



Editorial considerations for reviews that compare multiple interventions

Saïd Business School, Oxford, UK

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Cochrane Comparing Multiple Interventions Methods Group
Oxford Training event, March 2013



THE COCHRANE
COLLABORATION®

Handout E7-L
Case Studies

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Overview or Intervention Review or NMA Review ?

Editorial considerations at each stage

1. Title registration
 2. Protocol preparation
 3. Review production
 4. Updating
- What information does the CRG require from the authors in order to decide on acceptance/rejection of an overview?
 - Should authors be encouraged to convert from an Intervention Review or Overview to a NMA review?

Overview

- Review of Reviews
 - Can transitivity assumption be addressed?
- Will any of these be a problem?
 - Out of date reviews
 - Key interventions with no Cochrane Review
 - Reviews with varying approaches to populations, comparators, or outcomes
 - Trials included in more than one review
 - Multi-arm trials
 - Updating

Overview or NMA review?

Title registration phase

- **Editorial considerations for title registration**
 - Will this Review *compare* multiple interventions?
 - Existing review portfolio within a CRG
 - Topic: A priority topic? Breadth of the topic?
 - Would a map of the evidence be useful?
 - Is a NMA review on this topic a high priority?
 - Author team
 - Experienced vs. inexperienced
 - Statistician
 - Funding
 - Timeline

Case Studies

Title Registration Phase

- Complications of long-term use of opioids for the treatment of chronic non-cancer pain
- Oral antidiabetic drugs for type 2 diabetes mellitus
- Interventions for adhesive capsulitis (frozen shoulder)

Overview or NMA review?

- **Editorial considerations at the protocol stage**
 - Searching
 - Include an indirect comparison or a network meta-analysis?
 - Transitivity assumptions?
 - What about protocols already initiated/published following previous guidance?
 - Peer review

Case studies

Overview protocols

- Karner C, Li T. Long-acting therapy for chronic obstructive pulmonary disease: an overview (Protocol).
- Acceptability, efficacy and safety of pharmacological interventions for cocaine dependence
- Topical analgesics for acute and chronic pain in adults

Overview or NMA review?

- **Editorial considerations at the review production stage**
 - Overlapping reviews both within and outside of Cochrane
 - Statistical expertise & training
 - Peer review

Overview or NMA review?

- **Editorial considerations at the review updating stage**
 - When to update?
 - Update some vs. all?
 - Workload and coordination
 - Overlapping authors teams?

Issues for Small Group Discussions

1. What additional information does the CRG require from the authors in order to decide on acceptance/rejection of an overview or NMA review?
2. Advantages/disadvantages of defining NMA reviews as a new review type?
3. How/when can CRGs really begin to adopt these methods?
4. What type of supports CRGs need during the period when the Handbook chapter are in transition phase?



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