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Preface

Welcome to the 2012 CARG annual report.

This has been a particularly busy year for both The Cochrane Collaboration and for the Cochrane Anaesthesia Review Group (CARG). The Cochrane Library continues to be published on-line 12 times a year. This frequency of publication has brought new challenges, such as an increased number of deadlines, but also advantages such as more frequent publications and a shorter delay between approval of a protocol or review for publication and its appearance on-line. We published 4 new reviews, 7 updated reviews and 21 protocols in 2011 while in 2012 these tallies increased to 11 new reviews, 10 updated reviews and 47 protocols. The total number of CARG reviews and protocols in The Cochrane Library as of Issue # 1 2013 Issue is 86 reviews and 108 protocols. The large number of protocols in the editorial process gives CARG pride for this accomplishment, but also anxiety about the forthcoming editorial workload.

This electronic system in ARCHIE for workflow is now well implemented. As expected, it has sped up communication between and among the coordinating editors, the managing editor, editors, the peer reviewers and the authors. The workflow system tracks the status of each protocol and review that is in the editorial process; it automatically generates reports on CARG work for the Cochrane CEU (Central Editorial Unit). All editorial tasks are now generated via the workflow by the Managing Editor.

Almost daily, emails continue to reach the editorial office with expressions of interest from worldwide authors in registering titles in anaesthesia, emergency medicine and intensive care. The editors continue to refine the process for judging and accepting new titles within the limits of editorial time and availability.

2012 was a year of much travel. We attended the Cochrane Midyear Meetings in Paris during April. In October, Jane and Nathan attended the Cochrane Colloquium in Auckland, New Zealand. And finally, most of the CARG editors met for a triannual editorial meeting in Sicily during November. Interestingly, with the worldwide distribution of CARG editors, it was cheaper to meet in Syracuse, Italy than in Copenhagen; CARG finished the year under budget.

We would like to thank CARG’s contributors everywhere who have put a great deal of effort into this review production. Without authors, editors, peer reviewers, translators, consumers and everyone else, there would be no CARG. So thank you for your tremendous work.

Finally, we would like to acknowledge and thank our main funder “Region Hovedstaden”, and our other funders, who supported us in 2012. Without their important support it would not be possible to continue the work of CARG.

Ann M. Møller (Co-ordinating Editor)
Nathan Pace (Co-ordinating Editor)
Jane Cracknell (Managing Editor)
The Cochrane Anaesthesia Review Group (CARG)

CARG conducts systematic reviews of randomized controlled trials (RCTs) and other controlled clinical trials (CCTs) of interventions and diagnostic test accuracy, overviews, qualitative and prognosis reviews evaluating outcomes in:

- Anaesthesia
- Perioperative medicine
- Intensive care medicine
- Emergency medicine
- Pre-hospital medicine
- Resuscitation

We try to avoid any possible duplication of work by closely collaborating with other Collaborative Review Groups, which have overlapping scopes, such as the Cochrane Pregnancy and Childbirth Group, the Cochrane Injuries Group, and the Cochrane Pain, Palliative Care and Supportive Care Group. We ask the Cochrane Child Health Field to provide peers for all reviews that include children. We are committed to collaborating on topics that are on the borderline between Groups, both in performing the reviews as well as in the editorial process. If a CARG review potentially overlaps with another Cochrane Group, then that Group is asked to contribute to our editorial process by providing a peer-reviewer.

CARG Editorial Office

The CARG Editorial Office is located in Rigshospitalet, Copenhagen, Denmark.

Ann M Møller, MD, DMSc, Associate Professor of Anaesthesiology
Co-ordinating Editor

Nathan Pace MD, MStat, Professor of Anesthesiology
Co-ordinating Editor

Jane Cracknell, RN, BA, MSc
Managing Editor

Karen Hovhannisyan, MD, MSc
Trials Search Co-ordinator

Tom Pedersen, MD, DMSc
Editorial advisor and treasurer
CARG Editors

- Arash Afshari, Denmark and Switzerland
- Michael Bennett, Australia
- John Carlisle, UK (Feedback Editor)
- Harald Herkner, Austria
- Stephan Kettner, Austria
- Anna Lee, Hong Kong
- Ann M. Møller, Denmark
- Mark Neuman, USA
- Ronan O’Sullivan, Ireland
- Nathan Pace, USA (Senior Statistical Editor)
- Tom Pedersen, Denmark
- Nicola Petrucci, Italy
- Andrew Smith, UK
- Marialena Trivella, (Statistical Editor) UK
- Cathal D Walsh (Statistical Editor) Ireland
- Mathew Zacharias, New Zealand

CARG Members

We have a broad membership of individuals, many of whom are active and contribute to our work by performing systematic reviews, editing, peer refereeing, hand searching, translating or extracting data. Publication in medical journals and in The Cochrane Library, the CARG website, the CARG newsletter, and intense recruitment at conferences have all contributed to our rapid growth.

