



COCHRANE NEUROLOGICAL FIELD

Perugia - Italy

NEWSLETTER

August 2010

CECEM Perugia, 2-4 June 2010

The annual **Continental European Cochrane Entities Meeting** was held in Perugia, Italy this year from 2 - 4 June and as in past CECEM meetings, offered the different continental European Cochrane Entity staff the opportunity to meet, share experiences and discuss the different aspects of working with the Cochrane Collaboration. The meeting offered new staff members the possibility of getting to know their Cochrane colleagues, creating those liaisons which are a strongpoint of the Collaboration: people working together to the benefit of evidence based medicine all over the world.

There were staff from 25 different European Cochrane entities (Centres, Review Groups, Fields, Networks, Teams, Collaboration staff and Wiley staff), representatives of the new Croatian branch of Italian Cochrane Centre were also present.

As in previous CECEM meetings, there were concurrent sessions which offered Centre Staff /Fields, Review Groups and TSCs the opportunity to discuss objectives and tasks specific to their groups, receive input, share ideas and suggestions with colleagues.

Following a warm welcome from the Neurological Field and the Region of Umbria Health Authority, the meeting began the latest Cochrane developments from the following sectors:

- IMS: *Monica Kjeldstrøm* gave a useful and informative update on Team activities and projects;
- Cochrane Editorial Unit: *Harriet MacLhose* offered a strategy up-date from;
- Web Team: *Chris Mavergames* gave an overview of the new Web design and structure, highlighting the ...
- Wiley: *Deborah Pentesco-Gilbert* spoke of the growth the Coch-



rane Library achieved and new developments being....

CECEM 2010 offered the following hands-on Workshops:

- 'Cochrane statistics for beginners' coordinated by *Angelo Bignamini*

- 'The Cochrane Collaboration as an organisation' coordinated by *Alessandro Liberati*

- 'Archie's workflows' coordinated by *Karen Hovhannisyan*

Meeting participants also had the opportunity to participate to the Keynote presentations that were given by *Tom Jefferson* 'Systematic Reviews, blogger fears and the media'; *Agostino Colli* 'Systematic reviews of diagnostic test accuracy' and *Silvana Simi* 'Consumers/citizens/patients as equal partners in healthcare CCNet and the role of consumers, the new Consumer Involvement Advisory Group'.

Considering the few hours left and trains waiting on the third day of the meeting, there was still time and strong will to plan the structure of future CECEM Meetings.

There was a proposal for a permanent CECEM Scientific Committee nominated for 3 years, 1 representative for each group: Centre Staff, Co-eds, CRGs, Fields and TSCs), to put all the ideas suggested during discussions together, with the

aim of creating an even better collaboration with and within the different entities of the Cochrane world.

When it was time to say goodbye the general feeling was that we had just had a great chance to compare, assimilate, meet great people and bring back home a lot of useful ideas and suggestions. And it all happened in such a beautiful place: Umbria. We hope to meet you all, and even more numerous, at the next CECEM meeting!

OUR AIM: to establish an information channel between Cochrane Neurological review groups and health care professionals working in the field of neurological diseases.

The Cochrane Neurological Field and the European Association of Young Neurologists and Trainees - Zagreb 2010

The next One-Day evidence-based Neurology Workshop will be held in Zagreb (Croatia) October 2010.



Also this year the Cochrane Neurological Field together with the European Association of Young Neurologists and Trainees (EAYNT) will be holding a Workshop for young neurologists in conjunction with the International Danube Symposium for Neurological Sciences and Continuing Education.

The workshop aims to improve the critical appraisal of clinical trials by preparing a systematic neurological review with participants. Attendees will be given the chance during the Workshop to learn how to carry out a literature search, evaluate the methodological quality of the studies provided and create a systematic review step by step, if possible combining the results of these studies into a meta-analysis.

We hope you will join us on the 22nd of October in Zagreb!

Participation at the Cochrane-EAYNT Workshop is free of charge.

For more information please contact:

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NEWS FROM COCHRANE REVIEW GROUPS

MULTIPLE SCLEROSIS GROUP

Publications in the last six issues of the Cochrane Library by the MS Group:

Protocols:

- Acupuncture for multiple sclerosis
- Plasma exchange for multiple sclerosis
- Statins for multiple sclerosis
- Vitamin D for the management of multiple sclerosis

Reviews:

- Carnitine for fatigue in multiple sclerosis
- Daclizumab for relapsing remitting multiple sclerosis
- Oral versus intravenous steroids for treatment of relapses in multiple sclerosis
- Treatment of seizures in multiple sclerosis

Updated review:

- Glatiramer acetate for multiple sclerosis
- Hyperbaric oxygen therapy for multiple sclerosis
- Interferon beta for Primary progressive multiple sclerosis
- Intravenous immunoglobulins for multiple sclerosis

The Group also has several new/updated reviews and protocols on pharmacological and rehabilitative treatments currently going through the editorial phase which will be published in the forthcoming Issues of the Cochrane Library.

New review titles submitted to the Editorial Base for approval:

- Cladribine for multiple sclerosis
- Helminths for multiple sclerosis
- Non Pharmacological treatments for fatigue in multiple sclerosis
- Percutaneous transluminal angioplasty for treatment of Chronic Cerebrospinal Venous Insufficiency (CCSVI) in multiple sclerosis patients
- Respiratory muscle training for people with multiple sclerosis
- Rituximab for multiple sclerosis
- Safety of vaccines for preventing influenza, hepatitis B and tetanus

in patients with multiple sclerosis

Please contact the Editorial Base if you are aware of any unpublished trials in these areas.

