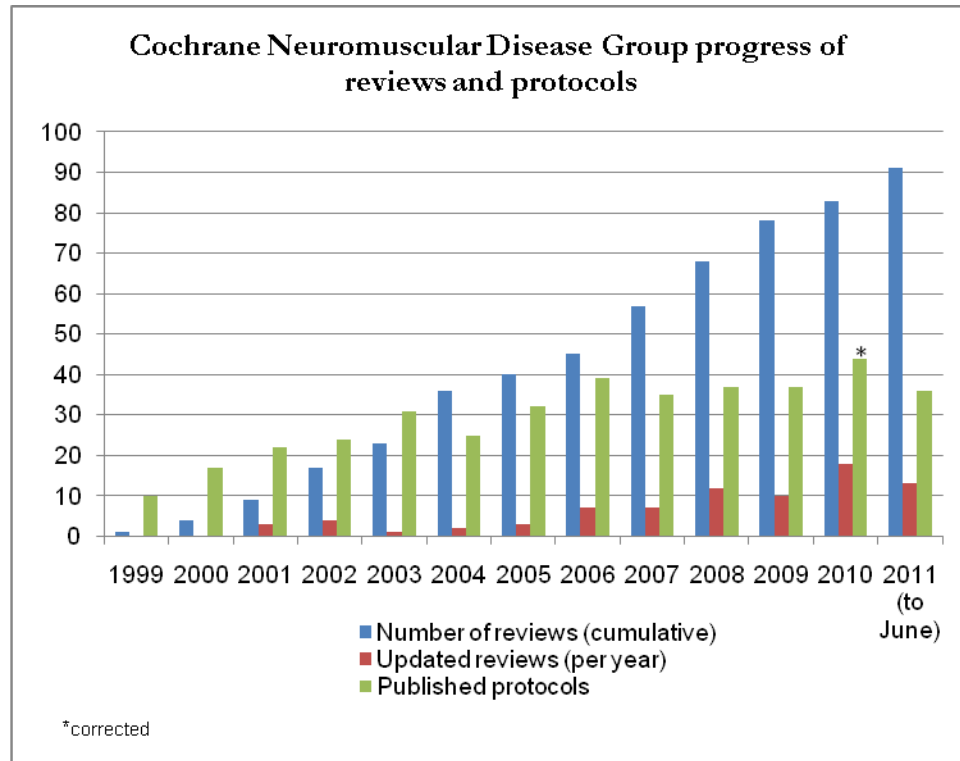




NEWSLETTER

COCHRANE NEUROMUSCULAR DISEASE GROUP

Issue 29, August 2011



1. News from the Editorial Base

In April we said goodbye to Kate Jewitt, who after 10 years supporting authors as Managing Editor, has moved on to begin postgraduate training as a speech and language therapist. Her contribution to the group has been tremendous and we are sorry to lose her, though we wish her success in her new career. Ruth Brassington continues as Managing Editor and now works full time.

Please note that our contact phone and fax numbers have changed:

Tel: +44 (0)203 448 8134

Fax: +44 (0)203 448 4725

We continue to publish reviews according to targets, with a higher than usual number of updates in 2010 and the first half of 2011. The rate still falls short of the ideal of keeping all reviews up to date, a problem shared across Cochrane Review Groups (CRGs).

2. Editorial Board Changes

We were saddened to hear of the untimely death of Professor Douglas Mitchell in February 2011. Professor Mitchell was a specialist in amyotrophic lateral sclerosis/motor neuron disease and a longstanding member of our editorial board. He was a very interested and active contributor to the Cochrane Neuromuscular Disease Group as an editor and author and will be greatly missed.

3. Impact Factor of the Neuromuscular Disease Group and Access data

The 2010 Thomson ISI impact factor for the Cochrane Database of Systematic Reviews (CDSR) is 6.186, which is an increase of 9.4% on 2009. The impact factor is the ratio of the number of reviews published during 2008 and 2009 to the number of citations these reviews received in 2010. In the last four years the impact factor for the CDSR has increased by an average of 10% year on year. The CDSR is now ranked in the top 10 (of 151) in the Medicine, General & Internal category.

