Welcome to the eleventh newsletter of the Cochrane Wounds Group. There have been many exciting developments within the Cochrane Collaboration since our last newsletter - read on!

**Monthly Publication of the Cochrane Database of Systematic Reviews**
The Cochrane Database of Systematic Reviews (CDSR) and the 'About The Cochrane Collaboration' database have moved to monthly publication in 2010. The other databases will remain as quarterly publications, and the DVD-ROM will remain as a quarterly dispatch.

This change represents an important development for the CDSR and *The Cochrane Library*. The increased publication frequency will enable us to publish new evidence more rapidly and will bring benefits to our authors, readers and the editorial teams. Further information about monthly publication, including the new 2010 schedule, changes to the publication icons, and contacts for queries, is available on the 'Help' page of *The Cochrane Library*: http://www3.interscience.wiley.com/cgi-bin/mrwhome/106568753/HELP_Cochrane.html

If you have any queries about your specific protocol or review please contact the Wounds Group directly.

**Highly accessed Wounds Reviews**
Seven Wounds Group reviews were included in the world wide top 100 most accessed reviews for 2009. These data are produced by Wiley InterScience based on full texts downloaded of the more than 6000 reviews available in *The Cochrane Library*. Only two other of the 52 review groups in the Collaboration had more reviews in the top 100. These seven highly accessed Wounds Group reviews are:
- Support surfaces for pressure ulcer prevention (8th, 5071 downloads)
- Honey as a topical treatment for wounds (19th, 3931 downloads)
- Compression for venous leg ulcers (28th, 3480 downloads)
- Preoperative fasting for adults to prevent perioperative complications (33rd, 3304 downloads)
- Water for wound cleansing (59th, 2731)
- Risk assessment tools for the prevention of pressure ulcers (63rd, 2687)
- Nutritional interventions for preventing and treating pressure ulcers (78th, 2436)

**Wounds Author Awarded Aubrey Sheiham Scholarship**

We're delighted to announce that one of our authors, Dr Martha Eliya from Malawi, was the successful applicant of the 2010 Aubrey Sheiham Public Health & Primary Care Scholarship. Dr Eliya’s review topic is ‘Primary closure versus delayed closure for non-bite traumatic wounds’. She will be based at the UK Cochrane Centre in Oxford for three months starting late April 2010 but will visit us in York later this summer.

“I started my sabbatical in November 2009 with the Cochrane Wounds Group and wrestled with several issues such as freezing temperatures, costly accommodation in York, and missing my family in Malaysia. After spending almost seven months with the group, the benefits for me professionally have outweighed all these issues.

I consider myself very fortunate to have been able to do my sabbatical with the Wounds Group. The experience has been the most memorable and productive period in my professional career. My transition into the department was very smooth because the staff had done such an excellent job of setting up my work space and ensuring that I had access to all the relevant resources.

I was fortunate to have worked with Sally Bell-Syer, Wounds Group Managing Editor, and benefited from her knowledge, experience and communication skills. I’ve participated in three postgraduate modules offered by the Department, which provide further opportunities for my professional growth. The work of Prof Nicky Cullum, Prof Martin Bland and Prof Christine Godfrey; has been known to me for many years. I was privileged to sit in the classes given by these eminent researchers along with classes given by Sally Bell-Syer, Ruth Foxlee and Susan O’Meara, an experienced Cochrane author. I was much impressed by their knowledge and humility and found these lectures to be professionally enriching learning experiences.

The Wounds Group also generously sponsored my attendance at the 2010 UK and Ireland Cochrane Contributors Meeting in Cardiff, Wales. At this meeting I had the opportunity to attend several excellent and beneficial workshops and presentations.

Overall, I thoroughly enjoyed interacting both professionally and personally with many brilliant people within the Department of Health Sciences. I sincerely thank the Wounds Group team, Nicky, Sally and Ruth and other colleagues in the department, Sandi, Susan, Dorothy and Maria for their help and hospitality. Empowered by this sabbatical experience with the Wounds group, I will return to Malaysia at the end of May with a greater insight and a fresh

**Visitors to the Editorial Base**

Late last year Associate Professor Zoriah Aziz from the Department of Pharmacy, Faculty of Medicine at the University of Malaya in Kuala Lumpur began a seven month sabbatical with the Wounds Group. She had a keen interest in learning more about systematic review production and has been involved in updating two reviews and progressing one protocol through to a review draft. Zoriah describes her experiences with the Wounds Group:
Ruth, Zoriah and Sally at the editorial base

**CONSORT 2010 Statement Published**

New guidance to improve the reporting of trial findings was published simultaneously on 24 March 2010 by nine leading journals around the world - BMJ, Annals of Internal Medicine, BMC Medicine, Journal of Clinical Epidemiology, The Lancet, Obstetrics and Gynecology, Open Medicine, PLoS Medicine, and Trials.

