

# Cochrane Wounds



## Newsletter of the Cochrane Wounds Group

Issue 10

June 2009

Welcome to the tenth Newsletter of the Cochrane Wounds Group. There have been many exciting developments within the Cochrane Collaboration since our last newsletter which we're pleased to update you on.

### **New Cochrane Library Impact Factor**

The Cochrane Database of Systematic Reviews has an **IMPACT FACTOR OF 5.182** and is ranked **12th out of 107 in the ISI category Medicine, General & Internal**

### **Wounds Group Future Funding**

The Department of Health in England has confirmed that following the current period of funding which will end in 2010, the Wounds Group will be funded for a further 5 years.

### **Cochrane Library Editor in Chief**

The Collaboration has appointed its first Editor in Chief for the Cochrane Library. Dr David Tovey qualified in Medicine from the University of Bristol in the UK. He was a GP in an urban practice in South London for 14 years, and combined this with work in continuing medical education. In 2003 he left general practice and moved to the BMJ, where he became Deputy Editor, then Editor of Clinical Evidence. For the last two years he has been Editorial Director of the BMJ Evidence Centre, with responsibility for Clinical Evidence, its sister product BestTreatments aimed at the public, and the development of both the new BMJ Point of Care online product, and order entry sets in association with the Cerner Corporation. He was appointed as Editor in Chief of the Cochrane Library in late 2008, and started work with us in January this year. David has already taken forward plans to further improve the quality of Cochrane systematic reviews.

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### **Visitors to the Editorial Base**

In the past six months we have welcomed two visitors to the editorial base. Joan Webster, a Wounds Group Editor, is pictured below with our Co-ordinating Editor Prof Nicky Cullum. Joan is the Nursing Director for Research at the Royal Brisbane and Women's Hospital

(RBWH). The position is responsible for the development and support of nursing research and evidence based practice across the RBWH district. She is currently an Adjunct Associate Professor of Nursing at the Queensland University of Technology and an Adjunct Professor of Nursing at Griffith University.



Joan describes her experience in York:

*“Driving over the Pennines in February earlier this year, I was asking myself “what have I let myself in for”? I had left sunny Queensland for a 5-week visit to chilly Yorkshire, to work with the Cochrane Wounds Group and was wondering if I had made the right decision. I should not have worried. Working with staff in the unit was one of the most rewarding periods of my professional career. My tasks were to update two of my systematic reviews and to talk about some aspects of my research work at two Seminars. In addition, I was fortunate enough to be involved in updating another of the Wound Groups’ reviews and to participate in completing a ‘rapid’ review, commissioned by the World Health Organisation. During the visit, I also attended a 3-day Cochrane contributors’ workshop in Edinburgh, providing further opportunities for networking and professional growth. For me though, the highlight of the visit was the warmth, encouragement and support shown to me by all of the staff in the unit. They made work fun and I was sorry to be packing my bags at the end March to head home. I would particularly like to thank Nicky, Sally, Ruth, Dorothy and Sandi who made the visit very memorable and worthwhile”.*

Jesús López Alcalde (MD, MPH), a Wounds Group author joined us for four months at the end of 2008.

*It was end of October when I arrived at York. I am a Spanish doctor and I spent the last few months of my specialization in Epidemiology in this historic town. During 2008 I had been working in Spain and Guatemala (both of them quite warm places) so I was a bit concerned about the Yorkshire’s unpredictable weather. I had already read Emily Brontë’s “Wuthering Heights”. Although I really had to struggle to understand a word of this English masterpiece, I figured out the weather wouldn’t be easy for a person coming from the South of Europe.*

*The purpose of my visit at the Cochrane Wounds Group was to work in two systematic reviews about interventions to prevent infections associated with healthcare facilities. During the four months of my stay, I felt free to ask any query regarding the difficult process of doing a systematic review (Sally and Ruth were really very patient). Moreover, I had the opportunity to attend a course about clinical trials and another one for improving my English (now it is good enough to write the second part of “Wuthering Heights”). I also attended a Cochrane workshop in Newcastle about systematic reviews of complex interventions.*

*Beyond all doubt, I learned a lot with the Cochrane Wounds Group and I would like to thank Nicky, Sally and Ruth and the rest of professionals working in the Department of Health Sciences for their great support and this wonderful experience.*

*By the way, during my first week at York I had already forgotten the warm Spanish weather and I found myself enjoying the snowy winter with a delicious Yorkshire pudding and a cup of tea.*

## **Rapid Review**

The Cochrane Wounds Group recently completed the Collaboration’s first ever rapid review. Cochrane reviews can take over a year to complete but policy makers and health care providers often require an answer more quickly. The Collaboration recognises

the need for a rapid response and has proposed a process which would take only 35 days. In March 2009 we were approached by the World Health Organisation with a clinical question about skin preparation before blood collection for the purpose of blood transfusion. The Wounds Group was identified as a possible contributor and ultimately became responsible for bringing review into being. We were very lucky to have Joan Webster, a Wounds Group Editor, with us at the time and she took the lead on the project, with other editorial base staff working as co-authors. The review entitled, Skin preparation with alcohol versus alcohol followed by any antiseptic for preventing bacteraemia or contamination of blood for transfusion, was completed within the 35 day time frame and will be published in Issue 3 2009 of The Cochrane Library.

