

The Cochrane Library

The Cochrane Library is available at www.thecochranelibrary.com or via <http://www.evidence.nhs.uk/nhs-evidence-content/journals-and-databases>. Cochrane is **THE** best single source of reliable clinical evidence. If you find a systematic review that answers your question, you will be saved the work of searching databases for journal literature, as well as all the reading involved. So it's worth looking at Cochrane first!



THE COCHRANE LIBRARY
Independent high-quality evidence for health care decision making

from [The Cochrane Collaboration](#)

SEARCH THE COCHRANE LIBRARY

Title, Abstract or Keywords

GO

HOME SIGN UP LEARN ACCESS HELP

or try an [Advanced Search](#)

BROWSE COCHRANE DATABASE OF SYSTEMATIC REVIEWS
Issue 7 of 12, Jul 2011

- Anaesthesia & pain control (167)
- Blood disorders (104)
- Cancer (352)
- Child health (1289)
- Complementary & alternative medicine (462)
- Consumer & communication strategies (50)
- Dentistry & oral health (124)
- Developmental, psychosocial, & learning problems (83)
- Ear, nose, & throat (111)

[Expand](#)

[Other Browse Options](#)

COCHRANE CENTRAL REGISTER OF CONTROLLED TRIALS (CENTRAL)
Search for trials Issue 3 of 4, Jul 2011

BROWSE OTHER RESOURCES

The Cochrane Library has a wide range of resources:

[All Cochrane Library databases](#)

SPECIAL COLLECTIONS

- International Clinical Trials Day 2011
- World No Tobacco Day
- World Asthma Day

[View all](#)

EDITORIAL

Assessing rapid diagnostic tests for malaria

Malaria remains a major cause of illness and death in Africa and other endemic, and often resource-limited, settings. Most cases of malaria are uncomplicated but can quickly turn into severe, often fatal, episodes in vulnerable individuals if not promptly diagnosed and effectively treated. Parasitological diagnosis of malaria has for a long time been based on microscopic detection of asexual malaria parasites on a blood smear from a person suspected to have malaria. But many areas lack laboratory support...

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HIGHLIGHTED NEW AND UPDATED COCHRANE REVIEWS

- [Exercise for preventing and treating osteoporosis in postmenopausal women](#)
- [Rapid diagnostic tests for diagnosing uncomplicated P. falciparum malaria in endemic countries](#)
- [Vitamin D supplementation for prevention of mortality in adults](#)
- [Comprehensive geriatric assessment for older adults admitted to hospital](#)
- [Reduced dietary salt for the prevention of cardiovascular disease](#)
- [Targeting intensive glycaemic control versus targeting conventional glycaemic control for type 2 diabetes](#)

NEW
Cochrane Journal Club
Join the discussion

Podcasts from The Cochrane Library

The Cochrane Library consists of several databases:

Cochrane Database of Systematic Reviews – A systematic review identifies an intervention for a specific disease or other problem in health care, and determines whether or not this intervention works. To do this authors locate, appraise and synthesise evidence from as many relevant scientific studies as possible. They summarise conclusions about effectiveness, and provide a unique collation of the known evidence on a given topic, so that others can easily review the primary studies for any intervention. Systematic reviews differ from other types of review in that they adhere to a strict design in order to make them more comprehensive, thus minimising the chance of bias, and ensuring their reliability. Reviews are of two types: full reviews and protocols. Protocols are reviews “in progress” or proposed reviews.

Database of Abstracts of Reviews of Effects – DARE includes structured abstracts of systematic reviews. Only reviews that meet minimum quality criteria are included. These reviews cover topics that have yet to be addressed in Cochrane reviews.

Central Register of Controlled Trials – Clinical Trials is the world's largest index of published clinical trials.

Cochrane Database of Methodology Reviews – CDMR contains full-text systematic reviews of methodological studies.

Health Technology Assessment Database – HTA contains details of ongoing projects and completed publications from health technology assessment organisations.

NHS Economic Evaluation Database – Contains structured abstracts of articles describing economic evaluations of health care interventions. Papers are included if they provide a comparison of treatments and examine both the costs and outcomes of the alternatives.

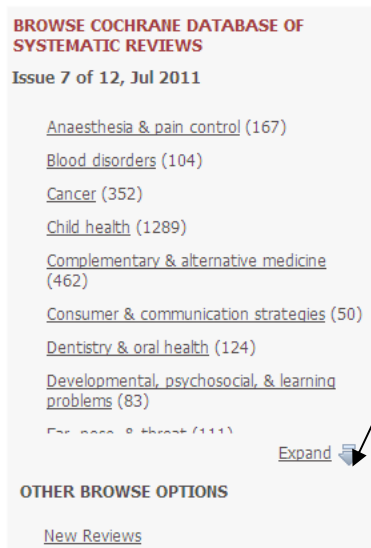
All the databases have their value, but the systematic reviews are the most useful for most people.