The guidance, known as the ‘Consolidated Standards of Reporting Trials’ (CONSORT) Statement, was first published in 1996 and revised in 2001. It includes a checklist to help authors write reports of randomised controlled trials so that others can judge the reliability and validity of the results.

More than 400 journals and three leading editorial groups across the world have now given their official support to CONSORT.

The latest version, ‘CONSORT 2010’ (1), improves the specificity and clarity of the previous checklist. Several new items will also make it easier for decision makers to judge the soundness of trial results. A separate explanatory paper (2) also published in the BMJ and the Journal of Clinical Epidemiology provides published examples of transparent reporting and elaborates on the empirical evidence that forms the basis for the guidance.

**References**


**Enhancements to the Cochrane Library**

Monthly publication of CDSR is the first step in a programme of enhancements in 2010. You may already have notices changes to The Cochrane Library http://www.thecochranelibrary.com/, all of which are aimed at improving functionality and usability. All the search functionality you’re used to is still available on The Cochrane Library, just click on ‘Advanced Search’ from the homepage.

**Cochrane Journal Club**

Cochrane Journal Club presents a recent Cochrane review, together with relevant background information and resources, podcasts by the authors explaining the key points of the review and discussion questions to help you to explore the review methods and findings in more detail. Visit www.cochranejournalclub.com to join the debate!

**The Cochrane Library Monthly Email Alerts**

You can sign up for The Cochrane Library monthly email alerts by going to http://www.thecochranelibrary.com/ and selecting ‘sign-up’ from the menu bar at the top of the home page. This takes you to the Wiley email service sign-up page where you enter your email address and select The Cochrane Library.

**Free Trial Access to HEED for Cochrane Authors**

Wiley-Blackwell and the Campbell & Cochrane Economics Methods Group (CCEMG) have launched a pilot initiative to
provide free trial access to the Health Economic Evaluations Database (HEED). The free trial is available to authorised authors of Cochrane reviews via the CCEMG website http://www.c-cemg.org/

**Cochrane Podcasts**

Since 2008, there have been over 100 Cochrane Podcasts published. There are collections available of most accessed reviews, plus themed podcasts such as Cochrane reviews summarised in Podcast format on Influenza. There are some additional foreign language podcasts available in many different languages. Explore the Cochrane podcast collection at http://www.cochrane.org/podcasts.

**Complimentary copies for Contact Authors**

Don't forget that the Contact Person of a full, up-to-date, published Cochrane review is entitled to a complimentary online or DVD subscription to *The Cochrane Library*. If you’re eligible to receive a complimentary subscription, you will see a Subscription tab on the Properties of your record in Archie when your new or up-to-date review has been released for publication. The default subscription status is set to 'Suspended' so if you want to receive your subscription, please change your status to 'Online' or 'DVD-ROM'. You also have the option to donate your subscription to someone else with a record in Archie, e.g. a co-author.

**Progress Report**

The Wounds Group published 63 reviews and 33 published protocols in Issue 1, 2010 of *The Cochrane Library*, plus there are a further 32 registered titles. A full list can be found on our website: http://wounds.cochrane.org/

**News from the Editorial Base**

We are delighted to welcome Dr Kurinchi Gurusamy as a new Wounds Group Editor. Kurinchi is a surgical trainee and a research fellow at the Department of Surgery, Royal Free Campus, University College London Medical School. He is an experienced researcher and prolific Cochrane contributor who has authorship on 38 Cochrane reviews, including three with the Wounds Group.

We said goodbye to Helena Mullineaux in March. Helena had been with the group as an administrative assistant for almost two years and we’ve valued her contribution and humour enormously.

