

## Newsletter of the Cochrane Wounds Group

Issue 9

October 2008

Welcome to the ninth Newsletter of the Cochrane Wounds Group. It's been a while since we last put together a newsletter but we look forward to writing regular newsletters, communicating the changes occurring across the Cochrane Collaboration and updating you with news from the editorial base.

### Staff change at the Editorial Base

There have been several staff changes. Many of you will already know our Trials Search Co-ordinator, Ruth Foxlee who joined us in October 2006. Ruth came to us from the Cochrane Acute Respiratory Infections Group in Australia and has a background as a health librarian. You can contact Ruth at [rf518@york.ac.uk](mailto:rf518@york.ac.uk)

We have a new administrative assistant, Helena Mullineaux. Helena is with us two mornings a week (Tuesday and Wednesday) and can be contacted at [hm507@york.ac.uk](mailto:hm507@york.ac.uk)

We've also welcomed three new editors – Joan Webster (Australia), Julie Bruce (UK) and Sue O'Meara (UK)

### Collaboration News

#### Review Manager 5

One of this year's exciting changes is the release of a major upgrade of the Review Manager software. RevMan 5 is available for Windows, Mac OS X and Linux and can be downloaded from this website:

<http://www.cc-ims.net/RevMan>.

A useful tutorial and the updated Cochrane Handbook can be found in the Help menu when RevMan 5 is open on your computer. By November 2008 all Wounds Group authors must be working in RevMan 5. The editorial base will be in contact with all authors directly to explain the basics of using RevMan 5 and to set up user accounts for the Collaboration's central server

called Archie. Archie stores the most up-to-date version of all the Group's reviews. In the mean time, please download the RevMan 5 software and work through the tutorial so you are ready-to-go

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## Updated Cochrane Handbook

A major revision of the Cochrane Handbook for Systematic Reviews of Interventions (Version 5.0.0) is available online at:

[www.cochrane-handbook.org](http://www.cochrane-handbook.org).

All reviews should now follow the guidelines outlined in this version of the Handbook.

The Handbook includes new information on:

- definitions about updates,
- the Risk of Bias tool,
- Summary of Findings tables,
- reporting biases, and
- resources to aid searching for studies.

*Special topics include:*

- incorporating economics evidence,
- adverse effects,
- including non-randomized studies, and
- special topics in statistics.

Printed copies of the Handbook will become available in November 2008.

## New Definitions for Review Updates

With the new Handbook new definitions of Cochrane review updates have been introduced

- Any change to a review is either an **update** or an **amendment**
- An update *must* involve a search for new studies
- Any other change to a review or protocol is an amendment
- Some reviews undergo important changes (updates or amendments) that warrant a new citation in *The Cochrane Library* and in MEDLINE/ISI (e.g. changes to conclusions or correcting a serious error). These are now called **new citation versions**
- Some new citation versions warrant highlighting in *The Cochrane Library* because the change means they should be read again. These are referred to as reviews with **conclusions changed**
- Protocols that undergo important changes (e.g. to authors or inclusion criteria) also warrant a new citation version. When the changes mean a protocol should be highlighted in *The Cochrane Library* and re-read they are termed protocols with a **major change**

## The Cochrane Style Guide (4th Ed)

A beta version of the Cochrane Style Guide (CSG) was released in May this year and is available at:

<http://www.cochrane.org/style/csg.htm>

The CSG is designed to help authors write their reviews and other documents in line with The Cochrane Collaboration ‘house style’. Is it “randomize” or “randomise”? Is it “healthcare system” or “health care system”? Should I use “subject” or “participant”? These are just some of the questions the CSG can help with. In addition, it is now the main source of information on how to format your references.

As well as using the Style Guide, remember to think about the reader when writing your Cochrane protocol, review, or document. You can help by:

- (1) writing in the active (not the passive) voice, for example “we extracted data” (not “the data were extracted”);
- (2) using short sharp sentences (get to the point quickly);
- (3) letting someone else read your review (they may give you tips on how to make it easier to read or tell you if it doesn’t make sense);
- (4) using plain English (you don’t have to use complicated language to talk about science);
- (5) writing protocols in the future tense (“we will search”) and reviews in the past tense (“we searched”); and
- (6) being consistent within complete documents (such as Cochrane reviews) in your choice of punctuation and spelling.

## 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>

## Wounds Group News

### New Cochrane Wounds Group Website

We've revamped our webpage and invite all Wounds Group contributors to visit the new site:

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

At the new site you can find:

- A full list of our reviews on protocols
- A list of wounds topics yet to be covered
- Resources for review authors (forms and guidance documents)
- Information on ways that you can contribute to the Wounds Group activities
- A glossary of wounds terms
- A link to *The Cochrane Library*
- Full contact details including maps to help you find us

So please bookmark our page, and send the link to friends and colleagues so they can get involved. If you have any ideas about resources or information which you would find useful to have on the website please contact Ruth - [rf518@york.ac.uk](mailto:rf518@york.ac.uk)

### Progress Report

As of Issue 4, 2008 in The Cochrane Library, the Wounds Group has 59 published reviews and 32 published protocols, plus there are a further 24 registered titles. Several published reviews are currently being updated. A full list of our review and protocols can be found on our website:

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

### Recently Published Protocols and Reviews

#### The Cochrane Library 2008, Issue 2

##### New titles registered

- Absorbable suture for closure of traumatic lacerations and surgical wounds
- Wound drainage after plastic surgery of the breast (title amended)

##### New protocols

- Dressings and topical agents containing hyaluronic acid for wound healing
- Gloves, gowns and masks for reducing the transmission of meticillin-resistant *Staphylococcus aureus* (MRSA) in the hospital setting
- Pressure relieving devices for preventing heel pressure ulcers

##### New reviews

- Vitamin C for preventing and treating tetanus

##### Updated reviews - substantive

- Intermittent pneumatic compression for treating venous leg ulcers

##### Updated reviews - minor

- Disposable surgical face masks for preventing surgical wound infection in clean surgery
- Silicon gel sheeting for preventing and treating hypertrophic and keloid scars
- Therapeutic touch for healing acute wounds
- Topical negative pressure for treating chronic wounds
- Wound cleansing for pressure ulcers

#### The Cochrane Library 2008, Issue 3

##### New protocols

- Wound drainage after plastic and reconstructive surgery of the breast (Editorial process shared with the Breast Cancer Group)

##### New reviews

- Debridement for surgical wounds
- Risk assessment tools for the prevention of pressure ulcers

##### Updated reviews

- Electromagnetic therapy for treating pressure ulcers
- Gauze and tape and transparent polyurethane dressings for central venous catheters
- Removal of nail polish and finger rings to prevent surgical infection
- Systemic antimicrobial prophylaxis for percutaneous endoscopic gastrostomy
- Therapeutic ultrasound for pressure ulcers
- Wound drains after incisional hernia repair

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

- Topical negative pressure for treating chronic wounds

## 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

## 'Ripe' Reviews

Are you thinking of undertaking a systematic review? We maintain a list of suggested topics, which are 'ripe' for review and which new authors might like to consider. These include:

- Growth hormones for treating burns
- Massage for the prevention of pressure ulcers
- Topical agents for treating diabetic foot ulcers

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

## Dates for Your Diary

### 14th Annual Meeting of UK and Ireland-based Contributors to The Cochrane Collaboration

18-19 March 2009, Edinburgh

## Publication date for Issue 4, 2008 of The Cochrane Library

October 8, 2008

## Publication date for Issue 1, 2009 of The Cochrane Library

21 January, 2009

## Editorial Board

### Editors:

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