

THE COCHRANE
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NEWSLETTER: Sexually Transmitted Infections Group

VOLUME 1, ISSUE 1

NEWSLETTER DATE: OCTOBER 2012

David Tovey's Introduction



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National University of Colombia.

It is a great privilege to be asked to write an introduction for the first issue of the STI newsletter. The recently re-registered Cochrane STI Group has made terrific strides in the past 12 months, ably supported by Professor Cindy Farquhar from the Cochrane Menstrual Disorders and Subfertility Group and her team. This is now the 53rd Cochrane Review Group but the only one to be based in South America.

Sexually transmitted infections are a substantial cause of morbidity across the world, and as a WHO report showed in 2005, are particularly common in adolescents - with perhaps as many as 333 million new cases each year in people aged between 20 and 24 years. [http://www.who.int/maternal_child_adolescent/documents/9241562889/en/index.html] Untreated, or under-treated STIs can lead to complications such as infertility, stillbirths and chronic pelvic infection.

It is therefore no surprise that identifying and treating STIs are a priority for all health systems. Ensuring that available treatments, both those prescribed and those available without prescription are subject to a rigorous analysis of their benefits and harms, and

that this information is made widely available is essential for informed decision making. Cochrane Reviews, that bring together all the high quality evidence and analyse it in a consistent rigorous and structured manner, provide the best available knowledge on which to base treatment choices.

The Cochrane Database of Systematic Review (CDSR) forms the main part of *The Cochrane Library*. It now has over 5000 reviews. Its impact factor for 2011 is 5.715. Globally, more than 50% of health professionals enjoy one click access, free at the point of use, and every 4 seconds someone views the full text of a Cochrane Review.

There are many Cochrane initiatives that are available to support the STI review group, and its editors and review author teams. We have recently developed standards for conduct and reporting of Cochrane Reviews via the Methods for Cochrane Intervention Reviews project (MECIR). There are an increasing number of education and learning initiatives including the developing of online learning modules, and a growing use of technology to in-

crease the efficient production of reviews, as exemplified by the EROS (Early review organisation software) project developed by the Argentinian Cochrane Centre, and available in multiple languages.

The Cochrane "family" is delighted to welcome its "newest" review group. We are impressed by the progress so far, and wish it well for the years ahead under the leadership of Professor Gaitan. Its aim as for all groups is to produce the best and most relevant evidence across the scope of STIs, covering both the interventions and the systems that provide those interventions, and to make that evidence as widely available as possible, in a form that is accessible by users, and also digestible and actionable. As an indication of the way the group is responding to these challenges, I am aware that the group is aiming to produce reviews of diagnostic test accuracy also, which given the challenges of identifying many STIs will provide an extremely useful addition to reviews of treatment interventions.

Dr David Tovey

**FRCGP
Editor in Chief.**

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Message from the Co-Editors

The former Sexually Transmitted Diseases Cochrane Group (STD) initially began in 1997 under the editorship of Dr George Schmid at the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) in the United States. It then moved to the Cochrane HIV/AIDS Group. From 2006, it was hosted in Porto Alegre, Brazil from 2006, as a Satellite of the Cochrane HIV/AIDS Group (2006-2008), but closed in 2009. From 2009 to 2011 when no STD Group was registered, the Group's reviews and protocols (either published or in the editorial process), and registered titles were re-distributed among the Cochrane HIV/AIDS Group, Cochrane Infectious Diseases Group, the Cochrane Menstrual Disorders and Subfertility Group and the Cochrane Editorial Unit.

In October 2011, at the Madrid Cochrane Colloquium, a re-registration meeting was held and a new submission made to The Cochrane Collaboration for re-registration initially as a Satellite Group of the Cochrane Menstrual Disorders and Subfertility Group, Auckland, New Zealand. From March 2012, we function as an independent Cochrane Review Group.

We undertake the task of providing evidence about the effectiveness and safety of interventions which seek to modify behaviors that increase the risk of STI acquisition, to prevent STI, to guide the treatment of STI of the etiological approach or under the syndromic approach. On the other hand, the STI will take on diagnostic systematic reviews for evaluating rapid tests used at point of care and the other usual diagnostic tests .

We would like to thank to Dr David Tovey, the Cochrane Collaboration Steering Group and the Cochrane Monitoring and Registration Committee for their support during the approval process. To MDSG and the Cochrane Iberoamerican Centre. They have been very kind in offering their experience and logistical support to move forward with the re-registering initiative, to update the RCT register of the group, to guide the new titles prioritization and supporting the workshop of the editors and authors. Also, we want to thank the former editorial Group and their authors for the work done from 2006 to 2009 and the National University of Colombia which have given room and funds to

carry on our daily activities.