**Training Workshops**

For a current list of training workshops, please visit The Cochrane Collaboration website at: http://www.cochrane.org/training

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

- 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
- US Cochrane Center http://apps1.jhsph.edu/cochrane/workshops.htm

**Recently Published Protocols and Reviews**

The following protocols, reviews and updates have been published in *The Cochrane Library* since our last newsletter (current to Issue 4 2010):

**New protocols**

- Absorbable versus non-absorbable sutures for primary closure of traumatic lacerations and surgical wounds
- Antibiotics and antiseptics to prevent infection in cardiac rhythm management device implantation surgery
- Cyanoacrylate microbial sealants for skin preparation prior to surgery
- Dressings and topical agents for donor sites of split-thickness skin grafts
• Hyperbaric oxygen therapy for acute surgical and traumatic wounds
• Interventions for helping people adhere to compression treatments for venous leg ulceration
• Linezolid versus vancomycin for skin and soft tissue infections
• Ozone therapy for treating diabetic foot ulcers
• Staples versus sutures for closing leg wounds after vein graft harvesting for coronary artery bypass surgery
• Topical phenytoin for treating pressure ulcers
• Topical treatment for facial burns

New reviews
• Complex interventions for preventing diabetic foot ulceration
• Granulocyte-colony stimulating factors as adjunctive therapy for diabetic foot infections
• Peri-operative glycaemic control regimens for preventing surgical site infections in adults
• Skin preparation with alcohol versus alcohol followed by any antiseptic for preventing bacteraemia or contamination of blood for transfusion
• Topical silver for preventing wound infection

Updated reviews
• Antibiotics and antiseptics for venous leg ulcers
• Disposable surgical face masks for preventing surgical wound infection in clean surgery
• Debridement of diabetic foot ulcers Double gloving to reduce surgical cross-infection
• Healing by primary versus secondary intention after surgical treatment for pilonidal sinus.
• Infection control strategies for preventing the transmission of meticillin-resistant Staphylococcus aureus (MRSA) in nursing homes for older people.
• Pentoxifylline for treating venous leg ulcers

• Preoperative bathing or showering with skin antiseptics to prevent surgical site infection
• Preoperative fasting for preventing perioperative complications in children
• Use of plastic adhesive drapes during surgery for preventing surgical site infection
• Skin grafting for venous leg ulcers
• Topical agents or dressings for pain in venous leg ulcers
• Vitamin C for preventing and treating tetanus
• Wound drains after incisional hernia repair

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

• Hydrogels for debriding pressure ulcers
• Early excision and grafting for burns
• Antimicrobial beads for the prevention of surgical wound infection
• Closure methods for preventing sternal wound dehiscence
• Dressings and topical agents for malignant wounds

For a full list of ripe reviews see “Reviews needed” at: [http://wounds.cochrane.org/](http://wounds.cochrane.org/)

In addition we have a small number of published protocols where the current review authors were 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:

- Educational interventions for health care professionals to prevent pressure ulcers
- Pressure garment therapy for treating burns
- Topical warming for treating chronic wounds

Are you interested in becoming a Peer Reviewer?
We are constantly trying to improve the quality of our output and an important part of this process is the feedback on our protocols
and reviews, which is provided by our peer reviewers.

Peer review of protocols (proposed reviews in development) and completed systematic reviews ensures that protocols and reviews published in The Cochrane Library are of a high standard. Protocols and reviews are assessed by members of the Cochrane Wounds Group editorial team, as well as external individuals knowledgeable about the review topic and the methodology of systematic reviews. Peer reviewers should have no conflict of interest that would interfere with their ability to fairly critique the review and should not have been involved in the preparation of the review.

We provide guidance for peer reviewers, use a structured feedback form and acknowledge their contribution, both in the review and in the Wounds Group entry on The Cochrane Library.

If you have expertise in any of our topic areas and are interested in becoming one of our peer reviewers we would be happy to hear from you.

Topics:
- Chronic wounds – for example: pressure ulcers, venous leg ulcers, diabetic foot ulcers.
- Acute wounds – for example: surgical wounds, traumatic wounds, burns, bites, lacerations.
- In addition we undertake reviews concerned with the prevention and treatment of wound infection.

Dates for Your Diary

17th Cochrane Colloquium – Keystone, Colorado
18-22 October 2010

Publication date for Issue 7, 2010 of The Cochrane Library
7 July, 2010

Publication date for Issue 8, 2010 of The Cochrane Library
4 August, 2010

Publication date for Issue 9, 2010 of The Cochrane Library
8 September, 2010

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