Wiley have also provided data on the most cited and accessed reviews for each Cochrane Review Group (CRG). The top 10 most cited and accessed reviews in the Neuromuscular Disease Group are shown in the tables below.

Top 10 most cited reviews from Neuromuscular Disease Group contributing to the 2010 impact factor	
Review Title	Times cited in 2010
Intravenous immunoglobulin for chronic inflammatory demyelinating polyradiculoneuropathy	19
Glucocorticoid corticosteroids for Duchenne muscular dystrophy	19
Antiviral treatment for preventing postherpetic neuralgia	16
Antiviral treatment for Bell's palsy (idiopathic facial paralysis)	11
Intravenous immunoglobulin for myasthenia gravis	11
Immunosuppressant and immunomodulatory treatments for multifocal motor neuropathy	10
Surgical versus non-surgical treatment for carpal tunnel syndrome	8
Physical therapy for Bell's palsy (idiopathic facial paralysis)	8
Duloxetine for treating painful neuropathy or chronic pain	8
Therapeutic exercise for people with amyotrophic lateral sclerosis or motor neuron disease	7

Reviews published by the Neuromuscular Disease Group were accessed in full-text format on average 468.85 times during 2010.

Top 10 most accessed reviews from the Neuromuscular Disease Group	
Review Title	Full text accesses
Corticosteroids for Bell's palsy (idiopathic facial paralysis)	1647
Intravenous immunoglobulin for Guillain-Barré syndrome	1512
Antiviral treatment for Bell's palsy (idiopathic facial paralysis)	1484
Strength training and aerobic exercise training for muscle disease	1424
Duloxetine for treating painful neuropathy or chronic pain	1422
Non-surgical treatment (other than steroid injection) for carpal tunnel syndrome	1352
Surgical versus non-surgical treatment for carpal tunnel syndrome	1307
Rehabilitation interventions for foot drop in neuromuscular disease	1194
Treatment for thoracic outlet syndrome	1191
Glucocorticoid corticosteroids for Duchenne muscular dystrophy	1102

This year we also have some statistics on the number of times plain language summaries and abstracts of individual reviews were visited on <http://www2.cochrane.org/reviews/>. The data cover the period from April 1 2010 to March 31, 2011 and the top five most accessed abstracts are shown in the table.

Top five most accessed abstracts from the Neuromuscular Disease Group	
Review Title	Full Text Accesses
Scapular fixation in muscular dystrophy	1725
Vitamin B for treating peripheral neuropathy	1443
Intravenous immunoglobulin for myasthenia gravis	1083
Exercise for people with peripheral neuropathy	946
Treatment for Fisher syndrome, Bickerstaff's brainstem encephalitis and related disorders	905

4. Funding

Our EU TREAT-NMD Network of Excellence grant ceased at the end of 2010 and we have been seeking other sources of funds to fill the gap. We are pleased to have received grants from two UK charities: the MND association (Motor Neurone Disease Association), which has awarded the Group £10,000 over four years, and the Muscular Dystrophy Campaign which has provided a grant of £3000 for 2011. We have also just had news of a £3000 grant for this year by the MRC Centre for Neuromuscular Disease, in which we are based.

5. Change in the frequency of updates for selected reviews

The ever increasing workload of authors and the editorial base has prompted the Co-ordinating Editors to review all our titles to identify those that are no longer to be updated or which can be updated less frequently. They have found about 25 titles which could be moved to a four yearly update cycle rather than the usual two years. If new evidence emerges an update can be initiated at any time – this change only influences the frequency of routine reminders from the editorial base. We will be writing to authors shortly and they will be invited to comment on whether they agree with the Co-ordinating Editors' assessments.

