

Welcome to the **winter** edition of the Peripheral Vascular Diseases review group newsletter. In addition to the Editorial base update you will find details of our recently published reviews and protocols; information on Cochrane training opportunities, upcoming events including the Venous Forum and details of our most accessed and cited reviews in 2010.

We would like to **introduce** Cathryn Broderick who joined our team in August. We also welcome Fay Crawford, Francesca Chappell and Alina Andras who are busy implementing review writing in three of our key areas: aortic abdominal aneurysm, venous thromboembolism and peripheral arterial disease. This is possible thanks to recent funding from NIHR, awarded jointly with Newcastle-upon-Tyne Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust.



New reviews published by the PVD Group in *The Cochrane Library*:

Endovenous ablation (radiofrequency and laser) and foam sclerotherapy versus conventional surgery for great saphenous vein varices

Angioplasty versus stenting for subclavian artery stenosis

Compression stockings for the initial treatment of varicose veins in patients without venous ulceration

Antiplatelet agents for intermittent claudication

Local intramuscular transplantation of autologous mononuclear cells for critical lower limb ischaemia

Remote ischaemic preconditioning versus no remote ischaemic preconditioning for vascular and endovascular surgical procedures

Sclerotherapy for lower limb telangiectasias

Statins for primary prevention of venous thromboembolism

New protocols published:

Percutaneous transluminal arterial angioplasty versus stenting for infrapopliteal arterial lesions in critical limb ischaemia

Lumber sympathectomy versus prostanoids for critical limb ischaemia due to non-reconstructable peripheral arterial disease

Subintimal angioplasty for chronic lower limb arterial occlusions



The publishers of *The Cochrane Library*, **Wiley-Blackwell**, have announced that the 2010 Impact Factor of the Cochrane Database of Systematic Reviews is 6.186 - ranking the CDSR in the top 10 of the ISI category *Medicine, General & Internal*.

The 2010 **PVD Impact Factor** stands at 4.33 with full text access of our reviews up by 7% since 2009. We would like to take this opportunity to thank all the authors and referees who made this possible and to emphasise the importance of citing our reviews where appropriate in order to ensure our impact is maintained and improved.

The **most accessed** PVD group review for 2010 was **Elastic compression stockings for prevention of deep vein thrombosis** by Sachdeva, Dalton, Amaragiri and Lees.

The **most cited** review during both 2009 and 2010 was **Cilostazol for peripheral arterial disease** by Robless, Mikhailidis and Stansby - congratulations to the authors!



Are there any topics within the scope of the PVD group that you would like to see covered by a Cochrane systemic review? If so we would love to know. Please contact the Editorial base with your suggestions.

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Can you help? Consumer opinions are critical to our Cochrane reviews. We are looking for consumer referees to help us with reviewing protocols and reviews from a non-clinical perspective. Consumers can be patients, carers or people with an interest in peripheral vascular diseases. If you or someone you know would like to provide feedback on a review, please contact the editorial base for more information. The Editorial base sends a huge thanks to all those who have acted as Consumer Referees in the past. Your input is greatly appreciated.

2012 conferences and meetings

17th Annual Meeting of UK and Ireland-based Contributors to The Cochrane Collaboration

University of Loughborough, UK
20th and 21st March 2012

Venous Forum Annual Spring Meeting

Conference Theme: Venous Thromboembolism

The Royal Society of Medicine, London, UK
25th and 26th April 2012

A two day conference promoting a multidisciplinary approach to the management of venous disease. Highlights include: Epidemiology of VTE, risk factors and sequelae; management and treatment of VTE; thrombosis mechanisms; new drugs; cancer and VTE; pregnancy and VTE; venous thrombosis in the paediatric patient. Email venous@rsm.ac.uk to register your interest.

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Workshops and online training are available to all Cochrane review authors. Details can be found at <http://training.cochrane.org/>. Please contact our editorial base if you require an ARCHIE user account. If you are new to writing a Cochrane review consider attending one or more of the workshops detailed below. They will help you on your way to successfully writing your review.

Beginning a Systematic Review Protocol

The Methods Section of the Protocol

Oxford, UK: 17th and 18th January 2012

Analysis Methods for Systematic Reviews

Advanced Topics in the Analysis and Reporting of Systematic Reviews

Oxford, UK: 6th and 7th March 2012

Systematic Reviews in Medicine

Freiburg, Germany: 22nd to 24th March 2012

For more details and more courses please visit:

<http://www.cochrane.org/tags/news-events/workshops>

Stats pointer - choosing between fixed versus random effects when performing a meta-analysis? Moving from a fixed to a random effects model if the test for heterogeneity is significant (i.e. a data driven decision) is strongly discouraged. When considering which type of analysis to use here is a paper that discusses the models in bit more detail than the section on the handbook: Michael Borenstein *et al.* **A basic introduction to fixed-effect and random-effects models for meta-analysis.**

Research Synthesis Methods 2010;1:97-111.

In this paper the authors explain the key assumptions of each model and outline the differences between the models. They conclude with a discussion of factors to consider when choosing between the two models.

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The latest version of **Rev Man** – version 5.1 - was updated earlier in the year. Please ensure you are working from this version. You will be prompted to install the newer version on opening.

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The **Circulation Foundation** has been working hard to increase public knowledge of vascular disease and is holding a National Awareness Week from 19th to 23rd of March 2012. Visit www.circulationfoundation.org.uk for further information.

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The Cochrane PVD group wish you all a very peaceful Christmas and best wishes for the New Year!

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