Searching for Information

There are several ways of finding relevant material in the Cochrane Library.

1. Browsing by Topic

This is the simplest way to look for relevant items. Click on the links for the topic you would like to investigate or expand the list by clicking on [Expand](#)

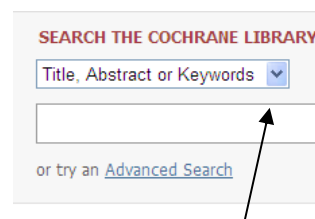


A set of drop-down links allows you to select a more detailed subject area. Click on increasingly specific topics until you get to links to individual records (underlined).

It is also possible to browse for new reviews, other reviews from the DARE database, Health Technology assessments and others.

2. Simple Search

Use the search box at the top left of the screen. Enter “free-text” terms (i.e. words that you think of) and click [Go](#). E.g. **asthma and child**. The number of records found will be listed, with Cochrane Reviews being listed first. Browse the results and click on the title to see the full-text.

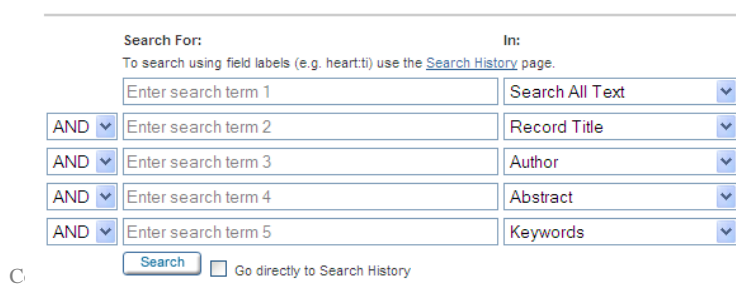


If you find too many results, you could restrict to words in the title by clicking the down arrow next to Title, Abstract or Keywords and selecting Record Title.

Do not use Simple Search for complicated searches. [Cochrane Advanced Search](#) allows you to do multicomponent searches and gives you more control over refining results.

3. Advanced Search

Click the [Cochrane Advanced Search](#) link (see previous paragraph). The following screen will appear:



This search form gives you more flexibility in formulating your search. You can use the drop-down menus to limit your search terms to different fields, e.g. the title. Lower down the search form, you can limit the search to a date range.

Date Range - (4-digit years, or "" for any year)

AND Abstract

AND Keywords

Go directly to Search History

Choosing the Search box takes you directly to the search results. Alternatively, if you tick the Go directly to Search History box before clicking Search, you will get a list of your searches with set numbers

Current Search History

ID	Search	Hits	Edit	Delete
#1	aspirin in All Fields and angina in All Fields, from 1800 to 2004 in all products	479	edit	delete
#2	aspirin in All Fields and angina in All Fields, from 2002 to 2004 in all products	90	edit	delete

Viewing your Search History can be useful because you can combine previous search sets to refine your search. Note: you must use the # to combine set numbers, e.g. **#1 and #2**

Current Search History

ID	Search	Hits	Edit	Delete
#1	(smok*)	13540	edit	delete
#2	(pregnan*)	21878	edit	delete
#3	(#1 AND #2)	796	edit	delete

Clicking on the underlined search title takes you to the search results.

Record Information Issue: [Current](#) | [All](#) Restrict to: [Reviews](#) | [Protocols](#) Sort by: [Record Title](#)

- [Interventions for promoting smoking cessation during pregnancy](#)
Judith Lumley, Catherine Chamberlain, Therese Dowswell, Sandy Oliver, Laura Oakley, Lyndsey Watson
July 2009
[Review](#)
- [Preconception lifestyle advice for people with subfertility](#)
Kirsty Anderson, Robert J Norman, Philippa Middleton
November 2010
[Review](#)
- [Relapse prevention interventions for smoking cessation](#)
Peter Hajek, Lindsay F Stead, Robert West, Martin Jarvis, Tim Lancaster
January 2009
[Review](#)
- [Giving women their own case notes to carry during pregnancy](#)
Heather C Brown, Helen J Smith
May 2011
[Review](#)

Click on the title to see the full-text of a record.