6. Audit of abstracts, plain language summaries and 'Summary of findings' tables

Abstracts and plain language summaries are often published and read separately from the rest of a Cochrane review, so it is particularly important that they fully and accurately reflect the contents of the full review. The Cochrane Editorial Unit (CEU) carried out an audit of abstracts, plain language summaries and 'Summary of findings' tables during the first few issues of the Cochrane Library this year, an exercise which drew attention to the importance of consistent reporting of benefits, harms and conclusions across the abstract, plain language summaries and 'Summary of findings' tables. Following the audit, the CEU have listed core criteria from among those they used and we will be paying extra attention during the editorial process to these aspects of new reviews and updates:

- Clear description of the question addressed by the review
- Explicit description of the intervention(s) and comparisons
- Inclusion of the date(s) and scope of search(es)
- Comment on the risk of bias of included trials
- Description of the number of trials and participants in the review
- Clear and consistent description of results for important outcomes, including a comment if no studies measured them

- Absolute effects should be reported alongside relative effects in the abstract as they appear in other parts of the review (e.g. Summary of Findings (SoF) tables or as natural frequencies/numbers needed to treat (NNTs) given in the text of the review)
- Full and consistent reporting of benefits and harms and overall conclusions across the abstract, plain language summaries (PLSs) and SoF tables

7. Review Manager (RevMan) version 5.1.2

We recommend that all authors upgrade RevMan to 5.1.2, the version now in use at the editorial base. Authors will be prompted to do this as they open RevMan, or they can visit the RevMan download page at: <http://ims.cochrane.org/revman/download>. Among the new developments, some of the most noticeable are revisions to the risk of bias assessment names and options (from Yes/No/Unclear to High/ Low/Unclear). Authors can now edit 'Summary of findings' tables imported from GRADEPro within RevMan. Multiple affiliations for a single author are now supported and a calculator tool has now been included alongside the data tables. For full details see <http://ims.cochrane.org/revman/new-releases/whats-new-in-revman-5#5.1.2>.

Tip: Inclusion of the results of the search (the number of studies retrieved from each database and other sources) and details of the process of study selection are included in reviews at the start of the Results section (under the heading 'Results of the search'. The data presented are the total number of hits from each electronic database, the number of studies from other sources, the number of records after removal of duplicates, the number of potentially eligible trials retrieved in full text, the number of excluded papers and finally the number of included studies. Authors now have the option with RevMan 5.1.2 to include a PRISMA flow chart in their review, to present the process of study selection more clearly, and we would encourage authors to do this.

8. Changes in editorial policy and processes

The date that appears alongside the record of the Cochrane Review in the Cochrane Database of Systematic Reviews will soon change to the date of last search that is fully incorporated into the review, rather than date of last amendment, date last assessed as up to date, or the date last published.

Conflict of Interest and Licence for Publication forms are now submitted online via Archie. A change in policy means that authors now need to submit Conflicts of Interest forms before publication of all updates, not just new citations. Authors - please make the editorial base aware of any changes in contact details either by emailing cochranenmd@ion.ucl.ac.uk or by logging into Archie and editing your own details directly, to avoid last minute communication problems and delays to publication.

9. Forthcoming training and meetings

The 19th Cochrane Colloquium will be held in Madrid on 19-22 October. The theme is 'Scientific evidence for healthcare quality and patient safety'. Ruth Brassington will be attending – please let her know via cochranenmd@ion.ucl.ac.uk if you would like to meet in person there. People can register until the colloquium takes place, as long as there are places available. There is no registration deadline.

The Cochrane Collaboration runs regular training for authors writing a systematic review. Go to <http://www.cochrane.org/events/w-shops/all> for the latest workshop schedule and information on other evidence based healthcare training opportunities. To access online learning, see <http://training.cochrane.org/>.

8. Priority topics for new reviews

Prioritised topics for which no title has been registered: let us know if you are interested in writing one of these	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Management of respiratory failure in acute neuromuscular and chest wall disorders <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Volume-cycled versus pressure cycled ventilation ○ Weaning from mechanical ventilation in neuromuscular patients (possible authors identified) ○ Diaphragm pacemaker ○ Feeding: endoscopic gastrostomy • Vasculitic neuropathy secondary to systemic vasculitis • Hereditary amyloid neuropathy – pharmacological treatment/liver transplantation treatment • Corticosteroids for limb girdle muscular dystrophy • Cardiac management for Emery Dreifus muscular dystrophy 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Cough augmentation for SMA • Treatment for Pompe disease • Immunosuppressive agents for motor neuron disease/ALS • Treatment for lipid storage myopathy • Anti-sense oligonucleotides for Duchenne muscular dystrophy • Immunosuppressive treatment other than corticosteroids for Duchenne muscular dystrophy • Ischial weight bearing long legged callipers (KAFOs) in Duchenne muscular dystrophy • Hydrotherapy for Duchenne muscular dystrophy • Interventions for hepatitis C related neuropathy

