



# Cochrane Ear, Nose & Throat Disorders Group Newsletter

Issue 16, October 2011



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<http://ent.cochrane.org/>

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## Martin Burton new Director of the UK Cochrane Centre

In September 2011, Martin Burton (Co-ordinating Editor of the Cochrane ENT Group) became the first practising clinician to be appointed to the role of Director of the [UK Cochrane Centre](#). Martin is also a Senior Clinical Lecturer in the Nuffield Department of Surgery at the University of Oxford. He has been a member of the Cochrane Collaboration since 1998 when he helped establish the Cochrane ENT Group.



The UK Cochrane Centre was established in Oxford in 1992 and is one of 14 Cochrane Centres worldwide. The role of the centres is to help co-ordinate and support members of The Cochrane Collaboration in areas such as training and to promote the objectives of The Cochrane Collaboration at national level.

He said of his new position: "I am delighted to be taking up this new role within the Cochrane Collaboration. The UK Cochrane Centre supports more than 20 groups in the UK that are funded by the National Institute for Health Research to produce high quality reviews of the effects of treatment." "I have always been an enthusiastic advocate for evidence-based medicine. This role allows me to work with others who are equally passionate and committed to improving the quality of healthcare for patients in the UK and beyond." "My vision for the future of the UK Cochrane Centre is one that centres around engaging with patients, healthcare workers – of all sorts – and researchers, to ensure that patients receive the best and most effective treatments and avoid or minimise the harms that some therapies may cause."

## New joint Co-ordinating Editor for the ENT Group

In July 2011, we were delighted to welcome Professor Anne Schilder as joint Co-ordinating Editor following Martin Burton's new appointment as Director of the UK Cochrane Centre in Oxford.

Anne Schilder is Professor of Pediatric Otorhinolaryngology at the University Medical Center Utrecht, the Netherlands. She trained as an Otorhinolaryngologist in the Netherlands, Belgium and the UK. She is also an Epidemiologist and leader of a multidisciplinary research group at Utrecht University. The group carries out aetiologic and prognostic studies and clinical trials into the effectiveness of operations like adenoidectomy and tonsillectomy, and antibiotics and vaccination in children with upper respiratory disease. The results of its work have been published in high-impact journals and have been translated into national and international evidence-based guidelines on upper respiratory disease in children. She has a special interest in international practice variations in the management of these infections.

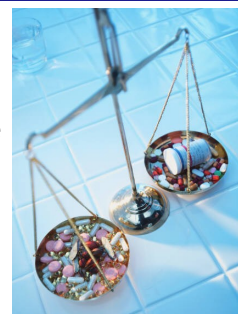


She is the president-elect of the European Society of Pediatric Otorhinolaryngology and sits on the editorial boards of various international scientific journals, for example *Clinical Otolaryngology and Allied Sciences*.

From June 2011, Anne has directed the new (UK) UCLP-ENT Clinical Trials Programme. She will measure the present activity in the field and explore funding and organisational (local and national) opportunities in the UK and beyond. The UCLP- ENT Clinical Trials Programme will be embedded within the UCLP Clinical Trials Unit and partnered with the HSR Theme.

## New Cochrane ENT Reviews published

The last 12 months have been busy for the Cochrane ENT Group, with publication in *The Cochrane Library* of 14 new reviews, 15 new protocols and 17 updated reviews. The following are our latest reviews. Details of our [new protocols and updates](#) are on page 5.



