statins for acute coronary syndrome
- Heparin versus placebo for acute coronary syndromes

In addition we have the following titles registered:



Primary prevention:

- Face to face interventions for promoting physical activity
- Group based interventions for promoting physical activity
- Remote and Web 2.0 interventions for promoting physical activity
- Selenium supplementation for the primary prevention of cardiovascular disease
- Mediterranean diet for the primary prevention of cardiovascular disease

Treatment

- Aspirin dosage (medium to low) for the prevention of vein graft occlusion in patients undergoing coronary surgery
- Cardiac resynchronisation therapy for dilated cardiomyopathy
- Routine angioplasty after fibrinolytic therapy for ST-segment elevation myocardial infarction
- Angiotensin converting enzyme inhibitors for congestive heart failure in children
- Xiongshao for restenosis after percutaneous coronary intervention in patients with coronary heart disease
- Lipid lowering efficacy of rosuvastatin
- Direct thrombin inhibitors and factor Xa inhibitors for atrial fibrillation
- Aldosterone antagonists for chronic heart failure with or without left ventricular dysfunction
- Drugs and pacemakers for vasovagal, carotid sinus and situational syncope

We have also the following protocols registered with us:

Primary prevention:

- Fibrates for primary prevention of cardiovascular disease
- Computer-assisted versus oral and

written history taking for the prevention of cardiovascular disease

- Effectiveness of systematic screening for the detection of atrial fibrillation

Treatment

- Angiotensin converting enzyme inhibitors for congestive heart failure in children
- Antibiotic therapy for treatment of infective endocarditis
- Leukodepletion for patients undergoing heart valve surgery
- Vitamin K for improved anticoagulation control for patients receiving warfarin
- Niacin for primary and secondary prevention of cardiovascular disease
- Drug treatment strategies for acute myocardial infarction complicated by cardiogenic shock or low cardiac output syndrome
- Fibrin acid derivatives Fibrin acid derivatives for the secondary prevention of cardiovascular disease and stroke
- Computer-assisted versus oral-and-written history taking for the management of cardiovascular disease
- Effectiveness of the Valsalva Manoeuvre for reversion of supra-ventricular tachycardia in the prehospital and emergency medicine settings
- Xiongshao for restenosis after percutaneous coronary intervention in patients with coronary heart disease
- Prophylactic milrinone for the prevention of morbidity and mortality in children undergoing heart surgery
- Red cell transfusion management for patients undergoing cardiac surgery for congenital heart disease
- Statins for aortic valve stenosis

- Chronotherapy versus conventional statins therapy for the treatment of Hyperlipidaemia
- Yoga for cardiovascular disease
- Exercise for people with high cardiovascular risk
- Vasodilators in the treatment of patients with acute myocardial infarction
- undergoing percutaneous coronary intervention
- Internet based interventions for the secondary prevention of coronary heart disease

Ways to get involved with the Cochrane Heart Group:

- Prepare and maintain a systematic review
- Volunteer to be a member of the Editorial Team
- Suggest topics requiring review
- Promote awareness and understanding of the value of systematic reviews and their role in the formulation of clinical practice guidelines
- Help reviewers identify unpublished data and additional information about a trial

Would you like to visit us?

If you would like to come please just call and let us know so we can arrange some desk space for you. In the past our reviewers used their time here to:

- have “protected” time away from their busy desks'
- develop, perfect and run search strategies'
- consult statisticians
- input data into RevMan
- Encourage the involvement of students, trainees and consumers of healthcare

- Provide members of the group with methodological advice and support

We can help you:

- Register your proposed systematic review with us
- Define your research question
- Get access to electronic bibliographic databases
- Refine your search strategy
- Through our editorial process
- Get on Cochrane training courses
- Prepare and maintain a Cochrane Systematic Reviews
- Transform meta-analyses and reviews published elsewhere into systematic reviews for the Cochrane
- Library
- Get in touch with our collaborators around the world
- Refine your search strategy
- Get access to electronic bibliographic databases.

For more information about the Cochrane Heart Group, visit our website or please contact:

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