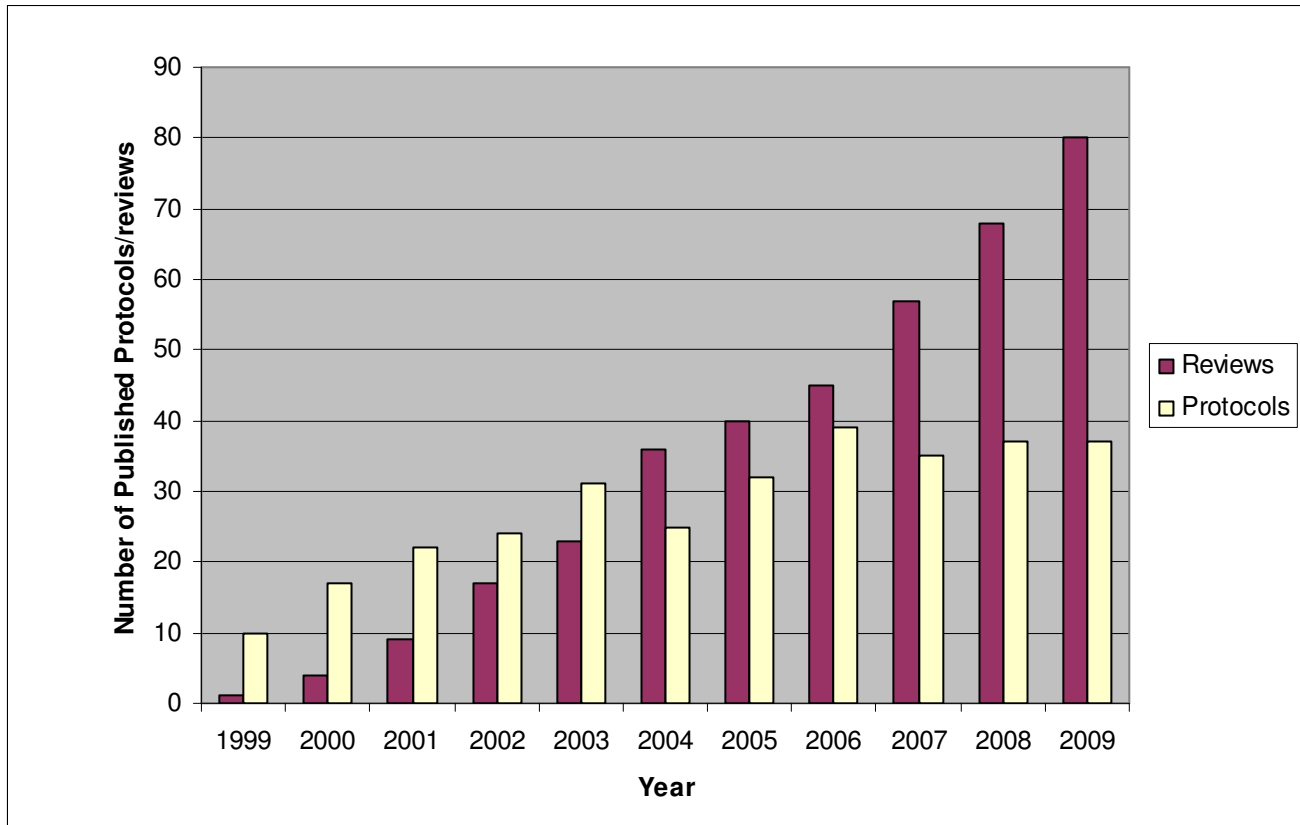


Cochrane Neuromuscular Disease Group Progress of reviews and protocols



News from the editorial base

Since the spring of 2009 we have had a busy period. Please read on for more news:

New Managing Editor – Ruth Brassington

Our Managing Editor, Kate Jewitt, is on maternity leave. Her place has been taken by Ruth Brassington.

You can contact Ruth, or Kate when she comes back, on cochranenmd@ion.ucl.ac.uk.

