

CAG MECIR Abstract Checklist

Background - Explained the context or elaborated on the context, purpose and rationale of the review.

Objectives - Expressed in the form 'To assess the effects of [intervention or comparison] for [health problem] for/in [types of people, disease or problem and setting if specified]'.

Search methods - Provide the date of the last search from which records were incorporated into the review, and an indication of the databases and other sources searched

Selection criteria - Summarize eligibility criteria of the review including information on study design, population and comparison

Data collection and analysis - Summarize any noteworthy methods for selecting studies, collecting data, evaluating risk of bias and synthesising findings. For many reviews it may be sufficient to state "We used standard methodological procedures expected by the Cochrane Collaboration".

Main results

- Included the total number of studies and participants.
- Provide a brief description of key characteristics that will determine the applicability of a body of evidence (e.g. age, severity of condition, setting, study duration)
- Provide a comment on the risk of bias
- Report findings for all primary outcomes irrespective of strength and direction of the result, and availability of data
- Ensure that any findings related to adverse effects are reported. If adverse effects data were sought, but availability of data was limited, this should be reported
- Included the same summary statistics as those in the review, and presented statistics in a standard way (e.g. 'OR 2.31; 95% CI 1.13 to 3.45'). Ensure that readers will understand the direction of benefit and the measurement scale used and that confidence intervals are included where appropriate
- Included risks of events (percentage) or averages (for continuous data) for both comparison groups.
- Ensure that key findings are interpretable or are re-expressed in an interpretable way. For instance, they might be re-expressed in absolute terms (e.g. assumed and corresponding risks, NNTs, group means), and outcomes combined with a standard scale (e.g. SMD might be re-expressed in units that are more naturally understood).
- If overall results are not calculated, included a qualitative assessment or a description of the range and pattern of the results.

Authors' conclusions

- Included a succinct conclusion drawn directly from the findings of the review.
- Avoided giving advice or recommendations.
- Included any important limitations of data and analyses.

Ensure that reporting of objective important outcomes, results caveats, and conclusion is consistent across the text, abstract, PLS and SOF. Add no information that is not in the Cochrane Review.