Welcome to the winter edition of the PVD newsletter - keeping you up to date with news from the editorial base in Edinburgh.

Although six months have passed rapidly, they have been productive ones and the total number of new reviews and protocols published to date in 2013 has risen to 10 and 13 respectively. Thank you to all our editors, authors and referees whose continued hard work makes this possible. Thank you also to the many more authors who have contributed to the 21 published review updates and to all those currently working on reviews. We are also delighted to have registered an additional 20 new titles this year.

21st Cochrane Colloquium
Some members of the PVD Group were lucky enough to travel to Quebec for the 21st Cochrane Colloquium. It was a very positive and lively meeting; and while acknowledging what has been achieved in the 20 years since the first Cochrane Centre was opened and the registration of the first review groups began – discussion focused on Cochrane’s future goals as we move forward. These involve methods on how we can continue to increase access to best evidence through our reviews; and how we can produce reviews faster without compromising on quality or thoroughness.

Influence
As the sheer volume of information available to us increases exponentially it becomes ever more important to ensure that the best evidence provided by Cochrane reviews reaches those people who can benefit most from it – either directly or via the decision makers. We are currently investigating ways in which our reviews have been used to effect changes or practice. As part of this we are compiling a list of all international, national and local guidelines or recommendations where PVD reviews have been cited. Should you be aware of any please forward us the details.

Alert
The publish-when-ready system initiated during the summer has been a huge success and we have seen reviews published within the Cochrane Library minutes after completion of author ‘Licence for Publication’ forms. We have received several requests from people who would like to be informed each time a new PVD review is published. If you follow us on twitter you will already be

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notified when new publications are accessible. In addition to this we are currently creating a list of people who prefer to be alerted by email. If you would like to receive an email from us every few weeks to alert you when a protocol, review or update has been published – please inform Carole and you will be added to the alert list. The email will link to the review via the Cochrane Library or Cochrane Summaries site so you can quickly access it if the topic is of further interest to you.

Podcasting
Have you considered presenting a podcast to discuss your review findings? If you would like further information on this as a way of getting your review available to a wider range of people please get in touch.

Wikipedia meets Cochrane
At first glance there are few similarities between Wikipedia and Cochrane. Cochrane’s reputation has resulted from rigorous methodology and thorough editorial processes - while anyone anywhere can add or edit information in Wikipedia. Further reflection brings the realisation that both organisations thrive on the dedication and hard work of people freely giving their time and knowledge and both strive to make best evidence available for the benefit of all. A recent co-operation between the two will synergistically improve the reliability of Wikipedia medical content and help propel Cochrane into mass use – Wikipedia is currently the sixth most visited website in the world and the most accessed medical website \cite{i, ii}. It can take just a few minutes to add a Cochrane review or evidence to Wikipedia as a reference or a sentence of text. Once added someone else might come along and improve and develop what has been added. Check out the Wiki pages relevant to your area and get editing!

Cochrane community
Everyone with an Archie account can access valuable resources through the Cochrane Collaboration’s web pages. Under the Community tab, it is possible to enter author or consumer specific forums to ask advice or start a discussion. If you are preparing a presentation or applying for funding, Cochrane contributors can also access resources for presenting and promoting their and the Collaboration’s work. These include downloadable logos, power point templates and links to information including annual reports and policy documents.

Tweet tweet
If you would like notification of new PVD publications and relevant meetings follow us on Twitter: Follow @CochranePVD

Thank you to our 319 current followers. Remember to retweet and mention us when possible.

Seasonal statistic refresher
Collecting data that include the time interval between the randomisation and an event of interest enables time-to-event analyses to be conducted. These include time to recovery or time to death. Time-to-event analysis of survival is vital in evaluating therapies. Most interventions are more likely to lead to a prolongation of survival rather than a cure. Therefore, it is important to measure not only whether a death happens, but also the time at which it takes place. To allow this type of analysis one needs to know the time that each individual spends ‘event-free’. This is usually collected as the date of randomisation, whether the event was observed or not, and the date of last evaluation for the event. Time-to-event analyses are performed for each trial to calculate hazard ratios, which are then pooled in the meta-analysis. Two approaches to time-to-event analysis are possible in RevMan 5.2.