Publications in The Cochrane Library, 2012

We published 47 protocols, 11 new reviews, 10 updated reviews in 2012, compared to 21, 4 and 7 respectively in 2011. This represents a 95% increase in the number of new reviews, a 175% increase in the number of new reviews, and a 43% increase in the number of updated reviews on 2011.

CARG Publications 2012 versus 2011
We would like to thank each and every one of the following authors who contributed to our publication success in 2012.

**New reviews**


**Updated reviews**


Updated reviews


The Cochrane Anaesthesia Review Group, Annual Report 2012


23. Bezerra AL, Anderlini A, de Andrade FMD, Figueiróa J, Lemos A. Inspiratory muscle training and physical training for reducing neuromuscular dysfunction in critically ill
The Cochrane Anaesthesia Review Group, Annual Report 2012


Systematic Reviews 2012, Issue 10. Art. No.: CD010134. DOI: 10.1002/14651858.CD010134


Peer reviewers

We would like to thank all the peer reviewers who have contributed to the CARG peer review process.

In particular we would like to thank the following peer reviewers who contributed to the editorial process of a protocol or review published in 2012:
Impact Factor

Note that 2011 impact factors are actually published in 2012; they cannot be calculated until all of the 2011 publications have been processed by the indexing agency. Similarly, Wiley are able to inform us in 2011 which of our 2011 publications were most assessed or cited.

The impact factor of the CDSR for 2011 was 5.912. The CDSR is ranked in the top 10 (of 151) in the Medicine, General & Internal category.

The impact factor for CARG for 2011 was 3.900 (30 publications cited 117 times). A review published by the Anaesthesia Group in 2009 or 2010 was cited, on average, 3.900 times in 2011.

The top ten most cited reviews from the Anaesthesia Group contributing to the 2011 impact factor

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>CD Number</th>
<th>Review Title</th>
<th>Times cited in 2011</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>CD003281</td>
<td>Stimulation of the wrist acupuncture point P6 for preventing postoperative nausea and vomiting</td>
<td>21</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CD004128</td>
<td>Hypothermia for neuroprotection in adults after cardiopulmonary resuscitation</td>
<td>18</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CD002787</td>
<td>Inhaled nitric oxide for acute respiratory distress syndrome (ARDS) and acute lung injury in children and adults</td>
<td>14</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CD006058</td>
<td>Incentive spirometry for prevention of postoperative pulmonary complications in upper abdominal surgery</td>
<td>7</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
The top ten most accessed reviews from the Anaesthesia Group

Reviews published by the Anaesthesia Group were accessed in full-text format on average 655.61 times during 2011 (79 articles accessed 51,793 times). This is a slight drop of 0.4% on the 2010 figure of 658.32 (72 articles accessed 47,399 times). So we have more reviews but our overall viewing rate has largely remained the same. Rather than academic citations this is the number of times someone physically goes into The Cochrane Library and reads or downloads a copy of a review by the Anaesthesia Group.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>CD Number</th>
<th>Review Title</th>
<th>Full Text Accesses</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>CD004128</td>
<td>Hypothermia for neuroprotection in adults after cardiopulmonary resuscitation</td>
<td>3,074</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CD004388</td>
<td>Human recombinant activated protein C for severe sepsis</td>
<td>2,094</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CD003709</td>
<td>Vasopressors for hypotensive shock</td>
<td>2,036</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CD004125</td>
<td>Drugs for preventing postoperative nausea and vomiting</td>
<td>1,939</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CD006058</td>
<td>Incentive spirometry for prevention of postoperative pulmonary complications in upper abdominal surgery</td>
<td>1,603</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CD004127</td>
<td>Noninvasive positive pressure ventilation as a weaning strategy for intubated adults with respiratory failure</td>
<td>1,381</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CD002788</td>
<td>Rocuronium versus succinylcholine for rapid sequence induction intubation</td>
<td>1,356</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CD006904</td>
<td>Protocolized versus non-protocolized weaning for reducing the duration of mechanical ventilation in critically ill adult patients</td>
<td>1,322</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CD007871</td>
<td>Thrombelastography (TEG) or thromboelastometry (ROTEM) to monitor haemotherapy versus usual care in patients with massive transfusion</td>
<td>1,265</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CD004581</td>
<td>Closed tracheal suction systems versus open tracheal suction systems for mechanically ventilated adult patients</td>
<td>1,260</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