- Anticonvulsants for tinnitus ([Abstract](#); [Full text\\*](#))
- Corticosteroids for the treatment of idiopathic acute vestibular dysfunction (vestibular neuritis) ([Abstract](#); [Full text\\*](#))
- Functional endoscopic balloon dilation of sinus ostia for chronic rhinosinusitis ([Abstract](#); [Full text\\*](#))
- Hyperfractionated or accelerated radiotherapy for head and neck cancer ([Abstract](#); [Full text\\*](#))
- Inferior turbinate surgery for nasal obstruction in allergic rhinitis after failed medical treatment ([Abstract](#); [Full text\\*](#))
- Intratympanic gentamicin for Ménière's disease or syndrome ([Abstract](#); [Full text\\*](#))
- Intratympanic steroids for Ménière's disease or syndrome ([Abstract](#); [Full text\\*](#))
- Repetitive transcranial magnetic stimulation for tinnitus ([Abstract](#); [Full text\\*](#))
- Sound therapy (masking) in the management of tinnitus in adults ([Abstract](#); [Full text\\*](#))
- Systemic antibiotics for chronic rhinosinusitis without nasal polyps in adults ([Abstract](#); [Full text\\*](#))
- Tonsillectomy for periodic fever, aphthous stomatitis, pharyngitis and cervical adenitis syndrome (PFAPA) ([Abstract](#); [Full text\\*](#))
- Topical anaesthetic or vasoconstrictor preparations for flexible fibre-optic nasal pharyngoscopy and laryngoscopy ([Abstract](#); [Full text\\*](#))
- Topical and systemic antifungal therapy for the symptomatic treatment of chronic rhinosinusitis ([Abstract](#); [Full text\\*](#))
- Topical steroid for chronic rhinosinusitis without polyps ([Abstract](#); [Full text\\*](#))

\*Subscription or institutional/national access to *The Cochrane Library* required. Abstracts are freely available



## Cochrane Collaboration awarded seat on World Health Assembly

In February 2011, the Cochrane Collaboration Steering Group announced that the Collaboration had been accepted as a Non-Governmental Organization (NGO) in official relations with the [World Health Organization](#) (WHO) at the WHO's Executive Board meeting in Geneva, Switzerland. This formalisation of the relationship between the WHO and Cochrane means that the Collaboration has been awarded a seat at the [World Health Assembly](#), allowing us to provide input on WHO health resolutions.

Jeremy Grimshaw, Co-Chair of the Steering Group said "Formulating an official partnership with an influential institute such as the World Health Organization is an honour. This speaks volumes about the work of Cochrane in evidence-based health care".

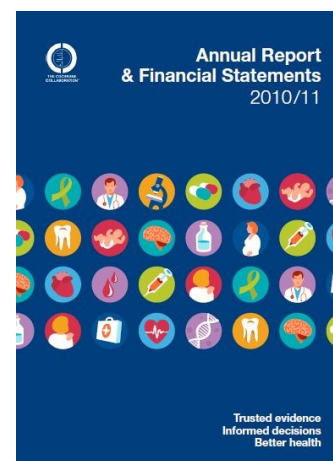
Marie-Paule Kiény, Assistant Director General, Innovation Information Evidence and Research at the World Health Organization said "The Cochrane Collaboration provides an international benchmark for the independent assessment and assimilation of scientific evidence. It is a leading producer of high quality systematic reviews in health care," ... "WHO has been working with The Cochrane Collaboration for several years and is looking forward to formalizing what has already been a very productive relationship."

## Hot off the press!

The Cochrane Collaboration's *2010/11 Annual Report & Financial Statements* is now available at:

<http://annual-report.cochrane.org/>.

You can view and download copies of the Report, read about plans for the coming year, and listen to audio interviews with contributors and stakeholders.





## THE COCHRANE LIBRARY

Independent high-quality evidence for health care decision making

### The Cochrane Library new impact

#### factor is 6.186

In June 2011, the 2010 Impact Factor for *The Cochrane Library* (Cochrane Database of Systematic Reviews) was announced and has increased to 6.186. This is the 4<sup>th</sup> consecutive year that the impact factor has increased. *The Cochrane Library* is now in the top 10 of the 151 journals in the category 'Medicine, General & Internal'. The total number of times the CDSR was cited increased from 23,102 in 2009 to 27,366, meaning that the CDSR receives the 7<sup>th</sup> highest number of citations in its category.

