

## **Cochrane Library**

Irina Ibraghimova  
HealthConnect International  
*ibra@zadar.net*  
2009

### **Cochrane Collaboration**

- Founded in 1993
- 13 centers
- 52 specialties
- Analytical research methodology
- More than 5600 systematic reviews
- DB of controlled clinical trials (CENTRAL)
- Impact on healthcare and research policy

<http://www3.interscience.wiley.com/cgi-bin/mrwhome/106568753/HOME>

### **What is a systematic review?**

- Type of a study
- research method planned in advance
- Object of research – results of original studies
- The possibility to reduce bias in research

### **Approaches used (7 steps)**

- Formulating the clinical problem
- Locating and selecting studies
- Quality assessment of studies
- Collecting data
- Analyzing and presenting results (statistical methods, meta-analyses)
- Interpreting results
- Improving and updating reviews

### **The value of systematic reviews (1)**

- An answer to a well formulated clinical question
- Based on a planned literature search
- Analyzing evidence-based data
- Comparing quality data
- Are updated regularly

### **The value of systematic reviews(2)**

They permit to make the conclusion:

- that the intervention is effective  
that the intervention is not effective
- that the intervention is harmful
- that its harm or usefulness are not evident and more research is needed

### **Who needs systematic reviews?**

- Health care practitioners
- Health care managers
- Medical researchers
- Patients

### **Cochrane Library Includes (1)**

- Cochrane Database of Systematic Reviews (CDSR)
- Cochrane Controlled Trials Register (CENTRAL)
- Database of Abstracts of Reviews of Effectiveness (DARE)
- Cochrane Methodology Register
- Health Technology Assessment Database (HTA)
- NHS Economic Evaluation Database (NHS EED)
- About (Cochrane groups, networks, centers)

Cochrane Library - main screen

### **Cochrane Database of Systematic Reviews**

- Full-text of completed reviews carried out by Cochrane Collaboration
- Protocols for reviews currently in preparation
- reviews of RCT (randomized controlled trials)
- statistical methods of putting results together (meta-analyses)

Statistical analyses

### **Database of Abstracts of Reviews of Effectiveness (DARE)**

- structured abstracts of high-quality systematic reviews published in the scientific literature.
- the reviews are identified by searching through key medical journals, bibliographic databases and less widely-available "grey literature". A paper will be included if it reviews the effectiveness of health care interventions or organization
- 5500 abstracts

### **Cochrane Controlled Trials Register (CCTR/CENTRAL)**

- References to Randomized Controlled Trials
- Designed for use by members of the Collaboration's Review Groups and others performing systematic reviews
- Contains more than 564 000 CTs
- Hand searching / DBs
- Medical Editors Trials Amnesty (unpublished trials)

### **Cochrane Methodology Register**

- References to articles dealing with the science/methods of systematic reviews, RCTs
- 11200 records

- contains information on healthcare technology assessments (defined as prevention and rehabilitation, vaccines, pharmaceuticals and devices, medical and surgical procedures and the systems within which health is protected and maintained)
- systematic reviews
- primary research
- INAHTA projects
- <http://www.inahta.org/>

#### **NHS Economic Evaluation Database (NHS EED)**

- Structured abstracts of economic evaluations of health care interventions
- 24400 records

Browse articles in each DB

Browse by Topics

Search screen