

The Newsletter of the Cochrane Lung Cancer Collaborative Review Group (LCG)
October 2008

LCG: 10 years on

It was back in 1998 when the Cochrane Lung Cancer Group started its work: a small group of very enthusiastic people, with little resources and a strong commitment. With our editorial office settled in Sabadell first, and later in Barcelona, authors, editors and peer-reviewers from all over, we managed to publish a few good quality reviews to begin with.

Slowly but steadily we have carried on with our work, with difficulties at times but so far we have published 24 systematic reviews, 10 protocols and a few registered titles are progressing to protocols. Published reviews cover prevention and early detection (2), interventions in NSCLC (10), interventions in SCLC (3), interventions in mesothelioma (2) and other general interventions in lung cancer (5). Controversial topics reviewed are chemotherapy for NSCLC, screening for lung cancer and chest radiotherapy for SCLC, among others.

We are still a small group (have grown a little bit from the very beginning) but still have the same enthusiasm! Now we can say we are nearly there: a few more reviews to go and we'll have covered most of the main topics in lung cancer. We are still keen to recruit people interested in lung cancer and systematic reviews: we need editors, peer-reviewers, consumers, and authors to keep up with the good work. So please if you are one of them do come and join us!

JOIN THE LCG

If you are interested in undertaking a new review, you just need to email us:
lcg@cochrane.es

THE LCG NEWS TEAM



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PRODUCTION OF THE LUNG CANCER GROUP

Protocols

- Chemotherapy and supportive care versus supportive care alone in advanced non-small cell lung cancer
- Chemotherapy for brain metastases from small cell lung cancer
- Chinese herbs for symptom palliation in patients with lung cancer
- Cisplatin plus etoposide versus other platin-based regimens for patients with extensive small cell lung cancer
- Erlotinib for advanced non-small cell lung cancer
- Gefitinib for advanced non-small cell lung cancer
- Gemcitabine for lung cancer
- Optimal duration of chemotherapy for advanced non-small cell lung cancer
- Topotecan for advanced non-small cell lung cancer
- Topotecan for small cell lung cancer

Reviews

- Chemotherapy and surgery versus surgery alone in non-small cell lung cancer
- 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.)

- Elemen for the treatment of lung cancer
- Non-invasive interventions for improving well-being and quality of life in patients with lung cancer
- Palliative endobronchial brachytherapy for non-small cell 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
- Platinum versus non-platinum chemotherapy regimens for small cell lung cancer
- 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

EDITORIAL TEAM

Co-ordinating editors:

Fergus Macbeth – UK
Sera Tort – Spain

Review Group

Co-ordinator:

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Editors:

Xavier Bonfill - Spain
Kwun Fong - Australia
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Nick Rowell-UK
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Assistant RGC:

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NEW REVMAN, NEW HANDBOOK



Version 5 of the Collaboration's review authoring tool, RevMan, was released in March 2008. Bringing improvements to the review structure and lots of new functionality, it is a major advance. As a mandatory update, however, it also means that thousands of busy people across the Collaboration find themselves with the additional task of installing and learning to use the new software. Review Groups face the challenge that by November 2008, all reviews in Archie must have been converted to the new format. Overall, the introduction of RevMan 5 has been a success. There have been some technical problems, but generally these have been fixed quite quickly with an update to the software.

How to proceed when RevMan alerts you to a software update:

- 1. Download the update file, and close RevMan.***
- 2. Locate the downloaded file and run it to install the update.***

TIPS FOR REVMAN 5

When you start working on the RevMan 5 file, use the 'save as' function and save it to whatever drive/ folder you ordinarily store your reviews – thereafter you can just 'save' and Tip: Don't store the file for a long time on your own computer – check it back into Archie. The most recent version will always be available and you won't lose data when your home computer crashes!

GRADEPro

GRADEPro is a newly developed software that imports the meta-analyses from RevMan 5 and creates GRADE tables. Moving back to RevMan 5, you import the data from the GRADE tables to develop a Summary of Findings table – another way of summarizing the key findings from your review, to help people make better informed healthcare decisions.