The different review types registered by CARG

The majority of our reviews are intervention reviews. However, we also have two Diagnostic Test Accuracy (DTA) published protocols, and two registered DTA titles as well as many expressions of interest. We have one published qualitative protocol: 

*Factors that impact on the use of mechanical ventilation weaning protocols in critically ill adults and children: a qualitative evidence-synthesis.* We have one published Overview protocol: *Neuraxial blockade for the prevention of postoperative mortality*
and major morbidity: an overview of Cochrane systematic reviews. Another new type of review on prognosis and risk factors is now being implemented. Editors and authors of CARG have been chosen to create an exemplar prognostic review entitled Prediction models for the risk of postoperative nausea and vomiting.

Collaboration between CARG and the UK National Institute for Health Research (NIHR)

The University Hospitals of Morecambe Bay NHS Trust (UHMB) UK have been awarded a National Institute for Health Research (NIHR) and Cochrane Collaboration Programme Grant, to produce reviews that enhance the safety, quality and productivity of perioperative care. The team is based in Lancaster, UK and led by Prof Andrew Smith (CARG editor and Director, Lancaster Patient Safety Research Unit). CARG provides editorial support for these reviews.

The NIHR/Cochrane team published in 2012 six protocols and registered three new titles. They are also in the process of updating several CARG reviews.

The new NIHR/Cochrane published protocols are:

MECIR

Doing a systematic review is a complex process and the Cochrane Collaboration fosters high standards in their production. To this end, the Methodological Expectations of Cochrane Intervention Reviews (MECIR) project aimed to specify methodological expectations for Cochrane Protocols, Reviews, and updates of reviews on the effects of interventions, and to ensure that these methodological expectations are supported and implemented across The Cochrane Collaboration. They provide authors and users of The Cochrane Library with clear and transparent expectations of review conduct and reporting. These have been published and are available as a booklet (http://www.editorial-unit.cochrane.org/mecir) and as a poster. CARG editors reviewed the MECIR standards at the editorial meeting and have accepted them as a CARG standard.

CARG Editorial Board Meeting, Sicily November 2012

CARG held its 6th Editorial Board Meeting in Sicily from the 10th to 13th November 2012. The meeting was attended by 12 members of the CARG Editorial Board. This was a very busy and productive meeting. We discussed the following topics:

- The CARG Editorial status and CARG’s achievements
- Updating reviews
- Plain language summaries and consumer feedback
- Bayesian methods for meta-analysis
- The Cochrane 20th Anniversary
- MECIR, summary of findings tables, checklists and GRADE within CARG
- Meta-analysis of prognosis risk factors
- Web learning for authors/editors
How we contribute to Cochrane

We increased awareness and participation of Cochrane by representing CARG in the following ways:

**Cochrane Executives**

*Nathan Pace* is a member of the Co-Ordinating Editors Executive.

*Jane Cracknell* is a member of the Managing Editors Executive

**Other Cochrane Roles**

*Nathan Pace* is a member of MARS (Methods Applications and Review Standards Working Group). He is also a member of the Workshops Committee for the 2013 Colloquium in Quebec, Canada.

*Jane Cracknell* is a member of the Cochrane 20th Anniversary Task force and co-convener of Meetings and Conferences. She is also a member of the Monitoring and Registration Committee.

