

Editorial - Systematic reviews in dentistry

We have made further excellent progress with our contribution to the Cochrane Library adding two new systematic reviews, one on the treatment of periodontal infra-bony defects and one on treating dentine hypersensitivity.

The Oral Health Group website: www.cochrane-oral.man.ac.uk has been a great success providing information vital to the rapid progress of the Oral Health Group. We have recently included a link to 63 other systematic reviews in dentistry which are included on DARE. DARE (Database of Abstracts of Reviews of Effectiveness) is a database of quality assessed systematic reviews maintained by the NHS Centre for Reviews and Dissemination (CRD), University of York. This includes a summary of the review plus a critical assessment. Members of the Oral Health Group are currently independently evaluating these reviews and will report back soon.

CRD has also conducted a review on water fluoridation which should be of great interest to OHG members. This can be accessed on <http://www.york.ac.uk/inst/crd/fluorid.htm>

Helen Worthington, Co-ordinating Editor

Progress of the Group

In Issue 2, April 2001 of The Cochrane Library, the Oral Health Group has five reviews and 22 protocols published. A full list of reviews/protocols has been placed on page eight of this newsletter.

Funding

The Cochrane Oral Health Group is delighted to announce that it has been successful in gaining infrastructure funding from the Department of Health, UK for the period April 2001 to March 2004.

New Review Abstracts

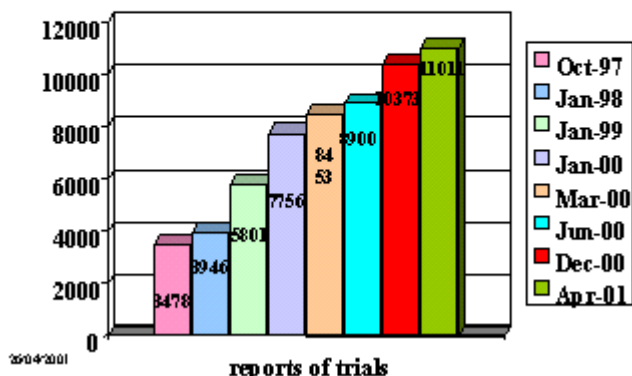
- Abstract for Guided tissue regeneration for periodontal infra-bony defects ([click here](#))
- Abstract for Potassium nitrate toothpaste for dentine hypersensitivity ([click here](#))

Journal Handsearching & Specialised Register Progress

Donald Macfarlane

We are sad to report the death of Donald Macfarlane who had been a leading member of our journal handsearching team since the start of our programme in 1997. Donald, joined us well into his retirement which followed a long and impressive career as a dentist, working first in practice and later as Head of the Dental Hygienists' School, and a lecturer at Guy's Hospital London. He also served on a number of National and International organisations and learned societies. Through his work he leaves a number of legacies to the dental profession, not least through his work for the Cochrane Collaboration, where he has made a considerable contribution to the worldwide journal handsearching programme through his search of a wide range of dental journals and in particular the periodontal literature.

Growth of COHRG Specialised Register October 1997 – April 2001



Thanks

Many thanks to those of you who contribute to the Oral Health Group journal handsearching programme. Your efforts continue to make considerable contribution to our Specialised Register; and through this to the Cochrane Library's Controlled Trials Register and to the Cochrane Collaboration's world-wide journal handsearching programme.

List of Oral Health Journals searched or being handsearched

- Acta Odontologica Scandinavica
- Am Dental Assoc Jnl (JADA)
- Am J Orthod & Dentofac Orthoped
- Angle Orthodontics
- ASCD Jnl of Dentistry for Children
- British Dental Journal
- British Journal of Orthodontics
- Caries Research
- Clinical Oral Implants Research
- Community Dental Health
- Comm Dent & Oral Epidemiol

- European Journal of Orthodontics
- Implant Dentistry
- Implantologist
- Int J Oral & Maxillofacial Implants
- Int J Oral Implantology
- Implant Dentistry
- Int J Prosthodontics
- Jnl Clinical Periodontology
- Jnl of Periodontology
- Jnl of Dental Research
- Jnl Oral Implantology
- Jnl Periodontal Research
- Oral Implantology
- Oral Surg, Oral Med, Oral Path, Oral Rad & Endo
- Paediatric Dentistry
- Primary Dental Care

Help for reviewers with search strategy development

Reviewers who need advice and guidance on searching for trials and/ or help with developing search strategies for their review, are invited to contact Sylvia Bickley, Trails Search Co-ordinator at the editorial base.