RISK OF BIAS TABLES

Risk of Bias tables are another way of presenting potential bias in the primary studies you include in your review. The Handbook requires assessment in six areas, but gives the review authors the option to expand into other important areas as indicated. However, usually this is not necessary for oncology trials. The biggest change is that you must now include justification from the article to support your assessment. Check the new Handbook for more details: <http://www.cochrane-handbook.org/>

KEY ITEMS FOR A GOOD START WITH REVMAN 5

- Download RevMan 5 from <http://www.cc-ims.net/RevMan/>.
- Check <http://www.cc-ims.net/authors> for specific material to help with the transition.
- Take the time to complete the tutorial on RevMan 5!
- You will need a user account to work on your review in RevMan 5. If you do not yet have one, contact us lcg@cochrane.es and we will get it for you.
- All files must be started by the Editorial Office. This is done once the title is registered and the review team members are established.
- When you start working on the RevMan 5 file, use the 'save as' function and save it to whatever drive/ folder you ordinarily store your reviews – thereafter you can just 'save' and 'close' without losing it.

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Important changes to Improved status flags



The Cochrane Library

One of the strengths of Cochrane reviews is that they are updated on a regular basis. Flags indicate the status of reviews in the search results of *The Cochrane Library*. The **Update** flag no longer exists and instead has been replaced with the more accurate flags **New search**, **Conclusions changed** and **Major change**.

Changes to the way reviews are displayed

Starting with Issue 2, 2008 of *The Cochrane Library*, Cochrane Reviews will be enhanced progressively with the following additional features to reflect the upgrade to RevMan 5:

- ◆ Author Affiliations and Contact details are now displayed
- ◆ What's New? section added
- ◆ Introduction of Summary of Findings Table
- ◆ Introduction of Risk of Bias Table

For full details of the changes, go to www.thecochranelibrary.com and select **Important changes to *The Cochrane Library*** under **What's New in Issue 3, 2008?**

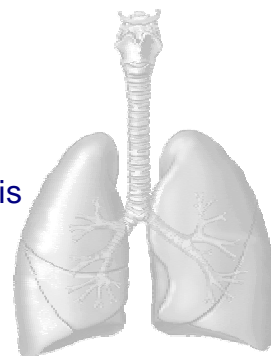
Free training and user guides

You can take part in an instructor-led virtual training session in *The Cochrane Library* <http://interscience.wiley.com/training> or access a self-paced online tutorial www.interscience.wiley.com/tutorials.

You can also download user guides and PowerPoint presentations from the *Help* page on www.thecochranelibrary.com

Do you know the Impact Factor of Cochrane Reviews?

The impact factor is a tool for ranking, evaluating, and comparing journals. It is a measure of the frequency with which the "average article" in a journal has been cited in a particular year. The Cochrane Database of Systematic Reviews has received an Impact Factor of **4.654**.



Cochrane Collaboration Steering Group News

The latest Steering Group Bulletin is now available at

www.cochrane.org/newslett/2008PostVelloreCCSGBulletinv3.pdf

The full minutes of the Steering Group meeting are available at

www.cochrane.org/ccsg/index.htm#ccsg

The results of this year's elections to the Cochrane Collaboration Steering Group are below. New representatives will join the Steering Group for three years at the Freiburg Colloquium on October 5.

- ◆ Representing Centres: Steve McDonald (Australia)
- ◆ Representing Cochrane Review Groups ('at large' position) : Hans van der Woude (Netherlands); re-elected for a second term
- ◆ Representing Cochrane Review Groups (author position) : Donna Gillies (Australia); re-elected for a second term
- ◆ Representing Review Group Co-ordinators: Sonja Henderson (UK)
- ◆ Representing Methods Groups: Julian Higgins (UK) - sole nominee
- ◆ Representing Co-ordinating Editors: Roger Soll (USA) - sole nominee