

COCHRANE AIRWAYS GROUP NEWSLETTER

JANUARY 2012

Happy New Year! We have been busy over the autumn and winter, at the Cochrane Colloquium and then working with Asthma UK on a joint priority setting exercise – as well as editing and publishing protocols, reviews and updates.

ELECTRONIC LICENSE FORMS AND DECLARATION OF INTEREST FORMS

Signing off reviews for publication has never been easier. You can now sign off protocols and reviews using an online form sent straight to your inbox - and fill out declaration of interest forms in the same way. The conflict of interest forms are in line with the ICMJE recommendations, and you will be asked to complete these forms before a new review or protocol is published and to update existing forms before an update is published. Once you have filled out one form, all the data will be stored and will be ready and waiting for you when you come to sign another. All authors will need an Archie account to sign these forms - but the system is great as it allows you to see the final pre-publication version of the reviews from the comfort of your screen! If you don't have an account, this can lead to severe delays in publication. TOP TIP: to sign off your licence for publications form, you have to write your name in the box

EXACTLY as it appear next door to it – copy and paste is the best way to be sure you have done it correctly.

NEW STAFF AT THE AIRWAYS EDITORIAL BASE

Many of you will have already met Emma Jackson over emails - Emma is our not-quite-so-new-now editorial assistant and is helping us with administrative duties as well as supporting authors in finding translations and publications. As you can see from the picture below, Emma has been involved with a prioritisation exercise working with the James Lind Alliance and Asthma Research UK. We also welcome back Steve Milan who has come back from the North of England to help us update a number of priority reviews.



Emma, Charlotta and Liz ponder the effect of steroids on growth

CAG AT THE ERS

We are having a session at the European Respiratory Society meeting in Vienna, Austria, on Sunday 2nd September 2012. We hope to see some of you there! We are in the process of planning some sort of training event or review completion workshop so please drop Emma (ewelsh@sgul.ac.uk) a line if you have any thoughts on what would help

with your review the most – watch this space for final details.

CALL FOR EDITORS

The Cochrane Airways Group (CAG) is proud of its achievements in producing high quality systematic reviews and we could not have achieved so many high quality reviews without the huge contribution of our editorial board. However, the recruitment of new members to the editorial team will allow more reviews to be processed more efficiently. Therefore we are opening applications for new Editors. You can find further information here (<http://airways.cochrane.org/vacancies-new-members-cag-editorial-board>).

UPDATING ACUTE ASTHMA REVIEWS

We are currently in the process of updating a number of acute asthma reviews and Steve Milan joined us at the end of November to provide assistance with the project, having previously worked in a similar role with the Pregnancy and Childbirth Group in Liverpool. Steve worked with the Airways group from 1994 to 2002 and has been an editor with the Developmental, Psychosocial and Learning Problems Group since 2002. We hope the updates of the following reviews will be completed over the next three months: Addition of intravenous aminophylline to beta2-agonists in adults with acute asthma, Early use of inhaled corticosteroids in the emergency department treatment of acute asthma, Inhaled magnesium sulfate in the treatment of acute asthma, Inhaled steroids for acute asthma following emergency department discharge and Intravenous beta2-agonists for acute asthma in the emergency department

REVIEWS PUBLISHED IN 2011

Thanks to all of you who have contributed to the publication of 12 new reviews and 16 new protocols this year! Thanks also to the many more of you who have contributed an updated review.

New reviews

- Anti-inflammatory medications for obstructive sleep apnea in children
- Combination inhaled steroid and long-acting beta2-agonist in addition to tiotropium versus tiotropium or combination alone for chronic obstructive pulmonary disease
- Different durations of corticosteroid therapy for exacerbations of chronic obstructive pulmonary disease
- Home-based educational interventions for children with asthma
- Inhaled corticosteroids versus long-acting beta2-agonists for chronic obstructive pulmonary disease
- Optimal intensity and type of leg exercise training for people with chronic obstructive pulmonary disease
- Phosphodiesterase 4 inhibitors for chronic obstructive pulmonary disease
- Short courses of antibiotics for children and adults with bronchiectasis
- Symptomatic oxygen for non-hypoxaemic chronic obstructive pulmonary disease
- Telehealthcare for chronic obstructive pulmonary disease
- The effect of adding inhaled corticosteroids to tiotropium and long-acting beta2-agonists for chronic obstructive pulmonary disease
- Treatment of obstructive sleep apnoea for chronic cough in children

New protocols

- Asthma self management education with either regular healthcare professional review or written action plans or both in adults
- Breathing exercises for dysfunctional breathing/hyperventilation syndrome in adults