Finally, we invite authors of the former STD Group or anyone interested in the development of new reviews, new protocols or review updates. You can consult the available titles in our website <http://sticr.cochrane.org/>. We would appreciate you collaboration in sharing our reviews with STI researchers and the community as well as to participate as a consumer referee.

We are glad to be part of the Cochrane Collaboration and share with you our first newsletter. We hope to disseminate all our protocols and reviews and all the exciting activities we are developing.



Kind Regards

Professor Cindy Farquhar

Professor Hernando Gaitán

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Editors STI Group, Villa de Leyva, May, 2012

Events

XI Iberoamerican Reunion of the Cochrane Network

The editorial team of the STI Cochrane Group with members of the Iberoamerican Cochrane Centre participated in the XI Iberoamerican Reunion of the Cochrane Network that took place in Lima, Peru on May 2012. This meeting was an opportunity to exchange experiences about the use of methods and tools for the development of systematic reviews, as well as to perform the official presentation of the group before the region.

STI Group editors workshop

The first Cochrane Editors' training workshop was held in Villa de Leyva, Colombia in June 4th and 5th 2012. The workshop included participants from England, New Zealand, Switzerland, South Africa, and Colombia. Twelve editors were trained in Editing skills; Good editorial practice; Risk of bias and the overview of the editorial process. The event was offered by Dr. Cindy Farquhar, Anne Lethaby and Dr. Hernando Gaitán Duarte with the financing help from the National University of Colombia

and the Cochrane Menstrual Disorders and Subfertility Group of the University of Auckland.

The theoretical-practical framework of the workshop was facilitated by the members of the Cochrane Menstrual Disorders and Subfertility Group, the Cochrane Methods Group, the Cochrane Wounds Group and the STI Group.

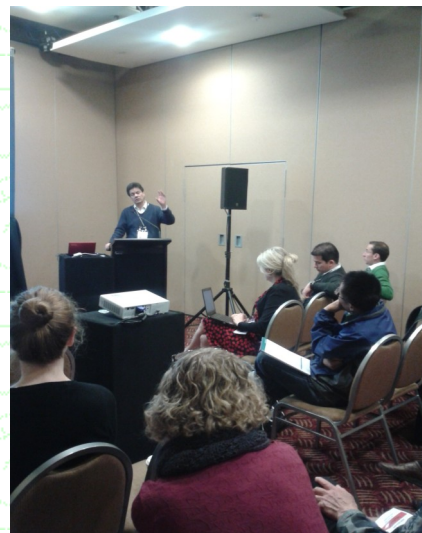
STI Group authors workshop

In that same week, the group development the workshop "Developing a protocol for a Cochrane systematic review", which gathered forty participants (professors, researchers and students) who came from different regions of Colombia and received training in formulating questions, location and selection studies, assessment of risk of bias, data extraction and meta-analysis of dichotomous and continuous outcomes.

STI Meeting in the Cochrane Colloquium 2012

During the Cochrane Colloquium 2012 at New Zealand, the Sexually Transmitted Infections Group hosted

an editors and authors meeting which sought to strength the links of the members, to know the status of our reviews and to discuss the new directions of the group regarding diagnostic accuracy clinical questions and new titles. The meeting was very productive and it was an important space to share different points of view as well as to reach consensus about the future of the STI group.



STI Meeting, New Zealand, October 2012

Our reviews

Published Reviews

- Genital ulcer disease treatment for reducing sexual acquisition of HIV. **Published Online: 15 AUG 2012. CD007270**
Florence M Mutua, James Machoki M'Imunya, Charles Shey Wiysonge.
- Azithromycin versus penicillin G benzathine for early syphilis. **Published Online: 13 JUN 2012. CD007933**
Zheng Gang Bai, Baoxi Wang, KeHu Yang1, Jin Hui Tian, Bin Ma1, Yali Liu, Lei Jiang, Qiong Yan Gai, Xiaodong He, Youping Li.
- Topical microbicides for prevention of sexually transmitted infections. **Published Online: 13 JUN 2012. CD007961**
Jael Obiero, Peter G Mwethera, Charles Shey Wiysonge
- 5-FU for genital warts in non-immunocompromised individuals. **Published Online: 7 SEP 2009. CD006562**
Claudio S Batista, Álvaro N Atallah, Humberto S Aconato, Edina MK da Silva.
- Nonoxynol-9 for preventing vaginal acquisition of sexually transmitted infections by women from men. **Published Online: 21 JAN 2009 . CD003939**
David Wilkinson, Gita Ramjee, Maya Tholandi, George W Rutherford