#### Enhancing *The Cochrane Library* interface

If you have looked at [The Cochrane Library](#) recently you will have noticed the new enhancements to the display and functionality, launched in August 2011. The interface and article view have a new 'look and feel' but still support all existing features. New features include:

- ❖ Updated interface
- ❖ Improved fonts making Cochrane Reviews and Protocols easier to read
- ❖ Easy access links to 'Jump to' different sections of a Cochrane Review or Protocol
- ❖ Better image display
- ❖ Improved reference linking: links to relevant material now appear directly in the reference list
- ❖ 'Cited by' links to find articles that have cited the Cochrane Review or Protocol
- ❖ Links to find related articles (based on assigned topics)
- ❖ Links for bookmarking and sharing through social networking services or email
- ❖ Ability to publish non-English abstracts
- ❖ Updated page layout, making navigation easier, and allowing better discoverability by Google and other search engines.

## Staying in touch with Cochrane

There are many ways to stay connected to the Cochrane ENT Group and the wider Cochrane Collaboration:

### Email



For information about Cochrane activities, policies and news [CCInfo](#) is the primary mailing list and is used to distribute a bi-weekly newsletter. CCInfo offers an excellent means of keeping members of the Collaboration well informed and the goal is that every Cochrane participant with access to email will subscribe to this list. CCInfo is a 'distribution' rather than a 'discussion' list – this means that only the official newsletter is distributed through the list. You will not receive personal discussion messages or junk email. This means you can subscribe with the confidence that you will not waste time reading irrelevant material. To subscribe, go to the following web page: <http://lists.cochrane.org/mailman/listinfo/ccinfo>

To stay informed about the activities of the Cochrane ENT Group by e-mail, complete our 'Getting involved' form at <http://ent.cochrane.org/get-involved> and we will add you to our mailing list.

### Social media

Subscribe to the Official Cochrane blog: <http://www.cochrane.org/blog>



Follow the Cochrane Collaboration: @cochranecollab and the Cochrane ENT Group: @CochraneENT



The Cochrane Collaboration's channel on YouTube



The Cochrane Collaboration Facebook group



The Cochrane Collaboration



Download podcasts of new reviews from *The Cochrane Library*



## Colloquia and meetings

### Madrid Colloquium October 2011

The [19th Cochrane Colloquium](#) takes place from 19 to 22 October 2011 at the Palacio de Congressos in Madrid, Spain, with the theme '*Scientific evidence for healthcare quality and patient safety*'. We are looking forward to a varied and interesting scientific and training programme. For those of you attending the Colloquium, the ENT Group meeting will take place on Thursday 20 October at 07:30 am in Denmark Boardroom, 1st Floor (Palacio de Congressos de Madrid). All are welcome.



Cochrane ENT Group Staff (Martin Burton, Jenny Bellorini, Gemma Sandberg, Sam Faulkner) with Editor Rich Rosenfeld and staff and delegates from the AAO-HNS, at the October 2010 Colloquium in Colorado, USA

### Diary date: UK Cochrane Meeting 2012

The [next meeting](#) for UK and Ireland contributors to the Cochrane Collaboration (plus contributors for whom the UK is the reference Cochrane Centre) takes place on 20<sup>th</sup> and 21<sup>st</sup> March 2012 at [Burleigh Court, University of Loughborough, UK](#).



### Colloquium 2012

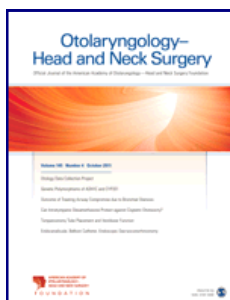
The 20th Cochrane Colloquium will take place from 11th to 14th October 2012 in Nanning, China.

