Cochrane Methods
IPD Meta-analysis

2025

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Highlight:
An **IPD Integrity Tool**, developed to screen randomised controlled trials (RCTs) for integrity issues using individual patient data and provide guidance on how identified issues may be managed, won the 2024 Thomas C. Chalmers award.

Research and development

- Paper comparing different approaches to estimate the individualized treatment effects from an IPD-Meta-analysis in a one-stage approach
- In progress: Development and validation of a Critical Appraisal Tool for IPD Meta-Analysis
- In progress: "State of Play" paper to inform key recommendations for reviewers conducting IPD meta-analyses and to highlight gaps for future methodological research on IPD meta-analysis
- In progress: Paper highlighting challenges associated with accessing clinical trial data via repositories and data sharing platforms.

Best practice and guidance

- Provided guidance on the use of the IPD Integrity Tool for assessing the integrity of randomised trials (endorsed in Cochrane's Policy for Managing Potentially Problematic Studies)
- Developed a Cochrane Training webinar on the use of the IPD Integrity Tool
- Published preliminary guidance for conducting IPD-informed ROB assessments

Methods implementation

- Implemented IPD meta-analysis methods to show that people already at high risk of diabetes may develop the condition sooner if taking statins.