- Buteyko breathing for asthma
- Combination formoterol and budesonide as maintenance and reliever therapy versus higher dose combination inhaler maintenance for chronic asthma in adults and children
- Inhaled corticosteroids for subacute and chronic cough in adults
- Inhaled corticosteroids in children with persistent asthma: effects on growth
- Inspiratory muscle training for chronic obstructive pulmonary disease
- Integrated disease management interventions for patients with chronic obstructive pulmonary disease
- Ipratropium bromide for stable chronic obstructive pulmonary disease
- Ketamine for management of acute exacerbations of asthma in children
- Long-acting beta2-agonist in addition to tiotropium versus either tiotropium or long-acting beta2-agonist alone for chronic obstructive pulmonary disease
- Nurse versus physician led care for the management of asthma
- The effect of adding inhaled corticosteroids to tiotropium and long-acting beta2-agonists for chronic obstructive pulmonary disease
- Tiotropium versus long-acting beta-agonists for stable chronic obstructive pulmonary disease
- Tiotropium versus placebo for chronic obstructive pulmonary disease
- Weight loss interventions for chronic asthma

REQUEST FOR AUTHOR TEAM

We have identified a possible review title “chiropractic for asthma” as a patient important topic. If you are interested in writing this review and have a suitable team, please download a title registration form from our website and fill it out.

STANDARDS IN COCHRANE REVIEWS

The Cochrane Collaboration has developed a set of methodological expectations (dubbed Methodological Expectations of Cochrane

Intervention Reviews [MECIR]) for Cochrane Protocols, Reviews, and updates of reviews on the effects of interventions. The Cochrane Airways Group supports these standards which reflect the recommendations in The Handbook. The editorial process aims to take account of these standards and make sure they are implemented in our reviews. Full details about the expectations can be found here <http://www.editorial-unit.cochrane.org/mecir>.

IMPACT FACTOR OF THE CDSR – CAUSE FOR CELEBRATION!

The 2010 Impact Factor for the Cochrane Database of Systematic Reviews (CDSR) is 6.186, while the impact factor for the Airways Group is 5.190 (42 publications cited 218 times). A review published by the Airways Group in 2008 or 2009 was cited, on average, 5.190 times in 2010 – which is great news for the dissemination of your work! The CDSR is now ranked in the top 10 (of 151) in the Medicine, General & Internal category. You can find further information here (<http://www.editorial-unit.cochrane.org/impact-factor-reports-year>). Our top ten most cited reviews are:

- Vaccines for preventing influenza in people with asthma (11)
- Pulmonary rehabilitation following exacerbations of chronic obstructive pulmonary disease (11)
- Regular treatment with salmeterol for chronic asthma: serious adverse events (11)
- Vitamin C supplementation for asthma (10)
- Systemic corticosteroids for acute exacerbations of chronic obstructive pulmonary disease (10)
- Physical training for interstitial lung disease (10)
- Tailored interventions based on exhaled nitric oxide versus clinical symptoms for asthma in children and adults (10)

- Addition of long-acting beta-agonists to inhaled corticosteroids for chronic asthma in children (10)
- Regular treatment with formoterol for chronic asthma: serious adverse events (9)
- Galactomannan detection for invasive aspergillosis in immunocompromized patients (9)

Citations are not the only indicator of how widely read your reviews are! Reviews published by the Airways Group were accessed in full-text format on average 431.26 times during 2010 (232 articles accessed 100,053 times). The top ten most highly accessed airways reviews were

1. Pulmonary rehabilitation for chronic obstructive pulmonary disease (3379)
2. Pulmonary rehabilitation following exacerbations of chronic obstructive pulmonary disease (2679)
3. Self-management education for patients with chronic obstructive pulmonary disease (2548)
4. Systemic corticosteroids for acute exacerbations of chronic obstructive pulmonary disease (2073)
5. Holding chambers (spacers) versus nebulisers for beta-agonist treatment of acute asthma (1572)
6. Injection allergen immunotherapy for asthma (1572)
7. Action plans with limited patient education only for exacerbations of chronic obstructive pulmonary disease (1553)
8. Non-invasive positive pressure ventilation for treatment of respiratory failure due to exacerbations of chronic obstructive pulmonary disease (1481)
9. Self-management education and regular practitioner review for adults with asthma (1224)
10. Mucolytic agents for chronic bronchitis or chronic obstructive pulmonary disease (1169)

PERMISSION TO CO-PUBLISH INFO FROM COCHRANE REVIEWS

On January 14th, RightsLink®, the automated, online permissions clearing system from the Copyright Clearance Center was introduced to The Cochrane Library website. RightsLink® enables customers to clear permissions for re-use of Cochrane content swiftly and easily, at any time, from anywhere in the world, directly from the point of content on The Cochrane Library website (www.thecochranelibrary.com).

UKCC REVIEW COMPLETION COURSE

The UK Cochrane Centre will hold a Review Completion course; from Monday 26th March to Friday 30th March. The aim of this course is to enable reviewers to complete their review, by providing dedicated time, expertise to help with individual problems, group teaching sessions and problem-solving. The course will be held at the UK Cochrane Centre in Oxford. Please contact Emma if you are interested in attending (ewelsh@sgul.ac.uk).

AIRWAYS GROUP TRANSLATION NETWORK

The Translation Network was established in 1999, and its volunteers have translated and extracted data from hundreds of non-English language trial reports for inclusion in our reviews. If you are willing to volunteer your time and skills to translate trials for reviews – note that word-for-word translations are not necessary - please contact Emma on ejackson@sgul.ac.uk

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.