### New e-mail addresses for editorial base staff

Please make a note of our new contact addresses with effect from 1 November 2011:

Jenny Bellorini: [jenny.bellorini@nds.ox.ac.uk](mailto:jenny.bellorini@nds.ox.ac.uk)  
 Gemma Sandberg: [gemma.sandberg@nds.ox.ac.uk](mailto:gemma.sandberg@nds.ox.ac.uk)  
 Martin Burton: [mburton.CENTDG@nds.ox.ac.uk](mailto:mburton.CENTDG@nds.ox.ac.uk)  
 Sam Faulkner: [samantha.faulkner@nds.ox.ac.uk](mailto:samantha.faulkner@nds.ox.ac.uk)

Our old e-mail addresses will continue to forward messages for a period of time.



## Cochrane Corner

Since 2007, the US journal *Otolaryngology - Head and Neck Surgery* has published a quarterly 'Cochrane Corner', where an extract of a current Cochrane Review is published alongside an expert commentary which aims to put the findings into perspective for the readership and offer practical implications for patient care. This is accompanied by additional commentaries from Editor-in-Chief Richard Rosenfeld and Cochrane ENT Group Co-ordinating Editor Martin Burton.

We greatly appreciate this opportunity to disseminate our review findings more widely, particularly in the US, and to have our reviews subject to critical appraisal. Recent 'corners' have reiterated the paucity of evidence of the effects of balloon dilatation for chronic rhinosinusitis<sup>1</sup>; discussed the potential problems of limited inclusion criteria and outcome measures in a recently updated review of grommets for otitis media with effusion<sup>2</sup>; and looked at the strengthening of evidence for the use of sublingual immunotherapy as a safe alternative to injection immunotherapy in the treatment of allergic rhinitis<sup>3</sup>.

<sup>1</sup> Burton MJ, Bhattacharyya N, Rosenfeld RM. Extracts from *The Cochrane Library: Functional Endoscopic Balloon Dilatation of Sinus Ostia for Chronic Rhinosinusitis*. *Otolaryngology - Head and Neck Surgery*, Sep 2011; vol. 145: pp. 371-4

<sup>2</sup> Burton M, Derkay CS, Rosenfeld RM. Extracts from *The Cochrane Library: "Grommets (Ventilation Tubes) for Hearing Loss Associated with Otitis Media with Effusion in Children"*. *Otolaryngology - Head and Neck Surgery*, May 2011; vol. 144: pp. 657-61

<sup>3</sup> Burton MJ, Krouse JH, Rosenfeld RM. Extracts from *The Cochrane Library: Sublingual Immunotherapy for Allergic Rhinitis*. *Otolaryngology - Head and Neck Surgery*, Feb 2011; vol. 144: pp. 149-53

## New protocols for forthcoming ENT reviews

We published the following new protocols over the last 12 months:

- Acupuncture for allergic rhinitis
- Antibiotics for preventing recurrent sore throat
- Antifibrinolytic agent tranexamic acid for nasal haemorrhage (epistaxis)
- Exercise interventions for shoulder dysfunction in patients treated for head and neck cancer
- Helminths (worms) for allergic rhinitis
- Injectable materials for vocal fold medialisation in unilateral vocal fold paralysis
- Interventions for otomycosis
- Local versus general anaesthesia for nasal fracture manipulation and reduction in adults
- Locally applied haemostatic agents in the management of acute epistaxis (nosebleeds)
- Modifications of the Epley (canalith repositioning) manoeuvre for posterior canal benign paroxysmal positional vertigo (BPPV)
- Nasal packing for reducing morbidity following septal surgery
- Specific immunotherapy for latex allergy
- Surgery for choanal atresia
- Surgery versus antimicrobials for atypical mycobacterial lymphadenitis of the head and neck
- Systemic antibiotics for chronically discharging ears with underlying eardrum perforation



## Recently updated ENT reviews

In the past year the following reviews have been updated:

