The Cochrane Collaboration is an international organisation that aims to help people make well-informed decisions about healthcare by preparing, maintaining, and promoting the accessibility of systematic reviews of the effects of healthcare interventions.

The Cochrane Oral Health Group (OHG) aims to produce systematic reviews which primarily include all randomised controlled trials (RCTs) in oral health. Oral health is broadly conceived to include the prevention, treatment and rehabilitation of oral, dental and craniofacial diseases and disorders.

The OHG is composed of persons from around the world who share an interest in developing and maintaining systematic reviews relevant to the field of oral health. Reviewers are encouraged to collaborate on reviews and the OHG is able to facilitate contacts with colleagues around the world. The group is co-ordinated by an Editorial Team who edit and assemble completed reviews into modules for inclusion in The Cochrane Library (an electronic database updated quarterly).

What's new in The Cochrane Library?
Issue 4, 2007:-

Review Updates
- Routine scale and polish for periodontal health in adults
- Recall intervals for oral health in primary care patients
- Interventions for replacing missing teeth: different types of dental implant
- Interventions for preventing oral mucositis for patients with cancer receiving treatment

New Reviews
- Single versus multiple visits for endodontic treatment of permanent teeth
- Occlusal splints for treating sleep bruxism (tooth grinding)
- Ultrasonic versus hand instrumentation for orthograde root canal treatment of permanent teeth
- Interventions for the treatment of oral and oropharyngeal cancers: surgical treatment

New Protocols
- Interventions for the treatment of oral and oropharyngeal cancers: immunotherapy/biotherapy
- Salt fluoridation for preventing dental caries

You will find all of the above reviews at www.thecochranelibrary.com

Submission & publication dates 2007/8

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OHG News

- After submitting our annual report to the Department of Health (England), the OHG has received extremely positive feedback. Due to an increase in output we are now fifth out of 24 UK-based groups for performance. Many thanks to all our reviewers, referees and editors for all your hard work!

- The OHG has had two reviews selected for £5,000 Department of Health Cochrane Incentive Scheme awards. The purpose of this scheme is to facilitate and accelerate the work being done on the production of a new Cochrane review or the updating of an existing review, of particular relevance to the UK healthcare system. The OHG won the awards for updating the reviews ‘Penicillins for the prophylaxis of bacterial endocarditis in dentistry’ and ‘Filling and fissure sealants for preventing dental decay in the permanent teeth of children and adolescents’. This is the second successive year the OHG has won such an award!
Revman 5 – Rollout and implementation strategy

RevMan 5 is scheduled to be launched Collaboration-wide in March 2008!!!

A major update of The Cochrane Collaboration’s review writing software, RevMan 5, is now in the final stages of testing. Five Cochrane Review Groups (CRGs) will participate in a RevMan 5 pilot from the end of November 2007 to the end of February 2008 resulting in submissions to Issue 2, 2008 of The Cochrane Library that will include reviews in RevMan 5 format. If the RevMan 5 pilot runs smoothly, the software will be launched Collaboration-wide in March 2008. RevMan 5 will be a mandatory release, which means that all authors of Cochrane reviews must use the software for preparing new reviews or updating existing ones and CRG editorial bases can only release new, amended or updated reviews for publication as RevMan 5 files. Authors will receive a separate communication much closer to the launch of RevMan, which will outline the implications for their future work on Cochrane reviews.

These are a few highlights of the new functions in RevMan 5:

- Compared to RevMan 4, editing reviews will be much more like working with one single document. The experience of what you see is what you get is strongly improved

- The new text editor will allow more formatting in more sections, including subheadings, tables embedded in the text, and nested lists (lists within lists)

- Track changes functionality and a new note system will facilitate the task of multiple authors working together on a review

- The advanced undo system will allow you to undo everything from small text edits to deletion of whole studies and comparisons

- Real time spell checking and validation of reviews will help to prevent errors

- Reorganise your review using simple move and renumber functions. Move multiple items around using drag and drop or copy and paste

- Designed to interact fluidly with Archie for document storage and exchange. Authors and editors will always be able to get the right version of the review

The review structure will be extensively updated for RevMan 5. Some main points are:

- **Text:** There will be a new structure for the main text, and support for appendices. It will be possible to create links to individual graphs, all tables, feedback, appendices and web sites

- **Tables:** Summary of Findings tables and Risk of Bias tables are two new standardised, but optional, tables

- **Contact details:** persons will be assigned using a list from Archie, but their details cannot be edited inside RevMan. One person will be marked as contact person, but this does not have to be an author. The author list can be ordered, and the byline will be generated automatically from that


Cochrane Training & Events

Cochrane events and workshops are a great way to get to know how the Collaboration works, make new friends and learn new skills – and all this whilst having fun!!!

Please visit [www.cochrane.org/news/workshops.htm](http://www.cochrane.org/news/workshops.htm) for further details on how to attend.

Nov 2007

- 14 Nov: Cochrane work-in (2 hours), Khon Kaen, Thailand
- 19-20 Nov: Introduction to analysis, Khon Kaen, Thailand
- 19-23 Nov: Cochrane review completion and update programme, Melbourne, Australia
- 21 Nov: Developing a systematic review, Dutch Cochrane Centre, Amsterdam, Netherlands
- 22-23 Nov: Systematic reviews of diagnostic test accuracy workshop, Amsterdam, Netherlands

Dec 2007

- 3-4 Dec: Cochrane workshop on systematic reviews, Singapore
- 5 Dec: Developing a protocol for a review, Sydney, Australia
- 6 Dec: Introduction to analysis, Sydney, Australia
- 7 Dec: Introduction to new Cochrane handbook methods and Revman 5, Sydney, Australia
- 11 Dec: Cochrane evidence-based practice workshop, Cairo, Egypt
- 11 Dec: Developing a protocol for a review, Liverpool, UK
- 12 Dec: Introduction to analysis, Liverpool, UK
- 18 Dec: Cochrane work-in (2 hours), Khon Kaen, Thailand

Jan 2008

- 9-10 Jan: Review updating course, Oxford, UK
- 22-23 Jan: Developing a protocol for a review, Oxford, UK
- 24 Jan: Introduction to analysis, Oxford, UK

Please note new courses appear all the time and existing ones may change so it is a good idea to keep an eye on the workshop webpage. Some Cochrane Centres are prepared to offer ad-hoc or one-to-one training tailored to suit your needs. To find your nearest Cochrane Centre please go to [www.cochrane.org/contact/country.htm](http://www.cochrane.org/contact/country.htm).

2008 Dental Diary Dates!

- 37th Annual Meeting & Exhibition of the AADR, Dallas, Texas, USA, 2-5 April 2008
- British Dental Conference & Exhibition, Manchester, UK, 1-3 May 2008
- IADR 86th General Session & Exhibition, Toronto, Canada, 2-5 July 2008