New telephone numbers for the editorial base

The new telephone number for the Managing Editor is: +44 207 380 6861.

The new telephone number for Jane Batchelor our Group Secretary is +44 207 380 6860.

The new telephone number for the Trials Search Co-ordinators is +44 207 380 6866.

The other telephone numbers for the base remain unchanged.

Co-editors – sharing the workload

Richard Hughes and Michael Lunn are sharing the workload of the Co-editor for this year. From April 2010 Richard will step down but has kindly agreed to remain active on the Editorial Board, which will be greatly valued by us all.

Exciting new changes to Cochrane

We now have 80 full reviews and 50 protocols in preparation. The workload is increasing at the editorial base but we will continue to try and turn around reviews, comments and queries in a timely manner. We are also taking on the tasks of new Cochrane ventures; DTA reviews have commenced (1 accepted protocol, 1 protocol in editorial process and 1 title registered), our first podcast has been

EDITORIAL BASE

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published (see item 3) and we are seeking funding to support Overviews of Reviews to join together individual reviews for easier user readability.

Meetings

An editorial base meeting was held in June 2009 (see below). The International Cochrane Collaboration Meeting took place in Singapore in October (see below)

2. Cochrane Neuromuscular Disease Group editorial board meeting and teleconference

In June 2009 the NMD Group Editorial Board met at the MRC Centre for Neuromuscular Disease in the National Hospital to discuss how we could better meet the high standards set for Cochrane reviews. Topics discussed included RevMan 5 (the writing and editing tool used to produce reviews), including non-randomised studies, Summary of Findings tables (which provide a straightforward way of understanding what the results produced by a review mean) and new forms of communication such as [podcasts](#) and Overviews of Reviews. The meeting was very productive and it was proposed to hold similar meetings every 2 years. In the meantime it was decided that regular teleconferences would provide a good opportunity for our international editorial board members to get together and discuss relevant issues. The first of these teleconferences has just been held (October 2009). Items discussed included elections of Editorial Board members, non-randomised studies, Summary of Findings tables and stalled reviews.

3. Cochrane Neuromuscular Disease Group podcast Corticosteroids for Bell's palsy

A podcast has been set up for the NMD Group review Corticosteroids for Bell's palsy.

http://www.cochrane.org/podcasts/review_summaries/2009issue4/index.html

4. Cochrane Neuromuscular Disease Group press release Antiviral treatment for Bell's palsy

The Cochrane review Antiviral treatment for Bell's palsy (idiopathic facial paralysis) has been selected to appear in a Wiley press release of the Cochrane Library (2009 issue 4). Details can be found at:

http://www3.interscience.wiley.com/homepages/106568753/highlightspm_issue4.pdf

5. Summary of Findings Tables

From now onwards a Summary of Findings (SoF) table will be included in all new reviews from the Neuromuscular Disease Group. We would like to include these in updates as well, if possible. SoF tables sit at the head of the review as seen by the user. They summarise the most relevant and important outcomes for users and patients. These are pre-specified in the protocol to reduce bias. The table includes information on the *individual selected outcomes*, the *amount of evidence* available to make the judgement, the *relative and absolute risks* and the *quality of the evidence* used for each outcome to make the judgement.

SoF tables are easy to construct. Data from RevMan is automatically downloaded into the table which is produced with GradePro software (available from www.cochrane.org). The completed table is then uploaded to the review. Unfortunately it is not possible to edit the table within RevMan and the data from your review tables does not automatically update the SoF table. It must therefore be the last thing you complete prior to submission. Please submit the GradePro file to the Managing Editor in case any edits are necessary at the time of submitting your review.

6. 17th International Cochrane Colloquium – 10th-14th October 2009 Singapore

The 17th International Cochrane Colloquium was held in Singapore and attended by Michael Lunn (Joint Co-Ed) and Angela Gunn (TSC) along with 700 other delegates. Plenary sessions (<http://www.colloquium09.com/plenaries.shtml>), oral presentations, posters and meetings were packed into the four days. The main topics of the meeting were the results of recent Strategic Review (<http://ccreview.wikispaces.com>), capacity building in low and middle income countries and increasing awareness of the Collaboration amongst commissioners and users of reviews to encourage them to use Cochrane first.