9. New titles and publications January to June 2011

New titles registered January to June 2011

Title	Author
Pharmacological therapy for idiopathic lumbosacral plexopathy	van Eijk J, Chan YC, Russell J, Zochodne D
Lacosamide for neuropathic pain and fibromyalgia in adults	Moore RA, Derry S, Hearn L
Pharmacological treatment for pain in Guillain-Barré syndrome	Liu J, Wang L, McNicol ED
3,4-Diaminopyridine for myasthenia gravis	Vrinten C, Weinreich S, Scholten RJPM, Verschuuren JJGM
Ephedrine for myasthenia gravis	Vrinten C, Weinreich S, Scholten RJPM, Verschuuren JJGM

New Reviews published in the Cochrane Library January to June 2011 (Issues 1-6)

Title:	Author
Acetylcholinesterase inhibitor treatment for myasthenia gravis	Mehndiratta MM, Pandey S, Kuntzer
Surgical interventions for the early management of Bell's palsy	McAllister K, Walker D, Donnan PT, Swan
Treatment for postpolio syndrome	Koopman FS, Uegaki K, Gilhus NE, Beelen A, de Visser M, Nollet F
Medical treatment for botulism	Chalk C, Benstead TJ, Keezer M
Pharmacological treatment other than corticosteroids, intravenous immunoglobulin and plasma exchange for Guillain Barré syndrome	Hughes RAC, Pritchard J, Hadden RDM
Vaccination for preventing postherpetic neuralgia	Chen N, Li Q, Zhang Y, Zhou M, Zhou D, He L
Treatment for sialorrhea (excessive saliva) in people with motor neuron disease/amyotrophic lateral sclerosis	Young CA, Ellis C, Johnson J, Sathasivam S, Pih N
Chinese herbal medicine for diabetic peripheral neuropathy	Chen W, Zhang Y, Liu J P

Updated Reviews published in the Cochrane Library January to June 2011 (Issues 1-6)

Title	Author
Enteral tube feeding for amyotrophic lateral sclerosis/motor neuron disease	Katzberg HD, Benatar M
Creatine for treating muscle disorders	Kley RA, Tarnopolsky MA, Vorgerd M
Non-antiepileptic drugs for trigeminal neuralgia	Yang M, Zhou M, He L, Chen N, Zakrzewska JM
Calcium antagonists for Duchenne muscular dystrophy	Phillips MF, Quinlivan R
Interventions for preventing neuropathy caused by cisplatin and related compounds	Albers JW, Chaudhry V, Cavaletti G, Donehower RC
Psychostimulants for hypersomnia (excessive daytime sleepiness) in myotonic dystrophy	Annane D, Moore DH, Miller RG
Treatment for familial amyotrophic lateral sclerosis/motor neuron disease	Benatar M, Kurent J, Moore DH
Treatment for Lambert-Eaton myasthenic syndrome	Keogh M, Sedehizadeh S, Maddison P
Treatment for meralgia paraesthetica	Khalil N, Nicotra A, Rakowicz W
Plasma exchange for generalised myasthenia gravis	Gajdos P, Chevret S, Toyka KV
Drug therapy for chronic idiopathic axonal polyneuropathy	Vrancken AFJE, van Schaik IN, Hughes RAC, Notermans NC
Antioxidant treatment for amyotrophic lateral sclerosis or motor neuron disease	Orrell RW, Lane RJM, Ross M
Corticosteroids for myasthenia gravis	Schneider-Gold C, Gajdos P, Toyka KV, Hohlfeld RR

New Protocols published in the Cochrane Library January to June 2011 (Issues 1-6)

Title	Author
Treatment for speech disorder in Friedreich ataxia and other hereditary ataxia syndromes	Vogel AP, Folker J, Murdoch B
Interventions for Bell's Palsy (idiopathic facial paralysis) (an overview of reviews)	Lockhart P, Holland NJ, Swan I, Teixeira LJ
Prevention and treatment for cardiac complications in Duchenne and Becker muscular dystrophy	Quinlivan R, Chikermane A, Bourke JP