News from the editorial base

IN-DEEP Project (High quality health information and decision tools to aid people with multiple sclerosis manage their health: Integrating and Deriving Evidence, Experiences and Preferences)

The Cochrane MS Review Group, in collaboration with the Australian MS Society, and the Cochrane Consumers and Communication Review Group, have been successful in obtaining funds from the Multiple Sclerosis Research Australia (MSRA) to fund this project which aims to make high quality evidence more accessible and meaningful to consumers and their families for use in their self-management decisions via the internet, using MS as the initial focus.

To develop the Italian part of the project here in Italy, the Cochrane MS Review Group has submitted an application to the Associazione Italiana Sclerosi Multipla (AISM) for funding.

We think that this project while it will have a beneficial outcome for people with MS and their carers is also an opportunity for our Group to collaborate with both the Australian and Italian MS Societies and to create a stronger partnership between all groups. For more details please contact the Cochrane MS Review Group.

Our Specialised Register

At present the MS Group Register, which is a reference based register and updated monthly, contains 5040 references. The Trials Search Co-ordinator is at present working towards creating a study based register, which will render it a more useful resource for review authors.

We would welcome neurologists, methodologists and statisticians who may be interested in helping out with peer review of interventions. Please get in touch with Liliana Coco, Managing Editor (neuroepidemiologia@istituto-besta.it)

NEUROMUSCULAR DISEASE GROUP

News from the editorial base

There have been a number of staff changes. First and foremost Richard Hughes stepped down as Co-ordinating Editor in April 2010. He founded the Group ten years ago and has led it through a decade of development both locally and within the Collaboration. We are very grateful to him for remaining on the editorial board. Mike Lunn who has been Joint Co-ordinating Editor for the past year continues as Co-Editor. We also welcome two new editors, Richard Orrell, Senior Lecturer in Clinical Neurosciences, Department of Clinical Neurosciences, University College London and Joshua Burns, Associate Professor at the Institute for Neuroscience and Muscle Research at the Children's Hospital at Westmead, Australia.

New Registered Titles

Please contact the editorial base if you are aware of trials in these areas:

- Acetyl-L-carnitine for the treatment of diabetic polyneuropathy
- Acupuncture for diabetic gastroparesis
- Gangliosides for the treatment of diabetic peripheral neuropathy
- Idebenone for the treatment of Duchenne muscular dystrophy
- Pharmacological interventions for improving respiratory function in amyotrophic lateral sclerosis
- Pharmacological treatment other than corticosteroids, intravenous immunoglobulin and plasma exchange for Guillain-Barré syndrome
- The treatment of Bell's palsy (idiopathic facial paralysis): an overview of reviews

New Protocols

- Endoscopic release for carpal tunnel syndrome
- Invasive versus non-invasive ventilation for acute respiratory failure in neuromuscular disease and chest wall disorders
- Multidisciplinary care for Guillain-Barré syndrome
- Non-drug therapies for lower limb muscle cramps
- Pharmacological treatment for muscle weakness and wasting in myotonic dystrophy
- Pharmacological treatments of postural hypotension
- Repetitive transcranial magnetic stimulation for the treatment of amyotrophic lateral sclerosis or motor neuron disease
- Topiramate for treating painful neuropathy or acute or chronic pain
- Treatment for alcohol-related neuropathy

Prioritised Topics For Which No Title Has Been Registered

- Lumbosacral plexopathy
- Management of respiratory failure in acute neuromuscular and chest wall disorders
- Volume-cycled versus pressure cycled ventilation
- Weaning from mechanical ventilation in neuromuscular patients
- 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
- Cough augmentation for SMA
- Treatment for Pompe disease
- Lithium for motor neuron disease/ALS
- Calcium channel blockers for motor neuron disease/ALS
- Immunosuppressive agents for motor neuron disease/ALS
- Treatment for uncontrolled laughing or crying (pseudobulbar effect) in ALS/MND
- Treatment for lipid storage myopathy
- Anti-sense oligonucleotides for Duchenne muscular dystrophy
- Immunosuppressive treatment for Duchenne muscular dystrophy
- Ischial weight bearing long legged callipers (KAFOs) in Duchenne muscular dystrophy

If you are interested in any of the above topics, please contact the Cochrane Neuromuscular Disease Group for further information:

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GYNAECOLOGICAL AND ORPHAN CANCER REVIEW GROUP

This month's Special Collection in the Library is:
Neurological Cancers.

NEW PROTOCOL: 'Antiepileptic drugs for treating seizures in people with brain tumours' - S Kerrigan.

All the Group's reviews are stable or are being updated.

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COCHRANE DEMENTIA AND COGNITIVE IMPROVEMENT GROUP

The ALOIS Engagement Project

The Cochrane Dementia and Cognitive Improvement Group (CDCIG) are embarking on an exciting project thanks to an NHS Engagement Grant. The ALOIS Engagement project aims to recruit volunteers from all walks of life to help make information about clinical trials in dementia treatment and management accessible to all via our online specialised register: ALOIS (www.medicine.ox.ac.uk/alois). Knowledge is power and by engaging those such as carers with research of this nature through ALOIS, volunteers may become further empowered in other clinical settings. To find out more visit ALOIS at www.medicine.ox.ac.uk/alois or email the team at alois@ndm.ox.ac.uk

AUTHORS / COLLABORATORS

Contact the Cochrane Neurological Field for a list of health professionals who wish to become involved in Review Group Activities

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See the great opportunities to collaborate with Neurological Review Groups and New Author teams needed for review titles, protocols and updates

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