- Antihistamines and/or decongestants for otitis media with effusion (OME) in children
- Betahistine for Ménière's disease or syndrome
- Cognitive behavioural therapy for tinnitus (*Substantive update*)
- Dissection versus diathermy for tonsillectomy
- Grommets (ventilation tubes) for hearing loss associated with otitis media with effusion in children (*Substantive update*)
- Hyperbaric oxygen as an adjuvant treatment for malignant otitis externa
- Interventions for acute auricular haematoma
- Interventions to promote the wearing of hearing protection
- Intranasal corticosteroids for nasal airway obstruction in children with moderate to severe adenoidal hypertrophy
- Oral or topical nasal steroids for hearing loss associated with otitis media with effusion in children (*Substantive update*)
- Oral rinses, mouthwashes and sprays for improving recovery following tonsillectomy
- Oral steroids for nasal polyps (*Substantive update*)
- Steroids for improving recovery following tonsillectomy in children (*Substantive update*)
- Sublingual immunotherapy for allergic rhinitis (*Substantive update*)
- Surgical interventions for pharyngeal pouch
- The Epley (canalith repositioning) manoeuvre for benign paroxysmal positional vertigo
- Vestibular rehabilitation for unilateral peripheral vestibular dysfunction

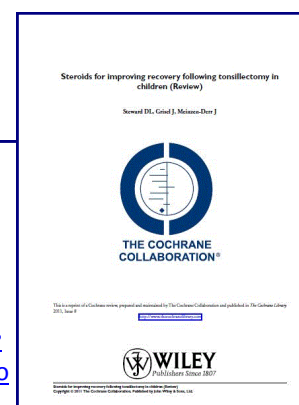
**'Substantive' updates indicate that the review has been revised sufficiently to warrant a new citation, usually because new studies have been included which change the conclusions**

## Access to our reviews

You can find a full list of all our reviews and protocols on the ENT Group [website](#).

Abstracts of all reviews can be read on the Cochrane Collaboration [website](#).

Full-text reviews are available for online browsing or as PDF downloads in [The Cochrane Library](#) (subscription or institutional/national access needed) see [Access/subscription to The Cochrane Library](#).



## Training for Cochrane authors



If you are an author or co-author of a registered Cochrane review at any stage of your project, there are now a number of ways that you can access Cochrane training in the preparation of your systematic review, including face to face workshops and online webinars, learning modules and presentations.

Face-to-face training workshops are held regularly in many countries and are aimed at introductory and advanced levels. The workshops are generally organised by the Cochrane Centres and will cover topics such as beginning to draft a protocol, how to work up a Methods section and the basics of analysis using RevMan. Full details are shown on the Cochrane Training website (<http://training.cochrane.org/>) or contact your local Cochrane Centre.

The new Online Learning Modules for Cochrane Authors have been developed to provide an introduction to some of the core skills and methods required for new authors of Cochrane systematic reviews of interventions. The modules are intended to complement other learning opportunities such as face-to-face workshops and webinars, and the guidance provided in the [Cochrane Handbook for Systematic Reviews of Interventions](#). The modules were developed by the UK Cochrane Centre in collaboration with the University of Portsmouth, and were partly funded by the Cochrane Opportunities Fund. The following six introductory modules are currently available, with further modules to be added during 2011:

- Systematic reviews - an introduction
- Writing a Cochrane protocol
- Searching for studies for a Cochrane review
- Collecting data for a review
- Meta-analysis - an introduction
- Heterogeneity - an introduction

Information about all Cochrane training opportunities can be found at <http://training.cochrane.org/>

In addition, the Canadian Cochrane Centre presents [Cochrane Canada Live](#), which is a series of online webinars open to all participants on specific aspects of Cochrane review methods and evidence-based health care.

The [Diagnostic Test Accuracy Working Group](#) provides information on training events specifically for authors of diagnostic reviews.

## Methodological Expectations of Cochrane Intervention Reviews (MECIR)

The Cochrane Editorial Unit (CEU) has announced the completion of a major project: Methodological Expectations of Cochrane Intervention Reviews (MECIR). The aim of the MECIR project has been to specify methodological expectations for Cochrane protocols, reviews and updates of reviews on the effects of interventions, and to ensure that these methodological expectations are supported and implemented across the Collaboration. It is intended that they will provide authors and users of *The Cochrane Library* with clear and transparent expectations of review conduct and reporting, enable CRGs to hold authors accountable during the editorial process, facilitate monitoring activities and guidance/feedback from CEU and should improve liaison between methodologists and editorial teams.

