



The Cochrane Library

Evidence for healthcare decision-making

**Discover the highest quality source of evidence
and make informed healthcare decisions**

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WILEY-BLACKWELL

What is Evidence-Based Health Care?

How do you know if one healthcare intervention works better than another, or if it will do more harm than good? The practice of Evidence-Based Health Care involves using all available research to inform healthcare decisions.

What is The Cochrane Library?

The Cochrane Library enables those involved with healthcare decisions to keep up-to-date with all the latest evidence – a challenge that becomes harder each year as the volume of evidence increases.

Produced by The Cochrane Collaboration (a not-for-profit organisation whose aim is to improve healthcare worldwide), The Cochrane Library brings together research on the effectiveness of healthcare interventions in one place. It is the 'gold standard' in Evidence-Based Health Care and provides access to the highest quality, independent information on existing and new healthcare interventions.

What is in The Cochrane Library?

The Cochrane Library consists of seven databases and is used by a broad range of people interested in Evidence-Based Health Care, including consumers, clinicians, policy-makers, researchers, educators, students and others:

Cochrane Database of Systematic Reviews (Cochrane reviews)

The primary output of The Cochrane Collaboration is the Cochrane Database of Systematic Reviews. Each Cochrane review identifies an intervention for a specific disease (or other problem in health care) and determines whether or not this intervention works by summarising the results of research gathered from randomised controlled trials.

Database of Abstracts of Reviews of Effects (other reviews)

DARE is a unique database, containing abstracts of systematic reviews that have been quality assessed. Each abstract includes a summary of the review together with a critical commentary about the overall quality. DARE contains 15,000 such abstracts and over 6,000 quality assessed reviews.

Produced by the Centre for Reviews and Dissemination (CRD) in York.

Cochrane Central Register of Controlled Trials (clinical trials)

Known as CENTRAL, this database includes details of published trials taken from bibliographic databases and other published resources. CENTRAL includes the title of the article, information on where it was published and, in many cases, the abstract.

The Cochrane Methodology Register (method studies)

A bibliography of publications that report on methods used when conducting controlled trials, studies of methods used in reviews, and more general methodological studies which could be relevant to anyone preparing systematic reviews. Records include journal articles, books and conference proceedings.

Health Technology Assessment Database (technology assessments)

Details of completed and ongoing health technology assessments (studies of the medical, social, ethical and economic implications of healthcare interventions) from around the world.

Produced by the CRD in York.

The NHS Economic Evaluation Database (economic evaluations)

Economic evaluations from around the world, evaluated for quality and highlighting relative strengths and weaknesses of each study.

Produced by the CRD in York.

Bringing together research on the effectiveness of healthcare interventions

- **Evidence-Based:** combining the best research evidence with clinical expertise and patient values
- **Single source:** bringing together international research on the effectiveness of healthcare interventions
- **Extensive:** over 5,000 Cochrane systematic reviews and over 650,000 other data records, covering clinical trials, methods, technology and economic evaluations
- **High-quality:** 2008 Impact Factor of 5.182 - in the top 12 of the 'General Medical' category
- **Reliable:** adheres to a strict methodology to ensure Cochrane reviews are comprehensive, thus minimizing bias
- **Up-to-date:** updated four times a year - ensuring that treatment decisions can be based on the most up-to-date reliable evidence
- **Easy to use:** flexible viewing and searching functionality (including by MeSH heading)

Access The Cochrane Library today

Over 50% of the world's population now has free 'one-click access' to The Cochrane Library either through personal or Library subscriptions, or through a national funding agreement. For a complete list of countries with National access, and for other access and subscription information, visit:

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The Cochrane Collaboration

The Cochrane Collaboration is an international not-for-profit organisation, providing up-to-date information about the effects of health care. It aims to help people make well-informed decisions about health care by preparing, maintaining and promoting the accessibility of systematic reviews on the effects of healthcare interventions.

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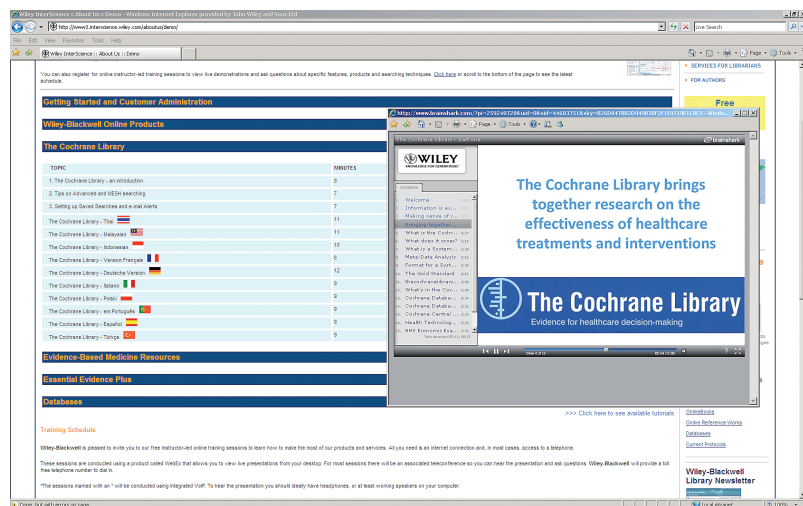


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