

## Funding of the German Cochrane Centre

1998-2004 German Federal Ministry of Education and Research (BMBF)  
since 1998 University Medical Center Freiburg and Medical Faculty  
since 2005 German Ministry of Health (BMG)  
since 1995 Infrastructure provided by University Medical Center Freiburg

## Team

Centre director:	Dr. Gerd Antes	Administration:	Bärbel Schätzle
Coordinator & Consumer Information:	Dr. Britta Lang	IT-Support:	Georg Koch Frank Werner
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Handsearching:	Dr. Anette Blümle	Webpublisher:	Christa Bast

## Getting involved and Regional Cochrane Review Groups

The task which the Cochrane Collaboration has undertaken is very large. It will be achieved as more people contribute their skills and time. Already several thousand of people around the world have become involved as Review Authors, Editors, Methodology Experts, Handsearchers, Field members, Consumer Representatives or Translators. Learn more how you can contribute: <http://www.cochrane.de/de/involve.htm> or contact us directly.

### Cochrane Review Gruppen with Editorial Base in Germany

- Cochrane Haematological Malignancies Group (CHMG), Cologne: [www.chmg.de](http://www.chmg.de)
- Cochrane Metabolic and Endocrine Disorders Group (CMED), Düsseldorf: [www.cc-endoc.info](http://www.cc-endoc.info)

**Other working groups in Germany:** <http://www.cochrane.de/de/act.htm>

**All international Cochrane Groups:** <http://www.cochrane.org/contact/index.htm>

## Mailinglists and Newsletters

- ✓ National (German) Cochrane email mailing list with news on events, Cochrane specific activities, methodology, etc
- ✓ Newsletter: every few months, we distribute a hardcopy newsletter of the German Cochrane Network

Please e-mail to subscribe: [mail@cochrane.de](mailto:mail@cochrane.de)



## The work of the German Cochrane Centre

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## Background – The Cochrane Collaboration [www.cochrane.org](http://www.cochrane.org)



The **Cochrane Collaboration (CC)** is an international non-profit and independent organisation, dedicated to making up-to-date, accurate information about the effects of healthcare readily available worldwide. It produces and disseminates systematic reviews of healthcare interventions and promotes the search for evidence in the form of clinical trials and other studies of interventions. The Cochrane Collaboration was founded in 1993 and named for the British epidemiologist, Archie Cochrane.

The major product of the Collaboration is the Cochrane Database of Systematic Reviews which is published quarterly as part of **The Cochrane Library**. Those who prepare the reviews are mostly health care professionals who volunteer to work in one of the many **Cochrane Review Groups**. Editorial teams oversee the preparation and maintenance of the reviews as well as the application of the rigorous quality standards for which Cochrane Reviews have become known. The activities of the Collaboration are directed by an elected Steering Group and are supported by staff in Cochrane Entities (Centres, Review Groups, Methods Groups, Fields/Networks) around the world. The entities are supported by ministries, healthcare authorities, universities and research funds.

## The German Cochrane Centre [www.cochrane.de](http://www.cochrane.de)

The work of Cochrane Review Groups, Methods Groups, Fields/Networks and the Consumer Network is facilitated in different ways by the work of a dozen Cochrane Centres around the world. The German Cochrane Centre is responsible for Germany, Austria, parts of Switzerland and Liechtenstein as well as the Czech Republic, Slovakia and Hungary.

Our main objective is to support all aspects of establishing and disseminating reviews to improve translation of medical knowledge into policy and practice. We provide/facilitate training and support by organising workshops, seminars and colloquia on methodological and other review-related topics. Furthermore, we co-ordinate activities for handsearching clinical trials in medical journals and supporting review groups in their search for specific literature in the centre's geographic area. We promote accessibility to The Cochrane Library to healthcare professionals, consumers and others.

## Evidence-based Medicine in Germany [www.ebm-netzwerk.de](http://www.ebm-netzwerk.de)

We are an active member of the German Network for Evidence Based Medicine in Germany and support their objectives. Its mission is to establish a competence and reference centre for all aspects of evidence-based medicine. Against this background, the German EbM Network provides an interdisciplinary communication platform for the basic principles of EbM that aims to promote co-ordination between medical research and clinical care. One of its central tasks is to encourage projects that are concerned with scientific and methodological problems, aspects of professional development and the question of how to translate EbM into clinical practice. *Evidence-based medicine is the conscientious, explicit, and judicious use of current best evidence in making decisions about the care of individual patients. The practice of evidence-based medicine means integrating individual clinical expertise with the best available evidence from systematic research.*

## The Cochrane Library [www.thecochranelibrary.com](http://www.thecochranelibrary.com)

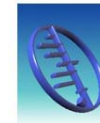
Cochrane reviews are based on the best available information about healthcare interventions. They explore the evidence for and against the effectiveness and appropriateness of treatments (medications, surgery, education, etc) in specific circumstances.

The complete reviews are published in *The Cochrane Library* which is updated four times a year and contains the following databases.

- *The Cochrane Database of Systematic Reviews (CDSR)*
- *Other Reviews (DARE; non-Cochrane Reviews)*
- *Clinical Trials (CENTRAL;References of controlled clinical trials)*
- *Technology Assessments (HTA; formerly "Health Technology Assessment Database")*
- *Economic Evaluations (NHS EED; formerly "the NHS Economic Evaluation Database")*
- *The Cochrane Database of Methodology Reviews (now part of CDSR)*

You can browse and search ABSTRACTS and plain language summaries free of charge:  
[www.cochrane.org/reviews/](http://www.cochrane.org/reviews/)      [www.thecochranelibrary.com](http://www.thecochranelibrary.com)

*The Cochrane Library* is published by Wiley InterScience, and full texts are available by subscription, either on CDROM or via the Internet.



[www.thecochranelibrary.com](http://www.thecochranelibrary.com)

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Members of the German Network for Evidence Based Medicine (DNEbM) have free access to *The Cochrane Library* through their website [www.ebm-netzwerk.de](http://www.ebm-netzwerk.de)  
More on access and gateways in the German-speaking region:  
[www.cochrane.de/de/browse.htm](http://www.cochrane.de/de/browse.htm)

## Workshops in our region [www.cochrane.de/de/localevents.htm](http://www.cochrane.de/de/localevents.htm)

### *Workshop „Systematic Reviews“:*

This course is an introduction for users of systematic reviews as well as for future authors of reviews. You will learn more on locating and using systematic reviews and on evidence-based medicine with emphasis on Cochrane Collaboration resources and methods. Small group sessions cover critical appraisal of clinical trials and reviews. A computer session will give you experience with the Cochrane Library, Medline and – as and when required - the review software RevMan. This workshop is the basic course of the German "Curriculum Evidence Based Medicine" compiled by Aquamed (the German Agency for Quality in Medicine) and the German Network for Evidence Based Medicine.

### *Workshop for registered authors of the Cochrane Collaboration:*

This workshop guides participants through the steps of developing a systematic review with hands-on practice using the Cochrane Collaboration's Review Manager (RevMan) software. This course is informal and focused on the review authors' requirements.

### *GRADE- Workshop: Levels-of-Evidence with the GRADE system*

More workshops on these topics: [www.ebm-netzwerk.de](http://www.ebm-netzwerk.de)