To achieve the project's aims, the following six core methodological aspects of Cochrane intervention reviews were identified: **1. Developing a question and deciding the scope of the review; 2. Searching for studies; 3. Selecting studies and collecting data; 4. Assessing risk of bias in studies; 5. Analysing data and undertaking meta-analyses; 6. Interpretation and presenting results.**

Six Working Groups (WGs) were set up to cover these areas (each co-led by a methodologist and a co-ordinating editor from a CRG, with involvement from the CEU). For all intervention reviews each working Group identified and recommended: **A. Essential minimum standards; B. Desirable standards; C. Common errors that review authors make; D. Fatal flaws.**

The standards were circulated to all registered entities for formal consultation between June and August 2011. The output of the MECIR project is now available here: [www.editorial-unit.cochrane.org/mecir](http://www.editorial-unit.cochrane.org/mecir).

The implementation of these methodological expectations will involve dissemination of the standards across the Collaboration, modifications to the *Cochrane Handbook* and RevMan; and recommendations on incorporating the methodological expectations into training and editorial processes (e.g. Cochrane Training materials, checklists for editorial staff and referees). The Cochrane ENT Group will be keeping authors, editors and referees up to date with all important changes as they are implemented.

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Please contact us if you would like any more information or if you would like to become involved in our activities.

We would welcome your contributions to this newsletter - please send us any items that you would like us to publish, or let us know about any issues you would like to see covered. Any comments which will help us improve this newsletter will be gratefully received. Contributions, comments and suggestions should be forwarded to Jenny Bellorini at the address above.



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SURGICAL SCIENCES

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### Statistician

Dr Rafael Perera, UK

## Access/subscription to *The Cochrane Library*

Details of *The Cochrane Library* can be found on the Cochrane Collaboration website <http://www.cochrane.org>

For subscription information please see: <http://www.thecochranelibrary.com/>

Residents in a number of countries or regions can access *The Cochrane Library* online for free through a 'provision' or a special scheme. These exist for the following geographic areas: Australia; Canada (New Brunswick, Northwest Territories, Nunavut, Yukon, Nova Scotia, Saskatchewan); Denmark; Finland; India; Ireland; Latin America and the Caribbean; low-income countries; New Zealand; Norway; Pakistan; South African Cochrane Centre Sponsorship; Spain; Sweden; United Kingdom; United States (Wyoming).

For full details see <http://www.thecochranelibrary.com/> ('Access').

## The Cochrane Centres

There are currently 14 Cochrane Centres around the world, located in:

Australia (Monash) (<http://acc.cochrane.org/>); Brazil (São Paulo) (<http://www.centrocochranedobrasil.org/>); Canada (Ottawa) (<http://ccnc.cochrane.org/>); China (Chengdu) (<http://www.ebm.org.cn/>); France (Paris) (email: [juliane.ried@htd.aphp.fr](mailto:juliane.ried@htd.aphp.fr)); Germany (Freiburg) (<http://www.cochrane.de/de/index.htm>); Iberoamerican (Barcelona) (<http://www.cochrane.es/>); Italy (Milan) (<http://www.cochrane.it/>); The Netherlands (Amsterdam) (<http://dcc.cochrane.org/>); Nordic (Copenhagen) (<http://www.cochrane.dk/>); South Africa (Cape Town) (<http://www.mrc.ac.za/cochrane/cochrane.htm>); South Asian (Vellore) ([www.cochrane-sacn.org](http://www.cochrane-sacn.org)); UK (Oxford) (<http://www.cochrane.co.uk/>); USA (Baltimore) (<http://www.cochrane.us/>).

All the centres provide support for Cochrane review authors and other volunteers in their areas. Details can be found on the Cochrane website (<http://www.cochrane.org>) or obtained from the Cochrane ENT Group.