The Strategic Review has highlighted the need for a number of developments which will be, or are already, available. Web 2.0 will soon be live with increased bidirectional functionality and links to social networking sites (Twitter, Facebook etc.). The Cochrane Journal Club (www.cochranejournalclub.com) is now online and requests for journal clubs highlighting important reviews will be made from Wiley and Cochrane. 'Cochrane Response' is being formulated and developed. It is perceived that enquiries for rapid, timely and commissioned reviews are difficult to manage by each CRG. 'Cochrane Response' will handle enquiries and commissions of this nature centrally, direct and distribute them to CRGs and may be able to provide some element of central support for CRGs to be able to respond as required to agencies like WHO.

Capacity building in low and middle income countries is a long term job. We need to encourage authors from these regions to become more involved, write relevant reviews (or join in others that have relevance to them also), and furthermore become more involved in the organisation. There are many challenges to this, for example availability of hard- and software, power and connectivity. Problems with language may be more difficult to address within the limited resource of the Collaboration, and problems with incorporating trials of Traditional Chinese Medicines into reviews in English were highlighted in a plenary session; not only is the language different but concepts of diagnosis, disease and treatment are entirely different.

We need to continue to produce high quality reviews and the need to provide Editor training was recognised. To be responsive to large organisations we need to improve timelines for peer-reviewing and turnaround. Two days of detailed discussion at the editorial board meeting was very helpful in helping to clarify and distil some of the unique and shared problems faced by the 51 CRGs.

It was clear that although there is a perception from some quarters that the Cochrane consists of 51 separate entities, the Collaboration is one organisation with very clear aims. Following a period of sluggish growth the Collaboration seems to be accelerating forwards to reclaim dominance in the field of systematic reviews.

The 18th International Cochrane Colloquium will be held in Keystone, Colorado, USA between 18-22 October 2010. For more information see <http://www.regonline.com/builder/site/Default.aspx?eventid=766689>.

7. Reference management and RevMan 5

Database search results are usually sent to authors as text files which can be read using a wordprocessor. We can also send the files in a tagged format which is not so easy to read but can be imported into bibliographic software packages such as EndNote, Reference Manager, or ProCite. Just let us know which format you prefer.

References which are saved/exported from bibliographic software packages as a RIS file can be imported directly into RevMan 5 (File > Import > References). References saved from PubMed can also be imported into RevMan 5. In this case you should mark the references you want, select "send to", choose "File" as the format, choose "Medline", then "Create file". The saved file can then be imported into RevMan 5 as before.

Importing references in this way will save you time in typing and, if the references have been imported into your bibliographic software package from a database, this will also eliminate typing errors.

If you would like to import references into RevMan 5 and are having problems please contact your Trials Search Co-ordinators nmdgrouptsc@ion.ucl.ac.uk

8. RevMan5 Checking in and Checking out – frequently asked questions

How do I check out my review?

Open RevMan 5 and use File > Check out

Why is checking out important?

While the review is checked out, nobody else can edit it, which reduces confusion created by multiple versions. In addition, any work you do will be on the most recent version from Archie – your local file may be an earlier version.

How do I check in my review?

When you have finished editing the review in RevMan 5, use File > Check in.

Why can't I just click Save instead?

Checking in means that the most recent version is always saved and backed up centrally. If you cannot avoid saving locally, eg. when you have no internet connection, check the review back into Archie as soon as possible so that the most recent version is always stored there.

When my review is ready for the editorial base to see, what should I do?

When checking in your review via RevMan, click 'Next' on the first screen of the checking in wizard and select 'Submit for editorial approval' so that the editorial base is alerted to the submission. Remember to click 'Finish' at the end.

Can somebody else check in the review for me?

No, if you have checked the review out, then you need to check it in yourself.

What if I have difficulty checking in my review?

