

Example of a SWAR (Study Within A Review): who cares who did the review?

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Research into research

- How do we, as researchers, know that we are doing more good than harm with the methods we choose for our reviews?
- How can we ensure that we make well informed choices, and give the most appropriate advice, about all aspects of systematic reviews (from prioritisation through to access and implementation)?
- What is our evidence base?
- How might we enhance this, and make sure that we do the right reviews in the best way?
- Do we need research into research?

SWARs: Studies Within A Review

- Studies that could be done within a review.
- Aim to resolve uncertainty about some aspect of the conduct of a review, which might help that particular review or future review.
- Can take place anywhere on the pathway for a review, including prioritisation of topic, design, conduct, analysis, reporting, access and implementation.
- Cheap, simple and easy to evaluate.

SWAR 4: who did the review

Aim: To compare the effects of including different types of information about the lead author in a media summary of a Cochrane Review on readers' reactions to the findings of the review.

Methods: Individuals will be randomised to receive one of the following three formats of the media summary:

- Media summary omitting lead author credentials
- Media summary including authors' countries of origin only
- Media summary including lead authors' credentials title, name and institution

Media summary omitting lead author credentials

Researchers have found that taking vitamin C (0.2g/day or more) had no effect on the incidence of the common cold in the ordinary population. Regular vitamin C supplementation, however, had a modest but consistent effect in reducing the duration of common cold symptoms. Based on these findings, **the researchers** conclude that routine administration of vitamin C supplementation to reduce the incidence of colds in the general population is not justified. Given the consistent effect of regularly taking vitamin C supplements, on the duration and severity of colds, and the low cost and safety, **the researchers** suggest that it may be worthwhile for people with the common cold to test, on an individual basis, whether therapeutic vitamin C is beneficial for them.

Media summary including authors' countries of origin only

Researchers from Finland and Australia have found that taking vitamin C (0.2g/day or more) had no effect on the incidence of the common cold in the ordinary population. Regular vitamin C supplementation, however, had a modest but consistent effect in reducing the duration of common cold symptoms. Based on these findings, **the researchers** conclude that routine administration of vitamin C supplementation to reduce the incidence of colds in the general population is not justified. Given the consistent effect of regularly taking vitamin C supplements, on the duration and severity of colds, and the low cost and safety, **the Finnish and Australian researchers** suggest that it may be worthwhile for people with the common cold to test, on an individual basis, whether therapeutic vitamin C is beneficial for them.

Media summary including lead authors' credentials title, name and institution

A team of **international researchers, led by Professor Harri Hemilä from the University of Helsinki, Finland**, have found that taking vitamin C (0.2g/day or more) had no effect on the incidence of the common cold in the ordinary population. Regular vitamin C supplementation, however, had a modest but consistent effect in reducing the duration of common cold symptoms. Based on these findings, **Professor Hemilä** concludes “routine administration of vitamin C supplementation to reduce the incidence of colds in the general population is not justified”. Given the consistent effect of regularly taking vitamin C supplements, on the duration and severity of colds, and the low cost and safety, **Professor Hemilä** suggests that it may be worthwhile for people with the common cold to test, on an individual basis, whether therapeutic vitamin C is beneficial for them.

	Not at all likely	Somewhat likely	Unsure	Likely	Very Likely
How likely are you to access and read the full review?					
How likely are you to take Vitamin C to prevent the common cold?					
How likely are you to take Vitamin C to help you with the symptoms of the common cold if you had a cold?					
How likely are you to tell others about the results presented in the summary					

Simple summary

Routine administration of vitamin C supplementation to reduce the incidence of colds in the general population is not justified.

Other variations: study design

- systematic review
- Cochrane Review
- research study
- randomised trial

Other variations: study framing

- world's largest
- most comprehensive (or wide-ranging)
- most up-to-date (or recent)

Other variations: study size

- 3 studies, 765 participants
- 30 studies, 765 participants
- 3 studies, 7653 participants
- 30 studies, 7653 participants

Why do we want to know?

- We have to make choices in how we present the findings.
- We want users to understand the findings of Cochrane Reviews.
- We want to maximise the impact of Cochrane Reviews