Sylvia.R.Bickley@manchester.ac.uk

Deadline Dates for publication on The Cochrane Library

Issue	Review/Protocol sent to referees		Final version to Editorial base	Editorial base submit Module	Cochrane Library Publication Date
2001	Protocol	Review			
Issue	16th April	2nd April	21st May	30th May	July 2001

3					
Issue 4	16th July	2nd July	20th August	29th August	October 2001
2002	Protocol	Review			
Issue 1	15 th October	1st October	19 th November	28 th November	January 2002

Would you be interested in contributing?

There are several ways in which you can contribute to the work of the Oral Health Group:

[Preparing a review](#) as a lead reviewer or assisting as a co-reviewer.

There are several topics that are in urgent need of systematic reviews:

- [Frequency of dental attendance for oral health](#)
- [Frequency of scale and polish for oral health](#)
- [Interventions for treating xerostomia](#)
- [Xylitol for preventing dental caries](#)
- [Clinical performance of restorative materials](#)

If any of these topics interest you or if you have a particular subject area you wish to pursue, please contact Emma Tavender (emma.tavender@manchester.ac.uk) who will be happy to discuss your ideas.

[Peer-reviewing](#) reviews and protocols for the Group.

[Handsearching a journal](#) If you have access to a particular oral health related journal and would be willing to handsearch for trials please contact Sylvia Bickley (Sylvia.R.Bickley@manchester.ac.uk)

[Translating articles or parts of articles](#) Cochrane systematic reviews include all relevant studies regardless of language.

Translators are therefore needed to translate these studies from the original language to English.

If you are interested in contributing please complete the OHG's membership form, which can be found on the last page of this newsletter.

We look forward to hearing from you!

9th International Cochrane Colloquium

9-13 October 2001

Palais des Congres, Lyon, France

The 9th International Cochrane Colloquium is to be held in Lyon, France from 9-13 October 2001. The objectives of the Colloquium are:

- To introduce the Cochrane Collaboration, its achievements and its plans to all those interested in using the best available evidence for the planning and delivery of health care
- To provide an opportunity for those producing systematic reviews to meet and to make progress in their work.
- To provide an opportunity to examine how systematic reviews can be effectively disseminated and used in evidence-based practice.
- To create a forum for discussions of barriers to the production of evidence relevant to patient care and its implementation.
- To discuss potential alliances among consumers, policy makers, administrators, clinical researchers, clinicians, funders and industry in the health care arena.

Important dates:

Early registration deadline – 15th June

Full registration deadline – 30th August

Accommodation deadline – 1st September

Cancellation refund deadline- 14th September

Late registration deadline – 1st October 2001

For more information on the Colloquium and Lyon see:

<http://spc-10.univ-lyon1.fr/citccf/colloque2001/>

Collaboration News

Reviews on MEDLINE

MEDLINE now lists Cochrane reviews along with their abstracts (this excludes protocols). The full journal name is 'The Cochrane Database of Systematic Reviews [Computer file]' and the official MEDLINE abbreviation is 'Cochrane Database Syst Rev'.

If you 'substantially update' your review this merits a second entry. MEDLINE can be viewed for free at <http://www.nlm.nih.gov/databases/freemedl.html>

JAMA welcomes systematic reviews

The editors of JAMA have recognised the high quality of Cochrane systematic reviews and after examining their journal policies believe that they provide very few barriers to good new Cochrane reviews at the cutting edge of medicine.

JAMA's policy regarding Cochrane systematic reviews and manuscripts is that in general, they like to publish the message before it appears in the Cochrane Library. However, manuscripts are handled on an individual basis and they are certainly prepared to consider for publication manuscripts describing reviews that have already appeared in the Cochrane Library. Obviously, the message of the two reports would be the same even though the reports themselves may eventually differ. JAMA would, of course, obtain its own peer review which will usually result in revisions.

JAMA has an excellent record of publishing systematic reviews and intends to maintain this.

Drummond Rennie, MD. Deputy Editor, JAMA

The Lancet's new publication policy for Cochrane Reviews

The Lancet has proposed a new policy for the publication of Cochrane reviews in acknowledgement of the overwhelming evidence that Cochrane reviews are of higher quality than non-Cochrane reviews. The Lancet will welcome the submission of completed and approved Cochrane reviews, published or not on the Cochrane Library, for subsequent publication in The Lancet.