Search Tips

- If you want to search a phrase, you must enter it with quotes, e.g. **“colon cancer”**, otherwise the words will be searched as colon AND cancer, which will give many irrelevant results.
- Plurals are automatically searched, so searching **child** will also find **children**.
- You can truncate terms by using *. e.g. **depress*** will find depression, depressive, depressed, etc. You can truncate at either end of a word or in the middle, e.g. ***depress*** also finds antidepressants.
- Some alternative spellings are automatically searched (e.g. tumor/tumour), but to be certain of catching them, use internal truncation, e.g. **isch*mic** to find ischaemic or ischemic.
- Use brackets to control the order in which the search executes, if you are using a combination of AND and OR, e.g. **magnesium AND (eclampsia OR perinatal asphyxia)**
- NEAR can be used instead of AND to narrow your search. e.g. **smoking NEAR pregnancy** will find the two words within 6 words of each other in either order, so is more specific than using AND. NEAR/n will find the words within n words of each other in either order, e.g. NEAR/4.
- Hyphens are treated as valid characters. To search a term that may be hyphenated, enter both alternatives, e.g. **epstein-barr or epstein barr**.
- Medical Subject Headings (MeSH terms) are assigned to many records. These are controlled index terms and can be very effective in searching. You can use MeSH terms in place of or as well as free-text terms to search. Click on MeSH Search and then Thesaurus to find MeSH headings. Searching tips are given to the right of the screen.

Viewing Search Results

Search Results are listed in alphabetical order, with **Cochrane Reviews** listed first.

The screenshot shows a search results interface. At the top, there are two main sections: 'COCHRANE REVIEWS' and 'OTHER RESOURCES'. Below these are navigation links like 'By Topic', 'New Reviews', 'Updated Reviews', 'A-Z', 'By Review Group', 'Other Reviews', 'Clinical Trials', 'Methods Studies', 'Technology Assessments', and 'Economic Evaluations'. The main heading is 'Search Results'. Below this, it says 'Show Results in: Cochrane Reviews [67] | Other Reviews [1] | Clinical Trials [687] | Methods Studies [9] | Technology Assessments [2] | Economic Evaluations [0] | Cochrane Groups [0]'. There are also links for 'Save Search' and 'Edit Search'. The results are sorted by 'Relevance' (Match %). The list includes records like 'Medical interventions for traumatic hyphema', 'Psychological treatment of post-traumatic stress disorder (PTSD)', 'Antifibrinolytic drugs for acute traumatic injury', 'Psychosocial interventions for the prevention of disability following traumatic physical injury', and 'Aminosteroids for acute traumatic brain injury'. Each record has a checkbox and a small icon (R or P) indicating its status.

Click **Other reviews**, **Clinical Trials**, etc. to see the results for those databases.

Instead of alphabetical order, you can list results by relevance (Match %) or Year.

R = full review.
P = protocol (incomplete review).

Browse through the titles. Click on the title to view the full-text for an item. A screen will display the start of the record in the middle frame and the contents along the top in the tabs. You can see the Abstract and plain language summary under **Abstract**, the full review under **Article**, figures, tables and references separately under the appropriate tabs and earlier versions of the review under the **Other Versions** tab.

The screenshot shows the Cochrane Library interface. At the top, there is a logo for 'THE COCHRANE LIBRARY' with the tagline 'Independent high-quality evidence for health care decision making' and 'from The Cochrane Collaboration'. A 'LOGIN' section is visible on the right with fields for 'Enter e-mail address' and 'Enter password', and links for 'NOT REGISTERED?', 'FORGOTTEN PASSWORD?', and 'INSTITUTIONAL LOGIN >'. Below the header, a breadcrumb trail reads 'Home > Evidence Based Medicine > Evidence-Based Medicine > Database Home > Abstract'. The main content area features a sidebar on the left with sections: 'DATABASE TOOLS' (Save to My Profile, Recommend to Your Librarian), 'DATABASE MENU' (Database Home), 'FIND ARTICLES' (A-Z, By Topic, New Reviews, Updated Reviews, By Review Group), and 'OTHER RESOURCES' (Other Reviews, Clinical Trials, Methods Studies, Technology Assessments, Economic Evaluations). The central article information includes the title 'Psychological treatment of post-traumatic stress disorder (PTSD)', authors 'Jonathan Bisson^{1*}, Martin Andrew²', editorial group 'Cochrane Depression, Anxiety and Neurosis Group', publication date '21 JAN 2009', and DOI '10.1002/14651858.CD003388.pub3'. Below this is a tabbed interface with 'Abstract' selected. Under the tabs, there are links for 'View Full Article (HTML)', 'Summary (59K)', 'Standard (480K)', and 'Full (886K)'. A 'Jump to...' dropdown menu is visible at the bottom of the abstract section. On the right, there is a 'SEARCH' box and an 'ARTICLE TOOLS' section with options like 'Save to My Profile', 'Export Citation for this Article', 'E-mail Link to this Article', 'Submit Feedback', and 'More Articles like this'. A black arrow points from the text above to the 'Other Versions' tab.

The easiest way to view the document is to open and print a pdf file. (You need Adobe Reader loaded on your computer to view pdf files.) This will enable you to print only certain pages as well. The full pdf will give you the full review (often 100+ pages) whereas the standard pdf will give you the review without tables and diagrams. The plain language summary will summarise the results of the review quickly so you can see if it will be useful to you. You will find these print / viewing options just under the tabs.

Tip: To see the topic headings the review is under, scroll down to the bottom of the page and look for **Topic**.