

Welcome

Welcome to the Summer edition of the Peripheral Vascular Diseases review group newsletter.

In addition to the editorial base update you will find details of our recently published protocols, information on Cochrane training opportunities, upcoming events and details of our most accessed and cited reviews in 2009.

If you would like to contribute to future editions of the newsletter please get in touch with the editorial base.

Update from the Editorial Base

We are very pleased to announce that together with Newcastle upon Tyne Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust we have been successful in obtaining funding from the NIHR to write reviews on three of our key areas: aortic abdominal aneurysm, venous thromboembolism and peripheral arterial disease.

The funding will give us the opportunity to produce reliable information about the management of these three key conditions and is aimed at improving quality of patient care in the NHS.

We are currently recruiting new members of staff to help us complete this programme successfully. We will keep you informed of our progress in our future newsletters.

Did you know...?

Did you know that our Specialised Register now contains more than 10,000 references? All references are coded to assist with the retrieval of relevant studies for reviews.

What's new in *The Cochrane Library*?

Protocols

- ✓ *Pentoxifylline for critical limb ischaemia*
- ✓ *Compression stockings for varicose veins*
- ✓ *Sclerotherapy for lower limb telangiectasias*
- ✓ *Venous cutdown versus the Seldinger technique for placement of totally implantable venous access ports*
- ✓ *Ultrasonography for clinically suspected upper extremity deep vein thrombosis (DTA protocol)*
- ✓ *Aloe Vera for prevention and treatment of infusion phlebitis*

You can find all our reviews at
www.thecochranelibrary.com

Most accessed and cited reviews 2009

Wiley-Blackwell, the publishers of *The Cochrane Library*, have announced that the **most accessed** review of the PVD review group for 2009 is '*Combined intermittent pneumatic leg compression and pharmacological prophylaxis for prevention of venous thromboembolism in high-risk patients*' by S Kakkos, J Caprini, G Geroulakos, A Nicolaides, G Stansby and D Reddy.

The **most cited** review in 2009 is '*Cilostazol for peripheral arterial disease*' by P Robless, D Mikhailidis and G Stansby.

Congratulations to the authors of these reviews.

The most accessed and cited reviews of 2010 will be announced later in the year and we will update you in our next newsletter.

The PVD group Editorial base
Centre for Population Health Sciences
University of Edinburgh
Teviot Place
Edinburgh
EH8 9AG
UK
Tel: +44 (0) 131 6503206
Fax: +44 (0) 131 6506904

Enquiries to: Marlene Stewart, Managing Editor
marlene.stewart@ed.ac.uk
Karen Welch, Trial Search Coordinator
karen.welch@ed.ac.uk
Carole Gibson, Administrator
carole.gibson@ed.ac.uk

Cochrane Training opportunities

Training opportunities organised by The Cochrane Collaboration are available all over the world. If you are new to writing a Cochrane review consider attending one or more of the workshops. They will help you on your way to successfully writing your review. For more details visit <http://www.cochrane.org/tags/news-events/workshops>.

August

11-12: Introduction to writing a Cochrane review, Adelaide, SA, Australia

September

5-9: Systematic reviews and meta-analyses of health research, London, UK

6-8: Evidence Synthesis of Qualitative Research in Europe (ESQUIRE) Short Course, Sheffield, UK

8: Issues & Challenges for Qualitative Research in Evidence Synthesis (InCQuiRES) Short Course, Sheffield, UK

20: Analysis for systematic reviews (RA3), York, UK

21: Advanced topics in the analysis and reporting of systematic reviews (RA4), York, UK

29-1: Systematic Reviews in Medicine - Freiburg, Germany

October

4: Beginning a systematic review protocol (RA1), London, UK

5: The methods section of the protocol (RA2), London, UK

21-22: 3rd Evidence Based Practice Institute for Physical Therapy Faculty - Los Angeles, CA, USA

In addition to the above workshops The Cochrane Collaboration now also provides free online training. The training can be found here <http://training.cochrane.org/>

Online training is available to all authors of intervention reviews who have an Archie account. If you do not have an active Archie account, please get in touch with the editorial base.

2011 Conferences & meetings

- World Congress of Epidemiology, Edinburgh, UK, 7-11 August
- European Vascular Society meeting, Athens, Greece, 22-25 September
- Annual Colloquium of the Cochrane Collaboration, Madrid, Spain, 19-22 October
- Vascular Society of Great Britain and Ireland, Edinburgh, UK, 23-25 November

Come and meet us at our exhibition stand.

Stats tip: Cross-over trials

Does your review include cross-over trials?

For detailed information on how to incorporate cross-over trials in a meta-analysis please go to section 16.4 of the Cochrane handbook (<http://www.cochrane-handbook.org>) and the paper by Elbourne *et al.* Meta-analyses involving cross-over trials: methodological issues. *International Journal of Epidemiology* 2002; 31: 140-149.

If you are unsure on how to proceed please consult your statistician.

Cochrane News

- ❖ The 2009 Impact Factor (IF) of the Cochrane Database of Systematic Reviews is 5.653 ranking the CDSR 11th out of 132 in the ISI category Medicine, General & Internal.
- ❖ The PVD group 2009 Impact Factor (as calculated by Wiley-Blackwell) is 4.40.

Thank you to all our authors who made this possible. The 2010 IFs will be announced shortly and we will update you in our next newsletter.

Can you help?

We are looking for consumer referees who are willing to help us with reviewing protocols and reviews from a consumer perspective. Consumers can be patients, carers or other people with an interest in peripheral vascular diseases. If you are interested or know someone who might be, please contact us at the editorial base for more information.

PVD Group Editorial Board

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