### Highly accessed wounds reviews

Wiley-Blackwell have compiled a list of the top reviews sorted by the number of 2008 full text downloads. We're pleased to report that the Wounds Group had two reviews in the top ten - Fernandez & Griffiths, *Water for wound cleansing* and McInnes, Bell-Syer, Dumville, Legood & Cullum *Support surfaces for pressure ulcer prevention*.

### Progress Report

The Wounds Group published 63 reviews and 33 published protocols in Issue 2, 2009 of The Cochrane Library, plus there are a further 32 registered titles. A full list can be found on our website: <http://www.cochranewounds.org/>

### Editorial Board News

We would like to welcome Marion Brady as a new Editor; Marion has published two reviews with the Wounds Group and is a Programme Leader based in the Nursing, Midwifery and Allied Health Professions Research Unit at Glasgow Caledonian University.

We'd also like to congratulate two members of our Editorial Board for the following achievements:

Liz McInnes has received her doctorate from the RCN Research Institute and the University of Manchester.

Andrea Nelson is now Professor of Wound Healing in the School of Healthcare, University of Leeds, following award of a personal Chair as of the 1st June 2009

In order to give organisations outside the Collaboration a better understanding of the role of a Cochrane Review Group Co-ordinator (RGC), the Collaboration's Steering Group have agreed to change the title to 'Managing Editor' with immediate effect.

### Cochrane Collaboration Strategic Review

The Recommendations Report for the Strategic Review of The Cochrane Collaboration is now complete. The report identified 26 recommendations intended to strengthen the Collaboration in the short, medium and long term, ensuring its ongoing success. To read more please go to: <http://ccreview.wikispaces.com/Final+Report+and+Background+Documents>

### Changes to complimentary copies of The Cochrane Library

The Cochrane Collaboration is highly appreciative of the efforts of its review authors. To thank you for your dedication we provide to all contact authors free access to *The Cochrane Library* (CLib) for two years from the date when the review was last assessed as up-to-date. Some of you may have seen the recent email from our Editor in Chief explaining the upcoming changes to the way in which these free copies are distributed. Up to now the free access has been in CD format but as of Issue 3 2009 you can opt to receive free online access. For those who still want offline access, we will provide this access via a DVD.

#### How will it work?

The change over for **Issue 3 2009** will be automatic and **everyone's status will be set to 'Suspend'**, i.e. no action will be taken in regard to your complimentary subscription. If you are in a country with a national licence

(i.e. everyone in the country can access full Cochrane Library content) or perhaps have access through your institution, this won't be a concern because you will simply continue accessing CLib as normal. But those of you who rely on an individual subscription will need to take action as soon as possible:

To make changes you will need to log in to Archie (<http://archie.cochrane.org>) where you have the following options:

- Change the default setting from 'Suspend' to '**Online**' if you need individual online access;
- Change the default setting from 'Suspend' to '**DVD-ROM**' access if you require offline access; or
- '**Donate**' your subscription to another **registered Archie user**, perhaps one of your co-authors who doesn't have free access.

Please remember these instructions apply to **contact authors only**.

### **Wiley-Blackwell Discount for Cochrane Review Authors**

Cochrane authors are entitled to a 25% discount on all Wiley books when ordering via the Website, by phone or printed order forms. Register for the Author Discount Club at: <http://eu.wiley.com/WileyCDA/Section/id-302237.html>, receive your new author discount card and code and use it when ordering your Wiley products to get the discount. Contact Wiley & Sons to request title and price information, place orders and to establish a new account.

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### **Access to the Cochrane Handbook**

The Cochrane Handbook of Systematic Reviews of Interventions is available in following formats:

- Browseable online: at <http://www.cochrane-handbook.org> and offline within RevMan (Version 5.0.17 or later);
- Commercial book published by Wiley-Blackwell on 26 Sep 2008; see <http://eu.wiley.com/WileyCDA/WileyTitle/productCd-0470699515.htm> (25% discount for Cochrane authors)
- Printable PDF files are available only to members of the Collaboration for the purposes of review authoring and training. These are located in Archie / Resources / Steering Group Advisory Group / Handbook Advisory Group / Files; see <http://archie.cochrane.org>

### **RevMan 5 Tips**

In our last newsletter we mentioned a major upgrade of the Review Manager software.

To help you get the best out of the new RevMan 5 here are a few tips:

- When starting a new paragraph pressing Shift-Enter adds less of a gap than Enter alone.
- You can run a report on your review to pick up any problems by File>Reports>Validation Report.
- Reminder there has been a few changes in terminology with RevMan5. These include using the term *Risk Ratio* instead of relative risk and review authors instead of reviewers. See the Cochrane Style Guide for more information: [www.cochrane.org/style/csg.htm](http://www.cochrane.org/style/csg.htm).