The review would have to conform to the Lancet's usual MS requirements and be subject to the journal's own peer review process. A reference and a web link would be made to the original Cochrane review to avoid confusion over dual publication.

It is hoped that this new policy will not only increase the number of high-quality systematic reviews published in The Lancet but also help to disseminate Cochrane reviews to clinicians.

Richard Horton, The Lancet

[Adoption of a Tenth Principle](#)

After widespread consultation within the Collaboration, it has been agreed to adopt a tenth principle:

"Enabling wide participation in the work of the Collaboration by reducing barriers to contributing and by encouraging diversity"

[Consumer Network's website online](#)

The Consumer Network's website is at www.cochraneconsumer.com

The website includes:

- A consumer health information system based on Cochrane reviews – you can search out plain language summaries of the results of reviews in areas you're interested in.
- Subscribing online to automatic mailouts of any new reviews in your areas of interest
- Resources to help you understand research and make sense of Cochrane reviews and other research.
- "How to" resources to help consumers participating in the Cochrane Collaboration
- Online discussions about issues of interest to consumers in the Collaboration
- Membership forms for the Network as well as newsletters and other publications

Cochrane Training Workshops 2001

Training workshops are periodically organised by a number of Cochrane Centres. These are usually concerned with two main topics: assisting new reviewers in developing a Cochrane Protocol and guiding and instructing reviewers on how to enter and edit their reviews in RevMan, the Cochrane review manager software.

If you are interested in attending any of these workshops please contact Emma at the editorial base.

Australasian Cochrane Centre

Date	Location	Workshop
31 May/1 June	Adelaide	Preparing a protocol Using RevMan
13-14 June	Melbourne	Advanced reviewer' workshop
3-4 September	Darwin	Preparing a protocol Using RevMan
Dutch Cochrane Centre		
27 September	Dutch Cochrane Centre	Developing a systematic review
29 November	Dutch Cochrane Centre	Developing a systematic review
German Cochrane Centre		
September	Freiberg	Systematische Übersichtsarbeiten (Intro)
Nordic Cochrane Centre		
On demand	Oslo & Copenhagen	Individual sessions on writing protocols/ reviews and using RevMan
28 May-1 June	Oslo	How to practice Evidence Based Health Care
June (date not final)	Copenhagen	Kursus I evidensbaseret klinik
24 September`	Copenhagen	Handsearching workshop
25-26 September	Copenhagen	Preparing a protocol Using RevMan
UK Cochrane Centre		
24 May	London	Developing a protocol for a review
25 May	London	Getting a review into RevMan

14 June	Aberdeen	Developing a protocol for a review
15 June	Aberdeen	Getting a review into RevMan
12 July	Oxford	Developing a protocol for a review
13 July	Oxford	Getting a review into RevMan
20 Sept	Oxford	Developing a protocol for a review
21 Sept	Oxford	Getting a review into RevMan
25 Oct	Oxford	Developing a protocol for a review
26 Oct	Oxford	Getting a review into RevMan
5 Nov	Liverpool	Developing a protocol
12 Nov	Edinburgh	Developing a protocol
13 Nov	Edinburgh	Getting a review into RevMan
3 Dec	Liverpool	Getting a review into RevMan
13 Dec	London	Developing a protocol
14 Dec	London	Getting a review into RevMan

For an up to date listing see:

<http://www.cochrane.org/cochrane/workshop.htm>

Training Course: Evidence Based Practice in the Dental Specialities

A five-day course is to be held at the editorial base of the Cochrane Oral Health Group.

The aim of the course is to provide the skills to develop, implement and disseminate an evidence based care approach to effective clinical practice.

The course will be complemented by distance learning, self directed study and mentored support.

Five days of workshops will take place over two months

Dates for Spring 2002

- 15/16 & 17 April 2002
- 13 & 14 May 2002

For further information and an application form visit the web page: Evidence Based Practice in the Dental Specialties or contact Lee Hooper on +44 161 275 7819, email lee.hooper@man.ac.uk

Reviews/Protocols/Titles

For an up to date list of review/protocols/titles published by the group please go to the following website: [Abstracts of Cochrane Reviews](#)

Registration

If you wish to become an Oral Health Group member, [please click here for a registration form](#)