Common reasons are that you did not check out the review, or that you are checking in an old version. The editorial base will be able to help cochranenmd@ion.ucl.ac.uk

Go to the Cochrane Collaboration website at: <http://www.cc-ims.net/revman/documentation/Top-Tips-for-Authors.pdf>

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">• Lumbosacral plexopathy• Neurotrophic factors for treating painful peripheral neuropathy.• 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○ Diaphragm pacemaker○ Feeding: endoscopic gastrostomy• Vasculitic neuropathy secondary to systemic vasculitis• Hepatitis C related neuropathy• 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• Lithium for motor neuron disease/ALS• Coenzyme Q10 for motor neuron disease/ALS• Calcium channel blockers for motor neuron disease/ALS• Immunosuppressive agents for ALS/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
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New titles registered April 2009 to October 2009

Title	Author
Anti-GM1 antibody testing for multifocal motor neuropathy	van Schaik IN, Eftimov F, Lunn MPT, Leeflang MM
ldebenone for Duchenne muscular dystrophy	Geng J, Jiang K, Wu T

Interventions for relapsing talipes equinovarus	Evans K, Little D, Burns J, Gibbons P
Non pharmacological therapies for lower limb muscle cramps	Hawke F, Burns J, Chuter V, Cross L
Treatment for speech disorder in Friedreich ataxia and other hereditary ataxia syndromes	Vogel AP, Folker J, Murdoch BN
Multidisciplinary care for Guillain-Barré syndrome	Khan F, Ng L, Amatya B, Brand C
Non pharmacological therapies for lower limb muscle cramps	Hawke F, Burns J, Chuter V, Cross L
Endoscopic release for carpal tunnel syndrome	Vasiliadis HS, Shrier I, Salanti G, Mink van der Molen A, Scholten RJPM

New published reviews in Issue 3 and 4 2009 of the Cochrane Library

Title	Author
Immunotherapy for diabetic amyotrophy	Chan YC, Lo YL, Chan ESY
Treatment for idiopathic and hereditary neuralgic amyotrophy (brachial neuritis)	van Alfen N, van Engelen BGM, Hughes RAC
Antioxidants and other pharmacological treatments for Friedreich ataxia	Kearney M, Orrell RW, Fahey M, Pandolfo M
Duloxetine for treating painful neuropathy or chronic pain	Lunn MPT, Hughes RAC, Wiffen PJ
Mechanical ventilation for amyotrophic lateral sclerosis/motor neuron disease	Radunovic A, Annane D, Jewitt K, Mustfa N
Multidisciplinary care for adults with amyotrophic lateral sclerosis/motor neuron disease	Ng L, Khan F, Mathers S

New protocols in Issue 3 and 4 2009 of the Cochrane Library

Title	Author
Aminoglycosides and other nonsense suppression therapies for the treatment of dystrophinopathy	Sampson JB, Vardeny O, Flanigan KM
Oxcarbazepine for neuropathic pain	Zhou M, He L, Yang M, Chen N, Guo J, Li Q, Yang X, Yang J, Zhu C
Physical training for McArdle disease	Quinlivan R, Vissing J, Hilton-Jones D, Buckley J
Interventions for fatigue in peripheral neuropathy	White CM, van Doorn PA, Garssen MPJ, Stockley RC
Medical treatment for botulism	Chalk C, Benstead TJ, Keezer M
Thymectomy for non-thymomatous myasthenia gravis	Cea G, Benatar M, Verdugo RJ, Salinas RA

New published updates in Issue 3 and 4 2009 of the Cochrane Library

Title	Author
Rehabilitation for foot drop in neuromuscular disease	Sackley C, Disler PB, Turner-Stokes L, Wade DT, Brittle N, Hoppitt T
Ciliary neurotrophic factor (CNTF) for amyotrophic lateral sclerosis or motor neuron disease	Bongionanni P, Reali C, Sogos V
Antiviral treatment for Bell's palsy (idiopathic facial paralysis)	Lockhart P, Daly F, Pitkethly M, Comerford N, Sullivan F