**Conferences and Meetings**

- Ann Møller, Jane Cracknell and Nathan Pace attended the Cochrane Mid year Meeting in Paris (April 2012)
- Jane Cracknell and Nathan Pace attended the 20th Cochrane Colloquium Auckland, New Zealand (Sept 2012)
- Jane Cracknell attended the 2nd meeting of the Enhancing the safety, quality and productivity of perioperative care: an National Institute for Health Research and Cochrane Collaboration Programme Grant, Lancaster, Uk (December 2012)
CARG Publications

**Cochrane Anaesthesia News**

Cochrane Anaesthesia News, the CARG Newsletter, is published on the CARG website once a year and distributed to CARG members and other interested parties worldwide.

**CARG website**

The new CARG website was launched in February 2006. Since 2010 CARG uses the Cochrane Collaboration’s new website builder based on the Drupal platform. The website is updated periodically.

The website [www.carg.cochrane.org](http://www.carg.cochrane.org) contains information about:

- The CARG editors and CARG editorial office
- The CARG activities
- CARG policies
- The scope of the CARG
- The topics addressed by the CARG
- The reviews, protocols and titles supported by the CARG
- The CARG membership
- Writing a systematic review (resources for Review Authors)
- Other information about the CARG, including Cochrane Anaesthesia News
- The Cochrane Collaboration and anaesthesia-related entities, through Web links as well as CARG publications
- Introduction to consumers and handsearchers

**TSC workload**

Although the number of our publications is growing, our resources are limited. CARG only has 1.5 staff and a large number of review teams (over 250). Sadly we do not have the resources to offer unlimited TSC support to all authors. It has been decided that from now onwards all authors seeking TSC help must first contact the Managing Editor and ask for TSC help (specifying what that help is and in the case of papers whether they have gone through the steps below and meet the criteria). The Managing Editor will then allocate the TSC a task in the workflow and set a deadline for return of his work based on how urgent the task is and how much work the TSC already has with him. From now onwards the TSC will only:

- Develop searches for authors
- Run searches and send the full text results of those searches back to the authors
- Offer limited support in finding papers. Please be aware that help finding papers will only be offered to developing country authors. Those authors must first:
  1. Check the list of abstracts sent to them;
  2. Check that the studies are relevant to their title;
3. Check that any studies of interest meet their inclusion criteria and finally
4. Check that the papers are not available online (by searching PubMed, Google and the relevant journal).
5. If the paper meets these inclusion criteria then the author should next write to the ME and request help. The ME will then set a task for The TSC.

Specialized Register (SR-ANAEStH)

The CARG maintains a register of more than 36,000 RCTs and CCTs related to: anaesthesia, perioperative medicine, intensive care medicine, pre-hospital medicine, resuscitation and emergency medicine. The register is maintained on Cochrane CRS software, and searches for trials are performed quarterly. Trials included in the register are tagged SR-ANAEStH, and the tag term may be searched in the Cochrane Library. The register has now been submitted to CENTRAL. Access to the register is available to authors and other members of the CARG.

Handsearching

Members of the CARG are actively involved in handsearching anaesthesia journals in order to identify RCTs and CCTs for inclusion in systematic reviews and Specialized Register. We are looking for new handsearchers to help us increase our handsearch activities.

Consumer representation in CARG reviews

We have an active consumer panel consisting of: Suzanne Cunliffe, Ann Fonfa, Clare Jeffrey, Tracey Lloyd, Anne Lyddiatt, Jenny Pace, Janet Wale (consumer editor) and Durhane Wong-Rieger.

Each Cochrane review contains a plain language summary (PLS). The PLS are now stand-alone documents and will be published in PubMed Health, a service from the US National Library of Medicine (NLM) aimed at the public. This has the potential to greatly increase the number of people reading the PLS and also clicking through to the abstracts and full-text reviews. It is important therefore that the PLS is consistent with the review and readable. We have, therefore, asked our group of consumers to concentrate on helping us improve the quality of CARG’s PLS.

We would welcome more new consumers.

We achieved the following goals in 2012

- We held a successful CARG editors’ meeting
- We published 21 reviews (11 new and 10 updated) and 47 protocols

Our goals for 2013

- To continuously improve the quality and the clinical relevance of CARG reviews
- To publish 15 reviews and 20 protocols
Funders

- Region Hovedstaden
- Familien Hede Nielsens Fond
- NIHR

Budget

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<tr>
<td>Total Expenditures</td>
<td>1.173.000 (approximately 157.000 EUR)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Balance</td>
<td>185.000 (approximately 25.000 EUR)</td>
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