

Hello and thank you

Emma Welsh, Managing Editor

We've been very busy this autumn publishing reviews, going to conferences and I have been getting to know some of you over email and the phone. I met a handful of authors at the Cochrane Colloquium in the mountains of Keystone, Colorado. There was a running theme of consumer involvement and ensuring that reviews are relevant to the people receiving treatments and we want to reflect that in our work here at Airways. Videos and podcasts for those who missed out can be found [here](#). See Liz's piece on the new Cochrane Register of Studies and photos below!



As the year draws to a close I want to say thank you for all your hard work - we published seven new reviews and 47 updates of reviews this year! Whether you are an author, editor or peer reviewer – we couldn't be putting out so many high quality reviews without you!

As we look to next year, we are planning a prioritisation exercise, increasing consumer involvement and helping you to continue producing relevant, timely and high-quality systematic reviews.

Very best wishes for a happy and peaceful new year, from Emma and everyone at Airways HQ



A note on GIV methodology

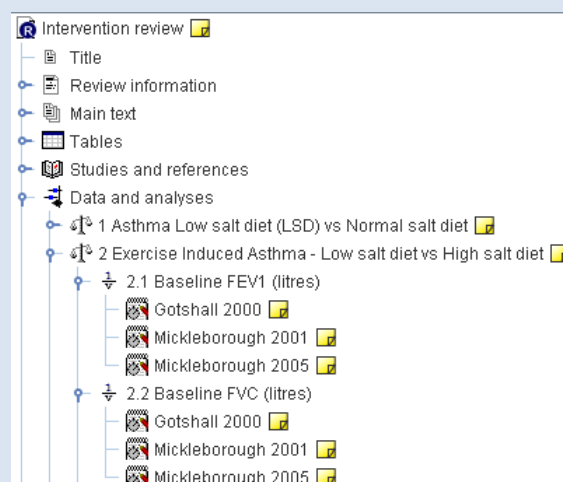
Chris Cates, Co-ordinating Editor

We have faced some challenges at the Editorial Base this summer in trying to edit reviews with analyses using Generic Inverse Variance (GIV). In GIV, authors enter modified data (such as log rate ratios or standardised mean differences (SMD)) and standard errors that have been calculated outside of RevMan. This is in contrast to odds ratios and mean differences where the number of events and means/standard deviation respectively are lifted straight from the study report into the review.

Although GIV is very flexible, it is much less transparent than other methods because the reader cannot easily see where the data entered into the review has come from.

Because there are many possible ways to calculate the data for GIV analyses (especially from cross-over trials or standardised mean differences), we have no way of checking that the data entered into the reviews. In the future, we would like to see full details of where the raw data came from and how it has been transformed into the data that is entered into RevMan.

These details can be added as notes to each study line in the Data and Analysis section of the review (fig. 1), or provided in a separate spreadsheet showing the calculations or as an appendix to the review itself.



1. Here, the authors have explained their methods in notes in left hand pane of RevMan

Ideally proposed GIV methods should be spelled out in the protocol, and it is better to discuss options **before** authors enter all the GIV data. It is surely preferable to revise one line of data entry, than dozens!

The GIV method is so flexible that it allows all sorts of things to be done, but just because it is possible to do things using GIV does not mean it is necessarily sensible! Readers find SMD difficult to understand and apply, so in general it is more informative to use mean differences (MD) than SMD where possible. Also if the data is entered first as an MD analysis (using different subgroups for different measurement scales for example), it is easier for the reader and editor to see where the data came from and put an SMD into context.

If you are in any way unsure about using GIV please contact the editorial base first!

Best wishes for a wonderful Christmas, Chris.

New editor

We are delighted to welcome Milo Puhan, our latest addition to the Editorial Board. Milo is an epidemiologist with research interests in methodology for clinical trials, prediction modelling and meta-analysis. Not only is he an author with us, but he is involved in Cochrane methods groups and a [Cochrane review workshop](#) in Baltimore, USA, with the Eyes and Vision Group.

Airways Group Scope

We have rearranged our review topics so the reviews are easier to navigate and for people to see what they might like to get involved with. See

<http://airways.cochrane.org/our-reviews>

Cochrane 2.0

Next time you go to www.cochrane.org, why not try logging in to the intranet where you can access discussion forums?

The new Cochrane Register of Studies – coming soon!

Liz Stovold, Trials Search co-ordinator/Information Specialist

The development of the new Cochrane Register of Studies (CRS) is well underway. I attended a number of sessions at the Keystone Colloquium run by Gordon Dooley, of Metataxis who is developing this software for the Collaboration. The CRS offers many opportunities for improving the organisation of trial reports.

The CRS is web-based, and will synchronise with Archie and capture information about review titles and author contact details – and every author will have access to it.

The CRS is a move towards a study-based register where references to trial reports can be linked to a main study record which in turn can be linked to the review. We will also be able to describe the characteristics of the trial in the study record giving you more detailed information on the study, helping make the process of identifying included studies from your search results less painful! However, it will take some time to get the new CRS up and running and it will always be a work in progress as there are 28 000 references in the Airways Group Register which will need linking to study records!

Upcoming meetings

16th Annual Meeting of [UK and Ireland Contributors](#) to The Cochrane Collaboration Belfast; 15 and 16th March 2011. Come and join us for training on methodology, networking and debating the major issues of the moment and get support in writing your reviews.

The 19th [Annual Cochrane Colloquium](#) 2011 – will be held in Madrid, Spain. 19-22 October

Review completion course

The UK Cochrane Centre is organising a course for author teams who are keen to finish their reviews with dedicated research time and people on hand to help. The course runs 7-11 Feb 2011 in Oxford. For further details of this and other international training opportunities see

www.cochrane.org/training

Evidence 2010

Charlotta Karner, Systematic Reviewer

On the 1 and 2 November the inaugural “[Evidence 2010 Transforming Healthcare](#)” conference was held at the British Medical Association House, in London. Emma and I had the pleasure of participating in two days packed with interesting keynote sessions, showcases, posters, debates and networking opportunities. The conference was organized by the BMJ, the Centre for Evidence Based Medicine (CEBM), and University of Oxford. The aim of the conference was to look at ways to improve the quality, implementation and practice of evidence based healthcare by fostering effective innovation, guiding efficient commissioning, and providing education and training. The conference was aimed at commissioners, developers as well as users of evidence-based resources.

evidence2010
TRANSFORMING HEALTHCARE

There was an emphasis on providing higher quality evidence based healthcare on a tighter budget and the importance of involving and informing patients to make their own healthcare decisions. The information balance between healthcare professionals and patients is also shifting. The availability, number and diversity of information sources on EBM have increased enormously - highlighting the importance of our Cochrane Reviews.

At the conference several sources of and techniques to disseminate evidence base medicine were presented. [NHS Evidence](#) is a search engine allowing NHS staff and the public to find information on evidence, best practice, guidance and policies for health and social care. [Map of Medicine](#) is a visual representation of evidence based, practice-informed clinical pathways. The maps are for NHS staff but they can also be viewed by patients and the public. Both resources point to The Cochrane library.

For me, this two day conference was informative, inspirational, and it gave me the opportunity to meet a variety of both providers and users of evidence-based healthcare. Hopefully there will be an Evidence 2011 next year with an even greater diversity of participants and more interactive sessions.



The aspens in the Rocky Mountains, Colorado, USA were beautiful!

Invitation to contribute

If you would like to contribute a news item either for the newsletter or to our website, please email ewelsh@sgul.ac.uk.