### **More Resources for Authors**

If you haven't already visited our webpage please take a look:

<http://www.cochranewounds.org/>

We've added more resources for review authors including handy **pre-submission checklists** to help prepare your protocol, review or update for submission to the editorial base:

<http://www.cochranewounds.org/en/authors.html>

## Training Workshops

For a current list of training workshops, please visit The Cochrane Collaboration web site at:

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

Information about training opportunities can also be found on several Cochrane Centre websites:

Australasian Cochrane Centre

<http://www.cochrane.org.au/training/timetable.php>

Centro Cochrane do Brasil

<http://www.centrocochranedobrasil.org/>

Canadian Cochrane Centre

<http://www.ccnc.cochrane.org/en/events.html>

Das Deutsche Cochrane Zentrum

<http://www.cochrane.de/de/localevents.htm>

Dutch Cochrane Centre

<http://www.cochrane.nl/>

Centro Cochrane Iberoamericano

<http://www.cochrane.es/?q=es/agenda>

Nordic Cochrane Centre

<http://www.cochrane.dk/courses/index.htm>

South Asian Cochrane Network & Centre

[http://www.cochrane-sacn.org/Workshop\\_Future.html](http://www.cochrane-sacn.org/Workshop_Future.html)

US Cochrane Center

<http://apps1.jhsph.edu/cochrane/workshops.htm>

## Recently Published Protocols and Reviews

### *The Cochrane Library 2008, Issue 4*

#### **New titles registered this version**

Dressings and topical agents for donor sites of split-thickness skin grafts  
Hyperbaric oxygen therapy for acute wounds  
Interventions for treating gas gangrene  
Interventions to prevent infection in people receiving chest drains for thoracic surgery  
Topical or surgical treatment for facial burns

#### **New protocols this version**

Control interventions for preventing spread of vancomycin-resistant enterococci (VRE) in hospitals

#### **New reviews this version**

Dressings for superficial and partial thickness

burns

Honey as a topical treatment for wounds  
Mupirocin ointment for preventing Staphylococcus aureus infections in nasal carriers

#### **Updated reviews - new citation, conclusions changed**

Support surfaces for pressure ulcer prevention

#### **Updated review - new citation, conclusions not changed**

Pin site care for preventing infections associated with external bone fixators and pins  
Preoperative skin antiseptics for preventing surgical wound infections after clean surgery

### *The Cochrane Library 2009, Issue 1*

#### **New titles registered this version**

Closure by primary intention versus secondary intention for treating animal bite wounds  
Systemic antibiotics for diabetic foot ulcerations

#### **New protocols this version**

Complex interventions for preventing diabetic foot ulceration  
Preoperative nutrition to prevent post operative complications in malnourished patients undergoing elective abdominal surgery  
Treatment for bacteraemia due to Staphylococcus aureus

#### **Updated reviews - new citation, conclusions changed**

Compression for venous leg ulcers

#### **Updated review - conclusions not changed**

Preoperative bathing or showering with skin antiseptics to prevent surgical site infection  
Prophylactic antibiotics to prevent surgical site infection after breast cancer surgery

### *The Cochrane Library 2009, Issue 2*

#### **New titles registered this version**

Adhesive films for skin preparation prior to surgery  
Antibiotic prophylaxis for elective pulmonary surgery  
Growth factors for treating diabetic foot ulcers

Ozone therapy for treating diabetic foot ulcers  
Routine cleaning of environmental surfaces in hospitals for reducing the transmission of health care-associated pathogens  
Staples versus sutures for closing leg wounds after vein graft harvesting  
Topical antimicrobial agents for diabetic foot ulcers  
Topical phenytoin for treating pressure ulcers

### **New reviews this version**

Repositioning for treating pressure ulcers

### **Updated review - new search - conclusions not changed**

Oral zinc for arterial and venous leg ulcers  
Topical agents and dressings for fungating wounds  
Topical negative pressure (TNP) for partial thickness burns

### **‘Ripe’ Reviews**

Are you thinking of undertaking a systematic review? We maintain a list of suggested topics, which are ‘ripe’ for review. These include:

- Laser therapy for treating pressure ulcers
- Wound cleansing solutions for treating venous leg ulcers
- Early vs. late dressing removal for surgical wounds

For a full list of ripe reviews see “Reviews needed” at: <http://www.cochranewounds.org/>

In addition we have a small number of published protocols where the current review authors are unable to progress the protocol through to a full review. We would be interested in hearing from experienced review authors who would be willing to ‘adopt’ one of these protocols. Examples are the following:

- Community clinics versus home management for leg ulcer treatment
- Topical warming for treating chronic wounds
- Wound care teams for preventing and treating pressure ulcers

### **Dates for Your Diary**

**17th Cochrane Colloquium - Singapore**  
11-14 October 2009

**Publication date for Issue 3, 2009 of The Cochrane Library**  
July 8, 2009

**Publication date for Issue 4, 2009 of The Cochrane Library**  
October 7, 2009

### **Editorial Board**

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