Updates in process

- The effects of antimicrobial therapy on bacterial vaginosis in non-pregnant women.
Oyinlola O Oduyebo, Rose I Anorlu, Folasade T Ogunsola
- Oral versus intra-vaginal imidazole and triazole anti-fungal treatment of uncomplicated vulvovaginal candidiasis.
Munira Nurbhai, Jeremy Grimshaw, Margaret Watson, Christine M Bond, Jill A Mollison, Anne Ludbrook, Mary Ellen Schaaafsma
- Strategies for partner notification for sexually transmitted infections, including HIV.
Adel Ferreira, Taryn Young, Catherine Mathews, Moleen Zunza, Nicola Low
- Probiotics for the treatment of bacterial vaginosis.
Abiola C Senok, Hans Verstraelen, Marleen Temmerman, Giuseppe A Botta

Reviews in process

- Oral antiviral therapy for prevention of genital herpes outbreaks in immunocompetent and nonpregnant patients.
Laurence Le Cleach, Ludovic Trinquart, Benedicte Lebrun-Vignes, Bruno Giraudeau, Olivier Chosidow
- Treatment for recurrent vulvovaginal candidiasis (thrush).
Georga Cooke, Cathy Watson, Jane Smith, Marie Pirotta, Mieke L van Driel
- Interferon for anogenital warts in non-immunocompromised adults.
Hengxi Chen, Lin Cui, Jing Fu, Lina Hu

Protocols

- Antibiotic therapy for pelvic inflammatory disease (PID).
Ricardo F Savaris, Jonathan Ross, Daniele Fuhrich, Nelcy Rodriguez-Malagon, Rui V Duarte
- Probiotics for vulvovaginal candidiasis in non-pregnant women.
Huan Yu Xie, Dan Feng, Dong Mei Wei, Hui Chen, Ling Mei, Xun Wang, Fang Fang
- Traditional Chinese medicinal herbs for condyloma acuminatum.
Shujuan Yang, Taixiang Wu, Xiao Y Chen, Yuchuan Huang, Hao Wu, Jianwei Zheng6, Yu Liu
- Imiquimod for anogenital warts in non-immunocompromised adults.
Carlos F Grillo-Ardila, Hernando G Gaitán, Edith Angel-Müller, Ariel I Ruiz-Parra, Anne Lethaby
- Antibiotics for treating genital chlamydia trachomatis infection in non pregnant women and males
Carol Paez-Canro, Fernando Martinez-Martinez, Hernando G Gaitán, Juan Pablo Alzate,

Protocols

- Lactobacillus for prevention of vulvovaginal candidiasis in women.
Irene Moraa, Treasure McGuire, Marie Pirotta, Mieke L van Driel
- Interventions for men and women with their first episode of genital herpes.
Rachel Heslop, Cindy Farquhar, Vassilis Papastamopoulos, Helen Roberts, Mariaelena Trivella.
- Screening for genital chlamydia infection
Nicola Low, Shelagh Redmond, Helen Wand, Anneli Uusküla, Jan Van Bergen

Titles in registration process

- Antibiotics for congenital syphilis.
- Self collected specimens for sexually transmitted infections screening.
- Suppressive antiviral therapy for recurrent genital herpes in immunocompetent individuals.
- Interventions for reducing sexual risk behaviors among female drug users.

Vacant titles

- Male condoms for preventing sexually transmitted infections.
- Nifuratel-Nystatin combination for the treatment of trichomonal vaginitis, vulvovaginal candidiasis and bacterial vaginosis.
- Vaginal douching for preventing sexually transmitted infections.

Wishing to write a systematic review?

The steps you need to follow to register a review are outlined below. If you need assistance or are unsure how to proceed, contact our Managing Editor: Marcela Torres amtorresam@unal.edu.co

1. Decide on your topic for a review. Make sure your proposed title does not duplicate any work already published or registered with The Cochrane Collaboration.
2. Identify a team of authors for your review. Cochrane Reviews must be undertaken by more than one person.
 - Review teams should include people with expertise in the topic area being reviewed, and someone with experience in systematic review methodology.
 - First-time review authors are encouraged to access Cochrane Training workshops and resources.
3. Make contact with the STI Review Group.
 - Check our website for vacant titles and title registration form

Contact

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or our web page <http://sticr.cochrane.org/>