

The Newsletter of the Cochrane Lung Cancer Collaborative Review Group (LCG)
October 2006

Cochrane and NICE

Some of you may know that for two days a week I run something called the National Collaborating Centre for Cancer here in Cardiff. This is a small unit that is funded by the National Institute for Health and Clinical Excellence (NICE) and our job is to produce clinical guidelines on cancer topics for use in England and Wales. These are broad clinical guidelines rather than guidance on the availability of specific drugs. That is the job of the technology appraisal arm of NICE which gets most of the adverse publicity.

We are a small team consisting of four researchers, three project managers, two information specialists and two support staff. We work with groups of about 15 or so health professionals and patient representatives from across the UK on each topic and it takes about two years from start to finish to develop each guideline. The team here produce systematic reviews on the relevant topics and the group drafts the recommendations. We are currently working on four topics: prostate cancer, early and advanced breast cancer and metastatic spinal cord compression. However NICE has already published a clinical guideline on lung cancer (available at www.nice.org.uk/guidance/CG24/?c=91496) and soon we will have to consider

whether it needs updating – which it almost certainly will.

Our systematic reviews are rather different from a Cochrane review because we have a tight schedule and very little time. We have calculated that the each researcher has to produce one review every two weeks! So we often have to cut corners and make compromises. However it is incredibly helpful when we find that there is a relevant and up to date systematic review already published - and even better if it is a Cochrane Review.

This brings me back to lung cancer. I know that in the next two years we will be revising all or part of the current clinical guidelines. We will need all the help we can get and so I would encourage you all not only to complete the new reviews under development but also to update any reviews that are now out of date. Having just been involved in updating the palliative radiotherapy review I know how difficult that can be...

Anyway that is enough exhortation from me. All the very best for 2007. May it bring you all success and happiness.....and a few more reviews!

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<http://www.cochrane.es/es/lcg>

PRODUCTION OF THE LUNG CANCER GROUP

Protocols

- Second or third additional chemotherapy drug for non-small cell lung cancer in patients with advanced disease
- Palliative endobronchial brachytherapy for non-small cell lung cancer
- Optimal duration of chemotherapy for advanced non-small cell lung cancer
- Gemcitabine for non-small cell lung cancer
- First-line chemotherapy for synchronous brain metastases from Small Cell Lung Cancer
- Elemele for the treatment of lung cancer
- Chinese herbs for symptom palliation in patients with lung cancer
- Chemotherapy and surgery versus surgery alone in non-small cell lung cancer

Reviews

- Chemotherapy for non-small cell lung cancer
- Chemotherapy versus best supportive care for extensive small cell lung cancer
- Concurrent chemoradiotherapy in non-small cell lung cancer
- Cranial irradiation for preventing brain metastases of small cell lung cancer in patients in complete remission
- Drugs for preventing lung cancer in healthy people
- Early versus Late Chest Radiotherapy in patients with limited stage small cell lung cancer

Reviews (cont.)

- Non-invasive interventions for improving well-being and quality of life in patients with lung cancer
- Palliative radiotherapy regimens for non-small cell lung cancer
- Pemetrexed disodium in combination with cisplatin versus other cytotoxic agents or supportive care for the treatment of malignant pleural mesothelioma
- Postoperative radiotherapy for non-small cell lung cancer
- Prophylactic cranial irradiation for preventing brain metastases in patients undergoing radical treatment for non-small cell lung cancer
- Radical radiotherapy for stage I/II non-small cell lung cancer in patients not sufficiently fit for or declining surgery (medically inoperable)
- Radiotherapy for malignant pleural mesothelioma
- Screening for lung cancer
- Second-line chemotherapy for non-small cell lung cancer
- Steroids, radiotherapy, chemotherapy and stents for superior vena caval obstruction in carcinoma of the bronchus
- Surgery for early stage non-small cell lung cancer
- Surgery versus radiosurgery for patients with a solitary brain metastasis from non-small cell lung cancer
- Surgical sealant for preventing air leaks after pulmonary resections in patients with lung cancer

<http://www.cochrane.es/es/lcg>

EDITORIAL TEAM

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HOT TOPICS FOR FUTURE REVIEWS

The following topics for potential new reviews have been identified in consultation with our Editors.

DISEASE	PROPOSED TITLE
NSCLC	Induction radiotherapy for NSCLC
NSCLC	Irinotecan for NSCLC
NSCLC	Surgery in stage III NSCLC
SCLC	Second line chemotherapy in SCLC
SCLC	Bone marrow colony stimulating factors for SCLC

SCLC: Small Cell Lung Cancer ; NSCLC: Non-Small Cell Lung Cancer

If you are interested in undertaking one of these reviews or if you have another topic that you think is relevant for a review please could you email Jordi Pardo, Review Group Co-ordinator: lcg@cochrane.es

Methodology Register now available free

The Cochrane Methodology Register is now available to the public free of charge at www.cochrane.org/cmr. This Register is a database of studies relevant to the methods of systematic reviews of healthcare and social interventions. The register includes journal articles, book chapters, conference proceedings, conference abstracts and reports of ongoing methodological research. Relevant records are identified primarily through a programme of handsearching undertaken by the UK Cochrane Centre. The register aims to include all published reports of empirical methodological studies that could be relevant for inclusion in a Cochrane methodology review, along with comparative and descriptive studies relevant to the conduct of systematic reviews of healthcare interventions. In Issue 3, 2006, of The Cochrane Library, the Cochrane Methodology Register contains 8408 records.

[http:// www.cochrane.org/cmr](http://www.cochrane.org/cmr)



Searching The Cochrane Library. Did you know?

New options are now available for searching The Cochrane Library. Changes include searching using field labels (such as :au for author), simplified results display, saving searches to your local drive, simplified searching for hyphenated terms, searching no longer case sensitive, and improved searching for author names containing diacritical marks. For more information, including Frequently Asked Questions, see

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LET'S GO TO SAO PAULO!!

XVth Annual Cochrane Colloquium, Sao Paulo 2006

The Brazilian Cochrane Centre will host the 15th Cochrane Colloquium in Sao Paulo (Brazil) from October 23rd to October 26th, 2006.



Further details will be available in early 2007 in:
<http://www.colloquiumbrasil.info/>



THE LUNG CANCER GROUP GROWS!

Pretty busy times on the Lung Cancer Group. Ivan, our Trial Search Co-ordinator, has had a healthy baby called Pol. Sera, one of our Co-ordinating editors, delivered a strong baby called Tomàs few weeks ago. Sera will enjoy her maternity leave until February 2007. Congratulations to both!



Tomàs



Pol

Improving communication with the Steering Group of the Cochrane Collaboration

Following on from recommendations in the recently completed review led by Alessandro Liberati, the Steering Group is working on ways to improve the dissemination of information about its activities to the rest of the Collaboration.

Because of this, the Steering Group has prepared an new Bulletin (Issue Number 1), containing news on items discussed at the Steering Group's meetings in Dublin, October 2006.

You can find this bulletin in the following address.
<http://www.cochrane.org/newslett/index.htm#sgb>.

For more information, you can contact Nick Royle, nroyle@cochrane.org

THE LCG NEWS TEAM

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