For more information see Section 9.4.9 of the Cochrane Handbook or Tierney JF, Stewart LA, Ghersi D, Burdett S, Sydes MR. Practical methods for incorporating summary time-to-event data into meta-analysis. Trials 2007; 8: 16.
New reviews, protocols and review updates published since the summer 2013 newsletter

New reviews

- Padma 28 for intermittent claudication. Morling JR, Maxwell H, Stewart M.

New protocols

- Ankle brachial index for the diagnosis of symptomatic peripheral arterial disease. Crawford F, Chappell FM, Welch K, Andras A, Brittenden J.
- Different sources of autologous mononuclear cells and stem cells for critical lower limb ischaemia. Abdul Wahid SF, Ismail NA, Abdul Hamid MK, Harunarashid H, Idris MA, Muhamad NA, Lai NM.
- Screening for peripheral arterial disease. Andras A, Ferket B.
- Effect of testing for cancer on cancer- and venous thromboembolism (VTE)-related mortality and morbidity in patients with unprovoked VTE. Robertson L, Agarwal R, Yeoh SE.

Updated reviews

- Homocysteine lowering interventions for peripheral arterial disease and bypass grafts. Andras A, Stansby G, Hansrani M.
- Once versus twice daily low molecular weight heparin for the initial treatment of venous thromboembolism. Bhutia S, Wong PF.
- Cryoplasty for peripheral arterial disease. McCaslin JE, Andras A, Stansby G.
- Supervised exercise therapy versus non-supervised exercise therapy for intermittent claudication. Fokkenrood HJP, Bendermacher BLW, Lauret GJ, Willigendael EM, Prins MH, Teijink JAW.
- Thoracic stent graft versus surgery for thoracic aneurysm. Abraha I, Romagnoli C, Montedori A, Cirocchi R.
- Beta blockers for peripheral arterial disease. Paravastu SC, Mendonca DA, Da Silva A.
- Non-pharmacological interventions for preventing venous insufficiency in a standing worker population. Robertson L, Yeoh SE, Kolbach DN.
- Treatment for femoral pseudoaneurysms. Tisi PV, Callam MJ.
- Treatment of hypertension in peripheral arterial disease. Lane DA, Lip GYH.
- Compression stockings for the initial treatment of varicose veins in patients without venous ulceration. Shingler S, Robertson L, Boghossian S, Stewart M.
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Training
If you are new to writing a Cochrane review, please consider attending a workshop or meeting. Details of training opportunities can be found both through the PVD website and the Cochrane training pages.

Meetings and conferences
Within the last six months, the PVD Group has been represented at the Cochrane Colloquium in Quebec, Canada; and the Vascular Society UK and Ireland AGM, Manchester UK.

These meetings present a chance to learn about new developments within Cochrane; to discuss possible ways to improve our systems and to meet both new and current contributors whose continued involvement with the PVD Group is greatly appreciated. Some future meetings you may be interested in include:

- **Cochrane UK and Ireland 2014 Symposium**
  Cochrane Evidence: Useful, Usable & Used
  Manchester, UK
  23rd to 24th of April

- **European Venous Forum**
  15th Annual Meeting
  Paris, France
  26th to 28th June

RevMan tips
Please ensure you are working from the latest version of your review and remember to check this version back in when finished. This allows other authors to do their work and for the editorial base to offer help if required. Failure to check in can lead to loss of many hours of work and effort. It is possible to set up reminders within RevMan to prevent this. To set a reminder – open RevMan and select tools from the top menu; select preferences; under miscellaneous - tick all the boxes to show warnings and request check for updates every session.


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